

Death Toll Of At Least Fifty On Sunken Boat

Destroyer Sunk In Icy Waters of New York Lower Harbor Near Sandy Hook Reported

New York, Jan. 4. (UP)—A death toll of at least 50 was feared today in the explosions which shattered and sank a United States destroyer in the icy waters of lower New York Bay off Sandy Hook, N. J., yesterday.

The navy said 163 members of the crew were rescued, and that 108 of them were injured, six seriously.

The number of persons aboard was not disclosed, but in peacetime the normal complement of such a destroyer was 200. In wartime, however, the number is higher, but pending a complete check of records the navy said the exact complement could not be ascertained. It was estimated generally at 230.

An official announcement from the Third Naval district last night said that "following established naval practice the number of dead, casualty lists and other related data will be made public through the navy department at Washington."

The navy gave no explanation of the blast, stating merely that "there was no indication of the cause."

Fears that the death toll may be high were based on survivors' stories of seeing their comrades burned and hurled into the water when the first blast rocked the ship as she prepared to set out on a mission.

As nearly as the rescued seamen, who were taken ashore by the coast guard, could make out, the blast killed all or most of the officers.

The first explosion came a few minutes after most of the crew had left the forward mess, thus sparing the lives of many, who might have been killed when the blast wrecked the forward part of the ship.

Tell Allied Plane Success

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Jan. 4. (UP)—The North African strategic air force flying 3,704 missions during 1943 destroyed 5,572 enemy planes at a cost of only 819 of its planes.

An announcement by allied headquarters said gunners and fighters shot down 3,146 enemy air craft during the year that an estimated 2,426 other enemy planes were destroyed, in allied bombing and strafing runs.

More than 74,000 tons of bombs were dropped in 70,000 sorties, not including those made by light and medium bombers used for close support of infantrymen.

The air force destroyed 101 enemy ships during the year and seriously damaged 216 others.

Catch Japs by Surprise

With the U. S. Army, Saidor, New Guinea, Jan. 4. (UP)—Infantrymen of the U. S. Sixth army, many of them veterans of the Buna campaign, fanned out in patrols on all fronts today searching for Japanese who failed to oppose the American landing and capture of Saidor, important Japanese barge trans-shipment point on the supply route to Huon peninsula, and Rabaul yesterday.

The Americans, capturing the northern New Guinea coast point in what was described as a "mutual" operation, swiftly consolidated the beachhead driving a firm wedge between the enemy fighting the Australians on the Huon peninsula and Japanese forces in the Mandang area, 55 miles to the northwest.

The action caught the Japanese by surprise and drove many of them from their breakfast. At the close of the first day of fighting, the American troops held a beachhead five miles along the coast and two and one-half miles deep at the deep-point.

Shortage Of Much Needed Essentials And Many Luxuries

Housewife Finds Luxury Goods at High Prices But Needed Articles Hard to Find

Washington, Jan. 4. (UP)—The American housewife is unhappy and for good reason, the American Home Economics Association said today.

When she goes to the stores, she finds too many luxury items and too few of the daily necessities. And the essential items that she does find are high and poor in quality.

The association presented this housewife's bill of particulars today on the basis of a nationwide survey by its state members. The study was undertaken after the Twin City Homemaker Association representing St. Paul-Minneapolis members urged organized action.

It showed growing shortages of essential goods, particularly of infant wear and clothing for children through the age of 15, and an increasing amount of poorer grade merchandise on store shelves.

Most children's clothing now on sale the association said, is of such poor quality and workmanship, it does not wear. As for yardgoods, it's "so shoddy that it doesn't pay to spend the time sewing it up for youngsters."

A New Mexico housewife couldn't find baby and children's garments and was especially exasperated by a shortage of diapers. Yet if she wanted cotton rugs—which she didn't—there were plenty to be had.

"Why don't they make clothing instead of so many cotton rugs?" she asked. The association popped her question into the report presumably in the hope that the OPA, WPB and other appropriate federal agencies would take note.

"Reports from every section tell about the same story," the report said. "Over and over, women pointed out the economic wastage of labor and fibers when mills produce shoddy yard goods and clothes of such poor workmanship and materials that they stand few laundering."

From Minnesota, a mother reported that she was unable to find size 12 pajamas for her 11-year-old son. She had to buy size-16. After one washing, "the sleeves are just below the elbow and the rest in proportion," she declared.

In North Dakota, a country extension agent said luxury items were in abundance. But he challenged, just try to find warm underwear, coats and other heavy clothing needed for the rigorous North Dakota winters.

Order New Boats

Washington, Jan. 4. (UP)—Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announced today that the navy has ordered 20 Mars cargo flying boats—the type which recently set new records for cargo transportation and over-water flight.

The huge flying boats will be placed in service with the naval air transport service as they are completed by the Glenn L. Martin Company of Baltimore, Mr. Knox said it possibly would be a year before the first plane is completed.

Soiled Panties - Killed

Chicago, an. 4. (UP)—Mrs. Milred Merkel, 20, told police that she struck her 2-year-old son on the head with an iron stove poker because the child soiled his panties.

The child was dead when police took him to the county hospital. Mrs. Merkel first said the child, Claire, fell and hit her head on the bedroom door. She called the family doctor who summoned police. The mother admitted to acting police captain Thomas Sheridan that she struck her son with the stove poker.

Raise Ban on Razors

Washington, Jan. 4. (UP)—The War Production board today removed all restrictions on the manufacture of razors and razor blades, which were among the first items to feel the pinch of the war.

Production will be limited henceforth only by the amount of materials available, WPB said.

President Has Cold

Washington, Jan. 4. (UP)—President Roosevelt's regular Tuesday afternoon press and radio conference was cancelled today because of his cold.

JAPS LOSE TWO CRUISERS AND TWO DESTROYERS BY SINKINGS

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, Jan. 4. (UP)—A new Japanese attempt to reinforce their dwindling naval strength in the southwest Pacific has been smashed with the blasting of two cruisers and two destroyers at Kavieng by American carrier-based planes, it was revealed today.

Both cruisers were hit heavily and set afire by bombs and torpedoes, and one of the two destroyers also was damaged severely. The other destroyer was believed to have suffered minor damage.

The four warships probably were enroute from Truk, Japan's "Pearl Harbor," to help counter new American offensive blows that have included three amphibious landings in New Britain and New Guinea in 18 days.

American ground forces extended both of their main invasion beachheads. Sixth army forces on New Guinea securing their final objectives at Saidor, 55 miles southeast of Madang, and marines penetrating the New Britain jungles to a depth of four miles west of Cape Gloucester.

Kavieng, at the northern tip of New Ireland 150 miles above Rabaul, was attacked by dive and torpedo bombers from one of more American

aircraft carriers Saturday soon after the Japanese cruisers and destroyers had entered the harbor.

One cruiser was hit with three bombs and at least one torpedo, and the second was hit by two bombs and a torpedo. Both were left blazing fiercely. One of the two destroyers was hit by a 1,000-pound bomb, but damage to the other was not detailed.

Thirty enemy fighters attempted to intercept the raiders, and 11 to 15 to the Japanese planes were shot down. A Japanese bomber and fighter on reconnaissance were shot down by the carrier task force later.

Land-based medium bombers followed up the daylight attack with a night raid on Kavieng that touched off explosions and fires at the airfield, dispersal, and supply areas.

Four-engine Liberators raided Lakunai airfield, Rabaul, starting fires, and with their escorting fighters shot down 18 out of 80 enemy fighters which sought ineffectively to break up the allied formations.

Other heavy and attack planes supported Sixth army elements which captured Saidor, Japanese base on New Guinea Sunday by dropping 126 tons of bombs on enemy coastal installations on either side of the American beachhead. Here, too, fires were started.

MRS. EDGAR HOWARD DIES

Columbus, Nebr., Jan. 4. (UP)—Mrs. Edgar Howard, wife of the editor of the Columbus Telegram, died early today of heart complications resulting from flu and pneumonia contracted Christmas day.

Mrs. Howard, a resident of Columbus for more than 40 years, was born at Bellevue, Nebraska.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, two daughters, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson. Funeral services will be held Friday.

Post-Nuptial Shower

Sunday afternoon a post-nuptial shower honoring Mrs. Ellis Schlichtemeier was held at the home of Miss Virginia Trively.

Prize winners in contests were Mrs. Thomas Grosshans, Mrs. Charles Walden and Mrs. Ellis Schlichtemeier. After the games the bride opened the presents found beneath the Christmas tree.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Ed Trively and Virginia to bring to a conclusion a delightful afternoon.

Called to New Post

Major Raymond J. Larson, Camp Carson, Colorado, who has been the provost marshal of the camp, has been given a new assignment by the government. He was called to Denver on Tuesday, December 28th, and will serve as the liaison officer for the Denver and Rio Grande railroad under the government supervision.

Elect Trustees

The annual election of the trustees for the Holy Rosary church was held Sunday, January 2, 1944. The selection was made by ballot, the following being elected: Frank Prohaska, Fred Uhlir. The number of votes received by each candidate will be announced during the service next Sunday, January 9th.

Hearing on Claims

In the county court on Monday Judge Paul E. Fauquet was engaged in hearing claims in the estate of Isabel Wiles, deceased. The hearing required the great part of the day.

Aleutian Based Planes In Mission Over Kurile Isles

Strike at Japanese Naval Base at Paramushiru, 1,300 Miles North of Mainland

Headquarters, 11th U. S. Air Forces, Alaska, Jan. 4. (UP)—Aleutian-based army planes, in the first army combat mission against the Kurile Islands since last Sept. 11, struck at Japan's big naval base at Paramushiru, 1,300 miles northeast of Takho, and Shimshu on Dec. 31.

The 11th air force announced the raid was carried out by four army Catalina flying boats. It was the first disclosure of a raid on the twin Japanese bases.

(A navy communique issued at Washington said "On Dec. 31, a group of army bombers bombed Paramushiru. Results were not observed. All our planes returned safely.")

The raid, the first in which the army had sent Catalinas against the Kurile Islands, brought the bombers over their targets around midnight.

Erratic anti-aircraft fire burst around the planes as the bombardiers made runs on the army staging area at Paramushiru and on naval installations on Shimshu Island, just across a narrow strait.

One Japanese night fighter, the first reported in north Pacific action, challenged the four Catalinas, but failed to inflict any damage.

Home From Michigan

Pvt. Raphael Toman, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Toman, of this city, arrived home Sunday evening via Omaha, to spend the week here with his parents and many old time friends. Pvt. Toman is taking engineering work at the Michigan State Teachers college at Lansing, Mich. Pvt. Toman when called into service from the University of Nebraska, was first assigned to the medical training detachment at Camp Grant, Illinois, later going to the special training course at the Michigan school.

Scout News

Boy Scout Troop No. 367 met last night at 7:30 P. M. There were nine scouts and the scoutmaster present. We said the twelve scout laws, and tied some scout knots. We then played games until about 10:00 P. M., and went home.

Next week we are going to commence using our new routine schedule plan. This plan means that our meeting will be run according to the time of the evening. We will do one scheduled thing at a time, and when that time is up, we will do something else.

Bernard Dow, Scribe

Priest to Secure Horse

Father J. R. Sinkula is planning on doing his visiting and business trips to the business section of the city, via horseback in the future, he states to the Journal. He has communicated with Bing Crosby noted radio and stage star, also Hollywood race horse owner. Mr. Crosby has offered to donate to the priest one of his trotters, so be prepared for the sight of the minister astride one of the California horses.

Have Family Party

The home of Mr. and Mrs. William Kief, in the south part of the city, has been the scene of a very pleasant family gathering that has terminated with the New Year. Mrs. Leona Noell, of Holton, Kansas, Pvt. Edgar Kief, now located in the armed service in Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. James Huddleston and daughter, and Amelia Kief, of Omaha, were here for the occasion.

An Appreciation

I wish to thank the kind neighbors, friends and relatives for the many cards, letters, flowers and calls during my stay at the hospital. These are the things that helped to make my recovery so soon.

Mrs. Raymond Halth

Returning to Nebraska

First Lieutenant James F. Begley, who has been in the armed service at Fort Knox, Kentucky, states in a letter that Mrs. Begley who has been with him at the army post, is expecting to return to Nebraska. Lieutenant Begley is with the U. S. air corps.

Old Friends Meet

The Louisville Courier of the past week has a very interesting letter that was written by Sgt. Paul Ingram, of Louisville, to his sister, Mrs. Gail Meisinger. Because of its local interest and the fact that Paul Barker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Barker of this city is a participant, the Journal reprints the letter. Dear Sis:

Congratulations on that girl of yours. She will no doubt be old enough for school by the time I get around to seeing her but you can't tell about that either, you will have to send me some snapshots of her later on. How is Dad standing up under the strain of being a Grand-pap. I can see that she can scarcely help being spoiled. I imagine Myrna is quite thrilled.

I have just returned from a leave. I met Paul Barker in a town about half way between our camps and we had a two day bull session. We had Thanksgiving dinner together in one of the Red Cross clubs over here and all in all I enjoyed my leave immensely. We visited Stratford-on-Avon, and saw Shakespeare's home, Ann Hathaway's cottage and many other spots of historic interest there. It most certainly is a quaint old town. We saw letters dated 1465, some time before America was even discovered. The house where he was born was just as it had been when he was living there. The old boy who took us through explained his various plays and why, it was believed, he had written them, where he had gotten his base for the plays, etc.

A girl from Michigan, with the Red Cross in London, accompanied us on our tour and it was worth the time we spent just watching her. She simply beamed about everything. Barker and I are planning on another leave in January if it is possible. We intend to spend it in Glasgow and Edinburgh. We would like to include Group and Kahler if either of them can get away. I don't know where Group is as yet, but he may be quite near me. I wish Mom would send me his address.

Barker has been over here over a year now. He came over a private and is a S/Sgt. now.

Well so long for now.
Love,
PAUL

Aged Lady Quite Ill

The condition of Mrs. Mary Wolff, 87, of Cedar Creek, is reported as very grave at this time, the patient suffering from an attack of pneumonia that has made the outcome of her case a matter of grave doubt. The members of the family from Omaha, Glenwood and this city have been at the bedside of the mother. Monsignor George Agius of this city was at Cedar Creek today to give the last sacraments of the Catholic church.

Taken to Hospital

William Eastridge, of Murray, this morning was the victim of an auto accident south of this city, near the Naeve cafe, on highway No. 75. The car that Mr. Eastridge was driving, was overturned on the slick road and he was apparently greatly shocked and possibly suffered other injuries. The man was given first aid by Dr. R. P. Westover, and at once taken in the Caldwell ambulance to the Methodist hospital in Omaha for treatment.

Secure a Divorce

Judge W. W. Wilson wound up the year 1943 at Nebraska City by granting a divorce asked by Frank B. Furlong, Auburn, U. S. Engineers employ, from Mildred Furlong, of Omaha. The parties were married at Plattsmouth, April 8, 1938 and separated on April 5, 1943. The age of Furlong is given at 41 and the wife as 31.

Road Condition Bad

This morning Sheriff Joe Mrasek was called out to highway No. 75 to investigate a small wreck that occurred when the slick road conditions caused the small truck used in delivering, operated by Everett Elliott of Auburn, ran into the rear of the truck of the L. A. Seefus truck driven by Donald Harry Wissink, of Nebrasak City.

Lincoln Guests Here

Prof. and Mrs. Oscar Bennett of Lincoln, were guests here Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. Porter Bennett. Prof. Bennett is a member of the faculty of the Wesleyan university.

ALLIED AIR FORCES IN HEAVY ATTACKS IN ITALY

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Jan. 4. (UP)—Mediterranean-based allied bombing fleets swung back to the attack yesterday with a series of smashing daylight blows against axis targets from Yugo Slavia to the industrial heart of Italy, while British Eighth army forces ripped deeper into the German winter line along the Adriatic coast, a communique announced today.

Powerful formations of Flying Fortresses spearheaded the blazing aerial offensive, striking a terrible blow at the great Villar Perosa Ball-bearing Works in the Turin area and the rail yards at Turin itself.

In the first major blow by the U. S. 15th air forces-heaviest since the Dec. 20th attack on Sofia—two waves of Fortresses blanketed the Villar

Perosa plant with bomb bursts while a smaller raiding force knocked out, at least temporarily, the key railroad lines radiating out of Turin.

Simultaneously American Mitchell bombers and RAF Baltimores lashed across the Adriatic to bomb and burn dock yards and rail installations in the Yugo Slav ports of Split and Sibenik. The Mitchells swept on 100 miles inland from Split and hammered German troop concentrations massing in the Prijedor area.

Hard hitting attack bombers and fighter bombers lashed out against German truck convoys and supply trains still stalled in the snowbound mountain passes behind the central fighting front, and other raiding formations struck above Rome at the port of Civitavecchia.

Americans Blast Marshalls

Washington, Jan. 4. (UP)—Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said today that American airmen are continuing to "soften up" the Marshall Islands, indicating that preparations are being made for invasion of those Japanese held islands.

He also told news men that the enemy has been strictly on the defensive throughout the South Pacific areas. The Japanese air arm he added, seems particularly weak and "such action as it has taken has been defensive."

It was the first time that Knox has used the phrase "soften up" in connection with the sustained aerial blows against the enemy's bases in the Marshalls—a phrase usually connected with pre-invasion operations. "We've put the enemy on the defensive throughout the region" Knox said.

"American plane losses have been very slight," he said.

Conventions at Chicago

Chicago, Jan. 4. (UP)—Business and political leaders met today to formulate plans for bringing both the republican and democratic national conventions to Chicago.

Civic leaders said they would form a committee to raise \$150,000 to back the city's bid, \$75,000 for each convention. Officials of the Chicago Association of Commerce said the committee must act speedily because the national republican committee meets here Monday to select a convention site.

The democratic national committee will select a site at its annual meeting at Washington, Jan. 21.

Buy War Stamps and Bonds

No Statement on Polish Relations

Washington, Jan. 4. (UP)—Secretary of State Cordell Hull said today in response to news conference questions there is nothing new that can be said about the Polish-Russian situation now that red troops have driven across the border into Old Poland.

He said, however, that he is giving careful attention, at such times and to such an extent as is feasible and practical, to all matters arising in connection with the allies. Such a study, he said, is being made in the friendliest spirit.

Hull referred to the Polish Embassy here or to the Polish government in London questions as to the possibility that Poles might offer resistance to Russian troops.

Polish ambassador Jan Ciechanowski conferred earlier with Hull. The ambassador did not discuss the nature of the conference afterward, but said his talk with Hull had been satisfactory.

Announce Red Victory

London, Jan. 4. (UP)—Premier Josef Stalin announced in an order of the day today that the red army has captured the Ukrainian highway junction of Belaya Tserkov, 50 miles south of Kiev.

Capture of the junction town, which had been virtually encircled for some time by the southern wing of General Nikolai Vatutin's first Ukrainian army, posed a new threat to German railway lines inside the Dnieper bend.

The town lies astride the north-south railway line linking Germany's armies in the bend.

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT, WITH A NEW SUIT OR OVERCOAT

YOU CAN BUY ONE NOW TO BETTER ADVANTAGE THAN YOU PROBABLY CAN ANY OTHER MONTH THIS YEAR.

SUITS \$25 to \$37

OVERCOATS \$20 to \$30

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO LOOK

Wescott's