

WILMINGTON AND VICINITY: Partly cloudy and continued moderately warm today with possible showers...

Wilmington Morning Star

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND BATAAN

VOL. 77.—NO. 148

WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1944

FINAL EDITION

ESTABLISHED 1867

Red Troops Round Up Many Nazis

2,000 ENEMY TAKEN

Reds Within 60 Miles Of East Prussia; Near Latvia

LONDON, July 11.—(AP)—Moscow announced tonight that the methodical round-up of German remnants trapped east of Minsk had been completed while other Soviet forces continued their battle of annihilation against Nazi troops encircled in Wilno.

Official figures on the toll of German casualties resulting from the Nazis' headlong flight from Minsk were not disclosed, but the board-cast Russian communique said that more than 2,000 prisoners were taken in the final day of the mop-up operations east of the White Russian capital, raising the unofficial day-to-day tabulation of German killed and wounded in the area to approximately 55,000.

Steady progress in the westward offensive was indicated all along the 350-mile central front, with 400 populated places being taken during the day, although no startling new Soviet gains were reported.

Already within 60 miles of East Prussia and little more than 100 miles from the Baltic coast of Riga, capital of Latvia, the Russian armies threatened hourly to break through the Nazis' crumbling defenses and the German radio admitted "the supreme test has come."

Lt. Gen. Kurt Dittmar, Nazi propagandist, predicted still other retreats on the central front and intimated that the German high command had been guilty of miscalculations saying "for obvious reasons it cannot be discussed at the moment how a situation could arise enabling the Russians to advance to quite unexpected depth."

Of Wilno, where fighting has been in progress for four days with the Nazis using its narrow, winding streets to the fullest defensive advantage, the Moscow communique said, "Our troops continued the annihilation of isolated enemy groups in the center of Wilno."

The city, disputed for centuries, was entirely encircled and the cost to the Germans of holding it to the bitter end was expected to be tremendous.

With the Germans already having suffered tremendous losses in encirclements at Vitebsk, Bobruisk and Minsk, the toll at Wilno might well increase the total of German killed and captured for the summer campaign, only 19 days old, to a quarter of a million.

In the closing day of the Minsk round-up, Soviet forces captured another German general, the 23rd killed or taken by the Russians. He was Gen. Volker, Moscow said, commander of the 27th army corps who surrendered along with his headquarters staff.

South of Wilno the Russians captured more than 100 localities, including the district center of Woronow, an important station on the railway to Lida.

To the north the Soviet drive continued in full force, engulfing more than 150 places in the direction of Daugavpils and more than 30 northwest of Polotsk, including the railway station of Boraovichi on the railway from Polotsk to Daugavpils.

A Reuters dispatch from Moscow said Russian troops had crossed the border into Latvia.

In the area around Lida and Baranowice, more than 110 additional places were taken and farther southward gains were made.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

6 Dead In Plane Crash In Maine

SOUTH PORTLAND, Me., July 11.—(AP)—Police Chief Horace S. Jose said at least six persons were killed and more than a score injured late today when an airplane crashed in the midst of 100 trailers in the Westbrook Trailer camp near the Portland Municipal airport.

The Maine General hospital announced approximately 25 persons, eight of them children, had been admitted to their accident ward. All had been badly burned.

Portland airport officials tentatively identified the plane as an Army craft of the bomber type which ordinarily carried five to eight men.

Dozens of trailers were demolished and set afire as the plane landed in their midst.

Rescued After Drifting 12 Hours In Life Rafts



These members of a torpedo-bomber squadron which exhausted its fuel supply on returning from a successful mission against the Jap fleet northwest of Saipan Island, landed in the water and remained in life rafts for 12 hours before being rescued by a U. S. destroyer. They are, kneeling, (l. to r.): Lt. Ferry Huntsman, Santa Cruz, Calif.; Arthur D. Jones, East Orange, N. J.; Robert A. Horn, Pottsville, Pa.; Lester D. Scheff, Huntington, West Va.; Alfred E. Mooty, Winter Haven, Fla. and Ken A. Holmes, Garvey, Calif. Standing (l. to r.) are ARM2-C James O'Brien, Springfield, Mass.; ARM1-C James R. Langiotti, Orlando, Fla.; ARM2-C Leffel A. Turner, Magnolia, N. C.; Lt. Comdr. James D. Arbes, DBF squadron leader of New Ulm, Minn.; ARM1-C Walter Oliver, King City, Calif., and ARM2-C Raymond B. Bailey, Columbus, Ga. (International).

SKY FLEETS HIT MUNICH

Big Planes Strike Hard At Toulon; Rocket Coast Also Hit

LONDON, July 11.—(AP)—Three Allied sky fleets totaling some 3,000 planes attacked the Munich area, the French Mediterranean port of Toulon and German rocket bomb nests today in a whipsaw offensive mounted from both Britain and Italy.

As bad weather again limited air activity over Normandy, more than 1,100 American Fortresses and Liberators thundered to southern Germany from British bases under escort of about 750 fighters and dumped well over 3,000 tons of explosives on unannounced targets in the vicinity of the Nazi party's shrine city of Munich. Miserable weather forced the bombers to use instruments for aiming. Flak was heavy and 20 bombers and two fighters failed to return from the mission.

A Swiss communique said five American bombers landed at Dubendorf Tuesday and two at Althenrhein, in Switzerland near the German border.

At the same time the Mediterranean air force sent fighter-escorted Liberators—a force of probably more than 500 planes—from Italian bases to make the sixth attack on harbor installations at Toulon, last bombed July 5. The attack was through a heavy anti-aircraft barrage but no enemy planes were seen and crewmen reported a good pattern of bomb hits.

British home-based Lancasters with a fighter escort making up another striking force of perhaps 500 planes gave the flying bomb sites of northern France another pasting after a 48-hour respite and returned without loss.

Last night RAF Mosquitos attacked Berlin, giving the enemy capital its ninth bombing since D-Day. Seven of the previous blows were at night by the Mosquitos and the eighth was by American heavies in daylight.

The Mosquitos in last night's attack ranged over northeast France from the Paris area to the Belgian border, bombing and strafing trains and Seine river ferries carrying German reinforcements to the front.

Robot raiders continued to explode on London and on other sectors today after a comparatively quiet night in the capital, although many of them were shot down by.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

F.D.R. Unaffected As Revelation Made

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK WASHINGTON, July 11.—(AP)—President Roosevelt was cool as a cucumber in seersucker trousers, white shirt and black bow tie—no coat—when he began his fourth term statement today.

As a preliminary, he ordered the doors of his office locked, picked up some papers lying on his desk beside a vase of red roses, reared back in his chair, and exchanged quips with reporters standing five deep in a big semi-circle in front of him.

But before he was well into reading the exchange of letters

Saipan Conquest Pays Dividends

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, PEARL HARBOR, July 11.—(AP)—Smashing new blows by American forces ripping up Japan's inner island defenses in the far Western Pacific were reported today, with indications that fighter plane sweeps from newly conquered Saipan Island have added their weight to the attack.

A Navy communique today, reporting actions on the far-flung battlefield, said "shore-based fighters" attacked Pagan Island in the Marianas last Friday. Anti-aircraft fire was intense but there was no interception.

Pagan is about 200 miles north of Saipan. Its major airfield Aslito but renamed Isley, was captured at the outset of the Saipan invasion. It is within easy fighter range of Pagan.

Today's mention of the shore-based sweeps indicated that Isley field is in operation. Earlier, the Tokyo radio broadcast a Domei news agency dispatch saying "several large planes and more than 50 small planes" were observed using the field.

Futile attacks by small enemy units were reported Sunday on Saipan, where American ground forces are mopping up. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz said the enemy remnants were killed or driven into hiding to be hunted down later. Many survivors had been routed from hulks of ships off shore. They, too, were killed, or captured.

Light American warships continued their shelling of Guam through Sunday, Nimitz reported. There were no details.

Raid by Navy planes Monday on Paramushiro and Shumushu Islands in the far Northern Kuriles were reported, the first since June 29.

Bombers of the Seventh Army air force struck at Truk atoll Monday and at isolated enemy bases in the Marshalls on Sunday.

There was no reported loss in any of the aerial operations.

The continued action against the islands south of conquered Saipan, where American ground forces are mopping up, led to speculation on the possibility of other landings in the Marianas group. There has been no official indication, of course. The almost daily pounding may be intended merely to neutralize enemy bases, as in the Marshall and Caroline islands.

A delayed dispatch from Rembert James, Associated Press war correspondent, reported that a superior American fire power was responsible for heavy Japanese casualties on Saipan, despite the.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

between him and Democratic National Chairman Robert E. Hannegan, the nervous tension rippling through the ranks of the reporters proved contagious.

The president laid down the letters, his hands shaking a bit, and said he had to have a cigarette.

It was too bad, he remarked, that it was not a Murad—the cigarette that advertises "be nonchalant."

That got a laugh which broke the tension all around and Mr. Roosevelt reared swiftly on.

FOURTH TERM CANDIDACY IS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

ALLIES ADVANCE ON ERA RIVER

Americans Strike North Beyond Strongpoint Of Jajatico

ROME, July 11.—(AP)—American troops were striking northward tonight down the Era river valley beyond the by-passed German strongpoint of Jajatico in a bold flanking threat to Livorno and Pisa. The enemy, fully aroused to the danger of the United States maneuver, was offering violent opposition.

American armored spearheads were reported within a dozen miles of the broad Arno valley at the point where the Era joins the Arno to flow westward through Pisa to the sea. Should Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's forces succeed in plunging through the Arno valley they would be in position to wheel westward and entrap the Nazi divisions which have stalled the Allies some 10 miles below Livorno.

An Allied spokesman said the Americans in the Era valley were advancing against elaborate fortifications. The enemy evidently having anticipated such an attempt to pierce their "Gothic line" outposts.

"The Germans' sensitivity in this sector is evidenced by the many machine-guns in position, with alternate prepared emplacements," he said. "They also are using a number of self-propelled guns and considerable light artillery."

The Era valley battlefield is approximately 21 miles inland from the Tyrrhenian coast, almost due east of Livorno, the immediate prize of the Allied campaign in Italy. For the past two days there has been no report of progress by U. S. infantry forces directly below Livorno on the coast. They ran into fresh Nazi units bolstered by intense fire from artillery and mortars.

Allied gains clear across the peninsula continued to be measured almost by the yard, with the enemy fighting hard for every hill and clump of ruined houses. British forces still probed at the elaborate defenses of Arezzo, 36 miles south-east of Florence, without making appreciable progress. French and American units of the Fifth army were reported fighting in the outskirts of Poggiansi, 22 miles south and slightly west of Florence.

Frequently positions changed hands several times in a day as the Nazis threw in repeated savage counter-attacks.

FIRST LADY VOICES NOMINATION VIEWS

YELLOW SPRINGS, O., July 11.—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt said today she would not want a fourth term for her husband "unless the majority of people felt it was necessary." She added she had felt that way about the third term.

Mrs. Roosevelt, here to speak before the Antioch College Institute on conditions for enduring peace, said in an interview that she had no personal feelings about the president's announcement that he would accept a fourth term.

"Both the president and myself," she remarked, "want what the people want, since we feel we are their servants;" that if the majority of people wanted a fourth term for Mr. Roosevelt, she also wanted it; if it was not their desire, then it would not be hers.

Mrs. Roosevelt said the president had not discussed his decision with her.

Clare Boothe Luce Lauds Governor Dewey

ALBANY, N. Y., July 11.—(AP)—Governor Thomas E. Dewey emerged from his second round of conferences with congressional leaders tonight, hailed by Rep. Clare Boothe Luce (R-Conn.) as "the inevitable man for the U.S.A."

Mrs. Luce was one of six Connecticut members of Congress who held a lengthy luncheon conference with Dewey a few hours after the GOP presidential nominee announced a meeting of the 26 Republican governors would be held at St. Louis Aug. 2 and 3.

Ceiling Prices Set On Peaches

RALEIGH, July 11.—(AP)—D. S. Matheson, fruit and vegetable marketing specialist with the state department of agriculture, said today effective July 15 the OPA ceiling for peaches would be \$4.00 per bushel, with the half-bushel ceiling \$2.16.

Matheson said these ceilings would remain in effect until Aug. 15, when they would be reduced to \$3.66 per bushel and \$1.99 per half-bushel.

London Chapel Ruined By Robot



Salvage workers clear the wreckage from the famous Guards Chapel, between Buckingham Palace and the Parliament Buildings in London, after it was struck by a Nazi robot bomb. The 106-year-old chapel was hit during services and casualties are reported to be heavy. Note that only one end of the chapel is left standing.

Nazi Flank Menaced By American Thrust

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Wednesday, July 12.—(AP)—American troops in a powerful new offensive supported by hundreds of big guns and dive-bombers smashed to within two miles of St. Lo yesterday, conquering heights dominating that mid-Normandy communications center and imperiling the entire German western flank.

West of St. Lo the Americans steadily pushed the enemy back onto Lessay, German coastal anchor five miles south of captured La Haye Du Puits, an Allied communique said. Front dispatches said the Americans were only three miles from Lessay and within four miles of Periers, another important junction of the Lessay-St. Lo road.

On the eastern end of the blazing Normandy front British and Canadian troops gave up some ground southwest of Caen near the Orne river, while northeast of fallen Caen the British hammered out new gains. "Crucifix hill," five miles southwest of Caen, had changed hands several times but at last reports still was in British hands and a number of German tanks had been knocked out.

"Local Allied gains" also were made near Hotot-Les-Bagues, a few miles south of Tilly and 13 miles west of Caen, a communique said.

The Americans, ripping through crack German troops on a 40-mile front, gained up to three and one-half miles and overran approximately 10 villages and strongpoints from the St. Lo area to the coast. An artillery barrage, beginning Monday night and rolling on throughout the day, supported them.

Thunderbolt dive-bombers operating from Normandy bases also had destroyed 21 German tanks and damaged another 10, a field dispatch said. The tanks were part of the elite Lühr division.

Four miles north of St. Lo in the La Meauffe area the Americans had surrounded 300 Germans who were trying unsuccessfully to break out of the trap. "If they still resist the doughboys will move in and wipe them out," a staff officer at the front said.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

Airline Service Here To Materialize In Fall

Passenger and cargo service will be inaugurated by National Airlines this fall between Jacksonville, Fla., and New York City, with stops at Wilmington, Savannah, Charleston Philadelphia and Norfolk according to a statement received yesterday from G. T. Baker, Jacksonville, president of the airlines.

"Early this fall will see the inauguration of the fastest yet passenger and cargo service between Jacksonville and New York City," Baker said. "Washington's notification that 'the first two of several additions to our fleet of record breaking Lodestars have just been made available means the conversion

of these planes for passenger service will commence just as soon as we can get these planes to Jacksonville. They will be converted at our main hangar."

Continuing, he said that "four hours and 51 minutes is our anticipated flying time between Jacksonville and New York. This allows for time on the ground at Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington and Norfolk. Ten minutes additional will be required for the stop at Philadelphia."

This news will be hailed by

CHIEF TREMBLES WITH EMOTION

Nonchalant Smile Lights Face As He Tells Newsmen

WASHINGTON, July 11.—(AP)—President Roosevelt, with a nonchalant smile on his face but his hands a-tremble with emotion, announced today that he would accept a fourth term nomination and, if elected, would serve reluctantly, but as a good soldier.

The announcement, which surprised newsmen and politicians only as to its timing, was made at a White House news conference.

The President read a letter from Chairman Robert E. Hannegan of the Democratic national committee informing him that more than a majority of convention delegates are already "legally bound" to support his renomination and asking that he "again respond to the call of the party and the people."

Then he read his reply: "If the convention should carry this out, and nominate me for the presidency, I shall accept. If the people elect me, I will serve."

At one point in his reading, he threw down the correspondence, and remarked that he had to have a cigarette. When his hands trembled, apparently from scarcely suppressed nervous emotion, he quipped that it was too bad the cigarette was not a Murad—traditionally associated with nonchalance in the advertising columns.

He asserted that he will not "run" for either nomination or election "in the usual partisan, political sense" but would take orders from a "superior officer—the people of the United States."

His personal choice, the President said, would be to retire to his home on the Hudson and leave public responsibilities and the publicity attendant upon the office of chief executive.

"But we of this generation chance to live in a day and hour when our nation has been attacked, and when the future existence of our chosen method of government is at stake," Mr. Roosevelt went on.

"To win this war wholeheartedly, unequivocally and as quickly as we can is our task of the first importance. To win this war in such a way that there be no future world wars in the foreseeable future is our second objective. To provide occupations and to provide a decent standard of living for our men in the armed forces after the war, and for all Americans, are the final objectives.

"Therefore, reluctantly, but as a good soldier, I repeat that I will accept and serve in this office, if I am so ordered by the command-in-chief of all us—the sovereign people of the United States."

The 99 newsmen who attended today's interview were unprepared for such an announcement. They had expected the man who shattered the two-term presidential tradition in 1940 would wait until the convention, starting a week from tomorrow in Chicago, actually nominated him. That was the course he followed four years ago.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, the Republican nominee, refused to comment on the president's announcement. So did James A. Farley who helped elect the President to two White House terms as National Democratic chairman only to balk at a third term and now at a fourth.

Wendell L. Willkie, the 1940 Republican presidential nominee, asked: "Is that news?" when informed of the Roosevelt-Hannegan letters.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

Lumber Company Pays For Treble Damages In OPA Settlement

RALEIGH, July 11.—The Greene Brothers Lumber Company, Inc., of Elizabethtown, has settled the OPA administrator's claim for treble damages for overcharges on lumber with the payment of \$7,500.00.

Theodore S. Johnson, Raleigh's district OPA director, revealed today that a check made payable to the Treasurer of the United States had been received in settlement.

The Greene Brothers Lumber company was found to have sold southern pine lumber and southern hardwood lumber at prices in excess of OPA ceilings. The sales were at the wholesale level, Johnson said.

At the same time, a permanent restraining order has been signed by U. S. District Judge I. M. Meekins, of Elizabethtown, restraining the concern from further violations of the OPA price ceilings on lumber.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)