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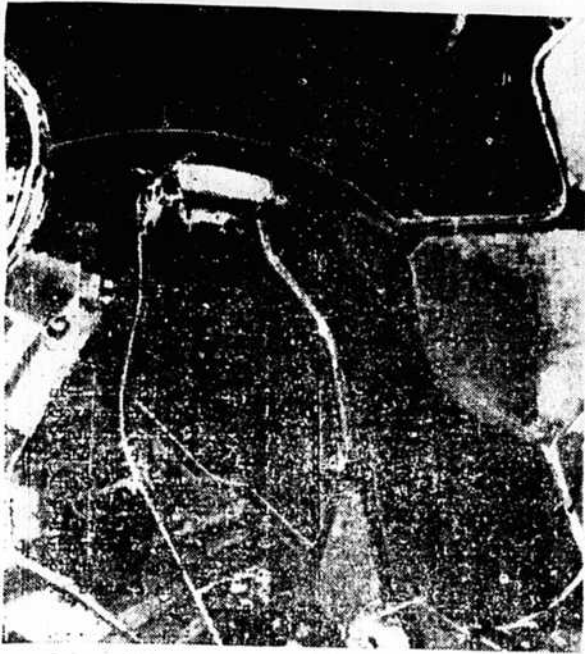
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73 Axis Planes Downed In Battle

Japs Are Driven Toward Sea on Attu

BEFORE AND AFTER RAF RIPPED OPEN MOHNE DAM



GIANT R.A.F. LANCASTER BOMBERS struck a crippling blow at German water power when specially trained crews blasted the Mohne and Eder dams. The Mohne Dam is shown (left) just before the mines and bombs fell. A 300-foot wide gap released devastating torrents



(caption, right) that are sweeping through the Ruhr Valley via sky industrial centers and leading transportation points. According to a report from Switzerland, at least 4,000 persons are dead and 15,000 homeless due to the aerial masterstroke. (International Radio News)

Devastation Worst In Mediterranean Since Tunis Fall

\$29 Billion Naval Bill Is Approved

Washington, May 20.—(AP)—A \$29,463,687,198 naval appropriations measure—largest one-year allotment in history for Uncle Sam's sea fighting forces—was passed unanimously today by the House.

Berlin Again Feels Bombs Of the RAF

London, May 20.—(AP)—Far-ranging and speedy Mosquito bombers of the Royal Air Force carried the continuing Allied offensive to Berlin itself again last night, the British announced today.

All Planes Return from Devastating Raid; Germans Drive from English Coast

Results of the British overnight raid were not announced immediately, an air ministry communique saying merely that targets in Berlin

Four American Planes Lost in Dogfights Over Sicily and Sardinia; Assault Goes on

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, May 20.—(AP)—Allied fighting planes and bombers, in mighty smashes at Axis centers, destroyed 73 planes yesterday in the greatest blow they have inflicted since the collapse of the German ground forces in North Africa, it was announced today.

Twenty-nine planes were shot down in fierce dogfights off Sicily and Sardinia, in an area where the German and Italian air forces have concentrated hundreds of aircraft in an attempt to stem the great and continuing Allied onslaught, and at least 44 others were destroyed on the ground.

For the first time since the fall of Tunisia, enemy aircraft rose in large numbers to challenge Allied domination of the skies over Sardinia and Sicily and their squadrons were ripped to pieces in what official sources described as "several long and grueling dogfights."

Fifty Axis fighters jumped United States Flying Fortresses, which bombed the airfield near Trapani, Sicily, and more than 30 fighters attacked United States Marauders and War Hawks when the Americans bombed Messerato, Elmas air field and the harbor of Cagliari in southern Sardinia.

Four American planes were lost in these operations. Thirty-seven of the Axis planes destroyed on the ground were on the Milo field. At Milas air field in central Sardinia, Mitchells scored direct hits on at least six grounded planes and at Villacidro, where approximately fifty planes were parked, hits were seen all over the dispersal area and several explosions were observed in fuel dumps.

The dispatch did not bring out where the forty-fourth grounded plane, but presumably it was one of those at Villacidro, 25 miles northwest of Cagliari.

The biggest fight of the day occurred between the Sicilian coast and the Egadi islands, when fifty enemy fighters attacked Fortresses which had just bombed Milo field. The fortress gunners shot down ten P-38 Lightnings, which were escorting, damaged three more in a spectacular running battle which continued twenty minutes, with the opposing forces flying at heights ranging from sea level to 24,000 feet.

May Try To Bomb Axis Out of War

Washington, May 20.—(AP)—The possibility that Allied military leaders are trying to shatter Axis Europe so completely by aerial bombardment alone that the long-thrusted invasion may amount to little more than an occupation of prostrate enemy countries, was read into Prime Minister Churchill's speech today by some competent observers here.

A flurry of speculation was stirred by two remarks made by Churchill who omitted any direct reference to the long-discussed invasion. He said:

1. It was worth trying to bring about a collapse in Germany and Italy by air power alone, and

2. The Allies must do everything "sensible and practicable" to divert Axis strength from the Russian front.

"Opinion is divided," Churchill said, "as to whether the use of air power could, by itself, bring about a collapse in Germany or Italy. The experiment is well worth trying, so long as other means are not excluded."

While informed persons agreed that this seemed to bode an even greater scale of bombings than anything yet seen, they were skeptical of any deduction that invasion by ground troops would be withheld or even delayed.

Foe Admits His Losses 66 Percent

Not Single Jap Escapes Some Wound; Heavy American Losses Claimed by Enemy

(By The Associated Press)

Supported by big United States naval guns, American troops were reported driving trapped Japanese forces back against the sea in the ten-day-old battle of Attu island today, and a Tokyo broadcast admitted losses running up to 66 per cent as the Japanese were swept off beaches and ridges.

A Japanese reporter's dispatch said there was "not a single man free of some wound" when Japanese troops retreated from exposed positions along the beach in one sector.

"The next day (May 15), shortly after 11 a. m., came word that the Japanese headquarters of our positions in the ridge east of Holtz bay was destroyed by the combined bombardment of aircraft and warships," the dispatch said.

While admitting virtual suicide losses among the Japanese garrison, the enemy account asserted that the defenders took a heavy toll on seaborne United States forces, blew ten American landing craft out of the water and saw a "tremendous explosion shake a battleship or a cruiser—after the vessel either hit an automatic mine or was attacked by a Japanese submarine.

None of these Japanese claims has been confirmed, and Secretary of the Navy Knox has officially announced that American losses were "much lighter than expected."

The Japanese account said the Americans landed at Holtz bay and Massacre bay on the east end

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Japs in Attu Completely Circled Now

Washington, May 20.—(AP)—American troops have completed encirclement of the remnant of Japanese forces on Attu island in the western Aleutians after capturing the partially complete enemy air field there.

The Japanese, the Navy announced today, were caught in the Chirgof harbor area at the northeastern extremity of Attu after United States forces captured Sarana Pass, flanking the enemy's positions from the southeast.

The Japanese were fighting with their backs to the sea and sea was commanded by American warships, which, it was officially disclosed, have already

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Reds in Kuban Smash Fierce Nazi Assault

Moscow, May 20.—(AP)—New German counter attacks in the Kuban valley, fed by fresh reserves of men and tanks, have been smashed by Red army artillery and planes, the Russians announced today, with heavy losses inflicted on the Nazis as they made their second unsuccessful effort in two days to cross a river in the Kuban delta.

There was constant air and land action all along the Russian-German front from the Karelin isthmus north of Leningrad, where the Finns were reported to have manned their forward lines with more heavy guns, to the arc northeast of Novorossisk, where the Germans still held their positions in that Black Sea port.

The fiercest fighting, the Russians said authoritatively, was in the Kuban sector, on the Donets river,

\$72 Billions Asked for Army

Still More Cuts in Gas Are Hinted

Ickes Says Bans May Be Extended to Middle West; Pipe Line Broken by Flood

Washington, May 20.—(AP)—Secretary Ickes said today further reductions in use of gasoline for driving will have to be made "before the present crisis is over," despite reimposition of the pleasure driving ban in most of the east at noon.

New restrictions may have to be imposed on driving in the Middle West, as well as the east, because "we might temporarily have to bring in more supplies from the middle west (to the east), using the shorter haul," the interior secretary told a press conference in his capacity as petroleum administrator.

Ickes declined to discuss the form of the indicated restrictions, possibly further reduction in ration coupon allowances and perhaps extension of the pleasure driving ban to the middle west—because, he insisted, that is the province of the Office of Price Administration.

Ickes reiterated "what I've been saying for a year and a half—there ought to be no non-essential driving, and there is a lot of it." He added that if non-essential driving had

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Pacific War Council Is Being Held

Washington, May 20.—(AP)—Undersecretary Prime Minister Churchill's pronouncements to Congress that Britain would fight Japan to the end, and help reduce her munitions centers and cities to ashes, President Roosevelt called a meeting of the Pacific war council today, and invited Churchill to attend.

The council, whose members represent all the nations actively engaged in the Pacific war operations, meets regularly at the White House.

Later in the day, the prime minister was set to meet all the representatives in Washington of the British dominions, as well as his own chief of staff.

Prime Minister W. L. MacKenzie King of Canada was among those invited to the war council meeting.

Lewis Believed Angling For 1944 Political Spot In Coming Back To AFL

Washington, May 20.—(AP)—John L. Lewis' return to the doorstep of the American Federation of Labor stunned all but a few insiders in labor circles today and left them groping for an explanation.

The unpredictable president of the United Mine Workers, who defied the AFL in 1935, and was a perennial petitioner in behalf of the miners for readmission, an AFL statement yesterday said the application was "welcomed" and was being considered "in an orderly and sympathetic way."

Lewis withheld comment at his New York hotel today, but his friends said his action was evidence of his desire for a united labor movement. Critics doubted it had the whole story. Many believe he made the jump because he had no other place to go, while still seeking the top spot in the American labor movement.

Fear Floods Will Crack Big Mississippi Levees

(By The Associated Press.)
Belief that all levees along the Mississippi river between St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, Mo., "will be wiped out" was expressed by a Federal engineer today as emergency relief crews and military troops worked to check the flood waters from turbulent rivers and streams which covered a wide area of the mid-west.

Vern Alexander, regional hydrologic engineer at Kansas City's weather bureau, after completing a tour of the Missouri and Oklahoma flood areas, said:

"I believe all levees along the Mississippi river between St. Louis and Cape Girardeau will be wiped out." The levees protect thousands of acres of rich farm lands.

Alexander predicted that the levees at St. Louis and at East St. Louis, Ill., will hold, although he said he believed the crest at St. Louis will reach 37 1/2 feet, just six inches over the 1933 level, by Saturday or Sunday. The St. Louis weather bureau said the stage yesterday was 32.9 feet, a rise of 2.7 feet in the last 24 hours, and predicted a rise of two feet in the next 24 hours. The all-time peak at St. Louis was 41.2 feet in 1844, Alexander said.

There was only slight measure of relief in the flooded area in a six-state mid-continent section where

When Lewis lost control of the CIO and left it last year, he virtually burned his bridges behind him. He tried a third movement under the banner of district fifty, a catch-all unit of the UMW. The results were less than spectacular.

As the leader of a single union the United Mine Workers, his influence in politics has its limitations. By rejoining a federation of unions, whose membership soon may aggregate 7,000,000, he could be seeking a potential alliance in political circles, perhaps starting with the 1944 presidential campaign.

What effect the miners' readmission with the AFL would have upon the CIO is speculative. The respective membership claims make the CIO numerically inferior now.

The miners, who have been independent since last October, would add 500,000 to the 4,225,000 members who now pay per capita tax to the AFL.

Tennessee Negro Held for Slaying Wife of Army Man

Tullahoma, Tenn., May 20.—(AP)—A Negro identified by police as George (Slim) Johnson, cafe operator, sought in the rape slaying of a pretty 19-year-old army officer's wife, shot and wounded himself in Nashville when police there sought to arrest him.

The Negro was sought in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Norma Fay Scoggin, of Des Moines, Iowa, whose body, with two bullet wounds in the breast, and her head beaten, was found under a brush heap near here yesterday.

Patrolmen of Nashville took the Negro into custody after he fired a bullet into his head on their approach at a bus station there.

Increase Is Sought For More Planes

\$29 Billion Navy Bill Waiting Final Approval; Army Budget Upped Six Billions

Washington, May 20.—(AP)—President Roosevelt asked Congress today to make available nearly \$72,000,000,000 for the Army in the fiscal year starting July 1, boosting his January budget figures by more than six billion dollars.

White House Secretary Stephen Early explained that the increase is accounted for by a projected expansion of the aircraft program.

The Army expects to get, he said, 1,117,000,000 pounds of planes in the next year, exclusive of the weight of engines and motors, compared with 911,000,000 pounds in the current fiscal period.

The total, Early said, will exceed the combined production of all other nations.

A \$29,000,000,000 naval bill is awaiting House passage today.

The President, in a letter to Speaker Rayburn, transmitted a request for War Department appropriations totaling \$59,425,589,500. He asked also that \$12,472,913,200 of unobligated balances of current appropriations for the Army be made available again in the coming fiscal year. The total of the two items is \$71,898,499,700.

Soft Coal Miners Renewing Strikes In Three States

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 20.—(AP)—Strikes of soft coal miners protesting their lack of a working contract, spread in Pennsylvania and broke out in Ohio and Kentucky today, leaving more than 6,000 men idle and 14 mines closed.

Eleven pits were closed in United Mine Workers district two (central Pennsylvania), which comprises 45,000 miners.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Continued warm, scattered showers this afternoon and tonight.