Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

Not War—Only Defeat—Destroys the Freedom Of Men And The Privileges Of Democracy

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ *Final*

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LAVAL RETURNS TO POWER IN FRANCE

U. S. FORCE HOLDS JAPS AT BAY ON CEBU

Foe Unable To Smash Inland From Coast Area

Defenders Face Great Odds

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Fighting against huge odds, a beleaguered force of American-Filipino troops was reported today to be holding the Japanese at bay on the south-central Philippine island of Cebu.

Despite the weight of numbers and the crushing force of tanks and dive bombers supporting their drive, the enemy apparently had been unable to push their way inland from the coastal area which they seized with landings at several ports last Friday.

The fate of the Cebu defenders had been a matter of gloomy speculation since communications between the island and Corregidor Fortress were disrupted more than three days ago but the re-establishment of communications and reports of stubborn resistance to the invaders were disclosed in a communique this morning.

12,000 JAPS IN FORCE

The enemy force thrusting into Cebu, 300 miles south of Corregidor, since last Friday was estimated at 12,000. They came ashore under the covering fire of warships one of which—a large cruiser—was sunk by a small torpedo boat of the defending forces.

The communique reported also that sharp skirmishes with the enemy were continuing in the Digos area of Mindanao, southernmost of the large Philippine islands, where sudden, savage raids by guerrilla bands have destroyed huge stores of Japanese supplies and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

Corregidor and the other fortified islands of Manila Bay were reported still under heavy artillery fire from enemy batteries on both sides of the bay, but the forts still were replying with counter-fire. Some casualties were suffered by the Corregidor garrison in four raids by flights of Japanese heavy bombers today. Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright reported to the War Department, but the damage to military installations was slight.

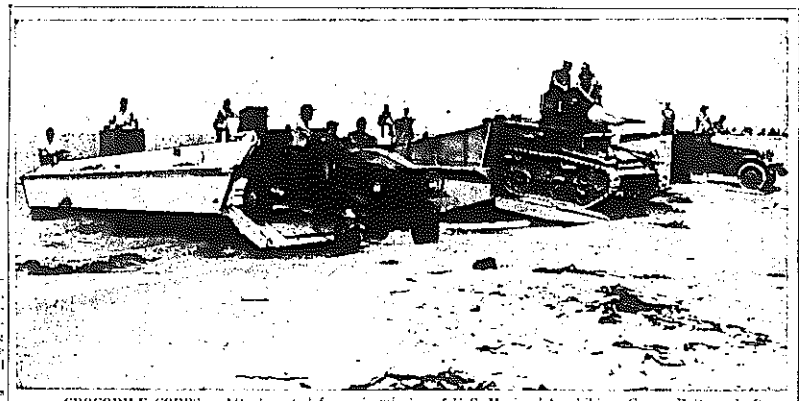
There was still no official word of the fate of the American-Filipino forces in Bataan Peninsula, where the Japanese claim to have captured 40,000 troops, including high ranking American officers.

MAY STORM FORT

An imminent Japanese attempt to storm Corregidor by night from barges was indicated in dispatches from the fortress.

In the last 24 hours Corregidor's guns were reported officially to have sunk a medium-sized Japanese vessel off the Bataan coast, hit two Japanese tank and truck columns operating on the penin-

See U. S. FORCES on page 2



CROCODILE CORPS — Attack, not defense, is mission of U. S. Marines' Amphibious Corps. Patterned after British Commandos, Amphibious Corps likes its fighting tough, its attacks swift and deadly. Here Leathernecks race tank, truck, scout car from "crocodile boats" the instant craft grinds onto sand of Louisiana's Lake Pontchartrain.

Current Days Are Cinch Compared to Civil War

TOLIVAR, N. Y.—(AP)—Mrs. Mary T. Bliss, observing her 100th birthday anniversary this day, chides those who complain of commodity shortages and rationing.

Comparing current war difficulties with hardships after the Civil War, Mrs. Bliss said "those who claim they are making so many sacrifices today would have had something to really complain about then."

Japs Hold U. S. Troops

Say 15 Generals Among Captives

TOKYO (From Japanese Broadcasts) —(AP)— An Imperial Headquarters communique declared today that Japanese forces had captured 40,000 prisoners, including fifteen generals from the beginning of the Bataan offensive up to last Sunday.

Of these, it said 6,700 were United States (as distinguished from native Filipino) troops.

Among the generals it mentioned:

Major General Edward P. King Jr., identified as commander of United States forces in the peninsula. Major General Albert M. Jones, designated as commander of the First Army Corps. Major General George M. Parker Jr., Second Army Corps, and Major General Francisco, who was described as commander of the Filipino forces.

The communique listed as booty 196 guns including heavy artillery, 320 machine-guns, 800 automatic rifles, 10,000 rifles, 174 tanks and armored cars, 220 cars and other arms and munitions.

14 Belgians Given Death

LONDON —(AP)— Evidence that British broadcasts are arousing the inhabitants of Nazi-occupied countries against the German occupation forces was given today in an Exchange Telegraph report from Stockholm that a German court at Ghent had sentenced fourteen Belgians to death on charges of murder, sabotage, possession of weapons, communist activity and anti-German propaganda.

The court, said the agency, decided that the accused were "in a high degree influenced by broadcasts from Britain" and imposed the sentences as an example to others who listen to the British radio's hints for secret work against Germany.

New Field Secretary

HICKORY —(AP)— Zeb B. Trexler of Concord, president of the State Lutheran Brotherhood, will become field secretary of Lenoir Rhyne College May 1.

Hear Nazis Fear European Invasion

Berlin Believed To Have Jitters About Allied Attack

LONDON—(AP)—Reports reaching London from neutral capitals today indicated the German High Command was prepared to an impending invasion of Europe by Allied forces and afraid that the attack would come at a place where it was not expected.

The well-publicized visit of Gen. George C. Marshall, U. S. Army Chief of Staff, and Harry Hopkins, adviser to President Roosevelt, has given Berlin an advanced case of jitters which was being answered by statements of bravado, these reports showed.

The Berlin correspondent of the Stockholm Demokraten reported a German High Command spokesman as saying:

"We are expecting an invasion at any time. Let them try it. We are ready."

The correspondent of the Geneva paper La Suisse reported there was "open talk" in Germany about possible British military action in Western Europe.

ITALIAN REPORT

A similar report was heard over the Rome radio last night when the Italians said that Italy already was prepared, and that Canadian troops had been assigned to spearhead the drive, London sources said, however. It was obvious that the Italians had no factual basis for the announcement.

If the Axis is afraid that the Italian peninsula offers a real avenue for an Allied invasion, it is likely that coastal defenses are being thrown up with the same desperate haste that has

See HEAR NAZIS on page 2

Uphill Fight Made By Cebu Defenders

By CLARK LEE

MELBOURNE —(AP)— The American-Filipino defenders of Cebu apparently have fought stiffly against the Japanese landing on the island but they were never regarded as having had a chance to make more than a few days' stand.

All the odds favored the invaders of that Philippine Eden.

NO EQUIPMENT

Colonel Irvine C. Scudder's men were virtually all native Cebuanos who undoubtedly have fought well to defend their homeland but they had no equipment.

I spent two weeks on Cebu in late February and early March, inspecting its defenses as Scudder's guest.

About 30,000 of the island's 1,000,000 populace had been called to service but probably no more than 1,500 had equipment, mostly Springfield or Enfield rifles.

Scudder had one .50 caliber machine-gun, a few of .30 caliber and no artillery or coastal guns.

Almost all of Cebu's coastline is low and sandy—perfect for landing operations—and no point is beyond range of naval guns on warships in the inland sea.

The Americans were manufacturing their own grenades of a potato-masher type, using explosives taken from mines which the Japanese scattered in the inland sea and Filipino fishermen brought ashore for a few pesos each. There were plenty of landing fields but no planes.

TAKE TO HILLS

After a heavy bombing of the waterfront in January and occasional warship shelling later, most of the inhabitants of Cebu City, the second largest in the Philippines, had taken to the hills.

Life was mostly normal, however, with movies, banks, some stores and restaurants open except during the likely mid-day bombing hours.

To us who had been on Bataan even its palm-lined main street looked like Fifth Avenue.

Some 60 Americans and British families were living in an evacuation camp in the mountains and others still were in their hillside homes.

But the rich, fertile island which resembles one vast garden offered few places of refuge for civilians or of the guerrilla warfare Scudder planned to wage.

Under General MacArthur's orders Cebu had been organized as an inter-island shipping center to get supplies to Corregidor and Bataan. MacArthur apparently believed if he could bring in a few ships safely, he could convince Washington of the possibility and advisability of a major effort to reinforce Bataan and hold the Philippines.

At least three ships made the trip successfully while the writer was in Cebu. Small inter-island vessels previously had made a few trips to Corregidor from Cebu with rice.

The Japanese discovered the blockade-running early in March and sent warships and planes into the inner Philippine waters where

See ISLE CAN'T on page 2

Smash 13 Jap Planes

RAF Hits Isles While Yanks Score in Burma

NEW DELHI, India, —(AP)—American and British fliers have struck strong blows in the defense of India, threatened by a Japanese fleet of three battleships, five aircraft carriers and another warship in the Bay of Bengal, smashing thirteen big flying boats in the Andaman Islands and attacking an airdrome in Burma, it was announced today.

Thirteen flying boats used by the Japanese for long-range scouting patrol and bombing were sunk, set afire or damaged when the RAF struck 500 miles across the Bay of Bengal and found them anchored in the harbor at Port Blair in the Andamans, potential springboard for an Indian invasion the British said.

AMERICANS STRIKE

Another communique said the Japanese lost seven aircraft when the indomitable American Volunteer Group fiercely attacked Japanese raiding an AVG airdrome in the northern Shan states in Burma at low level on Friday. Three more Japanese planes were said to have been destroyed by the AVG on Sunday at Toungoo.

At the same time the British announced for the first time in days extensive activity of their own aviation in Burma. They said a heavy attack was made by their Blenheim bombers on Japanese forces in a village north of Pyoneg on Sunday, and that their bombers were working in close support of British land forces.

The British troops in Burma under Lieutenant General Harold Alexander, which with Chinese forces under United States Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell, are fighting the battle for the land approaches to the Indian frontier, were still retreating, however.

Munitions Plants Being Erected in Australia

CANBERRA, Australia — (AP) — Herman J. M. Makin, Australian Munitions Minister, announced today that thirteen munitions factories had been established or were being erected in three states in Australia as part of a huge munitions decentralization scheme.

Six Soviet Divisions Reported in Big Attack

Battle Still In Progress

LONDON — (AP) — Exchange Telegraph said today the German radio had announced that six Soviet divisions, including a Siberian division and an entire division of tanks had launched an attack of extreme violence on the central Russian front and that the battle still was in progress.

The German broadcast was said to have acknowledged that the Russians dislocated Nazi lines at some points but to have claimed that the attack was stemmed and the attackers partly annihilated.

It said other Russian attacks also were made against Rumanian and Italian positions in the Donets Basin to the South.

Spring Thaws Hamper Military Operations

BERLIN (From German broadcasts) —(AP)— German forces have occupied a large number of localities on the central sector of the Russian front, the Nazi High Command communique said today.

The Berlin radio reported earlier that Spring thaws "seriously impeded military operations" on the Russian front.

Tank-supported Russian attacks were officially declared to have been beaten back at isolated points. The High Command said 175 of the Russians' tread - track vehicles had been put out of action in a four-day period ended April 13.

"In the northern sector an enemy battalion was encircled and annihilated," its communique declared.

Say 9,000 Nazis Slain On Leningrad Front

KUIBYSHEV, Russia —(AP)— Soviet forces have slain 9,000 Germans and destroyed 76 tanks on the Leningrad front from April 1 to 10 and broken fresh holds upon Nazi sea and air strength, the Russians said today.

Recapture of a "locality of great importance on the northwestern front" and occupation of some additional communities were announced without detail in a communique broadcast by the Moscow radio.

STRONGHOLD SEIZED

Another communique said a Kalinin front stronghold was seized by the Russians in fighting which cost the Germans 900 killed, eight field guns, fifteen machine-guns, a mortar battery, two tanks and eight pillboxes.

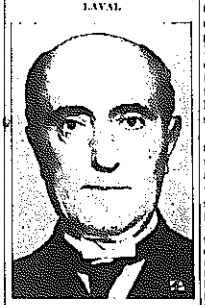
Red Army men operating behind German lines on the central front wiped out more than 200 of the invaders in a day, it was said.

A German transport was reported sunk in the Barents Sea Sunday.

Cut Indian Gas Ration

NEW DELHI —(AP)— India's basic gasoline ration, which permits fuel for 100 miles of driving a month, was reduced one-third effective May 1 by Government order today.

LAVAL



DARLAN

French Move Hurts U. S.

Rise of Laval Offers Menace

By ROY PORTER

NEW YORK—(AP)—Old Marshal Petain has been forced to give in to German pressure, Pierre Laval has come back after a sixteen-month vacation as contact man No. 1 with the Nazis and the United Nations' diplomatic and food offensive, conducted by the United States, has failed.

These are the immediate results of today's developments in Vichy where the first steps toward Government reorganization have been taken and where the Riom trial of five former French leaders, never charged with anything more than having laid down on the job has been shifted, to suit the purposes of German propaganda, to an inquiry into "who caused France to go to war with Germany."

All three of these results are dangerous to the United States—and the United Nations—in their war against the Axis.

Petain's capitulation means that only ten days before his 86th birthday the only living marshal of France had to turn his back on his closest foreign diplomatic adviser — United States Ambassador Admiral William D. Leahy — and agree, in principle at least, to heightened collaboration with his country's German military conquerors.

BRITISH IN COLD

Laval's return to the Cabinet—in what position is not yet known—means that France's first and foremost proponent of "friendship" with Germany and Italy is again sitting in the driver's seat of the collaboration vehicle. It also means that our British Allies, for whom Laval has such a deep, intensified, genuine hatred that he

See FRENCH MOVE on page 2

Place Made For Friend Of Nazis in Government

Fleet May Go To Germans

By TAYLOR HENRY

VICHY — (AP) — The Petain Government, which once ousted Pierre Laval, made a place today for the return of France's leading exponent of collaboration and, at the same time, suspended the Riom trials of France's Republican leaders, to which Hitler himself had objected.

Marshal Petain, it was announced, decided to form a new government with Laval and Admiral Jean Darlan who has been Vice-Premier since Laval's ouster from the position on Dec. 13, 1940.

The announcement said the three leaders met today and decided on "the constitution of a government established on new foundations." Their next meeting was set for Thursday when presumably, the places of Laval and Darlan will be allotted.

SUSPENSION DECREED

On the day that the Riom trial were to have resumed after the Easter recess, a special law decreed their indefinite suspension to permit broadening of the scope to include political as well as military "mistakes which led to war and defeat" for the Third Republic.

The immediate reaction in London was that the United Nations had suffered a diplomatic defeat in their attempt to sway France from collaboration with Germany.

Both Vichy Government decisions fitted into the Nazi scheme and the feeling was manifest in high diplomatic quarters in London that much stronger measures against Vichy are the only answer—probably including a tight blockade and new strength for General Charles De Gaulle's Free French.

Some sources reported that within both Darlan and Laval in the French Cabinet, Germany stand-

See LAVAL on page 2

Score Hits on Axis Column

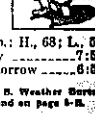
CAIRO —(AP)—British headquarters said today their patrols apparently scored direct hits on columns of Axis tanks, armored cars and artillery yesterday on the Libyan desert.

The headquarters communique said British columns and fighting patrols were especially active yesterday in the northern sector despite dust-obscured visibility.

"Results were difficult to observe," it said, "but direct hits by our artillery are claimed on a column of enemy tanks, armored cars and artillery in the Temrad area.

Temrad is twelve miles south west of Gazala and about 60 miles across no-man's land from the main British positions at Tobruk.

WEATHER



Not much change in temperature tonight.

Today's Temp.: H., 68; L., 6[illegible]
Sunset Today ..... 7:[illegible]
Sunrise Tomorrow ..... 6:[illegible]

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 8-B.

Note To Readers

Dispatches from Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and other enemy sources are published by The News with the caution that they frequently contain false statements intended for propaganda purposes. This should be borne in mind by the reader when reading the stories credited to Axis sources.

Yank Pigboats Preying On Jap Lines Account For Many Vessels

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Preying on the enemy's vital supply lines ingenious as the peril, U. S. submarines, such as the Seawolf, have accounted for approximately one-fourth of all the 215 Japanese ships sunk or damaged by American action since the war began.

Naval observers here were quick to note that the new commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, was an old pigboat man, and that the increase of submarine successes has been mounting since he supplanted Admiral Husband E. Kimmel. The Japanese radio has been frequent to implied tribute to Nimitz's ability as an undersea raider.

TOKYO WARNINGS

On several occasions Tokyo has broadcast warnings of American submarines in Japanese waters and the possibility of raids on coastal areas.

The unofficial compilation on the total taken by American submarines was made after the Navy disclosed details of the Seawolf's highly succesful cruise. It showed that of 215 enemy vessels sunk, probably sunk or damaged submarines operating from the Indian Ocean to the very Japanese Coast have been credited with 36 sinkings, twelve probable sinkings and ten attacks which resulted in damage to the enemy.

The Seawolf's cruise in the Indian Ocean south of the Dutch

See U. S. SUBS on page 2

"Down Under" Doings

The Thick Red Earth Of Australia Gets In Reporter Lardner's Hair

By JOHN LARDNER
North American Newspaper Alliance

BRISBANE, Australia—(By wireless) — Your correspondent and three other involuntary bushwhackers sat in front of a tent at the edge of a new airport somewhere in the Australian jungle drinking a warm drink with salt tablets and waiting for a Dutch pilot to fly us to other scenes of action in this country.

While fortifying ourselves against excess sweat with tablets, we wondered why women henna their hair. All four of us were red-headed as we sat there, though only one was born that way and he was too young to know better at the time. Your correspondent now is competent to state that redheadedness is not enjoyable in the slightest degree, especially when it is superinduced by one-quarter-can of red dirt from some northern Australia road. A shower bath does no good because the minute you step outdoors you look like Mickey Rooney again.

Apart from our reluctant redheadedness we felt good after our inspection of the airport. That day revealed the extent to which help is arriving in Australia from the United States. The terrain bristled with gun emplacements and soldiers with the training to handle them. The gun crews seemed like kids on shipboard, performing boat drill, playing bandits in the moonlight and wondering what the future held for them. But here in the field they are cheerful, busy and veteran soldiers as far as work and purpose can make them so. Fighter

See DUST BOTHERS on page 3