

FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH HITLER IS BELIEVED TO BE NEAR

INTENSE BOMBINGS HINT LAND ACTION

Churchill And Montgomery Say Long-Awaited Blow Will Fall Shortly

LONDON, March 25—(AP)—Europe will be invaded from the west when Hitler's war machine has been "sufficiently reduced" to enable the Allies to "close for the kill," Capt. Harold H. Balfour, parliamentary undersecretary of state for air declared in an address at Ramsgate today.

Likening the air assault on Germany to the task of a picador in a bullfight preparing for the matador's kill, Balfour said: "We are now in the third phase of the war—the phase of attrition, the wearing down of the war power, actual and potential, of the enemy until the point is reached when our combined Allied air strength and the combined strength of our land forces will enable us to close for the kill, which will be the fourth and final phase. x x x

"We know the hour is approaching."

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
Associated Press War Analyst

If you'll draw a circle around the European war zone and then check off on its circumference the outstanding current events, you will find you have a diagram which emphasizes the big thing in the lives of all of us—that the final showdown with Hitler is near.

Prime Minister Churchill has told Yankee air-borne troops in England that they "soon" will have the opportunity of landing in Nazi occupied Europe. His voice registered emotion as he made the declaration.

Britain's famous Gen. Montgomery of desert fame, referring to the forthcoming invasion in a London speech, said: "We are preparing to take part in the biggest tug of war the world has ever seen . . . the promised land is not so far off now."

American and British bombers have reached an unprecedented pitch of offensive fury in preparation for the invasion. In one period of 36 hours this week they dumped over 7,000 tons of death and destruction on the enemy. This intensification presages land action.

America is pouring troops and equipment into England.

Whenever you look you find Hitler feverishly preparing for this last battle. All his operations are purely defensive, even where they are counter-blows.

Stockholm reports that the Nazis are assembling shipping and landing barges in East Prussian ports. This presumably is for protection of his Baltic flank, perhaps to occupy the Finnish Aland islands as defense against the Russian fleet, released when the siege of Leningrad was raised.

On the blazing Russian front there's an unusual circumstance which may be significant. Berlin has been announcing Red victories ahead of the Russians. Moscow frequently is slow in reporting her triumphs, but it's quite possible Hitler is giving advance notice as a cover while he deliberately pulls back his long, unwieldy line here and there—getting ready to retreat to a new front thru Poland.

Down in the Balkans the Fuehrer is rapidly extending operations for physical control not only of Hungary but of Rumania and Bulgaria. That's all defensive. The great Danubian gateway from Hungary into Austria, which is virtually part of his inner fortress, must be held at all costs. The Nazis' fierce resistance in Italy is to give added protection to the Hitlerian set-up in the Balkans.

BOY, 3, DROWNS IN A CISTERN

COLUMBUS, O., March 25—(INS)—Coroner Edward E. Smith today was expected to render a verdict of accidental death in the drowning of Donald Wells, 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wells, whose body was found in a cistern near his home late yesterday.

Mrs. Wells missed her son about 4:30 in the afternoon and went in search of him. She found his tricycle near the open cistern located about a half block from the Wells home and called the fire department.

Emergency squadmen who answered the call recovered the body almost immediately.

TWO FROM OHIO DIE IN CRASH

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 25—(INS)—The pilot, co-pilot and navigator killed at Bowman field when their transport plane crashed were identified by army officials today.

They were 2nd Lt. Ferdinand L. Weston, Cincinnati, O., pilot; Flight Officer James W. Davis, Memphis, Tenn., co-pilot, and 2nd Lt. Frederick D. White, Cincinnati, navigator.

Red Drive Speeds Up

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Czecho-Slovakian border and five miles from the former Rumanian province of Bucovina.

Moscow said 20,000 Germans were killed and 3,500 captured in the four-day offensive by Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's first Ukrainian army, boosting to nearly 250,000 the Nazi dead and captured in the Ukraine campaign.

Kamenka was seized by Red army troops driving southwest from Gaiavor. The combined operation split remnants of enemy units between that river town and Zaleschiki into isolated pockets, front dispatches said.

Zhukov's smash below Tarnopol virtually isolated German garrisons there and in Proskurov.

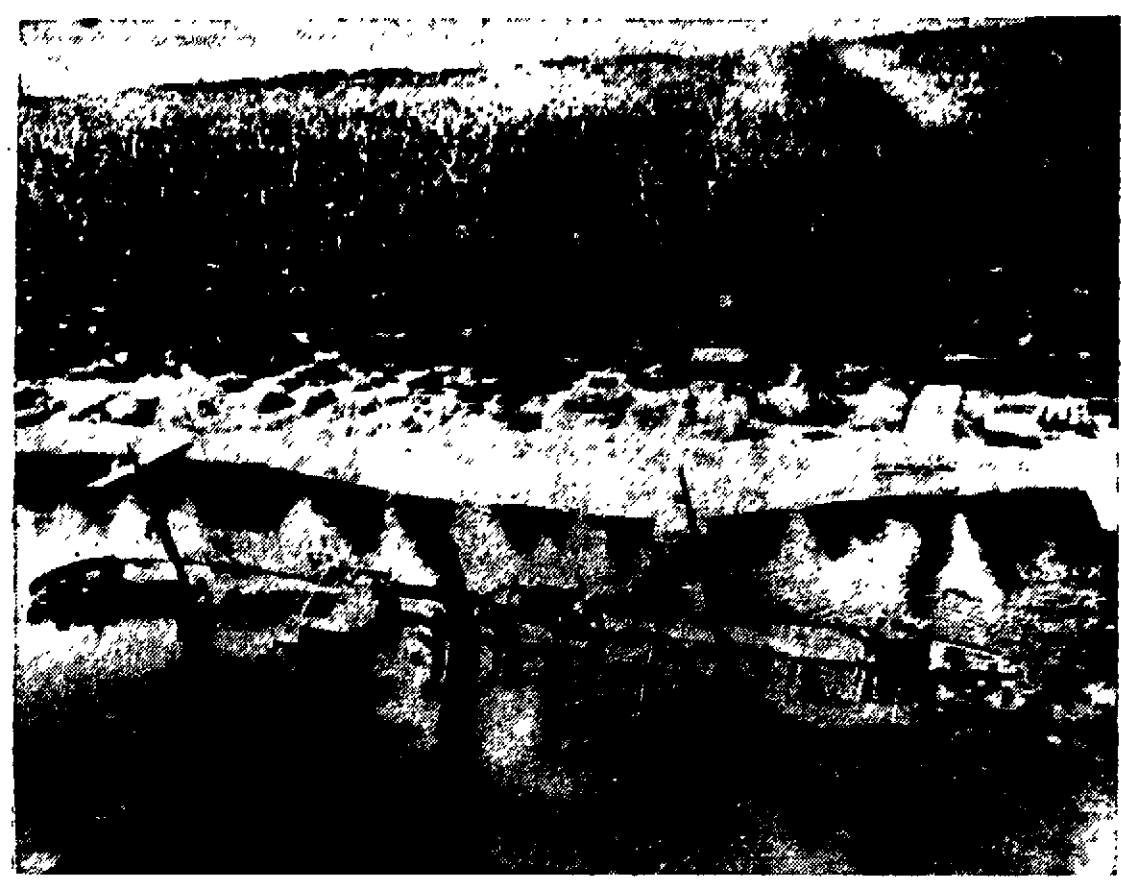
Marshal Ivan S. Konev's Second Ukrainian army operating inside Bessarabia below Mogilev reportedly was reported storming the rail junction of Byelsti, traffic control point for Northern Moldavia.

Other units of Zhukov's army cut the Lwow-Tarnopol railway, northwest of Tarnopol.

To the east, troops of the Third Ukraine army captured the German Bug river stronghold of Czernesensk, 80 miles north of Odessa. Fifty miles southeast, Gen. Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Fourth Ukrainian army troops were battering at the gates of Nikolaev on the Black sea.

(Russian troops already have broken into the outskirts of Nikolaev, according to a BBC broadcast.)

OPA HEAD'S SON IS DEAD
CLEVELAND, March 25—(AP)—Birkett L. Williams, regional Office of Price Administration director, has been informed by the War department that his son, Lt. William B. Williams, is presumed dead after being missing in action more than a year. Williams' son was in the air forces and was reported missing in action in the African Middle East area Jan. 11, 1943.



JAP FREIGHTER SUNK OFF IMPROMPTU SUPPLY DUMP—A 5,800 ton Jap freighter, 385 feet long, lies on the bottom at Vunapore, south of Rabaul, New Britain. Food and ammunition are piled on the beach. This impromptu supply dump was one of several used by Japs since Simpson Harbor at Rabaul has been made untenable by constant Allied bombings. AAF Photo: (NEA Telephoto).



THE WACS ARRIVE IN HAWAII—Smiling Air-WACs roll along in a truck after landing at a Hawaiian port. Assigned to the air transport command, they are part of first group sent from the United States to the Central Pacific theatre of operations and first to land in Hawaii. (NEA Telephoto from Signal Corps).

DEFENSE RESHAPED IN CHAPLIN TRIAL

LOS ANGELES, March 25—(INS)—before you left for Tulsa, Okla. (AP)—Jerry Giesler, Charlie Chaplin's counsel in his federal "white slave" trial, reformed his defense of the white-haired comedian after suffering a sharp reverse at the hands of Judge J. F. T. O'Connor.

Judge O'Connor yesterday refused to permit introduction of testimony pertaining to any possible associations between Joan Barry and other men.

Reflecting his disappointment at the ruling, Giesler abruptly terminated his cross-examination of Miss Barry shortly after she plunged into a torrent of tears by the reading of an asserted "farewell letter" she penned to Chaplin. The letter was written after the October, 1942, trip to New York which is the basis of the government's case.

Shortly afterwards, court was adjourned until next Tuesday.

Giesler, snapping the locks shut on a voluminous briefcase which admittedly contained notes of a great amount of evidence he had hoped to introduce, remarked: "This shuts the door on our books."

The remark came after an hour's conference at the bench among himself, U. S. Attorney Charles H. Carr and Judge O'Connor—the exact nature of which must remain untold—and followed a single question to which the red-headed Carr objected violently.

That question was: "I ask you if in November, 1942,

DEBATE WAGED ON CONFESSION

NEW YORK, March 25—(AP)—One of the most vital parts of the state's first degree murder case against Wayne Lonergan balanced undecidedly today on the outcome of a stubborn defense fight to keep his unsigned confession from becoming a part of his trial record.

Edward V. Broderick, chief defense attorney, when the prosecution sought to introduce the statement yesterday, charged it was obtained under duress and with promises of leniency.

The portly defense chief still was battling vigorously as the trial recessed for the week-end.

The prosecution already has conceded that only the 26-year-old defendant and his heiress wife, Patricia, were in the master bedroom of their fashionable apartment when she was bludgeoned and strangled last Oct. 24 and that the state has Lonergan's word as to what happened.

In the statement, as announced at the time of the young air-craftman's arrest, he was quoted as saying he killed his attractive wife in a rage because she told him he never again would be permitted to see their 14-month-old son.

The defense attorney sought to show that Lonergan was threatened, promised leniency and protection from newspaper publicity about his unnatural sexual habits, and that he finally confessed only after long hours of questioning without sleep.

SOURS DENIES STUMP'S CLAIM

COLUMBUS, O., March 25—(AP)—Highway Director Hal G. Sours denied today a political candidate's charge that his department was being used to support a rival's campaign.

Dale Stump, candidate for the attorney general nomination claimed in a statement yesterday that Jack Fluhrer, Sours' secretary, who had driven Hugh Jennings, who in a state automobile and was supporting the former H. Carr and Judge O'Connor—the exact nature of which must remain untold—and followed a single question to which the red-headed Carr objected violently.

Sours asserted he was taking no part in the attorney general campaign.

"Four-Legged Jeep" To Be Aired On Saturday Program

"Four-Legged Jeep," a story of the difficulties of supplying troops engaged in mountain fighting in Italy, will be dramatized on "The Army Service Forces Present," Saturday, at 9:15 p. m., over Station WJZ. The drama deals with the problems of the Quartermaster Corps in getting supplies thru rugged country where the mule replaces automobiles and trucks. Lieut. Col. William Slater is the program's narrator. Major Ed Byron is the producer, Capt. Harry Salter conducts the orchestra, and Sgt. Arthur Laurents is the author.

An internationally admired musical pair, Lily Pons and Andre Kostelanetz, who were married in 1928, will be the guests on the Boston Symphony Orchestra broadcast over WJZ Saturday, at 7:30 p. m. EST.

Kostelanetz, who will conduct the orchestra, was born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1901, and came to this country in 1927. He has been heard here as guest conductor of numerous major orchestras and has made many concert tours with his wife.

Arthur Rubinstein, hailed as one of the greatest virtuoso's of the piano today, and Nan Merriman, popular mezzo soprano, will be the guest stars on "The Music America Loves Best," Saturday, at 8:30 p. m. EST, over WJZ.

LAKE FLEET IS READY TO OPEN TRAFFIC FOR '44

Boosted Quota, Manpower Shortage Are Biggest Problems of Carriers

By CHARLES J. THOBABEN
CLEVELAND, March 25—(INS)—A warm spring sun, clear skies and a gentle breeze in the American midwest today can contribute as much as any other single factor to the speeding of a United Nations victory.

That's why, from Duluth to Lorain, the sailors and fleet owners of the Great Lakes and the men who operate the great blast furnaces of Cleveland, Youngstown and Pittsburgh are watching the weather with more than usual interest.

The armed forces of the Allies depend upon steel for the backbone of the power with which to crush the Axis; steel is dependent upon the slim backs of the 500-foot and 600-foot ore boats that ply the lakes. An estimated 85 per cent of all the iron ore consumed by American blast furnaces is transported from the ranges along Lake Superior to the mills in the lower lakes by the fleets of freighters.

Now the stockpiles are getting low and it's time for the boats to start their work, but there are at least two major problems. With a goal of 90,000,000 gross tons to be moved in 1944, compared with the 84,500,000 that came down the lakes last season, the shippers are confronted with a later start than in the record-breaking 1942, because of heavy ice and what could become a very serious manpower shortage.

The Lake Carriers' Assn., whose members' fleets totalling 367 ships must bear the burden of transporting a scheduled 192,000,000 gross tons of ore, coal, grain and limestone this year, has hopes that the weather question will be licked so that operations can get fully under way in the first week of April.

That 192,000,000 ton figure, incidentally, is three times the total exported by sea from the United States last year, including lend-lease shipments.

Already the Coast Guard is operating five icebreakers and will use heavy car ferries to smash the floes so that the ships will be able to operate on a schedule which calls for opening of the lower rivers by March 27, the Straits of Mackinac by the 28th and the St. Mary's river by the 29th, according to L. C. Sabin, vice-president of the association.

If necessary, the frozen masses will be blasted with dynamite to open passageways. Anything will be done to get the red ore started on its way to the lower lake ports.

The second great problem—manpower—is even tougher to solve than the first. For one thing it probably will exist right thru the season.

"An alarming number of skilled seamen have been reclassified in I-A by their local draft boards," Sabin declared, "and many others have joined the salt water fleets where seamen come under a blanket draft deferment. During the 45 days ending Jan. 15, enough skilled or licensed seamen were known to have left the lakes for ocean service to have filled the quotas of 37 of the lake freighters."

To meet this situation, where they have found that 6,400 of the 12,650 seamen needed to man their fleets are subject to the draft, the members of the association have decided to seek deferments only for 3,200 licensed officers, federally-certified able seamen, oilers, firemen and pre-Pearl Harbor fathers over 26 who hold ratings as cooks, tunnelmen and gate-men.

A full-scale recruiting campaign has been set up to fill out the ranks and somehow, despite weather, mechanical difficulties and manpower shortages, see materials needed to win the war will be transported up and down the lakes.

ALLEN-CO YOUTH KILLED IN RAID

(Continued From Page One)

Arriving in England in November, Sgt. Jennings, in a letter home, told of his first raid over enemy territory in February. His last letter to his parents was written Feb. 24.

Newspaper accounts of the action March 6 in which the Lima youth lost his life, reported a loss of 68 bombers in raids over enemy territory, the highest single day's loss of four-motored planes up to that day.

Two brothers of Sgt. Jennings are in service, Leonard E., pharmacist's mate, stationed at Crane, Ind., and Jack Q., at home on furlough from Great Lakes, Ill., where he completed his "boot" training. Three sisters and two brothers, Jean, Joan, Patty, Grant and Dick, are students of Shawnee school, and another sister, Mrs. Woodrow Plaugher, resides at 775 Atlantic av. His father is an employee of the Lima postoffice.

Sgt. Jennings, before entering the service, attended the First Baptist church and Sunday school, and was a member of the Sunday school softball team.

MORE GERMANS REACH CASSINO

(Continued From Page One)

These underground passages, believed to be 60 feet below the surface in some sectors and 10 to 20 in others, probably explain how so many Germans survived the furious Allied aerial bombardment that virtually obliterated the town on March 15 and how the enemy has been able to bring up reinforcements despite the way the Fifth Army's artillery has been raking the out-kirts of Cassino.

POSTAL RATES TO RISE AT MIDNIGHT SATURDAY

WASHINGTON, March 25—(AP)—Postal rates go up at midnight tonight.

A penny here and a few cents there will bring in an estimated \$96,000,000 more revenue annually. The estimate is based on the premise there will be no decrease in volume as a result of the higher rates.

The out-of-town letter rate of 3 cents an ounce remains unchanged, as does the rate of 6 cents a half ounce on air mail to and from the armed forces outside the continental United States.

Here are the principal increases affecting the average mail user:

The local letter rate goes from 2 to 3 cents an ounce.

The domestic air mail rate goes from 6 to 8 cents an ounce.

Every parcel post package will require at least 1 cent more postage, the revenue act requiring an increase of 1 cent or 3 per cent, whichever is greater.

Money order rates are increased. Some examples: one cent to \$2.50, 5 to 10 cents; \$10.01 to \$20, 13 to 22 cents.

Registration fees are increased about one-third.

Insured and C. O. D. fees are doubled.

Cabinet Government Ousted By Bureaucracy, Says Bricker

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 25—(INS)—Asserting that "cabinet government has been abandoned for a political bureaucracy" which spreads confusion and disorder," Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio today called for an end of the "monstrosity now running amok thru-out the country."

Taking his campaign for the Republican nomination for president into the deep south for the second time, the Ohio governor told a Birmingham GOP gathering that Americans had been used as experimental guinea pigs "for 11 long years."

Lashing at "this labyrinth" of administration agencies, bureaus and commissions, Bricker continued:

"All of us grant that some of these are essential in time of war, but I am confident that none of us is willing to tolerate continuance of control over our daily lives by the federal bureaucratic monstrosity."

Gov. Bricker demanded "an immediate, thorough and systematic study of the entire governmental structure . . . by competent and impartial officials" together with industrial, agricultural, labor and other interests affected.

EPIDEMIC IS REPORTED CHUNGKING

CHUNGKING, March 25—(AP)—Chinese dispatches said today a meningitis epidemic is claiming hundreds of lives daily in Japanese-held Hanzhong, 100 miles southwest of Shanghai.

PARTISANS SLAY 500
LONDON, March 25—(AP)—The Yugoslav partisans of Marshal Tito (Josip Broz) killed 500 enemy troops in bitter fighting the last few days in Eastern Bosnia, a broadcast communique said today.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS—POP'S MISTAKE—



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS—ASK POP—HE KNOWS!



DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Mrs. Rosabelle Clem, Mrs. Rosabelle Clem, 68, of 605 N. Jameson-av. died early Friday in a Detroit hospital following an illness of one month. She had resided in Lima for about 40 years. She is survived by her husband, Ira F.; one son, Dr. Robert L. Clem, of Lansing; one daughter, Miss Donna Clem of Adrian, Mich.

The body will remain at the Davis-Miller and Son funeral home where final rites will be conducted at 10 a. m. Tuesday in the Cathedral Chapel with Rev. C. C. Ryan of Buckland officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn cemetery.

WINS DAMAGE AWARD

CLEVELAND, March 25—(AP)—Albert J. Skomer of Madras, Pa., second mate on the ore freighter Richard V. Lindabury, was awarded \$14,000 by a common pleas court jury yesterday in his damage suit against the Pittsburgh Steamship Co. Skomer asserted spinal ligaments were ripped when a heavy line hit his back while the freighter was docked at Conneaut, O. The company denied carelessness.

Oranges were first brought into Europe from China by the Portuguese in 1547.

TODAY'S LOG

BIRTHS
In St. Elizabeth: Mr and Mrs. Kenneth Davies of Spencer-ville, a girl Friday.
In Memorial Hospital: Mr and Mrs. Robert L. Traylor of Route 6 a girl Saturday.

ARRIVAL REMOVALS
Chiles and Son—Mrs. Donald Long from St. Elizabeth to Memorial Hospital.
H. Miller and Son, Spencer-ville—Mrs. Ella Van Eman from St. Elizabeth to St. Rita's hospital.

IS COMMISSIONED
BUFFINGTON, March 25—Second Lt. Joel Kimmel has recently completed a course in the Army post training school at Yale university, New Haven, Conn., when he received his commission. He has spent the past week with his mother, Mrs. L. D. Kimmel of here, after which he left for Fort Belvoir where he has been assigned to duty.

MISSING IN ACTION
FINLAY, March 25—The War department has informed J. C. Christman of Findlay, Route 4, that his brother, Harold Christman, 20, serving with the Navy, is missing in action in the South Pacific war area.