

Big Naval Battle May Be On 1,200 Mi. From Tokyo



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Cherbourg Fall Believed Near

Berlin Raided; Nazis Offer Bombing 'Deal'

2,000 U.S. Planes Strike Record Blow

More than 2,000 American warplanes, the mightiest air armada ever to hit Berlin, slashed through European skies yesterday to give the German capital its first heavy attack since the Continental landings.

The raid also was sharp proof that savage assaults on the heart of Hitlerdom would continue hand-in-hand with blows against the Nazi robot-plane coast and overwhelming cover for advancing ground troops.

Shepherded by an estimated force of more than 1,000 P47s, P51s and P38s of both Eighth and Ninth Air Forces, more than 1,000 Fortresses and Liberators showered explosives on targets in Berlin and outlying Basdorf.

The record raid—the first by heavy bombers since D-Day and the 12th of the war for the USAAF—marked the first time P47s had taken part in a mission to Berlin, Eighth Air Force announced. It was the longest trip the Thunderbolts ever made.

Maintaining the non-stop offensive against the launching area for pilotless planes, which continued to fall in southern England yesterday, 125 Marauders, escorted by Thunderbolts, swept across the Channel yesterday morning to hit and destroy the line of communication between Calais and Amiens.

The new attack raised the tonnage dropped by Ninth AF bombers on the concrete platform in the last six months to close to 13,000 tons and followed the previous day's endless assaults by contingents of Marauders, Havocs, Fortresses, Liberators, Mitchells, Bostons, Typhoons and Spitfires.

Eighth Air Force heavies flew two missions against the winged-bomb emplacements Tuesday and the RAF's Second Air Force struck ten of the bases.

Berlin's defenders yesterday threw up an extremely heavy flak barrage and spread a smoke screen over the city in a fruitless attempt to ward off the precision raid. The Luftwaffe, however, failed to appear in force, although some individual dogfights were reported, and one Liberator formation was attacked by 60 Nazi aircraft.

Cost of the giant blow was 43 bombers and seven fighters. Twenty-one enemy craft (Continued on page 4)

No 1945 Letdown Likely In Troop Move Abroad

WASHINGTON, June 21 (AP)—The U.S. will have an overseas fighting force of 5,000,000 by the end of the year, but the overseas movement of American forces "is likely to continue at a high rate during 1945," Lt. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, deputy chief of staff, told the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The War Today

France—Americans assault final inner defenses of Cherbourg after heavy air and artillery bombardment. . . . Fall of port inevitable as Yanks take area of high ground around city. . . . British fight fierce tank battle below Tilly and capture Onchy.

Air War—More than 2,000 American heavy bombers and fighters raid Berlin in city's first large-scale attack since European landings. . . . Marauders batter pilotless-plane installations on Pas de Calais.

Hint They'll Cut Out Blows if Allies Will

While German pilotless-planes continued to roar over southern England and Berlin was being raided by more than 1,000 U.S. Forts and Libs, a Nazi official told a Berlin press conference yesterday that flying bombs would continue to rain on England until the British realized that aerial warfare was "a boomerang."

The statement was made by Dr. Dietrich, Germany's press and radio overlord, who said it was a statement rather than an offer to discontinue air warfare if the British also would quit.

However, a spokesman of the Berlin Propaganda Ministry later was quoted by German Overseas News Agency as saying:

"Germany will continue to employ the new weapon against Britain, but Dr. Dietrich's statement hints that the intensity and duration of these attacks may be (Continued on page 4)

Lyttelton Talk Arcues U.S.

Hull Sharply Denies Japs Were 'Provoked'; Briton Explains Statement

A speech by Oliver Lyttelton, British Minister of Production, in which he was quoted as saying that "America provoked Japan to such an extent that the Japanese were forced to attack at Pearl Harbor," stirred a furore in the U.S. yesterday and drew a sharp denial from Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

In an unusual statement in which he permitted newsmen to quote him directly, Hull said Lyttelton was "entirely in error" and declared:

"This government, from beginning to end, was actuated by a single policy of self-defense against the rapidly-increasing danger to this nation."

Lyttelton, making clear that he was not complaining of being misquoted, explained to the House of Commons that "any misunderstanding is entirely due to my own fault."

"I was trying in parentheses to make clear the gratitude which this country feels for the help given to us in the war against Germany before Japan attacked the U.S."

"The words I used, however, when read textually and apart from the whole tenor of my speech, seemed to mean that the help given to us against Germany provoked Japan to attack. This is manifestly untrue."

The offending sentence, interpolated in a Lend-Lease speech Lyttelton delivered before the American Chamber of Commerce in London, was carried by many U.S. newspapers separate from the prepared text of the speech and landed on many front pages after Hull's comment.

DeGaulle's Men Taking Control

By the Associated Press WITH AMERICAN FORCES, France, June 19 (Delayed)—Representatives of Gen. Charles De Gaulle's provisional government have already moved into the liberated sector of Normandy to set up political control of civil affairs, and they are planning to extend their influence to other areas as they are liberated by the Allies.

Although the provisional government is as yet not recognized by the U.S., both British and American civil-affairs officers are co-operating with De Gaulle's men. . . . Francois Coulet, who was secretary general of Corsica, has arrived in Bayeux to take over duties as commissioner of the Republic for the Rouen region.

Japs' Entire Fleet May Be In Gian Fray

Nimitz, Forrestal Agree Clash Is Likely; Tell of Recent Enemy Moves

Indications that America's mighty naval forces had caught up at last with the timorous Japanese fleet and that a sea battle wasraging on a scale which might decisively affect the whole future course of the Pacific war came yesterday from Tokyo and Washington.

Tokyo radio told of a large-scale naval battle being fought 1,200 miles southeast of the Nipponese capital. The brief bulletin gave no details, however.

A Tokyo broadcast picked up in San Francisco said a fierce battle was going on off the Marianas, and claimed that the Japs had sunk one heavy and one light American cruiser, and damaged three heavy cruisers and one light cruiser.

In Washington, Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, saying the elusive Jap fleet had been sighted recently 500 to 800 miles west of Saipan Island, in the Marianas, acknowledged there was some indication that it had been brought to battle by a U.S. task force, but explained that details immediately.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, at Pearl Harbor, said that "a naval engagement of undetermined degree may have already started"—and added grimly that he hoped so.

"Nimitz said that strong Jap naval units possibly the entire enemy fleet—had moved into formation east of the Philippines and that there was reason "to hope" that some damage was inflicted in an (Continued on page 4)

U.S. Navy Now Boasts Setup of Eight Fleets

WASHINGTON, June 21—Adm. Ernest J. King disclosed today that the U.S. Navy now has eight fleets, four of them in the Pacific.

The commander-in-chief of the fleet and chief of naval operations explained that the system of command originally called for task units, then for larger task groups, then task forces, and the task forces were combined to form "task fleets."

The eight task fleets, with their commanders, were listed as follows: Pacific Third Fleet, Adm. Halsey; Pacific Fifth Fleet, Adm. Spruance; Southwest Pacific Seventh Fleet, Vice Adm. Kinkaid; Pacific Ninth Fleet (Aleutians), Vice Adm. Fletcher; Atlantic and European Fourth Fleet, Vice Adm. Ingraham; Sixth Atlantic Fleet, Vice Adm. Hewitt; Mediterranean Twelfth Fleet (anti-submarine operations) Adm. King.

'We Could Have Shook Their Hands'

Bearded Yanks 'Come Home' After 15 Days Behind Nazi Lines

By Robert Keuben Reuter Correspondent WITH ADVANCED U.S. AIRBORNE FORCES, June 20 (delayed)—Five bearded paratroopers, who have spent 15 harrowing days and nights behind the enemy lines in the northern Cherbourg peninsula, returned to the American forces today.

I found the dusty and grime-covered quintet north of Montebourg, working their way south to join their fellow-paratroopers near Caen, and gave them a ride in an armored car I had "borrowed" from the fleeing Nazis.

The men are Cpls. Bennie C. Arbaugh, of St. Albans, W. Va., and August Famularo, of New Orleans, and Pvs. George Dougherty, of Whitmore Lake, Mich.; Lloyd F. Forum, of Hickory, N.C., and James Carlson, of Decatur, Ill.

The men had been held by a cross-fire and they had to make an emergency jump about 10 miles from Cherbourg. "We had just one minute after the emergency bell sounded to get out of the plane," Arbaugh said. "The first night we hid in the fields and the French brought us bread, butter and milk. We had several skirmishes and finally it got too hot and we moved on."

"We knocked out machine-gun nests wherever we could, but we were caught by superior fire and chased out twice. We kept picking up more of our paratroopers, as well as our plane crew who had made a forced landing, until we had about 50 men."

Reds Drive On In Swift Push For Helsinki

All of Finland's rich industrial south opened to them by the fall of Vipuri, powerful Soviet assault forces swept swiftly beyond that Karelian port yesterday toward Helsinki, 125 miles to the southwest, in an unrelenting drive threatening not only the crackup of the Finns' battered army but also their government.

The only official word in Moscow was that "the pursuit continues," but the Red Army was known to have passed Manikala, six miles northeast of Vipuri, Correspondents in Moscow, noting Marshal Leonid Govorov's Leningrad armies have averaged six miles a day for 11 days, forecast there soon would be news the 1940 border 16 miles beyond Vipuri had been crossed.

The Germans were said to be doing their utmost to prevent Finland's capitulation. The Stockholm Dagens Nyheter reported that Col. Gen. Diehl, Nazi commander in Finland, recently hurried to Helsinki for talks with Finnish leaders. The paper reported a rumor that a personal message from Adolf Hitler was handed Marshal Mannerheim, the Finnish commander-in-chief.

Jap Force KO'd On Burma Line

Chinese Clear Mountain Area on Border; Admit Loss of Changsha

CHUNGKING, June 21—The Japanese have been cleared out of the Koaling mountains on the Sino-Burmese border to the last man, the Chungking High Command announced today, in 40 days' fighting by the Chinese armies battling westward to join forces with Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's troops of the Ledo Road.

Some 4,000 square miles of territory were wrested from the enemy atop the loftiest and most difficult battleground in the world. Latest Chinese successes included the occupation of Chingstiao, a Japanese stronghold 20 miles northeast of Tengchung on the old Burma Road, and establishment of a road block between Tengchung and Kutungkai.

At the same time, the Chinese acknowledged that the Japanese offensive in southeastern China along the north-south railroad between Hankow and Canton had swept into the city of Changsha. Enemy reports had told of a Chinese division being wiped out there, but the Chinese said their troops were withdrawn before the enemy entered the city Sunday.

Reports from Southeast Asia Command headquarters on the fighting in Burma said that Stilwell's troops now hold two-thirds of Myitkyina, key communications center, and had cut off the Japanese defenders except for a 500-yard strip along the Irrawaddy River.

Nazi Defenses Pounded

The German defense centered in the French forts of Octeville, a Cherbourg suburb, and the fortress of Montagne de Route, atop a 450-foot cliff overlooking the city. While these forts were in process of reduction by medium and fighter-bomber attacks and artillery, the Americans gained favorable positions on high ground overlooking other German dispositions.

"We can blast hell out of them with artillery and they know it," was the way an official at U.S. field headquarters put it. "In the meantime, our land forces are making good, steady progress."

The Americans closed in on the city from south, east and west. On the southeast side artillery set a wooded area ablaze to force the Germans out. On the west the Yanks captured Vasteville and entered the extreme western tip of the peninsula.

The German defenders, who had been ordered to fight to the end, were wounded not only with shells but also with leaflets telling them to "choose one of our other fatal peninsulas, Cap Bon and the Crimea," and pointing out the hopelessness of their resistance. The leaflets promised them, if they surrendered, fair treatment, good food, hospital care, mail facilities, payroll status and education facilities—"and, of course, you get home after the end of the war."

The Germans reported that down the neck of the peninsula U.S. tank groups massed for a new assault and said that they expected an American drive southward and southwestward aimed at unhinging the Nazi lines south of St. Sauveur le Vicomte.

British armor was engaged in heavy (Continued on page 4)

Inner Ring Of Defenses Is Pounded

Yanks Gain High Ground; Shell Nazi Strongpoint; Planes Bomb Foe

American infantry battered at the final defenses of doomed Cherbourg yesterday after a terrific bombardment by Allied planes and artillery. The Yanks seized an arc of high ground around the city and their command of the vantage points made the fall of the great port virtually inevitable.

With the swift, irresistible development of Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's fierce attack, the Germans were reported to be hastily pulling in every available soldier from the fish-tail-shaped tip of the peninsula into the central fortress.

The Americans assaulted the key forts encountered the Germans' marshalled machine-guns and mortars. German News Agency, reporting the attack against the inner defenses, said significantly that "so far" the German garrison has been able to hold out. But it told of fresh U.S. troops in "considerable strength" assaulting the main line of the inner defenses.

Says Cherbourg Heavily Mined

By Stars and Stripes Staff Writer WITH U.S. TROOPS IN NORMANDY, June 20 (delayed)—American troops will find Cherbourg heavily mined and full of booby traps when they move into the city, according to a Frenchman who left the port a few days before the Allied landings in Normandy.

The traveler said that the Nazis had been preparing demolitions for more than two years and that nearly every building had been made ready for mining and booby traps.

All along the roads to the town there are signs with a skeleton's head painted over the words "machines and traps." Casualties among American troops from mines have been relatively small.

In at least one case, German mines have bounced back on the Wehrmacht with disastrous effects. The Germans had mined and booby-trapped an area they were planning to abandon, but before they could get away they were outflanked and driven back through the same area.