

Epic Sea Battle Off Crete Is Recounted by British; 5000 Germans Reported Killed

By LARRY ALLEN

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, May 24.—(AP)—Five thousand or more Nazi soldiers bent on a surprise landing on Crete were drowned when a British naval squadron smashed into the center of their hoplite convoy and blasted to the bottom an Italian destroyer, two merchantmen and 40 sailing vessels, British naval officers related tonight.

Not a single German managed to reach the embattled island to reinforce the airborne Nazis already there, the officers asserted.

Describing the carnage wrought in a three-hour engagement which began about 11 p. m., Wednesday (May 21), the officers said the sailors, Greek caiques, were loaded precariously with about 100 Germans each, and estimated that with the loss of life on the other larger vessels, the casualties must have passed 5,000.

As the British cruisers and destroyers riddled the wooden boats and riddled them with the fire of 4-inch guns and anti-aircraft pomps, they said the Germans who were hurled into the inky water screamed vainly for rescue.

But the Germans still afloat were too busy to save their comrades, and the threat of torpedo attacks from German "E-boats" kept the British from trying it as they swept again and again through the huddled caiques.

The entire Nazi convoy was destroyed or dispersed.

The destroyer was accounted for by a resounding broadside of a British cruiser's six-inch guns, which set the victim aflame from stern to stern.

A large merchantman, which the British said must have carried at least 1000 men was sent to the bottom in similar fashion, and another cruiser sank a smaller steamer of about 1000 tons.

The captain of a British anti-aircraft cruiser, one of the first to return to Alexandria, gave this account of the melodramatic action:

"Three cruisers and four destroyers were steaming eastward from Suda Bay (in the sea of Crete, between Crete and Greece) when a destroyer in our screen opened fire on a darkened ship.

"This was the first intimation that we were in contact with the enemy.

"We altered course, jammed on full speed and entered the fray.

"Our destroyer fire was very effective. A great bonfire appeared on the ocean, apparently a merchantman burning from bow to stern.

"The first ship we on this cruiser actually sighted was a large Italian destroyer, which was not at all unlike our own one-funnel destroyers.

"It was not until we flashed a searchlight on her that we were certain she was an Italian, flying the Italian ensign.

"Judging by her immaculate paintwork, she apparently had spent many months in port.

"We were at very close range by then and opened fire with our pomps. She then fired torpedoes, and in avoiding them, this cruiser was masked by another cruiser.

"This other cruiser, however, thus got a clear view of the Italian destroyer and gave her a full broadside of six-inch guns, all of which seemed to hit.

"A series of violent explosions occurred and the burning destroyer went down like a stone.

"Throughout the action, she never had her own guns.

"The admiral then led the squadron through the middle of the enemy convoy, consisting mainly of sailing caiques intended for a surprise night landing on Crete.

"We sank a large number of these caiques, at least 40, each carrying at least 100 Nazis.

"We rammed many of them.

"In addition, this cruiser sank a small steamer of about 1000 tons with our heavy guns. We last saw her going down and burning badly.

"Some of the caiques tried to evade our attack by hiding the soldiers they were carrying and by flying the Greek flag.

"Others retaliated with rifle and machine-gun fire.

"On a subsequent sweep, we saw a large number of Germans in the water, clinging to life-belts and rafts and the wreckage of the caiques. The possibility of E-boat attacks made it impossible for us to stop to try to rescue any of them."

Before 3 a. m., Thursday, the action was over, the Nazis dead or the few survivors in scattered flight.

In the pitch darkness, it was impossible to estimate the full strength of the convoy, the captain went on, but he stuck to the round figure of 5,000, and believed that few escaped.

Continuing its patrol, the British squadron was attacked by German dive-bombers at dawn, and the raids continued without being stopped after dark Thursday, the guns of cruisers and destroyers alike growing hot with incessant firing which managed to bring down at least two.

British Fleet Pursue Nazis

World's Largest War Vessel Sunk in Sea Fight off Greenland

(Continued From Page 1)

started the war, two new battleships having been completed and commissioned since then—the King George V and the Prince of Wales.

The furious battle for Crete continued without pause, and the German high command Saturday for the first time told the public that there was such a battle; that air-borne invasion troops had been on the island since May 20 and had established themselves solidly in the western portion.

The high command added that British naval units had been driven from the northern waters of Crete; that "many vessels" of the British fleet had been destroyed or damaged, and that the Luftwaffe had seized air supremacy over the whole battle area.

British long-range bombers, returning to the aid of allied troops in Crete, smashed today at German paratroopers who still were dropping from the sky in the face of terrific losses.

The main fighting continued at Malemi airdrome, where, during Friday, the British said at least 14 German planes were destroyed.

The battle of Crete went into its sixth day with the outcome still doubtful, but some British reports said their position was slightly improved.

An RAF pilot who witnessed the air invasion before his fighter squadron was ordered to retire from Crete because of lack of tenable air bases said the Germans were "landing troops from the air with cynical disregard of their lives."

Some, he said, fell into the sea. Others were tangled in trees and "shot as they struggled like apes among the branches." Others lay with broken legs after parachuting into craggy ravines, or swept against the snow-covered mountain peaks. He said it was doubtful whether even half of the sky-soldiers survived the perils of parachute or glider descent and got into actual combat.

The war in Iraq simmered, floods in the south hampering British troop movements, and in North Africa the fighting was small scale, with a sandstorm raging near beleaguered Tobruk, where a British garrison is holding out. In Ethiopia the British continued mopping up remnants of Italian forces.

Amid the weekend's startling developments an official admission that shots had been fired at King Vittorio Emanuele's automobile in Albania recently was duly noted.

Angell Raps US Gas Tax

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—Rep. Angell (R-Ore) asked congress this week in extension of remarks in the congressional record not to levy additional federal taxes on gasoline.

The Oregonian said it was necessary to raise more funds, but argued gasoline already was heavily taxed. He said the idea of taxing gasoline to provide funds for road construction originated in Oregon and had been found to be the ideal tax for that purpose. He said the states now taxed gasoline an average of 4.4 cents while the federal government taxed it 1.5 cents a gallon.

To Dedicate Flagpole

A new 25-foot flagpole, erected in the circle near the north gate of Lee Mission cemetery by the cemetery association, and a new flag will be dedicated by Daughters of Union Veterans and members of the Relief Corps as part of the memorial services to be held there this afternoon, the committee in charge of the 3 o'clock services has announced.

Accepts Air Post

MOFFETT FIELD, Calif., May 24.—(AP)—Major General George H. Brett Saturday accepted appointment as chief of the army air corps, after landing here on a routine inspection flight.

Box Score

SALEM (3)	HOA	TACOMA (5)
Lentini 2	3	Malloy 2
Lightner 2	3	Staryn 4
Shinn 3	1	Rickert 4
Peterson 3	1	Abbott 3
Batem 1	0	Perry 3
Bergman 4	0	Greene 4
Griffith 3	1	Hanson 4
Adams 4	0	Cardone 4
Falling 3	0	Smith 2
Warren 1	0	

Totals: 23 24 11 Totals 23 11 27 16 Errors, Griffiths, Perry, Cardone.

Wild pitches, Falling. Left on bases, Salem 4 Tacoma 7. Two base hits, Peterson, Rickert, Hanson, runs batted in, Bates 2, Malloy, Rickert, Cardone, Hanson; sacrifice, Lightner, Smith; stolen bases, Peterson, Bates, Perry; double plays, Malloy to Hanson to Cardone 1; 1-8, Umpires, Weisberger.

FDR Aide



Isador Lubin

Economist Isador Lubin, now an administrative assistant to Sidney Hillman, an OPM director, soon will be named as special economic adviser to President Roosevelt. From 1933 to 1940 Lubin was commissioner of labor statistics in the labor department.

Activity Fund Group Named

Marion county's committee to direct the raising of \$5500 of the United Service Organizations fund to provide leisure time activity for men in armed service and defense work was announced Saturday by Mayor W. W. Chadwick.

Members are: Guy N. Hickok, chairman, Paul B. Wallace, T. M. Hicks, Floyd Miller, Harry Scott, Col. C. A. Robertson, Harry A. Brown, Irl McSherry, C. A. Kells, W. W. Chadwick, Mrs. Karl B. Tom Windishar, Ray Stumma, Sam McGilchrist, Jr., Douglas W. Chadwick and George W. Rossman.

Committee headquarters is in the Senator hotel. Mrs. Bertha Ray is secretary.

A fund of \$10,765,000 is to be raised nationally to unite the defense service efforts of the Jewish welfare board, Young Women's Christian association, National Catholic Community service, Young Men's Christian association, National Travelers Aid association and the Salvation Army.

The program is to provide religious services, personal counsel and guidance, social events and entertainment, hospitality and community contact service.

What Is This, A Class 'Z' Baseball Loop?

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., May 24.—(AP)—Two large scores and too small score sheets have driven three men to resign in the past 10 days as official scorers for the Hot Springs club of the Cotton States league—and now club officials are keeping their fingers crossed on the fourth.

He tackled his new assignment last night—and ran into a typical Hot Springs evening: The bathers lost to Helens, 7-26, while committing 24 errors and allowing 24 hits.

Sprague Favors Wheat Quotas

CORVALLIS, May 24.—(AP)—Governor Sprague notified the state AAA office Saturday that as a wheat grower of Adams county, Wash., he was casting his ballot in favor of wheat marketing quotas.

It would be damaging to Oregon, he said, if quotas should be voted down in the May 31 referendum.

Secretary of State Snell, whose home is in the Gilliam county wheat district, also sent a statement in support of the quota plan. Both men stressed the existence of surpluses as making quotas desirable.

In One Ear ..

—Paul Hauser's Column

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finding their own business when a tornado blew up and dropped an iron building right over them, which solved the zoo housing problem for the moment.

Hiller was identified as the governor of New York by a New Hampshire, Ia., high school student, who is probably as isolationist as they come.

And then there was the case down in Texas where four players in a bridge game all came up with perfect hands and nobody was shot.

Nobody bid seven no-trump on 13 spades, either.

The Cherrians, who are preparing for the Rose Festival, marched the other night and wound up as usual with a tap dance. In the tap room, of course.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SALEM BASEBALL CLUB

Dear Senators:

Please come home. All is forgiven.

Love,

A FRIEND.

State Vocational Board Asked To Speed Training Courses

In an effort to reach thousands of potentially skilled defense workers now employed in other trades, the state advisory council of the state employment service has requested the state board for vocational education to set up a three-hour night training course to replace the six-hour sessions now being held.

GOP Prepares For '42 Race

Niel Allen, Lampport Said in Running for State Chairman

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affairs and his location close to the center of population.

There were further reports that the state committee might decide to retain a paid executive secretary to carry the heavy burden of building up the statewide republican organization.

To some Portlanders who came down anticipating seeing "only a handful present," as some expressed it, the crowd of more than 125 men and women at the luncheon was a surprise. It was no surprise to the enthusiastic reports of organization activity from officers of the Young Republican club, who received a prominent place in the forum discussion directed by Ralph H. Calk, republican national committeeman.

"There is a lot of life in the old elephant yet," Gov. Charles A. Sprague declared at the luncheon. The governor warned that the party must avoid being one of "Little Americans putting party advantage above the welfare of our country." He quoted National Chairman Joseph W. Martin as saying what the party must do is "police and audit the new deal," and said that program carried his approval.

State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott called on republicans to foster "unity of forces" in the present emergency. Other speakers included Ernest Jachetta, president of the Oregon Republican club; Mrs. George T. Gerlinger, national committeewoman, and Mrs. Roy Bishop, state president of Pro-America.

Organization details took up most of the time of the Republican clubs executive committee. Reorganization to provide a vice-presidency of the new fourth congressional district will be proposed at the state convention at Roseburg early in the fall, it was decided.

Parrish Notes

Assistants to student body officers at Parrish junior high school were announced this week as officers were installed at an assembly.

Glenn Armstrong is assistant sergeant-at-arms; Eric Carlson, assistant Periscope manager; Birdie Sidwell, assistant Periscope editor; Gloria Meyers, assistant song leader; Douglas Yeater, assistant yell leader.

The Junior Red Cross council of Parrish junior high school held its weekly meeting Monday. The treasurer reported a balance of \$22.40.

Last meeting of the year will be Monday at 3:30 p.m., open to all teachers and students. A report of the activities of the year will be given by Richard Taw.

An entertainment is scheduled as follows: violin solo by Geraldine Schmoker, vocal solo by Buddy Warren, piano solo by Joe Brazie, tap dance by Shirley Lukins and Beverly McMillan. Accompanists will be Jean Fidler and Rosemary Galzer.

Last group of corridor conductors at Parrish junior high school this year are eighth graders who are being trained for next year. The new CCs are:

Joyce Austin, Clarice Caspar, Carroll Gragg, Erma Davis, Darleen Ellison, Marjorie Elosfont, Beverly Graham, Barbara Hoffman, Alice Helvig, Betty Lou Kauer, Marjorie Lundahl, Beverly McMillan, Wilma Noyes, Mary Page, Wanda Ringland, Barbara Ryan, Marjorie Smith.

Robert Bennett, Jim Brown, Virgil Carl, Robert Hamilton, Merritt Larson, Kenneth Lucas, Clinton Mason, Howard Metzner, Robert Martin, Dick Mything, Boyce Nedry, Keats Oliver, Richard Ostlin, Don Scheelar, Pat Shattuck, Richard Vincent and John White.

Registration of eighth graders for their ninth grade year at Parrish junior high school is under way, conducted through the social science classes.

All ninth graders are required to take English, social science, mathematics, general science and physical education. They may select one subject from home economics, industrial arts, chorus, beginners' band or orchestra, advanced band or orchestra or art appreciation.

There will be no study halls next year as general science is no longer an elective. The only study halls will be in connection with the physical education classes.

Parrish junior high school seventh graders who have been chosen to serve as "door cops" and bicycle patrolmen next fall are:

DCs—Janice Davis, Jewel Gueffroy, Harriet Huston, Allan Belinger, Joe Brazie, Herbert Evans; substitutes, Nancy Buren, Betty Lou Edwards, Janet Miller, Roger Adams, Bill Chapman, Neal Whitman.

BP—Jerry Apple, Walter Brown, Dalton Hobbs; substitutes, Jimmy Bunnell, Calvin Button, Leonard Williams.

New members of the traffic patrol at Parrish junior high school are Richard Mills and Jimmy Jaqua. David Scott is captain.

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Martha Raye Marries LAS VEGAS, Nev., May 24.—(AP)—Comedian Martha Raye and Neal Lang, former Miami Beach, Fla., hotel man, flew here and were married Saturday night at El Rancho Vegas, a hotel ten miles from Las Vegas.

World War News Today

By The Associated Press

Britain's 42,100-ton Battle Cruiser Hood, world's largest warship, sunk by 35,000-ton German Battleship Bismarck with loss of virtually all hands in battle between Greenland and Iceland; disaster greatest to Royal navy since Battleship Royal Oak sunk early in war. British claim Bismarck damaged, being stalked by Atlantic fleet.

Germany breaks five-day official silence on Crete, contending air-borne invaders now control western end of island; RAF returns to battle of Crete, pounding Nazi foothold at Malemi airdrome with long-range bombers, equipped as fighters, taking off from Egyptian bases.

Italians disclose "poetically mad" Greek fired several wild shots at automobile bearing King Vittorio Emanuele and Albanian premier during king's visit week ago to Albania. Say premier actual target of would-be assassin.

Prime Minister De Valera of Eire, opposing prospective British military conscription in neighboring northern Ireland, calls special Dail session for Monday to discuss situation.

Seniors Chosen As Aides at WU

Senior scholars, chosen by professors as department aides, were announced Friday by Dean Chester F. Luther for the year 1941-42 at Willamette university.

They are: Robert Voigt of Salem, art; Delores Netz and Harold Hutchinson of Salem, biology; William Evans of Salem, chemistry; Cliff Stewart of Great Falls, Mont., classical civilization; Luree Morris of Salem, comparative literature; Helen Newland of Portland, dramatics; Loren Hicks of Salem, economics; Madge Thompson of Palo Alto, Calif., education; Mary Barker of Salem, Elizabeth Hamilton of Seattle, Anne Morris of Junction City and Marion Sanders of Portland, all English; Helen Chirgwin of Medford, French.

Ruth Cramer of Salem, German; Jesse Gilmore of Grants Pass, history; Robert Pentney of Salem, mathematics; Marion Hermanek of The Dalles, music; Robert Purbrick of Salem, physics; Gene Stewart of Salem, Maurice Kreutz of Hebo, Madeline Morgan of Stayton and Gwen Griffith of Olympia, Wash., all physical education; Joe Van Winkle of Hubbard and Ralph May of Denver, Colo., political science; Winfield Achior of Oregon City, public administration; Bernice Marcy of Portland, religion; Esther Mae Devore of Salem, sociology; Nell Reeder of Waldport, Spanish; Marjorie Waters and Richard Barton of Salem, speech; Claude Barrick of Tillamook, zoology.

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"Should this effort prove futile and should it be the judgment of our government that the interests of this hemisphere are in jeopardy," Mead added in a letter to Hull, "seizure by force should be accomplished without delay."

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—Four Salem men and one woman who were selected under the selective service act comprise the group of men selected from the Medical Detachment of the 249th Coast Artillery to attend the classes for technical training at Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio at San Francisco.

Men selected by Lt. Colonel Robert L. Wood, commanding officer of the detachment are: George C. Alexander, Jr., Constine O. Schneider, John A. Ritchie, and Harold Hutchinson. Walter Glass was the selectee.

Alexander and Schneider will be schooled as surgical technicians, Ritchie will attend classes for medical technicians, and Hutchinson will study dental surgery. Glass will be schooled as a medical technician.

The quintet will leave soon after the first of the month.

Star of Oregon Proposed Name For New Boat

Governor Charles A. Sprague Saturday sent a letter to the United States maritime officials urging that the name "Star of Oregon" be given the hull of the new boat, for which the keel was laid in the Oregon Shipbuilding corporation plant in Portland earlier in the week.

"This was the name of the first vessel constructed by the white people of the Oregon country which was launched on May 19, 1841," Governor Sprague wrote.

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Kennedy Raps War Crusaders

Former Ambassador to Britain Says US Is Safe From Attack

(Continued From Page 1)

democratic people the essential facts upon which this, the most awful decision of our times, must be based. We must have the fullest disclosure; we must have the freest debate."

Kennedy said he was "particularly unimpressed by the hysteria which I suspect is consciously stimulated by the idea that we are in danger of military attack."

This country was so situated, he said, that "a direct attack on us would require an armada mightier than the power of man could create."

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—America's great defense drive was a year old Saturday, with William S. Knudsen, the director of production, asserting that airplane deliveries had increased 400 per cent in that period, 1935 new industrial projects had been started and \$15,200,000,000 worth of orders placed.

With the nation's factories now swinging into mass production of planes, tanks and guns, it was apparent too that the defense program was also taking on new directions and objectives. And just where it goes from this point may be indicated by President Roosevelt in a long-awaited fireside chat Tuesday night.

What he plans to say is, of course, a closely guarded secret, but millions will be at their radios listening intently for any indication of his views on the convoy issue, civilian defense and the question of repealing the neutrality act, a proposal that has had strong support from two members of his cabinet—Secretaries Knox and Stimson.

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War News Briefs

(Continued From Page 1)

Chinese forces during the past two weeks in the Chungshao mountain range in southern Shansi province.

DUBLIN, May 24.—Opposing British military conscription in the six counties of northern Ireland which remain under the English crown, Prime Minister Eamon de Valera Saturday called the Irish parliament, the Dail Eireann, into special session Monday to discuss the explosive situation.

LONDON, May 24.—(AP)—A Reuters, British news agency, dispatched said 15 persons had been killed and 120 injured in recent rioting between Moslems and Hindus in India, and that police were forced to fire into crowds at three places Saturday as the trouble continued.

Troops Pull Into "Games" Camp Today

(Continued From Page 1)

12,000 motorized troops strung out from Klamath Falls, Ore., to Modesto, passed the sixth day without a fatality.

Brigadier General Jesse Driscoll, who heads the 41st, credited the record to detailed planning and the competitive spirit of the drivers, many of whom have been piloting the heavy, powerful army vehicles less than six months.

The Fort Lewis troops which left the north with light complexions are getting sun-tanned and leathery.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—Secretary Stimson Saturday banned the taking of polls in the army.