

Reds Shatter Nazi Central-Front Line

U.S. Planes Blast French Coast Again

RAF and Allied Craft Join Streams of American Heavies, Mediums

Large formations of USAAF, RAF and Allied bombers—including heavy, medium and light bombers and fighter bombers—smashed at military objectives in northern France yesterday.

The official announcement late last night did not specify the targets, but throughout the afternoon huge formations of all types of planes were seen shuttling between England and the coast of France—variously described as the "invasion coast" and the site of the so-called rocket-gun installations so widely publicized by Nazi propagandists in recent weeks.

Both Fortresses and Liberators were among the heavy bombers participating. The B17s and B24s were escorted and supported by P47s, P38s and P51s, the official communique said.

RAF, Dominion and Allied fighters escorted the rest of the units, which included American Marauders and Dominion and Allied medium, light and fighter-bombers.

"This was my group's 100th mission, and it was 100 per cent perfect in more ways than one," said Lt. Col. William S. Raper, of Wheeling, W. Va., who led one combat wing on yesterday's operation.

"All ships took off, bombed the target and all returned safely. The navigation was excellent and the bombing could not have been improved," he said.

Lt. Col. Raper also flew on the group's first mission over enemy territory on Oct. 9, 1942, when it took part in a daylight raid on Lille, France.

One navigator, 2/Lt. Sid Colthorpe, of Toledo, Ohio, who completed his operational tour on this mission, said: "It was a dandy finish. We saw no enemy fighters and little or no flak, and we took our time, making three bomb runs to be sure that we had it right. Practically every bomb in our formation hit within the target area."

One puzzling dispatch came yesterday from Stockholm. Quoting dispatches from Malmoe, in south Sweden, it said that Allied planes flew over parts of Germany, including Stettin, at great height soon after noon. No bombing was reported.

Meanwhile, more information became available on the scope and success of the gigantic operations carried out by the USAAF over northwest Germany and the fighter factories in central Germany on Tuesday.

New photographs of the pattern that American bombs left across major elements of Germany's aircraft industry in Tuesday's battle over the central Reich showed even heavier damage to Nazi warplane factories than first announced, it was revealed last night.

After a second check on combat reports had put at 152 the number of enemy planes shot down in the vast, scrambled dogfight which reached virtually to the suburbs of Berlin, USAAF intelligence chiefs yesterday issued a detailed assessment of bomb hits on airplane factories in five big Nazi industrial centers, as well as on other targets.

The report on the bombing, as well as the combat scores, was not final; crewmen of the 700 and more bombers and some 500 fighter pilots still were filling out the picture of what probably was the most bitter air battle in history.

Present claims stand at 125 enemy aircraft destroyed by the bombers, 27 by the fighters. A final figure of 60 on USAAF bombers lost has been issued by USAAF (Continued on page 4)

Nazi Prisoner Suicides In U.S. Camps Probed

CONCORDIA, Kan., Jan. 14—A report that German soldiers in an internment camp here had forced the suicide of a Czech captain in the German Army after he had been convicted by a kangaroo court of voicing anti-Nazi sentiments was uncovered yesterday by an Army investigation into three suicides at the camp in the last five weeks.

Precipitating the inquiry was the death Tuesday of a 39-year-old Austrian private, who was found with his wrists, elbows and ankles slashed. In a letter to his wife found on his body he said: "I am afraid that the Nazis are going to kill me. Long live Austria."

Hit by Nazi Shell—But Gets 2 Planes



Radio operator of the B17, Sick Call, S/Sgt. Jerome J. Bajenski, of Akron, Ohio, displays a German 20mm, incendiary shell which knocked him breathless as it glanced off his flak vest in Tuesday's air battles over the Reich. Bajenski recovered, manned his guns, and then shot down two German planes.

FDR Pledge to Release Many When Nazis Lose Elates U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—The prospect of seeing sons return home from the European and Mediterranean theaters sometime this year or next in the event that Germany is beaten had a large part of the nation's population buzzing today following President Roosevelt's statement in his budget message yesterday that large-scale demobilization would be possible as soon as Germany was beaten.

Preparation for demobilization must begin "long before hostilities end," the President asserted.

"While we are still expanding war production," he said, "we have already terminated more than \$12,000,000,000 worth of war contracts; while we are still increasing the size of the armed forces we have already discharged 1,000,000 men and women.

A Popular Idea "If hostilities end on one major front before they end on other fronts, large-scale demobilization adjustments will be possible and necessary while we are still fighting a major war."

Virtually everywhere the prospect of soldiers and sailors returning to homes and firesides, if not in 1944, in 1945, was greeted with open satisfaction, particularly in the farm areas and industry where manpower shortage has been felt most keenly.

In Congress, the President's recommendation (Continued on page 4)

French Troops Gain in Italy

Win 2 Miles in Mountains As Yanks Beat Off Counter-Attack

ALLIED HQ, Jan. 14 (AP)—French troops of the Fifth Army, striking through the rugged Apennine mountain sector, today advanced as far as two miles at some points against fierce opposition, while U.S. troops beat off a German counter-attack at Cervaro and then pushed forward.

The Americans, who reported a heavy German counter-attack about midnight on Jan. 12-13, consolidated their gains and threatened Nazi control of the northern slopes of Mount Trocchio, south of the road to Cassino, the next objective in the march on Rome.

Extremely fierce resistance in the final German defensive belt around Cassino faced the advancing Americans.

In the air heavy and medium bombers of the 12th Air Force teamed up and shattered German fighter planes operating in strength in the Rome area, and pounded airfields and parked aircraft at Guidonia and Centocelle, near Rome.

Headquarters also announced that more than 8,000 German prisoners had been taken since the original landing in Italy Sept. 3.

Attacking over a wide portion of the rugged central Italian terrain, Gen. Henri Juin's French forces captured the eastern slopes of Mount San Pietro ridge and south of the Colliatina road completed the seizure of the Val de Monna Casale range.

A Mother of Three at 20 Gives Birth to Four More

Quadruplets have been born to a French mother living near Chambéry, in Savoy, United Press, quoting Berlin radio, said yesterday. All of the babies were girls. The mother, 20 years old, now has seven children. The father is 22.

Seizure of 2 Towns Opens the Gateway to Pinsk, Brest-Litovsk

Doctor Tells Roosevelt, 'Ease Up, Take It Easy'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP)—White House officials said that President Roosevelt's physician, Rear Adm. Ross McIntyre, had asked him to "ease up and take things easy" for a while.

President Roosevelt consequently cancelled not only today's press conference, but his regular Friday cabinet meeting and kept all engagements in his quarters at the White House.

Russians Slowed In Advance on Rumania

Smashing open the gateway to Pinsk and Brest-Litovsk—a route the Red Army calls "the short cut to Berlin"—strong forces of Russian tanks and artillery yesterday stormed their way into the Nazi bastions of Mozyr and Kalinkovichi, north of the Pripet marshes, and baited another possible gigantic trap for the Germans.

Fall of the two towns—Mozyr, a peacetime community of 11,000 on the banks of the Pripet River, and Kalinkovichi, a rail junction nine miles to the north—cleared the way for a Russian push westward along the railroad and highway to Pinsk, already threatened by the First Ukrainian Army driving northeast from Sarny.

Loss of the two places left the Germans no alternative but retreat before the thrust from Sarny cut them off.

Bitter Fighting in South

The Russians' newest victory, hailed in Moscow last night by a special order of the day and 20 salvos from 224 guns, came amid bloody fighting east of Vinnitsa to the south, and fresh Red Army advances beyond Sarny, in Poland, and 60 miles west of Berdichev.

The Germans launched one counter-attack after another to hold Vinnitsa, the vital Odessa-Lwow rail artery behind it, and beyond—Rumania. They lost thousands of men to Russian artillery fire, and the Red Army held its ground.

West of Sarny, 35 miles inside the 1939 Polish border, the enemy threw reserves into the line without succeeding in stemming the Red advance toward Kovel, 80 miles beyond, where the rail line from Brest-Litovsk to Rovno intersects that from Warsaw to Kiev.

Mozyr fell to the White Russian army of Gen. Constantine Rokossovsky. The Germans had built a miniature Siegfried line along the nine miles between that town and Kalinkovichi. Rokossovsky waited until a sudden drop in temperature had frozen the top surface of the ground.

Tanks Pour Through Gap Then he brought up guns and armored units, and with hammer blows from artillery and planes blasted a gap for the tanks to pour through.

Moscow dispatches said last night the pursuing Russians had forced hundreds of units to flee into the river and marsh area—some of the worst fighting country in the world, where ground is almost impassable except along a few priceless roads.

Swedish dispatches, wholly unconfirmed, said last night that Pinsk, 125 miles east of Mozyr, was occupied by Russian guerrillas Monday and Tuesday.

Moscow heard little about the fighting on other fronts. West and northwest of Kirovograd, in the Dnieper Bend, the Red Army was dangerously close to capturing the Smyela-Novo Ukrainka railway which leads south to Odessa, with a spur running west to the Odessa-Lwow line.

Knox Tells Scouts U.S. Youths Need Military Training

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 14 (AP)—To make certain that "our individual liberties will be preserved," Secretary of Navy Frank Knox advocated today one year of compulsory military training "for every boy when he attains the age of 17 or 18."

"There is no safety in unpreparedness," Knox said in an address to the Cleveland Boy Scout Council's annual banquet. "The unspeakable folly of the theory that we are more likely to resort to war or become involved in war because we are reasonably prepared against the danger of war has been made so plain that few will be found to deny it."

Referring to the 25 per cent rejections by the U.S. Marine Corps for physical reasons, Knox said "we must in future spend more time, thought and money in improving the physical qualities of our people."

Federal Control Of Soldier Vote Killed by Group

House Committee OKs A Bill Leaving Ballot Regulation to States

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—Rejecting proposals to provide a uniform federal ballot for servicemen and women, the House Elections Committee by a vote of seven to five today passed a modified form of the Senate-approved measure which restricts federal activity to distributing and collecting state ballots.

Tossing the soldier-vote problem to the individual states, the House committee refused to recommend a bill providing for an absentee servicemen's ballot under federal control and auspices.

The committee's action, which followed President Roosevelt's warning that most of the men in the armed forces would be deprived of their right to vote unless federal machinery to handle the ballot were set up, on the surface appeared to have killed all chances of enacting a national measure.

However, Rep. Eugene Worley (D-Tex.), chairman of the Elections Committee, declared he would carry the fight to the floor of the House.

"This action," Rep. Worley said, "means that most of the 11,000,000 in the armed forces will not get the vote in the next election. It will destroy their morale more effectively than all the enemy bullets, bombs and propaganda have been able to do."

Although Georgia and West Virginia have passed acts enabling servicemen to vote by absentee ballot, in most states special legislation would be necessary to legalize the soldier vote.

President Roosevelt, in his message to Congress in support of a federal law, declared that most states would be unable to change their laws in time to make the absentee ballot possible. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson has asserted that the Army would be unable to administer effectively 48 different laws governing soldiers' votes.

Building Up for Bigger Blows, Spaatz Assures U.S. by Radio

Pointing out that the Germans could count on a "steadily increasing tempo of daylight bombing" against their industrial centers, Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz told radio listeners in America this week that U.S. air forces in Britain were receiving a constantly increasing number of aircraft and crews, and that "we have acquired a tremendous backlog of experience."

Speaking from London, with Air Marshal Sir Rickard Peck, of the RAF, in a two-way broadcast to New York to war editors of the American press services, the American Strategic Air Forces chief explained that responsible factors concerned in future plans for air blows on Germany included the perfected equipment to meet the drawback of bad weather, improved armament on bombers, increased bomb load, and the greatly augmented range of American escort fighters.

In the broadcast, which was conducted as an interview, with questions being asked from New York, Air Marshal Peck said that airpower's role in the coming

invasion would be "pounding into silence" all kinds of ground targets which the artillery could not fully deal with.

In the course of his talk, Gen. Spaatz said that American air forces already had knocked out 40 per cent of Germany's planned fighter-plane production, that "we are ahead of the Germans in aircraft design and production," and gave as his proof that American pilots and planes were "generally better" than those of Germany; the combat record: Four-to-one in favor of U.S. forces.

Gen. Spaatz said, too, that the bombing offensive from Britain had immeasurably "aided the Russian offensive . . . the continual bombing from the west has crippled so many German war industries that badly needed weapons have not only been delayed but sometimes have never reached the retreating Nazis."

Other facts brought out by the American and British air leaders were:

About 20 of the 90 major industrial cities in Germany have been crippled. There are still a lot of good German (Continued on page 4)

