

FOUR SUPER-FORTS LOST IN RAID

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Weather News
June 16, 1944

Max. (June 15)	80	Min.	41
Precipitation last 24 hours			.08
Stream year to date	11.47	Last year	17.14
Normal			
Forecast	Showers		

ATTACK HITS STEEL MILLS IN YAWATA

Wreck of One Bomber May Be In Enemy Hands

(See Map on Page 8)

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON, June 16—Four of America's mighty sky battleships were lost in yesterday's surprise attack that left "glowing masses of wreckage" in Japan's "Pittsburgh," and the wreckage of one of the B-29 Super-Fortresses now may be in enemy hands.

The 20th bomber command, adding in midafternoon today, new details of the raid, said one of the giant planes "was lost due to anti-aircraft action over the target"—Yawata.

One plane is missing and two failed to return because of accidents, but the crew of one of those is safe.

The text of 20th airforce communique No. 2:

"The Imperial Iron and Steel Works, Japan's largest steel mill, located at Yawata on Kyushu island in the Japanese homeland, was the target of yesterday's B-29 mission of the 20th bomber command.

Bombing Effective

"The bombing was accurate and effective. Enemy fighter craft offered some resistance to a few units. Anti-aircraft fire was moderate to intense over the target area. No enemy planes were reported shot down.

"There were no casualties aboard returning aircraft. Four planes failed to return from the mission. Of these, one was lost due to anti-aircraft action over the target. Two failed to return due to accidents, and of these the crew of one is known to be safe. A fourth airplane is missing."

The number of participating aircraft was not made known as first details emerged on the historic attack which marked the beginning of an entirely new chapter of aerial warfare with the greatest bombers ever built.

Sizeable Force

Headquarters of the 20th air force, however, said "a sizeable task force" made the raid on industrial targets at Yawata on Kyushu island.

Clyde A. Farnsworth, Associated Press war correspondent writing from a Super-Fortress base in western China, said the attack may have knocked out a fifth of Japan's steel production. "The blow against Yawata, the 'Pittsburgh of Japan,' was struck in the darkness of early morning."

A communique issued by headquarters of the new 20th air force, controlling the operations of the Super-Fortresses around the world, was based on preliminary and incomplete reports from the combat zone.

The formation was said to be operating from recently-completed bases in China.

An earlier enemy broadcast had acknowledged the force struck at two of the islands—Chichi Jima, in the northern section of the group, and Iwo Jima, about 100 miles to the southeast.

Although allied sources have made no mention of such a raid so close to Japan, the enemy report came while American landing forces were battling the Japanese garrisons after going ashore in the Marianas, another 700 miles or so to the southeast.

The Japanese broadcasts declared that damage to the Bonin islands raids was "extremely slight" and claimed that 17 of the raiding planes were shot down.

U. S. Heavies Hit Oil Refineries

ROME, June 16 (AP)—Heavy bombers of the U. S. 15th air force attacked five oil refineries in the Vienna area today, and for the first time smashed at an objective in Czechoslovakia.

The bombers struck at the Acollo refinery at Bratislava, 100 miles east of Vienna. Bratislava is the capital of the puppet Slovak government.

(The German radio said anti-aircraft defenses brought down 22 bombers in the raid, and claimed the major portion of the bombing fleet was damaged by fierce anti-aircraft fire.)

Allies Slash Nazi Resistance

Happy Marines Get Overseas Leaves



Just home from the Pacific fighting, these marines at the Klamath Marine Barracks are receiving 30-day overseas leaves. Here they are getting leave papers at a desk set up in the mess hall. Men in need of money receive loans from the Red Cross, which had an official on duty to handle this detail for them.

YANKS HOLD ROAD NETWORK ON PENINSULA

Americans 11 Miles From West Coast Beaches

By WES GALLAGHER
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, June 16 (AP)—American troops slashed through stiff German resistance today and reached St. Sauveur le Vicomte. They now command the main road network in the central portion of the Cherbourg peninsula.

A field dispatch filed at 5:03 p. m. told of the fall of St. Sauveur le Vicomte, 17 miles due south of Cherbourg. It is a junction which controls two of the three roads leading to the prize port.

This drive followed a sharp three-mile drive by Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's troops west of Carentan, after previously reaching Reigneville, three miles to the northwest of St. Sauveur.

Plugging away on a 10-mile front and tapping out repeated gains despite stubborn resistance, the Americans were now within 11 miles of the Cherbourg peninsula's west coast beaches. Their spearhead was some 17 miles below the big port.

Ding Dong Battle

While Bradley's Yanks still fought a ding dong battle with Germans in the streets of Montebourg, 14 miles southeast of Cherbourg on the allied right flank, the British were engaged in stiff tank battles with German troops in force two miles south of Caumont. This is about 20 miles in.

(Continued on Page Two)

Red Army Smashes Through New Mannerheim Defenses

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW, June 16 (AP)—The red army has smashed its way through Finland's "new Mannerheim line," one of the last barriers on the way to the important seaport of Viipuri, it was reported today.

A Red Star dispatch said the new Mannerheim line was a tremendous fortification, with four lines of walls made of cone-shaped stone and anti-tank blocks almost two yards high, before which lay an anti-tank mine field 20 yards wide and strewn with German mines.

A great gap has been cut in this line, and in some places Soviet tanks and artillery, as well as infantry, are considerably beyond it, the dispatch said.

Elaborate Defenses

Major Konstantin Shavankov, the Red Star correspondent and the first newsmen to go through the new line, said that behind the tank blocks the Finns had built an elaborate system of trenches and dugouts, with steel and concrete platforms for anti-tank rifles, machine guns and mortars.

The trenches are connected with bullet and bombproof shelters.

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ALLIES MAKE GAINS ON ITALIAN FRONT

By SID FEDER
ROME, June 16 (AP)—The allies smashed forward from the Adriatic to the Tyrrhenian sea today, some troops advancing as much as 25 miles in 24 hours, and capturing such important high-way towns as Acquapendente, Narni and Terni along the way.

Farthest advance came by the eighth army in the capture of Todi, approximately 60 airline miles northeast of Rome, and only 85 miles south of the Pisa-Rimini line, where the fleeing Germans may make a stand.

There has been no sign of any organized enemy defense in front of a line running from Pisa on the west coast through the city of Florence to Rimini on the Adriatic.

The fifth army pushed above (Continued on Page Two)

Air Raids Kill 1200 Jap Troops

CHUNGKING, June 16 (AP)—More than 1200 Japanese troops were killed in the area of besieged Changsha in Hunan province by three days of operations of the 14th U. S. air force, Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's headquarters announced today.

B-29 Mitchell bombers with P-51 fighter escort, attacked Liuyang, east of Changsha, launched this widespread air attack on the advancing Japanese on Tuesday, a communique said, by killing 200 Japanese and damaging installations there.

WAR BULLETINS

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, June 16 (AP)—The advance of allied forces westward from Point L'Abbe in the Cherbourg peninsula has continued and troops scored local successes in the Tilly sector during the day although the town remains in enemy hands, supreme headquarters announced tonight in communique No. 22.

LONDON, June 16 (AP)—Three German airdromes in the vicinity of Paris and Laon and a number of military installations in the Pas de Calais region of France were attacked today by up to 500 B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators of the eighth air force. It was announced tonight.

ROME, June 16 (AP)—American troops driving up the west coast of Italy today captured Grosseto, an important road junction more than 100 miles northwest of Rome.

With the town's capture the allies obtained use of one of Italy's major military airports.

WASHINGTON, June 16 (AP)—American forces, reaching within 600 miles of Tokyo, pounded three Japanese bases in the Bonin and Volcano island groups southeast of Japan Wednesday, shooting down 47 enemy planes, sinking two enemy ships, damaging ten others and blasting barracks, air fields and fuel supplies.

ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE, June 16 (AP)—Hard-driving American troops today broke through tough German resistance, crossed the river Douve and reached St. Sauveur le Vicomte, commanding the main road net on the central Cherbourg peninsula.

Tokyo Minimizes B-29 Attacks

NEW YORK, June 16 (AP)—American B-29 Super Fortresses which raided the Japanese mainland yesterday are "presumed to have taken off from Sian" in Shensi province of northern China, the Tokyo radio said today.

Another broadcast acknowledged that the raiders hit the Yawata plant of the Japan Iron Manufacturing company, but declared the hits were by "a few fragments" only which caused "no damage whatever to plant facilities."

All of a steady succession of broadcast reports from the Japanese capital attempted to minimize the effects of the attack.

Eyewitness Account of B-29 Raids Lists Major Hansen as Crew Member

NEW YORK, June 16 (AP)—America's Superfortresses left glowing masses of wreckage in the coke ovens and open hearth furnaces of the great Yawata steel mills in the certain raider attack of these B-29's on Japan yesterday, Radio Correspondent Roy Porter reported today in a broadcast from China.

The super-bombers, flying from bases in western China, ran into heavy anti-aircraft fire and encountered Japanese night fighters, but "nearly all the ships came back," said Porter, one of 11 war correspondents who witnessed the attack. Porter, a former Associated Press correspondent, now on assignment for the National Broadcasting company, represented the combined American radio networks on the raid.

Former Attack

The B-29s had been in action before in a preliminary attack on Bangkok, Thailand, last week. A communique from Admiral Louis Lord Mountbatten's Southeast Asia headquarters last Thursday said "strong forces of heavy bombers dealt Bangkok its heaviest blow of the war on June 5" (Monday) and that Japanese defenses were caught by surprise as the bombers attacked from all angles.

Porter said one of the members of his crew was Maj. Charles Hansen of Klamath Falls, Ore.

(Major Charles E. Hansen, son of Mrs. Charles E. Hansen, Sr., of this city, was a pilot of one of the big B-29 bombers which made the raid on Japan Thursday, it has been learned here. He is the brother of Mrs. Nell Black who is living with her mother, Mrs. Hansen, on Portland street.)

An International Affair



Four Chinese children support the fight against their enemy, Japan, by buying bonds in the Fifth War Loan drive. Feegat, Feelee, Betty Jean and Feelat Wong admire the lifeboat which their bonds may buy at the local bond headquarters. Lela Bravo, an American girl of Spanish descent, hands the four their bonds. The four Chinese are children of Mr. and Mrs. Foon Wong of Klamath Falls, and have three American-born cousins serving in the armed forces. Miss Bravo is the only high school girl to volunteer for work at the bond headquarters.

Bonin Islands Target Of Raid

By LEIF ERICKSON
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, June 16 (AP)—A carrier task force, making the Pacific fleet's closest approach of the war to Japan's homeland, bombed Chichi Jima and Iwo Jima in the Bonin islands Wednesday, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

Striking 588 miles from Yokohama, the carrier planes destroyed 47 Japanese planes, sank two ships, and damaged 10 more vessels.

Iwo Jima, in the Kazan or Volcano island group 150 miles to the south, also was hit. The attacks clearly were intended to knock out air bases from which the Japanese might attack American amphibious forces that landed Wednesday morning on Saipan island in the Marianas, 728 miles southeast of the Bonins, and were advancing against stiff enemy resistance.

Closing in to strike the Bonin bases for the first time, the American carrier force undoubtedly steamed closer to Tokyo and Yokohama than did the American flattop Hornet which carried the Doolittle raiders for the 1942 raid on Tokyo.

Surprise Nips

A fleet spokesman said the carrier strike at the Bonins apparently caught the Nipponese by surprise at all three island objectives.

A medium transport, discover (Continued on Page Two)

Run-Off Ballot Set at Canby

Elections held Thursday night at the Lovenson woods operations near Canby resulted in 25 votes for the AFL, six for the CIO, and 29 for no union.

Run-off elections will be held Thursday, June 22, between the AFL and no union.

Japs Announce Bonin Attack

NEW YORK, June 16 (AP)—The Japanese announced today that an allied naval task force yesterday afternoon attacked the Bonin island group, between 600 and 700 miles southeast of Japan proper.

An imperial headquarters communique broadcast by Domei said planes from the force struck at two of the islands—Chichi Jima, in the northern section of the group, and Iwo Jima, about 100 miles to the southeast.

Although allied sources have made no mention of such a raid so close to Japan, the enemy report came while American landing forces were battling the Japanese garrisons after going ashore in the Marianas, another 700 miles or so to the southeast.

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(The German radio said anti-aircraft defenses brought down 22 bombers in the raid, and claimed the major portion of the bombing fleet was damaged by fierce anti-aircraft fire.)

Eerie Pilotless Planes Descend on South Britain

By LEWIS HAWKINS
LONDON, June 16 (AP)—German planes without pilots, ghostly and death-spitting, streaked across the southern English sky today, smashing targets at random and keeping German guns crackling. The Germans proclaimed this fantastic "secret" weapon as an instrument of vengeance for what German cities suffered under the crushing weight of allied aerial might.

These bizarre, flame-scattering robot bombers began their eerie attacks last night, descending on southern Britain by the dozens, for the first time since the 1940 blitz the ground defenses could be heard extensively in daylight, as the Germans continued their attacks in what seemed to be an enemy attempt to divert the world's

and their home front's—attention from the multiplying crises facing German arms on the battlefronts of Europe.

Damage Reported

An official announcement tonight said that the robot planes continued the attack intermittently throughout the day, although on a smaller scale than last night, adding that "incidents have occurred at several places in southern England and damage and casualties have been reported." There was no evidence, however, that any important military damage had been wrought.

The German radio pictured the bombers as "novel weapons," which drop "super-heavy explosives." A special note broadcast after the communique which announced the raids (Continued on Page Two)



Major Hansen