



SARATOGA'S LUCK FINALLY FAILS—After leading a charmed life for three years and three months, during which no enemy bomb scored more than a near miss, the Navy aircraft carrier USS Saratoga finally lost its protecting angel during operations at Iwo Jima on Feb. 21. Although she suffered seven direct hits, the gallant carrier made her way to Puget Sound Navy Yard under her own power. This picture shows her firefighting crew battling the raging flames following the Jap attacks. (U. S. Navy Photo)

The Saratoga Returns To War Flattop Survives Terrific Jap Suicide Attack At Iwo

By POPE HALEY
WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Navy disclosed today that the famous old aircraft carrier Saratoga had sustained tremendous damage in the early stages of the battle for Iwo Jima.
But, it was stated triumphantly, she has now been fully repaired and is back in the line, pitching again.
Seven direct bomb hits, including some by suicide planes, struck the carrier, causing 315 casualties. The casualties included 125 killed, missing or dead of wounds, and 192 wounded.

The fleet's oldest surviving carrier, affectionately known to all hands as the "Sara," previously had twice suffered serious damage from torpedoes and bombs. The Iwo Jima attack marked the first time the ever-lucky carrier was hit by a direct bomb.

The attack came on Feb. 21 two days after Iwo Jima Day, as she was enroute with a fast carrier task group northeast of the island. Four days earlier her planes had missed in attempting to destroy the biggest carrier task force attack up to that time.

TREMENDOUS ATTACK
The Navy described the action against "Sara" as one of the most concentrated attacks in which a carrier has survived, which might have sunk any other ship. A second, even more serious, attack was launched on the carrier's flat-top.

The "Saratoga," said the Navy, had been damaged by a direct hit on the mainmast, which caused the loss of the mainmast's upper part. The carrier was launched by the Navy's first carrier task force.

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Okinawa Knockout Is Sought

Yanks Bid For Victory On Island

Many Japanese Surrender

By ROBBIN COONS
GUAM, (AP) — Tenth Army forces strove for a quick knockout blow on the supreme command post of the tottering Japanese defense on Okinawa today as signs pointed with increasing certainty to the folding up of the doomed garrison.

Daughters of the 96th Division, supported by flame-throwing tanks which scored Japanese cave fronts and hill positions, captured Yaguchi Peak, the highest point of the island, and the Yaguchi last ditch defense equipment, well-named "Big Apple" by the Yanks.

The bill overtook the plateau which was the enemy's petted defense ground on the southern line. The capture of the peak may break as completely the last ditch defense as the capture of Central Hill opened up the defenses around it.

Only the advance of the Seventh Division, moving from the east flank to high ground on the left of the Big Apple, remains to set the Japanese reeling. The capture of the peak and the slopes which lead toward the sea.

Japanese surrenders increased to the hundreds, and advancing Americans counted the bodies of some of other who had committed suicide rather than surrender or retreat again.

Major Fred Del Valle, commander of the Marine First Division, which holds Kumhiji Ridge on the island flank, pointed up the critical balance of the situation with the comment that the Japanese may be crushed in ten days or two weeks. It all depends on how lucky we are.

"If we could hit their command, the whole defense would fall," Del Valle told Associated Press Correspondent Al Dapkin. "Now that the central command is being hit, the Japanese are in a very bad position."

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Universal Training

Peace Draft Urged By Eisenhower And Stimson

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower advised a House Committee today that "fairness to the country and to the individual's changes of survival in war demand universal military training in peacetime."

The views of the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe were set forth in a letter to Chairman Woodman, Democrat, of the House Committee on Education and the Arts, and to the individual's changes of survival in war demand universal military training in peacetime.

The letter was made public as Secretary of War Stimson testified in support of peacetime draft proposals.

"In spite of all technological advances," Eisenhower wrote, "the human element in war remains the most important factor in the development of the war effort."

Stimson said that the draft was necessary to maintain the military's readiness for war.

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STIMSON EISENHOWER

Now It Can Be Told

Eisenhower Reveals Some Doubted Invasion Possible

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE — (AP) — Gen. Eisenhower told a press conference today that the Allied invasion of Europe last June succeeded only because the air, sea and ground arms fought as a single, unified force.

Speaking with great frankness, the Supreme Commander said that many Allied officers actually had doubted that an invasion of Europe was possible.

The cooperation of all arms which made the feat possible, he added, was carried out through V-E Day. This unification of action, Eisenhower said, was fully as important as the intervention of the Allied armies comprising the invasion force.

When they found themselves whipped in the Elbe Mountains and the Ruhr, he said, the Germans were surprised to find that the Allies had a separate ground war and a separate air war.

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British Nab Nazi Bigwig In His Bed At Hamburg

Great Manhunt Brought To End

By DANIEL DE LUCE
FIELD MARSHAL MONTGOMERY'S HEADQUARTERS, Germany — (AP) — Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop was captured yesterday as he slept nude in a Hamburg boarding house, bringing to a close the most intensive manhunt in Europe since V-E Day.

Von Ribbentrop, understood to be wanted by the Government of at least ten nations to stand trial for war crimes, was the last top-ranking Nazi known to be alive who had eluded capture. A metal can of poison was found strapped to his body when he was captured.

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17-Gun Salute For Eisenhower

NEW YORK — A 17-gun salute will welcome Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to New York City Tuesday.

It will be one of the most elaborate salutes ever given to a visiting general. The salute will be given by the New York City Police Department.

Families And Fiances

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The War Department announced today that it will allow the families and fiancées of soldiers to visit them in the front lines.

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Chinese Push To Wengchow

By SPENCER MOORE
CHUNGKING — (AP) — The Chinese High Command announced today that Chinese forces, which have been pushing the Japanese 125 miles from Foshan along the East China coast, had attacked the Chuking Peninsula port of Wengchow.

The Chinese said the enemy garrison at Wengchow, 220 miles south of Shanghai on the Wu River, had been abandoned. The Chinese said the enemy garrison at Wengchow, 220 miles south of Shanghai on the Wu River, had been abandoned.

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17 Killed In Train Wreck

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — (AP) — At least 17 persons were killed and 32 injured early today when the 34th car of a freight train jumped the tracks and fell on a passenger train.

The passenger train was carrying about 200 persons when the locomotive and the first six cars of the passenger train were derailed at Milton.

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Yanks To Quit Russian Zones

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew today said American troops will withdraw by June 21 from German-occupied zones in Russia.