

The War In Review

Moscow, April 20. (UP)—Russian armies have ripped into the interior defenses of Sevastopol and today were reported battling on the same line where the soviet garrison made its mighty stand in the 250-day siege of 1941-42.

Front dispatches, referring to the "final hours" of the German and Romanian stand at Sevastopol said red air force planes pounding the Crimean bastion sank 12 ground-sized ships in the harbor within 24 hours.

Massed Russian assault planes were reported laying a "carpet of bombs" on Sevastopol and its Black sea approaches, ranging as far westward as the Romanian coast to shatter the axis evacuation fleet.

Allied Southeast Asia Headquarters, Ceylon, Apr. 20. (UP)—A powerful allied force of air craft carriers, battleships and supporting fleet units struck within 700 miles of Singapore at dawn yesterday to bomb and shell the Japanese air and naval base at Sabang, on the northern tip of Sumatra, it was disclosed today.

Striking across the Indian ocean for their first great counter blow against the western flank of Japanese southern empire, the allied little fleet caught the enemy definitely by surprise and blasted the base into a mass of wrecked planes and ruined fortifications.

At least 22 Japanese planes were caught aground and destroyed at Sabang airbase, and several others were wrecked in a supporting attack on the nearby Lho Nga airfield.

Moscow, April 21. (UP)—The German command hurled hordes of tanks and tens of thousands of infantry today against soviet forces massing in Estonia and Old Poland for spring and summer offensives. But the Russians held firm and were reported officially to be "slaughtering" the attackers.

The increasingly heavy German "preventive" attacks indicated that red armies may be preparing to strike next in the Narva sector of Estonia in the Baltic states and on the Stanislawow front in the Carpathians as soon as they complete the liberation of Sevastopol, last nazi toehold in the Crimea.

The German stand in Sevastopol, Russia's biggest naval base, was believed in its final hours as two Russian armies slowly pressed the domed garrison back through the streets of the city Soviet planes blockading the approaches to the port in 24 hours alone sank an enemy destroyer and four transports totalling 15,000 tons, some of them loaded to capacity with fleeing German and Romanian troops.

Allied Headquarters, Naples, Apr. 21. (UP)— Allied bombing fleets, spearheaded by American Flying Fortresses and Liberators, carried out a heavy bridge busting assault on the network of German operated railway lines in central and northern Italy, a communique announced today.

Fighting on the major ground fronts was again confined to patrol clashes and artillery and mortar exchanges, but reports of increasing German activity on the Anzio beachhead and in the Cassino sector suggested that the long stalemate may be nearing an end.

Nazi mortar and artillery fire was intensified in the Cassino area yesterday, and German engineers were reported working feverishly on the Anzio beachhead, sweeping up their own and allied mines on the right flank of the allied line. The allied aerial offensive against the German railroad supply system mounted in fury as Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker switched his heavy bomber formations back from the Balkans to Italian targets.

Allied Southeast Asia Headquarters, Ceylon, April 21. (UP)— Allied armored forces, counter attacking furiously in an effort to smash the siege of Imphal, have driven a Japanese invasion column into the hills 30 miles northeast of the city, a communique said today.

A number of enemy strong points in the hill area were captured by the attacking British yesterday and "our advance continues," the communique said.

The allied units apparently were striking over a hill trail linking Imphal with Ukhrul and the communique indicated they had penetrated to within about 10 miles of that town.

United Nations War Fleet Visits Japanese Holdings

Fleet and Air Forces Slip in the Rim of the Stolen Japanese Empire to Blast Foe

With Allied Fleet Off Sabang, April 22. (UP)—American, British, French and Dutch warships more than 25 strong, sliced into the rim of Japanese stolen empire today and devastated Sabang with a carrier-bomber aerial strike that was like swatting a mosquito with a baseball bat.

The United Nations forces, including a U. S. aircraft carrier, moved in under orders from Adm. Sir James Somerville to "catch them with their Komings up" and from the air arm wing commander to "go in and flatten them."

They carried out the assignment in a manner that caused Somerville to signal after it was all over: "Congratulations on a successful day. As far as I am concerned, this occasion is the first in which British and American naval air craft formed a single attacking force. May it prove the first of many."

An American officer who cannot be identified replied: "Yours much appreciated. Also hope this is beginning of similar joint operations."

The attack on the Japanese outpost at the tip of Sumatra on the road to Singapore may have been aimed at cutting the enemy fleet into combat. But it did not stir.

Two striking forces threw their aerial weight at Sabang and the Lho Nga base across the straits on the Sumatra mainland from two directions.

Caught flatfooted, the Japanese opened their anti-aircraft barrage late. The allied planes, meanwhile, were swarming in to knock out the Sabang radio station, smash a power station, coaling wharf, barracks and radio station, rake its ships in the harbor with gunfire, and set fire to two destroyers.

Fifteen parked planes were wrecked, and three destroyers at another field. Bombed fuel tanks caught fire and smoke rose 7,000 feet.

Discuss New Taxes

Washington, April 22. (UP)—A new schedule of withholding taxes, slightly higher than present payroll deductions and designed to cover the full tax liability of some 30,000,000 taxpayers earning up to \$5,000 annually, was reported to be ready today for House Ways and Means committee action.

The committee previously announced its plans to incorporate all taxes for most taxpayers under the withholding principle, thus simplifying present procedures and eliminating the need for filing returns. The new schedule, drawn up by committee tax experts, gave the specific amounts of the proposed new withholding levy.

Under it, a single person earning \$30 a week would have \$4.10 in withholding tax deducted from his pay, whereas a married man with one child would miss only 50 cents from his paycheck at the same salary level.

A single person earning \$50 a week would have \$8.20 deducted, while a married man with one child earning the same amount would have \$4.40 taken out of his check.

Other proposed deductions are in proportion. A single person earning \$100 a week would pay \$19.90 of it in withholding taxes, while a married man with or without children would suffer no deduction if he earned \$12 a week or less.

The schedule, if adopted, would go into effect next Jan. 1 and apply to salaries received in 1945. Withholding taxes now in force would remain effective throughout the remainder of 1944.

JENSEN LOSES TWO VOTES

The Cass county canvassing board this afternoon completed their check of the vote cast at the democratic primary, the result being that Jensen, who had asked the recount, lost two votes. The vote here as checked Mable Gillespie, 428; Jensen, 179, and Shallcross, 125. In Otoe county there was no change reported and the vote remained as at the unofficial vote.

Has War Souvenir

Hollywood, April 21. (UP)—Ann Sheridan had a souvenir from the Italian war front today. Capt. Richard McCauley, former screen writer sent the actress a pin-up picture of herself, punctured by several pieces of shrapnel, taken from an Italian palacio converted to a barracks by

Dog Gives Alarm

The W. F. Evers family have a small pup, a household pet, that now has a very important place in the family circle, due to the alertness of the little dog.

Wednesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Evers were at Lincoln, their daughter, Mary, had invited Dorothy Wurga and Darlene White to spend the night at the Evers residence near the Masonic Home. The girls had retired and were awakened a short time later by the barking of the pup and the light was turned on by Mary Evers, disclosing in the kitchen a strange man, attired in a green sweater and rough clothing, while his face was not seen, his hands were dark and swarthy. The girls were badly frightened but were able to connect with the infirmity house phone and Mrs. Hansen, the head nurse came over to the Evers home and while she was entering the home the man escaped through the cellar. The only thing disturbed was a number of loaves of bread that the girls had arranged for breakfast, these being eaten by the unwelcome caller.

Last evening while Mrs. Evers and daughter were at home, they were again aroused by the pup and Mrs. Evers turning on the light revealed a man standing in the yard. Mrs. Evers reached the telephone and called Sheriff Joe Mrasek, who, with Deputy Sheriff Doody were out on the scene of action in a few moments.

The officers patrolled in that part of town for several hours and finally ran onto a stranger that was sleeping at the Missouri Pacific station. The man resembled the description of the man seen at the Evers home, but the identification was not sufficient to hold him.

Washington Report By Howard Buffett

During war, members of congress must make a choice. By declaring that war is purely military they can disclaim any responsibility for the conduct of the Army and Navy. They can say that Congress must give these departments unlimited power until the war is over.

The foregoing is the easy way out. In my judgment it is a dangerous mistake. The other choice is to take the position that congress should study and review carefully the operation of the two military departments within the limits of security. Proceeding along that line, however, brings slurs and mudslinging at the law-makers.

The tricky maneuvering and skulduggery that the Army and Navy sometimes resort to is disgusting in many instances. A few weeks ago the Navy came before the Naval Affairs Appropriations committee for their annual appropriation. During the past twelve months this country has appropriated for its Navy alone slightly under 28 billion dollars. This is some billions more than Great Britain is spending on all phases of the war.

Included in the new request was a large sum for new airport facilities. Thinking of the taxpayers, members of the committee thought that the Army had airports which could be turned over to the Navy. They asked for a list of abandoned airports. The Army replied that they had abandoned no airports.

Knowing that airports had been abandoned, the committee pressed the inquiry. Then the Army admitted they had shifted a number of airports to "stand-by" status. This "brush-off" and "runaround" of congressional inquiries by misleading technical answers is a regular administrative trick.

Among the airports changed to "stand-by" status were those at Ainsworth and Scribner, Neb. The airports were only recently completed, and how many months they were used is probably a military secret. But the taxpayer will be paying for them 50 years from now.

On the Ainsworth airport, I am told, the Army paid \$114,271 for the land, \$4,314,250 for the improvements, or a total of \$5,028,521. At the Scribner airport the land cost reported to me was \$221,591, and the improvement cost \$6,151,867. War is wasteful, and necessarily so. But somewhere, somehow, and sometime, congress must put the brakes on.

soldiers at Salerno. "It was the first thing I saw after we landed," McCauley wrote. "It made me plenty homesick."

Pacific Warfare Just Getting Into Real Action

Eastern Manager of the United Press Tells of the Situation in the Pacific Warfare

Editor's Note: Military and political leaders believe the United Nations have just begun to fight the Pacific war and that it will be a long, hard pull to victory, the far eastern manager of the United Press, who has just arrived in New York from China, Burma, and India reports. He gives their views in the following dispatch:

By John R. Morris—The United Nations have not yet really begun to fight their war against Japan in the opinion of most allied leaders on the Asiatic fronts.

The peoples of the United Nations, except the Chinese, still have no clear conception of what they are up against in Asia, most of these leaders believe, and they see an urgent need that the whole far eastern situation be brought into focus so that Americans and Britons, particularly, may gird themselves for the struggle ahead.

The following composite opinions, obtained by this correspondent from military, political, and diplomatic figures on all the Asiatic fronts and from conversations with scores of persons who have long experience in the Far East, will give a general idea of the immediate outlook:

1. The defeat of Japan will require from three to five years more fighting after Germany has been crushed. There is no short cut to victory over the Japanese. The Japanese people are utterly subservient to their military masters headed by Premier Gen. Hedeki Tojo. They will surrender only after their military machine has been crushed, and that will disintegrate only after the imperial army has been smashed on land.

2. The problem of establishing a stable peace, once Japan has been defeated, will tax allied statesmanship to the utmost. There is no aspect of this problem, however, so far as allied leaders in Asia now can be foreseen, that is insoluble. A successful pattern of allied collaboration in Europe, following the defeat of Germany, should mean an equally successful pattern in Asia.

3. The present Japanese drive into India is spectacular but of only limited importance. Should the Japanese succeed in capturing Imphal and in seizing the supply line from India proper to British and American forces in northern Burma, the result would be a local defeat, but it would not greatly affect the final outcome of the war. That outcome—the defeat of Japanese militarism—is certain because of eventual allied superiority in every category of warfare—on land, sea, and in the air.

4. The United States will be the dominant power in the Pacific ocean after Japan's defeat. It is taken for granted that the United States will retain permanent control over so-called Japanese mandated islands which U. S. amphibious forces now are conquering. In addition, some observers would not be surprised to see the United States take the Bonin islands, which lie midway between the Marianas and Tokyo.

5. China will share leadership in Asia with Russia and Britain. A restoration of British power in Burma, Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong, and Dutch leadership in the Netherlands East Indies, is considered certain. Russia probably will expect a restoration of at least some of her former rights in north Manchuria, including transit over the old Chinese eastern railway, which furnishes a short cut for rail traffic from Moscow to Vladivostok. Japan will be reduced to the status of a third class power.

The prediction that the Japanese army can hold out for three years or more after Germany is defeated is based largely on information that the Japanese war lords have built up extensive war industries, and very powerful military bases, on the Asiatic mainland.

The Japanese army has been carrying forward the industrialization of Manchuria (Manchukuo) for more than 10 years. Virtually everything needed by a modern army now can be produced in Manchurian factories. In addition, there is considerable production in conquered areas—Shanghai, Hong Kong, Manila, Soerabaya, and Singapore.

Clear-cut allied naval and air superiority, most far eastern observers agree, will not be enough to force a Japanese military collapse. Even if Japan's main island, Honshu, with the industrial areas

around Tokyo-Yokohama, Nagoya, and Osaka-Kobe, could be bombed to rubble, the Japanese army still could hold out for a long time from its bases on the Asiatic mainland.

There is no tendency to minimize the importance of American naval victories in the western Pacific, and it is taken for granted that more of these victories will be forthcoming in the near future. Manila, Singapore, and Soerabaya well may be recaptured within the next 18 months. But the establishment of a strong allied base in China, which is considered a prerequisite for the real opening of the war of annihilation against the Japanese army, is another matter—one that will entail a head-on collision with the main body of the Japanese army—an army that already numbers millions of seasoned veterans.

Proof of the toughness of the Japanese land forces is to be had from the present operations around Imphal. The Japanese probably are using not more than 30,000 men in this drive, and the allies have almost complete control of the air. The Japanese supply line, largely over jungle roads some of which are little better than trails, is even more difficult than that of the British which includes a railway. Yet the Japanese were able to stage a powerful attack and even to threaten the Manipur capital.

Yet, when I left India a week ago to fly back to the United States, there was no fear that allied control of any major part of the great sub-continent was in danger. The belief was that the Japanese simply were attempting a strong thrust to counter operations of British and American forces in north Burma where forces under Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell were threatening the Japanese base at Myitkina. All these operations are likely to stop within a fortnight or so when the monsoon rains will turn the whole country into a quagmire.

La Platte School Notes

Dora Trively and Neil Lancaster, Teachers

During the eighth month of school which ended April 14, the following students had perfect attendance. Joan and Gail Iske, Gilbert Edmonds, Fred Hyda, John and Albert Taylor, Albert Burton, Johnny Liddish, John Porter, Shirley and Donna Prangley and Donna Lou Skelton. The Seventh and Eighth graders were in Bellevue Friday, April 4, to take the state examinations.

Opens Eating House

Ray F. Becker, of Union, was in the city Friday to look after some matters of business for a short time and calling on his friends in this city. Mr. Becker has embarked in the restaurant business at Union, purchasing the Day and Night cafe and is enjoying a rushing business.

Mrs. Becker is assisting in the restaurant with Margaret Hunt, of Nebraska City, serving as the waitress while Mrs. Becker also assists in the kitchen a part of the time with Charlotte Shoemaker, of Nebraska City, serving as the cook.

The Day and Night has been a very busy place with a great many train crews on the Missouri Pacific to serve as well as service men that pass through the railroad junction at Union.

Mrs. Dasher Ill

Mrs. William Dasher, residing in the south part of the city, is quite ill at her home and has been bedfast for the greater part of the time for the past two weeks. Mrs. Dasher is one of the well known members of the Degree of Honor lodge.

Stassen Rescued

Madison, Wis., Apr. 21. (UP)—The rescue of Lt. Cmdr. Harold E. Stassen, former governor of Minnesota and republican presidential possibility, from a stalled patrol boat in the south Pacific was disclosed today in a letter from a sailor aboard a submarine chaser.

The incident was reported by William Barrett, 22, sound mechanic second class, aboard the sub-chaser, in a letter to his sister, Mrs. Harriet Bartholomew.

Barrett, who has been in the navy for the last two years, said his ship was out on patrol when a small boat was seen stalled near an island.

"We picked up the passengers," he wrote, "and one of them identified himself as Stassen."

"Maybe," he commented, "we just picked up the next president of the United States."

The letter was received by Mrs. Bartholomew Feb. 17. Mrs. Stassen said at her home in south St. Paul, Minn., that her husband had not told her of the incident.



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"I am the Nurse"

I am the nurse. I walk with him in his world of pain. He is the warrior become a boy again. Returned to us in the backwash of war. By God, given back to us, to make whole. I am the nurse. But I am so few and he is legion! Women, mothers of men, stand with me in the dark of night and listen. Do you hear the murmur of a million lips?

Do you hear... the call for help, rising in pitch Above the death-bell of cannon... Calling from the heavens, through the whine of crushed wings... Bubbling through the ocean's swell... touching at every shore? Yes, you hear it... the call of hurt. You are a woman and hearing you must heed. When his teeth are clenched in pain... upon a woman's name... Mine is the hand that soothes.

When his eyes are set upon a woman's face cherished image plucked through space, Mine are the words that calm. I am the nurse, Stricken in heart with the single tear That against the growing need, my numbers cannot prevail. For I am so few and he is legion who asks our aid. Add your hands to mine women, mothers of men, Let I be too few, lest victory hang like a mocking mask Upon our Nation's honor!

FRED METHOT

U. S. ARMY NURSE CORPS

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