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Kharkov Drive Rolls Ahead

Southeast China Is Crucial Area

Japs Drive Dangerously Near Kinhwa

Tokyo Dispatches Declare Japanese Actually Storming Chekiang Capital; Air Duel Continues Off Australia.

Chungking, May 25.—(AP)—A Chinese central news bulletin from the Chekiang front said the Japanese launched a full scale offensive today in an attempt to storm Kinhwa, capital of the sea-board province, but were repulsed with bloody losses.

(By The Associated Press) With Burma lost, the Japanese offensive in southeastern China has become the crucial sector of war in the Orient.

Furthering the successes of last week in the face of a Chinese resistance which could check or turn the enemy back in only isolated actions, the Japanese in Chekiang province had carried their drive dangerously near to the important communications center and provincial capital, Kinhwa.

The Chinese, estimating the enemy's strength at 100,000 men, acknowledged his proximity to Kinhwa and a Tokyo report said that the Japanese actually were storming the city.

The Chekiang drive, carried to its logical end, would impair the long range prospect of setting up forward bases in China for a direct air offensive against Japan by the United Nations. The Japanese offensive also bore the earmarks of an all out attempt to force the Chungking government to its knees.

Japan's strategic position had been tremendously improved by the success in Burma, at the Chinese back door, through which supplies had poured to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces.

Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell, Chiang's American chief of staff, arriving in India, was typically blunt about the battle of Burma, in which he led Chinese forces co-

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MEXICAN CONGRESS CALLED TO CONVENE

Mexico City, May 25.—(AP)—President Manuel Avila Camacho formally called upon congress today to meet in extraordinary session to declare war on the axis powers and to approve emergency measures to defend the nation against totalitarian aggression.

Defendant Says Girl Innocent

New York, May 25.—(AP)—Eli Shonbrun testified today that his 23-year-old lover, Madeline Webb, had no knowledge or part in the slaying of Mrs. Susan Flora Reich but that he and his uncle, Murray Hirschel, "murdered a woman entirely alone."

Shonbrun, who earlier had proclaimed his love for Miss Webb, blurted out shortly after he had taken the stand in his fight for life that "Murray and I murdered a woman entirely alone," adding that he and his uncle were last in the Hotel Sutton suite last March 4 when the well-to-do Polish refugee called.

"For what purpose?" demanded General Sessions Judge Jonah J. Goldstein.

"I mean," replied Shonbrun, "that the woman ultimately died. We had no intention of killing her." "We did things which unfortunately and ultimately resulted in her death," he continued.

He testified earlier that Miss Webb had been sent out to do some shopping the day Mrs. Reich was slain and added, "I would have died if Madeline had known."

Navy Officers Learn to Use Torpedo Boat Gun



Official U. S. Navy Photo

Listening attentively to the instructor, these young naval officers are shown at a torpedo boat base where they are learning the intricacies of operating an anti-aircraft gun on the deadly craft. Since the motor boat fleet proved such a success in the Philippines, the Navy has been swamped with applications from young officers who wish to serve aboard these boats.

Week's Toll Is 19 Ships

Axis Submarines Score Heavily During Period; 195 Seamen Dead, 101 Missing.

New York, May 25.—(AP)—On the prow from the north Atlantic's frigid waters to the tropic Caribbean, enemy submarines were credited officially last week with having sunk 19 merchantmen for a western Atlantic war toll of 210 allied or neutral ships.

The Navy placed the casualties for the week's sea warfare on America's doorstep at more than 195 dead and 101 missing, and announced that some 425 surviving seamen and passengers had been landed at U. S., Caribbean and Canadian ports.

Five sinkings off the U. S. east coast during the week of May 19-25, brought to 106 the total losses in that area since Pearl Harbor; four more off Canada made that war total 39; five in the Caribbean raised that figure to 53, and five in the Gulf of Mexico boosted that total to nine. No losses were reported officially off South America, where twelve ships have been sunk.

The week's total included seven U. S. ships, two Norwegian, one Canadian, one Greek, one British, one Dominican, one Mexican, one Honduran and four unidentified.

Two Killed On Highways

Charlotte, May 25.—(AP)—North Carolina's highways, scene of light travel these days, counted two violent deaths over the week-end, and three South Carolinians were injured.

Near Rocky Mount, six-year-old Rudock Ellis was killed by an automobile as he started across a highway. The coroner said the accident was unavoidable.

William E. Coley, of Cabarrus county was killed near Concord in a truck-train accident, and three persons near there when their car struck a pole. They were Mr. and Mrs. James White and Miss Jackie Powell, en route to Kannapolis to visit White's father.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Little change in temperature

Deferment Asked For Family Men

U-Boats Want Full Credit

Key West, Fla., May 25.—(AP)—The hoisting of a Nazi flag by a submarine that torpedoed an American ship indicated that German U-boats want full credit for their marauding, a rescued seaman said today.

Leonard Shearer of Newcastle, Pa., third assistant engineer aboard a vessel sunk off Cuba May 18, said that U-boat crewmen raised their flag because "they wanted to be darned sure we knew their identity."

Survivors of several ships have said recently they believed their attackers were Italian U-boats.

Flood Toll Now At 33

Honesdale, Pa., May 25.—(AP)—This once gay mountain resort town of 5,687, grieving for its dead and missing, waged a grim fight against disease today as the death toll in eastern Pennsylvania's weekend flash floods rose to 33.

Scores were still missing and feared drowned in a devastated area extending from Chester county on the south to Wayne county on the north.

In this hardest hit village in northeastern Pennsylvania, the Red Cross was feeding 3,000 homeless persons in hastily devised canteens after finding them shelter in homes still intact. Thirteen perished here.

Tons of chloride of lime were spread over mud lined cellars. Town officials called upon all able bodied men to help clean up. State sanitation experts continued a check of drinking water, which was found safe yesterday.

Rivers and tributaries fed by torrential rains, surged over their banks early Saturday.

Congress Studies Proposal to Give President Roosevelt Broad Authority to Revamp Selective Service System.

Washington, May 25.—(AP)—Congress considered today proposals to give President Roosevelt broad authority to revamp the selective service system by classifying family men into groups who would be called for Army duty only after the rolls of those with dependents had been exhausted.

Explaining that the selective service law set up general classifications based on family relationships and economic dependency, Senator Johnson, Democrat, Colorado, predicted that the Senate military affairs committee would amend a pending measure to give discretionary power to the President.

Linked with reports that an effort soon would be made to make men of 19 and 20 subject to the draft, legislation of this nature was expected to clear up the status of older men and those with dependents who now are subject to induction into active service at the discretion of local boards.

Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio, who had proposed that specific classifications be written into the family allowance bill, said he would be satisfied with an amendment authorizing the President to issue regulations classifying men according to age groups, family status, date of marriage and dependency.

Planes Sink Submarine

Fortaleza, Brazil, May 25.—(AP)—A submarine has been sunk by patrol planes, authorized sources announced here today.

The announcement said that a plane patrolling Brazil's northeastern coast discovered and attacked a submarine the afternoon of May 23.

The submarine, while attempting to submerge, fired with its guns and machine gun. The plane unloaded all its bombs "on the submarine," the authorized source said.

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Requested WPA Funds Are Slashed

President Roosevelt Asks Congress to Appropriate \$280,000,000 for Work Relief; Social Security Program Studied.

Washington, May 25.—(AP)—Slashing approximately \$185,000,000 from the total because war conditions permit it, President Roosevelt asked Congress today to appropriate \$280,000,000 for work relief in the year starting July 1 plus \$2,767,000 for administrative expenses.

He had estimated tentatively, in his budget message to Congress last January, that \$465,000,000 would be needed.

The lower figure, he said in a message to the legislators, will permit an average monthly employment of about 400,000, although it is estimated that there are still some 3,000,000 unemployed.

Looking farther ahead, the Chief Executive said he was considering proposals to revise and extend the social security program and expected to recommend to Congress legislation "to extend the protection of our social security measures to provide alternative means of meeting the needs presented by the residual group now being aided by the Work Projects Administration."

The action which Congress takes on such proposals, he said, will determine the extent of moves toward

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Army Airmen Die In Crash

Houlton, Me., May 25.—(AP)—Army airmen announced overnight beside the bodies of six airmen killed when an Army transport plane dug a hole 20 feet deep in a swamp near here yesterday.

In the long-headed end of a routine flight, the twin-engine ship "disintegrated," said George W. Shean, a newspaper correspondent who accompanied the soldier searchers from Houlton field.

Shean said that plane parts and the mangled bodies were scattered over 200 square yards of bog. The plane did not burn.

FIFTH COLUMNISTS HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Sidney, Australia, May 25.—(AP)—Army Minister Francis M. Forde announced today the arrest of 19 men and women, believed to have been associated with the so-called Australian First Front, on charges of treasonable conspiracy to aid the Japanese if they invaded Australia.

Forde said documents which were seized gave plans for the assassination of leading Australians and for sabotaging vulnerable points.

Withholding Tax Deferred

Washington, May 25.—(AP)—The House ways and means committee decided today to defer action temporarily on Secretary Morgenthau's request for permission to withhold at the source 10 per cent of an individual's income tax liability.

Chairman Doughnut, Democrat, North Carolina, said that the committee had tentatively adopted a motion that the policy "be deferred for further consideration" and would start immediate discussion of inheritance tax.

Top Cadet at Point



James Hottenroth

Maj. Gen. Francis B. Wilby, Superintendent of West Point Academy, has announced that Cadet James H. Hottenroth (above), of New York City, is the No. 1 cadet of the class which will be graduated from the U. S. military academy this year.

(Central Press)

Churchill Wins Test

Labor Party Votes Overwhelmingly to Continue Participation in Government.

London, May 25.—(AP)—Advocates of continued participation by the labor party in the Churchill government won an easy victory today in the first test of sentiment favoring a withdrawal, a course suggested earlier by Lord Strabolgi.

By a vote of 2,319,000 to 164,000 the party's annual conference defeated an amendment condemning labor's role in the government. The amendment had been attached to a resolution offered by Clement Attlee, Churchill's dominions secretary, calling for continuance of the war until victory is achieved.

The Churchill government is composed of conservatives—the majority party—and a number of labor and liberal secretaries.

Lord Strabolgi told the conference the time had come to consider strongly the possibility of withdrawing its

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Treasury Sets Bond Quotas

Washington, May 25.—(AP)—Americans were asked by the Treasury today to invest \$800,000,000 in war bonds next month.

The Treasury set quotas for all states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Bond sales for the first 18 business days of May totaled \$439,937,000, a gain of 24 per cent over a similar period in April.

The June quotas included: North Carolina, \$8,190,500.

Cleveland Transit Men Go On Strike

Cleveland, May 25.—(AP)—Streetcar traffic on Cleveland's west side was halted for more than an hour today by a walkout of city transit employees protesting against their failure to get paychecks on time from the city treasury.

Dozens of street cars and buses were stopped, and other cars piled up behind them.

Mayor Frank J. Lausche ordered the arrest of agitators he said were responsible for the stoppage, and shortly before noon transit officials and normal operations had been resumed.

Reds Erase Nazi Flank Diversions

Conflicting Reports Leave Question as to Exact State of Ukraine Conflict; Western Front Air Warfare Intensified.

(By The Associated Press) Russia's Kharkov offensive, a major factor in strategic planning on both sides of the world conflict, was pictured today as rolling forward once again, the Red army having wiped out the best the Germans could offer in the way of flank diversions.

The wedge which the Germans had driven into the Russian salient curving past Kharkov on the south had been shattered with "enormous losses to the enemy," Moscow dispatches said, and the Russians had driven ahead once more after consolidating newly won ground.

This was the 14th day of battle on the Kharkov front, perhaps the most valuable of all German positions in Russia if it buttresses the Taganrog threat of the Germans to invade the Caucasus when and if they can get their own major drive under way.

The German high command, not retiring from previous claims that considerable Russian forces had been cut off in the salient flanking Kharkov, said today that the fighting south of the big Ukrainian manufacturing city had developed into a "battle of encirclement."

"The bulk of three Soviet armies, including strong tank forces, have been encircled," the German communiqué said. "All attempts to break out have failed with heavy losses for the enemy."

Obviously both the Germans and Russians could not be correct in their descriptions of the battle but since communications and the belligerents' own front line reports were the only sources of news, corroboration for either side must await final outcome of the encounter.

Britain's high flying fighters knifed in mid-morning, headed for new day-light attacks on targets in German-occupied France.

Unfavorable weather had kept long range RAF bombers at their bases during the night, but their German counterparts, with the advantage of closer take off points, bombed several places along the southern coast of England. One of them was downed.

Marked by the world conflict was the world's first aerial battle between the United States and Germany, a naval loss and German dissatisfaction with Pierre Laval over his progress toward full French-German collaboration.

Mexico, meanwhile, moved steadily toward a formal declaration of war on the axis, expected this week in an extraordinary session of congress.

Tokyo's imperial headquarters, harking back to the battle of the Coral sea, declared that in addition to previous claims against the United States fleet, a battleship of the 35,000-ton North Carolina type was damaged and a United States "A" class cruiser of the Portland class was sunk.

Rome attempted to back up its claims of last week that a United States battleship of the Maryland

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Walter Smith Gets Reprieve

Raleigh, May 25.—(AP)—Governor Broughton today granted a reprieve to Walter Smith, 64-year-old white man who was scheduled to enter the death chamber at Central Prison on Friday.

The reprieve moved up Smith's death date to July 17. The stay was granted to permit the prisoner time to present petitions for clemency, the governor said.