

THE STARS AND STRIPES Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

New York, N.Y.-London, England

Tuesday, Aug. 31, 1943

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.

All of Donetz

Southern Anchor of Foe's Line Captured After Heavy Fighting

By the United Ptess

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 Volno-

important railway junction of Volnovakha, which controls one of the two remaining railways leading out of the

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

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The Germans, as usual, claimed they had withdrawn from the town to shorten their lines and that Russian attempts to interfere with the evacuation had been

In the Kharkov area, new advances have facilitated the Russian drives to-

have lacilitated the Russian drives to-wards important railway centers south and southwest of Kharkov, which control the communications of the Donetz Basin, From Taganrog the Russians are ex-pected to move northwest towards volnovakha rather than along the coast, which in this part of the Sea of Azov is marshy and 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.

If an 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 desire to brand these statements as monstrous, diabolical falsehoods."

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

By Sgt. Norman Goldman

A USAAF BOMBER STATION, England, Aug. 30 The Fort Lulti-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 Africa; bombed her up again and started 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.

Nazis in France Mediums Strike in 32nd

Raid in 42 Days Of Offensive

American medium bombers attacked targets in France in daylight late yesterday, Eighth Air Force headquarters announced. The Marauders were escorted by formations of RAF, Allied and Dominions Spitfires.

Earlier, other RAF formations swept against Nazi installations in northern France.

Yesterday's raid was the 32nd for the mediums of Eighth Air Support Com-mand in 42 days of continued hammering at the Luftwaffe airfields and fighter reserves in Occupied France and the Low Countries. Some of the raids involved multiple targets totalling more than 50 separate missions with more than 800 tons of bombs dropped on the targets, it was

announced.
Two Typhoon pilots attacked the Laon airfield in northern France yesterday, destroying one Me110 taxiing across the field and a Ju52 transport which also was on the ground. The Typhoons damaged another Me110 and a second Ju52, then went on to attack a truck and a railway engine outside the airfield.

The two planes destroyed were left burning and the second Junkers 52 was seen to be on fire in a dispersal bay.

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 Kurilean Islands, has been interned, according to diplomatic quarters

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 iş not at war with Japan.

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

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. 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 away from the plane by one of the 30 foot

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 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 ward.

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

For a half hour the remaining fliers clung to hand ropes and sprawled in the almost submerged dinghy. During that (Continued on page 4)

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

many 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. Churchil, 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

Southern Italy
Virtually Clear
Of Axis Troops

Pilots Report Few Left; Allies Again Pound Railway Targets

ALLIED HQ, Aug. 30 (AP)—Allied airmen returning from weekend aerial blows against southern and central Italy reported that the Axis appears to have withdrawn the greater part of its forces from the Italian "toe."

Flying Fortresses struck for the first time at Orte, a railway center 40 miles north of Rome, and medium bombers struck heavily at railway targets at Torre Annunziata yesterday, continuing the

Annunziata yesterday, continuing the methodical daily destruction of the Italian communications system.

Simultaneously light and medium bombers, dive-bombers and fighters ranged over the "toe," blasting gun positions, rail and road links, encountering scant opposition.

scant opposition.

After the heavy daylight pounding from American bombers at Torre Annunziata marshalling yards, they were smashed again last night by RAF and RCAF Wellingtons.

Twenty enemy planes were destroyed during the day and night operations by the Northwest Africa Air Forces, 17 being shot down by bombers and their fighter escorts in the American raids on Orte and Torre Appropriate.

Torre Annunziata.

Sunday's far-reaching air attacks followed the bombardment of an enemy battery on the Calabrian Straits near Cape Pallaro on Saturday afternoon by a British cruiser and a destroyer.

The return fire from the enemy guns commanding the southern approach to

commanding the southern approach to the Messina Straits was ineffective against

the warships.

RAF Bostons and Baltimores and American B25 Mitchells and P40 Warshawks made heavy attacks by the tactical air force on gun positions near Reggio, on the railway investions near Reggio, on the railway junction at Cosenza and on railway yards at La Mezia, while A36 Invaders scored a direct hit on a tem-porary bridge over the Angitola River.

The Fortresses which employed their customary high-level precision-bombing tactics on Orte, deep in central Italy, had little trouble with enemy fighters, but escorting Lightnings fought off 20 interceptors and shot down one.

Marauders rained bombs on the rail-

way yards and trucks on the Torre Annunziata yards in the Naples area, causing a large explosion and many fires. They encountered the most determined enemy opposition of the day when approximately 50 fighters attacked them. They shot down 15 in the ensuing battle, while the fighter escort got another.

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

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 paymed the picture.

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

Teres and depote 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.

Germany and Sweden came to 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 raphy Navi newspaper launched a righer. 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.

and provocative" editorials.

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.

Morocco radio broadcast reports

- Morocco radio broadcast reports 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.

LibSurvives Half-Hour Battle, AA, Explosion, Engine Failure

CAIRO, Aug. 30 (AP)—The story of on the way to the target. Bombs were how the battle-scarred Liberator "Let's jettisoned on a small railway siding in a Go" survived the explosion of another believed the explosion of another believed the hits from ack-ack fire, a half-hour's combat with Axis fighters and the failure of one exprise was told today that the crippled plane and swept in to attack. of one engine was told today when the pilot—Lt. James D. Deveuve, of San Francisco—brought it back safely from a

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.

The Nazi pilot however staved just too.

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 let his wheels down as an air brake to enable him to get a longer burst of 20mm, cannon fire into the crippled plane.

The Nazi pilot, however, stayed just too long and fire from other Liberators blasted him from the sky. Three more Nazi planes which worried the damaged Liberator met the same fate.

FDR Back in Washington For Military Conferences

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 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.