

Fire at a Bend of the Blue Danube



Smoke, dust and debris blossom across the huge Messerschmitt factory at Regensburg, on the banks of the Danube, as Eighth Air Force Fortresses, their devastation done, head for the Alps and Africa on the first USAAF shuttle raid, which crippled one-third of Germany's day fighter production.

Taganrog Falls, Reds Threaten All of Donetz

Southern Anchor of Foe's Line Captured After Heavy Fighting

The whole of the German forces in the Donetz Basin are now threatened as a result of the capture of Taganrog, which was first announced by the Germans yesterday and then confirmed in a special order of the day by Stalin.

Taganrog was the southern anchor on which the whole of the German forces in the Donetz were tied. With its fall, two Russian pincer arms are now aimed at the important railway junction of Volnovakha, which controls one of the two remaining railways leading out of the Donetz.

Still further gains were announced last night in a special communique which said over 150 places were taken in the Taganrog area besides a six to 13 mile advance which won 50 more places in the Briansk sector.

The whole of the German positions around the great industrial city of Stalino are greatly weakened by Taganrog's fall.

The city fell after Russian cavalry and tanks in very heavy fighting broke through the German lines and attacked the German rear, driving them out of the town.

The Germans, as usual, claimed they had withdrawn from the town to shorten their lines and that Russian attempts to interfere with the evacuation had been unsuccessful.

In the Kharkov area, new advances have facilitated the Russian drives towards important railway centers south and southwest of Kharkov, which control the communications of the Donetz Basin.

From Taganrog the Russians are expected to move northwest towards Volnovakha rather than along the coast, which offers little in the way of communications.

Another Russian thrust is being made (Continued on page 4)

Hull Denies He Opposes Soviet

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (UP)—In the most forceful statement he has ever made since taking office, Secretary of State Cordell Hull today denied reports that he and other high officials were opposed to the Soviet government.

His verbal castigation was directed mainly against Drew Pearson, newspaper columnist, to whom such reports were attributed.

"I am informed that Pearson published a charge that I and other high officials of the state department are opposed to the Soviet government, and that we actually wish the Soviet Union to be bled white. I desire to brand these statements as monstrous, diabolical falsehoods."

Shuttle Fort Flew 2,800 Miles, Had To Ditch in Sight of Home

By Sgt. Norman Goldman

Stars and Stripes Unit Correspondent

A USAAF BOMBER STATION, England, Aug. 30—The Fort Lulu Belle fought her way across Germany, attacked Regensburg and went on to Africa in the first USAAF shuttle raid. They turned her around in Africa, bombed her up again and started out for home. On the way back she helped blast Bordeaux.

But 30 miles from Britain, within sight of the English coastline, Lulu Belle had to ditch, and before rescue came to the men bobbing about in 30-foot swells of the Atlantic, four of Lulu Belle's crew died.

The rest of the crew is back here now, recovered from 21 hours exposure in their dinghy after the ditching, and today they told the story of the flight.

Lulu Belle led its squadron across Germany to Africa and was leading it back to England when one of its engines was knocked out by Nazi fighters above Bordeaux. They kept on going, but a storm arose and another engine went out. The crew prepared to ditch.

Fort Goes Down in Rough Sea The expert piloting of Maj. Preston Piper, of Santa Ana, Cal., set the Fort down in a rough sea without injury to a man. The crew scrambled out on the wing. When the only dinghy opened it was upside down and all its equipment, including the oars, floated away.

Then, before all of the crew could pile into the five-man dinghy, it was carried away from the plane by one of the 30-foot swells which were sweeping over the Fort.

When Lulu Belle began to sink, the men on the wing dove into the water and started to swim for the dinghy, now more than 100 yards away. 1/Lt. Vincent Masters, of Los Angeles, and Lt. Paul Schulz, navigator, of Detroit, held two of the men above water. Maj. Piper managed to drag T/Sgt. Harry Jablon, radio gunner, of New York, with him to the dinghy. Then Maj. Piper went out again for others.

Two men disappeared in the 100-yard swim to the dinghy through the huge waves.

For a half hour the remaining fliers clung to hand ropes and sprawled in the almost submerged dinghy. During that

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Soviet Interns U.S. Fliers Forced Down After Raid

MOSCOW, Aug. 30 (AP)—The Soviet government has informed U.S. authorities that the crew of an American bomber which made a forced landing at Kamchatka Aug. 12, after raiding Japanese bases on the Kurile Islands, has been interned, according to diplomatic quarters here.

It is the second incident of its kind, the first having been the detention in April, 1942, of five American airmen who bombed Tokyo and later landed in a Far Eastern Soviet province. In both cases the men were interned under international law, since Russia is not at war with Japan.

U.S. to Bombay in 32 Hours

NEW YORK, Aug. 30—American Airways estimated that in 1948 vacationists will be able to fly from America to Bombay in 32 hours at a round-trip cost of \$432.

Hitler Facing Crises In Sweden, Bulgaria; 'Italy Quits,' Report

Swedish-Reich Break Looms After Sinkings; Anti-Nazi Demonstrations in Balkans; Turkey Hears Rome Signing Terms

Adolf Hitler's home front worries swelled suddenly to crisis proportions at both ends of his "European fortress" yesterday as relations between Germany and Sweden neared the breaking point and anti-German demonstrations swept Bulgaria in the wake of King Boris's death.

There was absolutely no confirmation from any other quarter, but reports circulating in Istanbul, Turkey, said that Italy was signing capitulation terms with the Allies yesterday and they would be announced in Prime Minister Churchill's speech in America today. The source suggested that Mr. Churchill, who had planned to speak Sunday, had postponed his speech two days in order to be able to announce Italy's surrender at the end of the fourth year of war.

Diplomatic circles in neutral and belligerent countries were feverish with activity. London heard that Foreign Minister Anthony Eden, back from the United States, had arranged to confer today with the U.S. and Russian ambassadors—a conference immediately viewed as heightening the possibilities of an eventual Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin meeting.

Nazi Press War on Sweden Meanwhile, the German press opened a campaign charging the Swedes with "deliberate abandonment of their neutrality."

One European radio report, picked up by the U.S. Office of War Information, said a German auxiliary cruiser and six smaller warships had taken positions off the Swedish coast.

The Swedish-German crisis followed a protest by Stockholm on the sinking of two Swedish fishing boats by German minesweepers. Two others were fired on, the protest said.

These developments painted the picture of Europe's unrest in anticipation of invasion:

1—German General Hanneken, in supreme control of Denmark after brief open warfare with the Danes, ordered death penalties for violations of his martial law regulations and announced "a new arrangement of the public life of Denmark" along Nazi lines.

2—New reports reaching Stockholm revealed that the Danes not only scuttled 45 ships at dawn Sunday when the Germans imposed martial law, but they also blew up all military stores and depots and demolished all fortifications except the middle part of the fortress outside Copenhagen. King Christian himself was said to have given the cease-fire order that ended Denmark's brief resistance, after Nazi troops overwhelmed his palace guard. Last night the king was reported to be under arrest.

3—Germany and Sweden came to swords point over the sinking of two Swedish fishing boats by German naval forces. The Germans, contending the boats were in a prohibited area, rejected a Swedish protest and as the Stockholm press condemned the German reply Nazi newspapers launched a violent attack threatening Sweden with "serious consequences for her people" if her papers continued to publish "arrogant and provocative" editorials.

4—Anti-German, pro-democratic demonstrations in all the "big towns" of Bulgaria, following the death of pro-Nazi King Boris, were reported by Algiers radio. In spite of this, however, well-informed sources in Istanbul forecast that Premier Filov's cabinet would fall and be succeeded by an enthusiastically pro-German government that might break off relations with Russia and even agree to take over the defense of Greece.

5—Morocco radio broadcast reports current in Budapest that a military revolt was imminent in Rumania. Contending that the war has brought the country "to the brink of an abyss," high army officers, including a former chief of the Rumanian general staff, have joined forces, these reports said, to oust Premier Antonescu's government and take the country out of the war.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (AP)—President Roosevelt has returned to the White House and as a direct follow up of the Quebec conference has made appointments with diplomatic, state and military officials.

Prime Minister Churchill is expected to arrive within the week to discuss with President Roosevelt the political aspects of the war and the post-war period. The President has other appointments with T. V. Soong, China's Foreign Minister; Secretary of State Cordell Hull; Gen. George Marshall, Army chief of staff, and Lt. Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces.

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Lib Survives Half-Hour Battle, AA, Explosion, Engine Failure

CAIRO, Aug. 30 (AP)—The story of how the battle-scarred Liberator "Let's Go" survived the explosion of another B-24 a few hundred feet ahead, six direct hits from ack-ack fire, a half-hour's combat with Axis fighters and the failure of one engine was told today when the pilot—Lt. James D. Deveuve, of San Francisco—brought it back safely from a raid on Italy.

When the plane landed it had over 150 holes in it, including two in the tail "you could stick your head through," as the navigator, Lt. R. W. Gimmon, of Albany, N.Y., expressed it.

The adventure began when the port engine gave out from mechanical trouble on the way to the target. Bombs were jettisoned on a small railway siding in a vain effort to gain speed and keep the plane in the air.

Later, enemy fighters caught sight of the crippled plane and swept in to attack. At this point the tail turret gun failed, allowing enemy fighters to make rear attacks unchallenged. One Axis fighter let his wheels down as an air brake to enable him to get a longer burst of 20mm. cannon fire into the crippled plane.