

Cherbourg Defenses Entered

300 Jap Planes Shot Down Off Saipan

Vipuri's Fall To Russians Is Imminent

Stockholm Says It Already Has Been Captured by Russian Advance

Fall of the Finnish seaport of Vipuri, gateway to the heart of Finland, appeared likely within a matter of hours yesterday with the hopelessly outnumbered Finns pressed back within nine miles of the city and Soviet bombers and artillery hammering the harbor, freight yards and warehouses of the burning port.

An Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm, quoting "a reliable source in Sweden," said last night the Finns had evacuated the port and the Russians had marched in, but there was no immediate confirmation.

The Red Army's swift ten-day advance through the Finns' three fortified lines on the Karelian Isthmus, within striking distance of the important communications

Wants U.S. to Step In

WASHINGTON, June 20 (AP)—Senator Arthur Vandenberg (R-Mich.) told the Senate yesterday he hoped the U.S. would use its "great voice and power" to effect an eleventh-hour armistice between Finland and Russia.

Vandenberg, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, made the comment in expressing regret that the State Department had found it necessary to order Hjalmar Procopé, Finnish minister, to leave the country.

center, appeared to have created a political crisis in Helsinki and there was a swift succession of reports from the Finnish capital that a new government would be formed.

The Stockholm Aftonbladet said Field Marshal Mannerheim, Finnish commander-in-chief, was "taking the initiative in forming a new government which will sue for peace."

No Organized Resistance

Soviet front-line reports said the Finns were not offering any organized resistance. Moscow dispatches said the Finns were trying to drag out the battle by improvising miniature Mannerheim lines on the small isthmuses between the lakes. The Russians were said to be countering these tactics by keeping the Finns engaged and giving them no time to throw up new fortifications.

Soviet warships meanwhile stood off the Finnish coast pounding enemy transports and bottling up Finnish shipping in much-bombed Vipuri channel.

The War Today

France—Americans advance to within four miles of Cherbourg and storm outer defenses of port. . . . Montebourg retaken and Valognes captured as Germans fall back for final stand. . . . British recapture Tilly and take Hottot, two miles southwest.

Air War—More than 1,500 heavies bomb Pas de Calais, oil refineries and plants in Germany. . . . 47 enemy planes destroyed by escorting Eighth, Ninth AF fighters.

Pacific—More than 300 Jap planes destroyed off Saipan in great air battle. . . . Enemy used carrier-based planes, indicating long-sought-for Jap fleet may be near.

Russia—Vipuri's fall matter of hours; unconfirmed Stockholm reports say port already has been occupied by Red Army after Finns evacuated. . . . Mannerheim reported taking lead in formation of peace government.

Italy—Elba falls after 60-hour campaign; last Nazi stronghold gives up. . . . Eighth Army drives beyond captured Perugia toward Florence.

Asia—Axis reports fall of Changsha, key Chinese city on Hankow-Canton railroad. . . . Allies make gains in northern Burma.

Enemy's Fleet May Be Lying Off Pacific Isle

More than 300 Japanese planes were shot down in what Adm. Chester W. Nimitz termed "the greatest air battle in the Pacific since Midway" in an attack Sunday on an American task force standing off Saipan Island, in the Marianas, the U.S. Navy announced yesterday.

No estimate of the American aircraft losses was available, but the Navy said only one U.S. surface unit received minor damage. Tokyo Radio claimed the Americans lost 300 planes, while OWI in New York quoted Japanese Imperial Headquarters as admitting "we have suffered considerable losses."

The Navy said it believed that some of the enemy planes came from aircraft-carriers and used near-by shore bases as shuttle points. It was the first indication that the Jap fleet, which the Americans have been seeking out for a "show-

(Continued on page 4)

Drive on Elba Now Complete

Last Nazi Bastion on Isle Falls; Perugia Taken on Italian Mainland

Allied troops yesterday completed the occupation of Elba after a 60-hour whirlwind campaign, while on the Italian mainland the Eighth Army drove six miles past captured Perugia, road and rail center 80 miles north of Rome on the highway to Florence.

On the Eighth Army's west flank, other Allied units reached the southern shores of Lake Trasimeno, about ten miles to the west of Perugia, and pushed northward to Castiglione, while on the Adriatic front British troops crossed the Tronto River, some 40 miles north of Pescara.

The Fifth Army, meanwhile, advanced north of the Tyrrhenian port of Grosseto in the face of stiffening German resistance.

Fall of Perugia, in the mountainous region of central Italy, came after the Eighth Army had driven the Germans back 100 miles through the mountains in ten days. Only 100 miles by road from Perugia—75 by air—lies Florence.

All organized enemy resistance on Elba collapsed Monday at 10.30 AM with the fall of Porto Longone, the last Nazi stronghold on the island.

About 500 Germans were killed in the three-day campaign and 1,800 were taken prisoner, Gen. de Lattre de Tassigny, French commander, revealed in a message informing Gen. Charles de Gaulle of Elba's occupation. Allied Headquarters in North Africa said that only a small portion of the island's German garrison had been evacuated by sea.

Capture of more than 27,000 Nazis by the Fifth and Eighth armies since the drive to take Rome began was also announced.

Uses Gas Tank To Bomb Nazis

By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer A NINTH AF FIGHTER FIELD, France, June 19 (delayed)—Capt. Mozart Kaufman, of Little Rock, Ark., flew his P47 Thunderbolt back to this fighter strip yesterday to report on a newly discovered bombing technique. He uses gas tanks and incendiary bullets.

Kaufman was landing his flight on a sweep over the Cherbourg peninsula, seeking Nazi road traffic, but could find nothing for either of the two 500-pound bombs slung under his wings. Finally he spotted a big truck, loaded with German soldiers, on the highway.

"It wasn't worth a 500-pound bomb," Kaufman said, "so I made a deck-level pass, skip-bombed with my auxiliary fuel tank and when the tank hit the truck and burst, spreading gasoline over it. I fired my guns into it and set it on fire. It was burning nicely when I flew away."

Poison Gas Report

Algiers radio, quoting Ankara reports, said yesterday the Germans were transporting large quantities of poison gas across the Balkans for use against the Russians.

Calais, Reich Hit in Record Aerial Blow

Over 1,500 U.S. Heavies Out; Robot Runways, Nazi Factories Pasted

The Eighth Air Force yesterday struck the greatest blow of the war against German strategic targets, explosives from a record force of Fortresses and Liberators raining down on the Reich as almost every type of Allied warplane joined with the heavies in the drive to shatter the runways from which Nazi robot planes have been hurled at southern England in the last week.

More than 1,500 B17s and B24s were out in the day's operations, possibly the largest number of bombers ever sent on one mission. Over 200 of them showered steel on the Pas de Calais, while more than 1,300 roared into Germany to pound a number of oil refineries and plants producing war materials.

Dogfights were thick over the skies of France and Germany as the Luftwaffe fought desperately to stave off the huge assault. Thirty-five enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and 12 on the ground by strong forces, possibly 1,500 or more—escorting P47s, P38s and P51s of both the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces. One Liberator formation was attacked from the enemy coast to Politz and back again by from 60 to 75 enemy fighters.

German radio claimed 31 American planes were shot down and the Swedish government announced 21 bombers made forced landings on Swedish territory.

For the first time the Eighth, Ninth and RAF joined in the attack on the robot plane bases, heavy, medium and dive-

(Continued on page 2)

24th U.S. Sub Lost in Pacific

WASHINGTON, June 20 (AP)—The 1,745-ton U.S. submarine Grayback has been lost in the Pacific, presumably in operations against the Japanese, the Navy announced today.

The Grayback, which carried a normal crew of 65 officers and men, was the 24th U.S. submarine lost since Pearl Harbor.

Yanks Helping To Bag Nazis' Robot Planes

U.S. Army ground and Air Forces units have destroyed several of Hitler's pilotless planes over southern England, it was officially announced yesterday.

Meanwhile, German Overseas News Agency said that one of the measures contemplated by the British to beat the robot was the erection of a dense balloon barrage to serve as an anti-bomb net.

Eight American soldiers, assigned to an ordnance maintenance unit, were credited with shooting down a pilotless plane last Thursday night with a 40mm. gun which they had repaired for delivery to an anti-aircraft outfit in Normandy.

The plane, believed to have been the first of its type shot down in southern England by a U.S. Army organization, was riddled by bullets from a 50-cal. machine gun fired by four members of the unit.

The men scored a direct hit on their (Continued on page 4)

U.K. Invasion Died in Ports

Churchill Declares Nazi Shipping Was Smashed, Straits Never Crossed

German plans to invade Great Britain in 1940 were smashed before heavy concentrations of Nazi ships and troops were able to leave Continental ports, Prime Minister Winston Churchill disclosed in the House of Commons yesterday.

Asked by Maj. Vyvyan Adams whether the "enemy set in motion the apparatus for a reported seaborne invasion," the Prime Minister replied:

"I do not quite know what is meant by setting in motion. Setting in motion in the sense of crossing the Channel, 'No,' but setting in motion in the sense of making very heavy concentrations of troops and ships to cross the Channel, 'Yes.'"

Churchill said he did not believe that any of the shipping ever emerged from the ports across the Channel.

"A great deal of it was sunk in their ports and they changed their minds," he said.

Later, the Prime Minister smiled and answered "yes" to Emanuel Shinwell, Laborite MP, who suggested that "if such an invasion was made, at any rate it was unsuccessful."

Nazis Order Finish Fight For Big Port

Valognes and Montebourg Fall to Yanks; British Seize Tilly, Drive On

American troops stormed into the outer defenses of Cherbourg itself last night. Their all-out attack pushed to within four miles of the deep-water harbor. In its sweep, Montebourg was recaptured and Valognes taken.

At the same time the British, on the east central sector of the Normandy front, recaptured the ruins of Tilly-sur-Seuilles and drove on southwest, taking Hottot. The Germans reported that the British were "massing fresh forces in great strength between Tilly and Caen" and predicted "a major battle" there soon.

Dispatches from the U.S. front said that the Yanks made their deepest penetration at St. Martin, four miles southwest of Cherbourg, and German News Agency admitted that "the Americans have already penetrated into the fortified approaches of Cherbourg and their advance spearheads have closed battle with the German defenders." It also told of a heavy bombardment by Allied warships and heavy bombers.

And the Nazis admitted in so many

Profanity—He Swears By It

WITH CANADIANS IN NORMANDY, June 20 (UP)—Lt. A. C. Peck, of Vancouver, found a German rifle. He strapped it to his bicycle and rode off to the front. But it dropped off, and Peck swore loud and long.

And four Germans jumped out of a ditch and surrendered to him.

words that their hold on the important harbor was doomed and that the most they hoped to do now was to delay the Americans' entry. The news agency said: "The German garrison has received orders to fight to the last man. Marshal Rundstedt desires to withhold from the Allies the possession of a big seaport as long as possible."

The Nazi defenses, dug in on rocky high ground, were pestered by a curtain of artillery fire from 105-mm. howitzers and 155-mm. "Long Toms."

For the Nazis' part, a Berlin military spokesman claimed they had learned a lesson from the British experience at Singapore and had fixed the Cherbourg coastal batteries so that they could be used to fire inland as well as out to sea. The Germans added that these guns "laid a heavy harassing fire on the roads south of Cherbourg, where the enemy is bringing up troops and supplies."

The American onslaught of "co-ordinated attacks all along the north front," in the words of the SHAEF communique, swept northward both west and east of the highway junction town of Valognes. Southeast of Valognes, the

(Continued on page 4)

Germans Shy Of Medical Aid

By William Stringer Reuter Correspondent

WITH U.S. FORCES IN BRICQUEBEC, Normandy, June 20—The Germans trapped in the tightening top of this embattled peninsula, if scattered reports reaching U.S. medical officers are true, are suffering heavy casualties and are extremely short of medical supplies.

Two American medical officers who inspected two captured German hospitals—Maj. J. P. Roller, of Lucky, Ohio, and Capt. R. I. Miles, of Richmond, Va.—said most of the reports came from escaped French patriots and civilians enveloped by the Allied armies, plus wounded American soldiers who had fled German hospitals.

"Thirty-five wounded U.S. paratroops in one of the hospitals," Maj. Roller said, "told us that the Germans there claimed to have treated thousands of casualties since D-Day."

He said they reported the Germans were sadly lacking in proper surgical equipment in the peninsula and therefore were neglecting the more seriously wounded, attending only to the lighter casualties.

Closing In on Cherbourg



American troops recaptured Montebourg and took Valognes yesterday and drove to within four miles of Cherbourg. They entered the outer defenses of the port.

