

Bombers Hit Jap Ships; Fighters Down 10 Zeros

Japs Try Raid, Guadalcanal; Kiska Bombed

Yanks Dump Bombs On 5 Destroyers; Solomons Roused

By HAMILTON W. FARON

WASHINGTON, April 2—(AP)—A violent upsurge of aerial warfare in the Solomons, with American bombers attacking five Japanese destroyers and United States fighter planes shooting down 16 enemy zeros, was reported Friday by the navy.

Both actions occurred within a few hours on Thursday, and spread over a wide area from Guadalcanal to Kolombangara island, 190 miles to the northwest. It was southwest of Kolombangara that a lone Catalina bomber sighted and attacked an enemy force of five destroyers and a cargo ship. A flight of Liberator bombers winged into the same attack. They flew at low altitude, dumping bomb after bomb on the enemy surface force but were unable to observe results of their assault.

Only a few hours later, 30 to 40 Zero fighters roared into the vicinity of Guadalcanal, American fighters—Wildcats, Corsairs and Lightnings—sped to the attack and sent 16 of the Japanese planes twisting into the sea. Six United States planes were shot down but two of the pilots were saved.

The aerial battle was the first reported from the Solomons since early in March, when a flight of Japanese bombers and fighter planes was driven off after one bomber and three fighter escorts had been shot down.

"The attack on the enemy surface force by American bombers was the first report of battle with enemy warships in the Solomons in recent weeks. Presumably the Japanese force was intent on reinforcing or providing supplies for one of the many enemy bases scattered through the area. The direction in which the force was moving when attacked indicated it might have been bound for Munda on New George island, a Japanese air base which has been struck more than 100 times by American bombing raids.

In the North Pacific, attacks on the base at Kiska in the Aleutians continued. Bombers have hit there 34 times in recent weeks. Two of those attacks were reported in Friday's communique which said they were made Tuesday. In one raid fighter planes attacked the Japanese camp area without observing results. But in the other, bombers flew at an altitude of only 50 feet, strafing and bombing the Japanese and starting heavy explosions and large fires.

Many Seek Farm Jobs

Good news for hard-pressed farmers was the announcement late Friday by J. D. Wilson, farm placement supervisor of the US employment service in Salem, that a growing number of inquirers have appeared at the employment office seeking steady farm jobs.

"Most of these are experienced farmers who are feeling the urgency of producing food for our fighters and who want to get back to the soil," Wilson explained. Among those applying are men trained in dairy and general farming and in poultry raising.

Some interest has been shown by seasonal workers who are seeking employment in the hop yards, although these calls have been light due to the earliness of the season and inclement weather, Wilson stated.

Young Write Asks, Forgets

LOS ANGELES, April 2—(AP)—Without credentials, one person managed to get past the lines of federal agents and police guarding Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek's press conference Friday.

Ernie Myers, 14 and freckled, told a tall policeman: "I gotta get in and do a story for my high school paper."

Admitted, he mustered enough courage to rise politely and ask the smiling first lady of China:

"Ma'am, do you think there's any chance of a universal language after the war?"

"My child," she began—but Ernie said afterward he forgot what she told him.

"Gosh, she's pretty!" he gasped.

Chessman Gets Post on Board

Highway Commission All Republicans By Snell Namings

By STEPHEN C. MERGLER

Probability that Cops county would not get its reportedly much-desired highway commissioner and have its new state director of agriculture, too, suggested in Friday's Statesman, came true later in the day when Gov. Earl Snell appointed Sen. Merle R. Chessman, Astoria publisher, to the road board.

Sen. Chessman succeeds Huron Clough, Canyonville, who for several months wished to be relieved from the position.

The state now has an all-republican highway commission. T. H. Banfield, Portland manufacturer, and Arthur W. Schupp, Klamath Falls attorney, whom the new governor recently appointed to the commission are members of the state's majority party, as is Chessman, although he was nominated for his senate position by the committee of both parties following the sudden death last year of Sen. Frank M. Francisovich.

Chicago Hogs Hit New High Since 1920

CHICAGO, April 2—(AP)—Hogs sold at the stockyards Friday for \$16.10 a hundred pounds, a peak previously unequalled since October, 1920, while packers and producers, at a meeting in the Loop, strove to prevent what they called an "acutely chaotic situation surrounding the national meat supply."

A hopeful sign was the statement by the American Meat Institute that "We have every reason to believe that constructive, corrective action by the government is on the way."

Caught in a squeeze between wholesale price ceilings and uncontrolled soaring costs of live hogs, the packers contended they were operating at a loss.

Two Probably Sunk From Concentration

Double Raid Scatters Kavieng Shipping After Strikes

By VERN HAUGLAND

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Saturday, April 3—(AP)—Allied heavy bombers dispersed part of a concentration of nearly 50,000 tons of Japanese merchant shipping and its naval escort in New Ireland's Kavieng harbor, and possibly sank a large transport and a medium cargo ship in nearby Steffen strait, it was announced Saturday.

A number of near misses were scored on other vessels, the high command said, but in the darkness the fliers were unable to determine the damage.

A flight of Liberators began a series of attacks at dusk among a half dozen merchant ships in the straits.

The shipping in the harbor, which a spokesman said was not an unusual concentration, was dispersed quickly through the strait and along the west end of New Ireland's south coast when the bombers appeared.

The Liberator pilots in the first attack claimed a probable hit on a 10,000-ton vessel in the strait, reporting they saw two large explosions. A 6000-ton ship also was listed as a probable victim.

Twenty minutes later a force of Flying Fortresses scored near misses on another ship and also straddled the 6000-ton vessel first attacked by the Liberators. The fliers later said it settling by the bow.

This was the same area from which the Japanese recently sent four destroyers bent on carrying badly needed supplies to troops in New Guinea, only to have one sunk off Finschhafen, New Guinea, and the other three forced to flee.

"Two large explosions indicated probable hits on a 10,000-ton merchant vessel and a 6000-ton cargo ship was observed settling by the bow, after having been straddled by bombs," the communique reported concerning the Kavieng raid.

"Near misses were obtained on other vessels but darkness prevented an adequate assessment of damage. Simultaneously with this attack the airfield at Kavieng was bombed.

"No interception was attempted and all our planes returned."

SHS Speakers Reach Finals

EUGENE, April 2—(AP)—Oregon high school contestants will reach the finals Saturday of the annual debate and forensics contests sponsored by the University of Oregon.

Those who qualified for the finals are:

Discussion—LaRoy Dillon, Hillsboro; Merrill Driscoll, Bonanza; Ross Lynn, Dallas; Talber Sehorn, Klamath Falls; Dick Stanton, Grants Pass; Jim Tucker, Medford; Betty White, Ashland; Harleise Wilson, Ashland.

Extempore speech—Haralce Wilson, Ashland; Jim Purdy, Salem; LaRoy Dillon, Hillsboro; Dick Stanton, Grants Pass; Orville Meyer, Hillsboro; Don Yocum, Salem.

Allies Advance on Bizerte

FR Vetoes Addition To Parity

Labor Backs Action, But Fight Assured To Override Veto

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK

WASHINGTON, April 2—(AP)—With the assertion that present checks on wages and prices must be firmly maintained, President Roosevelt Friday vetoed the Bankhead bill and set the stage for a critical battle between administration supporters in congress and legislators demanding higher farm prices.

AFL and CIO presidents William Green and Philip Murray backed the president's veto, but Albert S. Goss, master of the national Grange, failed to agree. (See story on page 2.)

Senator Bankhead (D-Ala) author of the measure, which would increase ceiling prices on some farm commodities, said a determined effort would be made to override the veto when the question is brought up next Tuesday.

Majority leader Barkley (D-Ky) was none too optimistic that the senate would sustain the president, but said the house might. He remarked that the "city" vote is much larger in the house.

In returning the bill to the senate unsigned, Mr. Roosevelt vigorously declared that no economic group could hope to gain advantage in wartime.

"The time has come," he said, "when all of us—farmers, workers, managers and investors—(Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Chapman Asks US to Color Insecticides

WASHINGTON, April 2—(AP)—Congress was asked Friday to prevent scenes of horror such as the recent fatal poisoning of 47 inmates of the Oregon state hospital in Salem, Ore.

Representative Chapman (D-Ky) introduced a bill which W. G. Campbell, commissioner of food and drugs, says "will prevent the bigger part of the tragedies that are now occurring."

The bill would require any powdered insecticide containing arsenic or fluorine to be "distinctly colored" instead of white, resembling flour, baking powder, corn meal and powdered milk.

Paul H. Appleyby, undersecretary of agriculture, in a letter to Speaker Rayburn and Vice President Wallace requesting the legislation, called the attention to numerous tragedies in the home and said they also occur in institutions "where great care is presumed to be exercised."

Appleyby said the Salem case was caused by the accidental contamination of food with sodium fluoride. In addition to the 47 who died there, 467 were made ill.

Woodburn Man War Prisoner

WASHINGTON, April 2—(AP)—Twenty one Pacific Northwest men were in a list of 225 United States soldiers announced by the war department Friday as prisoners of the Japanese, Camp unstarred. Next of kin live in 45 states.

Reds Attack German Outpost



Soldiers of the red army run to attack a Nazi outpost somewhere on the long Russian battlefield as smoke rises from an exploding shell.—Associated Press Telemat.

Reds Say Axis Toll Hits 850,000

Meat Supplies Said Improved

Buyers Reluctant To Spend Points, Survey Shows

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, April 2—Meat supplies are again fair to adequate in most sections of the United States, a survey indicated Friday night but prospects for the first weekend of point-ration buying were clouded by housewives' reluctance to part with points until they found just how many they needed to purchase Sunday dinner.

"People are hoarding their red coupons just like they hoarded meat up to last Saturday," an Omaha meat dealer commented, summing up the reaction in many other parts of the country as disclosed in a canvass by the Associated Press.

The situation was something like this:

A typical housewife had 48 points to spend this week. Monday, perhaps, she spent eight for butter, 10 for pork chops and three for canned fish—total 21.

Not knowing exactly what she could get for the weekend, nor how much it would weigh, she put off buying any more meat until Saturday, feeding her family oysters—or beans, which are rationed, but on blue coupons. Saturday, if she finds Sunday dinner takes only 20 points, she'll have seven left for a pound of bacon, or for carrying over into next week.

OPA officials express belief that cases like this would smooth themselves out in due course.

A few places still lack adequate meat supplies—the Binghamton, (NY) health bureau, for instance, said stocks were 35 per cent of normal. But in many cities the situation has improved so much over the last few weeks that butchers are considering holding "point sales" of some products to avert spoilage.

In cases where their supply of liver, for example, is so heavy that it might spill if sold on the regular point basis, dealers are authorized by OPA to reduce the pointage. However, they must report all "point sales" to ration boards.

Bomb General Said Missing

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Saturday, April 2—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur announced Saturday that Brig. Gen. Howard K. Ramey, commander of the Fifth United States Airforce, failed to return from a recent mission.

"He and his crew therefore are missing in action," the announcement stated.

Home to Rest



LT. CMDR. MONTGOMERY

Actor Returns From Duties In Pacific

SAN FRANCISCO, April 2—(AP)—Lt. Cmdr. Henry Montgomery, jr., plain Robert Montgomery to millions of screen fans—returned Friday from rigorous sea duty in the south Pacific to recover from tropical fever.

Pale and 22 pounds lighter than he was in his film days, Montgomery was in high spirits upon his arrival. He will have 30 days in which to visit his wife and two young children in Los Angeles before being reassigned to duty.

"I've only been with them for a total of five days in two years," he said. "It's going to be a wonderful reunion."

As with most sailors, soldiers and marines returning from the Pacific fighting front, Montgomery's luggage contained several Japanese souvenirs.

Montgomery preferred not to discuss his naval experiences in the south Pacific. He mentioned, however, that he was aboard warships which bombed the Jap airfield at Munda, New Georgia, on January 5, and struck again at the enemy field at Vila, Kolombangara island, on January 24. His ship was under air attack following the January 5 bombardment.

A destroyer on which he served also was on dangerous patrol duty off Guadalcanal for several weeks.

Montgomery was enthusiastic about the courage and spirit of the navy's fighting men.

"We can't lose when we have such magnificent men fighting our battle," he said. "Their spirit, as I have seen it, gives you renewed faith in democracy. I've seen them pulled from the water, injured, water-soaked, covered with oil, and immediately ask for a gun."

Germans Lose Much Material

Slovak Unit Fights Beside Russians on Donets River Front

LONDON, Saturday, April 3—(AP)—The Red army in its winter offensive killed 650,000 axis troops and captured 343,525, the Soviet information bureau announced Friday, in a special communique.

In addition to these losses between Nov. 10 and March 31, the Germans lost 5,000 planes, 9,200 tanks and 20,360 guns, said the communique recorded by the Soviet Monitor.

The regular midnight communique disclosed that a Czechoslovak military unit formed in Russia under the command of Colonel Svoboda now is in action against the Germans on the northern Donets river front in the Ukraine and during yesterday's operations the Czechs destroyed 22 Nazi tanks and killed more than 400 Germans.

The special communique in telling of the German equipment losses said 3600 planes, 4520 tanks and 4500 guns were destroyed and the remainder were captured as the Russians swept westward from Stalingrad to liberate the Volga and Don river valleys, and most of the Caucasus.

The four months and 20 days of the Red army offensive also stopped the Ribbentrop-Voznesensky triangle on the central front, and raised the siege of Leningrad.

In some sectors the advance to (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Jury Charges Salem Man

CHICAGO, April 2—(AP)—A federal grand jury here Friday charged 218 persons with operating four nationwide lottery rings, the grand jury indicted the Mutual, Lucky Strike, Fair and Square and Flyer pools, and named the 218 as principals, salesmen and agents for the rings. Twelve were listed as alleged leaders.

Oregon defendants accused of acting as agents and distributors were:

Bob Roberts, Salem, Lucky Strike company; Walter S. Bennett, Dewey; W. E. Sawyer, Pendleton; and Joseph A. Black, Portland, all of Fair and Square company.

Bob Roberts is listed in the Salem city directory as a laborer residing at 880 Shipping street.

Clark, Spaniard Talk

TANGIER, SPANISH MOROCCO, April 2—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Louis Orgas Yoldi, high commissioner of Spanish Morocco, conferred Friday with Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, commander of the United States Fifth army at Melilla, Spanish Morocco.

Nazis Say 2 Armies Together

First Army Drives; Nazi Tanks Hit Yanks in South

By EDWARD KENNEDY

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, April 2—(AP)—British First army troops in the north fought their way toward the axis strongholds of Tunis and Bizerte Friday while Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth army gathered force in the south for more smashing blows coupled with the continuing massive air assaults on Marshal Rommel's divisions retreating up the Tunisian coast.

Axis forces in the north were reported offering little resistance and leaving rich booty behind as the British pushed through Al Aquana six miles east of Sedjenane, and moved on to occupy strategic heights between there and Mateur.

(The Algiers radio said British and French forces in the north had "left Sedjenane well behind" and were slashing at the retreating Germans "in the vicinity of Mateur," which is only 18 miles south of Bizerte. They would thus have regained almost all the ground lost when Col. Gen. Jürgen Von Arnim's axis forces surgen an offensive 4 month ago.)

An allied communique described the Tunisian fighting as "generally quieter" Thursday, but told of terrific punishment being dealt the axis from the air. In one raid on El Maou air field at Sfax on the coast 100 light and medium allied bombers plastered the strategic base with a shower of bombs that must have destroyed or damaged virtually everything within the target area.

Not a single allied bomber or escort was lost in the damaging assault. The axis was unable even to get a fighter plane in the air to defend the Sfax airbase.

Montgomery's forces were believed ready to resume their battering of Rommel's rear guard in the new positions taken up by the Germans and Italians about 24 miles north of Gabes.

(The German radio said Rommel's present defense line was 15 miles north of Gabes and said it presented "the achievement of final union between Rommel's forces and those of Von Arnim—the original aim of a long prepared plan of operation.") The suggestion was that Von Arnim's troops now were in position to assist Rommel's fighting retreat.)

The Germans threw their armor into a counter-attack Friday against Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.'s, American forces near a point where the Gabes-Gafsa road joins another road running south to Kebili, which the French captured two days ago. The road junction had been in American hands several days.

Strong patrol activity by Americans and French in the Ouessel valley region in north central Tunisia was reported to have forced the enemy to fall back gradually to the hills to the east.

As Lt. Gen. K. A. M. Anderson's First army moved on Bizerte, the allied air force continued to pound the great fortified naval base in an effort to destroy its usefulness as a potential escape port for the estimated 200,000 axis troops being squeezed into northern Tunisia.

Other allied bombers escorted by Spitfires bombed La Fauconnerie air field, 35 miles northwest of Sfax, and the air base of El Djem, midway between Sfax and Soussa, leaving many fires burning.

Nine enemy aircraft were reported shot down during the day, against an allied loss of four.

As reports from the ground fighting said the Americans had launched a new attack in the area of Maknassy, 34 miles from the coast at a point well above where Rommel's men now are making a stand, observers here stressed the aid being given the Eighth army by General Patton's columns. They pointed out that the Americans constituted a constant menace to Rommel's flanks and forced him to divert important quantities of armor to hold them in check while Montgomery rolled him up from the rear.