

# JAP SUB SINKS HOSPITAL SHIP; 299 PERISH

## 64 Survivors of Torpedoed Off Australia Rescued After 36 Hours' Drifting on Rafts

### Ill-Fated Centaur, En Route to New Guinea, Plainly Marked With Red Crosses and Brilliantly Lighted; Lone Woman Nurse Among Survivors Shows Heroism

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, May 18—(AP)—The Australian hospital ship Centaur, brilliantly lighted and unmistakably marked, was torpedoed and sunk in flames by a Japanese submarine off the coast of Australia last Friday with a loss of 299 lives.

No warning whatever was given. The ship capsized and sank within three minutes. Sixty-four of the 363 aboard, including only one of 12 women nurses, were saved. Forty-three of the crew of 73 and 245 Australian and British medical staff men went down, most of them trapped on a lower deck of the blazing ship.

There were no Americans aboard. The ship, en route from Sydney to New Guinea, carried no patients.

Survivors, crowded on make-shift rafts in waters swarming with sharks, were picked up 36 hours after the Centaur went down.

General Douglas MacArthur expressed deep revulsion at the "limitless savagery" of the sinking. "The vessel was traveling unescorted and was fully illuminated and marked with the Red Cross and complying with all provisions of international law governing hospital ships in time of war," the announcement from his headquarters said. "The weather was clear and visibility was excellent."

The torpedo hit at 4:10 a. m. while the ship was 40 miles off Brisbane and most of those aboard were asleep below decks. The huge Red Cross on its side

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

HERE'S still (as this is written) no news from Attu—although the fight has now been on at least four days.

"That makes it a safe bet that it's quite a battle."

WHILE there's no news, there are HINTS.

Navy Secretary Knox says it is "going satisfactorily."

Knox knows what is happening. He couldn't very well say that if we were losing.

ON the other side of the fence, Jap Former War Minister Araki is quoted by the Berlin radio as saying:

"A setback there (at Attu) will only increase our strength. Whatever has happened in the Aleutians battle can in no wise effect the will to victory and the certainty of victory of the Japanese people."

"That sounds like an alibi."

SINCE we have to confine ourselves to guessing, it's fairly safe to guess that our high command wouldn't have sent a boy to the mill out there in the far Aleutians. If we didn't in with strength enough to finish it, we'd better not have started it.

So let's assume (in our guessing) that the force sent against Attu was big enough.

ONE more guess:

When (or if) the Japs found themselves outweighed they probably sent in reinforcements—as they did in the Solomons. We can hardly expect them to give up Attu any more willingly than they gave up Guadalcanal.

If a big battle is developing in the Aleutians, it will affect all other Pacific fronts. It might even affect Burma.

THE war dispatches contain this sentence: "An atmosphere of VIBRANT EXPECTANCY dominates the whole war scene."

Churchill, speaking in Washington, says the hour is approaching when allied troops massed in Britain will assault the Nazi strongholds.

Red Star (Russian army newspaper) says: "The hour is nearing when great battles with big masses of troops participating, will break out again."

DID you ever watch an old-fashioned powder fuse sputtering slowly toward a big blast? That's the feeling one has in watching the news these days.

BOMBING of Hitler's Europe goes on day and night—the British carrying on by night and the Americans by day.

Here are some interesting figures:

Hitler dropped 7500 tons of bombs on London in 94 raids in his great effort to knock England out of the war. In 48 HOURS, on Thursday and Friday, the British air force dumped 5,000 tons of bombs on Germany.

American bombing isn't counted.

(Continued on page 2)

# Roseburg News-Review

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## RAF Blasts Sardinian Port of Alghero

### Ruml Plan Given Third Jolt in House

#### Proposed Conference on Senate Bill, Threatened With Veto, is Rejected

WASHINGTON, May 18—(AP)—Heading the threat of a possible presidential veto, the house rejected for the third time today the senate approved skip-a-year income tax bill.

The action, by roll call vote of 202 to 194, came on a motion to instruct its delegates to a joint house-senate conference committee to accept the senate measure.

By its decision—which opens up the possibility of a new stalemate—the house stood pat on its own measure, the Robertson-Forand bill which would abate a year's tax obligations for approximately 90 per cent of the nation's taxpayers.

The vote, tolled off in a tense climax to the seasaw struggle which has gripped congress for months, came after Speaker Rayburn predicted flatly that the modified skip-a-year plan, if passed, would be vetoed.

### Wake Island Bombed By U. S. Air Fleet

WASHINGTON, May 18—(AP)—Army bombers, ranging more than 1,000 miles from their base, attacked Japanese installations on Wake Island Saturday, the navy reported today.

The communicate said that bad weather prevented observation of results. It added that U. S. planes were engaged by 22 Japanese Zero fighters of which two were definitely destroyed and one additional was probably destroyed.

had been newly repainted in Sidney two days before and survivors said the vessel "was lit up to glory." It offered a perfect target for the murderous attack.

Nurse Displays Heroism

Sister Eleanor Savage of Sidney was the one woman survivor. Despite a blow in the face which gave her a black eye, she never complained and survivors said her fervent prayers did much to help keep up morale. It was only after the rescue that she mentioned a side injury. Doctors found three ribs broken.

Sister Savage said she and her cabinmate were awakened by a terrific explosion. They ran to the door and looked into the passageway. The ship already was afire. Donning lifejackets over their pajamas, they leaped from the ship together. The other

(Continued on page 6.)

### Japs Putting Up Stubborn Attu Defense

#### Americans' 2-Pronged Advance in Pincer Plan Faces Machine Gun Fire

WASHINGTON, May 18—(AP)—American forces have captured a ridge which apparently is the main Japanese defense position on Attu island, Secretary of the Navy Knox announced today.

United States troops advancing north and south across the eastern neck of the island, Knox said, have been brought very close together by this victory if they have not actually joined.

The operation against the ridge apparently climaxes the first phase of the campaign for this island in the Aleutians and Knox reported that despite stubborn resistance so far "our casualties are much lighter than had been expected."

The army troops on the island, the secretary added, have the full support of warships standing off to sea and planes operating from American bases to the eastward whenever weather permits.

WASHINGTON, May 18—(AP)—United States troops have established positions on Attu island, the navy announced today, but Japanese entrenched along a rocky ridge are stubbornly opposing a two-pronged American advance, especially with machine gun fire.

Issuing its first communique containing any details on the campaign to drive the enemy from the western Aleutian Islands, starting with Attu, the navy also disclosed that the original landings a week ago were at two opposing points at the eastern end of the island and that American forces apparently are attempting to close the gap with their moves inland.

The landings were made under the cover of United States naval surface forces, which bombarded enemy installations in both areas, and United States army planes, which attacked enemy positions in the vicinity of Chichagof harbor, the navy communique said.

Despite today's disclosure of stubborn enemy resistance and

(Continued on page 6.)

### Coal Truce Extended To End of May

#### Lewis Yields to Appeal Of Ickes but Continues To Ignore Labor Board

WASHINGTON, May 18—(AP)—The soft coal walkout scheduled for midnight has been averted by renewal of the truce until the end of the month.

As the deadline drew near for a work stoppage that threatened to cripple the nation's coal output, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, answered the appeal of Fuel Coordinator Ickes by requesting the miners to continue work under the existing retroactive extension agreement until midnight May 31.

Postponement of the coal crisis for another fortnight brought signs that a strong rivalry has sprung up over who should settle the wage dispute.

The War Labor board, which yesterday charged Lewis with challenging the sovereignty of the United States in wartime and giving aid and comfort to the enemy, left no doubt that it still considered itself the only "agency of the government" authorized to handle the case.

From highly-placed sources came reports that Ickes had prepared a formula which he believed would be acceptable to both sides, and was ready to propose it, providing the board would let him step in. But the board was said to be sticking to the stand expressed by Wayne Morse, a public representative, who said "the operation of the mines under the custody of the Department of the Interior, through its chief, Mr. Ickes, does not have any bearing upon the dispute."

Morse, in outlining the WLB's position—an outline later subscribed to by other members—said the board takes the view that "we must retain jurisdiction over all disputes, because obviously when exception is made in this case, we cannot in good faith say to other labor unions and other groups of employees who have performed their patriotic

(Continued on page 6.)

### Nazis Fortify for Invasion



This picture of the Nazi "Atlantic wall," taken by one of Herr Goebbel's photographers and published to boost the morale of the Germans who fear an allied invasion, shows Nazi soldiers carrying mining equipment through anti-tank fortifications and mine fields. The "wall" is supposed to extend 5000 miles along the channel and Atlantic coasts of Europe.

### Death, Ruin Ride On Indiana Flood

INDIANAPOLIS, May 18—(AP)—One of the worst floods since 1913 tore through central and northern Indiana today.

At least four lives have been lost in the raging torrents. More than 500 families have been moved from flooded homes in Marion, Frankfort, Wabash, Indianapolis and other places.

Flood waters surged over thousands of acres of lowlands, damaging early-planted farm crops. Numerous Victory gardens have been washed away.

Nine blocks of sandbagged levee and the Charles Mills dam at Marion held back the swollen Mississequia river. Three hundred families in the area were evacuated.

Police at Frankfort moved 150 families from their homes although the city isn't even near a river. A drainage ditch running through part of the town could not cope with the heavy flow of water.

The Wabash river at Wabash reached nine feet over flood stage and was still rising. Seventy-five homes were cleared there.

A bridge was torn loose at Logansport. A dam on Big Eagle creek gave way northwest of Indianapolis and war plant workers living west of the city were told to stay home until the waters had subsided.

The local weather bureau warned residents along the lower Wabash and the west fork of White river to expect rapid rising of the streams with serious floods.

### Salem Council Again Spurns Pinball Plan

SALEM, Ore., May 18—(AP)—Salem city council, by a vote of eight to six, Monday night defeated for the second time in less than three years a tax measure designed to legalize within city limits the operation of game devices, including certain types of pinballs.

### Golf Course Clubhouse Destroyed by Fire

PORTLAND, Ore., May 18—(AP)—The Peninsula golf course clubhouse was destroyed last night by fire of undetermined origin at a loss, estimated by the management, of \$15,000 to \$20,000.

No one was in the building at the time.

### Reds Hurl Back New Nazi Attacks

MOSCOW, May 18—(AP)—The Kuban front flared into action again today when German troops stole through the forested hills and sprang upon the Russians in a violent effort to regain important positions lost weeks ago.

Latest Russian reports said that German infantry which attacked several times supported by tanks, planes and artillery, was thrown back each time with heavy losses. The German counter attacks are aimed at driving the Russians back from the inner positions of the Black sea port of Novorossisk.

In the air attacks, the nazis lost 27 planes during a two-day raid on the Schigry district northeast of Kharkov, it was reported. Military observers considered the attacks may indicate a possible point where the Germans intend to loose an offensive.

### Processed Food Point Values Hold in May

WASHINGTON, May 18—(AP)—Present point values of processed foods will remain unchanged throughout May.

In announcing this last night, the OPA said the program now has "settled down to an even keel," making mid-month changes such as were made in March and April unnecessary.

OPA coupled its announcement of no point value changes with an appeal to consumers to shop early in the month, early in the week and early in the day in order to reduce store congestion.

### Sugar Stamp 13 Valid For 5 Pounds June 1

PORTLAND, May 18—(AP)—Sugar stamp 13 in war ration book No. 1 will become valid on June 1 and will be good for five pounds of sugar through Aug. 15, the district OPA announced today.

Stamp 12 expires on May 31.

### Ex-Mayor of Salem Is Reported Missing

SALEM, Ore., May 18—(AP)—No trace of P. M. Gregory, former mayor of Salem, had been found this morning after he left his home here expecting to be gone an hour or two, city Police Sergeant Winterstein said. Gregory, in ill health for several years, was reportedly somewhat improved recently.

### Bombs, Fire Deal Havoc To Buildings

#### Machinegunning Adds to Heavy Toll; 4 German Planes Downed at Sea

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, May 18—(AP)—Carrying on an unrelenting attack on Italy's Mediterranean islands, Wellingtons of the RAF bombed the airfield and port of Alghero on the west coast of Sardinia last night.

Bomb bursts were seen in the town and port areas and one large fire in the center of the town appeared to be spreading beyond control, pilots said.

The Wellingtons topped off their raid by machine-gunning the targets from low altitude.

Bright moonlight which made it possible for the Wellingtons to conduct a raid under conditions almost as good as daylight on the outskirts of Rome the night before, again aided the bombers and they did some of their strafing from as low as 200 feet. One pilot had to steer sharply to avoid a church steeple, he said.

Photographs taken during the Flying Fortress attack on Cagliari, Sardinia, on May 13, showed the freight yards, gasworks, the oil storage area and dock installations smashed up, air spokesmen said.

Transports Destroyed

In routine patrols, the only other activity reported by today's communique, a single Beaufighter encountered two Junkers transports yesterday off the coast of Sardinia and shot down both of them. None of the occupants of the big transports was seen to escape as they plunged into the sea.

In another encounter a Beaufighter knocked down a Heinkel and a Junkers Sunday night. The attack was so fierce and sudden that other German planes began shooting at one another, the pilot reported.

No allied aircraft were lost in

(Continued on page 6.)

### Howard Hughes Escapes Death In Lake Mead Crash

BOULDER CITY, Nev., May 18—(AP)—Howard Hughes, wealthy aircraft designer and manufacturer, escaped with minor head bruises yesterday when a twin-engine amphibian plane he was piloting crashed and sank in Lake Mead, drowning a federal aeronautics inspector.

Carried to the bottom of the broad, deep artificial lake, site of Boulder dam, was the body of W. M. Cline of Santa Monica, Calif., civil aeronautics administrator inspector.

Escaping from the craft with Hughes were flight mechanic Richard Felt of Burbank, Calif.; Co-Pilot Charles Walter von Rosenberg of North Hollywood, Calif.; and C. E. Blandford, aeronautical engineer from Santa Monica.

Felt, suffering serious head injuries, and von Rosenberg, with two broken vertebrae, were brought to a hospital here. Blandford was not seriously hurt.

Glenn E. Oederkirke, executive assistant of the Hughes aircraft company, said the accident occurred during an apparent attempt to alight on the water, half a mile from shore.

### Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Feizenstein

Wretched old Italy. About all she has left are the memory of a beautiful friendship with Adolf Hitler, a navy relegated to the status of an ornament and the blood-stained dagger with which she stabbed France in the back.