

New Guinea Fighters Bring Back Wounded



Keystone Photo

Weary-looking after fighting the Japs for 11 days without let up during the assault on Buna, these American soldiers carry their wounded buddies back from the lines in a jungle-made litter.

Soviets Smash Long Blockade Of Leningrad

Moscow Announces New Lake Ladoga Drive; Millerovo Taken

The long siege of Leningrad by the German armies has been broken, Moscow radio announced late last night, broadcasting a special communique.

In disclosing a new offensive southwest of Lake Ladoga, in Finland, the communique said: "Our troops had the task of demolishing the enemy defense and thereby breaking down the blockade of Leningrad."

"In this connection it is necessary to bear in mind that during the many months of the blockade of Leningrad the Germans converted their positions on the approaches to the town into a mighty fortified area with a network system of solidly constructed concrete and other erections with large numbers of anti-tank and anti-infantry obstacles," the communique said.

"The offensive of our troops took place from two directions, from the west of the banks of the River Neva, from the southwest of the town of Schlüsselberg and from the east from the area south of Lake Ladoga."

Reds Take Millerovo

MOSCOW, Jan. 18 (UP)—All along the front, from the Caucasus to Leningrad, the pressure of the Russian armies continued unabated today.

The capture of Millerovo, the most important German stronghold on the Moscow-Rostov railway, in one of a series of advances by the Red armies in the Donetz area, south of the Don and in the Caucasus, was announced by the Soviet High Command overnight.

The German garrison at Millerovo, like that at Veliki Luki and the encircled German divisions in the Stalingrad area, refused to surrender and was wiped out. Millerovo, 246 miles south of Voronezh and 175 north of Rostov, is the terminus of a branch railway line leading from east to west and northwest through the industrial Donetz basin to Kharkov. Last summer it served as a springboard for the Germans when, after their breakthrough on the Kharkov front, they turned southeast, enveloping the Donetz. (Continued on page 4)

Woman Pilot Helped Sink Aircraft Carrier Hornet

ASBURY PARK, N.J., Jan. 18 (UP)—At least one woman was among the Jap pilots who crashed their planes on to the deck of the U.S. aircraft-carrier Hornet, according to Coxswain James Prince, one of the Hornet survivors.

Speaking at Asbury Park, New Jersey, he said that the Hornet's doctors examined the remains of the pilots whose planes crashed on the deck and found one to be that of a woman.

Airmen, Captives on Axis Sub, Rescued After Allies Sink It

By Lionel Kay
United Press War Correspondent

CAIRO, Jan. 18 (UP)—A Malta-based anti-submarine patrol plane has sunk an Italian submarine and rescued a number of British and American airmen on board, who are believed to have been forced down after the recent Allied raid on Naples and were being taken to Italy as prisoners.

Before the airmen were rescued, they had to fight their way out through a chamber filled with chlorine gas, were machine-gunned by the Allied plane, which did not know of their presence, shelled by British destroyers and finally picked up after two hours in the sea.

Clothing Issue Is Increased

Increased clothing allowances for soldiers engaged in out-of-doors work in the ETO are provided in an order issued by headquarters.

Items listed under a modified clothing allowance include an increase in the number of coats, gloves, handkerchiefs and shoes, provided commanding officers grant approval.

Two items, handkerchiefs and garrison caps, have been increased for all enlisted men. The authorized issue for outdoor workers follows:

One mackinaw coat, two instead of one pair of heavy leather gloves, three herringbone twill jackets when the man is not issued a herringbone suit, three pair of shoes instead of two, and three two-piece or three one-piece twill suits instead of two.

The cap issue is increased from one to two, while six handkerchiefs instead of four will be provided.

The names of the rescued men were not released, but one was the observer of a Flying Fortress, which forced-landed at Tripoli. Describing the attack on the submarine, in which he was imprisoned, the American said:

Ear-Splitting Crash

"That depth charge was terrific. We were locked forward in a torpedo compartment, guarded by Italian soldiers. I was lying on my bunk when there was suddenly an ear-splitting crash and the lights went out.

"I found myself on the floor. Then there were two more enormous bangs. The soldiers were being seasick and the Italian sailors walked over them.

"They went through the hatch from our compartment and locked it, while we remained in the dark without any life-jackets. A British major went to see what chances there were of getting out of the conning tower hatch.

"The submarine was stationary, the engines having stopped, damaged by the (Continued on page 4)

U.S. Reporter Sees RAF Bomb Berlin

By James MacDonald
New York Times Correspondent

AN RAF BOMBER STATION, England, Jan. 18—RAF bombers transformed a large area of Berlin into a particularly hot corner of "hell on earth" Saturday night.

I know, because as passenger aboard one of the planes comprising the large force that battered the German capital, I saw a great number of 4,000 pound high-explosive bombs and thousands of incendiaries blasting buildings and starting widespread fires reminiscent of some of the big German raids we have gone through in London. It was an awesome sight and I was glad to be looking at it from the air—instead of the ground.

'Dee for Duck'

The destruction must have been on a gigantic scale, because when the Lancaster on which I was mere "straphanger" was running the gauntlet of enemy anti-aircraft fire some 60 or 70 miles away, on the homeward bound stretch of our 1,200-mile flight, I could see fires raging behind us, their lurid glow reflected in the sky.

The plane to which I was assigned as passenger was known as "Dee for Donald." Several hours later the thought

occurred to me it should have been called "Dee for Duck."

It was manned by a crew of seven, three of whom were British, and whose names cannot (under regulations) be published. The others were three Canadians and one Australian.

Junior of Crew

Finally, from the control room came the voice of a WAAF giving us our signal to go. We had to take the full length of the runway before we were airborne, because we were carrying one 4,000lb. bomb and a very big cargo of incendiaries; and if we let the plane into the air too soon there might be a "prang" that would wipe out the whole station. Far down the field we slowly climbed into the air. In a matter of seconds the airfield disappeared from view.

Soon we were out over the sea.

There was no monotony. I was fascinated with the intercom conversation of the crew; the junior constantly giving the skipper the change in the course and the skipper kidding the rear gunner about mid-upper gunner's losses at darts game in sergeants' mess the night before.

Then Clayton informed us we were well over enemy territory. By this time night had closed in but there was a bright moon in the sky and visibility was good.

Eighth Army Within 100 Miles of Tripoli, Resistance Is Light

Lone French Pilot Captures 140 Italians

CAIRO, Jan. 18 (AP)—The Groupe Bretagne, a French squadron supporting Gen. LeClerc's advance in the south, has been hitting heavily at the withdrawing Italians there.

One plane obtained the surrender of 140 men. As the captain flying it noticed a garrison moving out of the Fort of Mourzouk, he swept over the column and machine-gunned it until his ammunition ran out. He then dropped a note saying he would open with cannon unless they surrendered. They did. He had no cannon.

RAF, Luftwaffe Continue Duel Over Capitals

British Hit Berlin Heavily; Luftwaffe Hits Back In Two Forays

British bombers blasted Berlin Sunday night, the second attack in a row on the German capital, even as the Luftwaffe was sending raiders over London and Southeast England in two raids of retaliation.

The Nazis struck at London once early Sunday night, then came back in a second raid a few hours before daylight Monday.

For most American servicemen in the London area it was the first taste of the sort of thing England went through in late 1940 and early 1941.

Germany sent about 60 bombers against England, it was estimated, losing at least ten. The RAF lost 22 of a force probably between 300 and 400.

London sirens sounded another warning last night but the all clear was heard a half hour later.

New AA Defenses

Although the raiding Germans were thrown back by London's ack-ack batteries, their bombs succeeded in leveling some buildings and inflicting some casualties. Two fires were brought under control.

New type anti-aircraft defenses were responsible for several deaths and many wounded when unexploded shells fell to the ground.

ARP workers reported 12 killed and a score or more injured in an apartment house bombed. Workers said it was one of the largest bombs ever to fall on London. It left a crater 40 feet deep and 8 feet wide.

A firewatcher and a woman were killed, several were injured and trapped when a stick of bombs wrecked a block (Continued on page 4)

Rearguard Action All Rommel Offers as Allies Hit Flank

By the Associated Press

Rommel's badly mauled Axis forces retreated on bomb-torn Tripoli yesterday as pursuing British armored units clashed with Axis rearguards along the desert track less than 100 miles from Italy's greatest colonial port.

Striking wide on the Axis flank, temporarily anchored at Beni Ulid, 70 miles westward on the coast road, the British appeared to seek a quick mopping-up, opening the way to Tripoli or an encirclement of Axis troops fighting near the sea.

Depending on Rommel's will to resist, the rugged region of hills and deep-cut wadis around Beni Ulid offered some natural advantages to his army, but there were indications that only a delaying action would be attempted by the enemy and the battle soon would move almost to the gates of Tripoli—perhaps this week.

Three Columns Attacking

One British column pounded the enemy's improvised positions at Tauorga, on the coast. Another was engaged at Bir Dufan, eight miles southwest, while a third was far inland. Rome radio reported the British were still attacking and the Italians were fighting violently "against numerically superior troops and armor."

Bombed almost daily last week, Tripoli's ability to supply Rommel was believed badly impaired.

Still too far away to enter battle at Tripoli's approaches, the Fighting French from Lake Chad overwhelmed Italian outposts in their quickening advance through central Tripolitania.

In Tunisia the lull continued, but further Eighth Army successes might well be the signal for the First Army to renew its assault, designed to prevent Rommel from joining Nehring's forces.

Bypassed Misurata

The Eighth Army appeared to have bypassed Misurata in a swift advance on the heels of the retreating Afrika Korps that placed British troops well within 100 miles of Tripoli.

The Eighth Army's advance has already carried it more than 80 miles from its positions at Buerat.

Meanwhile, the Allied air forces directed against the retreating Germans the most formidable fighter-bomber attacks since El Alamein, Allied squadrons moving up to the forward airfields as soon as they were occupied, and using them as the bases for effective short-range sorties.

The Cairo communique indicated the battlefield was 70 miles long, stretching from the area of Tauorga, 25 miles south of Misurata, and Bir Dufan, eight miles further south, both on the coastal road, to Beni Ulid, 70 miles to the west on a road leading directly across country to Tripoli.

The advance reported yesterday meant the Eighth Army now was across the Wadi Sofeggin, the last of three wadis where it was thought Rommel might make a stand.

Air Action in Tunisia

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Jan. 18 (AP)—Allied fighters and bombers continued their onslaught against German land and air communications in Tunisia today, while repeated showers kept ground operations at a virtual standstill.

The U.S. Twelfth Air Force reported the destruction of 194 German and Italian planes since the beginning of the North African campaign up to Jan. 15 for the loss of 97 American planes.

More Fights Tonight At Rainbow Corner

The bell will ring at 8 o'clock tonight on the third Stars and Stripes fight card held at Rainbow Corner, Shaftesbury Avenue, London.

Unlike the previous fight cards, there will be no exhibition bouts tonight. Each bout winner will receive a belt engraved to show that the fighter has been a Stars and Stripes bout winner.

For a full story on the fights, turn to the sports news on page 3.

Dummy Fires Burning

Then I saw a sight I had heard about from many of my RAF friends—dummy fires lit by Germans on bogus landing fields, imitation freight yards, flimsy structures disguised as important buildings.

It was only a moment or two later when I saw the real thing. Waves of raiders that had taken off before us back in Britain had found the target, dropped (Continued on page 4)