

Allies Open Air Assault On Balkans

Sofia Blasted From South In Blow at Rail Yards Vital to Germans

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Nov. 15—The Northwest African Air Force yesterday opened the aerial offensive against the German-dominated Balkans with American bombers of the Twelfth Air Force plastering Sofia in a 1,500-mile round trip. It was the first raid of the war on the capital of Bulgaria by the NWAAF.

A statement issued today at Allied headquarters predicted that the successful blow against Sofia—an important railroad center through which supplies are shipped to German garrisons in Greece, the Aegean Islands and the western Balkans—would dislocate traffic throughout the whole Balkan railroad system and have far-reaching consequences.

Railroad yards were the principal targets of the raiding Mitchells. Hits were also reported by crewmen on repair and assembly shops and fires and explosions were seen throughout the target area.

B25, P38s Made Attack
The Mitchells, escorted by P38 Lightnings, swooped over Sofia's railroad yards in two big formations and dropped tons of explosives.

The successful attack by units of the great Mediterranean bomber force on the German satellite nation was hailed today as the possible beginning of a gigantic offensive on Balkan targets heretofore pounded. Important Axis bases further inland were thought to be in comparative safety.

The Sofia raid shattered that belief and it was forecast today that attacks like that on the Ploesti oilfields of Rumania might become a regular part of Allied strategy.

Bag Nine German Planes
The Allied communique did not divulge the number of planes involved. Ankara radio, however, quoting a dispatch from Sofia, said that about 130 bombers flew over Bulgaria and dropped about 200 bombs.

Nine enemy planes were shot down by the bombers and their escorts, the Northwest African Air Force announced.

The attack was supported by sweeps over other parts of the Balkans, the most extensive reported for some time. Warhawks blew up a fuel train carrying 150,000 gallons of gasoline near the Jugoslav coast.

Position of British Improves on Leros

CAIRO, Nov. 15—In fierce fighting on Leros British troops inflicted substantial casualties on the Dodecanese island's German invaders yesterday, a Middle East communique announced today.

The British defenders, supported by the RAF, were said to have improved their positions in the central and northern sectors of Leros. An unofficial spokesman, however, said that the situation was not "over-optimistic."

FDR Condemns Nazi Barbarism

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15—President Roosevelt asserted today that "as our American soldiers fight their way up the Italian boot they are discovering at first hand that the barbarism of the Nazis is equal to their boasts, and their only rivals in this respect are the Japanese."

The President's statement, recalling Axis leaders' boasts "that as they withdraw they will leave only devastation—what they have not stolen they will destroy," was contained in a message to Congress, asking authorization of appropriations for U.S. participation in the activities of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

"The length of the war may be materially shortened," Mr. Roosevelt declared, "if, as we free each occupied area, the people are enlisted in support of the United Nations armies." He said UNRRA would have to provide liberated peoples with medicine, food, clothing and other basic necessities.

'Gilbert Island Hit'—Japs

An air attack by the Allies in the Gilbert Islands, about 1,000 miles northeast of the Solomons, was reported yesterday by Tokyo radio. No confirmation of this report was made last night from Allied headquarters.

Don't Loan Your Pass; 5 Years Is a Long Time

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15—Don't use somebody else's military pass; neither should you allow some one else to use your's. The War Department doesn't like it. Not a bit.

In official language prohibiting the "forging, counterfeiting, altering or tampering" with passes, the department promises violators a fine of not more than \$2,000, or imprisonment of not more than five years. It works both ways. He who loans the pass is just as guilty as the guy who mooches it.

Jap Base Jolted In 2nd Biggest Raid in Pacific

30-Minute Attack Wrecks Enemy Installations Near Madang

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Nov. 15—U.S. bombers, escorted by P40s, P39s and P47s, struck a severe blow at the Japanese in New Guinea yesterday, plastering enemy airfields, shipping and military installations near Madang with 223 tons of bombs in 30 minutes.

The raid, the second heaviest ever executed in the South Pacific, silenced anti-aircraft positions, set fire fuel dumps and wrecked small coastal transports. No Jap air opposition was offered.

P39s and P40s opened the attack in face of intense anti-aircraft fire, then at zero altitude, B25 Mitchells, escorted by P47s, swept over the area to inflict the heaviest damage. The raid was the first of a series of attacks on the Empress Augusta Bay yesterday to open the way for the Marines and Army units.

The guns, landed during the week-end, enabled one company of Marines to push out to the northwest and establish an outpost on the east side of the Laruma river. This is the area where Jap troops landed last week.

The advancing company attacked and killed 260 Japs. Allied reinforcements were brought up and another quarter of a mile advance was made, and 30 more Japanese killed.

Advances in this country are measured in yards, not in miles. Allied troops have to push across territory which has been turned into a morass by the never-ceasing rains.

Torpedo and dive-bombers attacked Kara airfield on Bougainville with 50 tons of bombs, heavily damaging the runway and starting fires in supply dumps and bivouac areas.

Nazis Lost 60 Per Cent Of U-Boats in May Drive

NEW YORK, Nov. 15—Sixty per cent of the German U-boats launched against the Allies in a mass offensive last May never returned to their bases, a Nazi submarine sailor told his British captors, the New York Herald-Tribune said today.

The paper quoted another prisoner as saying that "Half the submarines based on Brest were lost within two months."

Large RCAF Convoy Here

OTTAWA, Nov. 15—A large RCAF and RAF contingent from Canada has arrived in Britain.

Rain, Mud, Thick Jungle Fail To Stop Bougainville Marines

By Frank Tremaine
United Press War Correspondent

WITH U.S. MARINES ON BOUGAINVILLE, Nov. 15—We are living in holes half full of water and mud. It rains all the time and we haven't been dry since we landed. We are fighting in jungle so thick we have to hack a way through.

But we are pushing the Japanese back. The Marines are driving steadily forward on this island bastion guarding the approaches to New Britain and Rabaul, biggest prize of all.

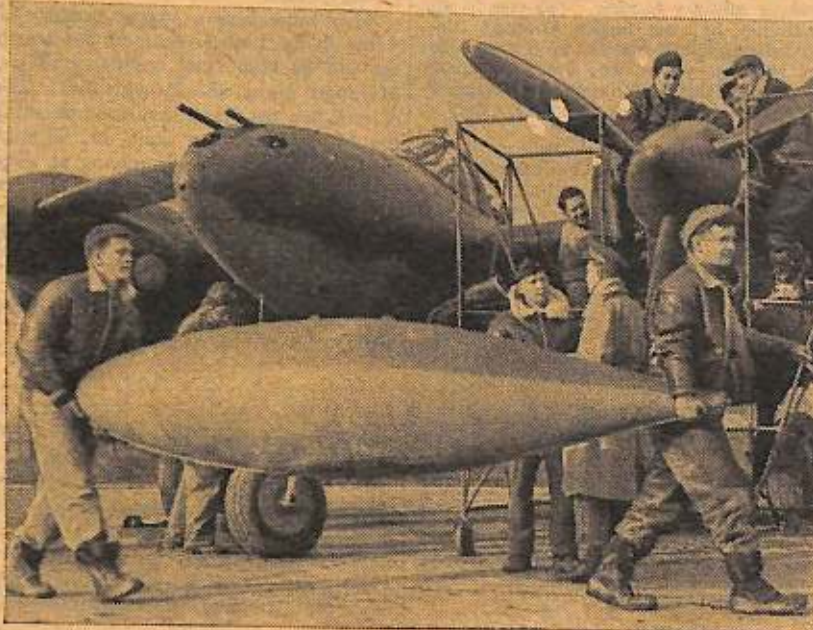
There is mud and water everywhere. And the terrific smell of the jungle. And ants three-quarters of an inch long, and giant spiders and centipedes—all of them finding their way sooner or later into our blankets.

Those blankets are never dry. Nothing is dry on Bougainville.

But the men are going on. "They're all right because they expect this sort of thing, and they've a job of work to do," Lt. Col. Fry, commanding

Russians Force a Nazi Retreat In New Drive Near Krivoi Rog; Reds Gaining North of Zhitomir

P38s' Extra Life for Long Raids



P38s and P47s made their longest complete escort flights Saturday when they guarded the Forts and Libs to and from Bremen. Here is the tank that enables the P38s to do the job—the "drop tank," carrying 150 gallons, which is automatically dropped when empty. Each plane carries two.

Adm. Young Says Navy Is Rushing Supplies For Major Blow

The Navy has overcome the greatest transportation and shipping problem in America's military history and is rushing supplies into the southwest Pacific on a scale large enough to enable the Allied forces to launch a major offensive against the Japanese, Rear Adm. William Brent Young, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Supplies and Accounts and Fleet Paymaster General, said yesterday.

In London on an ETO inspection tour, Adm. Young, who recently returned from a 2,400-mile inspection tour of southwest Pacific bases, told a press conference that in the last six months almost 100 per cent of the supplies shipped to the southwest Pacific had arrived safely.

Praising the effort of the governments of New Zealand and Australia to furnish American forces with reverse Lend-Lease supplies, Adm. Young disclosed that the Dominions' cooperation had resulted in a great saving of shipping space and the reduction of supply lines.

Adm. Young, the only naval reserve officer ever to become a rear admiral in the regular navy, revealed that Australia and New Zealand actually had established industries to meet the American demand for foods not available in peace-time in the Dominions.

He declared that they had built a factory to make sauerkraut, "which they had never even heard of before," and

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16 Campaigns Are Added To Battle-Honor List For Combat Vets

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15—Sixteen battles and campaigns have been added to the battle honors list, entitling soldiers who have served in them to wear bronze stars on their appropriate theater service ribbons, the War Department announced today. The theater commanders must first inform eligible units before the star may be affixed.

Here are the battles and campaigns and time limitations for each:
Europe, Air Offensive: From July 4, 1942, to final date unannounced as yet.
Egypt-Libya: From June 11, 1942, to Feb. 12, 1943.

Algeria-French Morocco: The landings from Nov. 8, 1942, to Nov. 11, 1942.
Tunisia, Air: From Nov. 8, 1942; Ground, from Nov. 17, 1942, to May 13, 1943.
Sicily, Air: From May 14, 1943; Ground, from July 9, 1943, to Aug. 17, 1943.

Central Pacific: Presence at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and any of the various actions in this area from that date till a final date to be announced later.

Philippine Islands: From Dec. 7, 1941, to May 10, 1942.
East Indies: Withdrawal through this area, including Java, from Jan. 1, 1942, to Jan. 23, 1943.

Papua: Offensive from July 23, 1942, to Jan. 23, 1943.
New Guinea: Current offensive from Jan. 24, 1943, to final date, unannounced as yet.

Guadalcanal: From Aug. 7, 1942, to Feb. 21, 1943.
Northern Solomons: From Feb. 22, 1943, to final date unannounced as yet.

Burma: This covers withdrawal of Chinese armies under Gen. Stilwell from Dec. 7, 1941, to May 26, 1942.
India-Burma: Current operations from April 2, 1942, to final date unannounced as yet.

China: From July 4, 1942, to final date unannounced as yet.
Aleutians: From June 3, 1942, to Aug. 24, 1943.

Ickes Tells Coal Miners To Get Busy, OK Terms

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (AP)—Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes, told coal operators to get busy and come to terms with the United Mine Workers if they wanted the mines back.

He said the government, which was now running the mines under a federal wage agreement, would immediately restore the properties to the miners if a contract is signed and another work stoppage "thus rendered improbable."

Navy Assistant Secretary Here on Inspection Tour

Arrival in London of Artemus L. Gates, U.S. assistant secretary of the Navy for air, was announced yesterday. He is expected to inspect the American aircraft carrier serving with the British home fleet.

Bricker Will Run

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov. 15 (AP)—Gov. John Bricker today formally announced he'll be a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination next year. He also stated he will not seek a fourth term as governor of Ohio.

Threat to German Lines Near Gomel Is Increasing

A great new thrust against German positions within the Dnieper Bend was admitted by Berlin radio yesterday, and one breakthrough near the important steel and communications center of Krivoi Rog forced the Germans to withdraw to a new line, Berlin conceded.

Indicative of the size of the latest Russian offensive, regarding which Moscow remained silent, was the Berlin claim that 100 Soviet tanks had been knocked out.

The new Red Army thrust was aimed at the enemy's lines near Krivoi Rog, around Zaporozhe, and in the vicinity of Nikopol, along the Dnieper to the south.

Meanwhile the savage drive west of Kiev continued unabated. Smashing on from captured Zhitomir, Red Army columns were pushing toward the key railway junction point of Korosten, to the north, and another rail town, Berdichev, to the south. Latest Soviet advances took the Red Army well past Chepovich, which lies but 18 miles south-east of Korosten.

Communications unassailed—upset by the fall of Korosten, junction of five railways in the area.

A big Russian breakthrough south of Zhitomir would place the Russians nearly 250 miles due west of the Kremenchug salient, south of which the battle of Krivoi Rog is being waged, and might well close a trap on Nazi forces within the bend. The Germans were striving to hold up the advance in the sector south of Zhitomir, which is aimed at Vinnitza, backbone of German communications in the south.

As Gen. Vatutin's columns thrust north and south from Zhitomir, there was one report that another prong had made a lightning thrust west and captured Baranovka, a town which lies 112 miles west of Kiev. If Baranovka has been taken it represents an advance of 45 miles in two days and brings the Russians within 165 miles of the 1941 border of Poland.

Break Through Near Gomel

With heavy battles raging within the Dnieper Bend and the Russians driving on relentlessly west of Kiev, the Red Army still was able to mount a third big offensive last night. Laying the groundwork for an approaching winter campaign, the Russians had broken through for a direct threat to Ryechitsa, virtually isolating Gomel, the enemy's anchor on the White Russian front.

Should Ryechitsa fall, the rail line west from Gomel to Pinsk will have been cut.

There was no appreciable change reported by Moscow in the situation either in the Crimea or in the Nevel sector. Dispatches from the Soviet capital said that the Red Army was preparing on all fronts for a great winter offensive at the moment, waiting for the lull to end between the first mild snowfalls and the hard frosts of early winter.

State of Alarm in Denmark

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 15 (UP)—A state of alarm has been ordered throughout Jutland, according to Copenhagen reports received in Stockholm yesterday. Observers believe that the measures reflect German army nervousness on Allied invasion possibilities.

Weatherman's a Cynic; It Really Snowed in N.Y.

NEW YORK, Nov. 15—The first snow of the winter fell in parts of Manhattan, but it was officially ignored by the Weather Bureau, which refused to record the flurries because they were so small.

Westchester County residents reported that snow which fell there remained for some time, and there was absolutely no doubt about the snow in upstate Chataqua County, where plows were out clearing roads after a snowfall that ranged from six to 14 inches.