

ALLIED AIR, NAVAL FLEETS BLAST SUMATRA

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Roseburg News-Review

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Bulgarian Rail Center of Plodiv Bombed by RAF

Raid Follows 36-Hour Foray Against Reich

Casualties in Bombed French Area 4,000; City Of Rouen Still Burning

LONDON, April 20.—(AP)—RAF Italy-based bombers raided the railway center of Plodiv, Bulgaria, today in a continuation of the powerful allied offensive in which some 6,000 planes loosed 9,000 tons of explosives on Hitler's Europe in the 36-hour period ended last night.

Crewmen returning to their Italian bases from the daylight strike said bomb flashes spotted the target area in Plodiv, which lies 80 miles southeast of Sofia and is an important point in the rail network of southeastern Europe.

Mysterious explosions on the French coast again shook English coastal towns in the Dover strait area for 40 minutes after midnight.

One possible explanation was that the explosions were caused by allied delayed action bombs. Another explanation was that the Germans were blasting out new defense positions.

A Vichy broadcast said that 750 persons were now known to have been killed in the Paris area and 1,200 killed and more than 2,000 injured in Rouen and its vicinity during raids Tuesday night.

A noon broadcast said the center of Rouen was in ashes with the fires not yet completely under control.

A Paris broadcast, which raised estimates on the dead at Rouen to 2,000, said time bombs were hampering rescue work.

In the massive American attacks on western Germany yesterday, centering around Kassel, 21 German planes were destroyed and six bombers and two fighters were lost.

Nazis Again Hit England

Britain-based bombers were in active last night after the unprecedented allied assaults on Germany yesterday, but Nazi raiders struck at England for the second successive night and looted.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THERE is little significant news as this is written. The war is proceeding by routine paths toward the crisis that will arrive when invasion day comes.

LEADING up to that portentous day, the Russians are pounding at Germany's eastern gates with the mightiest land armies ever assembled since the world began. Compared with them, the Persian horde that moved on Greece is hardly more than a regiment.

In the west, we and the British are sending against nazidom air armadas that are beyond the power of the ordinary imagination to grasp. In the past 24 hours, at least FIVE THOUSAND allied warplanes have been raining destruction on Germany from the skies.

More than 8500 tons of bombs have been dropped on continental Europe within that short period.

BRITISH bags and losses in this epochal air warfare are not listed, but in these 24 hours our Americans shot down 34 Nazi fighters. In doing so, we lost 19 heavy bombers and six fighters.

Willingness to trade 19 heavy bombers and their ten-men-or-more crews (along with six fighters) for 34 German interceptors indicates the price we are ready

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Rockets Peril Gasoline Dole To Civilians

Thieves, Counterfeiters Drain 2,500,000 Gallons Daily, Congress Advised

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—Congress was told by a CPA official today that with "hot" C coupons bringing 50 cents each and illegal transactions draining off an estimated 2,500,000 gallons daily, black market operations soon may force a reduction in civilian gasoline rations.

This assertion was made by Shad Polier, director of gasoline rationing enforcement for the CPA, in a digest of black market operations prepared for a house interstate sub-committee investigating the gasoline situation.

"The black market in gasoline is already dangerous," Polier's memorandum said, "but if allowed to grow it will become a serious threat to the whole war effort."

The 2,500,000 gallons of gasoline which Polier said is the daily "tribute" to "the thieves and counterfeiters who steal, print and sell gasoline coupons and to the chiselers who buy them or buy gas without coupons" would increase "A" rations by 30 miles a month or boost the top limit for "B" rations from the present ceilings of 325-475 miles to an estimated 700 miles monthly for business drivers.

Classed With Saboteurs

"The saboteurs who print and sell counterfeit coupons, the car owners who buy coupons or buy gas without coupons, and the dealers who buy coupons to cover illegal sales of gasoline," his report said, "are no better than the saboteur who blows up a gasoline refinery."

The heaviest concentration of illegal coupons was described in the report as being in the east, with the problem "also serious" in California, the Pacific Northwest and on the Gulf coast.

To support his contention that big time racketeers have gone into the counterfeit gasoline coupon business, Polier said in his

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Mrs. McKee Death Victim No. 3 Of Wreck Near Azalea

Mrs. Charles (Juanita L.) McKee, 23, died at Mercy hospital Wednesday afternoon from injuries suffered April 12, when she was pinned for more than four hours in the wreckage of the Greyhound bus wrecked near Azalea. Death of Mrs. McKee brought to three the number of persons fatally injured, as Mrs. Gertrude Simon, Eugene, and Mrs. Sadie M. Deurloo, Steamboat Springs, Colo., died before they could be removed from the wreckage.

Hugh Bert Robinson, travelling salesman from Los Angeles, and Lois Katherine Prevost, Ashland, Ore., are still receiving treatment at Mercy hospital in Roseburg, but are expected to recover.

Mrs. McKee, born at Eugene, Ore., Aug. 13, 1920, was married Dec. 28, 1942, making her home at Rogue River since her marriage.

Surviving are her husband; a son, Robert, eight months old; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bartley W. Hatfield, Myrtle Creek; a brother, Ernest Hatfield, serving in the Aleutian Islands; three sisters, Sarah K., Dorothy L., and Fay M. Hatfield, and a grandfather, M. W. England, all of Myrtle Creek.

Funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. H. P. Sconce of the Baptist church in Myrtle Creek at 2 p. m. Saturday and interment will follow in the Myrtle Creek cemetery. Arrangements are in charge of the Roseburg Undertaking company.

Nazis Fail In Counter Blow Against Reds

Heavy Assault in Poland Smashed; Russians Still Blocked at Sevastopol

LONDON, April 20.—(AP)—Russia was understood today to have tendered peace terms to tired Romania but the belief prevailed here that the German satellite must act quickly or face the full weight of the red army.

Details of the peace terms likely were communicated to the United States and Britain.

LONDON, April 20.—(AP)—Large scale German tank and infantry attacks have been beaten back in the southwest corner of Old Poland after fierce seesaw fighting, Moscow announced today in a communique which also told of the capture by Russian shock troops of Fedukhinsky heights, a formidable barrier guarding the approaches to besieged Sevastopol.

The nazis, apparently in an effort to save their big communications center of Lwow, launched the heavy counter blows east of Stanislawow, 70 miles southwest of the base, and "some populated places changed hands" before the assaults were repulsed, the communique said.

A German communique said yesterday that the Hungarian force had captured Nadworna, 21 miles southwest of Stanislawow.

While the German attacks seemed primarily designed to save Lwow, 45 miles west of the nearest Russian forces, the offensive also could be an attempt to keep the red army from driving through the Czechoslovak frontier passes they reached April 8.

Lwow itself was heavily bombed by the Russians Tuesday night the communique said, with many hits observed on trains loaded with troops and equipment.

Sevastopol Holding Out

Besides taking Fedukhinsky heights, about five miles from the center of Sevastopol and overlooking the Chornaya river valley famed for a great battle in the Crimean war of 1854, the Russians also outflanked a hill covering the entry of the Inker-

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Artillery Duel Staged in Cassino

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, April 20.—(AP)—Fighting in the rubble-strewn streets of Cassino flared up sharply yesterday as allied machine-gunners raked the German-held Continental hotel and Hotel Des Roses and the enemy replied with heavy mortar fire against the railway station occupied by the allies.

The two hotels, in the southern part of the town, have been the most troublesome German positions in Cassino from the very outset. The allied machine-gun action indicated that positions of the contending forces have changed little in the recent quiet weeks.

There was little other activity in the battered town except for the firing of propaganda leaflets into the area by the Germans.

The allied air force, hindered by poor weather, had one of its quietest days in weeks.

Railyards at Piombina and Ancona and bridges in the Florence area and on the east coast line south of Ancona were attacked by fighter-bombers yesterday and others swept into Yugoslavia to pound communications near Metkovic.

RAF Wellingtons pounded away again early today at the German supply ports of Livorno (Leghorn), Piombino and Santo Stefano.

School Levy Need Stressed By Directors

Plans Under Election Set For April 26 Include New Building at Edenbow

The proposal to levy a six-mill tax annually for a period of five years, offered by the directors of the Roseburg school district to finance enlargement of school facilities, will be submitted to a vote at a special election to be held Wednesday, April 26, at the junior high building. The polling place will be open from 2 to 7 p. m. Only taxpayers are privileged to vote, eligible voters being defined as those who own property, as shown on the last assessment, on which they have paid or are subject to tax. The taxpayer provision also includes persons owning stock in corporations, firms or co-partnerships which pay taxes within the district. No prior registration is required of voters.

The plan submitted by the school board would raise approximately \$30,000 each year for a period of five years. Under the state law authorizing this method of raising funds, the board may spend the money as it is received or may accumulate funds from year to year. The money, however, must be expended for the purposes for which it is raised, which includes, according to the proposal, "construction, reconstruction, improvement, betterment, repair or rehabilitation of schools, school plants and school premises, in order to provide more adequate for the population of said district."

School directors point out that the district is faced by the immediate necessity of increasing facilities in the grade schools. Benson, Rose and Fullerton schools already are overcrowded. The present population trend is toward the north part of town, and

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Stimson Explains Delay in News Of Air War Blunders

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—Secretary of War Stimson said today that a nine-month delay in announcing the accidental shooting down of a second group of American planes in Sicily "is understandable when you consider the unpredictable reasons" which led to the loss.

Simultaneously, Eimer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, told reporters he was satisfied that the war department had not deliberately attempted to suppress the news that half of the 10 planes and 44 occupants lost at Catania, Sicily, last July 13 had been downed by "friendly" fire.

A couple of days earlier, on July 11, another 23 American transports were shot down off Gela, Sicily, with a loss of 410 men when they flew into the range of enemy and allied fire in the wake of enemy planes.

When Stimson was asked at a press conference why a public announcement of the Catania affair was not made at the time the Gela incident became known, he replied:

"To say that the army will tolerate blundering, or endeavor to cover it up, is simply not true. I am confident the public will not over-emphasize what, in truth, are unavoidable incidents of all wars."

"It is impossible to give a complete explanation of all of these contributing factors without giving the enemy a blueprint of our method of conducting such offensive. I believe it is enough to say that the defects, wherever they were found, were made the basis of intense study with the view to preventing their recurrence."

Across United States in Less than Seven Hours



Top picture shows the huge 40-ton army air transport Constellation, world's largest of its type, that shattered the transcontinental non-stop speed record by winging 2,308 miles from Burbank, Calif., to Washington in 6 hours, 56 minutes and 15 seconds.

The giant aircraft was piloted by Howard Hughes, shown in the lower photo at right with Jack Frye, airline executive (left), receiving congratulations from Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones. The craft will accommodate 100 occupants.

Non-Combat Duty Draft Urged For War Job Dodgers

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—Complaining of "a conspicuous absence" of planned effort to direct qualified 4-Fs into essential work, the house military committee recommended today that men rejected for full military service be inducted for non-combat duty if they fail to seek essential war work.

The committee approved a recommendation of a special subcommittee headed by Representative Costello (D-Calif.) that no new legislation be enacted at this time dealing with the 3,500,000 men class 4-F—rejected for service because of disabilities. Existing law, the committee said, provides ample authority for handling such men through administrative procedure.

The committee made these specific recommendations: That selective service reclassify 4-Fs into groups doing essential work and those not in essential jobs.

That selective service and the war manpower commission publish a list of occupations which would entitle a 4-F to be reclassified into 2-AF or 2-BF (occupational deferment).

The 4-Fs in approved jobs notify their local draft boards and receive a certificate of approval before changing jobs.

The 4-Fs not in approved jobs notify their draft boards of willingness to take such jobs.

That failure of a registrant to notify his draft board of willingness to do essential work shall subject him to induction.

That men refusing to take essential work, when it is available, be inducted immediately for assignment to non-combat duty, and not be charged against the combat strength of the army and the navy.

Jury Advises Mercy for Convicted Wife Slayer

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., April 20.—(CP)—Albert Murray Poynter, 48-year-old shipwright who admitted killing his wife with an axe, was found guilty of manslaughter by a supreme court jury here last night. The jury recommended mercy.

Poynter testified yesterday that he killed his wife Feb. 24 after she said she loved another man and she intended to live with the other man. He added that Arthur (Slim) Norum admitted having intimate relations with Mrs. Poynter.

Poynter's two sons, Albert, 16, and Jack, 14, said their father always had been devoted to their mother.

Mrs. Ruth Eifert Sues Bus Line In Coos for \$12,200

COQUILLE, April 20.—Two damage actions against the Pacific Greyhound lines, one calling for payment of \$10,000 and the other for \$2200, were filed here Tuesday as the outgrowth of an accident August 4, 1943, when a Greyhound bus, bound to Coquille from Roseburg, overturned.

The guardian for Justin William Eifert, junior, two years old, alleges that the boy received partially permanent injuries as a result of the accident.

Negligence on the part of the bus driver is charged in both actions. Mrs. Ruth A. Eifert, mother of the boy and Douglas county resident, asks \$2200, claiming that she suffered two broken ribs and other injuries.

War Casualties of U. S. Reach Total of 189,309

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—American army and navy battle losses now total 189,309. Secretary of War Stimson said today that army casualties from Pearl Harbor through April 7 were: Killed 25,013; wounded 59,222; missing 32,048; prisoners 28,799—a total of 145,082.

The latest casualty list for the navy, marines and coast guard totals 44,227. This is made up of 18,795 killed, 11,726 wounded, 9,282 missing and 4,424 prisoners.

The Woman Pays, But This Time Via Hubby

PORTLAND, Ore., April 19.—(AP)—A defendant who told the judge he shouldn't be fined on a drunk charge as a result of pounding on an apartment house door found the judge entirely sympathetic.

"I was sober," he told the judge. "But my wife was drunk and wouldn't let me in. She is the one who should be fined."

"I agree with you," replied his honor. "I'll fine her \$20. You pay it."

Roseburg Children Injured in Crash

RED BLUFF, Calif., April 19.—(AP)—Two children of Pvt. and Mrs. Rodney Smith of Roseburg, Ore., were hospitalized after an automobile collision here yesterday. Mrs. Smith was driving to Camp Roberts to visit her husband.

Turkey to Halt Chrome Exports to Germany

LONDON, April 20.—(AP)—Reuters in an Ankara dispatch said today Turkey had announced officially it would tomorrow stop exports of chrome, which Germany needs for munitions.

Chrome is used in alloying steel to harden and strengthen such articles as crankshafts and machine parts.

(By the Associated Press)

Sweden today decided to reject an American and British demand asking her to halt exports of ball bearings to Germany, a Stockholm newspaper said. Finland delivered her negative reply to Russian peace offers. Turkey interned two Romanian passenger ships in the Bosphorus when they appeared steaming up, probably to commit suicide in an attempt to rescue in the Crimea.

Lamb Ration Reduction In Oregon Uncertain

PORTLAND, Ore., April 20.—(AP)—An OPA official said today it was too early to determine whether California's ration point cut on lamb and mutton might also be ordered in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Willard F. Case, district food rationing representative, said the northwest lamb season runs four or six weeks later than California's.

The ration cut—as much as four points in California—"might happen in any state where feed is so in demand that lambs cannot be held," Case said.

Docks, Planes, 2 Destroyers Assault Toll

Sabang, Lhonga Bases of Japs in Zone Operations Are Principal Targets

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, April 20.—(AP)—A powerful allied fleet of aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, destroyers and submarines at dawn yesterday struck the first air-sea blow against Japanese-held Dutch East Indies since the fall of the islands in March, 1942.

The attack was made just four days after Admiral Mountbatten had shifted his operational headquarters to Ceylon from New Delhi.

Allied bombers and fighters took off from the carriers somewhere in the Indian ocean and carried out a surprise raid on Sabang and Lhonga airfields in Northern Sumatra.

(The admiralty announced in London that Sabang also was bombed by the warships.)

Sabang is a little island just off the northeastern tip of Sumatra, less than 1,000 miles from Mountbatten's Ceylon headquarters, and has an important harbor which the Japanese have been using for sea operations toward the west. Lhonga is a few miles away on the mainland tip. Installations smashed.

With the expedition directed by Admiral Somerville, commander-in-chief of the British eastern fleet, the aircraft scored numerous direct hits with heavy bombs on the dock yard, power station, wharf, barracks, hangars, workshops and radio station at Sabang, leaving large fires blazing in the area.

The aircraft also scored hits on two Japanese merchant ships, each of 4,000 to 5,000 tons, while two enemy destroyer escort vessels were shot up and set afire. Twenty-two Japanese planes, including six large transports, were destroyed around at Sabang.

Several Japanese planes also were destroyed on the Lhonga airfield.

One allied plane was forced to land at sea but the pilot was dramatically saved by a submarine which rescued him under shore battery fire. All other planes returned to the carriers.

Despite intense light caliber an-

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Jap Roadblocks In India Pierced In Allied Assault

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, April 20.—(AP)—Allied troops advancing southeast from Dimapur on the Bengal-Assam railway have sliced through Japanese roadblocks and positions ringing the besieged Kohima garrison in the battle against enemy infiltration of eastern India, it was announced today.

Allied headquarters said the relieving column was joining in the offensive to clear the Japanese from positions threatening the 35-mile road between Kohima and Dimapur.

To the south, further successes were announced in the battle for the Imphal plain as British infantry and tanks pushed outward from their Imphal positions into the jungles and hills.

The enemy was pushed back in the sector northeast of Imphal and repulsed in hand-to-hand fighting when he made two attacks southwest of Imphal.

In North Burma, Lt. Gen. Stilwell's Chinese extended their long string of victories by capturing Warzup, 25 miles by road from Kamaing in the Mogaung valley.

To the east the Chinese scored another substantial success by encircling the remnants of a Japanese division and inflicting heavy casualties on the trapped enemy.

(Domel broadcasts from Tokyo declared that the fall of Imphal was imminent, with the base's first line defenses already in Japanese hands, and that the British had been forced to flee from their "hivellike positions" on a hill southwest of Kohima).

Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Rasmussen

Some pestiferous pun perpetrator will perhaps say it sooner or later, so here it is in substance now: The republicans, in their choice of a keynoter, have formally opened Warren the democrats.