

# 100 Jap Ships, 396 Planes Destroyed; Battle Still Rages

## CARRIER FORCE POURS RUIN ON FORMOSA REGION

Raiders Swing West to Hit  
Pescadores Islands; Tokio  
Makes Fantastic Claims.

Pearl Harbor, T. H., Oct. 13—(U.P.)—A great air-sea battle was reported still raging over and around Japan's island fortress of Formosa today in the third straight day of a smashing American carrier strike that already has cost the enemy 100 ships sunk or damaged and 396 planes destroyed.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' Pacific fleet headquarters announced that warplanes from a fast carrier task force of the U. S. Third fleet — probably the famed Task Force 58—bombed and strafed Japanese shipping, airdromes, shore installations and supply dumps on Formosa Wednesday and Thursday, inflicting widespread damage ashore in addition to the enemy's shipping and plane losses.

**Hit Pescadores**  
In the Thursday attack, the raiders swung out west of Formosa to hit the Pescadores islands for the first time since the war began.

Radio Tokyo broadcast a running commentary on the stunning American assault, adding the still unconfirmed report that giant B-29 Superfortresses from China had joined in the Formosa bombardment.

Tokyo broadcast fantastic claims of heavy damage inflicted on the attacking fleet and said that the American raiders still were hammering at the island today.

A terse navy communique made no mention of American warship losses, but said that 45 carrier planes were lost in the two-day strike. Some of the Yank fliers apparently were rescued.

Small groups of Japanese planes struck continually at the American armada all Wednesday night, repeatedly trying to bomb or torpedo the carriers. American night fighters bagged three of the attackers and anti-aircraft gunners knocked down at least eight more.

## 1000 Jap Captives Drown When Ship Torpedoed, Claim

Tokyo Radio said today that more than 1,000 English and American prisoners of war aboard a Japanese ship were missing and presumed drowned after the vessel was attacked by an American submarine off Cape Bataan in the Philippines. The broadcast, recorded by United Press at San Francisco, said the action occurred Sept. 21. "Out of 1,250 enemy captives on board, 172 were rescued by the Japanese, but most of the remaining prisoners are missing and presumed to have drowned," the broadcast said.

## SIDE GLANCES By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Bill Hulen, former popular sports ed for Ye Tribune, getting a byline in the Portland Journal.

## Gov. Bricker Due at 5:45 For Rear Platform Talk

Jackson county residents will have their first glimpse tonight of a candidate for a high national office in the November election when Gov. John W. Bricker, Republican candidate for vice-president, arrives in Medford via private train and pauses here briefly. He will make a platform appearance and speak for a few minutes.

The train is scheduled to arrive in Medford at 5:45 p. m., according to Southern Pacific officials. Arrangements have been completed for a group of G. O. P. leaders from Jackson county to board the train at Grants Pass and be with Bricker until they disembark at Medford.

Gov. Bricker spoke in Eugene Thursday night and is making appearances at Roseburg and Grants Pass on his trip south. Aboard the special train will be Senator Guy Cordon, candidate to succeed himself as U. S. senator. He will appear at the G. O. P. headquarters tonight at 8:30 o'clock. Cordon had formerly been scheduled at 8 o'clock.

Bricker's western tour follows shortly on the heels of his running mate, Gov. Thomas Dewey, whose itinerary included cities

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire  
Thirty-ninth Year  
MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1944  
NO. 173

**Weather**  
Forecast: Cloudy tonight and Saturday. Little change in temperature.  
Highest yesterday: 64  
Lowest this morning: 53  
Precip. past 24 hours: .28

## Closest Raid to Japan



Hundreds of carrier-borne American planes, ranging within 200 miles of Japan, struck at the Ryukyu Islands in their boldest attack of the Pacific war, destroyed 89 planes and sank or damaged 58 ships. The attack failed to bring any immediate response from the imperial fleet and only feeble resistance from the air.

## Roosevelt Skirts Questions On World Organization Plan

Washington, Oct. 13—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt said today it was too early for him to commit himself about the power which should be granted to the United States delegate to the projected United Nations security organization.

The president thus skipped an opportunity to answer questions posed by Sen. Joseph H. Ball, R., Minn., leading republican supporter of the administration's world organization plan.

Asked at his news conference what high officials of the big three would meet to thrash out questions left unanswered at the Dumbarton Oaks security conference, Mr. Roosevelt said he did not know. The tentative outline of the new United Nations organization was revealed on Monday with some unresolved issues which United States officials said would have to be settled on a "higher level." Just what the "higher level" will turn out to be has not been decided, the president indicated.

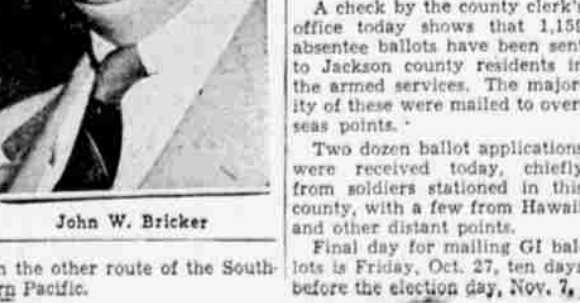
He said, however, that the matter would be ironed out as rapidly as possible.

## BRITISH EIGHTH BREAKS DEADLOCK

Dome, Oct. 13—(U.P.)—British 8th army forces rolled back the German Adriatic flank on a broad front today as American 5th army troops, attacking behind a blazing aerial barrage, fought furiously to break open the Nazi hill defenses south of Bologna.

Breaking the 10-day deadlock that had stalled their advance to the rim of the Po valley, the 8th army veterans swung forward in a general offensive that gained ground everywhere except on the narrow Adriatic coastal strip.

Washington, Oct. 13—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt told his news conference today that he is talking about plans for additional speeches beyond the Oct. 21 date, the president said it depended on what the questioner meant by plans, but that he was talking about it.



John W. Bricker on the other route of the Southern Pacific.

# YANKS DRIVE FOR HEART OF AACHEN

## RIGA CAPTURED BY RED FORCES STALIN REPORTS

Last Major Stronghold of  
Germans in Baltic Pocket  
Falls to Russians.

London, Oct. 13—(U.P.)—The 2nd and 3rd red armies of the Baltic front have stormed and captured Riga, capital of Latvia and last major stronghold of the German forces trapped in the Baltic pocket above East Prussia, Premier Josef Stalin announced tonight.

The armies of Gen. Ivan Maslennikov and Gen. Andrei I. Yermenko joined in the final storming of Riga, against which they had been closing from the east and south while other Russian forces drove to the Baltic to pin the Germans in that area against the sea.

**324 Gun Salute**  
Stalin ordered the two armies saluted with 24 salvoes of 324 guns, an honor reserved for the greatest red army victories.

The fall of Riga broke the main core of German resistance in the Baltics, promising an early cleanup of the pocket and the liberation of big Soviet forces to join in the already developing drive against East Prussia. "Troops of the third Baltic front with the direct cooperation of the troops of the second Baltic front, developing their successful offensive, today captured by storm the capital of Soviet Latvia, the town of Riga, important naval base and powerful stronghold of German defenses in the Baltic," Stalin said.

## JUNIOR ELEVENS POSTPONE CLASH

Medford-Klamath Falls B football teams which were to have played this afternoon on the Medford football field was postponed due to travel conditions, Lester Harris, high school principal, stated today.

Harris also said that the entire covered grandstand at the Medford stadium will be reserved for the Klamath Falls-Medford game, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 20. Those desiring reserve seats are asked to contact the high school office prior to game time as this will do away with considerable confusion the night of the game.

## Jinx Day Brings Good News For Soldier's Mother

This Friday the 13th brought good news instead of bad to Mrs. R. A. Botts of 312 South Central avenue for this morning a wire from the army adjutant general said that her son, Sgt. Herbert R. Botts, is alive and a prisoner of war of the German government. The sergeant was declared missing in action as of "D" day, June 6, and since then Mrs. Botts had had no word of him until this morning.

Sgt. Botts is a paratrooper and had been stationed in England from November of last fall until the invasion date. He went into the army in March of 1942. The wire from the adjutant general stated the news of Sgt. Botts came through the International Red Cross.

## Allies' Big Guns Razing Aachen



Aachen—better known to most persons in pre-war days as Aix-La-Chapelle—faces complete ruin following German defiance of American surrender ultimatum. Famous as headquarters of Charlemagne, the historic city contains a 1148-year-old cathedral and a 14th Century Town Hall. Hundreds of American guns have already begun the systematic destruction of the city.

## Aachen, Battered, Blazing Ghost City Seen From Air

Editor's Note: Bert Brandt, Acme News pictures cameraman, made two flights over besieged Aachen in the artillery observer plane. In the following dispatch he describes the doomed city.

**By Bert Brandt**  
Written for The United Press  
Aboard Observation Plane over Aachen, Oct. 12—(U.P.)—Charlemagne's capital — once called Aix-La-Chapelle — is a dead city, its fires blazing unattended and unhampered, but it is far from destroyed. I flew over the city twice—once shortly after noon and now as dusk is setting in—without seeing a single person or vehicle in the city's streets.

There was only one fire burning at noon. Now there are 12, one sending up black smoke and the other 11 white. Destruction Everywhere Everywhere there are signs of destruction, many of them dating back to heavy bomber raids which preceded the American drive across western Europe. It would take a lot more than the artillery pounding and dive-bombing the Americans have given Aachen in the last two days to destroy a city this size.

Lt. Don Platt of Portland, Ore., who is flying me, slipped down to an altitude of 300 feet above the city to allow me to photograph the bomb damage. No shots were fired at our slow-moving Cub. Once we saw four puffs of German flak behind us but they were firing apparently at a flight of Lightnings above us. No One Seen We flew along the railroad track which divides the American-held suburb of Forst from the city proper but I saw no one below. To the northeast as dusk settled, German tanks and infantry could be seen trying to form a counter-attack. They were taking a pounding from American artillery.

From an altitude of 50 feet over another section of the front around the city I photographed doughboys climbing on tanks, ready for a new advance. Aachen was considerably damaged but not as much as I expected. It is an eerie feeling to see a city which held 160,000 in peace time without a soul moving anywhere. Aachen is a ghost city.

## ATHENS WRESTED FROM NAZI GRIP BY GREEK FORCE

Calro, Oct. 13—(U.P.)—A resurgent army of patriots has liberated Athens, it was announced officially today, ending a 42-month Nazi occupation of the ancient Greek capital and foreshadowing the imminent allied occupation of all Greece and the eastern Mediterranean islands. German troops who marched triumphantly into Athens on April 27, 1941, after crushing a tiny Greek army and an outnumbered British expeditionary force in 21 days, abandoned the city and its neighboring seaport of Piraeus. They fled northward under savage attack by planes of a British carrier force standing offshore in the western Aegean.

**7th Capital Lost**  
First official accounts of the liberation of Athens, the seventh allied capital wrested from the German grip since the start of the Anglo-American and Soviet summer campaigns, gave no details of the partisan attack. It was indicated, however, that the main German garrison had been withdrawn from Athens and Piraeus several days ago, sparking a patriot uprising that swiftly overwhelmed the weak enemy rear guard left to cover the retreat. An allied communique issued in Rome several hours earlier revealed that low-flying British warplanes, launched from escort carriers bombed and strafed two large concentrations of German shipping concentrated near the Port of Khalikis. Destroy Small Boats The British destroyed many small boats, which apparently were trying to make a run along the coast to Salonika with troops and equipment evacuated from Athens. News of the capital's liberation touched off wild demonstrations among the large Greek colonies in the Middle East. In Alexandria, 50,000 Greeks swarmed into the streets for a jubilant victory parade. Thousands of Greek flags appeared on balconies and roofs throughout the city and Greek restaurant owners throw open their doors to the celebrants.

## GUNS AND PLANES ENJOY FIELD DAY BLASTING TANKS

Estimate 64 Destroyed in  
Concentration Northeast  
of City; Mopup Advances.

Supreme Headquarters, AEF, Paris, Oct. 13—(U.P.)—American troops swarmed in from north and east toward the heart of Aachen against soft and spotty resistance today while to the northeast U. S. artillery and rocket-firing planes had a field day blasting German tanks massed for an expected attempt to relieve the city. "The Aachen picture looks pretty bright," a 1st army headquarters spokesman said late today.

**Weather Aids**  
The drive to clean up Aachen began in crisp, perfect weather when shock troops struck across the railroad into Aachen proper from the Forst-Aachen district. Later another force moved in from the north, and tonight front dispatches said the "mopup" of the city was proceeding satisfactorily.

The shell-swept corridor between the American positions northeast of Aachen was narrowed to half a mile today as the doughboys moved in from both sides, and the battle to close it and put the final seal of doom on the Aachen garrison still was going on this evening.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' headquarters announced that American guns and planes destroyed an estimated 64 German tanks concentrated northeast of Aachen yesterday and was having another field day today.

**Counter Hindered**  
The mauling evidently blocked or delayed the expected counter-attack in force by the massed German armor, but a 1st army headquarters spokesman said it still was anticipated "at any time now."

Of one battalion of 43 Tiger tanks attacked yesterday, only eight were left, while another group of 35 tanks had only six in action after yesterday's air artillery pounding.

Dispatches from the British 2d army front said a new attack in Holland toward the Meuse river had been broadened to four miles and had carried forward nearly a mile west of Venlo and southwest of Overloon.

**British Near Venrain**  
The advance put the British forces within two miles of the strategic communications hub of Venrain. Opposition was described as "not too heavy," but the advance was slowed by forest tangles, soggy marshes and mine fields.

A front report said the Germans apparently had given up any thought of cutting off the tip of the Nijmegen salient and there was evidence of a movement southward toward Aachen. The Canadian 1st army advanced more than a mile south and reached Savoyardspaat.

**TO BERLIN**  
By United Press  
The shortest distances to Berlin from advanced allied lines today:  
Western front—296 miles (from point near Nijmegen. Unchanged in week.)  
Russia—315 miles (from Warsaw. Unchanged in week.)  
Italy—540 miles (from point south of Bologna. Gain of five miles in week.)