

U. S. BOMBERS RAID OIL CENTER OF PLOESTI



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Refineries, Rail Yards Main Targets

Nazi Airfields in Reich, France, Supply Lines in Italy Also Hammered

(By the Associated Press)
Some 165 miles behind the front in Rumania, American bombers dealt Germany another staggering blow yesterday with an assault upon the rail yards and oil refineries of Ploesti. Massed tank cars were exploded, tracks were ripped, columns of black smoke swished three miles high.
Germany obtains 6,000,000 tons of oil annually from Rumania, about a third of the reich's requirements. With the great Ploesti fields immediately threatened by Russian armies and allied bombs, the deputy commander of the Mediterranean air forces, Air Marshal Sir John Slessor, declared:

"The Germans could not possibly carry on without them."
As a by-product, the bombers and their escorts destroyed more than 40 planes. A dozen bombers were lost. Several dozen other Nazi planes were destroyed around and five aloft by U. S. Mustangs from Britain, which shot up German airfields near Berlin and Munich and in France. Eight attackers were lost.

British bombers struck German aircraft repair shops at Toulouse in southern France, losing a single plane.

Formations of Flying Fortress and Liberators attacked rail yards at Nis and Leskovac in Yugoslavia as the allies pursued a relentless campaign against German communications in the Balkans in coordination with the Russian land advance.

Italy Rail Lines Blasted

While the bombers were thus occupied on distant targets, others continued their intensive campaign against German communications in Italy. It was announced that all rail lines from northern Italy to the front area again have been cut and that the Germans have been unable to move through trains since March 28.

It is estimated the Germans must move several thousand tons of material to the front daily to maintain their forces in Italy.

In an intensive campaign in the past few weeks, daily attacks have been made on all six railway lines from northern Italy, especially in the belt across the peninsula north of Rome.

Every line in this area has been severed, most of them in at least two places and the object of the campaign is to keep them cut.

Headquarters announced that 12 bombers failed to return from all Mediterranean theater air operations yesterday.

Ground artillery duels raged in the Cassino area and near the west coast end of the main battle.

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Munitions Blast Dead Probably 8

HASTING, Nebr., April 6.—(AP)—An explosion at the Hasting naval ammunition depot early today that occurred in a railroad box car and followed by another blast in a shed filled with mines and depth charges killed three persons, and five others missing are "presumed to be dead," Capt. D. F. Patterson, commanding officer at the depot said.

In addition 35 persons sustained injuries described as minor. Damage was estimated at \$50,000. Capt. Patterson said. All the dead and injured were civilian depot employees living near here.

The explosion shattered windows in about 20 stores in Hasting, an estimated 10½ miles from the explosion scene. Glenview, small village on the outskirts of the plant, was hard hit, with business houses there "practically collapsed," Marshal Wert Nurns said. There was no loss of life or serious injury to village residents.

Capt. Patterson said the cause of the blast was unknown.

Levy Fast Rant

By L. F. Rosenblatt

Four years ago Wendell Willkie, previously a supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt, explained that he did not leave the democratic party, but that the democratic party had left him. Now it appears that the republican party, too, has left Mr. Willkie. Which raises the query: Whither now, Wendell?

Willkie Quits Presidential Race, Putting Dewey Nearer Nomination by Republicans

Decision is Based on Test In Wisconsin

New York Governor, Far In Front as Possibility, Remains Mum on Plans

WASHINGTON, April 6.—(AP)—A presidential nomination without strings floated enticingly close before Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York today as Wendell L. Willkie quit the republican race after losing a long-shot gamble for Wisconsin delegates.

Dewey, who reached for the prize at Philadelphia in 1940 only to find Willkie had grabbed it, stood far out as the leading possibility for the nomination in the wake of Willkie's democratic howl out of a contest on which he had spent most of his efforts for the last four years.

Willkie failed to win a delegate in Wisconsin, where 15 pledged Dewey representatives were elected despite the New York governor's previous plea for them to withdraw. The 1940 nominee threw in the sponge with the announcement that it was obvious he could not be nominated after his decisive setback in Wisconsin.

Dewey Mum on Plans

Characteristically, Dewey busied himself at Albany with a stack of legislative bills and said nothing about his future plans—a silence some of his backers said he might maintain up to the time of the June nominating convention.

(He has said he is not a candidate—but never that he would not accept.)

Baltimore's republican mayor, Theodore R. McKeldin, declared Dewey "is a 100 per cent candidate" after conferring with him in New York. Dewey was "very

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

A faint trickle of news comes as this is written from our fleet which has been raiding Jap islands almost to the Philippines.

Secretary Knox tells us that at Palau, Woleai and Yap islands all Jap ships caught at anchor were sunk or damaged, but there is no way to estimate their number. He adds that one Jap warship was sunk (in addition to those sunk at anchorage) near Palau and two more near Woleai.

First reports, he says, indicate that our plane losses were 8 fighters, 11 bombers and 8 torpedo bombers. (There has been no indication so far of any damage to our warships.)

THIS question comes at once to our minds: Have our ships reached a point where it is safe for them to break radio silence? Not necessarily. Planes could have brought the news to one of our radio stations in the South Seas. So we don't know where our ships may be.

THE news from Burma is a little better.

Lord Mountbatten says no fresh progress has been made by the Japs pushing toward Imphal. MEANWHILE, Chinese forces BEHIND the Imphal Japs are reported to be striking with increasing intensity, advancing in some places so rapidly that the Japs are abandoning their dead in pillboxes.

The situation in Burma is still too badly mixed to make much of a guess as to what is happening.

THE big news comes again from the Balkans.

The Russians, definitely over

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RED, AXIS TROOPS BATTLE IN ODESSA SUBURBS

Editorial Praise Bestowed On Wendell Willkie as He Withdraws His Candidacy

(By the Associated Press)
Here are excerpts from the editorial comment in the nation's press on Wendell L. Willkie's withdrawal from the republican presidential race:

New York Times (Ind.-Dem.)—His withdrawal takes out of the contest * * * the candidate * * * best fitted * * * for the republican nomination for the presidency.

New York Herald-Tribune (Ind.-rep.)—He takes with him not only the respect of the country, but a deep gratitude for a public service nobly performed.

New York Daily News (Ind.)—The new dealers will now have to look around for another strawman to sell to the republicans if they can.

Baltimore Sun (Ind.-dem.)—(Willkie) has been a powerful stimulant, forcing republican and democratic leaders alike to raise their heads above the rut in which their thinking ordinarily moves.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.)—Mr. Willkie's path is already clearly marked. It will surprise no one if he now comes out openly for Mr. Roosevelt.

Chicago Sun (Ind.)—By voting against Mr. Willkie they (Wisconsin republicans) strengthened the grip of partisan reactionaries on the republican party.

Boston Herald (Ind.-rep.)—(Willkie) was the most stimulating and vigorous republican who

Douglas Vote Set On Levy for Fair Grounds

The Douglas county court has authorized a special election, to be held simultaneously with the primary vote May 19, on the proposal to levy \$30,000 annually for county fair purposes. County Clerk Roy Agee reported today. The court's action was taken following the certification of petitions circulated by the Douglas County Mounted Police Reserve. The levy, if approved, would be limited to no more than one mill and the money would be used for the purchase and improvement of fair grounds and the expenses of an annual county fair.

Rose O'Neill, Creator Of Kewpie Doll, Dies

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., April 6.—(AP)—Rose O'Neill, artist-creator of the Kewpie doll, died today at the home of relatives. She was about 69 years old.

Miss O'Neill, former wife of Harry Leon Wilson, humorist-author, designed the Kewpie in 1909 and it made her a fortune estimated at more than \$1,000,000.

Miss O'Neill and Wilson were divorced after five years of marriage. She was first married to Gray Latham, a Virginian, from whom she also was divorced.

Reward Out for Arrest Of Eugene Dog Torturer

EUGENE, Ore., April 6.—(AP)—Rewards totalling \$300 have been offered by local persons and organizations for arrest of the torturer of a pet terrier owned by Mrs. Don Hawke. The dog's tongue was cut out. This was the latest in a series of similar offenses authorities said, and a drive has started to eliminate brutality to animals.

has come forward in a generation.

Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer (dem.)—* * * It is now clear that no candidate who takes a forthright position has a chance to win the republican nomination.

Nashville Tennessean (Ind.-dem.)—What happened * * * was * * * the virtual obliteration of Mr. Willkie * * * and the extinguishment of the hopes of those republicans who had fancied their party might rise above its ugly antecedents.

Boston Globe (Ind.)—With Willkie out, the party machine is free to look around for someone who will be easier to handle than Dewey.

Philadelphia Record (Ind.)—We have admired his (Willkie's) courage. * * * Developments make the democratic party with President Roosevelt as its leader, the only choice for liberal voters in 1944.

Atlanta Constitution (Dem.)—It is very necessary now that we not have a campaign of silence. The sphinx of Albany, N. Y., (Continued on page 6)

Oregon Awaiting Cancellation of Willkie Candidacy

SALEM, Ore., April 6.—(AP)—The state elections division said today that Wendell Willkie can withdraw from the May 19 presidential primary election at any time before April 30.

The election laws provide that any candidate may withdraw before 20 days before election day. Willkie, who withdrew as a candidate last night, is the only republican entered on the presidential ballot.

Should he officially withdraw, then republicans will write in their favorite candidates.

Several candidates for republican convention delegates have requested that their ballot slogans be changed. Their slogans are "win with Willkie," and others in behalf of the withdrawn candidate.

Willkie's name, the election division said, can be withdrawn only at his own request.

Should Willkie's name remain on the ballot, Oregon's 15 delegates to the national convention would be pledged to vote for him unless he releases them. However, since he asked that his name not be submitted to the convention, a delegation pledged to Willkie, in effect, would be a delegation pledged to no one.

No direct word has been received from Willkie or his campaign manager, Ralph Cake, of Portland.

Oil Boring Plans for Oakland Area Cancelled

The Phillips Petroleum company, which recently filed oil leases covering approximately 20,000 acres lying east of Oakland, has withdrawn all unrecorded leases from the office of the county clerk and reportedly is abandoning its project. The company had been working on plans to start explorations for oil, but agents have been withdrawn and property owners have been advised that the leases will be canceled. No reason for the company's action was given.

Jap Pressure Near Imphal Not Reduced

Allied Troops Continue To Take Toll, However, In Various Localities

(By the Associated Press)
Allied troops continue to kill and wound Japanese in India, but the enemy is still exerting pressure along the Assam front north of Imphal. Admiral Mountbatten's headquarters reported today.

There were, however, three bright spots in the India-Burma picture. Mountbatten's headquarters said the allies have inflicted casualties on the Japanese in ambushes laid along the roads north and south of Imphal.

Chinese forces in northern Burma are driving the Japanese steadily southward in the upper Mogaung valley and are advancing on the village of Wakung. Twenty-four Japanese planes were destroyed in an air commando attack on the Aungmye airfield in central Burma Tuesday. The Mountbatten bulletin reported.

At Wewak, northeast New Guinea, Fifth air force bombers dumped 206 tons of bombs Tuesday, destroying 13 Japanese planes on the ground and starting large fires without having a single shot fired at them.

Australians moving toward the enemy's Madang base, southeast down the coast, was last reported nine miles from Boadjim, 2 miles south of Madang. An American

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Own Bombs Kill Allied Soldiers Eaker Discloses

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, April 6.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, disclosed today that a number of allied soldiers had been killed by bombs which accidentally fell from the target during the great allied air assault on Cassino March 15.

This disclosure by the commander of the allied Mediterranean air forces came during a press conference in which he discussed many aspects of the bombing operation and declared that while the operation had failed to break German resistance it had "accomplished all that was expected of it by the air force commanders."

Eaker indicated his belief that the outcome should not be construed as a reflection on the potentialities of aerial bombardment, declaring frankly that air power has its recognized limitations and it was not to be expected that such an attack could wipe out all resistance.

Some of the bombs which missed the target at Cassino fell wide of their mark because of a "mechanical failure," he said, investigation showing that "the bombs had become dislodged from their racks and when the bombs doors were opened they became free."

Others which dropped at Venafro, far behind the front, killing a number of allied troops, were the result of a mistake in target identification, Eaker added.

In discussing various aspects of the bombing he emphasized that his remarks should not be considered as a criticism of the ground forces or their commanders.

"The bombing of Cassino accomplished all that was expected of it by the air force commanders in view of the forces involved, the state of their training and the time during which those forces operated," Eaker said.

2nd Front Date Set, Troops Told Job All Mapped

WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY SOMEWHERE IN BRITAIN, April 6.—(AP)—"D" day has been set.

The allied western invasion timetable has been worked out to the minutest detail.

Only a few high-ranking officers know the date, however, and only a few will know it beforehand.

But topflight commanders in talks with their officers and men are being amazingly frank in some respects—even to the extent of telling the troops the job cut out for them.

Among American troops who will participate in the initial assault on Adolf Hitler's fortress a growing tenseness can be noticed. In their barracks the soldiers talk among themselves but there is tremendous security consciousness among them when they are outside camp.

Farmers Receive Preferred Status In Gasoline Order

WASHINGTON, April 6.—(AP)—Representatives of farmers' organizations today won the right to hold C gasoline ration cards as "preferred" drivers.

The OPA said that the listing of the farm group representatives along with war plant employees and other essential workers is effective April 11, and applies only to full-time paid employees of organizations operating to increase food output.

The mileage granted will be the amount needed to carry out the following purposes: OPA said: Assisting farmers to increase food production; organizing or helping farm cooperatives in the marketing of produce or buying of necessary supplies, livestock or equipment; organizing or assisting in the cooperative use of farm livestock, machinery or equipment.

The farmers' organizations must be chartered by the United States or by a state and must have a membership of at least 100 persons, a majority of whom are farmers.

Gilbert Cobb Convicted On Drunk Driving Charge

Gilbert Cobb, Roseburg, was convicted in justice court today on a charge of drunken driving, following a hearing before Judge Thomas Hartfel. Evidence was introduced at the trial to show that Cobb was the driver of an automobile involved in a collision in Roseburg, following his return from a roadstand, where witnesses testified he had been drinking. Cobb, who shortly after the accident had reported to police that his car had been stolen, contended that he was not occupying the car at the time of the collision, but witnesses introduced by the state identified him as the operator of the vehicle. A hit-and-run charge also is pending against Cobb. Judge Hartfel postponed imposition of sentence.

Lumberman Accused of Ceiling Price Excesses

PORTLAND, April 6.—(AP)—James M. Fleishman, head of the Fleishman Lumber company, was free today on \$300 bail after a federal grand jury indictment on a charge of selling lumber above ceiling prices.

Jerome S. Bischoff, OPA lumber enforcement officer, said the firm's overcharges had risen as high as \$5000 a month. Fleishman Lumber company has offices here and a yard and manufacturing plant at Grants Pass.

Defenders of Sea Port Face Annihilation

Effort of Foe to Break Out of Skala Trap Fails With Heavy Casualties

MOSCOW, April 6.—(AP)—Russian storm troops pushed into the outlying suburbs of Odessa today and the roar of battle echoed throughout the city.

Gen. Malinovsky's cavalry and light tanks drove on the great Black sea port from three directions, front line dispatches said, advancing from positions which last night were only nine miles from the heart of the metropolis.

The right flank of Malinovsky's Third Ukrainian army pushed through the quagmires west of the city heading for the Odessa-Ovidopol spur railway—the last remaining escape route to Rumania, the dispatches added.

Even if the trapped Germans and Rumanians succeed in reaching Ovidopol, they must still make the hazardous trip by ferry to Akkerman and thence by a winding, single-track railway to Rumania.

Malinovsky's cavalry and tanks had cut off the main escape route to Rumania by capturing Razdelnaya, 38 miles northwest of Odessa, and then pressing southward to take Strassburg, which commands a side road from Odessa to Trasopol on the lower Danester river.

If previous German practice has been followed, commanders of the axis forces in the Odessa area probably have already deserted their men and equipment, and have been taken out by ship and plane.

Nazis Slaughtered in Trap.

Northwest of Odessa, where the Russians have encircled German and Rumanian groups in the

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Butane Gas Device On Autos Brings Federal Charges

LOS ANGELES, April 6.—(AP)—A 10-count criminal information charging violation of War Production board regulations by allegedly installing butane gas equipment on automobiles owned by Gary Cooper, Bob Hope, Eddie Cantor, Louis M. Mayer, Barbara Hutton, Cary Grant and numerous others, has been filed against Lawrence W. Zonker, carburetor service concern operator.

Joseph E. Harrington, chief of the war frauds unit of the Department of Justice here, said yesterday Zonker was charged with selling butane tanks, regulators and mixers, made of strategic materials, without WPB permission and without keeping required records.

John C. Handy, WPB compliance officer, reported that investigation was initiated when Interior Secretary Ickes, visiting the Pacific coast recently, expressed concern over drainage into private channels of butane and other strategic materials. Handy said that although butane is not rationed, it is vital to aviation gasoline.

Released on his own recognition, Zonker told newsmen: "It looks like the boys dug up some war regulation and slapped it against me."

Government agents said no charges were filed against those owning the devices, which eliminate the use of gasoline and which, Handy declared, have been installed at an average cost of \$200 each.

Mail by the Yard From Home Town



Pfc. William Paultz of East Orange, N. J., with 12th USAAF in Italy, is all tangled up in what is probably the longest "letter" received by a G. I. abroad. Originated by Mrs. Olga Hook and Mrs. Betty Clark of his home town, it is 12 yards long and composed of personal messages from friends, cartoons, pin-up photos, poems, stories and jokes.

Army Day Omits Parades; Goal of 7,700,000 Neared

WASHINGTON, April 6.—(AP)—Lest you forget while reading about seven and a half million soldiers at war, this is army day.

By resolution of congress in the peaceful 20's, the anniversary of America's entry into World War I was set aside as a day on which to remember the army. It was just a little army then.

Today the parades and the trek of visitors to army posts are being omitted. There is neither time nor necessity for the parades. The American public knows about the army. And so does the enemy—for today it is deployed around the world.

The army expects to have five million men overseas before this year is out. That is more than all the troops mustered at home and abroad during the other war; only 2,059,629 served overseas.

The army is nearing its goal of 7,700,000 having reached the seven and one-half million figure at the beginning of the year. There is, however, something of a scramble to attain the last few thousands and to allot the inflow of manpower to hold that level once it is attained.

Essentially the problem now is one of replacement. The depletions in army strength arise both from battle casualties and discharges for various reasons. The battle casualties now total about 130,000 men. Discharges since Pearl Harbor have been slightly in excess of 1,000,000.

LaGrande Democrat to Race Cong. Stockman

SALEM, Ore., April 6.—(AP)—C. J. Shorb, La Grande, has filed for the democratic nomination for representative in congress from the second district, the state department said today.

Shorb's filing was lost in the final rush in the filing period, which closed Tuesday. Shorb will be unopposed for the democratic nomination, while Rep. Lovell Stockman, Pendleton, will be unopposed for the republican nomination in the same district.

Army Officer on Trial For Medford Slaying

CAMP WHITE, Ore., April 6.—(AP)—A general courts martial today heard the case of an army lieutenant who District Attorney George Nelson accused of killing his milkman in a fight over the officer's wife.

Lt. William Foster, 23, pleaded innocent at the opening of the trial yesterday. Dallas Grove, 31, was stabbed with a kitchen knife in the Foster home March 12.

Verdict of the 11-officer court can be guilty of murder, guilty of manslaughter, or innocent.