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THE SUNDAY STAR-NEWS

AVENGE PEARL HARBOR AND BATAAN

WILMINGTON, N. C., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1944 FINAL EDITION PRICE FIVE CENTS

Byrnes Asks Work Spread After V-Day

Reports That Plans Well Advanced For Vast Industrial Conversion
WANTS BANS LIFTED Urges Cut In War Production, Shift To Output Of Home Front Goods

PETAIN'S 'FRENCH STATE' ABOLISHED

All Its Major Laws Erased And France Remains A Republic

Dewey Forecasts Early End Of War With Nazis

By GARDNER BRIDGE

Maqui Heroine



Sixteen Yank paratroopers, who dropped ten miles from their assigned zone in France on D-Day, owe their lives to Isabel Townsend Pell, 43, New York socialite, a member of the French underground for the past four years. The adventurous American woman led the Yanks to safety through strong enemy positions. (International)

WHITMORE GOING TO THOMASVILLE

Well-Known Minister Accepts Pastorate Of First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. J. Harry Whitmore, D. D., who served as pastor of the Church of the Covenant for 17 years, will move this week to Thomasville, where he will assume the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church. He will preach his first service there October 1.

GERMANS BATTLE TO HOLD RIMINI

Seek To Prevent Allied Breakthrough Into Important Po Valley

ROME, Sept. 9.—(AP)—In seeking to prevent an Allied breakthrough into the Po valley and a possible envelopment of the whole Gothic line, the Germans fought savagely today to hold the gateway city of Rimini against British Eighth Army forces.

WEATHER

FORECAST NORTH CAROLINA: Cloudy to partly cloudy over interior, considerable cloudiness with light showers along coast, continued cool Sunday.

U. S. Battles For Moselle Bridgehead As Nazis Strike From Siegfried Line; Recruits Only 30 Miles From Turkey

WARSHIPS TURN GUNS ON PALAUS

MacArthur's Troops Seize Soepiori Island, Just West Of Biak

By OLEN CLEMENTS Associated Press War Editor Warships turned their big guns on the Palau islands in what may be the beginning of the long expected three-way amphibious attack on Japanese bases there and at Yap and Halmahera, needed by American troops before they retake the Philippines.

At least one amphibious move toward Halmahera was made Thursday when General MacArthur's troops seized Soepiori island just west of Biak in Geelvink Bay.

Blistering American air attacks continued over a vast area. Manado, on the northern tip of Celebes, was hammered with a 150-ton bomb load. Widespread damage was caused with some oil dumps being set afire. Liberators, Mitchells and Lightnings pounded gun positions and airdromes on Halmahera without challenge in the air.

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SEIZE BLACK SEA PORT OF BURGAS

Moscow Announces End Of The Short-Lived War Against Bulgaria

By W. W. HERCHER LONDON, Sunday, Sept. 9.—(AP)—Russian forces sweeping 100 miles into Bulgaria yesterday occupied the big Black Sea port of Burgas, only 30 miles from the Turkish frontier, as Moscow announced the end of its short-lived war with Bulgaria.

Marines of the Black Sea fleet under Admiral E. S. Otkyarsky, Sevastopol hero, aided in the seizure of Burgas, 52 miles south of Bulgaria's other main seaport, Varna, taken Friday.

In one of the shortest wars in history Soviet troops were ordered to cease military operations against Bulgaria effective at 10 p. m. (3 p. m. Eastern War Time) last night, "in view of the fact the Bulgarian government has severed relations with Germany, and asked the Soviet government for an armistice," said the broadcast Moscow statement.

Also Near Greece

The occupation of Burgas put the Russians under Gen. Feodor I. Tolbukhin, Third Ukraine army commander, only 80 miles from Greece in the swift drive to annihilate or capture 250,000 Germans estimated to be cut off in that country and Yugoslavia.

The Bulgarians are estimated to have 20 good divisions which they can hurl into the battle against their former comrades-in-arms, the Nazis. And with the seizure of Burgas the Russians have another valuable port with which to quicken the conquest of the Balkans.

Berlin announced that the Red army had begun a new offensive in southern Poland aimed at Krakow, last big bastion guarding the invasion path into German Silesia, and the Russians announced rapid gains in northeastern and central Romania in the drive on Hungary, last big Axis satellite nation.

Swift Advance Gen. Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukraine army units moving toward the plains of Hungary advanced 34 miles in 24 hours from Sibiu in Transylvania, taking

STORM EXPECTED TO STRIKE TEXAS

'Disturbance' Slated To Hit Between Galveston And Port Arthur

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 9.—(AP)—A tropical "disturbance" moving in from the Gulf of Mexico is expected by Weather Bureau observers to strike the Texas Coast Sunday morning between Galveston and Port Arthur.

"Winds will begin increasing on the upper Texas and West Louisiana coasts tonight," a 3 p. m. central war time, weather bureau communique said. "But velocities are not expected to exceed 45 miles per hour in heavier squalls as center moves inland."

The communique said tides were expected to be "considerable."

Allies' Southern Armies Within 25 Miles Of Important Belfort

By SID FEDER ROME, Sept. 9.—(AP)—Two Allied columns coming up from Southern France struck today to within 25 miles of the sentinel city of Belfort, whose fortifications bar the way through a mountain gap into the plains before Germany's frontier on the Rhine, 30 miles east of the fortress.

The Germans, who fought hard in Besancon, broke and ran under American blows and Allied headquarters said doughboys now had covered at least half of the 47 miles from Besancon to Belfort.

It was likely that patrols, moving swiftly after resistance was crushed in Besancon's streets, had advanced even nearer to the city. (A Swiss frontier dispatch Friday said that the Americans were within 10 miles of Belfort and

that the battle for the city had begun.) French troops fighting up through the Jura mountains seized the towns of Pierrefontaine and Maiche, the latter 25 miles south of Belfort.

These twin drives seemed to be outracing German forces trying to hold open the roads branching out from Dijon, 47 miles west of Besancon.

The Germans were offering stiff resistance to the French moving up along a 40-mile front to within 23 miles of Dijon at one point. But if they let the Americans reach Belfort before them they may never get back to the fatherland, because they must take a longer, northerly route menaced all the way by the U. S. Third Army striking toward the Rhine and by ambush parties of French patriots.

great industrial blow in this fighting, for the French overran a rich steel and coal region lying about 45 miles south of Dijon. The French captured the towns of Le Creusot, Chagny and Montchanin-les-Mines in the heart of this area. The Schneider metallurgical works, with a capacity of 30,000 tons of steel annually, is in the area.

In their advance the French swept up Beaune, 23 miles south of Dijon, after two days of severe fighting, and other forces pushed up to Autun, 43 miles southwest of Dijon.

The American advance northward toward Belfort was following the broad valley of the Doubs river. Southwest of Besancon the Germans had destroyed nearly every bridge across the Doubs, slowing any pursuers from that quarter who might try to cut in behind Dijon.

SHOWDOWN FIGHT FOR REICH NEAR

British Second Army Hammers Out Second Crossing Of Albert Canal

By HOWARD COWAN SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Sept. 9.—(AP)—Picked troops of the U. S. Third army fought in a storm of artillery fire tonight to hold a bridgehead on the Moselle south of the French city of Metz as the Germans salaked from their menaced Sigfried line to give battle to three Allied armies closing for the showdown struggle for the Reich.

In northern Belgium the British second army hammered out a second crossing of the Albert canal and fought against fresh German reserves toward the weakest link in the Siegfried line north of Aachen.

The American First army was pounding down the last 18 miles to the German border from the Belgian citadel of Liege and probably was within heavy artillery range of the line's outlying positions although its movements were enveloped in secrecy. The Germans said they had thrown in fresh troops here too.

Take St. Hubert Farther south in Belgium other units of the First army, advancing through thinly held but difficult country in the Ardennes forest, captured St. Hubert, 16 miles from the border of Luxembourg and 32 from Germany. Another First army force took Ecouviez, village on the rim of the old Maginot line in France a half-mile from the Belgian border.

The Third Army in the Moselle river area took Pompey, four miles northwest of Nancy. The heaviest fighting since Normandy was raging along the Moselle. As Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's forces plunged across the river at one small bridgehead, they were caught in withering artillery, mortar and machinegun fire from camouflage forts, which waited to yank their lanyards after the first wave was across.

American artillery thundered in reply as the battle mounted in fury, more U. S. batteries were wheeled up to add to the earth-shaking barrage descending on the forts.

"Difficult" Situation A front line dispatch said the situation was a "difficult" one for the troops, all recommended for decorations in previous exploit in France, who were especially selected for the operation.

There was hard and sanguinary fighting at every one of the five crossings of the Moselle, and the Germans were pulling reserves from the Siegfried line in an attempt to hold this last river barrier before the rich Saar basin of the homeland.

Earlier, the Germans had risked badly-needed reserves to send a counter-attack—the largest since the Normandy campaign—rumbling out of the forests of Luxembourg, but it was cut to pieces by the alertness of the Third Army on the northern end of its front.

From the sudden resurgence of enemy resistance after the disasters in France and Belgium, it (Continued on Page Nine, Col. 2)

Annual Community Chest Drive Will Be Held Sept. 25 - Oct. 12

F. D. R. PREPARES FOR QUEBEC MEET

Gathers Information For Important Conference With Churchill

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.—(AP)—President Roosevelt rushed preparations for his Quebec victory conference with Prime Minister Churchill today, gathering from cabinet members and diplomats advice and information on a wide range of European political and economic subjects.

This weekend promised to usher in a climactic period of military and diplomatic activities unparalleled since the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin meeting at Teheran nine months ago.

With Allied armies pounding the walls of Germany, some military men here believe that the final battle to crack the so-called fortress of Germany—is at hand.

In the talks at Dumbarton Oaks, now drawing to a close, the period will see British-American-Russian agreement on the organization to maintain a new era of peace.

And in the Roosevelt-Churchill conference it is almost certain to produce decisions on the final course in the war against Japan as well as on solutions for war and problems in Europe.

Today Mr. Roosevelt saw Secretary Hull of the State Department, Stimson of the War Department, and Morgenthau of the treasury. He had asked those three to gather for him information on problems involved in the occupation of Germany and in the arrangement of European Economic Affairs, especially in the critical transition period immediately after the war.

It was learned definitely that Mr. Roosevelt expects to discuss these matters with Prime Minister Churchill although in the absence of Marshal Stalin they cannot reach final decisions.

GOAL IS \$164,838

Chairman Stewart Confident Campaign Will Be Highly Successful

September 25 to October 12 have been set as the dates of the annual campaign of the Community Chest of Wilmington and New Hanover county, it was announced last night by Ronald Stewart, campaign chairman.

Goal in the campaign is \$164,838. The objective has been approved by the board of directors of the Chest.

Mr. Stewart expressed confidence that this year's campaign would be the most successful in the history of the Chest. He emphasized that \$67,500 of the proceeds of the campaign will go to the National War Fund, which supports the activities of a number of domestic and foreign war agencies, and that the remainder is urgently needed to support the operations of organizations in Wilmington and New Hanover county.

Local organizations assisted by the Chest are: Associated Charities, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, Y. M. C. A., Brigade Boy Club, John H. (Continued on Page Nine, Col. 6)

RESORT LETS TWO REPAIR CONTRACTS

Cline Will Resurface Streets And Younts Will Repair Boardwalks

The Town of Wrightsville Beach has awarded contracts of two firms to two firms to resurface streets and repair boardwalks damaged by the tropical storm on August 1, Town Clerk R. L. Benson reported yesterday.

The contract to resurface streets was awarded to the low bidding contracting concern of F. D. Cline, of Raleigh, for \$13,348.24. E. E. Younts, of High Point, received the award to repair the boardwalks with a low bid of \$2,744.55. Both (Continued on Page Two, Col. 1)

Connecticut Labor Favors Fourth Term

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Sept. 9.—(AP)—The Connecticut Federation of Labor gave a fourth term endorsement to President Roosevelt today at its convention and authorized the creation of a "fighting political committee" to carry out its policy of "rewarding its friends and punishing its enemies" during the current campaign.

Endorsed with Mrs. Roosevelt in a resolution approved over the objection of a single delegate was his running mate, Senator Harry Truman.

The convention's action, federation leaders said, marked the second time that the state body of the American Federation of Labor had departed from its policy of not endorsing political candidates. The first time was in 1940 when the federation convention also endorsed Mr. Roosevelt.

LINER REX BURNS IN ADRIATIC PORT

Former Queen Of Italy's Merchant Fleet Set Afire By RAF Planes

ROME, Sept. 9.—(AP)—Struck by more than 120 RAF rockets, the 50,000-ton liner Rex was burning in the northern Adriatic off Trieste today after fierce attacks by rocket-firing Beaufighters.

Reconnaissance pilots said the one-time queen of the Italian merchant fleet was lying motionless with a 60-degree list to port as the result of hits below the waterline. Pilots said flames were roaring from all points of the ship. The big liner in August, 1933, crossed the Atlantic from Gibraltar to Ambrose light in New York Harbor, a distance of 3,181 miles, in four days, 13 hours and 58 minutes.

Two days ago an RAF pilot spotted the Rex under tow South of Trieste. At that time the vessel had a slight list.

An air force report said the Germans were believed to be preparing to sink the ship to block the Trieste harbor. Yesterday, while the liner was at anchor, coastal air force Beaufighters attacked. Fifty-nine hits were scored with rockets. Later Beaufighters from the Balkan air force hurled 64 rockets into her.

Crewmen said that in the last attack a 500-foot column of smoke rose from one end of the vessel, that two thirds of her decks were under water, and flames were roaring along her entire length.

Jap Planes Fail In Raid On Bases Of Superforts

A U. S. SUPERFORTRESS BASE IN WESTERN CHINA, Sept. 9.—(AP)—A small number of Japanese planes attacked two B-29 Superfortress bases last night following yesterday's record-breaking superfortress raid on Anshan, Manchuria, but the enemy failed even to hit the runways.

This first Japanese counter-thrust at the jumping-off places of the Superfortresses was an impressive fizzle. The medium bombers attacking in four waves during two hours, but the most spectacular damage they did, was blast a large crater in a cabbage field. Chinese authorities said the bombs apparently were jettisoned by Japanese bombardiers who were bewildered by the soupy weather.

The Superfortresses which attacked Anshan, in the greatest force yet employed, overwhelmed the Manchurian industrial center's air defenses, including new twin-engine Japanese fighters. Seven Japanese interceptors were destroyed definitely, ten probably were destroyed, and 11 were damaged in the sporadic Japanese efforts to beat off the raiders.

(A communique issued in Washington by the 20th air force said one Superfortress was missing and presumed lost and that numerous bomb-hits were made in the target area.

(The Japanese radio said there was a follow-up raid Saturday on (Continued on Page Five, Col. 1)