

THE WAR THIS WEEK



Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin Draw Up Ultimatum

While Washington remained silent, Continental radios told the world Friday that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin were in Iran drawing up an ultimatum calling upon Germany to surrender.

"The three statements are now in meeting about which there has been so much speculation, has taken place," the London Star said.

Name Lt. Gen. Vandergriff Marine Corps Commandant

Lt. General Alexander A. Vandergriff, veteran of some of the fiercest fighting ever engaged in by the Marines in their 18 years of history, was named Commandant of the Corps, succeeding Lt. General Thomas Holcomb, Commandant since 1938.

of the U. S. Senate foreign relations committee had declared in Fort Worth, Texas, that, "another great conference is taking place in the middle east" among the three United Nations leaders, and described the meeting as "of paramount significance."

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will return to government service in another capacity soon, Knox announced. Arriving recently in this country after commanding Marine troops in Guadalcanal and the recent landing on Bougainville, Vandergriff climaxes a service career which began in Nicaragua back in 1912. His General's decorations for his service rendered all through these years but praise his Marines as being "no finer troops in the world."

confering somewhere in the Middle East. Some reports, Axis and neutral, say the meeting place in Tehran; others say it is Tabriz, in the Russian military zone of Northern Persia. The Star stated.

FIFTH ARMY ATTACKS

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, announced Friday that Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army troops, after a long stalemate on the western Italian front, have cracked forward through machine-gun-barbed fields and barbed wire in the wake of a rolling barrage of artillery shells and aerial bombs.

The British Eighth Army also continued to smash the Germans back beyond the Sangro Ridge and captured Castel Frenzano, on a later road west of the important German defense town of Lanciano, and pushed on to San Vito on the Adriatic coast, six miles beyond Wednesday's slowing down.

BERLIN BOMBED

RAP heavy bombers attacked Berlin in great strength for the fifth time in six days, starting great fires raging in the German Capital, the Air Ministry announced Friday.

A Soviet correspondent announced that while German infantry and tank divisions, heavily reinforced by mechanized forces rushed from Western Europe, battered in vain against the Russian's Cherkassy bridgehead on the Dnieper River, Red Army troops carved out new gains northwest of Gomel, where they captured more than 50 towns.

Mexico May Fight

President Manuel Avila Camacho last week told his people and the world that the Mexican Army is "ready to function wherever circumstances may dictate—here on our territory, and even away from our territory if for justified motives our allies ask it of us."

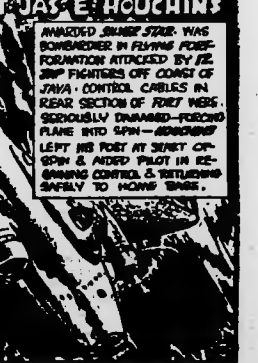
Observers of Mexican military maneuvers had just seen some 15,000 troops march through their places with modern weapons, a small air force, motorized infantry and cavalry battalions.

2 Mackall Men Sent to Prison

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y. — County Judge Frank H. Coyne sentenced two Army privates to prison terms in their places of duty to guard laundry charges in connection with a labor day weekend holdup of a Mount Vernon, N. Y., banking company.

William J. Ackerman of Miami, Fla., was given five to 10 years in Sing Sing Prison, and Louis C. Coriello, 17, of Chelsea, Mass., was sentenced to indeterminate term in the Elmira Reformatory.

"Why does a traffic light turn red?" "You'd turn red too, if you had to change in the middle of the street."



FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION ONE MONTH, 6 FEB. 1942

Round-Up Of The Fighting Fronts Shows Continued Allied Progress

By CPL. ROGERS H. WOODS JR.

Russ Forces Leave Korosten

This week the Eastern Front no longer surged westward. Instead, it had become a dead line, moving east at some points, moving west at many, static at most. Soviet troops abandoned Korosten, 40 miles north of Zhitomir on the Odessa-Lemberg railroad before the pressure of Field Marshal von Manstein's tank and infantry assaults against the Kiev salient.

Although the Red Army retired from Korosten, it closed in on Zhitomir, the escape junction for an estimated 250,000 Germans fleeing northward from Gomel, smashed three spearheads into the Dnieper Bend, killed upwards of 4,200 Germans and knocked out at least 77 enemy tanks.

While Manstein won his success in the Western Ukraine, Field Marshal Gerd von Kluge was less triumphant in White Russia where Soviet troops, moving along the Dnieper, Bzura and Beresina rivers, threatened to trap their way about Zhitomir, 50 miles northwest of Gomel, at any moment.

The Soviets extended their newest Dnieper bridgehead at Cherkassy and drove forward, killing 300 Germans and dislodging the survivors from heavily-fortified positions. German counter attacks were repulsed.

Southeast of Dnepropetrovsk, another Soviet column overpowered stubborn German resistance, destroying 32 tanks, killing 6000 troops and routing a column of foot soldiers by Soviet armor.

Southwest of Dnepropetrovsk, a third Soviet spearhead smashed into German positions, killing 800 troops and knocking out 17 tanks. The Red Air Force, joining this battle, destroyed an additional 20 tanks.

Though handicapped, the Red units in the Ukraine still presented a fierce assembly too formidable to be swept into the Dnieper by the battered Wehrmacht. The Germans, despite their sudden show of strength, stood on a line which was easily pierced. In all likelihood the Red counterattacks were not a general, coordinated offensive, but were local attacks, intended merely to halt the Russians until the German defenses in the rear are ready.

RAF and AAF Blast Germany

On that last great night of London's life in 1940, some 300 twin-engine bombers dropped bombs on Berlin. Last night, the RAF and AAF, with 1,000 four-engine bombers, took the Berlin and the important chemical center of Ludwigshafen. Upon the two cities fell some 2,500 tons of

incendiary and high explosive bombs, each bomb more efficient and more terrible than those of 1940. Berlin's fires raged for two days. Buildings had to be dynamited to stop the fires spread. It was Berlin's 64th raid of the war. It was not the last, nor the heaviest that Berlin must take.

Flying Fortresses bombed the Ruhr city of Solingen, east of Dusseldorf, by daylight, in the first Allied attack on that target, still of a high-grade steel plant, mill and a plant making metal alloy for German fighter planes.

The big American bombers, accompanied over their target by Thunderbolts and Lightnings and covered in withdrawal by RAF Dominions and Allied Spitfires and Typhoons, had an unusually strong escort for their mission which brought the month's total of American heavy bomber attacks from Britain to a record 11.

With a population of 150,000, the city was considered one of the most industrialized cities of the Rhineland and home of the largest nonferrous metal casting foundry in Europe. Solingen, three miles square, lies 10 miles southeast of Dusseldorf. It was well-known for the manufacture of cutlery and weapons even in peacetime. Our Solingen assault was the second successive daylight attack for the Fortresses over Germany. The joint Allied total of 21 heavy raids was only one under the peak of August, indicating how effectively Allied aviation was cooperating with the weather.

Aussies Advance In New Guinea

Australian jungle fighters, pushing northward in New Guinea on a two-pronged drive, reached the important trail junction of Bonga on the coast as Japanese forces withdrew with only slight resistance. The drive along the coast continued past Bonga with the Australian infantry supported by M4 tanks moving in the Rajahmundry river mouth and north of the village, controlling an important supply trail to the Japanese outpost at Wera.

Other forces moving on from captured Bastenburg are advancing on Woreo after crossing one mountain ridge and a river on the east trail. The land drive to clear the Buna Peninsula of enemy forces and prepare for a possible attack on New Britain Island was supported by naval shelling of enemy supply areas in the big harbor, one of the three Allied ships have attacked the New Guinea coast. Previously, during the recent operations at Salamaua, warships supported the Allied land attack.

There was no mention of enemy fighter interception as the Allied planes carried out their mission. Last week the southern coast of the island in the Solomon archipelago was reported being brought under the war, and indications pointed to the

Cape Gloucester areas were hit heavily by our air forces, apparently in an effort to disrupt enemy supply lines and communications at the western end of the island.

Air attacks continued against enemy installations on Bougainville Island, Tinian harbor and Truk, and the communications strait by air patrols who started fires and sank one enemy troop barge at Green Island, north of Bougainville.

In the Emperor Augusta Bay area, air units bombed enemy forward defensive positions with attacks at Mupinua point, Monotou, Magi, and Tonn, south of the beachhead.

On Tarawa, Makin and Abemama, tiny pin points of coral and sand, Marines and soldiers fought Japs for whom there was no line of retreat. But ahead of the Americans there was a line of advance to the Marshalls and the great naval and air center at Truk. Fast-flying fighters were U. S. Battleships, cruisers, and destroyers... the greatest battle fleet ever assembled in the Pacific.

At Tarawa, the Japs are fortifiably dug in on nine large islets which form the backbone of the 22-mile-long atoll. Reports from Honolulu suggest that fighting still rages 30 miles southeast of Tarawa was light.

Eighth Cracks Nazi Lines

Troops of the British Eighth Army captured Fossacesca, Adriatic anchor-point of the Germans "Winter Line" in Italy, and seized the dominant ridge on the far side of the Sangro River where they linked two bridgeheads in a major breakthrough along a 14-mile front.

With their Adriatic positions shattered, the Germans were believed already in retreat to a new line, although they counterattacked the Eighth Army to no avail. The stout high ridge which dominates the Sangro Valley is now in Allied hands and two bridgeheads on the Adriatic side have been joined to form one large penetration in the German defensive positions.

This penetration linked the British forces across the Sangro on a front of more than 14 miles extending inland from the Adriatic. It carried General Montgomery's forces across what had been considered their chief barrier to an all-out assault on Rome.

By a steady flow of reinforcements, the Eighth Army was harking to place defenses that the Germans had spent months in building. On the inland flank of the bridgehead, they had driven within five miles of other British forces who effected a second crossing at the Sangro northwest of Anagni.

Hundreds of German prisoners were reported being brought back the river, and indications pointed to the

fact that the Nazis could not hold their "winter line" and were abandoning their forward troops to cover withdrawal to a new line probably along the Pescara River.

The Eighth Army's advance had repercussions on the Fifth Army front, where an artillery duel developed. Lt. General Mark W. Clark's American troops drove forward and captured Castelvetro on the slopes of Mt. Polcinara.

The march on Rome slithered forward. Despite mud, mountains and fresh men brought down from the North by Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, the Allied armies were working into position for a wheeling drive on Italy's prize city of Rome.

Flying Fortresses, winging without escort, hammered the Grosseto airfield northwest of Rome, scoring 20 to 30 hits on the runways and destroying two grounded transports. Marauder ships attacked that some target hitting railway yards, destroying 40 freight cars, and ripped up trackage. Italian west coast railways were attacked outside Civitavecchia by B-24s with P-38 escorts. Mitchell's strong formation blasted the road and railway bridges at Giulianova, 15 miles northwest of Pescara.

234 Men of Army Listed as Killed

WASHINGTON. — The War Department made public Friday the names of 234 U. S. soldiers killed in action. One was from North Carolina. Pvt. Allen D. Severson, son of Mrs. Amy Severson, Turtle Lake, N. C., was killed in the Pacific area.