

Fall of Cherbourg Matter of Hours as Yanks Near Waterfront

Greatest Naval Battle Reported Raging in Pacific

Jap Fleet Emerges to Defend Marianas—Lose 600 Bombers

Pearl Harbor, June 21 (AP)—The greatest naval battle since Jutland appeared in the making, if not under way, on the approaches to the besieged Marianas today between the American fifth fleet and possibly the entire Japanese fleet.

Radio London quoted the Japanese Domei agency as saying that a "fierce" naval battle was raging in the waters between the Philippines and the Marianas.

The outcome of the battle may determine the control of the western Pacific, including the sea approaches to Japan itself, as well as the length of the war against Japan.

Nimitz Statement
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the U. S. Pacific fleet, disclosed at a press conference yesterday that strong Japanese units—"possibly their entire fleet"—had emerged from the Japanese home islands in force for the first time in nearly two years and had been sighted between the Marianas and the Philippines.

"A major engagement is a possibility," he said in a confident review of the developing battle for the western Pacific. "We have put enough muscle into our fifth fleet to handle the situation. We assume the Japs will put in everything they have. If the fleets join, it will be a decisive battle."

600 Jap Planes Lost
The American fleet already has won what may be the preliminary to the main engagement by shooting down a record of 600 Japanese planes which sought to interfere with American invasion forces rapidly completing the conquest of Saipan, Japanese naval base and administrative center of the Marianas, some 1,500 miles south of Tokyo.

Three hundred of the enemy planes were shot down in a single day, Sunday, and the others have been destroyed in other engagements since the start of the invasion a week ago today, Nimitz disclosed. Additional damage was believed to have been inflicted on the enemy yesterday, he said.

Most of the enemy planes were believed to have come from Japanese aircraft carriers, perhaps part of the fleet which now is known to be east of the Philippines. Though the exact size of the fleet is not known, (Concluded on page 10, column 3)

Tokyo Claims Yanks Smashed

(By the United Press)
Tokyo radio broadcast today specific claims of heavy American naval losses in the area of the Marianas islands where Japanese broadcasts had reported a "fierce" naval battle between large American and Japanese fleets.

Apparently engaged in a propaganda war to goad the United States navy into premature disclosures of the situation in the Marianas, Tokyo radio broadcast a statement of Admiral Kenesuke Takahashi that "the enemy's landing operations on Saipan has offered us a golden opportunity to smash him with staggering effect. The enemy on Saipan is dependent on his communications and will meet with a serious crisis before the full force of our counter-offensive."

The Tokyo radio asserted that an American battleship listed in a Japanese communiqué yesterday as sunk by Japanese planes off the Marianas June 16 was of the 45,000-ton Iowa class.

The enemy broadcast, entirely without confirmation, said another battleship claimed to have been heavily damaged was of the 35,000-ton North Carolina class "and went down to a watery grave the night of June 15 off the Marianas."

"Two out of four United States aircraft carriers which were heavily damaged and set ablaze or left heavily listing the night of June 17," the broadcast went on, "were of the 24,000-ton Essex type while another was of the 10,000-ton Independence type which had been converted from a cruiser. A fourth appeared to be also of the Essex type."

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Navy Chiefs See U S Victory Over Japanese Fleet

Washington, June 21 (AP)—American forces may at long last have cornered Nippon's principal battle fleet for a showdown fight, and so far as Admiral Ernest J. King is concerned "the sooner the Japanese fleet fights, the better we'll be satisfied."

The navy's commander in chief today expressed appreciation for the "cooperation" of Japan's navy in apparently moving into battle position in the western Pacific, and expressed complete confidence in the outcome of possible contact east of the Philippines.

Information Lacking
He made his statement after Navy Secretary Forrestal had reported that despite strict radio silence from the Pacific there have been some indications that American forces "may have succeeded in catching up with all or a part of the Japanese fleet yesterday."

Forrestal added that there is, however, "no definite information" as to the prospective engagement.

He based his comment upon a statement yesterday by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific fleet commander in chief, who reported the Japanese fleet had been located in the waters east of the Philippine islands and indicated that some engagements may already have been fought.

Off Saipan Island
Forrestal reported that the Japanese fleet has been sighted at "various times during the past few days, milling around from 500 to 800 miles to the westward of Saipan island" in the Marianas east of the Philippines.

(A Japanese broadcast recorded at London said today that a "fierce naval battle" is raging off the Marianas.)

Forrestal said that Japanese planes attacked American naval units near Saipan Sunday and indicated that the planes apparently came from carriers which at that time were some 500 miles to the westward.

The Japanese plan, he continued, seemed to have been to launch the aircraft with the idea that after attacking they would be able to land for refueling on Guam and Rota, Japanese-held bases in the Marianas.

"We have no other details of the resulting air battle," he continued, "other than the fact that our forces were ready for the attack."

"Our carrier aircraft and ships' anti-aircraft guns wiped out most of the Japanese planes."

At Pearl Harbor Admiral Nimitz has reported that the Japanese have lost a total of 600 planes since action began in the Marianas.

Yanks Seize 2 More Japanese Airfields on Schouten Islands

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, June 21 (AP)—Two more Japanese airdromes on Biak island were in American hands today, giving the allies four airfields on the Schouten islands, off the Dutch New Guinea north coast, from which warplanes soon may attack the Philippines.

Yank infantrymen, aided by tanks and artillery, drove the Japanese from nearby ridges yesterday, then advanced almost unopposed onto Sorido and Borokoe airfields.

The fields, more than a mile apart, are within four miles of Biak's largest airstrip, Mokmer, captured June 7 and used by the allies the past week.

Five miles south on Biak, on tiny Owi island, the Americans have built another airfield.

These four fields, close to the equator, are about 880 miles from the Philippines and a like distance from Yap in the

Russians Pursue Fleeing Finns From Viipuri

Moscow, June 21 (AP)—Triumphant red army troops struck out from newly-captured Viipuri today in pursuit of disorganized Finnish column retreating toward Helsinki under a hail of fire from Russian bombers and fighters.

(The British radio said the Russians had advanced six miles beyond Viipuri.)

(BBC also said the Finnish radio was broadcasting constant appeals to the people of Helsinki to evacuate the capital "due to the score of the Russian offensive in Karelia.")

Marshal Leonid A. Govorov's Leningrad army stormed into the ancient fortress city yesterday to complete a rapid 11-day campaign through Finland's strongest defenses in the Karelian isthmus and bring the soviet forces within 135 miles east of Helsinki, Finland's capital.

(The British radio said Stockholm dispatches reported from Finland that Marshal Baron Karl Mannerheim had taken the initiative toward forming a new Finnish government to discuss peace.)

The capture of Viipuri, whose fall brought Finnish capitulation in the 1939-40 war, broke a "bottleneck" of the coastal route leading to Finland's capital and front dispatches indicated the routed Finnish troops would not be able to make a stand on the comparatively wide open territory.

Pursuit Continues
With the occupation of the key city, a junction point on Viipuri bay of six highways and five railroads, the Russians struck swiftly at the retreating Finns and sent bombers and Stormovik fighters deep behind the enemy lines to blast a path for ground forces.

Other red army aerial forces, attempting to disrupt communications between the capital and the front lines, hit rail junctions, highways and three troop trains.

Bomb Carrier Genoa Harbor

Rome, June 21 (AP)—American Thunderbolt fighter-bombers attacked and seriously damaged an enemy aircraft carrier in Genoa harbor, believed to be the 20,000-ton Italian carrier Regolia which was seized by the Germans last September, it was announced today.

A formation of Thunderbolts led by Lt. Gordon A. C. Moody, of Coldwater, Mich., scored five direct hits on the warship.

The Thunderbolts drove their bombs home through intense anti-aircraft fire thrown up by the Regolia's batteries and every other ship and shore gun in the harbor, then swung back to rake the vessel with machine gun fire.

One Thunderbolt was so heavily damaged by flak that the pilot was forced to bail out six miles outside Genoa harbor. He was picked up later by a Catalina flying boat which landed in the middle of a coastal minefield to rescue him.



Jap "German Soldier" Captured in France (AP)—This Jap, captured while serving in the German army in France, gives his name and serial number to an American as he files along with other German prisoners rounded up in the Normandy coast area. (AP wirephoto from coast guard.)

Berlin Again Blasted by 1000 Heavy Bombers

London, June 21 (AP)—More than 1000 American Flying Fortresses and Liberators blasted Berlin and the capital's outskirts today and the German radio indicated that at least some of the planes flew on eastward—possibly in the first shuttle raid from Britain to new American bases in Russia. The bomber fleet had an escort of about 1000 fighters, making a total force of some 2000 planes which carried the aerial war once more to the heart of the German homeland.

Capture Jap Forts in Burma
Southeast Asia Headquarters, Kandy, Ceylon, June 21 (AP)—British troops, driving north along the Kohima-Imphal highway, captured a Japanese strongpoint eight miles northeast of Kanglatongbi after fierce bayonet fighting, a communiqué announced today.

At the same time, other allied forces advancing south from Kohima cleared two enemy roadblocks below Maram to leave only approximately 20 miles of the road in Japanese hands.

British imperials also fought off a Japanese counter-attack on the allied lines across the Imphal-Kohima road, 17 miles northeast of Imphal.

In northern Burma, Chinese troops and airborne Chindits formed a tight circle around Mogaung, on the Mandalay railway, and killed a Japanese party attempting to escape down the Mogaung river south of Kamaing.

Kachin levies and Gurkas, forging ahead from newly-captured Tianszup in the Fort Hertz valley, captured Jnip, six miles to the south and were reported taking a heavy toll of fleeing Japanese.

Winstead Awarded Soldiers Medal
Washington, June 21 (AP)—Warren W. Winstead, MM2/c, USNR, Independence, Ore., was one of six navy men awarded an army decoration, the soldier's medal, for rescuing the crew of an army bomber from the flaming plane after it crashed and exploded on Momote airstrip, Los Negros island in the Admiralty group, April 23, 1944.

The war department reported Winstead was cited for bravery and "superb disregard of extreme danger."

Col. de La Roche Kidnaped, Slain

London, June 21 (AP)—German-controlled broadcasts said today that Col. De La Roche, ranking officer in the Vichy state police force, had been kidnaped and slain.

The first radio reports of the assassination had identified the victim as Col. Casimir De La Roche, chief of the notorious Croix de Fau, French fascist organization.

Col. de La Roche was reported to have been kidnaped and slain in the past few months.

Just as allied officials were about to congratulate themselves on a 24-hour lull in the enemy attacks, the winged, jet-propelled torpedoes began to roar across the channel coast from the Pas De Calais area again with even more frequency than previously.

A British announcement, ironically acknowledged that the attacks had "increased slightly" and caused "damage and casualties" in southern England, which geographically includes the Lon-

8th Army Vets Drive 4 Miles Beyond Perugia

Rome, June 21 (AP)—British eighth army troops have cleared the Germans from Perugia and advanced three to four miles beyond the town, a communiqué said today, while French and American units of the allied fifth army on the British left flank pushed slowly northward against bitter enemy opposition.

Driving rains slowed the allied armies all along the central battlefield and desperate Nazi rear guards were putting up a fierce delaying fight everywhere, but there was no indication that the main German forces had been sent into action.

Pursuit Continues
Latest reports said the British were fanning out swiftly beyond the town in full pursuit of the retreating Nazis.

Twenty-three miles to the west, other eighth army forces captured Chiusi and swept on northeast of Lake Chiusi to highway 73.

There was no major change in the fifth army front to the west, but headquarters spokesmen said French and American troops were running into savage resistance in the Radiofani sector and north of Grosseto.

The Americans on the Tyrrhenian coastal flank captured Monte Pescali, a hill feature 10 miles north of Grosseto dominating the intersection of highways one and 73, where stubborn enemy rear guards had been holding out for days.

French Seize Villages
On the American right, French colonial troops occupied a number of villages northwest of Radiofani yesterday, including Monticello, Seggiano, Vigo Corcia, Bani San Filippo, Paccia, Palozetta, Poggio Majane, Pantano and Campo D'Orcia.

The French gains, averaging about four miles, were battered out after bitter street fighting in most of the captured villages.

On the Adriatic coastal front, British eighth army forces continued their almost unopposed advance northward, driving four miles up the coastal road to the Menocchio river.

The British columns occupied San Benedetto Del Tronto, big fishing port and pre-war resort town, Cossignano, 10 miles inland, and Grottamare, three miles north of San Benedetto.

Landon Predicts Dewey on First Ballot

Chicago, June 21 (AP)—Former Gov. Alf M. Landon of Kansas, 1936 republican presidential nominee, predicted on arrival today for the GOP national convention starting Monday that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York "will probably be nominated on the first ballot—certainly not later than the second."

Meantime a prominent member of the Pennsylvania delegation who declined to be quoted by name said "there is no other course conceivable than that our delegation will go for Dewey."

Pennsylvania's 70-vote delegation, second largest in the convention, is uninstructed. The group will caucus Sunday night to decide its position.

Nazis Step-Up Robot Bomb Assaults on South England

London, June 21 (AP)—The Germans stepped up their robot bomb assault on southern England last night and today in defiance of allied air fleets that have pounded their launching bases with tens of thousands of tons of explosives in the past few months.

Just as allied officials were about to congratulate themselves on a 24-hour lull in the enemy attacks, the winged, jet-propelled torpedoes began to roar across the channel coast from the Pas De Calais area again with even more frequency than previously.

A British announcement, ironically acknowledged that the attacks had "increased slightly" and caused "damage and casualties" in southern England, which geographically includes the Lon-

Americans Smash in Suburbs to Within Less Than Mile of Docks As Nazis Dynamite Port Quays

Trapped Germans Rolled Back on Left Flank As Acqueville Seized—Troops on Right Advance Beyond Valognes—Good Progress Made

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, June 21 (AP)—American troops smashed within 1500 yards—less than a mile—of Cherbourg's waterfront today, driving between two fortress bastions under cover of air and artillery bombardment.

The fall of the great supply port seemed only a matter of hours tonight.

The piledriver offensive crashed through the suburbs along the inland road between Fort Du Roule and Fort Octeville, Nazi strong-points shuddering under bombs as well as leaflets calling on the trapped Nazis to surrender.

Nazi demolition squads worked feverishly to cripple the port—through which the allies could pour a flood of men and supplies into Normandy.

Another force rolling the trapped Germans back on the left flank seized Acqueville, at the base of Cape de la Hague, the land finger jutting northwest of Cherbourg and possibly offering a chance of escape by sea.

On Right Flank
Troops on the right flank advanced beyond Valognes, and supreme headquarters declared "good progress" was made toward the prize harbor today.

Supported by powerful artillery and air bombardment, veteran American troops assaulted Fort Du Roule, within a mile of Cherbourg's docks, and Fort Octeville, bastion two miles in front of the military harbor area, blasted by Nazi demolitions.

The Germans staged a last-ditch defense in these strong-points, and fighting was reported in the built-up suburban section of France's third greatest port.

Acqueville Taken
Acqueville on the flank is four miles southwest of the port, and only 11 from the tip of the Cape de la Hague. The American advance also captured Teurtheville-Hague, two miles south of Acqueville.

Eighty Nazi tanks have been destroyed by the allied liberating armies to date, supreme headquarters said.

Heavy fighting was reported in the Tilly-Sur-Seuilles area near the center of the front, and an American spearhead to the west had pushed within two miles of St. Lo, communications hub of Normandy.

The assault upon the two forts of Cherbourg sprang forward from St. Martin Le-Grand, four miles south of Acqueville, three to four miles west and slightly south of Cherbourg's city limits.

Nazi Shortage Of Infantry
Gen. Eisenhower's Advance Command Post, June 21 (AP)—A glaring shortage of infantry in Normandy has compelled Field Marshal Karl Gerd Von Rundstedt to commit his prized panzer units to the actual line of battle instead of holding them in the rear as a striking weapon, and information reaching Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters today is that at least 78 Nazi tanks have been destroyed.

Reporters at advanced headquarters have been told that Von Rundstedt now is in a position where he cannot bolster his crumbling Normandy defenses without weakening other areas, including the Pas-De-Calais and southwest France.

Sending the panzers into front-line battle, Von Rundstedt sacrificed 18 Panthers and 27 Tigers, as well as other types. In addition, it was said here, many more German armored units have been crippled.

U. S. Public Debt Passes \$190 Billion

Washington, June 21 (AP)—The public debt of the United States has passed another milestone—\$190,000,000,000.

At the close of business June 19, today's treasury statement showed, it was \$190,087,000,000 compared with 140,104,000,000 a year ago.

Excluding guaranteed obligations of certain government corporations, the debt was \$188,414,000,000. That is the figure covered by the legal debt limit—recently boosted from \$210,000,000,000 to \$260,000,000,000.

Nazi Prisoners Warn Of Robot Bombs

Austin, Minn., June 21 (AP)—The Austin Herald reported today that a railroad employee had picked up five swastika-embellished sheets of paper warning of robot bombings in store for the United States after a train bearing war prisoners had passed through here.

The newspaper said a sample leaflet read:

"Americans: Soon the robot bombs will come to your soil. Soon you will feel what war means. Quit the war before it is too late."

The leaflets, the Herald said, will be turned over to the federal bureau of investigation.

Nazi Bodies in Bosphorus
Istanbul, June 21 (AP)—"Hundreds" of bodies of German soldiers, apparently from troop transports sunk by the Russians in the Black Sea, are drifting into the Bosphorus, it was reported today.