

# War Munition Production In Serious Drop

By JOSEPH LATTIN  
WASHINGTON, May 27 (UP)—April munitions production was 2 per cent under that for March, despite a scheduled three per cent increase, but output of most "must" items such as landing craft, heavy trucks, tractors, and heavy artillery ammunition reached the month's goal, war production chief Donald M. Nelson reported tonight.

Nelson said the April showing for the U. S. armament program "is a definite drop in production," he added, "but it is not as bad as it first appeared." Production of most items is expected to jump 10 per cent in the next few months. The country's "most determined efforts" are required, Nelson added.

The present situation calls for an intensification of teamwork among government, labor and management," he said.

All in all, it was one of the gloomiest production reports in months, on the basis of production in the first four months. Nelson said, the year's total output will fall \$4,000,000,000 short of 1944 military goals.

Asserting that he wanted to emphasize "the magnitude of the production job which lies ahead," Nelson said it is clear that the April drop was not planned.

"Part of the production declines in January and February were scheduled downward, as was true of the schedules in March—but the falling-off in April, he said, "is a definite lag behind the rising schedule which is planned from March until November."

Earlier, Nelson had ordered establishment of machinery to guide industry back into production of civilian goods when military needs begin tapering off. The setup established Charles F. Wilson, WPB executive vice chairman, as virtual boss of the new program.

Nelson created a permanent working staff responsible to Wilson, through which other government agencies and units within WPB can "make a coordinated attack on the allied problems of cutbacks, readjustments and reconversion."

# Aunt Who Is 113 Had Nine Hubbies And Likes Haws

SAPULPA, Okla., May 27 (UP)—In a striped cotton dress Aunt Lizzie Devers smoked her corn-cob pipe and hoed in her garden on her 113th birthday.

Aunt Lizzie isn't sure which day is her birthday, but she did not change her dress or her routine from May 1 to 4, and she's sure she was born on one of those dates in 1831, somewhere in Georgia.

She lives alone with her son in a shack off the Sapulpa-Tulsa highway. Her son, Henry Pinkman, was born when Aunt Lizzie was 14 and he's the only one of her 12 children that she's kept track of.

She's been married nine times, but she doesn't know where all of the ex-spouses are for sure.

"They either died or walked off and left me," she explained, "but my third husband was really my favorite."

Aunt Lizzie's married life began when she was 12 and lasted until 1936. She's a little hazy on the subject of divorce, but she's positive of her stand on styles.

"Women wear their dresses too short," she said, pointing to her ankle-length butterfly model dress as her idea of skirt lengths. She's never been to a beauty parlor and doesn't like housework, but prefers gardening and tending to the pigs, chickens and cows.

Aunt Lizzie pieces quilts to trade for hogs and calves. She produces her own vegetables, meat, cheese, butter and eggs.

"I eat hawk meat three times a day and boil it to pieces because I have no teeth to chew," she said.

Aunt Lizzie gave up coffee drinking when she was 105 years old because she complained that "the stuff folks are drinking nowadays isn't coffee, it's too weak."



(NEA Telephoto) Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Fegar, who has trained 100,000 Marines for this war, has been appointed commander of the Pacific for the U. S. Marine Corps.

# American Artillery Turns German Tide in Italy

certain that Kesselring would be forced to break off his stubborn rear-guard action in the Volscian hills and pull back to the northeast at top speed, at the sacrifice of enormous quantities of war materiel.

Two and one-half miles below Valmontone, American armored forces smashed into the outskirts of Artena and found the mountain town a "little Stalingrad," where the German defenders battled to the death for every battered house and pillbox.

At other points, the enemy fled without a fight from easily defended positions. Vermillion reported that in one sector an Arkansas colonel commanding a regiment of infantrymen stumbled on 11 heavily-armed nazis. They surrendered as soon as he pulled his pistol from his holster.

**Rakes German Guns**  
Simultaneously, the American heavy artillery hurled a devastating fire into Velletri, 16 miles southwest of Valmontone, and raked German gun positions in the Alban hills behind the enemy line.

Tanked American infantrymen from the Anzio beachhead were fighting along a line roughly 20 to 22 miles below Rome, running northeastward from a point below Velletri to Artena, 2 1/2 miles south of Valmontone.

At the same time, other 5th army forces captured Sezze, 27 miles east of Anzio, and the 8th army approached Arce and Ceperano, twin strongholds in the Sacco valley. After an 8-mile advance.

Sezze, with a peacetime population of 20,000, is the largest city yet taken by the allies and its seizure gave the beachhead and its main allied forces a new link across the Lepini mountains.

While the Germans on the Via Cassilina tried desperately to reform and make an orderly withdrawal in the short time left to them, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring rushed down the 92nd infantry division from north Italy to reinforce the 17 divisions engaging General Sir Harold R. L. Alexander's allied armies. He also abruptly halted what earlier had appeared to be a general withdrawal from the Rome area, indicating that the final battle for the Eternal City would be fought along the Valmontone line.

**German Traffic Halted**  
Allied fliers reported tonight that German traffic north and just south of the capital had come to a virtual standstill with few targets left for them to continue the battering which has destroyed 2,200 trucks and damaged as many more in three days.

Bursting through the gap between the Lepini and Alban hills for an overall gain of 12 miles from Cisterna, American forces by-passed Velletri and drove to the outskirts of the important junction of Artena.

(London dispatches said that the fate of more than 100,000 German soldiers caught between the two allied spearheads would be decided over the week end and that if they are trapped, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring will lose his last hope of saving Rome. Beyond the Via Cassilina, there is only a roundabout road into Rome through Avezzano and it is vulnerable to armored assaults in the flat terrain between Tivoli and the capital.)

(Gordon Fraser, Blue Network correspondent, reported that Valmontone was under allied artillery fire and BBC reporter John Thomas said that "the decisive moment of the battle has been reached; for the moment Rome is not the real objective. We are out to smash as many German divisions as possible.")

This made a total of 18 enemy divisions engaging Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army and the Eighth Army under Lieutenant General Sir Oliver Leese.

**Impressive Allied Advances**  
The allies were making impressive advances after linking up the main and beachhead armies. The Eighth Army, driving from Mt. Cairo to a point two miles west of Arce, registered an eight-mile advance in 24 hours while French troops of the Fifth Army pushed four miles beyond San Giovanni in the sector just to the south.

These advances resulted in capture of Terelle on the north slope of Mt. Cairo, Roccasecca, four and a half miles west of Mt. Cairo; Castro Cielo, between the mountain and Roccasecca; Piacena, four miles west of Pico, and Castello Valentino.

In driving past Velletri, the Americans cut the road between it and Giulianello, six miles to the east, while their advance on Artena threatened Velletri's road connection with Valmontone.

The spearheads of the erstwhile beachhead force had covered eight miles since capturing it, and were pushing rapidly ahead along the sandy beaches bordered by hick palm forests.

Numerous native villages line the coast of the island.



(NEA Telephoto) Allies slash through Gustav line in Italy, advancing up to five miles in one new gain. Capture of German headquarters town of Ardenne by French highlighted advance, with Americans near and taking Santa Maria Infante and attacking Spigno.

# Most Devastating Raids In Two-Way Invasion

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western Germany and from Marseille to Yugoslavia.

Hurling an estimated 6,500 tons of high explosives and incendiaries on France, Germany, Belgium and Yugoslavia, the mighty coordinated assault on Britain and Italy was concentrated on rail targets and luftwaffe airbases.

Nearly 2,000 American heavy bombers and fighters from Britain and up to 1,500 U. S. Flying Fortresses, Liberators and fighters from the Mediterranean theater spearheaded the attacks. Their blows were designed to smash the Germans' ability to meet an invasion of western Europe and to cripple supply lines to Italy in southern France.

Britain-based U. S. heavy bombers pounded six rail yards in southwestern Germany, two aircraft engine repair plants and another rail yard in France, and Nazi military installations along the French invasion coast. Italy-based American warplanes hammered four rail yards and four airbases in southern France and port facilities in Yugoslavia.

**Hit France and Belgium**  
Additionally, thousands of American and British medium, light and fighter bombers from Britain, maintaining non-stop pre-invasion pressure on northern Europe, hammered rail yards and bridges in France and Belgium.

Gun emplacements, locomotives, Nazi military road transport, radio stations and coastal and river shipping in these areas also were bombed or attacked with thousands of rounds of armor-piercing rockets, cannon shells and machine gun bullets.

Battling Nazi rocket flak and the sporadic attacks of enemy interceptors, the big, four-engine Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the Britain-based U. S. 8th air force lost 24 of their number in attacks on Germany and France. Seven escorting fighters also fell to the enemy's defenses.

Forty-nine Nazi planes were shot down in air battles, 13 by bomber gunners and 36 by fighter pilots.

Zurich dispatches said that five four-engine American bombers landed in Switzerland after they were forced down by Swiss fighters and flak. One U. S. fighter also crashed in Switzerland.

**Forty-Mile Bomber Stream**  
Targets of the Britain-based bombers were freight assembly yards at Ludwigshafen, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Saarbrücken, Konz-Karlsruhe and Neunkirchen in Germany. In France they hit rail yards and an aircraft engine repair plant at Strasbourg, an aircraft repair factory near Metz and installations along the channel coast.

The British press association's air correspondent, who accompanied the bombers, said they flew over their targets in a 40-mile long stream.

Guided to the twin cities of Ludwigshafen and Mannheim by a smoke pall rising from fires left a few hours earlier by ARF Mosquito bombers, the American bombers hurled high explosives and fire bombs on rail yards and as they turned away, a huge pillar of smoke from the two cities merged into a single cloud thousands of feet in the sky.

The American fliers encountered heavy flak over the two cities and some enemy fighter opposition. But escorting Mustang, Lightning and Thunderbolt fighters drew a protecting screen around the bombers and the two groups of 50 and 25 Nazi planes were smashed by American fighters before the enemy pilots could sweep through the bomber formations.

**Cut Two Supply Routes**  
By attacking Saarbrücken and Metz, the heavy bombers cut in two places 40 miles apart, the main line from Ludwigshafen and Mannheim west to Paris and the channel coast, one of the Germans' most important supply routes of France.

Hitting Karlsruhe and Strasbourg, they dealt another blow against the movement of German armor supplies from the Ruhr to the Italian front.

Fliers returning from these four targets reported a complete absence of enemy fighters and only light concentrations of flak.

Before dawn, speedy RAF Mosquito bombers, besides setting off great explosions in Ludwigshafen, hurled two-ton blockbusters on the Rote Erde freight yards at Aachen, through which pass a large percentage of traffic from the Ruhr to northern France and Belgium. Others laid mines in enemy waters. Two were missing.

**Sever German Lines**  
Major General Nathan F. Twining's U. S. 15th air force in Italy meanwhile hammered rail targets and airbases in France for the third straight day, in blows to cut lines over which the Germans have been moving supplies, armor and troops to the Italian battlefronts.

Liberators, escorted by Thunderbolts, hammered two rail yards and two airbases at Marseille, on France's Mediterranean

# Soldier Gets Odd Divorce

SACRAMENTO, Cal., May 27 (UP)—Manuel P. Dias, a soldier stationed at a North Carolina camp, today held an interlocutory decree of divorce from Beatrice Dias of Crockett, California, although he did not appear as a witness as required by legal precedent.

Superior Judge Malcolm C. Glenn noted in entering the decree that he was making an exception to the legal rule, but declared the character of the evidence submitted by Dias and verified by his commanding officer warranted the departure from precedent.

Dias charged his wife with adultery and claimed she is expecting a child by another man.

glo-American bombers raided the northwestern and southeastern suburbs of Paris during the day, killing 250 persons, but there was no immediate confirmation from allied sources.

# New Guinea Reconquest Is Assured

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ing the beach around Bosnek at 5:41 a. m. Saturday and completed their devastating bombardment at 6 a. m. after starting dumps and installations.

Then Fifth Air Force Liberators roared in to unload bombs on the beach.

Only 15 minutes after the naval guns were silenced, the first wave of hardened invasion-tested troops went ashore and began to push ahead under heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

A 14-day aerial offensive against the Schouten islands had heralded the invasion of the Geelvink bay island.

Within three hours and 20 minutes after the first troops were landed on the sandy beaches around Bosnek, the yank forces had gained a ridge overlooking the village and stormed and captured the enemy base later in the day.

**Americans Hold On**  
At the last report from the newest fighting front in the southwest Pacific area, the Americans held a perimeter a mile to the east and a mile to the west of the village, the largest on the island.

Some shore fire met the naval bombardment and minor damage and casualties were suffered by the task force MacArthur's headquarters spokesmen and communicate announced.

No enemy planes opposed the landings. The Fifth Air Force pounded of the Mokmer and Sorido airfields, as well as all other air bases in the Geelvink bay sector, had neutralized the bases and paved the way for the invasion.

MacArthur issued a personal statement at the time of the invasion announcement, declaring that the offensive moves of the past 11 months in this theater have more than fulfilled his "most optimistic hopes and expectations."

"The operations have appreciably advanced us on our way," he said, expressing his thankfulness for light American losses in the offensive.

**Aerial Control Ours**  
The two Biak island airfields will give the United States forces aerial control of all of western Dutch New Guinea as well as the waters surrounding it within a radius of 1,000 miles—the distance being flown regularly by patrol bombers which have been attacking the Carolines.

Only light losses were suffered by the American forces in effecting the first landings on the Biak island coast but it seemed evident that Japanese resistance was not strong enough to slow the advance toward the airfields.

Japan rushed naval aircraft into the Schouten islands in April and early this month when the Hollandia and Wakde-Sarmi operations brought the Geelvink allied air attack. The heavy pre-invasion air offensive, however, knocked out the enemy's string of airfields and almost completely wiped out his air strength.

**Driving for Airfields**  
The American troops were driving immediately for the airfields from the Bosnek sector. Mokmer, the largest target on the Biak island coast is 7 miles southwest of Bosnek, with the Sorido airfield 7 miles west of Mokmer.

The yank troops, veterans of invasion tactics since the first Hollandia-Aitape operation which was quickly followed by the landings on the Dutch New Guinea coast in the Wakde-Sarmi sector, were pushing rap-

# Allies Supply Russia with War Materials

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of latest information, said they were convinced Russia would be part of the integrated plan drawn at Tehran for the swiftest possible defeat of Germany.

Russia's long eastern front from the Baltic to the Black Sea is backed hard over its entire 1,000 mile length. In the opinion of military observers here, the climatic offensive could have started any time during the past week or ten days.

But Russia, for the first time, is able to take advantage of the time factor which hitherto operated in favor of the nazis. Thus, it is possible that the Russians are watching closely allied progress in Italy, perhaps waiting for the capture of Rome, before taking up its role in the final liberation of Europe.

Where the soviet offensive will start is uncertain but the best opinion here is that it will be in the southern sector, where the first objective would be the Galati Gap. The Russians along the lower Dneestr are about 130 miles northeast of that 50-mile wide gap, between the foot of the Carpathian mountains and the mouths of the Danube, which guards the approaches to the Ploesti oilfields and Bucharest. Capture of the latter points probably would push Romania out of the war.

The Lwow sector on the shortest route to Berlin also would appear to be a point for a major thrust in the south-central sector. But anywhere the soviet drive comes, military observers here say it will be the beginning of the end for Germany.

Cori yesterday in a furious battle involving the traversal of four deep rows of mines.

On the west flank directly below Rome, the Germans were reported thinning out their forces and their advance posts were withdrawn to new positions closer to embattled Carroceto, 20 miles south of the capital. Considerable enemy movement to the north was noted along the entire beachhead front and allied fliers pounded the columns unmercifully.

Two allied warships, in direct support of the army, blasted German targets north of the beachhead yesterday, obtaining "effective results."

German rear guards were still lashing out in sharp counter-attacks on the beachhead sector. Artillery and planes teamed in breaking up one counter-thrust by 15 Mark VI "Tiger" tanks and infantry of the 92nd German division, the one brought down from the north.

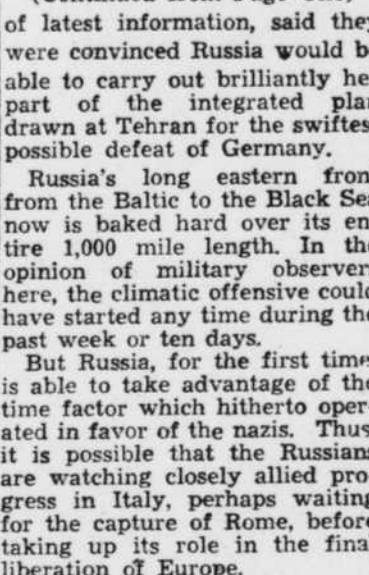
**Many Prisoners Taken**  
Prisoners taken on the beachhead now amount to 2,700 and included another regimental commander from the 362nd infantry division who was captured with his staff.

The eighteen German divisions now engaged include two from the Adriatic sector, where there apparently would be little further activity, since the Apennines cut it off from further strategic value for either side.

(A German DNB broadcast said that grim fighting continued throughout Friday in the Cisterna and Velletri areas, with the allies attacking east of Velletri in a northwesterly direction "using very strong armored forces."

RAF Wellingtons and Liberators loosed block-busters on the road junction of Viterbo, 40 miles northwest of Rome, for the second straight night, while lighter planes pounded junctions along the Rome-Florence and Terni-Tarquina highways.

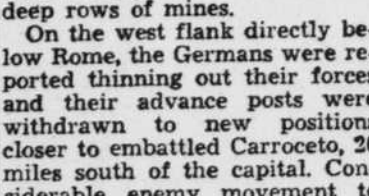
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