

NAVY EXPLOSION KILLS 250

REDS MOUNTING GREATEST DRIVE OF WAR

Wallace Is Fading From the Picture After FDR Letter

Byrnes and Barkley Appear Leaders For Vice-Presidential Nomination

Chicago, July 18.—(AP)—War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes and Senator Alben W. Barkley cut visibility today into the support of faintly praised Henry A. Wallace in a furious pre-convention battle for the backing of delegates that President Roosevelt said must "do the deciding" on a Democratic vice-presidential nomination.

In what one official, who preferred to remain anonymous, called a "preliminary caucus" of the present vice president, Mr. Roosevelt made it clear that while he liked and re-

spected Wallace as a friend and personally would vote for his re-nomination if he were a delegate, the convention opening tomorrow has the final decision.

This expression of the President's viewpoint in a letter made public yesterday by the convention's permanent chairman, Senator Samuel Jackson, was reported to have been

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Premier Tojo Shorn Of Some Authority

New York, July 18.—(AP)—General Hideki Tojo, top Japanese war leader, has been relieved of at least one of his posts, that of chief of the army general staff, in the second drastic change in the Japanese high command in two days.

Without giving any indication of a change in Tojo's status as premier and war minister, the Japanese radio today broadcast a statement by the top of the Japanese navy, announced yesterday that General Yamashiro Umezu, former commander-in-chief of Japan's fighting army and ambassador in Manchuria, had been named chief of the army staff.

Daniel Japanese news agency, announcing the shift, linked the appointment with that of the relatively obscure Admiral Nishimura Nomura as navy minister yesterday, stating that both appointments were made "in order to firmly establish the structure for the guidance of the war, and in view of the unprecedentedly grave war situation."

accompanied by a message that Mr. Roosevelt would have nothing to say to any of the candidates.

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Staggering Nazis Face Devastation

Brest Litovsk And Warsaw Are Likely Goals of New Blow

Moscow, July 18.—(AP)—There is every reason to believe in Moscow today that the Red army is ready to hit the great offensive in Russia's three-year war against the staggering Germans—an offensive which may throw the whole front into violent activity from the far north to the south.

The danger of the impact through central Europe, against the first serious south of the Prussia line in old Poland may indeed have been toward the great European rail center of Lodz, as the Germans have reported for four days. Other Russian army groups may have moved toward the Baltic gap in Lithuania between the Carpathians and the Danube.

With their backs against the East Prussian border, besides giving ground swiftly in the middle Baltics and between Brest-Litovsk and Gdansk, in the direction of Warsaw and the river Bug, the Germans are in their most desperate situation of the war.

Unmistakable signs pointed to a general advance being led by Stalin and his general staff. The Soviet triangle country, which the Germans formerly attacked to East Prussia, now is being the weight of Russian long range artillery northwest of Gdansk, and other Red army troops have advanced west and south of that newly-captured stronghold, front dispatches said today.

This same dispatch said Soviet forces have gained a foothold on the western bank of the Niemcz river which runs into the Niemen south of Gdansk, in a big advance between Lannol and Bialystok, toward the southern border of East Prussia.

With a score of villages in their hands on the western side of the Niemen on their bridgehead west of Gdansk, the Russians were driving toward Eydtkanow, border city in East Prussia, 45 miles away.

Another startling advance faced the German blitz as the Red army developed a wedge between Bialystok and Brest-Litovsk in a drive that puts the Soviet's only 120 miles east of Warsaw.

This wedge is just 40 miles from the Bug river. The Russians may drive straight ahead toward Warsaw, turn to the north and outflank Bialystok from the southwest, turn south and outflank Brest-Litovsk—or do all three.

At the same time, Daniel announced that Lt. Gen. Prince Panosara Kiyu, member of one of the branches of the imperial Japanese family was named "to be attached to the army aviation general headquarters, currently a member of the supreme command and chief of the military general staff."

SCHOOLS TO OPEN
Rochester, N. Y., July 18.—The white schools of Nash county will open Monday, September 4, and the negro schools Monday, September 11, according to plans outlined by the Nash county board of education. All holidays are to be limited to one week or five teaching days.

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NAZIS BALIC LIFE LINE IN PERIL



California Port Hit By Heavy Blast

Munitions Ships Blow Up at Berths; Small Ships Lost

Port Chicago, Cal., July 18.—(AP)—Two Navy ammunition ships exploding late last night with earth-shaking roars, killed from 200 to 600 men, injured hundreds of others, lessened the Port Chicago depot dock area and inflicted immense damage in war-booming Port Chicago, 35 miles from San Francisco.

One northbound cargo vessel being loaded went up with a tremendous roar at 10:19 P. M. (PWT), minutes later a second ship exploded, this time blowing to bits 100 employees were injured.

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St. Lo Occupied by Americans

Fall Of Guam May Be Near, Nimitz Hints

Washington, July 18.—(AP)—Arrival of a Brazilian Expeditionary force in Naples, June 10, to join Allied armies in operation on the Italian front was announced today by the War Department.

L. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, July 18.—(AP)—Bombarded by America's biggest battleships and ripped by the most intense rocket attack ever launched on a Pacific island, Japanese-held Guam appeared today to be at the threshold of significant developments.

Opposed only by inferior force, the island's defenses were shattered by the most destructive attack in the war, with the aid of bombers and destroyers, on Japanese-held Guam Saturday. The great day comes planes and other aerial units, tanks and barges with mortars and fire boats.

These developments, reported by the U. S. Navy, carried the beleaguering attack on Guam through all major remaining days for a month, toward July 4, less than a year ago, when the island was completely the conquest of Japan.

The day's action on Guam, reportedly has been wiped out and the small island held for the Americans seemed to indicate ground defenses are being nullified.

Brazilian Troops On Italian Front For Active Duty

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Nazis Retreating From Eastward From Anchor Area

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, July 18.—(AP)—American troops drove today into St. Lo through crumpled German opposition north and east of the strategic highway hub, as a front dispatch declared "the Germans are in retreat."

Legion Asks Forced Peace, If Necessary

Washington, July 18.—(AP)—A report that the Legion of the United States, a volunteer force of American soldiers, has asked the government to force a peace on Germany, if necessary, was reported today by the Associated Press.

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Nazis Shoot 33 More Of Allied Fliers

London, July 18.—(AP)—German fighters have shot 33 more Allied fliers, Sir James Grigg, war secretary, told Commons today.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced on June 23 that 103 captured fliers had been shot by the Nazis.

Sir James said that in 27 of the new cases, the men were alleged to have been shot while attempting escape. The circumstances of the other six killings were not immediately disclosed.

The strongest protests have been made through the British protecting power (Switzerland), and an account of the killings is being kept for action by the War Criminals Commission, Sir James said. There was an immediate disclosure whether other than British fliers were killed.

Private Langley Given Medal For Soldier's Rescue

Washington, July 18.—(AP)—Private First Class, Nicholas E. Langley, of 905 Duval street, Henderson, N. C., has been awarded the soldier's medal for rescuing a fellow soldier from drowning at the risk of his own life, the War Department announced today.

On March 22, 1944, at West Ferry Creek, Camp Campbell, Ky., a steep bank collapsed, threatening to flood the creek, overtake and submerge, throwing twelve enlisted men into the stream. Making the spot where he had seen a man sink, Pfc. Langley dived into the swift-flowing water, swam to the place where the soldier went down and surface-dived until he found the drowning man at the bottom of the stream. Langley towed him to shore and, with the aid of another soldier, administered resuscitation.

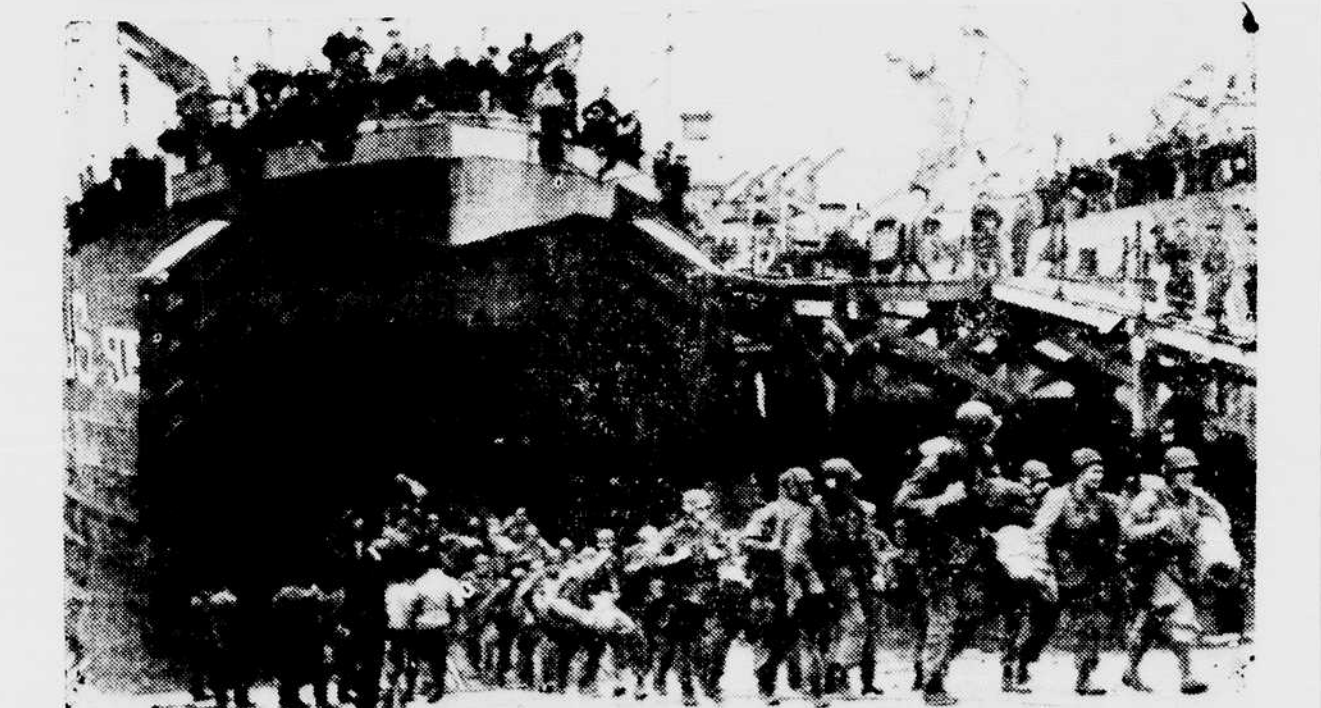
U. S. Bomber Attack Worst Since D-Day

London, July 18.—(AP)—An American air armada of more than 1,000 heavy bombers and fighters thundered into eastern Germany this morning and blasted the German army forces' experimental station at Peenemunde and Zimmowitz, where the rocket bombs were developed.

Other parts of the Reich were attacked by American bombers from Italy, the Germans reported, and simultaneously other Allied bombers and fighters by the hundreds swarmed out from England, scouring the enemy Normandy battlefield in the greatest display of aerial might since D-Day.

The force, which poured out from Britain above intermittent incoming single rocket bombs and hit the bomb laboratories, was composed of upward of 500 heavy bombers and a similar number of fighters.

BATTLE-WEARY NORMANDY VETS LAND IN ENGLAND



AT A DOCKSIDE IN AN ENGLISH PORT fired American veterans of the beachhead invasion stream ashore, smiling and eager, hurrying to trains bound for rest billets in the country. That their places in the battle were well taken by fresh troops is shown by the steady advance of the American First Army toward the employment of Lorraine and St. Lo, capturing of the Normandy Signal Corps Radio telephone, (left) between the