

# TROOPS TAKE CHERBOURG PEAK

## Gerald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1944

Number 10192

### Weather News

June 23, 1944  
 Max. (June 22) 89 Min. 45  
 Precipitation last 24 hours .00  
 Stream year to date 9.88  
 Normal 11.65 Last year 17.63  
 Forecast: Fair.

### SPEEDY FALL OF FRENCH CITY SEEN

Prolonged Siege of Port Unlikely Now

By WES GALLAGHER  
 SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, June 23 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's finely tuned American assault troops have stormed over one of the three fortified peaks dominating Cherbourg's military harbor, supreme headquarters announced today, and speedy fall of the city is expected.

Describing Cherbourg's defenses as "fairly formidable," a headquarters announcement said a "prolonged siege is unlikely" now.

Attacking with a storm of artillery fire, and a huge array of instruments of destruction, the Americans captured a height at Tourville, one mile from the sea and one mile from Cherbourg on the southeast. The Germans had been reduced to machine guns, small arms and light artillery in defending their pillboxes and prepared defenses.

Americans and Germans were so closely interlocked in the grim battle that allied air forces were unable to give the close battlefield the support that marked the opening of the all-out attack yesterday.

Hit Communications: British and American planes concentrated on "quarantining" the battle area, hitting rail and road communications in a semi-circle 100 miles deep in France as the Americans clamped a vise on Cherbourg and smashed at the other two remaining hilltop bastions.

These were at Nourville, 2 1/2 miles southwest of the port and three miles from the coast, and at La Mare a Conards, 1 1/2 miles directly to the south of the city.

Caught: Three German divisions, mixed with German naval units and a defense garrison, were believed caught in the American clamp.

German units apparently had withdrawn completely from the eastern tip of the peninsula in (Continued on Page Two)

### Bolivian Rule Recognized By United States

WASHINGTON, June 23 (AP)—The United States and 17 other American republics today recognized the government of Bolivia ending six months of diplomatic isolation of the South American nation.

One other nation, Uruguay, has agreed to extend recognition but will not take the technical step necessary for a day or so.

Recognition by the neighbor countries followed a decision that the Bolivian regime definitely favors the United Nations cause.

### Charles Semon Killed in Action On D-Day

Second Lieutenant Charles Semon of the paratroops was killed in action in France on June 6, D-Day, according to formal notification from the war department received last night by his parents, State Representative and Mrs. Henry Semon of Henley.

Lieutenant Semon, who had been in England since last September, apparently participated in the initial paratroop action in the invasion of Normandy. The war department telegraphic notification stated that a letter would follow.

The tragic news came here on what would have been Charles' 24th birthday. He was born in Klamath county on June 22, 1920, attended grade and high schools at Henley, and Oregon State college.

He was active in athletics at the Klamath schools and was widely acquainted among the younger groups in the community. He enlisted early in 1942, and volunteered for the paratroops. He took his officers' training at Ft. Benning, Ga.

In discussing the paratroops with acquaintances here, Lt. Semon emphasized the important job they had to do, rather than any danger they would be in. Actively interested in the family's farm at Henley, Charles wrote recently to his father: "Dad, you raise the spuds, and we'll do the fighting."

Lt. Semon's death was the second local D-Day casualty reported here, and the first report of a Klamath man killed in action on that day. Flight Officer Earl Green, son of Marion Green, has been missing in action in France since June 6.

### Cherbourg—Goal of Allied Drive



Map above shows the great French port of Cherbourg at the end of the Normandy peninsula. Possession of it by the allies means access to docking facilities that, in peacetime, accommodated the largest luxury liners, such as the Normandie, and, in wartime, can accommodate the largest warships and transports. Napoleon was the first to develop Cherbourg as a great naval station, spending millions of dollars on extensive fortifications and improvements. The military area has three main ship basins, carved out of solid rock, shipyards, drydocks, arsenals, supply warehouses and other equipment.

## Fleet Abandons Saipan

### REDS OPEN NEW FRONT; HIT NAZIS

Vitebsk - Orsha Rails Cut In Summer Offensive

LONDON, June 23 (AP)—Tonight's Russian communique announced a new offensive northwest and southeast of Vitebsk.

Soviet troops broke through enemy defenses northwest of the city 7 1/2 to 9 1/2 miles, on a 10-mile front, the communique said.

The Germans earlier today had announced this drive as the opening of the long-expected summer offensive.

The Moscow communique said the Vitebsk-Orsha railway had been cut.

"During June 23, northwest and southeast of Vitebsk our troops, supported by massed blows from artillery and aviation, went over to the offensive against German troops," the communique announced.

"Our troops on the offensive northwest of Vitebsk broke through heavily fortified enemy defenses over the length of 30 kilometers, (about 18 miles) along the front, and advanced to a depth of 12 to 15 kilometers (eight to nine miles), at the same time capturing more than 100 populated places, the communique said.

District Center: These places included Filirina, a district center of the Vitebsk region, and 16 large populated places, as well as two rail stations on the Polotsk-Vitebsk railway.

"Our troops on the offensive southeast of Vitebsk broke through heavily fortified enemy defenses along a front of 25 kilometers," the communique said.

### Queen's Ball Set for Saturday

One of the nine pretty Klamath basin girls will be crowned Queen of Klamath Buckaroo Days at the Queen's ball in the armory Saturday night.

Dressed in their riding regalia, the girls will be judged at the dance as to personality, poise and personal appearance. Judges have already been selected. Points received by each girl Saturday night will be added to the points each earned at the riding contest last Sunday. The girl with the highest total will be the queen. The ballot box containing the points received in the riding contest is now in the United States National bank window.

O. D. Matthews, president of the rodeo association, will be on hand Saturday night to place the crown on the head of the lucky girl who becomes queen, this event to take place at approximately 11 p. m.

Baldy Evans and his orchestra will play at the Queen's ball. The dance is open to the public.

## Eyewitness Reports Intricate Strategy Used In Attack on Japanese Fleet Off Philippines

(This story by AP Correspondent William Worden is the first detailed account of the intricate tactics by which the U. S. fleet not only overpowered but outmaneuvered the Japanese fleet defeated off the Philippines.)

By WILLIAM L. WORDEN Representing the Combined American Press

ABOARD THE FLAGSHIP, U. S. FIFTH FLEET, June 21 (Delayed) (AP Via Naval Radio)—This huge force today completed the rout of the Japanese grand fleet from waters east of the Philippines—without firing a salvo from its formidable battle-line or losing a ship.

The first phase occurred June 19 when planes and anti-aircraft guns of Adm. Raymond Ames Spruance's fleet, within sight of Guam, turned the Jap attack into one of the war's greatest aerial disasters for the axis. Enemy planes attacking from the west

### Heads Home Fleet



Vice-Admiral Sir Henry R. Moore, R. N., above, has been named commander of the British home fleet. A veteran of 44 years in fighting ships, Sir Henry, with temporary rank of admiral, succeeds Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser.

### YANKS HIT JAPS LEFT ON ISLAND

U. S. Victory Almost Certain in Marianas

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, PEARL HARBOR, June 23 (AP)—Twenty thousand Japanese, apparently abandoned to their death by a routed Nipponese fleet, were hit high and low today on Saipan by a Yank invasion army which now outnumbered the foe.

Sensing almost certain victory in the distant Marianas as the aftermath of a one-sided sea triumph, the reinforced Yanks scaled the heights and probed the flatlands of that island gateway to Japan, China and the Philippines.

Task Force: The scales were tipped heavily in favor of the United States Monday by "task force 58," a newly-disclosed fast and mighty armada with perhaps 20 of the nearly 100 U. S. carriers in action against Japan.

Saipan's potential naval support was sent scurrying between Luzon and Formosa into the far China sea by carrier planes of this specialized group which sank one Japanese carrier, heavily hit three others and damaged a battleship and cruiser. In all, four enemy ships definitely were sunk and 10 others hard hit.

Paves Way: Task force 58, which navy officials in Washington said has been assigned "the entire Pacific ocean to the gates of Japan as its stamping ground," thus paved the way for a stepped-up drive on Saipan itself. Last night, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz reported that the invasion of that island (Continued on Page Two)

### PLOESTI OIL FIELDS SMASHED BY BOMBS

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, June 23 (AP)—Italy-based bombers smashed the Romanian oil installations at Ploesti again today while Liberators and Fortresses from Britain stabbed through clouds for the eighth straight day of smashes at the Pas-De-Calais "rocket coast."

The Italian force—of probably more than 500 heavy bombers also attacked Guirain, Danube port where Romanian oil is transhipped to river boats. The assault coincided with a British (Continued on Page Two)

### WAR BULLETINS

LONDON, June 23 (AP)—The German radio commentator, Ernst von Hammer, said tonight that the Russians were attacking along a front of more than 100 miles in White Russia and had made a breach in German lines southeast of Vitebsk.

NEW YORK, June 23 (AP)—NBC today quoted the Brazzaville radio as saying that American troops have taken the three hill positions dominating Cherbourg.

### Oregon Man On Committee

CHICAGO, June 23 (AP)—Senator Taft (R-Ohio) chairman, announced today the appointment of five subcommittees which will draft individual planks for the republican platform committee.

Lowell C. Padgett, Oregon, and Mrs. Rose Mayes, Idaho, were named on the postwar business committee. Tom Heath, Idaho, was named on the foreign trade committee.

### Andaman Island Raid Reported

SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, June 23 (AP)—A naval and air raid on Port Blair in the Andaman islands Wednesday was announced today.

"Considerable damage" to military installations was reported. (The Tokyo radio earlier reported a combined formation of 35 bombers and fighters had raided the Japanese garrison at Port Blair, and claimed little damage was done. The broadcast said "losses were confined to damage to one small boat which was hit by enemy bomb and set ablaze," and asserted that six planes were shot down and four damaged.)

The islands, 300 miles north-west of Sumatra, astride the Ceylon-Calcutta supply route in the Bay of Bengal, are the westernmost points occupied by the Japanese in the Indian ocean.

### Baseball Scores

AMERICAN			
	R	H	E
Washington	7	11	0
Boston	1	5	2

### YANK SUBMARINES SINK 16 JAP SHIPS

WASHINGTON, June 23 (AP)—American submarines, dealing another heavy blow to the Japanese merchant fleet, have sent 16 more enemy vessels to the bottom of the Pacific.

The navy, announcing this today, held to its policy of secrecy in submarine operations, giving no hint of when or where the latest bag was made.

However, it is known that the underwater craft have operated close to Japanese shores and along supply lines deep within other enemy-controlled waters. Navy Secretary Forrestal also has reported that submarines played a large part in reconnaissance activities prior to the location of a portion of the Jap fleet east of the Philippines.

The new report of sinkings shows that the rate of destruction by the American submarines now is better than one vessel a day, and it raises to 50 the number of Japanese craft announced as sunk by submarines alone this month.

### 50 Prisoners Killed by Nazis

LONDON, June 23 (AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told commons today that the Germans had admitted killing 50 allied officers at the previous reported 47 and said that "it is quite clear that these officers were murdered."

The Germans in a communication sent to the British government claimed that the RAF officers were shot while resisting capture after their escape from a war prison camp near Dresden on March 25 or while attempting to make another getaway following their capture.

Eden said. This was the same explanation which the nazis previously offered for Switzerland, the protecting power.

Flatly rejecting this answer to the mass killing, the foreign secretary said: "The explanation now put forward by the German government is in fact the confession of an odious crime against the laws and conventions of war."

### WLB Denies General Wage Boost for Lumber Workers

By The Associated Press  
 Approximately 130,000 Pacific northwest pine and fir lumber workers today found themselves back where they were a month ago with refusal of the war labor board to grant a general wage increase.

The board's reaffirmation of its May 17 directive was announced last night in Washington, D. C., and Dexter M. Keezer, public member and author of the board's 16-page majority opinion, said "no convincing evidence" had been found that a general increase would solve

### Jap Forces Near Hengyang Railway

CHUNGKING, June 23 (AP)—Japanese forces were only 25 miles north-northeast of the rail junction of Hengyang in south-central Hunan province, and were closing in on the town of Hengshan in their swift drive down the Siang river from captured Changsha, a Chinese army spokesman said tonight.

The spokesman said in a press conference that six Japanese divisions totaling from 100,000 to 120,000 troops were engaged in this all-out drive aimed at splitting China in two and wresting the entire Canton-Hankow railway route from the Chinese.

### Buckin' Bunk Foils Rider

FARRAGUT, Idaho, June 23 (AP)—Jack Smith of Lund, Utah, used to be a rodeo rider, and he tangled with the meanest broncs with never a serious injury.

But the first time Naval Recruit Jack Smith started to climb out of his upper bunk he landed on his face.

"Look," commented a shipmate, drily, "no spurs."

### Japs Admit Naval Losses

NEW YORK, June 23 (AP)—Japanese imperial headquarters acknowledged today the loss of a Japanese aircraft carrier, two oil tankers and 50 planes in an engagement with an American naval task force west of the Marianas, and admitted that the Japanese had been "unable to inflict a decisive blow upon the enemy."

The broadcast, recorded by the federal communications commission, said part of the Japanese combined fleet had participated in the action which began on June 19, Japanese time, and continued until the following day.

### Bomber Crash Kills Ten Men

WALLA WALLA, June 23 (AP)—Ten men were killed in the crash of a B-24 Liberator bomber in the Bluff mountains 10 miles southeast of the Walla Walla army air field at 11:20 p. m., last night.

The air field public relations office, announcing the crash, said the plane was on a training flight. The victims were five commissioned officers.

### Strike Vote Seen

Advised of the decision, Don Gallaher, secretary of the AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers local in Seattle, predicted lumber workers would demand a legal strike vote under the Smith-Connally act. He said a number of workers had favored such action last month when some 30,000 workers went on unofficial strike in protest against the WLB decision which was reaffirmed last night.

Worth Lowery, president of the CIO International Woodworkers of America, said in Portland he would call a meeting of the IWA negotiating committee as soon as he receives a copy of the WLB decision. He said the committee represents (Continued on Page Two)

### Hammer Victim Still Alive

Somosuki Suzuki, Tulelake segeegee who Thursday was reported near death following a hammer assault, remained unconscious Friday, but was still alive.

A base hospital nurse reported to WRA officials that Suzuki awoke out of his coma one Thursday night long enough to say, "Oh, damnit," in English.

Still held by WRA police is Shigeo Okamoto, Suzuki's roommate at the center, who is said to be responsible for the hammer assault. Okamoto is also reported to have attacked Shunzi Tanabe, who is still in the hospital but is recovering satisfactorily.

### Allies Progress In Italy

ROME, June 23 (AP)—Allied forces in Italy have made progress along both coastal sectors, but the Germans apparently are planning a determined stand along strong positions between Lake Trasimeno and Lake Chiusi and north of Perugia in the central sector, allied headquarters indicated today.

The eighth army is encountering "strong resistance" north of Perugia, and southwest of Lake Trasimeno, where a number of German counterattacks have been repulsed, the communique said.



Lt. Charles Semon