

JAP TROOPS THROWN BACK IN NORTH BURMA FIGHTING

Enemy Surrounded On Three Sides; Chinese Hold Loyang Despite Pierce Attacks

Southwest Asia Headquarters, Kandy, Ceylon, May 17.—Jungle-trained Chinese troops of Lt. Gen. Joseph Stilwell's command cut the main Mogaung Valley road behind the Japanese defending Malakang in northern Burma, a communique announced today, and left enemy troops but one avenue of escape—the wide, shallow Mogaung River.

The Japanese, surrounded on three sides, counter-attacked four times in a vain attempt to clear the road, but the Chinese held firm and the enemy retired.

A second Chinese force to the east cut a trail one mile southwest of Taronguang which the enemy had long used as a principal supply route, a United Press front dispatch reported.

Heavy Rain. Fighting the fast approaching monsoon as well as stiff Japanese resistance, Allied forces both in northern Burma and in the India-Burma frontier area increased the pace of their drives.

A communique issued by Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters revealed the imminence of the monsoon rains which will impede all activity until fall. Describing the Allied offensive operations on the Manipur front, in the Indian frontier area, the communique said: "Heavy rain made movement difficult."

On this front British forces were clearing out the Imphal-Kohima road, and the Japanese were fortifying themselves for a last stand three miles south of Kohima.

In the Malakang area 13 miles north of Kamauing in northern Burma, Chinese troops fanned out one mile west of Taronguang in a flanking movement.

Japs On Defensive. Reports to headquarters said that the Japanese were on the defensive throughout Burma.

Advancing northward from Imphal on the 60-mile Imphal-Kohima road, British Empire troops attacked the third and last of the enemy road blocks north of Kanglatong, which is 10 miles north of Imphal.

Air activity was on a big scale. British bombers attacked Sogaing, near Mandalay, where the main railroad crosses the Irrawaddy River.

Urge Greater Use Of Nitrate Soda

Raleigh, May 18.—In an attempt to create greater production of corn in North Carolina this year, the State Feed Advisory Committee is now urging farmers to use larger quantities of nitrate of soda, preferably 250 pounds to the acre. Representatives of various agricultural agencies in the State agreed to publish a campaign to this end.

E. M. Hansen, of Raleigh, agronomist, recently presented experiments conducted by him last summer which showed that with nitrate of soda selling for \$40 per ton, the cost per bushel of increased yield was 21 cents—based on 250 pounds to the acre.

Hansen said the number of pounds of nitrate of soda required—on the average—to produce an extra bushel of corn was 10.6 pounds. He explained that an acre of land which normally produced 23.4 bushels of corn, an application of 250 pounds of nitrate of soda increased the yield to 47 bushels.

Rupert C. Barnes, representative of the State War Board, recently informed the committee that this State's proportion of 1,000,000 bushels of Canadian oats to Southern states was Monday set at 147,500 bushels, more than any other state in the group. On the advice of the committee, 40 per cent of this allotment will be used in the form of straight oats, the remainder to be used in the manufacture of feed.

Despite the labor shortage and other difficulties, indications are that farmers will increase their production of various crops. Collins said, in showing that from July last year through May 6, fertilizer tags for 1,388,000 tons of fertilizer were issued, as compared with 1,231,061 tons for the same period a year ago.

DOUBLE-CHECK

London, May 17.—A mass checkup on every man wearing the United States Army uniform in Britain was completed at midnight.

All units, except those in transit, were confined to barracks for the previous 24 hours while credentials were scrutinized.

Military police in London and elsewhere search through stacks demanding identification of both officers and enlisted men, both as a security measure and to check on deserters.

Excellent Results From Grazing Crops

A temporary grazing crop for winter and early spring grazing must be planted early in the fall, fertilized heavy, and planted with plenty of seed, says S. W. Tharrington of Franklin County on Route 1 out of Louisburg. Tharrington knows what it takes to make a good pasture because he has one of only 1 1/2 acres that is providing grazing for 12 sows, 125 shoats, and 2 yearlings.

According to W. C. Boyce, county agent of the State College Extension Service, Tharrington sowed 3 bushels of small grain (wheat, oats, rye and barley), 20 pounds of rye grass, 20 pounds of rape and 10 pounds of clover per acre about September 10.

The land was in small grain and lespedeza in 1942 and in soybeans and corn in 1943. An application of 400 pounds of 3-12-6 fertilizer and an extra 200 pounds of nitrate of soda was applied on February 15.

"The pasture has provided grazing for an average of 50 shoats since October. The pigs did very little rooting because of rings in the nose. Hogs were kept off the pasture for two weeks during January. Brood sows on this pasture produced good litters of thrifty pigs."

"I believe the pigs will weigh 250 pounds each between six and seven months of age. My hogs graze an inch off the pasture each day and it grows back that night," Tharrington reports.

"Many farmers are sending in phenomenal returns from early grazing crops and in every case they planted early, fertilized well, and used relatively large amounts of seed," says Dr. Emerson Collins, State College Extension agronomist, who is conducting a survey of grazing results obtained by farmers in all parts of the State. He points out that pastures have done exceptionally well because of abundant supplies of water.

Local REA Co-Op To Hold Annual Meeting June 3rd

The sixth annual meeting of the Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation will be held on Saturday, June 3rd at 3:30 P. M., in the Town Hall in Farmville, Manager R. A. Joyner announced today.

The manager said that the annual meeting will be the most important event of the year for the Cooperative's 1199 members. The program will include the election of a board of directors for the coming year and the reports of officers on the progress made by the Cooperative during the past year.

Mr. Joyner pointed out that the Cooperative has extended electric service to farms wherever possible, as part of the program to encourage the best use of electrical labor-saving and food-producing equipment along its lines. Since January, 1943, War Production Board regulations have authorized the connection to rural power lines of nearby farms able to use electrical devices in livestock, dairy and poultry production.

The Cooperative now operates 256 miles of rural distribution lines in Pitt and Greene counties.

Warning About Tire Situation In Pitt

Greenville, May 17.—Eligibility for Grade I tires is not a guarantee that such tires are available, since a recent flood of applications by newly-eligible drivers far exceeds the Pitt County Ratton Board's quota of 329, J. B. Kittrell, chairman of the Pitt County War Price and Ratton Board said today.

"Although the tire situation has improved considerably," Kittrell said, "there are still only enough for the most essential use."

"White applications for new tires have exceeded 700, the local board's quota for this month is only 329," he added.

He also reminded car owners to retain their inspection records, which will have to be presented in order to purchase new tires. Some motorists, he said, had misinterpreted the recent OPA order suspending compulsory inspections and had less than 30 days to get their records.

FOOD LOCKERS

The demands for dry frozen food locker plants and expansions have reached such proportions that the War Food Administration has found it necessary to tighten requirements for these plants.



Reveals A Cut In War Costs Twenty-Five High School Graduates Receive Diplomas

Year's Spending To Be Reduced Nearly Five Billions

Washington, May 17.—President Roosevelt's announcement that war expenditures for the next fiscal year will be cut back a net of \$4,800,000,000 under January estimates brought cheer today to a congress having election year worries over high taxes and the mounting national debt.

The President's disclosure that better coordination between procurement and operating plans plus less-than-anticipated losses had contributed to the reduction in outlays was applauded by almost all legislators, but Republicans said the reductions had not gone far enough.

Senator Bridges (R-NH), a member of the Appropriations committee, called the pruning of the war estimates "a step in the right direction" but added: "I think even more careful planning and the elimination of waste would bring expenditures down even more without affecting the vigorous prosecution of the war."

Mr. Roosevelt told his news conference yesterday that while war expenditures were estimated at \$90,500,000,000 in January for the fiscal year beginning July 1, a total of \$84,000,000,000 had been trimmed off this amount by the War Department, Navy and Shipping Administration. He said that additional lend-lease outlays not covered in the January estimate would reach \$3,500,000,000 and that there were additions of \$1,000,000,000 for other war activities, thus holding the net savings to \$4,800,000,000.

Cockroaches Killed By Sodium Fluoride

Sodium fluoride has been recommended for cockroach control for many years and is still the most effective material available for this purpose, says J. Myron Maxwell, Extension entomologist at N. C. State College.

The effectiveness of the sodium fluoride treatment depends upon the method of application. Maxwell recommends that the powder be dusted very thinly over the surfaces where the cockroaches may run through it. The pests lick the material which sticks to their feet and thus they are poisoned. If the powder is left in piles, the cockroach will avoid walking through it.

A small garden duster may be used for applying the sodium fluoride. If a duster is not available, Maxwell recommends that about 1/4 teaspoonful of powder be placed in the center of a piece of cloth about 12 by 18 inches. Sift the powder through the cloth by striking with a stick.

The powder should be applied around baseboards, under the kitchen sink, and on cabinet shelves. It is not effective when applied to wet surfaces. The material acts rather slowly but in about five days many dead cockroaches should be found.

"Sodium fluoride is poisonous, but there is little or no danger of the cockroaches carrying sufficient sodium fluoride to any food product to be harmful for human consumption. It should not be sifted directly on any food product which is to be eaten," Maxwell says.

NOTICE—MERCHANTS

As the request of some retail merchants, the Board of Directors of the Merchants Association have adopted a resolution providing that the stores in Farmville shall close on Saturday nights, not later than 9:30. Some stores will continue to close at 9:00 P. M., and all stores are requested to close not later than 9:30 each Saturday night, beginning May 20th; the resolution provides that the closing hour will revert to 9:30 P. M. on Nov. 1, 1944.

Ships Exchange War Prisoners

Germans Appear Glum About Return to Reich In Trade at Barcelona

Barcelona, May 17.—The diplomatic exchange ships Gipsholm and Gadisa docked here today and the transfer of some 900 American and British prisoners of war for 700 German prisoners and civilians began immediately.

As Allied soldiers and civilians departed at the bow of the swastika-flying Gadisa and walked across the pier to go up the Gipsholm gangway the Germans went aboard the Gadisa at the stern.

The Allied group was laughing and joking in distinct contrast to the Germans, few of whom appeared cheerful. Despite their ragged uniforms which seemed to be those in which they were captured, the Allied troops generally had a spruce appearance. Some of the British were wearing shorts.

The Germans, members of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps captured in Libya and Tunisia, were greeted by a swarm of uniformed Nazi party officials who paraded back and forth along the pier.

Among the Allied war prisoners were two British generals and an air marshal. The first person to leave the Gadisa was an Irish general in the British army named O'Carroll.

Also among the repatriates was Larry Allen, Associated Press war correspondent and Pulitzer Prize winner who was captured by the Germans at Tobruk in North Africa in 1942. He had been interned for 20 months in Italian and German camps.

Although the repatriates immediately boarded the ships which will take them to their final destinations, the wounded on stretchers were carried out in the pouring rain and placed inside two small warehouses until the bearers could get them aboard the ships.

To reach the dock the Gadisa had to sail alongside the Gipsholm which brought the Germans from the United States, British and North Africa. Americans and Britons lining the rail of the Gadisa, which brought them from Axis-controlled territory, called greetings which were not answered by the silent Germans. But many pretty American nurses aboard the Gipsholm made up for the silence of the Germans.

The first American to leave the Gadisa was an Army sergeant, followed by a husky young American soldier carrying a suitcase with the name Vincent McDonough painted on the side.

A stretcher with a wounded American soldier then was carried down the gangway. He had a guitar between his knees and his feet rested on a box of food presented by the Spanish. Reaching the wharf the soldier looked up and saw the U. S. Army insignia on the cap of military attaché Col. Frederick Sharp.

"I'm mighty glad to see that," he exclaimed.

Before the exchange was started U. S. Ambassador J. H. Carlton Hayes signed 18 letters bearing his personal and President Roosevelt's greetings to 18 American soldiers known to be aboard the Gadisa. This was the second exchange handled by the Red Cross through Spain since the war began.

SEPARATE PRASHY

Istanbul, May 17.—Premier Marshal Ion Antonescu of Romania was reported to have warned Adolf Hitler recently that if more German reinforcements were not forthcoming immediately, Romania "would consider herself free" to negotiate a separate peace with the Allies.

ALLIES PUSHING ON TOWARDS HITLER DEFENSE AFTER BREAK

Farmers Produce Fine Grazing Crops

Farmers are making outstanding records in all sections of North Carolina this year with temporary grazing crops for livestock, reports Dr. Emerson Collins, in charge of Extension Agronomy at N. C. State College.

He points out that these growers sowed relatively large amounts of seed per acre, in some instances as high as three bushels of small grain and 40 to 50 pounds of clovers per acre; fertilized heavy; and planted the crop early, generally in September for best results. Good moisture conditions have been instrumental in producing exceptional records in many cases.

For example, County Agent L. T. Weeks of Wake County reports that Irving F. Hall sowed 22 acres with a mixture of 20 pounds of crimson clover and 20 pounds of rye grass per acre the latter part of August. He applied 600 pounds of 3-9-6 per acre at planting and topdressed with 200 pounds of nitrate of soda in early March. "From December until some time in April this 22 acres carried 150 hogs and 40 head of cattle without any other feed of any kind," says Weeks.

Alvin R. Askew of Goldsboro, Route 2, used 2 bushels of oats and 1 bushel of wheat per acre as his mixture. W. R. Chambers of Marion planted one bushel each of rye, oats, and wheat along with 20 pounds of Austrian winter peas per acre.

The establishment of a thick sod, which grows rapidly, gave very large amounts of grazing and prevented packing of the soil to a large degree on the grazing plots. Some farmers obtained exceptional amounts of grazing from relatively small plots, from 1 to 2 acres, where large amounts of seed and fertilizer were used.

Thrifty pigs on soybean and lespedeza pastures will produce economical pork this summer and fall, says Ellis Vestal, Extension swine specialist at State College.

Saturday, May 27th Proclaimed As Poppy Day

The biggest poppy sale in the history of the American Legion Auxiliary is predicted all over the State.

As few people know what the arrangements are for making these Memorial Day flowers, Mrs. Paul E. Jones, chairman of Poppy Day Sale in Farmville, explains that the materials are furnished free to the veterans by the American Legion Auxiliary. Volunteer workers teach the disabled men to make the poppies. The entire poppy program, from the supplying of the poppy materials, to the distribution of the finished flowers to the American public, is under the management of the Auxiliary.

"The veterans and their dependents are the ones who benefit from our poppy sale," she said, "not only from the money that results from selling poppies, but also from having something tangible to do instead of having to rest, read or talk. These men in the government hospitals are delighted to see their fingers busy and their minds occupied with the intricacies of fashioning the poppies. Needy wives and children also reap benefits from the sale of the flowers."

"We have been selling these Memorial Day flowers for years and each year the poppy becomes more closely identified with the American Legion Auxiliary and with our disabled men. We hope the services will continue indefinitely."

Bahama Laborers To Arrive Friday

Wilmington, May 17.—Two hundred and twenty-five Bahama laborers are expected to arrive here Friday morning to alleviate the labor shortage in New Hanover and Pender counties. County Agent R. W. Galphin said this morning.

Farmers interested in hiring these men met in Galphin's office in the courthouse this afternoon to sign contracts. He explained the fact that only farmers who sign contracts are eligible to receive the labor.

It is expected that the laborers will work for about 90 days on 25 farms that need harvest help. They are scheduled to go from here to Hendersonville.

GREENS

It's time to make a second planting of watermelons, kale and leaf lettuce for a continuous supply of spring greens, says John H. Harris, Extension horticulturist at State College.

The Entire Gustav Line Overrun as British and American and French Smash Valley Units;

Allied Headquarters, Naples, May 17.—The Germans have been thrown from most of their positions across the mouth of the gun-studded Liri valley in great tank battles and the entire Gustav line south of that corridor to Rome has been overrun. Allied headquarters announced today.

The Fifth and Eighth armies are plunging on close to the Adolf Hitler line, the main defenses barring the way to the Anzio beachhead below the Italian capital and Allied commanders appeared to have won the chance at which they aimed—the destruction of the German forces in Italy.

The Liri Valley floor spread out west and south of Cassino reaches northwestward for 20 miles before it is traced through a bottleneck in the mountains at Capranza, 55 miles from Rome. It represents the right Allied flank of a 25-mile front and stretching inland from the Gulf of Gaeta.

"In the Liri Valley the enemy has now been evicted from most of his original positions by British and Indian troops," said the Allied Communique.

"The enemy is resisting our advance from further prepared positions in the rear. South of the Liri River all positions in the Gustav Line have been overrun," it added.

British forces took Pignataro, important strong point four miles southwest of Cassino, in a smashing flank attack.

The American warriors fought their way into Castellonatoro, heavily fortified town less than four miles from Formia, finding ruined bilboes and the streets littered with enemy dead. They also occupied the village of Scauri, on the Gulf of Gaeta coastal road four and a half miles from Formia, after a light fight.

Nearly all of the original German positions in the Liri Valley now are in Allied hands, an Allied communique announced today, adding, "the battle continues without pause."

Fearing the complete out-flanking of Cassino, to which they have clung for so long, the Germans threw tanks and what reinforcements they could scrape together into an effort to save the town, now menaced by the capture of Pignataro.

The communique reported Americans and French were charging forward to "gain contact with the Adolf Hitler line," now roughly four and a half miles ahead of the French who are wiping out the remaining enemy south of the Liri River.

American forces now hold high ground in a triangle formed by Castellonatoro, Spigno and Monte San Angelo, another one of numerous mountains in the battle zone bearing the same name. In winning the heights six out of seven bowitzers in a single enemy artillery unit were destroyed.

The French continued their spectacular advance, driving two and a half miles southwest from San Giorgio in the southern part of the Liri Valley against determined resistance.

Other French forces moving westward from Ansonia seized elevations two and a half miles south of Esperia and prepared an assault on that apparently doomed town.

Pignataro was taken by British and Indians who thrust westward from their enlarged bridgehead across the Rapido River and encircled this key position in the Gustav Line in the center of the Liri Valley protecting Cassino's flank. Official reports disclosed belatedly that Pignataro fell Monday night.

Nazi reaction to this direct threat to highway six—the famed via Cassina—the only route of supply or retreat for the Cassino garrison was quick and violent.

The enemy massed tanks and all the units which could be scratched together and began a hurried series of counter-attacks. Deadly 88-mm guns helped them carve a path thru British and Indian lines.

But the effort failed and the British drove ahead, inflicting substantial losses.

Burley Experiment Included In Bill

Washington, May 17.—The Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended a \$12,000 appropriation for experimental work in burley tobacco in North Carolina.

The appropriation was added to the 1945 agricultural supply bill, reported to the Senate yesterday, at the request of Senator Bailey (D-N.C.). He told the committee North Carolina had the plant and equipment and all that was needed was \$12,000 to get the work started.