

AMERICAN SUPERFORTS BLAST JAPANESE HOME NAVAL BASE

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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Thirty-ninth Year

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Bradley's Yanks Open Drive North of St. Lo

RAIL JUNCTION OF AIREL TAKEN IN FIRST PUSH

Advances to Northwest Almost Complete Encirclement of La Haye-Du Puits

Allied Supreme Headquarters, London, July 7.—(U.P.)—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley started a new American offensive on the mid-Normandy front north of St. Lo today where his assault forces crossed the rail junction of Airel and stormed across the Vire river for advances of more than a mile.

Other American forces to the northwest almost completed the encirclement of La Haye-du Puits, narrowing to two and a half miles the gap between the wings of an enveloping arc, and a headquarters spokesman said it is "now only a matter of time" until the town falls.

At the eastern end of the French battlefield, British patrols thrust into the dock area of Caen and found it deserted, giving rise to speculation that the Germans might be withdrawing from the great inland port, the most stubbornly defended objective of the Normandy campaign so far.

The new United States offensive some eight miles above St. Lo was aimed squarely at the highway hub of St. Jean-de-Daye, some two miles west of the Vire. Front dispatches reported violent fighting at close quarters in the vicinity of the town.

Henry T. Gorrell, United Press correspondent on the newly opened front, said the offensive was launched at dawn after the greatest artillery barrage of the French campaign had dazed the Germans and eased the job of doughboys who swarmed across the river in collapsible boats.

Gorrell said the troops were "making good progress in the region of St. Jean" at mid-afternoon. They were supported strongly by allied planes and artillery hammering the German positions in their path.

GINGER ROGERS TO ENTERTAIN WPRC VETERANS PARTY

A real, old-fashioned hay ride party is the special treat this evening for a group of men from the Western Personnel Reassignment Center. Camp White, and topping this is the promise of an introduction to the glamorous movie star, Ginger Rogers, for the ride is to end with a campfire supper at the Rogers' ranch above Eagle Point. Miss Rogers has been at the ranch for the past two weeks for a rest and is leaving tomorrow to return to southern California.

The hay ride, on wagons loaned by C. C. Hoover, Rt. 4, has been arranged for 50 men, all recently returned from overseas duty and they will have as partners 50 young women of the valley. Guitars, accordions and other musical instruments will provide a background for songs and a very gala evening is anticipated by the party. Miss Rogers has promised to join the group for a time during the evening. The star, accompanied by her secretary, Miss Penny Pascoe, arrived at the ranch two weeks ago in order that Miss Rogers might rest after completing "Double Furlough" for Selznick.

Holman Weds Lundeen's Widow



Mrs. Norma Ward Lundeen, widow of U. S. Senator Ernest Lundeen of Minnesota, and Senator Rufus C. Holman (R., Ore.), pictured after their wedding in Minneapolis. They plan to proceed to Oregon by auto.

Pathway to Life Offered Japs Still on Saipan Isle

FATHER TO DIE SAME DEATH HE VISITED ON SON

Pittsfield, Mass., July 7.—(U.P.)—Still protesting his innocence, Socialite John F. Noxon, Jr., was sentenced today to die in the electric chair the same form of death which he dealt to his six-month-old imbecile son Lawrence last Sept. 22.

No date was set for the execution. The crippled Noxon, 47, standing with the support of two canes, flushed as Court Clerk Irene Mason, whom he had known since childhood, asked if there was any reason why the mandatory sentence of death should not be imposed.

Firmly and stolidly, Noxon answered: "I want to repeat again what I said on the witness stand: I did not kill my son, I am innocent of this terrible charge."

In convicting the lawyer-defendant, the jury rejected his explanation of Baby Lawrence's electrocution as an accident, in favor of the prosecution's charge that Noxon deliberately killed the mentally defective child on an improvised electric chair rigged up with a metal sandwich tray and a trouble cord in the library of his \$45,000 home in suburban Pittsfield last Sept. 22.

U. A. L. MAN HERE
W. P. McIntyre, United Airlines station manager at Salem, is in Medford today on business, conferring with Jack Myers, local United Airlines manager. McIntyre expects to leave tomorrow.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Main street motorists wishing some city employee would notice that the traffic signals are "off schedule."

Eva Segessman offering to buy a lollipop for a kind ration board worker.

State Police Sarge Willard Rich receiving some good news for none in return.

24 KILLED WHEN TROOP TRAIN IS DUMPED IN GORGE

Six Cars Plunge Down 150-Foot Bank in Tennessee; Flames Consume 2 Cars.

Jellico, Tenn., July 7.—(U.P.)—Rescue workers, cutting with welding torches into one of six coaches of a speeding troop train which spilled into a mountain gorge 12 miles north of here last night, reported today that they could see "seven or eight" lifeless forms inside the car, indicating that the death toll would go to at least 24.

Six cars of the Louisville and Nashville sleeper plunged from the rails just after rounding a curve and hurtled headlong down the sheer 150-foot bank of the canyon. Seventeen previous deaths were announced—15 soldiers and two trainmen—and over 100 were injured, many critically.

Coaches Hold Dead
Every implement from welding torches and heavy equipment to old-fashioned cold chisels was being utilized in an effort to pry open the steel coach in which the other bodies were said to be located.

Some of those killed were at dinner, others were sleeping or preparing for bed in the train's washroom. Scattered clothing made identification difficult.

The train was reportedly carrying 1,000 troops who had just completed basic training and were en route from Cincinnati to Knoxville—70 miles south of the wreck.

One soldier said he had just finished eating when the crash came. He thought that the fire that had consumed the dinner started in the kitchen. The baggage car also was consumed by flames which gave rescuers their first light to work by.

The eerie light doctors and nurses passed among the injured, administering precious blood plasma to the most seriously hurt.

Two soldiers were pinned in a car, one of whom kept screaming: "Please get me out or let me die."

GERMANS ADMIT MAJOR REVERSES

London, July 7.—(U.P.)—The Berlin radio said today that Russian troops scored a breakthrough below Kovel in lower Poland in powerful thrusts described by the Nazis as likely to foreshadow a major Red army offensive on the southern front.

Ernst Von Hammer, DNB radio commentator, in acknowledging the Soviet breakthrough west of Luck, which is 42 miles southeast of Kovel, added the customary propaganda claim that the wedge was "eliminated by counterattack."

Fighting was widespread in the Kovel-Luck-Tarnopol area of lower Poland, the Berlin broadcast said, and of such an intensity as to indicate a brewing general offensive.

Other Nazi broadcasts acknowledged major reverses in the main sectors of the eastern battlefield. They admitted that the Russians had driven to the outskirts of Baranovice in a drive against the strategic gap in the westward invasion route, and said the Germans had pulled back to new positions before Wilno.

Gov. Dewey Opens Conferences With Congress Leaders

Albany, N. Y., July 7.—(U.P.)—Governor Thomas E. Dewey began a series of conferences with Republican congressmen as possible and, at the same time, offer his own ideas on important problems facing the country.

Dewey talked with Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan on foreign policy for two hours at the executive mansion last night, indicating that international affairs will play an important part in his drive to oust the Democratic administration in Washington.

Vandenberg, Republican expert on foreign policy, said he and the governor were in complete accord and that the GOP position could be stated in 10 words:

"We intend to preserve America and cooperate with the world."

JAPAN TO FACE HARDER BLOWS

Harder blows against Japan's inner defenses and along the road back to the Philippines were disclosed today as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, commander of the 14th U. S. air force in China, promised the full might of the United Nations will be turned against the Japanese after the war in Europe.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, in a revised report of U. S. task force strikes into the Bonin and Volcano Islands, 650 miles from Tokyo, announced American airmen probably sank 12 Japanese vessels and destroyed or damaged 113 planes Monday and Tuesday.

Nimitz disclosed for the first time that Chichi Jima in the Bonins was among the targets blasted. Two task force air groups raided Chichi Jima, one attacking the island proper and the other raiding Japanese shipping 80 miles northwest of the island.

Roosevelt Fends Questions On Political Expectations

Washington, July 7.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt was peppered with political questions at his news conference today, but wouldn't give any information.

He said the answers probably would be evident some time around next November—or maybe this month (the democratic convention meets July 19.)

Meeting for the first time with reporters since the republican party nominated Thomas E. Dewey of New York for president, Mr. Roosevelt faced a barrage of political questions.

"Have you found a candidate for vice-president yet?" he was asked.

This, the president said, sounded like an unfriendly question. He declined with a smile to answer it.

He then was asked whether he had reached the point in his political plans where he could say something definite about reports that he would make a statement before the democratic convention opens. The president said he did not have the faintest idea, that he had not thought of it.

Another reporter wanted to know what views Mr. Roosevelt,

HARMONY MARKS CONFERENCE OF F. R., DEGAULLE

Talks Expected to Produce Friendly Working Understanding With French.

Washington, July 7.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt and Gen. Charles De Gaulle began a series of business talks today in an atmosphere of harmony which officials hoped would produce a friendly and efficient working understanding between this country and the French committee of national liberation.

Mr. Roosevelt earlier had ruled out any discussion of Allied recognition of De Gaulle's committee as the provisional government of France. But he told his news conference that the heretofore controversial question of government in liberated areas of France would be taken up frankly.

Victory Seen in '44
The limitation on the scope of their talks appeared to be agreeable to De Gaulle—or at least he was reconciled to it. In a morning round of activities he did not refer to his committee as the provisional government of France but did stress American-French interdependence and the aid this country has provided in arming and equipping French soldiers.

At receptions given him by French missions here, De Gaulle disclosed that "the French army will participate soon in new battles" and predicted that the Germans would be defeated in France by the end of this year. He said American assistance would be needed in the reconstruction of France after the Nazis are beaten.

BASEBALL

American
Detroit 1 5 1
New York 3 8 0
Overmire, Gentry and Swift; Bonham and Garbark.

Most of America's rubber is actually stored in the nation's garages—over a million tons of it.

Sasebo, Arsenal Site, Yawata Steel Center, Are Bomber Targets

Washington, July 7.—(U.P.)—American superfortresses today blasted at the great Japanese home naval base of Sasebo and for the second time hit industrial plants at Yawata, target of the first B-29 attack on Japan three weeks ago.

The war department in a brief communique said the giant bombers of the 20th air force "attacked naval installations at Sasebo" and added later that "bombs were dropped also on industrial objectives at Yawata."

Both targets are on Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's major home islands. Sasebo is reputedly the third greatest naval arsenal and base in the Japanese homeland, and Yawata is the site of the empire's biggest steel mills.

Bombed Three Weeks Ago

The attack reported today came just three weeks and a day after the June 29 attack which left large portions of the imperial iron and steel works at Yawata a smoking ruin. From that first raid, four superfortresses failed to return. Two were lost because of accidents, one was shot down by enemy antiaircraft fire, and a fourth was reported missing.

Today's communique did not mention U. S. losses, if any. The planes probably were still over Japan, in fact, when the communique was issued.

The attack on Sasebo was designed as a powerful thrust at one of the great sources of Japanese naval strength at a time when U. S. sea forces have been giving many of its elements a severe battering and daring the whole enemy fleet to come out and fight. This is undoubtedly a period when Japan sorely needs her fleet repair facilities.

The raid also was timed as American marines and soldiers are completing the conquest of Saipan island in a flank attack designed ultimately to threaten the Japanese homeland itself.

Task Forces Hammering Bases

Powerful U. S. naval task forces have been hammering at Japanese air and sea strength in the western Pacific and only recently chased a powerful unit of the enemy's grand fleet back into the relative safety of Philippine waters after inflicting heavy air and surface craft losses upon it.

Sasebo is about 30 miles north of the port and shipbuilding city of Nagasaki, a U. S. naval publication in 1930 described it as a closed port and naval station with a dockyard, drydocks, repair basins, arsenal and moorings for a large fleet.

The war department's communique, as revised to include the second attack on Yawata, follows:

"B-29 superfortresses of the 20th bomber command attacked naval installations at Sasebo, Japan, tonight."

Industrial Objectives Are Hit

"Bombs were dropped also on industrial objectives at Yawata, target of the superfortresses' June 15 assault on Japan. Both cities are on the island of Kyushu."

Further details of the new attack were expected after the giant bombers return to their bases.

It was presumed the new raids were carried out by superfortresses based in western China, as was the case with the first raid last month.

The bombers took off and landed by daylight, but were over the target during darkness in the first raid, and that probably was the case again.

On the June 15 raid the big American bombers were opposed both by night fighters and anti-aircraft fire. It was reasonable to assume that greater opposition might be encountered in this instance, both because the Japanese were forewarned by the first raid and because the attack was directed at a military installation.

Jap Coast in Three Naval Districts

The Japanese coast is divided into three naval districts, each having its naval port. One is Sasebo and the others are Yokosuka and Kure.

At each of these ports there is an arsenal and the general equipment of a naval base. The Japanese army likewise has its own air service and shore base at Sasebo.

PROSPECT PLACER MINING PLANNED

Marx Law has filed on 123 placer claims in the Woodruff Meadows area of the Prospect district, according to the records of the county clerk's office.

The filings embrace 32,000 acres, including a portion of the Crater Lake highway and timber lands. Forty tons of mining equipment have been transported to Prospect from Reno, and as much more will be shipped in, according to Heston Grieve of Prospect. The equipment, he said, is stored at Prospect. It is proposed to mine for gold, platinum, and other minerals.

Karl L. Janouch, supervisor of Rogue National Forest reports some of the filings were made several years ago, and renewed recently along with some new ones. There is flake gold in the area, according to Janouch, but he said a mineralogist report to the forest service shows it is not in paying quantities.

RETURN EXPECTED

Albany, Cal., July 7.—(U.P.)—Clarence Ford, 26, and George Crawford, 34, ex-convicts, escaped yesterday from Albany jail, but left a note asking that their mail be held for them at the jail.

EXPLOSIVES FOUND IN NAZI CELLAR

Rome, July 7.—(U.P.)—Allied military authorities today permitted the disclosure that a huge cache of explosives has been discovered in a secret cellar on the grounds of the German embassy in Rome.

The explosives apparently were being used by Nazi saboteurs who remained in the capital after the German evacuation to attack Allied military installations.

Between June 8 and 23, it was disclosed, 1400 pounds of plastic explosives, a large quantity of other explosives and material for five radio transmitters were removed from the embassy in the presence of a representative of the Swiss minister.

BOMBERS ATTACK HEART OF REICH

London, July 7.—(U.P.)—Fleets of American heavy bombers estimated at more than 1,500 strong made a two-way attack on the heart of Germany today from bases in the British Isles and Italy, setting off wild aerial battles in which Eighth Air Force fighters destroyed 75 enemy planes.