

Mighty Blows Smash Nazi Rail Vitals

By WALTER CRONKITE
United Press War Correspondent
LONDON, Apr. 15 (UP)—Two fleets of Italy-based U. S. heavy bombers and fighters, totaling 750 to 1000 planes, smashed vital Nazi rail communications at Bucharest and Ploesti in Romania today while more than 800 other American fighters, continuing the "air invasion of Europe" from Britain, lashed 10 enemy airfields in Germany and occupied countries, some penetrating to the Berlin area.

The twin blows in support of the advancing red army in Romania and against the Luftwaffe's anti-invasion defense ended a one-day lull in the mighty allied air offensive against axis Europe, believed to have been caused by a blanket of bad flying weather over the continent.

Striking their third paralyzing blow in 11 days against enemy supply lines in Romania, U. S. Fifteenth air force Flying Fortresses and Liberators hurled hundreds of tons of high explosive and fire bombs on mangled rail yards and other targets in the Romanian capital at Ploesti, center of Romania's oilfields.

Clamp Huge Pincer
Pounding 575 miles east across the Balkans, and shepherded by relays of Lightning and Thunderbolt fighters, the heavy bombers clamped a huge military pincer on Adolf Hitler's panicky satellite as Marshal Ivan S. Konev's Second Ukrainian army drove on Iasi, 185 miles north of Ploesti.

The German DNB agency reported from Belgrade that Anglo-American bombers also attacked the rail junction of Nis, in southeastern Yugoslavia, during the day.

(Tonight the Budapest radio warned that the Hungarian capital was in danger of a new air attack after a previous warning told of allied "nuisance raiders" over the Backa region, the FCC reported.)

U. S. Eighth and Ninth air force long-range Mustang, Lightning and Thunderbolt fighters suffered their highest loss as they battled bad weather in widespread attacks on airfields over occupied territory and central and northern Germany.

Thirty Fighters Missing
Thirty fighters failed to return to their British bases, but the fast American planes destroyed 18 enemy interceptors in air combats and destroyed and damaged other Nazi planes as they swept over Luftwaffe installations, strafing planes, hangars and administration buildings.

Some formations penetrated as far east as an air field in the vicinity of Berlin. The fighters were only a few minutes from the German capital and touched its outlying suburbs. They reported meeting no enemy fighters, but flak was heavy. The sweep was the longest undertaken for purely strafing purposes.

Others attacked barges, flatcars, a factory and locomotives in the reich. At least 17 locomotives were destroyed by strafing.

Unprecedented Assault
Probably more than 500 Flying Fortresses and Liberators, splitting into separate forces as they approached their targets, took part in the unprecedented dual assault on Bucharest and Ploesti. It was the first time that the heavy bombers were escorted all the way by long-range fighters and that the two important Romanian targets had been hammered simultaneously.

Encountering German interceptors, the relays of American fighters, which previously had left the heavy bombers to hit Bucharest and Ploesti unescorted, shot down several Allied headquarters at Naples said.

The Liberators attacked Bucharest, while Flying Fortresses winged 35 miles to the north to smash Ploesti. Ploesti has two rail yards and through them pass more than 20 per cent of the oil from Ploesti's oilfields—attacked by Middle East Liberators last August 1—and troops and supplies from the western Balkan-Danubian region.

General F. Twining's Fifteenth Air Force fliers was the eighth this month on Balkan communications, designed to give tactical aid to the Russians, and on Nazi aircraft plants in Austria and Hungary producing planes for the defense of Europe against an allied invasion.

Near Thousand Shot Down
Meanwhile it was estimated in Naples that the Mediterranean Allied forces shot down 413 German planes since April 1 for the loss of 133 planes. About 19,250 sorties were flown during this period, including heavy raids on Budapest, Bucharest, Ploesti, Wiener Neustadt Steyr and Zagreb and continuous medium bomber attacks on rail communications in Italy.

The estimate boosted to at least 955 the number of enemy planes destroyed in air combats or on the ground during April's mighty two-pronged offensive against Axis Europe.

MEETING DELAYED
The regular meeting of the board of directors of the Clark county chapter of the American Red Cross, scheduled for next Tuesday, has been postponed until 7:30 o'clock on April 25 in the War Memorial building, it was announced today.

Observations

(Continued from Page One)
cause I am going to Las Vegas," said Delphine.

"Why, there are the lights of Fremont street right down there," said the stewardess.

Sure enough, there was Fremont street and in a moment or two, dazed and unbelieving, with a feeling that somehow she had been defrauded of that nice ride, she got into one of Al Riddle's yellow cabs and was home in a jiffy.

Yes, we have found that air travel has its advantages aside from the mere saving of time. To be served a nice luncheon or dinner by the lovely little lady in the uniform; to be spared the hours of jolting and stopping and starting (in a plane you only start once to a trip) and to reach your destination rested, fed and refreshed, is really worth while.

And if you count your time or the extra things you can do as worth anything, it is about the cheapest way to travel after all.

By the way, some day after the war, maybe, I want to go to Europe without the long days of seasick pitching and tossing on the ocean waves. Did you know that planes can go from America to Europe and back the same day and have done so?

With the encouragement the Junior Chamber boys are giving the air transport industries by pulling this Aviada, we may look forward to as great improvement, much greater probably, during the next eighteen years as there has been since Fred Kelly and Al DeGarmo came rattling down in their old crates eighteen years ago today.

Yes, Las Vegas has had an effect on air transportation I imagine far greater than her wealth or population or the business she produces would warrant. Perhaps Senator McCarran never would have reached his eminence in the matter of air legislation had it not been for the problems Las Vegas poured onto his desk in Washington from time to time.

By the way, since Las Vegas now has no airfield at all, would not this be a good time to begin another fight for a Municipal Airport?

Pocket Knife Used On Body of Girl

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Apr. 15.—(UP)—A 32-year-old grave digger at Holy Cross cemetery tonight admitted mutilating the body of Dolores Sifuentes, 21, with a pocket knife when he disinterred it after the girl's funeral last Saturday, San Mateo county authorities announced.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Walter Moore announced that Walter Perry, employed at the cemetery since last December, had admitted the mutilation but denied any further violation.

District Attorney Gilbert Ferrill of San Mateo county said a complaint will be filed here Monday against Perry. A pathologist's report on an examination of the body has not yet been received.

The disinterment of the girl's body was discovered Thursday night when her father, Jessie Sifuentes, 63, went to the grave to bury school papers and books in response to his daughter's death wish.

Digging by flashlight, he uncovered the girl's hand and then her nude body, stripped of its silken shroud and placed atop the outer pine box of the casket.

Perry was arrested the following day. Sonoma county records showed he was committed to the Eldridge state home as feebleminded in 1924.

Deputy District Attorney Louis Demattis tonight said a request to open another grav. for investigation had been received from a family who has a relative buried at the cemetery. He said ten bodies have been buried there since Perry was employed.

Mexican Minister For More Students

OKLAHOMA CITY, Apr. 15 (UP)—Rafael de la Colina, Mexican minister plenipotentiary in Washington, D. C., proposed here today that the United States and Mexico increase the number of exchange students in the future "to promote better international understanding."

He told Governor Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma that 300 to 400 Mexican students are in American colleges under the government's exchange program and that several hundred others finance their own education in this country.

Women's Group Opens Convention

ELKO, Apr. 15 (UP)—More than 100 delegates to the Nevada Federation of Women's Clubs' convention, were served at a banquet last evening which opened the session.

Mrs. Eugene Drown, past district president, presided at the banquet last night and Miss Felice Cohn, of Reno, president of the group opened the convention this morning.

Mrs. George Ogilvie, president of the Elko 20th Century Club, welcomed the delegates and Mrs. Stanley Wiggins, president of the junior 20th Century clubs, responded.

Election of officers is scheduled for late this afternoon.

Japanese Seem to be Licked In Central Pacific Air

By DAN BOWERMAN
United Press War Correspondent
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AAF, Central Pacific, Apr. 15 (UP)—The Japanese appear to be defeated in the air in the central Pacific, Major General Willis H. Hale declared today coinciding with the announcement that he will assume new duties as commander of a land-based air force in a forward area May 1.

"April 13 was the fifth month anniversary of the opening of the sustained offensive against the Japs by the Seventh AAF," the general said.

"Since the opening of the offensive, our operational bases nearest Japan have been advanced 1330 miles. The Japs appear defeated in the air. They have recently moved a large number of fighter aircraft to their bases but have been unable to stop or slow our bombing missions.

"When the enemy cannot stop bombers, he is being defeated," General Hale pointed out that when it helped smash the Japanese at Midway, the Seventh AAF operated from Hawaiian bases, but now has moved its bases more than 2,000 miles toward Japan.

He said the most striking evidence of waning Japanese air strength is seen in U. S. naval operations by the Pacific fleet, defying Japanese air power, which penetrated 1,000 to 1500 miles into a fully-alerted enemy area.

"The Japs never have had a better opportunity to strike our navy from the air than in the past few weeks. They didn't have what it takes," he said.

He said that Japanese fighter opposition will continue to be tough, "but unless the Japs greatly reinforce their air arm, our future progress in the central Pacific air war will be determined entirely in Washington—not to any extent in Tokyo."

General Hale bluntly said the objective of the Pacific aerial war is to "place our heavy bombers within range of the major war production centers of Japan. When this is done, the Pacific war may not be over but it will have reached the final stage."

Revealing the accomplishments of the Seventh AAF, Hale said that when the advance started seven and a half months ago, Truk looked almost as distant as Tokyo.

"Today it's right in our front yard,"

He revealed that the total U. S. casualties in the Marshalls bombing raids from November to date were 33 killed, 135 wounded and 215 missing. Despite the fact that the bombers' guns are defensive and not primarily concerned with shooting down the enemy, the Seventh AAF planes in five months have destroyed 206 Japanese planes and probably destroyed 128 more, with another 14 damaged.

Since December, Hale's Seventh AAF bombers have sunk, probably sunk or damaged 108 Japanese ships of all types. American losses from all causes through the Gilbert and

Marshall campaigns and the Carolines raids to date, were 2.32 per cent, based on the number of sorties flown, of which 1.65 per cent were due to enemy action.

Since February 1, the Seventh has lost six heavy bombers while operating on more than 150 bombing missions in the Marshalls and Carolines.

"The Japs today know that Truk is doomed just as the end was in sight after the first sustained attacks on Rabaul," General Hale said.

The general pointed out that the fighter command, which is almost wholly defensive since fighters almost always accompany bombers, once struck the Japanese in the Marshalls and virtually annihilated the Japanese attacking our Mitchell bombers.

"Probably the unhappiest Japs in the world are those still on the several Marshall Islands we bomb daily. No relief seems possible except by the remote chance of submarine evacuation. Today some 10,000 Japs left in the Marshalls may slowly be dying of starvation, aggravated by thirst."

Jam on Brakes Too Many Die!

Initial returns on the nation's 1944 traffic casualties serve notice on America to jam on the brakes or face the biggest annual traffic toll since Pearl Harbor.

Nationwide reports, recently forwarded to the Automobile Club of Southern California, show that January brought a 30 per cent increase in traffic deaths over the same month last year for a toll of 2,330 lives. At this rate, the report pointed out, the 1944 aggregate would approximate 30,000. The 1943 traffic toll was 23,300.

January deaths in traffic were 18 per cent fewer than December, but on the basis of seasonal variance alone nationwide, a 28 per cent drop would have been expected, the report concluded.

T. & G. Railroad Adds Motor Car

TONOPAH, Apr. 15.—Added transportation service, designed primarily for army personnel and civilian workers at the Tonopah air base, was inaugurated by the Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad company, Colonel T. H. Kruttschnitt, vice president and general manager, announced.

Two round trips daily will be made by the railroad's motor coach, while an extra round trip will be made Saturday nights, Colonel Kruttschnitt said.

The company official said that increasing numbers of requests for such service prompted the railroad's decision to start the regular motor coach schedule between Tonopah and Goldfield.

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Personals

Roger Foley, Las Vegas attorney, returned Thursday from Reno, where he transacted legal business.

Mrs. Martha Mueller returned Thursday from Las Angeles, after spending several days last week.

Miss Joan Perry returned the first of the week to Holmby College, Los Angeles, after having spent Easter holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harve Perry.

George W. F. Johnson, manager of the McQuay Supply Co., was transacting business in Ely, on Thursday and Friday.

Rev. Harold Broughton and Mrs. Broughton have returned from a short stay in Los Angeles. Mrs. Billy Betts has returned to her home in Tacoma, Washington, after spending the winter in Las Vegas at the home of her son, Robert Betts, 810 East Charleston boulevard.

War in Brief

RUSSIA—Soviet tanks near outskirts of Sevastopol driving panicky remnants of once 100,000 strong German garrison into 200 square mile death pocket at southern tip of Crimea.

AIR WAR—German radios report strong enemy fighter formations approaching northwest Germany indicating renewal of aerial offensive after one-day lull.

INDIA—British and Indian troops engage Japanese forces in hills north and northeast of Imphal plain in effort to halt enemy drive that has carried to within 10 miles of Imphal.

ITALY—RAF Wellingtons and Liberators bomb west coast harbors of Livorno, San Stefano, and Piombino for several hours attempting to disrupt German efforts to move supplies by sea after wrecking of railroad lines.

PACIFIC—Allied aerial offensive against Kuriles carried into fourth day; Australian jungle troops occupy Bagodjim on north New Guinea coast without opposition.

GUSIK "COMES BACK"

CHICAGO, Apr. 15 (UP)—Jack Guzlik, roly-poly gambling czar of the skeleton remains of the old Al Capone mob, was back in circulation tonight with a reputation as the little man who wasn't there, and later was. After knocking the war stories out of the headlines with his supposed kidnaping, Guzlik got busy on the telephone today to tell newspapermen that he wasn't kidnaped, filched or taken for a ride. Simply visiting friends.



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Camp Papers In Civil War Too

RALEIGH, N. C., Apr. 15.—(UP)—While today's military newspaper is as modern as World War II, it is actually nothing new. In the Civil War both sides had their favorite journals, though spontaneous and unsponsored papers, unlike camp newspapers of today.

A recent article in the North Carolina Historical Review reveals that many of the '64-'65 journals were manuscript affairs, laboriously copied by hand, and issued as battle conditions permitted.

Morgan's raiders had a professional newspaper, the Vidette, published on first one press and then another, depending upon the movement of troops, and whatever paper the famous cavalry could "requisition" from the enemy.

According to the historical article, The Daily Rebel Banner was a substantial army paper published for the Army of Tennessee. Subscription price was \$10 a year and it contained everything from poetry to politics.

The most interesting of the lot was the Pioneer Banner, published by the troops of Fort Baranca, near Pensacola, Fla.—a handwritten journal issued by the boys especially for "the ladies of the Union Female College."

Large Tailings Plant Installed

COPPEROPOLIS, Cal., Apr. 15 (UP)—The Pacific Mining company has completed a large plant to treat copper tailings at its Union mine, the company announced.

The management estimates sufficient material available to keep the plant operating two years at a rate of more than 1000 tons daily.

CLASSIFIED ADS BRING RESULTS

Then Bowwows Get Their Day

Because every dog has his day Las Vegas is going to the bowwows, but for that day only. It will be April 29 and promises to eclipse all dog days ever heard of on the principal street. The novel contest is sponsored by the Clark County Humane Society, Paul Jones, president, and is inspired by "Be Kind to Animals Week."

Special inducement to kids to trot out their pets is a lot of war bond and savings stamp prizes, with surprise awards in addition. The boy or girl with the best appearing and cared-for dog will get a \$25 war bond; smartest pooch will win \$10 in savings stamps, and the best behaved \$7.50 in stamps. Largest, smallest and funniest entries will draw savings stamp prizes, as will some others.

Forming at the city park at 2 p. m. the parade will proceed down to Fremont, north to Fifth, and on to Helderado village, where the main event will be staged. A large entry list is confidently looked for by humane society officers. Youngsters should mail entries to "Pooch Parade," Box 1488, Las Vegas.

Greeks Observe Today as Easter

Today is the Greek orthodox Easter and will be so observed by the Order of Ahepa with a 4 o'clock parade and an evening dinner. At the dinner, contributory Cross war fund, Mike Paps, chairmen will be made to the Red man, stated yesterday.

Parade music will be furnished by the gunnery school and high school bands. Members of the Greek order and Red Cross representatives will take part.

The dinner will be served at 7:30 in the Eagle hall. A substantial tribute to the Red Cross is anticipated.

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