



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



Vol. 4 No. 167

New York, N.Y.—London, England

Wednesday, May 17, 1944

Pacts Signed By Allies on Civil Control

Norway, Belgium, Holland Will Regain Rule as Fast as Possible

The U.S., Britain and the Soviet Union yesterday concluded identical agreements with the government of Norway on how civil affairs will be administered by G-5 of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Norwegian territory after it has been liberated from German rule.

U.S.-U.K. agreements also were concluded—after consultation with the Soviet government—with the governments of The Netherlands and Belgium on the future operation of civil affairs in these two Allied countries.

The agreements with the three countries are all of the same practical nature—designed to aid Allied forces in driving the Germans out, and in conquering Germany itself, as soon as possible. The measures are temporary.

Military Needs First

They recognize that Allied commanders must have as much authority over civil administration in the countries as may be required by the military situation. It is specified that as soon as the military situation permits, the Norwegian, Dutch and Belgian governments will take over civil administration in their countries—meanwhile offering any facilities necessary to help Allied forces end the war.

Announcement of the agreements was made simultaneously in London, where the British Foreign Office issued a communique last night, and in Washington and Moscow.

No official statement has been made yet on similar agreements with the governments of France, Denmark, and Luxembourg.

It is understood that G-5, the civil-affairs section, will work with Allied missions which, through their liaison officers, will interpret military requirements of Gen. Eisenhower to their governments, each civil-affairs detachment in an Allied town or region will include one or more Allied officers—Norwegian, Dutch, Belgian or French—for liaison with the local authorities.

Following is the text of the announcement, which was the same for each of the three countries:

Agreements in identical terms have today been concluded by the United Kingdom and the United States of America with the government of the country concerning the arrangements to be made for civil administration and jurisdiction in that country's territory in Europe when it is liberated by the Allied Expeditionary Force under the Supreme Allied Commander.

These agreements are intended to be essentially temporary and practical in character. They are designed to facilitate the task of the Supreme Allied Commander and to further the common purpose of the governments concerned, namely the speedy expulsion of the Germans from Allied territory and the final victory of the Allies over Germany.

The agreements recognized that the Allied Supreme Commander must enjoy de facto during the first or military phase of the liberation of the country, such measure of supreme responsibility and authority over the civil administration as may be required by the military situation. It is laid down that as soon as the military situation permits the Government shall resume their full constitutional responsibility for the civil administration, on the understanding that such special facilities as the Allied forces may continue to require on that territory will be made available for the prosecution of the war to its final conclusion.

The Soviet Government have been consulted regarding these arrangements and have expressed their agreement.

The War Today

Italy—Allied forces massing for assault against Hitler Line after smashing through Gustav Line; lateral road from Cassino to the sea now entirely under Allied control; Americans, French and Eighth Army gain in their respective sectors; see-saw battle rages northwest of Cassino; air forces fly 1,800 sorties in support of land drive.

Asia—New Chinese offensive to meet Stilwell scores fresh advances; Mountbatten headquarters discloses it was part of strategy planned at Roosevelt-Churchill Quebec conference; British liquidating Japs at Kohima.

Pacific—American bombers raid Japs from Kuriles in far north to Truk in south; New Guinea areas also attacked, with planes hammering enemy ground positions along coast.

Air War—Germans see lull in Allied air war as prelude to invasion; Luftwaffe loses six planes in second attack in two nights on south coast of England; Mosquitoes hit Ludwigshafen.

Russia—Soviet bombers raid rail junctions behind German lines; Eastern Front quiet; Germans tell of continued troop massings and forecast speedy renewal of Russian offensive.

Smartest Salute Seen In Moscow—Churchill

The "smartest saluting in the world" can be seen not in London or Washington but in Moscow, Prime Minister Churchill told the House of Commons yesterday in defending the military value of saluting.

"The greatest importance is attached to these finer acts of ceremony in the building up of armies capable of facing worst rigors of war," Churchill said.

The subject of saluting came up when a member of Parliament asked that the British Army rescind regulations which make failure to salute when off duty an offense.

Packard Strike Perils Output of Mustang P51s

War and Navy Department Chiefs Issue Plea to Detroit Foremen

DETROIT, May 16—An outbreak of violence closed a Chrysler plant today a few hours after War and Navy Department chiefs told striking members of the Foremen's Association of America that their refusal to return to work at the closed Packard Motor Car Co. was "endangering the lives of our fighting men overseas."

Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Acting Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, in a joint telegram to Robert Keyes, president of the FAA, said that if the strike continued the output of P51 Mustangs would be held up for lack of Packard-built Merlin engines.

"You are making yourselves responsible for our failure to deliver the planes and guns which our fighting men overseas are counting on," their telegram said. "The strike in which you and your members are engaged... is stopping the flow of parts urgently needed at once for our bombers and fighters."

Patterson, announcing the strike situation might be laid before War Mobilization Director James Byrnes before night-fall, said the walkout's effect on output was a matter of grave concern to the War Department.

"We have bombed German aircraft engine factories," he said. "They do not need to bomb ours."

Packard closed its plant last weekend, making 39,000 workers idle, after its foremen walked out Friday in an effort to force recognition of FAA as a bargaining agent. The strike involved 3,300 foremen in 13 Detroit plants.

Chrysler announced it was forced to close its plant and send home 3,000 employees after three leaders of the CIO United Automobile Workers' Union ejected company supervisors from the factory and were backed up by "a mob of 50 to 100 workers."

One in a Billion

AN EIGHTH FIGHTER STATION, May 16—Cpl. Richard G. Greer, of St. Paul, has received word that his April bomb is registered with the same number as his Army serial number, 17157764.

Renewed Meat Ration Seen

NEW YORK, May 16—General meat rationing probably will be resumed in the U.S. within the next two months, Chester Bowles, OPA chief, said last night.

Polish Ace Flying a P47 Adds Silver Star to Medal Collection

AN EIGHTH FIGHTER BASE, May 16—Capt. Mike Gladych, Polish Air Force ace who three months ago joined this Thunderbolt group on detached service after 103 offensive sorties with an RAF Spitfire squadron, has added the Silver Star to decorations already received from the U.S., Poland, France and England.

Gladych earned the third highest U.S. valor award for gallantry in action while escorting American heavies in the Mar. 2 raid on Berlin. He had been decorated previously with the Virtuti Militari, highest Polish award; French Croix de Guerre with palms, and the American and British DFCs.

The modest Polish ace became a "ringer" in Eighth Fighter Command when he decided he "wasn't getting much action lately" with his RAF squadron. A fugitive from a German prison camp who came to England from France in a Greek boat, Gladych learned that a spare P47 could be found for him at this base commanded by Col. Hubert Zemke.

Allies Massing Before Hitler Line After Shredding Gustav Belt; Hold Road From Cassino to Sea

Round One Goes to the Allies



Allies yesterday dominated entire length of road from Cassino to sea, midway between Gustav and Hitler Lines, as Eighth Army drove to outskirts of Pignaturo in north and Americans pushed across road in south to Spigno. In center, French troops who captured Ausonia day before advanced to shelling range of Esperia.

Poles and Germans Battle Fiercely in One Sector

NAPLES, May 16—Allied armies massed within striking distance of the Hitler Line in Italy tonight after tearing the Gustav Line below Cassino to tatters.

New advances brought under Allied control the full length of the lateral road from Cassino down to the sea, which is roughly midway between the two defense belts, and a communique announced that "all organized German resistance has now ceased up to the road" behind the Gustav Line. The offensive has driven beyond the road at some points.

The picture along the 30-mile front was this:

South—American troops, pressing on from Santa Maria Infante, captured the town of Spigno, about midway between the lateral road and the Hitler Line. They also took Cap D'Acqua and Monte Lacivita.

French Advance Eight Miles

Center—French forces pushed to within three miles of the Hitler Line at some points, and within artillery range of Esperia, important bastion of the second defense belt. In their eight-mile advance they virtually destroyed the German 131st Infantry Regiment and captured the regimental commander of the 194th Grenadiers with his whole headquarters staff.

North—The Eighth Army pushed its front up to the lateral road, reaching the outskirts of Pignaturo and even crossing the road between there and Cassino. Its bridgehead across the Rapido River, now three miles wide, was extended to a two-mile depth in parts and a steady stream of fresh troops poured in, along with tanks, self-propelled guns, half-tracks and various other vehicles. More bridges were constructed and big bulldozers went across to build roads on the far side.

Northwest of Cassino Polish troops were locked in bitter fighting with crack German paratroopers defending that mountainous sector. The battle see-sawed there.

The count of Germans captured topped 3,000. One-third of these have been taken within the last 24 hours.

1,800 Sorties in 24 Hours

The Mediterranean Allied Air Forces flew 1,800 sorties in the last 24 hours in support of the offensive. Medium bombers attacked harbors, railroad bridges and factories to the north, while light bombers blasted supply dumps, gun positions, bridges, troop concentrations and motor transport in the battle areas. Enemy shipping off both coasts also was attacked. Eight Allied planes were lost and seven enemy ships destroyed.

There was no mention of the Anzio beachhead sector by Allied sources, but the Germans reported great Allied activity there and Vichy Radio said that "an Allied offensive in this sector is believed to be imminent."

Falls 2 Miles Pulling In Detached Chute, Then Lands in Sea

A U.S. GENERAL HOSPITAL, May 16—Sgt. Robert Givens, of Leoneth, Minn., Eighth AF top turret gunner, is recovering from injuries after surviving a series of almost incredible escapes from death, including a 12,000-foot plunge through the air before his parachute opened, and an hour in the North Sea.

On his sixth mission over Germany, Givens' bomber stalled and went into a vertical spin, pinning him to his seat. Givens couldn't jump, but when the plane came apart in the air he was catapulted out. Upon regaining consciousness, Givens discovered that his unopened parachute had been detached from his chest, was overhead and out of reach and fastened to the loosened straps of his harness.

By pulling in the harness straps, hand over hand, as he dropped, Givens finally reached the rip cord and pulled it after descending about 12,000 feet. The sudden opening of the chute injured his back, and he suffered from exposure from the hour he spent in the North Sea before he was picked up by a patrol boat of the British Air/Sea Rescue Service.

Chinese Gain in New Offensive Planned at Quebec Conference

As the Chinese announced further advances yesterday in their new Salween River offensive, Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters disclosed that the drive was another part of the grand Allied strategy against the Japs mapped at the Quebec conference late last summer.

Thus another piece was fitted into the jigsaw-puzzle picture of the China-Burma operations on the other side of the globe which President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill had before them on the terrace overlooking the St. Lawrence—when Lord Mountbatten was given his Southeast Asia Command.

The picture focussed on plans to open up a new overland supply route into China from India—from Ledo, Indian railroad west of the northern Burma border, to Chungking, the Chinese capital. The road would carry supplies not only to Chinese troops but to U.S. air forces now operating there on fuel brought in by transport planes.

In the foreground was the return of Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell to Burma at the head of two Chinese divisions and American troops thrusting eastward from Ledo across northern Burma into the Mogaung Valley, with U.S. engineers and U.S. bulldozers building the double-lane highway through the mountains as the front moved along. Further progress by these forces, too, was reported yesterday.

The airborne and air-supplied invasion by the forces called Chindits, now led by Col. Philip Cochran, back of the Japanese lines to the south of Stilwell's front, from where they are pushing northward, previously was revealed to have been planned at the Quebec conference.

Then, when the estimated 100,000 Japanese in Burma were fully engaged elsewhere, came the westward offensive of the supposedly "defensive-minded" Chinese to drive the Japs out of Yunnan Province in southwestern China along the Burma border and push toward a junction with Stilwell and his Ledo road.

This drive, the first big offensive in (Continued on page 4)

New 'Bomb Japan' Base Bared—by Enemy Raid

NEW YORK, May 16 (Reuter)—The existence of a new American "bomb Japan" air base at Suichang, in the north of Kiangsi Province, in eastern China, was disclosed today in a Tokyo announcement that Japanese planes raided an airfield there.

Suichang is 1,300 miles from Tokyo, 800 miles from Nagasaki, industrial center, 400 miles from Formosa and 1,000 miles from Manila.

Japs Are Raided In North, South

American Army and Navy planes have struck simultaneous new blows at Japan's outer defense ring, yesterday's communique reported.

Bomber attacks ranged from Shimushu in the Kuriles, Japan's far-north islands, to Truk in the Carolines in the south.

Wakde Island, off the northwest coast of Dutch New Guinea, was battered for the second straight day with 200 tons of bombs.

Extermination raids on Japanese troops by-passed in New Guinea continued, bombers hitting enemy concentrations in the Wewak and Hansa Bay areas.

A veteran pilot of Spitfires and French Arsenals, Gladych fell in love with the Thunderbolt at first flight and is in no particular rush to leave Zemke's outfit. He is credited with destroying four German planes in his P47, and admits to shooting down seven with the RAF, but conveniently doesn't recall how many he brought down with the Poles and French in the Battle of Britain he operated with the famous Polish 303 squadron which led all RAF units in destroying German raiders.

According to the citation accompanying the Silver Star, Gladych alone attacked two enemy planes intercepting the U.S. bombers, later attacked three more, one of which he shot down. His ship was damaged in the action but, after diving to low level, he strafed a German airfield and damaged three Nazi planes on the ground.

Gladych was picked up and escorted over the North Sea by an RAF plane of Air/Sea Rescue Service and after his plane ran out of gas over the English coast he bailed out.