

Allied Force Is Closing In On German Parachute Invaders Of Crete Island

BITTER FIGHT RAGES British Observer Predicts It Will Be Possible To Hold Vital Isle

REINFORCEMENTS CUT Sharpest Fighting Is Reported Between Malemi Airport and Canea

CAIRO, Egypt, Monday, May 26. (AP)—Allied soldiers waging bitter hand-to-hand fights are slowly closing in on the German parachute and air invaders of Crete, the British indicated today, and a British military observer predicted it would be possible to hold the island on which the war in the Middle East hinges.

The general headquarters here officially announced late last night the first break in the eerie sky parade of German troops to the island, which began in full force seven days ago.

Troop landings by the Germans, a communiqué said, continued Saturday but on a substantially reduced scale as compared with the previous two days.

Reinforcements cut. Thus the hint that German troop reinforcements through the air were subsiding coincided with the reported activity of the RAF, which sent long range fighters and bombers back to the battle Friday.

The German radio in a broadcast heard Sunday night by NBC in New York reported heavy aerial combats over Crete, especially over Canea, where British fighters were said to have attempted to stop dive-bombing attacks. It was stated four British planes were shot down.

Out of the surgical battle came Major General T. G. Heywood, the chief of the British military mission to the Greeks, who brought encouragement to the empire. He reached Cairo with King George II of Greece and the Greek government after a hazardous escape from Crete aboard a destroyer.

"I think it will be possible to hold Crete," the major general declared. "The British and Dominion troops and marines fight well in this type of fighting. That is man to man."

Sharpest fighting was reported between Malemi and Canea, capital of Crete, which was one of three cities the British said were bombed indiscriminately and destructively by massed German fighters Saturday.

Intensive dive-bombing attacks were made in the Malemi-Canea area, the general headquarters said. "As on previous days, our forces in this area have inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy."

AMERICAN GOODS SEIZED BY JAPS Soldiers Break Into Two Haiphong Warehouses, Remove Products

HANOI, French Indo-China, May 25.—Japanese soldiers broke down the doors of two Haiphong warehouses today and removed \$1,000,000 worth of United States products belonging to two American companies. The goods had been blocked from reaching the Central Chinese government.

The companies are the Far East Trading company and the North American syndicate. The Japanese, charging that the American companies were merely

Evacuation Points On Crete Are Subjected To Nazi Air Attacks

NEW YORK, May 25.—(AP)—The German radio, hitting at a possible British-Greek evacuation of the island of Crete, said tonight in a broadcast heard by CBS that "points suitable for evacuation" have been subjected to heavy air attacks for weeks and that the destruction of vessels has turned some bays into "ships' graveyards."

German reconnaissance planes flying over Crete yesterday, the broadcast said, "observed no fewer than four British transports sink in a bay there with their masts showing above water, and a large tanker in flames."

HOSPITAL PARLEY SLATED TOMORROW Officials Will Discuss Proposed Plans for Institution's Enlargement

Proposed plans for the enlargement of James Walker Memorial hospital will be discussed between city, county, Army, shipyard and hospital officials tomorrow afternoon at a meeting in the commissioners' room of the courthouse.

Queen Mother Mary To Note Birthday Today

LONDON, May 25.—(AP)—Queen Mother Mary comes to her 74th birthday tomorrow with heart saddened by war and older wounds, but with the certainty she is more than ever firmly enthroned in the affections of her people.

Pro-Axis Regime Of Iraq Is Reported Breaking Up

ANKARA, Turkey, May 25.—(AP)—Ten thousand Arabs rioted and looted in Basra yesterday, a telegram from the Turkish Agricultural bank said today. Reports that the pro-Axis government of Iraq was breaking up.

Contract To Extend Water, Sewer Lines To Housing Areas Executed

The Wilmington Housing Authority, acting as agent for the Federal Works Administrator, has executed a contract for extension of city water and sewer lines to defense housing areas in Wilmington, it was learned last night.

AIR ATTACKS ON NAVAL VESSELS Reported by British Troops Proceeding Methodically In Effort To Take Crete

ADVANCING EASTWARD Nazis Claim British Mediterranean Fleet Driven Away From Island

COLLEGE CRISIS SEEN BY LINGLE President Emeritus of Davidson Speaks at Presbyterian Meeting

MONTREAL, May 25.—(AP)—Dr. W. L. Lingle, president emeritus of Davidson college, said today that "church colleges and seminaries are in an acute crisis because of the world revolution, decreasing financial support and competition of state schools."

High Command Quiet The high command, as always reluctant to discuss operations while they still are in an indecisive stage, refrained from saying whether surface transport of reinforcements was being attempted. It said nothing of British claims that convoys had been destroyed or scattered.

The Italian navy was said to be cooperating closely with the Germans and the high command said the Fascists "have shared to a great degree in the successes so far."

On Crete itself, the most bitter fighting over the extremely mountainous terrain seemed to be for possession of airports and beaches where transport planes and gliders can deposit their loads of soldiers.

Military commentators said the German army now probably is in position to "clean up Crete swiftly" if that were desired. But they contended that now and reinforcements are being sent in an orderly manner, speed no longer in a first consideration.

Heritage, training and faith were extolled to members of the graduating class of New Hanover High school as "The Key to Citizenship" yesterday afternoon in the baccalaureate sermon delivered by the Rev. James F. Herbert, pastor of Grace Methodist church.

Speaking to the graduates, their families and guests assembled in the First Baptist church for the class' vesper service, Rev. Herbert declared the key to good citizenship lay with good character; and character, he emphasized, is derived from heritage, training and faith.

HERBERT SPEAKS TO GRADS HERE He Says Heritage, Training And Faith Form 'The Key to Citizenship'

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George II Arrives In Cairo



KING GEORGE II

By EDWARD KENNEDY CAIRO, Egypt, May 25.—(AP)—King George of Greece and his emigre government found a temporary haven in Egypt today enroute from embattled Crete to British soil and the king himself told the stirring story of how the first swarms of Nazi parachutists concentrated on an area about his house.

He reached Cairo after a hair-raising withdrawal from the besieged Greek island and, besides escaping the clouds of air-borne troops, his party had to dodge bullets of his own soldiers who thought they were "chutists disguised in British and Greek uniforms."

In a proclamation issued immediately on his arrival he said Greece would continue the fight, and then in his own words told the wondrous story of his flight.

"... after several days of intensive air attack, the crisis of the battle of Crete was reached when in the early morning of May 20 the enemy launched its air-borne offensive," the king said. "One of the main objectives for the German parachute troops was the area around the house where the premier and I lived."

"In fact, the first flight of parachutists landed within a few hundred yards of my house and the fight began at once between parachutists and the Allied troops in that area."

"As the main force of the enemy separated us from our troops it became imperative for us to withdraw in order to frustrate their plans."

"We therefore pursued our journey toward the mountains," the king continued. "After careful examination of the situation thus created in concert with our responsible advisers we became convinced our continued presence in Crete would handicap the conduct of military operations."

"We consequently decided with profound regret to leave this heroic island. . . . We leave Crete for the time being to proceed to British territory to which we have been invited. This is the only course which will enable us to carry out the duties imposed on us by the interests of the nation."

The king's departure from Crete was one of the most remarkable journeys ever made by a king. Many times he hurled himself into Crete ditches to escape Nazi fire. He crossed a 7,000-foot mountain; slept in the open with peasant shepherds, ate their food, and finally reached the southern shore of Crete astride a mule.

U. S. Army To Purchase Passenger Liner Siboney

NEW YORK, May 25.—(AP)—The United States Army has arranged to purchase the 6,938-ton passenger liner Siboney, now operating between New York and Lisbon, for transport service, it was reported today in shipping circles.

REDS DENY REPORT WILL LEASE UKRAINE TO NAZIS MOSCOW, May 25.—(AP)—Pravda, organ of the communist party, found it necessary today to brand as "political nonsense and an idiotic lie" a Berlin report attributed to a Finnish newspaper correspondent that Soviet Russia would lease her grain-rich Ukraine to Germany.

Reich Navy Chief Warns U. S. Convoys Mean War; British Seek Nazi Fleet

VENGEANCE HUNGRY Pursue Units of German Fleet and Attempt to Effect 'Close Action'

ONE HIT REGISTERED Seek to Settle Debt With Nazis For Sinking Of Battle Cruiser Hood

LONDON, May 25.—(AP)—Vengeance hungry, the British fleet furrowed the North Atlantic tonight in pursuit of heavy units of the resurgent German navy, trying, as the admiralty put it, to bring the Nazis to "close action."

With aerial torpedoes, the fleet air arm was reported already to have blasted into the Germans, scoring at least one hit, and "operations are still proceeding."

The British were seeking a knock-down-drag-out battle to settle Germany's bold challenge to surface control of the Atlantic which was driven strikingly home early yesterday when the 15-inch guns of the new, 35,000-ton battleship Bismarck blasted the battle cruiser Hood apart with a hit on her magazine.

1,300 Men Perish The 32,100-ton Hood, largest fighting ship in the world and hitherto the pride of His Majesty's Navy, went to the bottom between Greenland and Iceland, carrying most of her 1,300-officers and men to their death.

It was the war's worst single blow to Britain's seapower. That was the score the British were seeking to settle tonight somewhere in the blackness of the North Atlantic.

Last evening British torpedo planes, combining reconnaissance with action, attacked the German units, of unspecified strength. These planes operate either from the broad decks of aircraft carriers or can be catapulted into the air. They are one of the most threatening weapons of a modern navy.

The tight-lipped admiralty said that after the "unlucky hit" on the Hood the German forces "made every effort to shake off pursuit." But the British apparently were close at heel, counting somewhat on damage they claimed against the Bismarck to slow her flight.

There was wide speculation that more powerful units of the fleet were speeding to the scene of action.

THOUSANDS VISIT NEARBY BEACHES Wrightsville and Carolina Enjoy Largest Sunday Of The Young Season

Several thousand persons visited Wrightsville and Carolina beaches yesterday giving each of the popular resort centers their biggest Sunday of the still-young season.

From virtually every county in the state there were beach parties, and, despite the fact that yesterday's temperature was several degrees lower than Saturday's warmish mid-eighties, the beaches were fairly swarmed with surf and sun bathers.

The biggest single "party" was that of several hundred Fort Bragg soldiers, on week-end leave from military duty, encamped in their own mobile barracks at Carolina Beach. They arrived at the beach Saturday morning and will return to Fort Bragg today.

Hotels and week-end cottages were well-filled, according to surveys made of the two beaches, and scores

RAEDER GIVES VIEWS Also Asserts That American Patrol System 'Aggressive' in Character

GIVES JAP INTERVIEW Says He Confirms View Of Roosevelt That 'Convoys Mean Shooting'

BY LYNN HEINZERLING BERLIN, May 25.—(AP)—Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, commander of the German Navy, in an unusual interview tonight warned the United States two days before a scheduled speech by President Roosevelt that American convoys for materials going to England would constitute an "open war act" which would be prevented by guns of the German navy if necessary.

The interview was granted to the Berlin representative of Domei, Japanese news agency, and was issued here by DNE, official German news agency.

"Aggressive" Patrol In addition to warning against convoys, Admiral Raeder said the American patrol system was "aggressive" in character.

"Since the nature of the cargoes of convoyed ships according to American admissions was established from the very beginning as contraband, resort to this type of convoy system would not be a neutral convey in the sense of international law or American treaties but an open war act and a bare, unprovoked attack," the navy commander said.

"German naval forces would therefore be justified in taking measures against these contraband carriers, according to the law of sea warfare and would, by exercise of these rights, have to repulse with arms if necessary any hindrance, even against American warships."

"So far as the so-called patrol system goes, its aggressive character already has been established."

The grand admiral said nobody could expect a German sea commander to stand idly by while "his position was reported to the enemy by an American warship, certainly not when a patrol ship follows him so long that strong British sea forces can be called up not only to hinder him in the execution of his task but also to destroy his ship and crew."

Warlike Act "He (the commander) faces in this case just as in the case of convoys an actual warlike act and is justified according to the recognized rules of war to demand cessation of hostile actions by the ship involved and if necessary to enforce it with arms."

Admiral Raeder said the German navy regards possible results of American efforts to see that war materials reach England as "very serious."

"Not only the press but also responsible members of the North

GERMANS RETURN TO BRITISH RAIDS Luftwaffe Inflicts Numerous Casualties in Part Of West Country Town

LONDON, May 25.—(AP)—The Luftwaffe returned to heavy assaults on England last night, inflicting numerous casualties and considerable property damage in a residential section of a west country town.

Several families were trapped in the wreckage of their homes, but rescue squads disregarded their own safety and worked right on through the raid. They were credited with holding down the fatalities.

The air ministry announced that British bombers attacking shipping off the Netherlands coast yesterday sank a vessel of about 2,500 tons and set another afire, leaving it listing to port. A third vessel was declared hit and probably sunk and still other Nazi craft machinegun strafed.

Weygand Approves Vichy Collaboration With Nazis

"All Frenchmen concerned for the future of continental France as well as the empire school subscribe unambiguously to the principles of the policy of collaboration decided on by the marshal."

He concluded with an appeal for "discipline and union" and urged colonial leaders to "follow without hesitation the way mapped out by the venerated chief of the community of Frenchmen."

It was reported that Weygand and French Gen. Auguste Nogues accompanied the Sultan of Morocco to Taflet oasis at the base of the Atlas mountains, and there visited the ancient tombs of the Alaouita dynasty.

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