

## REDS START NEW DRIVE IN SOUTH POLAND

### Japs Hint Captives From Fort Raiders Have Been Executed

#### Back From Russia



ERIC JOHNSTON, President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, is shown after his arrival in New York City after an eight-week visit to Russia. He went to Russia at the invitation of Premier Stalin to study post-war trade possibilities between the U. S. and the Soviet. Johnston said he had a three-hour conference with Stalin but would not discuss details. (International)

#### Broadcast States Order of the Day Is to Kill Crews

New York, July 15—(AP)—A Japanese broadcast recorded by the Federal Communications Commission hinted today that several United States airmen captured by the Japanese, apparently following the first B-29 Superfortress raid on the steel town of Yawata June 15, had been executed.

Beamed from Singapore to American forces in the Southwest Pacific, the broadcast said the airmen had "been left to rot with the same fate which was meted out to prisoners of Tokyo some two years ago."

"Any Allied airmen who falls or bails out over Japan will be executed," the speaker declared angrily. "This is the order of the day."

Monitors said the reception was so poor that only a few excerpts from the talk were intelligible. More than four hours after this propaganda transmission, FCC listening stations had recorded no similar Japanese statement from any other source.

The Office of War Information originally issued a story based on the FCC recording quoting the Singapore spokesman as saying that the captives had been executed. This was followed by a leading saying might have been executed, "or at the broadcast suggested that they lost were being held for execution."

It was not brought out specifically that the American airmen were B-29 crew members, leaving open the possibility that the Singapore spokesman was referring to the slaying of fliers captured at other times for the destruction wrought by their mates.

### CHURCH ESCAPES WRATH OF WAR



TWO FRENCH CIVILIANS gaze at the spires of Abbeys Aux Hommes, in Caen, France, which miraculously survived the heavy bombardment of the city which preceded its capture by the Allies. A bulldozer (right) is already clearing the debris. Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International)

## 85 American Planes Raid Guam, New Jap Announcement Says

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, July 15—(AP)—The Tokyo radio reported today that 85 American planes had raided Guam, and that two American Liberator bombers attacked Two Jima in the Kazan group, 870 miles northwest of Guam.

Since the Kazan island group heretofore has been beyond the range of American land-based bombers, a raid by Liberators would mean that the heavy bomber strip on newly-captured Saipan island has been put into operation.

Last night Admiral Nimitz disclosed in a press release that carrier plane attacks on the former United States outpost of Guam have been unbroken through ten straight days.

Thursday's attacks, covered in the press release, destroyed ammunition dumps, storage facilities, gun positions and buildings both on Guam and nearby Rota. All planes returned safely.

So completely are Vice Admiral Mark Mitscher's forces masters of the sea and air that the press release said a destroyer moved close to Guam and sank an enemy coastal transport July 10.

A check of communiqués reporting the Guam attack shows that targets prominently mentioned are clustered about Point Apan on the west coast. This excellent anchorage served in peacetime as a port of call for naval vessels and Pan-American transport planes.

One communiqué listed a fiery sweep along the entire west shore. Guam's defenders—Japs, who

wrested the outpost from a gallant group of soldiers and Marines December 13, 1941—apparently are fighting without either naval or air support.

Airplanes on Yap and Woleai are in the best position to hit Guam—but they have their own troubles. Today, General MacArthur announced at Southwest Pacific headquarters that his bombers have made new crates in the well-pitted runways of Yap and Woleai.

### French Units Given Cover By Eisenhower

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, July 15—(AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower disclosed today that French forces of the interior constitute a combatant force and that any Germans treating them otherwise would be brought to speedy justice.

These forces, he said in an announcement, "form an integral part of the Allied expeditionary force."

The supreme Allied commander now has conclusive evidence that the German forces in France have acted upon the announcement of June 7, 1944, made by the commander-in-chief of the German armed forces in the west, labeling as "franc-tireurs" (irregulars not subject to international law protecting regular combatants) the members of French resistance groups, said an official statement.

Eisenhower's headquarters announced: "The supreme commander, therefore, makes the following statement:—

"1. French forces of the interior constitute a combatant force committed and directed as a formal part of the Allied expeditionary force.

"2. French forces of the interior bear arms openly against the enemy and are instructed to conduct their operations against him in accordance with the rules of war. They are provided with a distinctive emblem and are regarded by General Eisenhower as an army under his command.

"3. In these circumstances, reprisals against resistance groups violate rules of war by which Germany is bound. Such crimes only strengthen the determination of the United Nations in bringing the war to a speedy and victorious conclusion to see that justice is carried out."

### WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Considerable cloudiness, warm and humid tonight and Sunday, with scattered afternoon and evening thundershowers.

### Offensive Begun North Of Tarnopol

#### Brest-Litovsk Is Threatened; Gains Made Near Baltic

London, July 15—(AP)—The Germans announced today that the Russians have launched a long-awaited offensive in southern Poland, extending to 500 miles a front which in the north challenges the last ditch string of forts guarding the Junker homeland in East Prussia, now less than twenty miles ahead of the Red army.

The German high command said the Russians struck from northwest of Tarnopol, where they had been reported within thirty miles of strategic Lwow and west of Luck, 120 miles southeast of Lublin, which guards the southeast approaches to Warsaw.

A drive from Luck also would pose a southern flanking threat to Brest-Litovsk, fortress town scarred by two wars, which stands on the main line west to Warsaw and anchors the enemy's Bug river defenses.

"Some Russian penetration, were eliminated in counter thrusts," the Berlin radio said of the new offensive.

Moscow, habitually silent on new operations until they are well developed, had not mentioned any new drive south of the Pripyet marshes.

The Russians kept up their breakneck pace through waverling defenses as they struck on in the Baltic states toward the fortified line guard East Prussia. The British radio said in a broadcast beamed to Europe that the Germans had begun to dismount installations in the East Prussian port of Königsberg.

CBS recorded a broadcast by London saying the Russians had begun shelling Grodno, old Polish fortress town guarding the approaches to southern East Prussia.

Moscow dispatches said the Russians were within seven miles of Grodno.

Street barricades were being thrown up in Grodno, Bialystok, and Brest-Litovsk and the Germans were reported bent on a fight to the death in these cities.

The Paris radio said counter attacks had been launched by the Germans to the north of Grodno. It was on this sector that the Russians were closest to the East Prussian frontier.

### Mine Sweeper Almost Got Clark's Boat

Rome, July 15—(AP)—The United States Navy disclosed today that a United States mine sweeper's accidental fire was responsible for the killing of one officer and one man and wounding of three others aboard a PT boat which carried Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark and other officers to the Anzio beachhead January 22.

An official announcement said an inquiry had established that the PT boat and its escort "entered the area while a red alert was on" in anticipation of a Nazi raid, and the

### Americans Are Now In Mile Of St. Lo, After Fresh Gains

#### Action in Italy



YANK ASSAULT forces have stormed and captured the German mountain stronghold of Lajatico, which is located 20 miles southeast of Leghorn (A). In some of the bitterest fighting on the Italian front since Rome fell, Nazi resistance on the Adriatic end of the line at Ancona (B) is reported to be approaching the intensity of a full scale stand. Mines and demolitions are impeding the Allied advance. (International)

#### German Road Line Bastions Also Are Near to Capture

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, July 15—(AP)—American troops reached the outskirts of Lessay shortly after noon today and are fighting in the suburbs.

Supreme headquarters announced that British troops have recaptured Hill 112 between the Odon and Orne rivers, a height that has changed hands repeatedly in bloody fighting, and were in Sablot, southwest of Caen.

No attacks or counter attacks of any large scale were reported in the British sector.

The air forces announced today was one of the worst flying days since the invasion began, and up until this afternoon less than fifty sorties had been made.

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, July 15—(AP)—United States troops edged to within 2,000 yards or little more than a mile of the outskirts of the pivot road hub of St. Lo today, amid the crashing of a mammoth artillery duel, and closed within a mile or two of the other German road line bastions of Lessay and Periers.

To the northwest, other American infantrymen battled a mile from Lessay and were two miles from Periers in the center after striking forward four miles to straighten a loop in their lines.

Three towns fell in the four-mile southward drive from the marshes of Plessis toward Periers, closing in the American line menacing that middle stronghold in the largest single-day advance since Cherbourg's capture. Sixteen towns and villages on the American front have been seized in the last 24 hours.

The Germans fought desperately to hold their line on the lateral road running from Lessay, 21 miles southward through Periers to St. Lo. A front dispatch said the enemy poured the toughest artillery fire yet encountered against the United States column near the Point-Hebert road, north of St. Lo, after a 600-yard advance. Infantrymen fought yard by yard for the big road hub of St. Lo, and were closing in from positions at La Barre de Semilly, two miles to the east.

British troops have captured more than 7,000 Germans and killed or wounded four times as many—28,000 to 30,000—since D-Day, a British staff officer at the front declared as a full persisted on the British-Canadian sector to the east.

The whole Allied bag of prisoners was about 84,000, for an American announcement said July 11 that 46,819 enemy troops had been taken by United States forces.

### 60 German Divisions Now In Normandy

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, July 15—(AP)—When the Allies landed in France on June 6 they found the Normandy coast defended by one German division to each twenty miles and General Eisenhower poured ashore more than seven divisions, totaling more than one-eighth the strength of Hitler's entire army in the West, it was disclosed today.

The Germans had a total of seven divisions in Normandy on D-Day, but it was the following day before they mounted a counter attack with anything more than infantry elements of one armored division.

Reinforcements have been coming up steadily, and the enemy now has twenty to 25 divisions in Normandy, 11 or 12 of them facing the American front.

Field Marshal Von Rundstedt was allowed sixty divisions with which to repel the invasion.

Despite the fact that two of these have disappeared completely and parts of others have been killed or captured, the German army strength in the west now is estimated at 60 to 65 divisions.

### Leaf Holiday Proposed To Wait Prices

#### Columbia Meeting Would Force OPA To Act Speedily

Columbia, S. C., July 15—(AP)—A tobacco "sales holiday" pending announcement of "satisfactory" ceiling prices by the Office of Price Administration was proposed today as growers, warehousemen and State officials of the Carolinas, Virginia, Florida and Georgia met here to discuss production and sales problems in the cigarette leaf belts.

Congressman John S. Gibson, of Douglas, Ga., representing the eighth Georgia district, asked the conference to adopt his resolution calling on governors of the five states to close warehouses by proclamation until ceilings acceptable to growers and dealers were announced by July 19.

Governor Olin D. Johnson, of South Carolina, who called the meeting, and official representatives of governors of the other states, placed a telephone call to Economic Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson asking that OPA ceilings be made public immediately.

The growers discussed then turned over to a committee, a resolution setting ceilings of 45 to 52 cents a pound for bred and 41 cents for un-bred tobacco on the 1944 markets.

Gibson, urging adoption of his resolution, asked that the five states take a united front on he proposed holiday. He suggested that after announcement of OPA ceilings, that market openings be delayed "until the expiration of an equal number of days after the original date set for each bell, as the OPA delays announcing a satisfactory ceiling under July 19."

#### FOUR TAR BELLS RECEIVE MEDALS

London, July 15—(AP)—Gallantry awards were announced today for 41 officers and infantrymen for action in France. Twelve were Silver Stars, the rest Bronze Stars. Among the recipients were the following North Carolina men:

Silver Stars—Pvt. James Craswell, Connelly Springs; Capt. Ellis Wilkerson, Raleigh.

Bronze Stars—Pvt. Elbert Freeze, Landis; Sgt. Robert Bourdant, Reidsville.

### General, Two Colonels Die In Airplane

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 15—(AP)—Major General Paul Newgard, commander of the tenth armored division, two colonels and at least two other persons were instantly killed near here last night when an army plane crashed in a heavy storm.

Captain Lester M. Nichols, public relations officer for the tenth armored division at Camp Gordon, Ga., announced the fatalities. He said General Newgard, Colonel Rem Lawrence, commanding at combat units, and the others had been enroute from Fort Knox, Ky., to Augusta, Ga., where a troop review was planned at Camp Gordon today to celebrate the second anniversary of General Newgard's command.

General Newgard, 54, was a veteran of 35 years service. He was a west point graduate, a graduate of the Army War College, and previously served from 1936 to 1940 as assistant chief of staff in the sixth corps area, then at Chicago. He became a brigadier-general in 1941, and advanced to major general June 22, 1942.

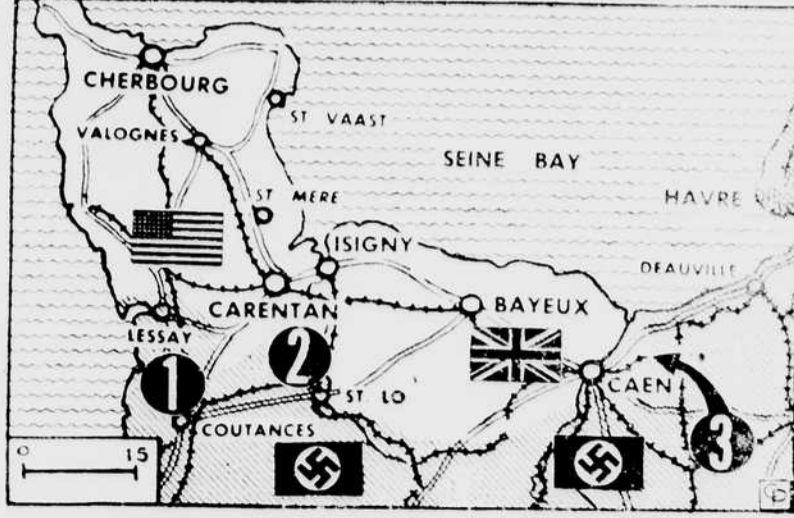
Colonel Lawrence, veteran of a year's overseas duty, in World War I, became a full colonel in July, 1942.

### CLOSE VISE ON 45,000 JAPS



A STRONG JAPANESE FORCE, estimated at 45,000 troops, is desperately trying to battle its way out of a trap in the Wewak area in New Guinea. American units on the west flank and Australians on the east (black arrows) have hemmed in the enemy forces along a 125-mile stretch of coastline. Reconnaissance photos show that the bulk of the enemy troops are massing for a breakthrough toward Aitape because Allied naval vessels and bombers have steadily blockaded escape routes. (International)

### FIERCE FIGHTING FLARES ON FRONT



SMASHING BACK heavy Nazi counterblows, American forces in Normandy slugged their way to within two miles (1) of Lessay, Twenty German tanks were blasted in the St. Lo region (2) when they charged head on into Yank positions. American forces are reported closing in on the town from two directions. Although Allied forces have destroyed 144 Nazi tanks in the last few days, Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery warns that "enemy armor still is strong." In the Caen sector (3) British-Canadian lines have been pushed back between the Odon and Orne Rivers and Nazi resistance is said to be especially strong. (International)