



THE STARS AND STRIPES

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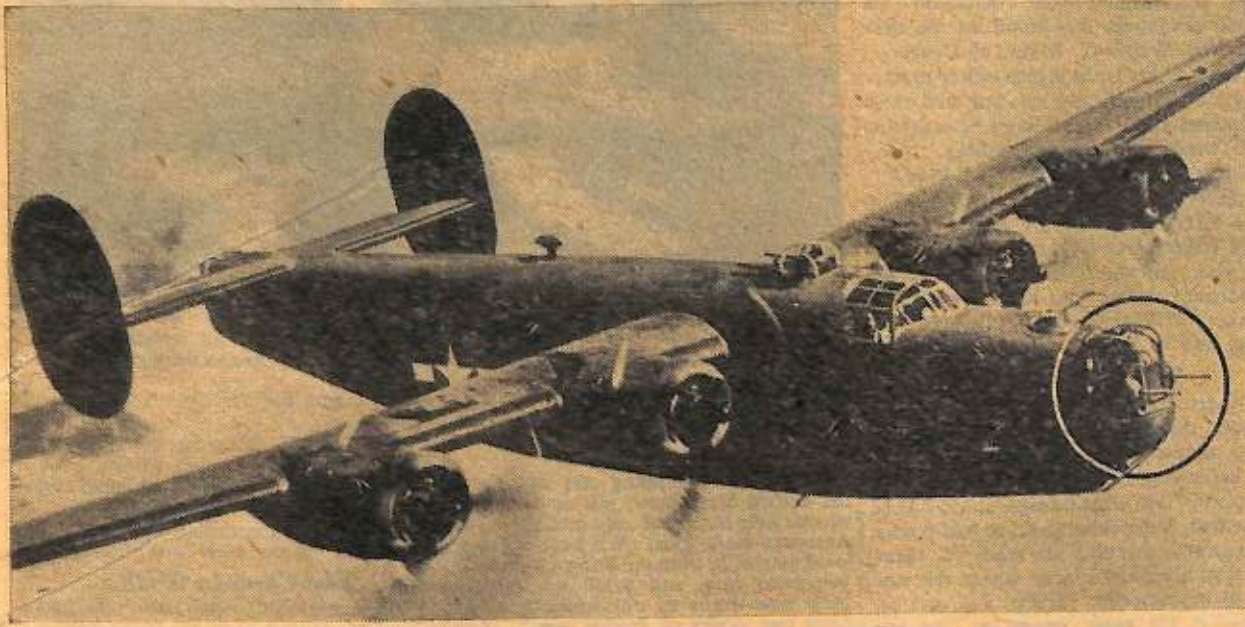
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Nazis Risk Trap to Hold Dnieper Bend

Liberators Get Nose Treatment and More Sting



This is the new B24 Liberator which has been equipped with a new electric turret in the nose (circle) to give the twin .50 caliber machine-guns flexible firepower when it begins flying around sticking its snout in Hitler's business. Other turrets are in the tail, belly and atop the fuselage. This is a scene during a test flight from a Vultee factory in the United States.

Nazis Scorching Earth As They Retreat in Italy

The western wing of the Fifth Army swung ahead yesterday in their advance north of the Volturno River into positions hastily abandoned by the Germans, who were venting their wrath on the civilian population.

Everywhere there was evidence that the Nazis were in an ugly mood, for many civilians were found slain, and the Mazzoni plain north of the Volturno was a mass of burned farmhouses and haystacks and slaughtered livestock.

The Nazis evidently were carrying out a severe scorched-earth policy, in addition to blowing up roads, railways and bridges and leaving other demolitions.

The Allies continued to hold the initiative along the entire front. Advances were scored by the Fifth's right wing, while patrol actions predominated to the east, where the Eighth Army battled increased enemy resistance. Capture of Petacciato, on the east coast about nine miles northwest of Termoli, was announced.

Blows from the air on German behind-the-line positions apparently offered the best hope of speeding up land progress.

Yesterday, formations of Allied Liberators crippled the German supply route to the eastern Italian front when they destroyed four bridges on the railway running along the east coast.

The big planes, from the same group that raided the Ploesti oil fields, also carried out a strange mission for four-engined bombers, due to lack of fighter opposition and flak. They strafed ground positions and swooped in low to machine-gun trucks and road junctions.

Troop movements and positions were being continually assaulted by medium bombers and fighters. Allied planes pounded the airfields on the islands of Cos and Crete again, and sank an armed trawler and a landing craft packed with enemy troops off Crete.

Infantry Lauded By Eisenhower

ALLIED HQ., North Africa, Oct. 20—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied Commander-in-Chief, paid tribute "from the heart" to the infantryman's role in modern warfare yesterday at a press conference.

"Because the infantryman's role lacks the spectacular quality of a great raid on Berlin or the surrender of a battle fleet, his story is likely to be dismissed too often with the report 'Little change at the front,'" he said.

"Don't forget the foot soldier's days and nights in the mud and cold and the endurance that he has exhibited. Does the postman in Indiana or in some little English village realize what these soldiers are doing?"

"Does he know it as well as he knows the stories of the big bombers or of some of the destroyers carrying out a gallant mission at Salerno? Every citizen of the United Nations has a right to know how important to our victory are the fighting spirit, the sense of duty and the gallantry and fortitude of our ground forces."

Eisenhower also said that "the accomplishments of these indispensable members of the air-ground-naval scene, when the story is fully told, will fill many of the brightest pages of our war history. This is something I have felt for a long time. It comes from the heart."

USAAF Heavies Bomb Germany

Fighter Escort Goes All Way With Forts, Libs; RAF Downs Nine

Large formations of Fortresses and Liberators, heavily protected all the way to their targets by Spitfires and Thunderbolts, attacked an important industrial town in western Germany yesterday afternoon.

Berlin radio indicated the attack centered in the industrial Rhineland but Eighth Air Force's preliminary announcement, issued in advance of a formal communique, did not name the target.

Berlin claimed the attack was carried out "in conditions of poor visibility," an assertion substantiated by returning Spitfire pilots, who said that although clouds prevented accurate observation of results there was no doubt considerable damage was done.

Fighter and ack-ack opposition was described as only moderate, and preliminary reports indicated losses were small.

Spits Get Long-Range Tanks

The raid marked the first recorded instance of Spitfires accompanying any bombers as far as Germany, and air observers in London were quick to suggest that Spitfires, like Thunderbolts, have now been equipped with long-range auxiliary tanks.

Earlier in the day RAF fighters destroyed nine enemy planes in offensive sweeps over occupied Europe. Two RAF planes were lost.

German raiders gave London its fourth alert in as many nights shortly before midnight Tuesday. The Ministry of Home Security said "a few enemy aircraft crossed the south coast" and dropped bombs at scattered points, causing damage and casualties—a few fatal.

Nazis, Setbacks Caused Italy to Ask Armistice

Bari Radio reported yesterday that Marshal Badoglio had told 1,000 Italian officers in an address that the military situation and the behavior of the occupying German forces were the main reasons why the Italian government asked for an armistice.

He denied that the overthrow of Mussolini was due to a "palace intrigue," stating that 19 members of the Fascist Grand Council voted against Il Duce. "Our only aim is to drive the Germans out of Italy," Badoglio was quoted as saying.

A P47 Ace in the ETO Hardly Has Time to Eat

A page from the diary of Maj. Eugene P. Roberts, of Spokane, Wash., P47 fighter ace and air executive officer of Col. James Stone's fighter group:

Saturday—Awarded British DFC, American DSC.

Monday—Awarded Silver Star.

Wednesday—Destroyed ninth German fighter. Promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Moral: Even if you are a colonel and the ETO's highest scoring Thunderbolt ace, it's still a headache sewing ribbons and insignia on the old uniform.

Slavs Beat Off Isle Landings

German attempts to land on Yugoslav-controlled islands in the north Adriatic have been beaten off with heavy losses to the Nazis, the Yugoslav communique in London said last night.

It was said that patriot activities had forced the Germans to move an entire division from northern Italy into Jugoslavia, this division recapturing the towns of Sushak and Togulin.

New partisan advances along the Belgrade-Serajevo railway were reported, with guerrillas now holding the greater part of Montenegro. With the railway cut, it was said that winter snows would block the mountain passes between Serbia and Bosnia, virtually isolating one from the other.

Amid growing reports of sabotage and increasing fighting in Jugoslavia came a Bari broadcast telling of Albanian patriot gains in their drive for Tirana, capital of Albania. The Germans were reported to have suffered heavy losses trying to stop the advance on Tirana and the port of Valona.

Rabaul Severely Blasted Again; Ships, 60 Jap Planes Destroyed

ALLIED HQ., Southwest Pacific, Oct. 20—The great Japanese air base at Rabaul, New Britain, got its second severe pasting in seven days as bombers and fighters of the U.S. Fifth Air Force swarmed across the Bismarck Sea yesterday and destroyed 60 Jap aircraft, a gunboat and a cargo ship.

The U.S. air fleets—growing in size every week—have virtually knocked out the base which heretofore has been the main air and supply base for the Japs in the South Pacific.

The Allies undoubtedly will keep a close watch on Rabaul from now on to see that whatever new supplies and reinforcements the enemy makes will be offset by new air blows.

In the first raid three-fifths of the enemy air strength was reported destroyed.

On the ground in New Guinea, Allied troops are progressing towards Madang after removing the threat to their rear

Big Attacks Indicate Plan to Fight It Out; Reds Cut Rail Line

Advance South of Melitopol May Bring Second Encirclement; Russians Gain at Kiev and Gomel

The die was cast last night for development of one of the greatest phases of the War in the East—the vast encirclement of all German forces in the Dnieper Bend and the sealing off of the Crimea.

The German High Command itself apparently had cast the die. Faced with the choice of abandoning positions along the lower Dnieper or staying and battling it out, the Germans evidently had dropped their "tactical withdrawals," for they were hurling in reserves of men and tanks in fierce counter-attacks.

South of Kremenchug, Soviet armies were cutting deeper into the Dnieper Bend in the first stages of a "bigger than Stalingrad" trap for the Nazis in an area encompassing more than 15,000 square miles, about a fifth the size of Britain.

8th Air Force Bags 2,412 for 560-Plane Loss

Arnold Says Bombing Will 'Pave Way In' and Save Thousands of Lives

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20—The U.S. Eighth Air Force has destroyed 2,412 enemy planes in aerial combat while losing only 560 since beginning bombing operations over Germany and German-occupied territory, Gen. Henry H. Arnold, Army Air Forces commander, said yesterday.

He told a press conference that approximately 1,800 Nazi fighters, representing the major portion of the Luftwaffe's interceptor strength, now was concentrated between Denmark and Belgium under Marshal Goering's orders that "daylight bombers must be halted regardless of cost."

The Germans, Arnold said, practically had stripped their air power over Italy and greatly reduced the Luftwaffe's strength over the Russian front in an attempt to turn back heavy Allied bombing attacks in the west. Germany, he added, was trying desperately to produce more fighters.

Says Bombing Alone Might Win

Arnold said that bombings of German territory were aimed at paving the way for Allied ground forces to move in with "a saving of thousands of lives." He said that he thought it possible—but did not predict—that bombing could blast Germany out of the war although "ground troops would have to go in for police purposes."

Referring to the Americans' victory score of 4½ to one, he said, "We are wearing them down. I don't mean that the war is over or that it is going to be an easy job, but we are getting the upper hand."

Arnold said that the first objective of American bombing was destruction of selected targets, with minimization of German aircraft replacement capacity an important corollary.

Mentioning specific raids and their cost to the enemy, the Army Air Forces commander said that the Renault works in

Close Range Fighting in Burma

CHUNGKING, Oct. 20 (AP)—The Japanese, still unable to cross the Salween river on the Burma front, have thrust north and south along the west bank, engaging in bank-to-bank artillery duelling and close range fighting.

Elsewhere on the eastern front, a Japanese sortie from Siao-feng was turned back with the Chinese pursuing the enemy to points outside the town.

In southern Anhwei the struggle for Suitungcheng, southeast of Hsuancheng, continued in mounting ferocity, with both sides suffering heavy losses.

High point of the advance thus far was capture of Pyatikhata, vital railway junction, which thus cut the main German escape route out of Dniepropetrovsk and heavily dented any hopes Berlin might hold for a successful counter-offensive, for Pyatikhata was a main point in the funneling of supplies into the lower Dnieper region.

Along the Dnieper from Zaporozhe south to Melitopol the German line was crumbling fast, despite fanatical attacks launched by desperate German generals who had not gotten themselves into such a serious tactical situation since they were cut off at Stalingrad.

In Melitopol itself, fierce hand to hand battles were raging, with Russian forces having fought their way through to new positions inside the embattled, shell-torn city.

Other Red Army units were advancing south of Melitopol, it was revealed for the first time, thus posing a second encirclement threat to Germans battling not only in the city, but to the entire Crimea.

The stubborn defense of Melitopol was believed designed to give the Germans time to flee the Crimea. It was apparently a race last night to see whether the Russians could get there before the Nazis could get out. More than 250,000 German wounded were reported convalescing in the Crimea.

Continued good news came from the fighting fronts to the north. Additional Russian gains were reported at Kiev, which was slowly being encircled from north and south by Red Army forces which had crossed the Dnieper.

South of Rechitza the Russians edged forward in this swampy area, driving home this thrust which has outflanked Gomel on the White Russian front.

Moscow reported that the Red Air Force was maintaining powerful blows against the enemy, but Pravda, Communist Party newspaper, said that the Luftwaffe was increasing its activity in the southern sectors, using bombers hurriedly brought back from the western front.

Nelson Tours Soviet Plants

MOSCOW, Oct. 20 (UP)—Donald M. Nelson, chief of the U.S. War Production Board, left Moscow today for an extensive tour of Soviet manufacturing plants.

350,000 Tons of Coal Lost In Alabama Wildcat Strike

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 20 (AP)—More than 350,000 tons of coal already have been lost by the wildcat strike in Alabama in protest against the return of the mines to private operators.

'Hell of a Job Left,' They Say in Congress

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (UP)—"We've still got a hell of a job to do." That was the only comment of a member of the U.S. House of Representatives as he departed from today's secret session on war strategy and economy. Generally speaking, however, there was an optimistic note among the congressmen.

Gen. George C. Marshall, the Army's chief of staff, gave a 45-minute "off the record" report. He spoke mainly about German manpower.