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Ring Closing At Rostov, Stalingrad

Trapped Force Dwindles To 3,500; Thousands Give Up at Voronezh

MOSCOW, Jan. 28 (AP)—While the Russian ring of iron closed steadily tighter and tighter round the remnants of the German invaders of Stalingrad, another arc of Soviet steel contracted gradually but relentlessly today around the key town of Rostov.

Only two groups of Germans, numbering no more than 8,500 men in all, remained in the ruins of Stalingrad, the city they were so confident of taking last summer. Only yesterday it was announced their number had been reduced from the original 220,000 to 12,000, and since then additional groups had been slain or taken prisoners.

There were indications that the Germans were running out of ammunition. The last few transports shot down while trying to get through were carrying shells. Now planes carrying food and ammunition no longer can get through. The communique also reported the firepower of the group dug in close to the center of the city was weakening.

Crack Regiment Surrenders

One of the latest groups to surrender was a crack German regiment which a few days ago consisted of 1,200 men. When they capitulated they numbered only a few hundred.

Meanwhile, 5,000 Germans laid down their arms on the Voronezh front near the towns of Varvarovka and Shiliakino, led by a colonel, two majors, and a captain, and many German prisoners shouted "Hitler is Kaput . . ." (Hitler is sunk).

Caucasian units of the Red Army drew closer hour by hour to the cities of Kropotkin and Tikhoretskaya, on the Rostov-Baku railway, from the east and the northeast. When these cities fall, the remaining Germans in the region of Krasnodar and Novorossiisk will have difficulty in getting away.

To the north, the Soviet are around the Sea of Azov port of Rostov was getting smaller as day by day the Russian troops on the southern and southwestern fronts drove forward against heavy counter-attacks.

Recapture Oil Fields

As they drew closer to Rostov, the Red forces regained valuable oil lands. Thirty miles north of the Black Sea port of Tuapse, they recaptured on Tuesday the town of Neftogorsk, center of one of the newest and best Caucasian oil fields. Developed around 1935, these fields can produce in a year nearly 2,000,000 tons of oil yielding some of the highest aviation spirit in the world.

The same forces captured two district centers and five large inhabited places and were 50 miles away from Tikhoretsk, vital junction of the Stalingrad-Krasnodar and Baku-Rostov railways.

The advance of the Russians in this area increased the danger of entrapment facing the Germans in the Caucasus from Rostov south to Novorossiisk. (Reports were current in Turkey and the Balkans that the Germans were assembling a huge fleet of barges at Novorossiisk, possibly planning a "Dunkirk" escape for their troops.)

In the Stalingrad circle, the loss of 48 tanks during the last 12 hours greatly weakened the Germans' resistance.

A last effort to reach the surrounded troops by air consisted of several transports which approached the city and were (Continued on page 4)

They Got Home Just the Same



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

He isn't one of the men who made the raid on Wilhelmshaven, but M/Sgt. Donald F. Genessy, Emmet, Idaho, is chief of the ground crew that keeps plane in condition. Surveying the damage near waist gun of plane, he looks forward to day Nazis will be sorry.

Day and Night Air Offensive Smashes at Nazis' Industry

The shadow of the weapon with which the Nazis set out to conquer the world today hangs over all of Germany.

It is the speeding shape of a bombing plane, and in the glare of bomb bursts that have blossomed all across Hitler's western wall in the last 48 hours observers saw the shape of things to come—around-the-clock bombing by the joint and growing forces of the United States, Great Britain and the Allied governments.

If the operations since Tuesday are an indication, Hitler may expect daylight precision raids by masses of American Flying Fortresses and Liberators, such as smashed at Wilhelmshaven and Northwest Germany in daylight Wednesday.

Things to Come

There will be swift, low-swooping forays by Mosquitos and other medium bombers of the RAF and USAAF such as struck at the Nazis' most vital Diesel engine works in Copenhagen Wednesday afternoon.

There will be the cascading fall of bombs in saturation raids by the RAF's big night bombers, blasting targets and defenses alike, such as drowned Dusseldorf, on the edge of the Ruhr Valley, in high explosive Wednesday night, or Lorient the night before.

And through it all there will be the constant thrusts of RAF, USAAF and Allied and Dominions fighter planes and fighter-bombers against everything within their reach.

With all that almost certainly will come the same sort of double-barrelled treatment for the southern end of the Axis in Italy, and along the Eastern Wall from the Russians.

Launched just three days before the tenth anniversary of Hitler's Nazi rule and before the wires had finished telling the story of the joint pledge by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill that Germany would be hit this year, the around-the-clock raids smashed at the very roots of Hitler's war machine.

The RAF blast at Lorient Tuesday night, coming after a score of USAAF missions in the last six months against Nazi sub bases, hit at the U-Boats.

So did Eighth Air Force's anniversary raid—a day before the force was a year (Continued on page 4)

The people of Germany prepared yesterday for the mobilization of all men from 16 to 65 and all women from 17 to 45 to work or fight as Propaganda Minister Goebbels called upon the nation to exert a total effort now that the war had "reached its hardest stage."

Announcing the drastic mobilization edict, Goebbels declared that Germans must shoulder new burdens that will "deeply affect the life of every one of us" and pointed out that the "places of soldiers going to the front must be taken at once by men and women not yet included in the labor process."

The Swiss newspaper Gazette de Lausanne reported that Germany had ordered the conscription of youths from 15 to 19 years old for its armies, but this was not confirmed elsewhere.

The Reich's drastic steps to increase its fighting and working power came within 24 hours after the announcement of the Roosevelt-Churchill conference at Casablanca and almost simultaneously with the first American air blow at Germany proper—a blow that is the beginning of an all-out Anglo-American offensive to cripple Germany's supply and production system from the air.

A threat that failure of the people to respond to the complete mobilization was contained in a Berlin radio broadcast. "All the efforts of the home front can now only be measured by the standards of our soldiers on the Eastern front," it said. "It is part of our military tradition that any soldier who betrays his trust or first begins to flee from the enemy is liable to instant death. These laws should now be applied in principle to the home front. Every one, regardless of profession, age or sex, is called on to give his utmost. There can be no exceptions of any kind. Anyone who fails in this duty will be instantly punished."

Activated at Savannah, Ga., on Jan. 28, 1942, the Eighth Air Force has been in combat in the European Theater since July.

In a little more than six months of aerial warfare against the Germans, its fighters have carried out more than 2,600 patrols and its heavy bombardment groups

British, U.S. Chiefs Map Plans in Africa For Blow at Europe

218 U.S. Troops Dead, 532 Hurt in Tunisia

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (UP)—Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, at a press conference here this afternoon, gave the following statistics on American casualties in the fighting in Tunisia. Killed, 218. Wounded, 532. Missing, 515. Of the missing, 226 are reported to be prisoners of war, Mr. Stimson said.

World Drives Seen as Result Of Conferences

But Sudden Nazi Jitters May Be a Show, OWI Chief Says

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—An offensive against the Axis in all parts of the world this year will be the outcome of the Roosevelt-Churchill conference at Casablanca, Elmer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, declared last night.

"Elaborate plans have been made for a global offensive against the Axis, not merely local offensives," he said.

Mr. Davis said the pessimistic tone of German propaganda about the conference should be viewed with suspicion. They might be seeking to impart strength through fear or hoping to persuade Allied people the war was almost over, thus promoting a relaxation in the war effort, he said.

The OWI chief doubted the rumors of the presence of Finnish, Turkish, Spanish or Italian representatives at the conferences.

Stimson Sees 'Good News'

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, meanwhile, expressed satisfaction with a number of developments on the war fronts. He outlined these facts in what he described as continued good news:

1.—The German authorities were beginning to speak publicly of their defeat in Russia, where Mr. Stimson said that the Russian stand at Stalingrad and the subsequent Red Army resurgence may well be one of the decisive battles of history.

2.—Rommel's Axis troops in Tripolitania were in full flight, having abandoned Tripoli without a fight.

3.—French and American troops in Tunisia had repulsed the German thrust designed to widen Rommel's corridor of retreat.

4.—Gen MacArthur's forces in New Guinea, completing the Papuan campaign, had eliminated the Japanese completely in eastern New Guinea.

5.—In the Solomon Islands American troops were steadily narrowing the area occupied by the Japanese, and, considering the number of troops involved, were inflicting heavy casualties.

Eighth Air Force Crews Praised In First Birthday Celebration

The Eighth Air Force was one year old yesterday as American fliers compared notes from their initial bombing attack on a target inside Hitler's Germany.

Maj. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, commanding general of the Eighth Air Force, commemorated the birthday in a fight talk that contained not only a "well done" for his men but a cold threat to Hitler. He said:

"A year ago today the Eighth Air Force was activated and on its first anniversary I am pleased, as commanding general, to praise the work of our bombing crews on their first actual attack against a target in Germany. This is but a beginning of many such attacks by the Eighth Air Force against the enemy."

Activated at Savannah, Ga., on Jan. 28, 1942, the Eighth Air Force has been in combat in the European Theater since July.

In a little more than six months of aerial warfare against the Germans, its fighters have carried out more than 2,600 patrols and its heavy bombardment groups

have flown 31 missions over German targets, culminating in the history-making raid on Wilhelmshaven.

Its men have won nearly 700 decorations for valor.

Brig. Gen. Asa N. Duncan was its commanding general during the activating period in the United States and Maj. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz took command in the European Theater. Gen. Duncan came overseas to be chief of staff of the Eighth Air Force. He has been reported missing, presumably dead, in a flight to the African front. Gen. Spaatz has since been named commanding general of Allied air operations in North Africa.

Maj. Gen. Eaker came to England Feb. 20 to lay the ground work for establishment of the Eighth Air Force in the European Theater. The first air echelon arrived in early July and by the end of that month the first heavy bombardment group in England was complete. First known simply as "bomber command" (Continued on page 4)

Axis Sources Assert Big U.S. Drive Is Imminent

By the Associated Press

A two-day Mediterranean war council, attended by the best military brains in America and Britain, was reported yesterday from Allied Force Headquarters in North Africa, sharply foreshadowing the day when the United Nations would use North Africa as a springboard into Europe.

The report of the meeting came as American and French troops consolidated the positions they had reconquered from the Germans in the Ousseltia Valley and in the mountains to the east, and the Eighth Army pressed on after Rommel's retreating forces, clearing away thousands of mines as it went.

An American attempt to drive a wedge between the converging armies of Rommel and von Arnim in southern Tunisia was suggested by Axis reports.

Axis Predicts U.S. Drive

Vichy radio said the American army originally concentrated at Tebessa had begun its offensive, and German radio yesterday quoted a Berlin military spokesman as saying the Americans were "planning a major offensive."

Paris radio reported artillery duels in central Tunisia and said important Allied movements were observed at Medjez el Bab and Bou Arada. A thrust by a United States division in the southern sector had been repulsed, the radio added.

The war council, attended by the men chiefly responsible for both land and sea operations of both the United States and Britain, took place immediately after they had sped eastward from the Churchill-Roosevelt conference at Casablanca.

Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the U.S. Army; Adm. Ernest King, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Navy; Field-Marshal Sir John Dill, head of the British mission in the United States; Adm. Sir Dudley Pound, First Sea Lord; Vice-Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten, chief of Combined Operations; Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, Middle East commander; Lt. Gen. Harold H. Arnold, chief of the U.S. Air Force, and Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied commander in North Africa, conferred at day and night meetings.

Unified Command Seen

That the military chiefs came immediately to this theatre after the policy-making Casablanca conference was taken as an indication that the Allies considered the Mediterranean offensive against the Axis one of the best bids for victory.

Others at the conference included Gen. Sir Hastings Ismay, military adviser of the Ministry of Defence, and Averill Harriman, Mr. Roosevelt's operational representative in London. All the conferences centered in Gen. Eisenhower, and this, combined with the presence of Gen. Alexander, was taken as an indication that the Allies were planning the union of all the forces in the Mediterranean into one great theater with a coordinate command.

Such a step has long been foreseen by military experts as a necessity when Gen. Alexander's and Gen. Eisenhower's armies join, as they appear to be doing in Tunisia.

In Tunisia, while bad weather again bogged down most ground activity, there were increasing indications from Axis sources that the Allied drive to keep von Arnim's forces and Rommel's retreating Afrika Korps apart was about to begin.

"Anglo-American forces concentrated in the regions near Medjez el Bab and (Continued on page 4)

Army Plans Combat Unit Of Japs Loyal to U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (AP)—The U.S. Army announced today it had made plans for a combat unit of loyal Japanese-Americans. The military sub-committee of the Senate, meanwhile, asked the advice of Joseph Grew, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, on proposals to separate the potentially loyal Americans from other Japanese now in detention colonies.

Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, said the decision to organize a Japanese-American combat team, including infantry, artillery, sappers and medical personnel was based on "the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle."



With Stalingrad attackers nearly eradicated, Reds press close to Rostov. At Novorossiisk, Nazis may try a "Dunkirk." At Voronezh, 5,000 Germans surrendered en masse.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Hash Marks

Rationing has certainly upset the usual standard of values back on the home front. Here are some examples of what we mean: Thieves raided the premises of the Tasty Pie Corp. of Fort Worth, but took no pies—instead they broke the lock on the gasoline pump and made off with the fuel. A Houston, Texas, woman returned to her car to find that her purse had been rifled. No cash was missing, but she had lost \$50 worth of vitamin pills.

A Michigan lass gained new respect for New Guinea women after trying on



a grass skirt sent her by her boy friend serving with the armed forces there. Said she, "The blades of grass have edges sharp as knives. I don't see how they wear them."

Two rabbits escaped from an Army Medical Center experimental hutch somewhere over here and hit the road, honey-moon bound. They had covered some distance when suddenly back along the trail they heard the baying of hounds. "Look," said Mr. Rabbit, "we were born and raised in the Army. We're pretty tough, let's stay right where we are and lick those babies." The coy young rabbit bride blushed. "Let's wait until tomorrow, dear," she said, "and outnumber them."

Pfc Finis Erwin, located at a quartermaster depot in the southern states, gets more salutes than any officer at the station—the only difference is, he salutes first. He is the only private among the personnel consisting otherwise of general staff officers.

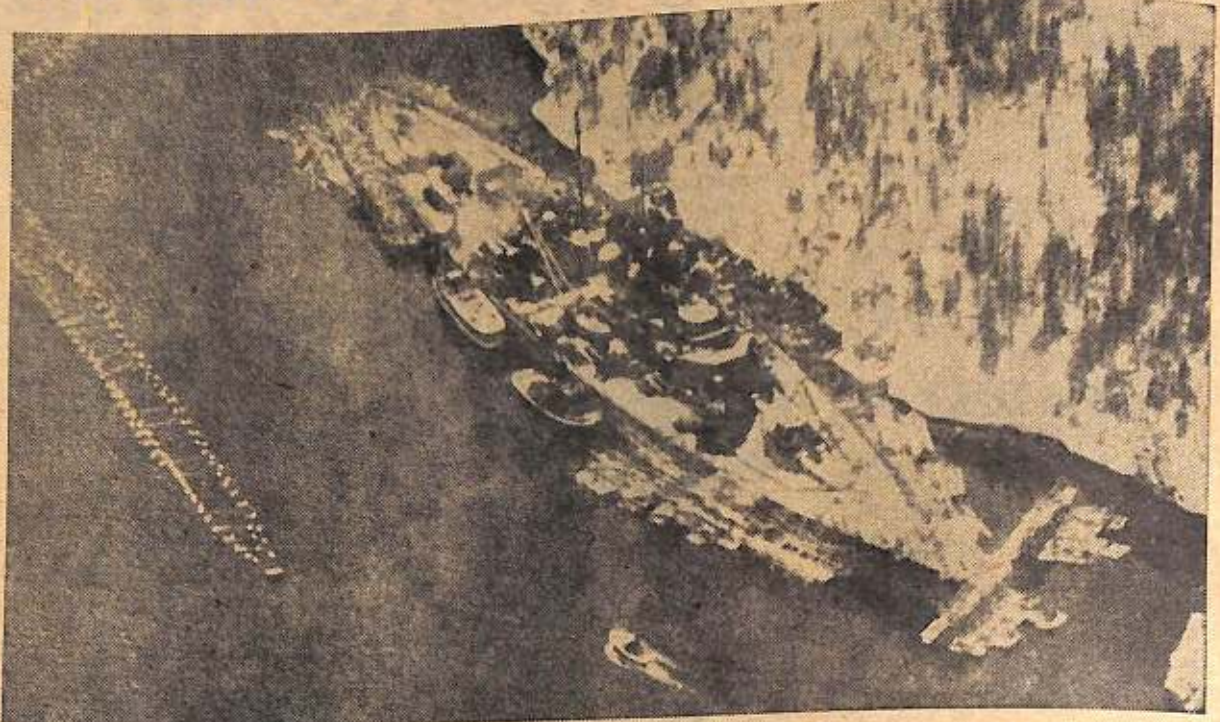
Here's a story from HAH in North Africa. Two GIs who had imbibed too freely of orange juice boarded a street



car in Oran. One of the lads turned to the nearest uniformed individual and offered fare for the tickets. "Sorry, I can't take it," said the stranger, "I'm a naval officer." "Holy smoke, Joe," shouted the GI to his buddy, "let's get off of here. We've boarded a bloomin' battleship!"

J. C. W.

The Shadow of German Sea Power



The German battleship Tirpitz, 40,000 tons or more, as it was photographed last spring in the Aas Fjord, along the snow-covered Norwegian coast, by an RAF reconnaissance plane. She is protected by an anti-air torpedo boom, stretching from amidships on the starboard side aft and towards the adjacent shore. Floating camouflage lies on both sides of her bow and stern, while heavy camouflage is spread over the barrels of the 15-inch guns. Two hundred feet off her starboard are torpedo booms.

Nazi Navy 'Fights' For Axis Without Firing Shot

By Bud Hutton

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Vague reports, repeatedly cropping up in neutral countries, that "The Tirpitz has slipped the blockade and is at sea."

Day and night raids on the U-Boat pens and docks and yards from Lorient to Wilhelmshaven and Copenhagen.

The knowledge that when the United Nations go into the Continent—as President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill have promised they will—Germany almost certainly will gamble her naval power as well as everything else to stop them, if the landings are made elsewhere than from the Mediterranean.

The clash of Nazi and British, Russian and American naval forces along the convoy route to Murmansk.

There is the shadowy, indistinct picture out of which, one of these days, the German High Seas fleet may sail into sharp focus and a showdown test of strength with the British Home Fleet in one desperate gamble against overwhelming guns and tonnage.

To a good many the phrase "German High Seas Fleet" is puzzling; their first reaction—"Is there one?"

There is, and as long as it continues in being, whether it ever fires another shot or launches another torpedo, it has a direct and very tangible effect not only on the war of battlecraft at sea but on the Battle of the Atlantic, the Battle of the Supply Lines and the war against the U-Boats.

The German fleet is a grey, hungry wolf skulking the cold Norwegian fjords and

the chop of the North Sea fringes; baying defiance at Allied sea power but staying out of gun range; a shadowy threat to the freedom of the seas; an enemy with which the Allies would like to close and slug it out but can't—at least they haven't been able to yet.

Here is what the German fleet is doing in this war:

Aside from the raiders which sporadically slip out to prey on shipping until they're caught and sunk or scuttled, the very existence of the Reich's sea power ties up a considerable portion of the British Home Fleet, and thus of Allied naval power in general.

By drawing off very considerable elements of Allied power to guard the North Sea, the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean, the Nazi fleet weakens by just that much the convoy forces available to guard merchant shipments to Britain and Africa, and thus permits the U-Boats an exactly corresponding increase in freedom from attack.

Occasionally a task force of Hitler's fleet puts out to sea, slashes at a convoy to Russia, gives and takes losses and hurries back to the deep, mountain-guarded fjords along Norway's coast, or to the harbors such as Wilhelmshaven which was bombed Wednesday in America's first blow against Germany proper.

Allies Must Be Ready

Each of such forays is a sharp reminder to the men who plot the assignments of Allied sea power that a force must be kept at battle stations in this theater constantly to be ready for the day, if it comes, that the Nazis go out to sea in force.

Biggest, most foreboding of these shadowy men-o'-war is the core of the Swastika at sea, the Tirpitz, 40,000 tons and more of German ingenuity and ship-building skill.

The Tirpitz, sister ship to the Bismarck which finally was sunk after smashing the battle-cruiser Hood with a couple of salvos, crippling the 35,000-ton British Prince of Wales and leading British sea and air power a grim chase around the Atlantic, has been reported hit by torpedoes on several occasions. She may or may not be crippled, lying up while her hull is repaired. Crippled or no, she ties down Allied battle might.

Two 'Shadow Ships'

Back of Tirpitz (and it's not known just what their status is at present) are the even more shadowy silhouettes of the "H" and the "I," reported to be a-building as sister ships of the Tirpitz.

Second in tonnage, striking power and certainly in the public eye in the German fleet are the bracketed pair, Gneisenau and Scharnhorst, rated at 26,000 tons with nine 11-inch guns each, and secondary batteries of 12 5.9s and tertiary batteries of 14 4.1 ack-acks.

Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were bombed and blasted by the RAF at Brest. They fled, finally, sailed boldly through the English Channel and a gauntlet of torpedoes and bombs from Britain-based aircraft, and thence to Kiel and an existence of shuttling from port to port. They were hit in that escape, and they've been ferreted out in their hideaways since then and bombed some more. They may or may not be repaired now; they're formidable if they are and a threat in any case.

Perhaps most spectacular of Germany's naval units are the pocket battleships, so-called because at a sacrifice of armor they have retained speed and gunpower approaching the heaviest. Luetzow and Admiral Scheer are the two remaining units of Hitler's venture into inventive naval construction. The Graf von Spee, third of the pocket fleet built early in the 1930s, was scuttled after its unsuccessful battle with three British cruisers off the River Plate in South America, Dec. 17, 1939. Luetzow was torpedoed by a British plane in June, 1941, and received extensive damage.

The pocket battleships probably are about 12,000 tons displacement (although the Nazis list them at 10,000) but carry

six 11-inch guns, all out of proportion to their weight, and eight 5.9s and six 4.1s.

The pocket battleships can hand it out; they can't take it. Just as must every vessel which goes to sea, they have compromised armor and gunpower and speed. Those three elements always are present. All battleships—and this even extends to airplanes and to some degree to tanks—are compromises of those elements.

Add gun-power and you must give up an equal measure of armor or speed; add armor and you must reduce speed or gun-power; add speed and you must reduce weight by cutting armor or guns.

The pocket ships sacrifice the armor for guns. (Their belt armor—amidships—is believed to be four and one-half inches, with an internal belt of another inch and one-half.) Their speed is reckoned in excess of 26 knots, a few knots less than the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, or the 30-knot-plus Tirpitz. America's Carolina was built for 27 knots plus; is rated at better than 30; the Iowa class rates well over 30.

One Aircraft Carrier

Of aircraft-carriers, the Germans apparently have only one—the Graf Zeppelin, of 19,250 tons and 32 knots. Another ship of this type was laid down, but apparently never was finished. Its plane capacity is reported to be 40.

Scarcely less potent than the pocket battleships are Germany's heavy cruisers, such as the Admiral Hipper and Prinz Eugen (the Tirpitz's consort). They are rated at 10,000 tons and may be heavier; carry eight eight-inch guns and 12 4.1s; can catapult four aircraft (as can virtually every big Nazi war vessel) and have five-inch belt armor. Germany had four of these. She has lost at least one since the war began, the Blucher.

Four unidentified 8,000-ton cruisers are supposed to have been started in the last five years by Germany. She had an unknown number of 6,000-ton cruisers and one of 5,400 tons at the start of the war. But the Nazis have lost at least four of the 6,000-tonners.

Finally, there is a fleet of possibly 25 destroyers, the heaviest of which probably are about 1,800 tons, of which last she has lost five for certain and probably several others, as well as better than half a dozen of 1,625 tons displacement.

At least an even score of armed merchantmen have been lost by the Nazis since the start of the war. They probably still have a good many more, and some have been reported in the South Atlantic.

There is no official indication of the strength of the Nazis motor torpedo fleet nor of their gunboats. They have a surprising strength of gunboats on Europe's inland waterways, such as the Danube, many of which were taken over from occupied countries.

There, except for the submarine packs which Allied leaders today say is the greatest immediate menace to a United Nations victory, is Hitler's sea power.

Could Do Damage

It's more formidable than the layman usually believes, not as formidable as the alarmists would have you think. It could do a lot of damage; it is doing a lot of harm in a negative way.

Brought to battle, even as a complete unit, it wouldn't stand a chance against Britain's Home Fleet, in all probability. But it could sink a lot of tonnage before it went down. No one discounts that and the effect such sinkings would have on U-Boat warfare.

As long as it remains in the shelter of land-based aircraft the German sea power seems secure against Allied air attack. Once it ventures out it's on its own.

One of these days that may happen. If it does there will be no repetition of the massed broadsides of Jutland. It will be savage slash and probably a Nazi effort to hit and disperse, then to roam the seas against Allied commerce.

It may be brought into action when we invade the Continent.

If so Allied gunners will have the chance for which they've been waiting since Jutland, one war and more than a quarter century ago.

Ten Million Men

A succession of reports from China indicates the critical situation of Japan in regard to manpower. Japan has been fighting China for several years and during that time has stripped her islands of able-bodied men at a rate that now appears to be alarming. Calls are therefore being made for military service (under Japanese supervision) of subject people.

An instance of this tendency which has recently become apparent is the use of two Thai (Siamese) divisions by the Japanese in their current push from the Shan states into Yunnan province. Roughly two Thais for each Jap were employed.

A further report tells of Japanese attempts to conscript 600,000 Chinese from the three provinces of Kiangsu, Chekiang and Anhwei to replace heavy losses on various fronts. Up to the present no attempt is known to have been made by the Japanese or their puppet governments to use conscripts except in China. A measure of their success in this field is given in figures released from Chungking. According to these figures out of 400,000 puppet troops so far enrolled, mainly for garrison duties, 181,867 are known to have deserted to the Chinese Army under Chiang-Kai-shek.

Now Japanese plans include one for the conscription of a Chinese puppet army of 10,000,000 men to be used against the troops of Great Britain and the United States. This latest move may mean that Japan feels that Chinese troops will be more reliable when employed against forces of the United Nations other than Chinese. It is not likely, however, that they will be willing to exert much effort for a "New Order" of which they have tasted, with bitter experience.

The Thai troops are already strongly discounted by the Chinese forces who have engaged them, and the bigger the puppet army employed by Japan the larger the toll of desertions to the side of the United Nations.

Sub Menace

Recently public officials and the press have combined to warn us all regarding the submarine menace, for despite every precaution submarines have been making dangerous inroads into Allied shipping.

The Germans are concentrating on the destruction of Allied sea transport, hoping to cut the link between America and the world battle fronts. In operations to date submarines have met with marked success. According to the latest AP tabulation, 601 merchantmen have been lost in the North Atlantic since December 7, 1941.

German claims, however, have gone far beyond this figure, and each new sinking is announced over German radio with a fanfare. Germany feels the need for these fanfares. In the past two days Doctor Goebbels has been forced to tell the German people something of the tremendous defeats suffered by the Axis armies in Russia.

In assessing the danger to our war effort from submarine action, no snap judgment should be made. The menace is real, and Germany is making every effort to double the danger.

The Allies realize fully the danger they now face on the high seas. Our military and naval leaders are also taking steps to reduce ship sinkings. It is a battle that will not be won completely by either side; but Germany does not hold all the cards.

For example, one answer to ship sinkings is our increased tempo of ship construction. Another answer is bigger and better convoys, a third is thoroughly organized air patrols operated in beats based on a series of points from Iceland to the Cape of Good Hope and in constant operation over all the convoy routes.

Our leaders are not concentrating on one theory, but are developing convoy protection on the basis that every safety precaution must be taken and new ones provided that have never been tried before.

With the new program of convoy defense in operation, the Battle of the Atlantic enters a new phase, and the United Nations should be able to more than hold their own as the fight continues.

PRIVATE BREGER



"It's our only chance—keep popping that bubble-gum till ammunition arrives!"

Sgt. Dave Breger Britain

Hutson Voted Most Valuable Pro Gridder

Green Bay End is First Player to Get Honor Two Years in Row

CHICAGO, Jan. 28—Don Hutson, left end of the Green Bay Packers, has been chosen the National Football League's most valuable player of 1942 by a committee of sports writers from each city on the League.

Hutson, the greatest pass receiver in football history, also won the award for '41 and thus becomes the first player to be honored twice. Previous winners have been Mel Hein, center of the New York Giants, Parker Hall, Cleveland Rams, and Ace Parker, Brooklyn Dodgers, both half-backs.

Among Hutson's '42 accomplishments in which he led the League were: Catching 78 passes for 1,211 yards and 17 touchdowns, making 33 conversions and scoring a total of 138 points. He also stretched his record scoring streak to 25 consecutive games.

Baugh, Dudley in Voting

During his eight-year career in the National League he has caught 336 passes, 72 of which went for touchdowns, while he averaged 16.4 yards per catch. Hutson, who will be 30 next month, though slightly built, is considered one of the League's surest tacklers and best pass defenders, his eight interceptions making him second to Bulldog Turner, Chicago Bear center, in this department.

Only two other players figured in the balloting. Bill Dudley, rookie left half-back of the Pittsburgh Steelers and leading ground gainer in the League, got two first place and four second place votes. Sammy Baugh, the Redskins' great passer and punter, received one first and five seconds. Hutson rolled up six firsts and no seconds.

Jersey Track to Start 50-Day Meeting July 7

CAMDEN, N.J., Jan. 28—The Garden State racing track owners have announced a 50-day meeting starting July 7.

Garden State, which has been one of the biggest question marks among the nation's tracks since the ban on Eastern pleasure driving, is situated within five miles of the heart of Philadelphia. Track President Eugene Mori anticipates enough attendance via ordinary public transportation to enable the trackowners to at least break even.

NEWS FROM HOME

Grew to Advise U.S. on Release Of Japs in Internment Camps

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (AP)—The Senate's Military Sub-committee, engaged in the study of methods of separating potentially loyal Americans from other Japanese who are at present held in 12 detention colonies, has sought the advice of Joseph C. Grew, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

The committee has been informed that nearly two-thirds of the 106,000 Japs could be released for military or industrial service.

'Lumber Jills' in U.S. Mills

PORTLAND, Jan. 28 (UP)—"Lumber Jills"—women who have stepped into the lumber and logging jobs for the duration of the war—are making a success of what had been considered a man's job.

The lumber industry is employing an average of 250 women in each mill in Portland, Oregon. Housewives have put on slacks and leather aprons and have taken jobs in sawmills, planing mills and box factories.

A lumber mill superintendent says that the women are quick, cooperative, willing and interested in the work. Application, he says, is providing a substitute for strength.

Too Few Babies in U.S.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 28 (UP)—Japan's population may increase twice as much as that of the U.S. during the next generation unless something is done now to increase the U.S. birth rate, according to Dr. Constantine Panunzio, of the University of California.

War-time living, he declares, is going to result in fewer babies—too few, in fact, for the good of the nation.

He puts it down to the fact that so many men are away in the armed forces and so many women are employed in war industries.

U.S. Shipping Corp. Indicted

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (AP)—Attorney-General Francis J. Biddle announced yesterday that a Federal grand jury at Newark, N.J., had indicted the Marine Maintenance Corp. of Bayonne, N.J., and two persons on accusations that they had collected over \$600,000 in overcharges and fraudulent fees in the conversion and repair of 12 ships used in the service to North Africa and Russia.

Just Junior

VANALSTYNE, Tex., Jan. 28—His daddy calls him Junior, and his C.O. calls him plain D. C. Murphy, but the private with the longest name in the Army

Selmalad, Unlucky Steed, Wins Alabamin



Selmalad, called by sportsmen an "unlucky steed," defied the handle by winning at Tropical Park, Miami. Picture shows: Selmalad (in front) with Jockey Thompson in the saddle, Roman Flag, left, who came in second, and Tetra Rock, right, who came in to show.

Chicago Cubs Buy Derringer

CHICAGO, Jan. 28—The Chicago Cubs have announced the purchase of right-hander Paul Derringer, 36, from the Cincinnati Reds for an unrevealed amount of coin of the realm.

Only comment from the Cubs came from their general manager, who said: "We needed a pitcher and got one." Derringer, veteran of 11 major league seasons, stands six-foot four and weighs 200. He was instrumental in the Cincinnati pennant victories in 1939, when he won 25 and lost seven.

Good Either Hand

DETROIT, Jan. 28—According to Steve O'Neill, Paul Richards, new Detroit coach, is the only 100 per cent ambidextrous ball player he ever saw.

Chapman Goes Ahead In Big Ten Scoring

CHICAGO, Jan. 28—Since Illinois did not play last week, Andy Phillip, their high-scoring forward, had to relinquish the Big Ten scoring honors to Tom Chapman, Iowa co-captain, who has 36 field goals and 22 free throws for a total of 94 points in six games.

Phillip is now runner-up with 40 baskets and 12 free throws for 92 points in four games. Third man is Ralph Hamilton of Indiana with 87 points, and another Iowa man, co-captain Ben Trickey, is fourth with 73 markers.

GI Table Tennis Teams Tie in Red Cross Tourney

The first American Red Cross interclub table tennis competition was held Wednesday night at the Mostyn Club between the Hans Crescent and the Mostyn. The teams tied, calling for a return game next Wednesday night at the Hans Crescent Club.

GIs on the Mostyn team were: Pfc Hubert Belding, Greenville, Mich.; T/5 Wayne Ogle, Idaville, Ind.; Cpl. Paul J. McCall, Johnstown, Pa.; T/4 Melvin L. Sarchet, Superior, Neb. On the Hans Crescent team were: Pvt. Joseph Delisle, Lynn, Mass.; Pfc Edward Costa, New York City; Cpl. Richard Austin, Lynn, Mass.; Pvt. Claude Todd, Memphis, Tenn.

Two Red Cross workers, Miss Patricia Hartnett, Hans Crescent, and Miss Julia Ellison, Mostyn Club, put on an exhibition game, showing new fashions in serves. Miss Hartnett was conceded the winner, but nobody bothered to keep score.

Here's the Lineup of Spring Training Sites of Majors

NEW YORK, Jan. 28—Here is the complete lineup of the spring training sites of the major league baseball clubs.

American League—Yankees, Asbury Park, N.J.; Senators, Washington, D.C.; Athletics, Delaware; Tigers, Evansville, Indiana; Red Sox, Medford, Mass.; White Sox, French Lick Springs, Ind.; Browns, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; Indians, Lafayette, Ind.

National League—Cardinals, Cairo, Ill.; Braves, Wallingford, Conn.; Pirates, Muncie, Ind.; Reds, Bloomington, Ind.; Dodgers, Bear Mountain, N.Y.; Cubs, French Lick Springs, Ind.; Phils, Swarthmore, Pa.; Giants, Lakewood, N.J.

Commando Boxers

DALLAS, Texas, Jan. 28—It could be just a coincidence, but a lot of the boxers entering Golden Gloves tournaments from the South Plains Army flying school at Lubbock, Tex., have just finished their commando training.

Contracts Sent To N.Y. Giants

NEW YORK, Jan. 28—The New York Giants became the first major league baseball club to mail out their 1943 player contracts, thus launching an important trial balloon. National League President Ford Frick had ruled that no club was to open salary negotiations until the baseball moguls received word from Washington as to whether or not the players' salaries were to be frozen at last year's figures.

But the Giants' Treasurer Leo Bondy obtained the consent of the New York regional boards of the War Labor Board, Office of Economic Stabilization, which controls salaries, to open negotiations. This, apparently, is an indication that baseball salaries will not be frozen.

Bondy mailed the Giants' contracts as soon as it was possible, believing that the club will need to get a running start in negotiations since the players possess such an excellent bargaining weapon in the player shortage. The reason for not freezing baseball salaries probably would be that the players' careers average only ten years and are so limited that they deserve an opportunity to earn as much as possible during a brief span.

Basketball Results

- Washington Jefferson 44, West Virginia 42.
- Loyola (Md.) 57, Catholic Univ. 53.
- Brooklyn Coast Guard 60, Paterson Teachers 49.
- Manhattan Beach Coast Guard 42, Arnold 27.
- Ithaca College 59, Lockhaven 51.
- Rhode Island State 56, Providence College 54.
- Fort Monmouth 43, Fort Hancock 37.
- Penn Military 68, Delaware 39.
- Indiana (Pa.) Teachers 49, St. Vincent 31.
- Kentucky 39, Vanderbilt 38.
- South Dakota State 45, Augustana 30.
- Central 39, Iowa Wesleyan 32.
- Western Union 32, Buena Vista 31.
- Simpson 43, Upper Iowa 24.
- Franklin College 38, Camp Aterbury 36.
- Ohio Northern 80, Bluffton 55.
- DePaul 62, Peru Naval Air Station 36.
- Indiana Central 57, Huntington 49.
- Murray (Ky.) Teachers 41, Evansville 36.
- Dayton 69, Cedarville 30.
- Culver Stockton 44, William Jewell 40.
- Rockhurst 39, Washburn 26.
- Baker 44, Bethel 33.
- East Central Oklahoma 60, Norman Naval Base 39.
- San Francisco 49, St. Marys Preflight 42.
- San Francisco State 57, San Jose State 48.
- Pacific College 47, Fresno State 36.

Officers—Perhaps

DURHAM, N.C., Jan. 28—Although "varsity" athletics at the Navy preflight schools are for cadets only nowadays, the North Carolina outfit will be allowed to use a few officers in its games at New York and Philadelphia. And Coach Dyke Raese won't have much to worry about until Gus Broberg, the former Dartmouth Ace, is graduated.

Pinckert Now a Private

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 28—Former Southern California football star Ernie Pinckert is now a private in the Army.

Pep Rated Even In Fight With Stolz at Garden

Willie Concedes 5 Pounds In Bout With Jersey Lightweight

NEW YORK, Jan. 28—Tomorrow night's feature bout at Madison Square Garden between Lightweight Allie Stolz, Newark, N.J., and Willie Pep, Hartford, Conn., world featherweight champion according to the New York State Boxing Commission, marks an interesting crossroads for both men.

For the youthful Pep it will show whether he can box above his weight. He'll probably come in at 130, five pounds lighter than Stolz. A victory would mean that Pep could tackle other lightweights, including the New York Boxing Commission's champ, Beau Jack. A defeat would spoil a record of 58 consecutive wins, the longest string in professional boxing history, but it wouldn't affect his featherweight standing.

Win Would Boost Prestige

For Stolz, however, a defeat might be disastrous. It is likely that he would no longer be regarded as a serious lightweight contender. After five years in the ring, Allie finally got a shot at the championship last May, losing a close decision to champion Sammy Angott. But in August he trimmed Chalky Wright, featherweight titlist, so badly that he was considered the leading claimant for the Angott throne when Sammy retired last November. Sporting a polished style and knockout punches in both hands, Allie was heavily favored over Beau Jack in their bout last November. But a decisive defeat sent his reputation plummeting.

By licking Pep he would regain considerable prestige, but it's a large assignment. Undoubtedly most of Pep's opponents in his record string have been hand-picked, but not all—especially Chalky Wright whom Pep dethroned last November. Popular, wise old Chalky absorbed a much worse licking from Stolz than from Pep, but he's still backing Pep. "He's the hardest man to hit I ever fought—so hard it really discouraged me," Chalky remarked.

Pep Discourages

"When you think you've got him set up and ready to stretch out—clooie!—he's gone. He keeps moving and is so tricky you start asking yourself what's the use. People have been telling me, 'Pep only beat you because he hit and ran,' but I would have done the same thing if it was the only way to become champ."

The New York odds on the fight are 5-6, take your pick. Stolz is considered the more powerful and harder hitter with both hands, but for boxing style there isn't much he can show Pep. Will o' the Wisp Willie is speedier. Allie is a realistic kid and after Willie's been skipping around him a few rounds he may not think having a knockout punch in both hands is any use. As Chalky Wright says, "Pep discourages you."

Quartermaster Aces Win In Close Contest, 24-23

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, Jan. 28—The Quartermaster Aces nipped the Quartermaster Wolves, 24-23, in a thrilling game of the Special Services basketball tournament here. The Wolves led at the half, 14-11, due mainly to high scorer T/4 Wesley Litten, Stinesville, Ind., who corralled six field goals and one free toss to net 13 points. But the steady teamwork of the Aces, especially that of T/Sgt. Gordon Miller, Tuttle, No. Dakota; T/4 Owen B. Wrassman, Cincinnati, and Pfc Raymond T. Iron Teeth, an Indian, Porkupine, N.D., each of whom scored six points, overcame the lead to win the game.

Officials for the game were S/Sgt. George W. Drago, Port Chester, N.Y., referee; Pvt. Nathan J. Levine, Brooklyn, umpire; Pfc Clyde R. Stewart, Antlers, Okla., timekeeper; and Pvt. John J. Wilkinson, Morristown, N.J., scorekeeper.

One Man's Goose

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 28—No one is prepared to guess it will come out that way, but the decision of Uncle Sam to plant officer candidates in some 200 colleges may merely do some juggling of athletic talent. Here's hoping Washburn, Kansas and Kansas State get an overdose of Big Ten football players.



Jap Casualties In Papua Battle Twice of Allies

Usual Results Reversed; Well-Planned Campaign Reason for Success

ALLIED HQ, Australia, Jan. 28 (AP)—Allied casualties in the victorious Papuan Peninsula campaign in New Guinea were less than half the enemy's, including not only battle casualties but those sick from natural causes.

In the air, losses amount to a very much lower proportion and on the sea, losses were negligible, according to an Allied communique issued here today.

These figures reverse the usual results of a ground offensive campaign, especially against prepared positions defended to the last when the losses of the attacker are usually several times that of the defender.

Two factors contributed to this result. First, there was no necessity of hurry attack because the time element in this case was of little importance; and second, for this reason no attempt was made to rush positions by mass and unprepared assault.

The utmost care was taken for the conservation of the Allied forces, with the result that probably no campaign in history against a thoroughly prepared and trained army has produced such complete and decisive results with a lower expenditure of life and resources.

Air Attacks Continue

On Aroe Island, our medium units bombed and machine-gunned enemy surface craft at Dobo. A lugger received a direct bomb hit. On Wessel Island, a small Allied merchant vessel was bombed and sunk by enemy aircraft. Casualties were light. Survivors have been located.

In the northeastern sector of New Britain. At Gasmata one of Allied heavy units bombed the airport.

In New Guinea, at Finschhafen, one of Allied heavy units bombed the airport and town area.

Bombers Attack Lae

At Lae, a formation of Allied medium bombers with long-range fighter escort attacked supply dumps in the airport area. A heavy anti-aircraft barrage was encountered. One of the escorting fighters intercepted and damaged an enemy medium bomber. Allied attack planes bombed the building area, starting a large fire in a probable fuel dump near the dock. The isthmus at Salamaua was strafed, starting fires. Anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but all the planes returned.

At Moresby, three enemy medium bombers in a night raid dropped bombs in the vicinity of the airport, causing minor damage. The hostile formation was intercepted by one of our fighters. A bomber was hit and observed to be losing altitude. It probably failed to reach its base.

Japs Attack Ships in Aleutians

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—The Navy Department communique announced today that two Japanese float planes attacked United States ships in the Aleutians. No damage was done, the communique said.

Anniversary -

(Continued from page 1)

the unit was designated officially on Feb. 22 as "Eighth Bomber Command."

On July 4th American medium bombers opened their offensive with a raid on German war factories in Holland.

The "heavies" made their first raid over enemy-occupied territory on Aug. 17, when Flying Fortresses bombed Rouen, without loss.

Then followed a succession of bombing missions, mostly over the German submarine pens on the French coast, culminating with the "birthday raid" yesterday on German naval installations at Wilhelmshaven, in Germany.

Fighter Command of the Eighth Air Force, commanded by Brig. Gen. Frank Hunter, was activated at Selfridge Field, Mich. It was designated originally as the Eighth Interceptor Command and its first commanding officer was Col. L. P. Hickey.

Gen. Hunter took command May 14, 1942, and with arrival of the first personnel in England intensive training was commenced in cooperation with the Royal Air Force.

Fighter Command made its first sweep over enemy-occupied territory July 26, in a large RAF operation against the German airdromes at St. Omer and Abbeville.

Fighter Command got its first severe baptism of fire at Dieppe in August, American squadrons making several trips from their dromes to the French coast, and forming a continuous part of the large fighter "umbrella" that covered the ground and naval forces.

In its first year of life, a little more than half of which has been spent in the European Theater, Fighter Command has operated slightly more than 1,600 offensive patrols and more than 1,000 defensive operations, a total of 2,600.

In little more than six months of operations over enemy territory, the Eighth Air Force's decorations include 40 awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, 465 Air Medals, four Distinguished Service Crosses, six Silver Stars and 68 Oak Leaf Clusters.

First Crop of Young Selectees Inducted



The first youths under 20 years of age to be called since recent lowering of the draft age requirements line up at Grand Central Palace induction center. Carmine Dascoli, 18, one of the first inductees, gets information from Corporal Albert Gloede.

Britons Honor U.S. Carrier

Essex Regiment Presents Eagle Crest to U.S.S. Essex

British soldiers of the 200-year-old Essex regiment bade American sailors of the new aircraft carrier USS Essex "good hunting and good luck" at an informal ceremony at U.S. Navy headquarters in London yesterday.

The occasion marked the presentation of a replica of the regiment's eagle crest to Rear Adm. Alan G. Kirk, U.S. Naval Attaché, by Lt. Gen. Sir Geoffrey W. Howard, commander of the regiment.

"We, the officers and men of the Essex regiment, ask that this small memento be placed in a suitable position on the carrier Essex as an emblem of the inflexible determination of the united Essex sailors and soldiers to achieve, in the words of President Roosevelt, 'the unconditional surrender of the Axis,'" said Gen. Howard, in making the presentation.

'Good Hunting'

Mounted on a double base, the eagle stands over a plaque on which is engraved:

"This replica of the Essex Regiment eagle crest was presented to the United States aircraft carrier 'Essex' by the officers and men of the Essex Regiment, His Majesty's Forces, as a token of friendship, 'Good hunting and good luck.'"

A cable of thanks from Capt. Duncan, captain of the new Essex, was read by Adm. Kirk. It stated:

"Please convey to the Commander of the Essex Regiment and his officers my thanks and appreciation for their thoughtful gift. We shall bear it with honor throughout what we hope and expect will be a long and successful career."

Attending yesterday's ceremony were Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle, acting commander of American Forces in the British Isles, and Capt. A. I. Malstrom, USN, new Naval Attaché for Air in London.

Jane's Fighting Ships describes the new carrier as the first of the Essex class. Launched July 31, 1942, 15 months from the time the keel was laid, the Essex was designed for approximately 25,000 tons, 35 knots speed; it cost about \$60,000,000 and will carry about 80 planes. It is armed with 16 five-inch guns.

U.S. Merchantman Scores Hit on Nazi Submarine

CAPETOWN, Jan. 28 (AP)—The probable sinking of a U-Boat was claimed by a merchantman, the U.S. ship Columbian (4,954 tons), when it reached here. Capt. F. E. Johnson said the U-Boat shadowed the Columbian in the South Atlantic.

By a change of course at midnight the Columbian almost rammed the U-Boat, which was left astern.

"Our stern chaser's first shot was a direct hit at 200 yards," he said. "There was a blinding flash and orange flame lit up the whole ship."

Prisoners recently captured told the Russians their officers had urged them to hold Gumrak—their last airfield within the encircled area—at all costs, saying, "Defend Gumrak to the last bullet and you will be taken back to Germany by transport planes." When Gumrak fell, the Russians seized 3,000 parachutes.

It was reported that many of the German prisoners shouted, "Hitler is kaput. Our officers ran away and left us." Guerrillas were helping the Soviet drive on Rostov by attacking the German garrisons and cutting the communications of the retreating remnants of routed units.

American Soldiers See German Film of War

A German propaganda war film, captured by Allied forces in the North African campaign, has been re-edited by the U.S. Army Signal Corps and will be shown to American Army personnel at 3 PM today and at the same time tomorrow at the Army Pictorial Service's Theater.

Sponsored by Goebbels, the movie is entitled "Invincible." Reservations may be obtained by telephone.

Nazis Raided Day and Night

RAF Follows American Smash at Wilhelmshaven With Two Blows

(Continued from page 1)

old—Wednesday, when the sub pens and construction yards, as well as other naval facilities at the base in Wilhelmshaven were battered with the loss of three bombers.

Scarcely had the rumble of exploding bombs died away in Wilhelmshaven than the RAF's swift, two-engined Mosquito bombers were pounding the shipbuilding yards of Burmeister and Wains in Copenhagen, where many of the Diesel engines for the U-Boats are built. Dispatches from Stockholm said it was reported there that the yards were completely destroyed.

Wednesday night, four-engined Halifaxes and Lancasters boomed across the Channel and shortly after 8 PM poured tons of explosives down on the industrial city of Dusseldorf, which is outside but still is the "administrative capital of the Ruhr Valley," heart of Germany's war production.

Fighters In Sweeps

Meanwhile, RAF and USAAF fighters were sweeping over France and the Low Countries against enemy transport, and Coastal Command continued its endless patrol against U-Boats and Nazi attempts to move goods by coastwise convoys.

Keystone of the air offensive was in a message from Air-Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, of British Bomber Command, to Brig. Gen. Newton B. Longfellow, commanding Eighth Bomber Command, congratulating the Yanks on the trip to Wilhelmshaven:

"Greetings and congratulations from Bomber Command to all who took part today in the first U.S. raid on Germany. This well-planned and gallantly executed operation opens a campaign the Germans have long dreaded. To them it is yet another ominous sentence in the writing on the wall, the full import of which they cannot fail to grasp. To Bomber Command it is concrete and most welcome proof that we shall no longer be alone in carrying the war to German soil. Let us press past this milestone on the road to victory, assured that between us we can and will bust Germany wide open."

Met 'Novice' Fighters

American air crews back from Wilhelmshaven reported two highlights aside from the actual bombings: They met novice German fighter pilots who made elementary mistakes and paid the penalty for them, and the flak was much less effective than they've been finding over the sub bases in Western France.

"It was perfect in every respect," commented Capt. J. L. Ryan, Troy, N.Y., skipper of the Fortress "Sweetpea." Ryan's ship, named after a British orphan sponsored by enlisted men of the squadron, was badly shot up on a previous mission that coincided with the christening of the "Sweetpea." The Fortress came back from Germany without a scratch today.

FDR Praises Africa Troops

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Jan. 28 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced today the receipt of the following message from President Roosevelt, addressed to the American soldiers in North Africa.

"Officers and men of the American armed forces in North Africa. My visit to North Africa has given me increased assurance and a deeper feeling of pride in the leaders and men of the American armed forces. Officers and men who landed with the initial assault, those who are now carrying on at the front in Tunisia and those who are training themselves for future combat are deserving of the highest commendation.

"I could not but note your worthiness, your smartness and the pride you take in yourself and your splendid equipment. I returned to the United States with renewed confidence that the American soldiers, equipped with the best equipment the world can produce, led by men who have proven themselves in battle, and all imbued with the will to win, shall be victorious. Officers and men of the armed forces in North Africa, I commend you.—President Roosevelt, Commander-in-Chief."

Russia - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

then attacked by Soviet fighters and anti-aircraft guns. Several were shot down. The pilots of one plane said they had come only recently to the Soviet front from Sicily, and as soon as they arrived had been sent to Stalingrad.

Prisoners recently captured told the Russians their officers had urged them to hold Gumrak—their last airfield within the encircled area—at all costs, saying, "Defend Gumrak to the last bullet and you will be taken back to Germany by transport planes." When Gumrak fell, the Russians seized 3,000 parachutes.

It was reported that many of the German prisoners shouted, "Hitler is kaput. Our officers ran away and left us." Guerrillas were helping the Soviet drive on Rostov by attacking the German garrisons and cutting the communications of the retreating remnants of routed units.

Blondie

(By courtesy of King Features Syndicate and the London Daily Sketch)

by Chic Young



FDR's Birthday To Be Observed By Yanks Here

Radio Shows Scheduled; Red Cross Clubs to Stage Dances

President Roosevelt's 61st birthday will be observed Saturday by American servicemen stationed in the British Isles with special dances, parties and radio broadcasts.

Senior officers of the services will speak on a broadcast to the United States on Sunday. They are Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle, acting commander of American forces in the British Isles; Brig. Gen. Carl Ira C. Eaker, commanding general, Eighth Air Force; Rear Adm. Alan G. Kirk, Naval Attaché, and Col. William T. Clements, U.S. Marine Corps.

Ten soldiers, sailors and Marines are to appear on a variety program on the stage of the Paris Cinema from 7.45 to 8.30 PM Saturday which will be broadcast to the States. Leslie Howard will be master of ceremonies and a USAAF band will provide music. Tickets for this broadcast can be obtained from Special Services.

This program will be heard on the BBC home service at 8 PM on Saturday, and later in the evening it will be included in the BBC North American Service in recorded form and will be rebroadcast in the U.S.

Among the speakers will be Lt. Col. Chelsey Peterson, DSO, DSC, DFC, who has brought down a number of enemy planes and was himself shot down over Dieppe; S/Sgt. Richard F. Willis, a rear gunner in a Flying Fortress; Chief Yeoman J. H. Lewis, Birmingham, Ala., and his wife, and Pfc Charles W. Marker, a Marine.

Red Cross Parties

American Red Cross Clubs in London and other cities are planning Birthday Balls. At the Cheltenham Club, invitations have been sent to Prime Minister Churchill, members of Parliament and high Army officials.

Five London clubs—Hans Crescent, Washington, Kingston, Mostyn and Charles St. will hold special dances. The Officers' Mess, Park Lane, plans a party. Celia Lipton, singing star of the show "Get a Load of This," is scheduled to be present at the Hans Crescent dance.

A grand march, birthday cake with candles, and special music by the Flying Yanks will feature the Kingston Club ball.

A special show will be staged in the Nurses' Club snack bar in conjunction with a dance for officers.

The Washington Club will hold its regular Saturday night dance with special music in honor of the President.

Mostyn Club volunteer workers have drafted the following cable to send to the President:

"The men and personnel of the American Red Cross Mostyn Club in Britain send heartfelt wishes to their commander-in-chief for a happy birthday."

Officers at Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, are staging a special dance.

Red Cross clubs throughout the British Isles will also observe the President's birthday with dances and parties.

Folk Music Program

A program of American folk music will be given at the Mostyn Club tonight at 8 PM. Ben Russak, of the staff, will play the guitar and tell about his findings and experiences while engaged in studying the development of folk songs in the Kentucky hills.

Africa - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Bou Arada, have begun an offensive against the Axis forward positions," German-controlled Paris radio said. "It is understood the British 76th Motorized and 30th Infantry Divisions formed the bulk of the attacking force."

Another German mouthpiece, Vichy radio, said that in the southern sector strong American and French forces were massing for a companion offensive.

Such a coordinated drive would be aimed at slicing the enemy corridor into three segments, simplifying the task of annihilation or forcing surrender.

This would involve driving a spearhead from Medjel el Bab to the coast, isolating the Tunis-Bizerta area, and another from Maknassy to the coast between the ports of Sfax and Gabes, further south, thus separating the central Axis-held sector from the forces Rommel and von Arnim are massing at the Mareth Line, near the border of Tripolitania.

The pursuing Eighth Army clashed with retreating Axis elements yesterday in the area of Sabratha, a small port about midway between Tripoli and the Tunisian border. The pace of Montgomery's men has been slowed because of encountering a rocky, gully-gashed terrain, but it was expected to make better progress as it moved into open, flat country, dotted here and there with marshes.

In Tripoli all military personnel was ordered evacuated, including war correspondents. Only members of the OETA—the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration—still remained. Shop owners have been given their certificates of operation, with permission to remain open from 10 AM to 4 PM.