

S & S Weatherman . . .  
LONDON and VICINITY  
Cloudy—Cool  
MIDLANDS and E. ANGLIA  
Cloudy—Cool

New York

London Edition

Paris

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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in the European Theater of Operations  
FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1945

. . . Predicts for Today  
W. ENGLAND and WALES  
Local Showers—Cool  
SCOTLAND  
Cloudy—Cool

## Tokyo Says Navy Planes Hit Kyushu

Allied carrier-based planes yesterday followed the record 550-plane Superfort raid on Tokyo with a series of low-level attacks against airfields on the southernmost Japanese home island of Kyushu. Tokyo Radio reported, as U.S. soldiers and Marines of the 10th Army made further gains at both ends of the Jap defense line across southern Okinawa.

About 180 planes swept over Kyushu to give the Jap airfields their 21st pounding since Mar. 27 as flames, kindled in the massive 4,500-ton B29 raid, swept through the industrial heart of the battered, burned out Japanese capital. Crew members reported flames from the world's third largest city could be seen for 200 miles.

The Japanese attempted to minimize the raid but admitted that the capital blazed for five and one-half hours after being hit by 700,000 incendiaries.

B29 crew members said the Japs sent up a new type of midget jet-propelled fighter, firing airborne "fireballs." There was no official report on losses.

According to the Japanese News Agency, 40 American bombers made diversionary attacks on the Shizuoka and Hamamatsu areas and against Kawasaki, and Yokohama during the raid on Tokyo. The Japs also reported a raid on military installations at Singapore by 23 U.S. Liberators.

### Enter Town in Force

On Okinawa U.S. troops, fighting through rain and mud, forded the Asato River and entered the town of Naha in force under cover of a heavy barrage by artillery and naval guns. Naha, the island capital, is the western anchor of the Jap defense line across the neck of the island.

At the other end of the four-mile belt of fortified positions U.S. infantrymen expanded their gains below Yonabaru and increased pressure on Shuri, the main defense position in the center of the line. Yonabaru, with its nearby airfield, fell to the 96th Division on Tuesday.

Remnants of the Jap garrison on Okinawa were threatened with a double drive across the island from east and west.

On Mindanao Island in the Philippines Gen. MacArthur's troops were within eight miles of driving a wedge through the remaining Jap forces to close a trap on an estimated 50,000 Japanese hiding in the hills. On Luzon the Japs were being burned out of their positions.

Japanese Radio yesterday continued reporting movements of a big task force from the Marianas. The task force, the radio said, has arrived at Okinawa bringing Allied naval strength off the island to 400 warships and transports.

On the east China coast Chinese troops were reported to have advanced north from Foochow past Lienkong, 20 miles up the coast.

## Wallace Urges Foreign Trade

NEW YORK, May 24 (Reuter)—The U.S. has the responsibility of world leadership for the first time, Commerce Secretary Henry A. Wallace told a New York Foreign Trade Week luncheon today.

"We are the only great nation with industries un bombed and with highways and railways in good working condition," he said. "Our economy is ready not only to give our own people a higher standard of living than they have ever had but also, through a program of sensible investment, in those nations which want to help themselves, to bring about a restoration of world productivity."

"There may be a period of a year or two when there is grave danger of inflation in the U.S.—inflation like that which occurred in 1919 and 1920, immediately following World War I. During that period it may be necessary, in order to protect both the domestic and foreign consumer, to continue certain types of export licenses."

"Once the danger of inflation is passed, however, the government must get out of export licensing with all possible speed."

"Now that the European war is over we want to help foreign traders to re-establish connections in the liberated areas just as soon as conditions over there will permit renewal of direct international trading between private firms."

"Foreign trade is important not only as a source of material well-being. Foreign trade is a material symbol of the ties which hold the world together. In all truth, we are members 'one of another.' We recognize this when we reduce the obstacles to trade."



WALLACE



**BALLOON BOMB:** Here is one of the paper balloons, bearing Japanese ideographs and carrying incendiary bombs, which the War Department disclosed this week had been dropped on the western part of the U.S. This one was found by a woodcutter and his son 17 miles southwest of Kalispell, Mont. It is being examined by (left to right) Maj. J. F. Bolgiano, Capt. W. B. Starrard and FBI agent W. G. Banister.

## Hopkins, Davies Missions Ready Early Big 3 Talk

WASHINGTON, May 24—A White House announcement yesterday that Harry L. Hopkins and Joseph E. Davies had left on special missions to Moscow and London, respectively, brought a statement today from Presidential press secretary Charles G. Ross that a Big Three meeting was "in the works."

Replying to comment that the impending discussions between Davies and Prime Minister Churchill and between Hopkins and Marshal Stalin would take the place of a Big Three conference Ross emphasized that the talks were preliminary to and not a substitute for a meeting of the American, British and Russian leaders.

Ross explained that Hopkins and Davies each "has a special mission to perform" and that both "fit into the general pattern of the projected meeting of the Big Three."

Ross said he could not say when or where the Big Three conference would take place.

In the announcement yesterday it was stated that Hopkins was leaving for Moscow with Ambassador W. Averell Harriman to confer with Stalin on matters now under discussion by U.S. and Soviet officials.

Davies, the statement said, will discuss with Churchill and other British officials "certain matters of common interest to the U.S. and Britain arising out of the war."

Hopkins was one of President Roosevelt's advisers and acted as his special representative in an earlier visit to Moscow. Davies formerly was U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

(The American embassy in London said Davies was expected to arrive "shortly.")

## Officer Discharges Same Ratio as EMs

WASHINGTON, May 24 (AP)—The Army expects to release under the point discharge system proportionately as many officers as enlisted men—roughly one officer for every nine EMs.

However, point scoring is secondary in determining whether any individual officer will be released after he attains the necessary 85 points. His particular value to the Army takes precedence over his score.

A theater commander may decide an officer is surplus and should be released, but this decision is subject to review by commanders of the Ground, Air and Service Forces under the general supervision of the War Department, in other words, if an officer's abilities are needed elsewhere he will be retained, regardless of his point score.

However, the Department said that special consideration for discharge would be given to officers who have had long overseas and combat service.

### European War Brides Land

BOSTON, May 24 (Reuter)—European war brides of 110 U.S. Army and Navy men have landed here from a transport. The brides, some of whom had children, came from England, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, Holland and France.

## Ike To Be Honored By City of London

Gen. Eisenhower is to be presented the Freedom of the City of London and a Sword of Honor for his great part in bringing about the defeat of Germany, the Court of Common Council unanimously decided at a special meeting yesterday.

The Freedom, London's highest honor, will be tendered on a scroll as well as with the Sword.

Arrangements are being made for the ceremony to take place at Guildhall.

## Hodges in U.S., Ready for Japs

By Russell Jones

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau  
NEW YORK, May 24—Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, U.S. 1st Army commander who arrived in New York yesterday en route to the Pacific, said he expected to find the Japs "just as tough" as the Germans. Hodges, whose men landed in Normandy on D-Day, first smashed the Siegfried Line, were first across the Rhine and first made contact with the Russians, was the first four-star general from the ETO to arrive in the U.S.

Looking his tough, weather-beaten self, Hodges was close-mouthed about War Department plans for the 1st in the Pacific, but he did say that the bulk of his original staff—many of them veterans of Africa as well as of Europe—and "certain units of the 1st" would accompany him. He added that he had a healthy respect for the Jap soldier and that the terrain in the Pacific might be more difficult because of hills. He declined to discuss the armor-infantry balance of the Army he will command.

Hodges was expected to fly to his home city of Atlanta, Ga., for a series of celebrations. He said that after two or three days he would go on to Washington to prepare for his Pacific campaign.

Five enlisted 1st Army veterans with sufficient points for discharge arrived with Hodges and his staff.

## Planes Sank 81 Subs Of 126 K0d by Navy

WASHINGTON, May 24 (ANS)—Navy planes accounted for 81 of the 126 German submarines sunk by American forces in the Battle of the Atlantic, Vice-Adm. Patrick N. L. Bellinger, commander of the Atlantic Fleet air force, said here today. More than 100 air squadrons, including over 1,200 land- and carrier-based planes and blimps, operated against Atlantic U-boats at the peak of the battle for the supply lanes to Europe, he said.

## Himmler a Suicide; Takes Poison During Medical Examination

BRITISH 2ND ARMY HQ, May 24 (Reuter)—Heinrich Himmler, whose Nazi terrorism made him a world arch criminal, committed suicide at 11:04 PM yesterday at British 2nd Army HQ by crunching between his teeth a phial of potassium cyanide. Apparently he had hidden it in his mouth some time after he was captured, in disguise, by British troops at Bremer-voerde on Monday, it was announced here tonight.

The 44-year-old chief of the Gestapo and the SS, and more recently Germany's Interior Minister, had been thoroughly examined by medical officers, who looked at his eyes, fingernails, hair, ears, armpits—every part of his body where poison could possibly be hidden. The medical officer had examined his mouth once, but, in order to make sure, he brought Himmler over to the window and told him to open his mouth again.

Then, just when the doctor was putting a finger into Himmler's mouth, the Nazi leader made a quick movement of his head and bit on the top of an inch-long phial. Within a minute he had slumped to the floor, unconscious.

Stomach pumps were put into action immediately. Himmler was held face downward over a bucket. But these efforts to resuscitate him were futile; the poison had paralyzed the nerve centers instantaneously. Within 15 minutes the man who had ordered the deaths of countless humans himself was dead.

Tonight his body lay in the red-roofed villa which is British HQ. Gray-faced, bespectacled, but without his mustache, Himmler's face was turned toward the ceiling. His body, half covered by a British blanket, was clothed in a British army shirt, slacks and socks.

Tonight's announcement ended the widespread search begun for Himmler soon after the news of Hitler's death and the capture of other top Nazis. The chief enemy leader still to be caught is former Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

The statement by British HQ said that the Russian officers here acting to carry out the terms of Germany's unconditional surrender saw Himmler's body this evening and had been given the relevant photographs and reports.

### Statement About Death

This was the statement issued about Himmler's death:

"Reichsfuehrer of the SS Heinrich Himmler, chief of the German police and Reichminister of the Interior, was arrested by troops of the British 2nd Army at Bremervoerde on May 21 and taken into the field security custody on May 22."

"Himmler was traveling under the name of Hizinger, and was disguised with a black patch over the right eye and had shaved off his mustache. With him were his two adjutants—one a big, burly member of the SS."

"Himmler and his party arrived under escort and unrecognized at a camp near 2nd Army HQ, where he asked, through his adjutants, for an interview with the camp commandant."

"When the interview was granted, Himmler announced his identity, which was confirmed by the chief officer at the camp and later, beyond any doubt, by counter-intelligence officers from 2nd Army HQ."

"Himmler was immediately confined under armed guards, stripped and medically examined to find any hidden poison."

"During the final stage of this examination, when the medical officer attempted to examine the prisoner's mouth, he made a quick movement of his head and bit open a small glass phial, containing cyanide of potassium, which was concealed in his mouth."

"He died in 15 minutes, at 11:04 PM on May 23."

"The glass phial had been hidden in Himmler's mouth for some hours."

A senior intelligence officer told how Himmler was taken.

Shortly before 9 last night, he said, officers from a near-by camp telephoned to say they had arrested Himmler. The intelligence officer motored at once down the road to find Himmler with two adjutants.

(Continued on back page)



**RESPECTS:** Navy Seabee Frank E. Rice, of Pollock, Ind., kneels beside the grave of his son, a Navy medic who was killed during the invasion of Iwo Jima. Rice, on duty in the Philippines, was granted leave to visit his son's grave.

## 19 8th AF Units Will Fly Home Inside 60 Days

The U.S. 8th Air Force's redeployment plans call for 19 Flying Fort and Liberator groups to fly to the U.S. within the next 30 to 60 days.

This followed a statement earlier this week that 65 Forts and Libs had already landed at base in the U.S., including the first of the 8th Air Force to return.

More than 2,000 heavy bombers will be used in the movement, which will provide air transport for approximately 40,000 air and ground crew members. In addition, 20,000 remaining men of the 19 groups will follow the air contingent by water.

Each bomber will carry 20 men, including its normal complement of ten combat crew members. The other ten men will consist of crew chiefs, armorers and other ground personnel.

Leaves and furloughs will be granted to officers and men as soon as possible after arrival in the U.S. They will then return to their original organizations, and will not be assigned to replacement or redistribution centers.

The aircraft will be based at an airfield near Valley, in north Wales, where they will come under the operational control of Air Transport Command.

Many units, including combat and service organizations, will be sent directly to the southwest Pacific and Pacific Ocean areas in the near future.

Liberator groups scheduled for immediate return to the U.S. include 44th, 93rd, 389th, 392nd, 445th, 446th, 448th, 453rd, 458th, 466th, 467th, and 491st bomb groups.

Flying Fort groups include 91st, 351st, 381st, 398th, 401st, 457th, and 82nd bomb groups.

### 2 Interned Bombers Return

Two U.S. 8th Air Force bombers which had been interned in Sweden landed at the U.S. Air Technical Service Command's 1st Air Base depot at Warrington, England, Wednesday afternoon, first of approximately 80 such planes expected to return to England shortly.

## Australia Asks Hirohito's Life

Indictment of Japanese Emperor Hirohito as a war criminal and his execution as head of a state responsible for systematic barbarities has been demanded by the Australian government, it was reliably learned in London yesterday, the United Press said.

The Australian demand was attached to an authenticated report of Japanese atrocities in New Guinea, which has been submitted to the United Nations War Crimes Commission. When the report first reached Canberra last year, Australian Foreign Minister Herbert S. Evatt said it was "too horrible for publication."

Charges against high Japanese officials have not been decided on, but one member of the Commission pointed out that members of the German government were similarly indicted—as responsible for the criminal policies of their government.

The official U.S. attitude toward Hirohito's fate has not been revealed, but it is reported that high U.S. State Department advisers feel he should be spared and the responsibility for war placed upon Japanese military and economic leaders.

## Casualties Crawl Close to Million

WASHINGTON, May 24 (AP)—U.S. armed forces casualties from the beginning of the war to May 14 totaled 996,089, an increase of 9,875 over the previous week, it was announced today.

Army casualties were 886,525, including 181,739 killed and 550,506 wounded. Navy casualties were 109,564, including 42,807 killed and 52,005 wounded.

The War Department said that 302,910 of the Army's wounded had been returned to duty, while 25,356 prisoners had been officially listed as exchanged or returned to military control.