

S & S Weatherman . . .
LONDON and VICINITY
Cloudy with Occasional Rain
MIDLANDS and E. ANGLIA
Moderate Winds, Cloudy, Cool

. . . Predicts for Today
W. ENGLAND and WALES
Moderate Winds, Cloudy, Cool
SCOTLAND
Cloudy and Cool

Yanks Gain, Okinawa End 'Nears'

Okinawa, key Pacific base only 325 miles from the Japanese mainland, will be captured in the "near future," Vice Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner, commander of the amphibious assault, said yesterday as U.S. soldiers and marines beat off strong counter-attacks by Jap soldiers wearing American uniforms and made more gains against the four-mile defense line stretched across the island.

"Japanese courage is desperate but it seems that they have their last reserves in the line," Turner stated, referring to the fanatical resistance along the Naha-Shuri-Yonabaru system of fortifications protecting southern Okinawa and the vital Naha airfield, three miles south of the capital.

In the 53rd day of the Okinawa campaign heavy fighting raged, with Jap suicide squads being wiped out as they tried to halt American tank columns closing in on Shuri, Japanese bastion in the center of the defense line already surrounded and under intense artillery fire from U.S. heavy guns.

American forces yesterday captured Taira as U.S. troops advanced against the high ground around Shuri fortress. The Japs gave way slowly after American forces resorted to flaming oil to force the Japs out of foxholes and caves.

At the western end of the front marines repelled counter-attacks by Japs dressed in American uniforms and carrying U.S. weapons.

Attempt Behind-Line Landings

The Japs also attempted to land troops behind the American lines, but the amphibious operation was crushed by naval guns.

The Jap air force increased its attacks on the Okinawa supply armada and damaged five vessels in low-level sweeps, but lost 26 out of 35 planes.

In the Philippines, U.S. and guerrilla forces had wiped out two-thirds of the large Japanese force trapped in the Ipo Dam area of Luzon. On Mindanao, American forces, with nine-tenths of the island already captured, made further progress in their drive to split the remaining Jap forces. The 31st and 40th Divisions, Gen. MacArthur said in his communique, were only 25 miles apart in their thrusts through the enemy position.

On Tarakan Island, off the coast of Borneo, Australian forces crushed a Jap counter-attack and advanced to within three miles of the east coast.

The air war continued with Philippines-based bombers making their heaviest raid on Formosa. A total of 9,000 tons of explosives has been rained on Formosa's industries, airfields and transportation systems since the bombers struck from the Philippines four months ago.

Japanese Radio also reported yesterday that British carrier-based planes had again attacked the Sakishima Islands, but the report was not confirmed.

Other dispatches said Superforts and fighter planes were being flown to bases in Okinawa to take part in the final stages of the island battle.

Railway bridges and Japanese shipping were attacked in China by fighters and medium bombers of the 14th Air Force.

End Unit Mail Censorship

Stars and Stripes Paris Bureau

PARIS, May 22—Censorship of enlisted men's mail by their unit officers has been discontinued, Lt. Col. James R. Arnold, Theater Censor, announced yesterday.

The move was in line with the liberalization of security regulations since VE-Day. Base censors will continue to censor officers' and enlisted men's mail, however, in accordance with security requirements, and it may be necessary to impose unit censorship on some units for short periods under special circumstances.

Soldiers now may seal their envelopes before mailing letters and officers are no longer required to sign their own envelopes. The use of blue envelopes has been discontinued.

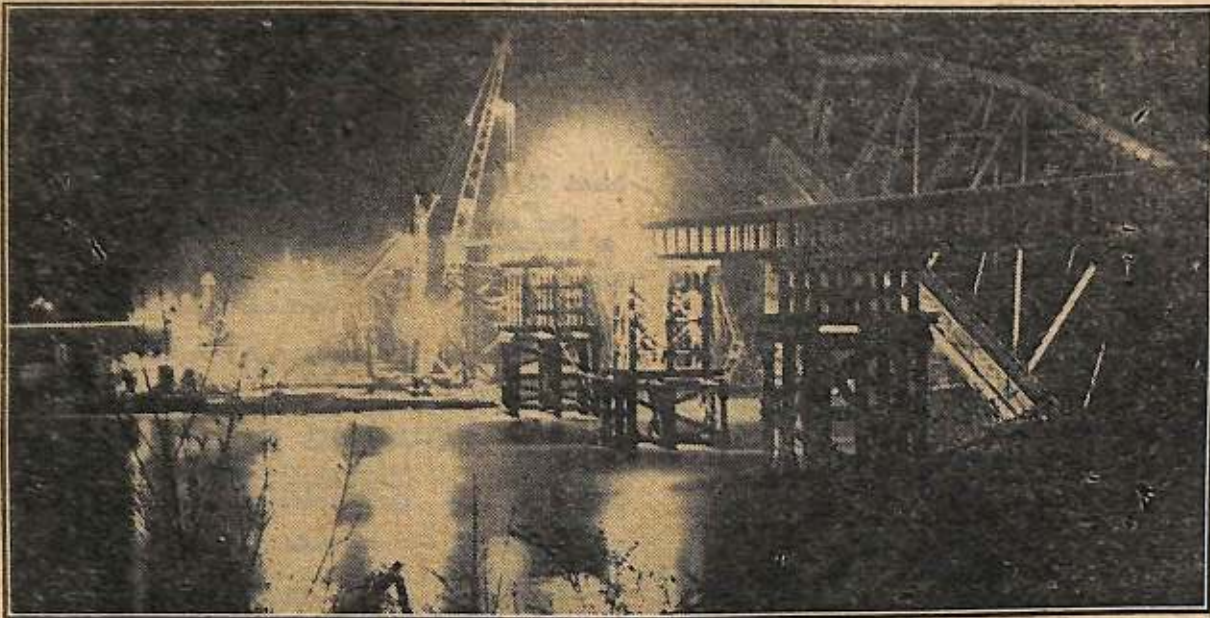
It was stressed, however, that certain security regulations still remain in effect. Men and officers may not mention troop movements concerning Army, Air Force or Naval personnel from the ETO or any movements within this theater that would indicate that such troops might move to another theater.

Also on the prohibited list is mention of classified military equipment; the strength, morale, efficiency or detailed organization of units; details of undisclosed tactical methods; condition of ports, harbors, transportation and communication facilities, and casualties.

Also banned as topics of writing are enemy espionage, sabotage or subversive activity, breaches of the Geneva Convention, and statements disparaging to our armed forces or Allies, and subversive material.

Unless otherwise specified by units, soldiers may give their exact geographical location.

Jap Balloon Bombs Hit the U.S.



NIGHT AND DAY: For U.S. Army engineers the end of the war in Europe did not mean the end of work. Operating on a round-the-clock schedule, they go on replacing what was torn down by the fury of war. Here under the glare of spotlights they construct a 2,223-foot railroad bridge over the Rhine at Mainz to facilitate the flow of supplies to U.S. forces still in the Reich.

1st Army on Way; Alert 4 Divisions for Pacific

PARIS, May 22—Announcement that four infantry divisions from various Armies are slated for redeployment to the Pacific next month through the U.S., followed yesterday a War Department disclosure that the 1st Army already is on the move to the war against Japan.

ETO HQ identified the alerted divisions as the 86th, 97th, 95th and 104th—all among the last to arrive in the ETO—and said they would leave during June in the order named. Every man in the four divisions will receive a furlough of undisclosed length in the U.S., and the divisions probably will undergo additional training in the States before shipping to the Pacific.

Before leaving the ETO, it was announced, the divisions will undergo a re-adjustment of personnel. Men with adjusted service rating scores above the interim critical score of 85 points will be replaced, since sufficient reinforcements are available, but the time factor may determine where those eligible for discharge are removed from their units.

Insofar as time permits, men with 85 points or more will be replaced before the divisions begin their redeployment. Those who are not replaced in the ETO will be removed in the U.S. before their units are sent to "an active theater."

The announcement that the 1st Army was in process of transferring to the Pacific was made by the War Department in Washington yesterday morning. Its men, too, will receive furloughs in the U.S. "before proceeding to the war against the Japanese."

Revealing that Gen. Courtney H. Hodges would retain command of the 1st, the War Department said, however, that "the divisions and army corps that fight with the 1st Army against Japan will not necessarily be the same as those that fought in Germany." Nevertheless, it was explained, "enough veteran units and

veteran personnel will take the field . . . to insure the same vigorous assault against the Japanese as was made by the 1st Army against the Germans."

"Under the point system for release of men with extended and arduous combat service," said the announcement, "many of the present personnel of units to be sent into the Pacific with the 1st Army will be separated from their organizations before they leave Europe and replaced by men who do not have enough points to qualify for discharge."

The War Department cited the fighting record of Hodges' Army as among "The proudest in the AEF."

The Associated Press said that military security precluded revealing what units that fought with the 1st on the Continent would be retained, adding that some units not eligible for immediate discharge probably already are "on their way."

However, AP pointed out, the vast majority of troops to be assigned to the new 1st Army would go through normal redeployment channels, according to the best available information. That means the Army will be regrouped with most of its personnel coming from surplus pools to be formed in the U.S. under the redeployment program, it was said.

AP said that 1st Army headquarters (Continued on back page)

See Coalition Out, British Election Soon

Early dissolution of Britain's Parliament and the country's first general election since 1935 loomed yesterday as Prime Minister Churchill declared that his war-born coalition Cabinet could not get along until Autumn in an "electioneering atmosphere."

He said this in a letter to Clement Attlee, Deputy Prime Minister and Labor Party leader, one day after a Labor Party conference had overwhelmingly rejected Churchill's proposal that the Cabinet stick together until Japan had been licked.

Attlee had written Churchill, after the coalition and press for a general election this year, suggesting an Autumn date. Churchill yesterday ruled out so long a continuance of the coalition in the face of an approaching election, and observers thought a date in July might therefore be decided upon.

The next move in the current heated political situation, which flared up with the victory in Europe, would come from Churchill. He is expected to ask the King to dissolve Parliament. The Labor Ministers are then expected to withdraw from the Cabinet and the Prime Minister would appoint a "caretaker" Cabinet to serve during the interim period until the election. The election would be held 17 days after dissolution.

Nazis Murdered Maquis

QUIBERON, France, May 22 (UP)—The remains of 18 women members of the Maquis have been identified in a mass grave at Fort de Pentevre here. A German prisoner told military authorities that the women were murdered last year.

Eisenhower Acts to Take Over For the Allies From Doenitz

SHAEF, Paris, May 22 (Reuter)—What is probably the first step in the systematic taking over of all powers from Adm. Karl Doenitz's military group, temporarily being used as a rump government for the subjugation and disarmament of Germany, was taken today by the Allied military command.

Maj. Gen. Lowell W. Rooks, it was announced at SHAEF, has been appointed Gen. Eisenhower's personal representative to the German military group in Flensburg. This mission will be known as the "Supreme HQ control party with the German High Command." The control party consists of British and U.S. representatives.

The Russians are sending a separate and similar party to Flensburg, with which Rooks has been instructed to work in close collaboration.

The Anglo-American party includes Brig. Gen. Ned Schramm, a senior U.S. Air Force officer; Capt. J. O. Maund, of the Royal Navy, and Brig. Gen. E. J. Foord, a British Army officer with SHAEF's Intelligence Branch.

The aim of this control party is to impose the will of the Supreme Commander on the German High Command and to make such use of it as is expedient for controlling and administering German forces in the area of the Allied Expeditionary Force. The control party has also been charged with collecting and safeguarding all documents of the German High Command.

The time is approaching when Doenitz's clique may have completed its usefulness to the Allies in disarming, feeding and supervising the medical care of the beaten German Army. The formation and announcement of the control party constitutes a further step in the assumption of total control of defeated Germany by the Allies.

Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, Eisenhower's

No Damage In 'Fantastic' Raids—WD

WASHINGTON, May 22—Japanese free balloons have landed or dropped explosives during the last several months in isolated localities in the western part of the U.S., the War Department announced tonight, saying its disclosure was being made so a public safety campaign could be undertaken to prevent possible damage.

At the same time, the Canadian Defense Department announced at Ottawa that Jap balloons had been reported at places in western Canada.

No property damage has been caused by the enemy balloons, which are made of paper, are 33 feet in diameter and carry a few small bombs suspended beneath them, apparently intended to set brush or forest fires, the War Department said.

These bombs are dangerous, however, and the War Department added this warning: "It is desirable that people, especially children, living west of the Mississippi be warned of this possible hazard, and cautioned under no circumstances to touch or approach any unfamiliar object." With the approach of warm weather, the Department said, unexploded bombs might be found concealed in wooded areas or beneath melting snow.

The balloon attacks—first direct enemy action against the U.S. mainland since Jap submarine shells fell in West Coast areas soon after the war began—were so scattered and aimless that they do not constitute a military threat, the War Department said. The balloons, of gray-white or greenish-blue paper, are unmanned and cannot be controlled, it was reported.

"They should not be viewed with alarm," the statement said. "Due to the large area of the U.S. and the variable nature of the winds, the possibility of a hit in any specific area is remote. The chances of any place being hit by these attacks is only one in many millions."

The statement said that it was felt that the possibility of saving life through precautionary measures would offset any military gain which the Japs might gain from the knowledge that some balloons had landed in the U.S. Exact time and locations of when and where the balloons fell were not disclosed, the statement said, since this is information which the enemy would like to know and "would permit him to evaluate the results of his fantastic effort and possibly correct his methods."

The announcement was the first time the public generally was told of the balloon attacks, although they were known to many newspaper men and others.

U.S. Rotation Stops May 31

Stars and Stripes Paris Bureau

PARIS, May 22—Thirty-day rotation furloughs to the U.S. are being suspended indefinitely on May 31, ETO HQ announced yesterday.

The suspension was decided upon because of the problems of transportation, personnel transfer and other factors resulting from the redeployment program. However, theater officials stressed, most men who would have gone home on 30-day rest and recuperation furloughs now would go home—perhaps for good—as part of the readjustment and discharge program.

Men who already have been sent back to the States under the furlough plan or on other temporary duty will not be returned to the ETO, and will be transferred out of their former units, unless they are specifically requested by name, it was disclosed.

In anticipation of R-Day and the announcement of the point plan, theater redeployment chiefs said, the men who were most recently sent back home and who will come under the "no-return" order, were men who would obviously have high point scores and therefore be candidates for discharge.

Surrendered U-Boat Arrives in London

Greeted by tug whistles and an audience of some 15,000, the first German U-Boat to come to London in World War II sailed into Westminster Pier Monday, manned by British sailors. The new 500-ton U776 will be on view to the public beginning Thursday for 10 days.

Commissioned in April, 1944, fast and heavily armed, she had surrendered to a naval sloop off Weymouth recently. The sleek minelayer still carried the dozen acoustic oyster mines intended to block Allied shipping off the southwest coast of Ireland.

Deputy Military Governor, announced last week that Doenitz had the status of a prisoner of war, being used by the Allies to assist their ends. Presumably when these ends are accomplished, he will revert to the status of an ordinary prisoner, no longer useful for military purposes. Then, if he is wanted as a war criminal, there would be no objection to locking him up.

The formation of the control party indicates that the Allies have made good progress toward the point at which they will be able to dispense with Doenitz.

There is considerable feeling in high circles that, in deference to public opinion at home, what the Russian Press brands as the "intolerable situation" of the former U-boat commander and his clique will soon be eliminated.

Then the admiral would assume his rightful position as a branded war criminal with everything that goes with it.

The fact that Doenitz has been allowed even a semblance of freedom of action—even though under the strictest Allied supervision to accomplish Allied ends—has caused great irritation throughout the world, especially in Russia. It is generally felt that the humiliation and completeness of the German defeat will not be driven home to the German people while Doenitz is still giving orders and still outside a war criminal's cell.