

Japanese Attu Resistance Flickering Out

US Troops Take Vital Airfield As Nips Retreat

Navy Department Reveals Casualties Low in Joint Air, Land, Sea Action

By GAYLE TALBOT
Associated Press War Editor

The last Japanese resistance on Attu island in the Aleutians was flickering out slowly but surely as hard fighting American troops backed the remnant of the enemy garrison into the north-eastern extremity of the island and under pointblank fire of American naval guns.

After capturing the enemy airfield on Attu, United States forces completed their encirclement of Japanese survivors of the nine-day battle, the navy announced. The trap snapped shut with the capture of Sarana pass, leading to the Chicago harbor area. Only isolated enemy sniper activity was reported from other parts of the island.

Completion of Field Seen

Completion of the airfield which the Japanese were building on Attu will probably be one of the first American projects in development of the island. It would give our forces an air base about 2,200 statute miles from Tokyo.

The field would be useful in helping to cut off the enemy's main Aleutians base on Kiska from reinforcements and supplies, and in softening up Kiska defenses for the eventual drive to annihilate the enemy garrison on that island also.

Latest reports of the ten-day old battle came from the navy department and Secretary of War Stimson.

These disclosed that the American forces, under Major General Eugene Landrum, a veteran of Aleutians operations, have executed successive pincer maneuvers to drive the Japanese into their last stand position at Chicago harbor at the island's north-eastern extremity.

The last move was accomplished Wednesday when our troops captured Sarana pass opening in the foe's southeastern flank. Tuesday they had completed clearing a pass between Massacre and Holtz bays to join American forces advancing from the south with those driving from the north and flank the Japanese on the southwest.

US Planes Control the Air

To the north the enemy is fighting with his back to the sea from which naval guns pour shells into his defenses. Overhead, when weather permits, army bombers from Amchitka islands, 233 nautical miles to the southwest, control the air and complete the entrapment.

The death or surrender of the remaining Japanese was expected to come shortly. Crowded into the Chicago area and battered from the sea and air as well as land, the enemy faced certain annihilation, however long he managed to stave it off.

Secretary of War Stimson told a press conference the American force, trained especially for the Attu job, approached the island under a dense fog last week to surprise the Japanese completely. The troops had little difficulty in establishing strong beachheads and holding them against Japanese counterattacks, he related, though the same fog that assisted their landings hampered subsequent aerial operations.

Stimson corroborated Secretary Frank Knox's statement that American losses had been relatively light in knocking the Japanese loose from the strategic island and winning the airfield.

Axis Airmen Beaten 18-to-1

For the first time since the fall of Tunisia, axis fliers rose in force to try to defend Italy against the allies' bombing assault, and took a fearful beating. During heavy raids on Sicily and Sardinia allied airmen destroyed 73 enemy planes while themselves losing only four aircraft—an unprecedented 18-to-1 ratio of victories.

Constant air and land action was reported along the length of the Russian front, with the fiercest fighting around Novorossisk in the Caucasus and near Izum, on the Donets river 70 miles southeast of Kharkov. The Russians said German counterattacks in the Caucasus, backed by fresh reserves of men and tanks, had been smashed by Soviet artillery and planes.

Russian Troops Moved

German military circles reported that the Russians were making big troop movements in the Taman peninsula of the Caucasus, above Kerk and south of Leningrad.

Early today Moscow announced that six barges "carrying enemy troops" were sunk by the Red fleet and planes off Kerk and Anapa which are above Novorossisk. The communique did not indicate whether the Germans were trying to reinforce their troops in the Caucasus or were evacuating them.

'Secret Letter' Delivered

Meanwhile Joseph E. Davies delivered President Roosevelt's secret letter to Premier-Marshals Stalin in Moscow. There still was no hint as to its contents. Its transmission to the Russian leader followed British Prime Minister Churchill's speech Wednesday in Washington in which Churchill expressed hope that he and the president might confer with Stalin soon.

Allied heavy bombers left yesterday pass without a major raid over Germany, but the RAF's speedy mosquito bombers made their third attack on Berlin within a week on Wednesday night. All the bombers returned.

Das Schwarze Korps, organ of the Nazi elite guard, declared Germany would never be brought to her knees by aerial attack. "The allies must tear the European land from us piece by piece," it said.

The war in Asia saw American heavy and medium bombers drop a record weight of more than 125 tons of bombs on Japanese installations in Burma destroying workshops and starting many huge fires, including one in the Paduakkan oilfields 25 miles southeast of Magwe.

But the British in an official communique reported that a large raiding force which had been operating within Burma for three months had been withdrawn inside the Indian frontier, and the Japanese appeared at last to be in complete control of Burma.

New Post War 'Ever Normal' Granary Plan Considered

HOT SPRINGS, Va., May 21—(AP)—A British declaration of support for an international policy of price stability raised talk at the United Nations food conference Thursday of a post-war, world-wide "ever-normal granary" system.

Richard K. Law, chairman of the British delegation, told a news conference that his country believed international action should be taken to eliminate wide fluctuations in prices of basic agricultural and non-agricultural products. Such fluctuations, he said, are in time equally ruinous to producers and consumers.

The ever-normal granary idea, calling for storing surplus crops, is aimed at assuring ample food supplies in years of short harvests as well as preventing price depression when crop surpluses exist.

Belief that the world faces a post-war period of short food supplies was expressed by Paul H. Appleby, undersecretary of agriculture, who told a press conference he thought the United States should prepare to continue food rationing for several years after the war.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles H. Sprague

IT SEEMS TO ME that there was a reason for variations in applause which punctuated the address of Prime Minister Churchill before congress.

Did you notice that applause was loudest and longest when he pronounced doom on Japan and pledged British aid to accomplish it? Partly it was due to general sentiment which is more bitter against Japan than our other axis enemies. After all the Japs attacked us, gave us an initial whipping, kidnapping the mercy ship *Australian* without warning. So we do hate the Japs and applaud when Churchill declares there can be no peace until their cities lie in ashes.

But I believe there is another reason for heavier applause to the thrills at Japan. The America firebrands, who still populate congress, have been using the Japanese menace as means of dividing war effort and of attacking the administration charged with responsibility for determining war strategy.

Japan offers an escape from their proven ineptitude, their consorting with the Nazi and fascist groups, their opposition to lend-lease, their near-defeat of extension of the national guard mobilization. Exposed as false prophets by (Continued on Editorial page)

Much Maligned Taxing Relief Seen at Last

By RALPH C. CURTIS

Realization of the tax relief provided for property owners by the 1943 legislature, which drew some unearned bricks for its failure to afford relief this year to income taxpayers, is just around the corner.

Schools throughout the state are closing and attention turns to the matter of budget-making for the next school year, most budget meetings being scheduled within the next month. Taxpayers attending these meetings will discover—merely as a matter of information, for it effects no change in the district's budgeting procedure—that their special district tax levies are to be substantially reduced no matter what the proposed outlay for the coming year, except in the unlikely event that costs have doubled. If costs remain the same the special district tax will, in many cases, be cut in half.

Curiously, in all that was said in the legislative halls and committees rooms anent the \$5,000,000 provided for school districts out (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Meeting Here Shown Valley Fossil Parts

Fossilized bones and teeth of a prehistoric mammoth, unearthed on the Otto G. Lais farm in Evans valley, were displayed at the Salem Geological society meeting Thursday night at which Dr. John C. Merriam, noted geologist and paleontologist, was the featured speaker.

The fossils were not newly discovered but had just been called to the society's attention by Mr. Lais, a former owner of the property, who discovered them while digging a well having failed to report the find.

Present efforts of Dr. Merriam, president emeritus of the University of California and of the Carnegie Institution, are aimed at creation of an organization to be known as "John Day Associates" to carry on research in eastern Oregon's outstanding fossil beds, he declared.

Tying in scientific research with current world conditions, Dr. Merriam said the problem of the Pacific, for example, would be solved only by men who "see the picture whole," including the physical geography and racial history of the region.

AFL Is Denied Record Subpoena

PORTLAND, May 20—(AP)—Trial Examiner Robert N. Denham of the NLRB Thursday refused an AFL request for a subpoena to force the labor board to produce records and correspondence as evidence in the hearing of unfair labor charges against three Kaiser shipyard hereabouts.

In announcing refusal, Denham advised Charles Janigan, AFL lawyer, that he might take the matter direct to the labor board.

Mosquito Bombers Raid Berlin

All Planes Return; Flak Scares Away German Reprisals

Nazis Put Antiaircraft Flatscars on Most Munitions Trains as Engine Losses in Reich Become Acute

LONDON, May 20—(AP)—On the heels of the US Flying Fortress raids on submarine and shipbuilding yards at Kiel and Flensburg, the Royal Air Force Wednesday night carried the allied air offensive to Berlin for the fourth attack on the Reich capital in a week.

An air ministry communique Thursday said that swift RAF

Death Told



ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO

Jap Admiral Said Killed During Action

NEW YORK, May 21—(AP)—The Tokyo radio announced today that Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the combined Japanese fleet, who was reported to have been killed in the White House, had been killed in action in April.

A domestic broadcast recorded by the federal communications commission said that Yamamoto had met death aboard a warplane "while directing general strategy on the front line," but gave no details. Yamamoto was Japan's foremost advocate of combined sea and air power and was known as one of the most able naval strategists in the empire.

As spokesman for the Tokyo naval command he torpedoed the London naval conference of 1934, smashing the whole structure of naval limitations and ending the building truce that (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Lotka Convicted In 2nd Degree

MEDFORD, Ore., May 20—(AP)—A verdict of second degree murder, which under Oregon law carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment, was returned Thursday night by a circuit court jury in the trial of Sgt. Bernard J. Lotka, 23, Cleveland, O., accused of smothering his 10-week-old son in an auto coach here April 1.

The state, charging Lotka with first degree murder, had asked the death penalty.

British Complete Epochal Burma Raid

A BRITISH BASE ON THE INDO-BURMA FRONTIER, May 18—(Delayed)—(AP)—A super-raid by British and provincial troops that for three months swept through Burma on a 300-mile front, wrecking railroads and bridges and generally harassing Japanese occupation forces, drew near its close today as the weary raiders, many of them diseaseridden, struggled out of the jungle.

(The end of the raiding operation was announced officially in a special communique issued early this (Fri) morning in New Delhi.

Reds Sink German Barges



put flak cars behind the engines on most munitions trains.

All the Mosquito planes returned, and later, during daylight, a big formation of allied aircraft thundered over the channel toward northern France. They were too high to determine whether they were fighters or bombers.

Meantime, German planes, in another feeble attempt by the enemy to strike back at England, neared a south coast town, but they were greeted by a fierce anti-aircraft barrage and they scurried off before they could drop any bombs.

In night sorties along the coast of Europe from The Netherlands to southern France, Whirlwind bombers of the RAF attacked enemy air bases at Poix, Amiens-Glis and Crecy En Penthiou. They also made raids on rail targets at Gamaches and Eu. A concentration of barges in the Ghent region became the victims of strafing by Mosquitoes which also shot up a factory at Tangerbrugge. A violent explosion on five barges in the Lys river was touched off by Beau-fighters which also attacked three trains near Poisy, Sen and Boniere.

An alert was sounded in London Thursday night for the fifth consecutive night—but the (Turn to Page 2—Story H)

USO Contest Attracts Six

Six men in the armed services already have entered the contest for soldier-entertainers which will be a feature of the initial Victory Center program of the season Saturday night, members of the junior chamber of commerce announced after completing the painting job at the Center on Thursday night.

In addition to this contest, a number of entertainment attractions have been lined up, it was announced. Five WAVE recruits who are leaving May 27 for training will be introduced.

Any soldiers wishing to enter the contest who have not yet done so are advised to get in touch with the committee in charge by inquiring of any member of the junior chamber.

LONDON, Friday, May 21—(AP)—RAF fighters carried out intruder patrols over France last night, it was disclosed today, thus continuing British offensive operations over the continent through the ninth successive night.

So costly have been the RAF attacks on hard-pressed axis railroads that the enemy has

LONDON, Friday, May 21—(AP)—The Russians today announced an attempt by the Germans to move troops by water in the vicinity of the Kerch strait between the Caucasus and the Crimea, without indicating immediately whether the Nazis were attempting to reinforce their narrow Caucasus bridgehead about Novorossisk or evacuate forces from it.

Reporting an action unannounced in the long fighting at this key point, the soviet midnight communique as recorded by the soviet monitor said that ships of the red fleet and planes sank six self-propelled barges "carrying enemy troops."

The action occurred in the Black sea in the area of Kerch, at the tip of the Kerch peninsula of the Crimea, and of Anapa, on the Caucasus coast 45 miles southeast of Kerch and 25 miles northwest of Novorossisk. (See map above.)

At the same time the Russians reported what may have been yet another attempt of the besieged Germans to break out of their Novorossisk trap by land.

"Fighters of one unit met the enemy with a powerful barrage fire and then launched a counterattack," the late bulletin added. "The enemy suffered heavy losses and was thrown back. The soviet units captured war material and took prisoners."

Thousands Homeless In Midwest Floods

By The Associated Press

An exodus from a stretch of territory along the menacing Mississippi was under way last (Thursday) night as fresh troops were rushed into the battle to hold levees against the pressure of rising rivers.

Illinois, southern Indiana and Oklahoma were the chief danger areas in the six-state midwestern flood map while seething streams approached or exceeded record levels.

Red Cross estimates indicated that more than 90,000 person had been driven from their homes. Crop and property damage was calculated at more than \$30,000,000. Field work in many farm regions of great importance to the Food-for-Victory campaign was at a standstill. The death list stood at 10. Almost 5,000 soldiers and sailors and uncounted civilians were enlisted in the fight against swirling waters.

The Missouri river broke from its channel in St. Charles county, Missouri, and poured overland to meet the overflow of the Mississippi near West Alton, Mo.

The midwestern area office of the Red Cross in St. Louis said latest information was that flood (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Nippos Bomb 4 New Guinea Air Bases

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Friday, May 21—(AP)—The Japanese air force kept up its offensive against New Guinea Wednesday night and Thursday by sending 21 planes against four allied bases, bringing to nearly 250 the number of planes used in raids within a week's period.

While the enemy was distributing his attention among Port Moresby, Milne bay, Dobodura (near Buna) and Cape Ward Hunt, the allies concentrated their air efforts against an airbase at Rabaul, New Britain, where 18 tons of bombs were dropped.

The raid began Feb. 15 when a force of whom a third were English crossed the Chindwin river on the Burma side of the frontier. It was at a somewhat critical hour, as in North Burma on the Salween front the Japanese were pressing hard against the Chinese.

A band of approximately 5,000 (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

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Cannery Wages Okehed

Pay Hiked Ten Cents; Local Firms Approve Regional WLB Move

SEATTLE, May 20—(AP)—A regional war labor board decision for a 10-cent hourly pay increase for 40,000 cannery workers in Oregon and Washington was announced here today by Dr. George Bernard Noble, chairman.

The decision is subject to review by the national war labor board, but Dr. Noble said he was informed by top officials of the board that "this important case has the green light signal" because of the urgency of assuring a record pack of fruits and vegetables this year. He said the regional board was in communication by telephone with the national WLB before the decision was announced.

Dr. Noble said the case would not have to go before the office of price administration and the director of economic stabilization, James F. Byrnes, if canners do not insist on price increases. He said canners had joined with CIO and AFL unions in asking for the wage increases.

The board chairman said the hourly wage scale for western Washington and the Portland area under the decision would be: Men 80 1/2 cents; women 66 1/2 cents; piece workers 71 1/2.

For plants in the Walla Walla, Yakima, Wenatchee and Willamette valley areas, the scale would be: Men 77 1/2 cents; women 63 1/2 cents; piece workers 68 1/2.

The decision covers 40,000 workers in Washington and nearly 20,000 in Oregon.

Dr. Noble said the decision was expected to bring relief to Oregon canners who reported imminent prospects of crops rotting in the fields because of the lack of workers to pack and can them.

The regional war labor board's decision was hailed by persons active in the Marion county program to solve the farm and food-processing labor problem, as the removal of a serious barrier to their program's success.

The increase is in harmony with a decision reached previously by (Turn to Page 2—Story I)

Coal Miner Walkouts Spreading

WASHINGTON, May 20—(AP)—Strikes began to spread again in the coal mines Thursday, even as the war labor board aimed for a clean-up decision which may give an indication Tuesday whether peace or turmoil shall follow in the mine wage controversy.

The miners' chances of getting WLB approval of their demands for a flat \$2 a day increase are not generally regarded as bright, but a majority of the WLB's fact-finding panel is reported to favor their call for extra pay to cover all the time they spend underground.

Even the United Mine Workers leadership concedes that nothing is due under the little steel formula, as it now stands. The miners want to discard the formula but even under existing stabilization rules they are not necessarily precluded from obtaining some concessions other than a straight wage boost.

Whether such concessions are made and, if made, whether they will satisfy UMW President John L. Lewis and his followers remains to be seen.

Altogether, 11 of the government-operated pits in Pennsylvania and one each in Ohio and Kentucky were closed by miners expressing dissatisfaction over delay in their contract negotiations.

A problem unrelated to the contract dispute—a sudden shortage of railroad cars—had a more severe effect in West Virginia, the nation's leading coal-producing state. Twenty six mines closed and coal output in the state's northern section was curtailed because no cars were available in which to load coal.

Fri. sunset 8:43
Sat. sunrise 5:31
(Weather on Page 5)