

**FORECAST**  
NORTH CAROLINA: Mostly cloudy today, becoming partly cloudy with widely scattered thundershowers in the late afternoon and evening. Continued warm. Temperatures yesterday: High: 88—Low: 71.

# Wilmington Morning Star

**REMEMBER  
PEARL HARBOR  
AND BATAAN**

VOL. 77—NO. 107 WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1944 FINAL EDITION ESTABLISHED 1867

## Ruined Castelforte After Heavy Allied Attack



Wisp of smoke still curled up from the shattered town of Castelforte, Italy, when French forces entered on the heels of the retreating Nazis. Before the town was captured it was a link in the Gustav Line. The effects of the terrific Allied shelling are clearly discernible. This is a U. S. Signal Corps photo. (International)

# HEART OF HITLER LINE CRACKED; AMERICANS RECAPTURE TERRACINA; ANZIO TROOPS SLASH APPIAN WAY

## Tanks, Planes Aiding Big Allied Offensive

German Garrisons Threatened With Entrapment As Italian Push Gains In Momentum

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, May 24.—(AP)—Canadian tanks broke through the heart of the Hitler line today and swept up the Liri valley to the Melfa river, 13 miles from Vassino; American troops recaptured Terracina on the coast, and a Yank armored avalanche burst from the Anzio beachhead and cut the Appian Way barely 25 miles from Rome.

## Army Orders Big Increase In Artillery

PROGRAM STEPPED UP  
Largest Weapons Given  
Emphasis In Program  
Now Under Way

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—A tremendous increase in the heavy artillery program has been ordered by the army on the eve of the invasion of Europe, officials disclosed tonight.

For weapons of 155 millimeter size and greater, ammunition requirements have been stepped up an average of 400 to 500 per cent, with the increase for some sizes running as high as 1,000 per cent above current schedules.

The production schedules for the weapons themselves have been advanced correspondingly, with emphasis on the 155, Howitzer, the 155 gun or "Long Tom," the 8-inch gun and the 240 millimeter weapon.

Instituted within the past few weeks, the ammunition program alone represents a dollar-volume increase of approximately \$750,000,000 for the balance of 1944 and 1945.

Some phases of the program already are underway, and by mid-summer it will require the reopening of some of the TNT production lines, the powder plants and the bag-loading plants previously closed by the army or placed on a standby basis.

The program will place a new strain on the nylon industry to provide the bags for powder charges for the big guns, and the alcohol required for the stepped up powder demands presages a continuance of the whiskey drought.

## Berlin Target Of Big Planes In Night Raid

OTHER CAPITALS HIT  
Paris, Vienna Blasted  
As Allies Send Out  
7,000 Flights

LONDON, Thursday, May 25.—(AP)—Berlin experienced an air raid alert early today as RAF night bombers apparently followed up a record American-led daylight assault of 7,000 sorties against Fortress Europe.

A target of Flying Fortress bombs Wednesday, the German capital was warned by the Nazi radio of the approaching raiders shortly after midnight. It was the eleven American raid on Berlin.

From the Atlantic Wall to points deep in the Balkans, more than 5,500 tons of explosives were dropped by British-based and Italy-based squadrons in the daylight attacks.

Seventy-seven German fighters were shot down in fierce sky battle over the route to Berlin, which was attacked by a strong force of Flying Fortresses from above a cloud, while from all British-based operations by Americans 37 bombers and 16 fighters were missing, the U. S. strategic air forces announced tonight.

A Liberator wing pounced on the Paris area, undefended by the overmatched Nazi air force, and hammered enemy airfields at Melun and Orly to the south and Creil to the northeast, making its bomb runs against light to moderate flak.

In a gigantic co-ordinated assault, Allied bombers and fighters from bases in Italy flew 2,700 sorties, striking in the vicinity of Vienna, at rail links in northern Italy and at other targets in Austria and Yugoslavia.

Other fighters and fighter bombers in this sixth straight day of aerial invasion rained incendiary and airfields behind the Channel fortifications in occupied France and Belgium. These, with the bigger raids on Berlin and Paris, added up to 4,300 sorties from Britain.

The day's kill was the largest since May 15, when 125 enemy aircraft were destroyed in attacks on Berlin and Brunswick, and went further into the plane reserves the Germans are hoarding for D-Day.

Fortress gunners claimed 48 Nazi planes in combat over Berlin and fighters bagged 11 more. The bomber loss was the heaviest since May 12 when 42 were downed smashing synthetic oil plants around Leipzig.

## Housing Group Purchases Coal

Contracts for 4,500 tons of coal for heating units of the Wilmington Housing Authority were awarded at a special meeting of the commissioners of the Housing Authority yesterday.

Three thousand tons of coal, 1,500 tons at \$8.85 and 1,500 tons at \$7.90, will be obtained from the Springer Coal Co., and 1,500 tons at \$8.85 from the North Smith Coal Company.

The Housing Authority reported that it had received an open bid for the government for the correction and installation of metal flues in the demountable housing section of Lake Forest and Maffitt Village. The lowest of eight bids \$22,465, was received from A. L. Henderson of Charlotte. The bid was referred for further study.

An invitation for bids was issued by the Housing Authority for the purchase and installation of 96 coal stokers at Maffitt Village. Date to receive these bids will be set in the near future.

**TRIAL POSTPONED**  
GREENSBORO, May 24.—(AP)—Trial of William J. Dunneen, 20, charged with the shotgun slaying of his sweetheart, 17-year-old Laura Reiley, near her home at Gibsonsville the morning of May 9, was continued to the June 19 term in Guilford superior court today on motion of defense counsel, which told Judge Hubert E. Olive, Lexington, presiding, that it had not had sufficient time to prepare its case.

The Pendulum Swings Back Hard



This scene, once familiar to Warsaw, Rotterdam, Coventry and Leningrad, regularly takes on another locale now. Rescue workers are shown leading an aged woman from bomb ruins after a raid on Berlin. Here Nazi overlords, it must be remembered, started this type of warfare. The photo is from a neutral source. (International)

## High School Finals Will Begin Sunday

Commencement exercises for 277 Seniors of New Hanover High School will begin Sunday afternoon with the Baccalaureate Vesper Service at the First Baptist Church at 4:45 o'clock.

As the audience assembles, an organ prelude, the Coronation March from "The Prophet" by Mayebeer, will be played by Organist Henri Emmurian, who also will play the processional, "For All Thy Saints," by Barnaby. The Reverend Sankey Lee Blanton, pastor of the church, will sound the call to worship, which will be followed by the singing of America by the congregation.

After an interlude during which prayer and choral response will be heard, the New Hanover High School Glee Club will sing Arceld's "Give Ear Unto My Prayer." The Reverend William Crowe, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, will read the scripture prior to the second number scheduled for the Glee Club, Mozart's "Emitte Spiritum Tuum."

Rev. Mr. Crowe will then deliver the baccalaureate sermon, after which the congregation will join in singing "The Son of God Goes Forth to War."

The Benediction and choral response will precede the concluding organ selections, the National anthem and the class recessional, Wagner's "Pilgrim Chorus," played by Mr. Emmurian.

Class night has been scheduled for Thursday evening, June 1, to begin at 8:30. Principal feature of the evening will be a play, "Our Capstone Song We Sing" which will include 18 seniors in its cast of characters. The high school orchestra will play.

**WITH FIFTH ARMY FORCES IN TERRACINA, MAY 24.—U. S. Infantrymen smashed through deep dugout German defenses in the tombs and Crypts of Cemetery Hill before Terracina despite heavy mortar and machine-gun fire and captured this large coastal highway town today.**

The victory climaxed a three-day battle. "They had to dig into each hole and bayonet each Jerry today to get the cemetery and that's what they did," was the way Capt. Jim Miller of Colonial Beach, Fla., described the bloody combat.

## ALLIED PLANES BOMBARD JAPS

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, May 24.—(AP)—Allied fighters and fighter-bombers have shifted the weight of their attacks to direct support of ground troops which have bottled up the 18th Japanese division around its big bases in north Burma, it was announced today.

Their blows fell on Myitkyina, where besieged Japanese still had a foothold, on Katkyo, on the Irrawaddy river bend four miles southward, and on the main Japanese base in the Mogaung valley at Kamaing to the west.

The trapped Myitkyina garrison and Japanese forces in the Zigun-Katkyo area counter-attacked but were repulsed by Brig. Gen. Frank Verrill's Chinese combat troops.

This wily jungle fighter was using his usual tactics around Myitkyina, cutting interior communications after throwing road blocks across the road leading west out of Myitkyina to the Mogaung valley.

## 1,500 Japs Killed In Honan Fighting

CHUNGKING, Thursday, May 25.—(AP)—The Japanese forces besieging Loyang in northwestern Honan province attacked the ancient city fiercely from all sides Tuesday, but were repulsed with more than 1,000 of their troops killed, the Chinese command announced today.

Another 800 Japanese were killed in fighting near Sunghien, 40 miles south of Loyang, field dispatches said.

## Churchill Declares Germany May Have Frontiers Reduced

STEP FORESEEN  
AS PEACE NEED

LONDON, May 24.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill declared today that Germany might have her frontiers reduced after the war that should seem necessary to insure peace, and he advocated a postwar "world organization" aimed with "overwhelming military power" to keep this peace.

## WAR OF NERVES MORE INTENSE

LONDON, May 24.—(AP)—Broadcasts hinting at imminent war developments were transmitted from both Moscow and Berlin tonight as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower sought to mold Europe's restless millions into a vast espionage force to support the invasion.

German editors were ordered in a DNB statement recorded by the Daily Herald to stand by at 1:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m. Eastern War Time) Sunday for "a possible special announcement."

Red army troops, after a five-week rest, were advised by the Moscow radio that "soon you will be called on to accomplish the liberation of Soviet territory and also to liberate other European nations from the German Fascist oppressor."

From Eisenhower's headquarters concise spy instructions were broadcast to the European underground.

## Harold Bell Wright Dies In California

SAN DIEGO, Calif., May 24.—(AP)—Harold Bell Wright, who left the pulpit to become one of America's famed fiction writers, died today in a Lajolla, Calif., hospital. He was 72 years old.

Wright became ill about two weeks ago and entered the hospital last week. Death was attributed to bronchial pneumonia. His wife was at the bedside when he died.

Only last month he sold his \$70,000 ranch home, known as "Quiet Hills Farm," near Escondido, 30 miles northeast of here, and moved to San Diego.

**Will Rogers Resigns  
To Enter Army Again**  
WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—Rep. Will Rogers, Jr., (D-Calif.), eldest son of the late humorist, resigned from Congress today and left to resume active duty with the army.

He told a reporter he would "presumably be sent to a station overseas."

## Moscow Radio Hints Russian Offensive

LONDON, Thursday, May 25.—(AP)—Possibly signaling a big new offensive on the eastern front, the Moscow radio said in a broadcast to the army today: "Soon you will be called on to accomplish the liberation of Soviet territory and also to liberate other European nations from the German Fascist oppressor."

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## Lengthy Legal Debate Slows Sedition Trial

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—A maze of legal debate today bogged down the mass sedition conspiracy trial in U. S. District court.

Peter Gissibl, 39, German-born former leader of the Chicago unit of the German-American Bund, through whom the prosecution hopes to link pro-Nazi activities in this country to officials in Germany spent considerable time on the witness stand, but answered only a few questions.

**Brutal Killer Murders  
Detroit Church Worker**  
DETROIT, May 24.—(AP)—Detectives searched the cloistered Twelfth Street Evangelical church tonight for clues to the brutal killer of attractive Mrs. Jean Long, slain as she worked last night at her duties as pastor's secretary.

Experts of the detective force were assigned to the case as the shocked middle-class residential community also was combed for evidence in the mystery. Neighbors could offer little help, however.

Presumably the slayer carried the death weapon away, for none was found after hours of search among the neat pews and rooms of the church building.

The stabbed and beaten body of Mrs. Long, 40, was found at rape.

## POST TO SPONSOR TRIBUTE TO DEAD

Wilmington Post No. 10 of the American Legion will sponsor ceremonies in observance of National Memorial Day here on Tuesday, May 30, Edgar L. Bell, chairman of the Memorial Day committee announced yesterday.

The exercises are scheduled to begin promptly at 11 a.m. at the World War Memorial monument, Thirteenth and Market streets, where a Legionnaire to be named later will make the Memorial Day address. The tribute to the war dead will immediately follow.

The nearest of kin and other relatives of each man or woman killed or who has died in World War 11 is requested to be present at the exercises in order to receive the Gold Star Citation of the American Legion which will be presented in a continuation of the services at the New Hanover High School auditorium following the exercises at the monument.

About 40 Gold Star Citations will be presented, and Mr. Bell said that the post will be unable to notify the recipients personally since the addresses of many are unknown. He therefore urged relatives to attend the exercises and to notify the Legion of the names of those not already known to post who are entitled to the citations.

In order to make the observance impressive and fitting, Mr. Bell added, the Legion post asks the cooperation and attendance of all city-county officials, church, patriotic and civic bodies as well as the entire citizenry of the community.

## Patton's Promotion Blocked In Senate

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(AP)—In an echo of the soldier-slapping incident which stirred a sharp controversy six months ago, the Senate military affairs committee today blocked "indefinitely" the promotion of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., to the permanent rank of major general.

The committee recommended Senate confirmation of promotions for 13 other high-ranking officers, but pigeon-holed Patton's advance.

this morning by the Rev. Newell C. Liesemer, 38-year-old pastor who lives with his wife next door to the church. The body, with clothing torn and disarranged, lay in the aisle leading to the altar.

Nearby was found a copy of a news bulletin Mrs. Long had been preparing for mailing to members of the church serving in the armed forces.

Half a dozen stab wounds were in Mrs. Long's head and chest. Two teeth were knocked out. There was no apparent attempt at robbery since her purse containing several dollars and two valuable rings were found in the basement office.

An autopsy was to determine if there had been an attempt at rape.