

BRITISH HEAVY BOMBERS HAMMER BERLIN

6TH GREAT RAID ON NAZI CAPITAL WITHIN A MONTH

London —(P)— Stricken Berlin heaved up fields of flame and smoke again last night as hundreds of giant, black RAF bombers loosed thunderous explosives on the Nazi nerve center for the 41st time this year.

Stockholm dispatches said the capital city was burning again today after a two weeks respite, the flames from her gutted buildings "reddening the sky." Telephone communication was irregular, and the capital's transport was reported paralyzed from streets choked with debris.

Follows American Raid

The sixth raid on the capital in a month was launched from Britain just after American Liberators and Flying Fortresses returned in twilight from their daylight raids on northwest Germany. The Eighth airforce did not specify the Americans' target, but the German communique said the fleets were over Helgoland bay and "dropped a great number of high explosives and incendiary bombs on residential quarters in a number of localities in northwestern Germany" and Bremen. It acknowledged particularly heavy damage to Bremen itself, the big U-boat base which the Americans battered also on Nov. 26 and 29.

The degree of the Berlin assault—more than 1,500 long tons of bombs—and the determination with which it was pressed home despite the loss of 30 bombers, left no doubt that the RAF intends to finish the job of leveling what remains of the capital city's acres of factories, government buildings, financial institutions and warehouses.

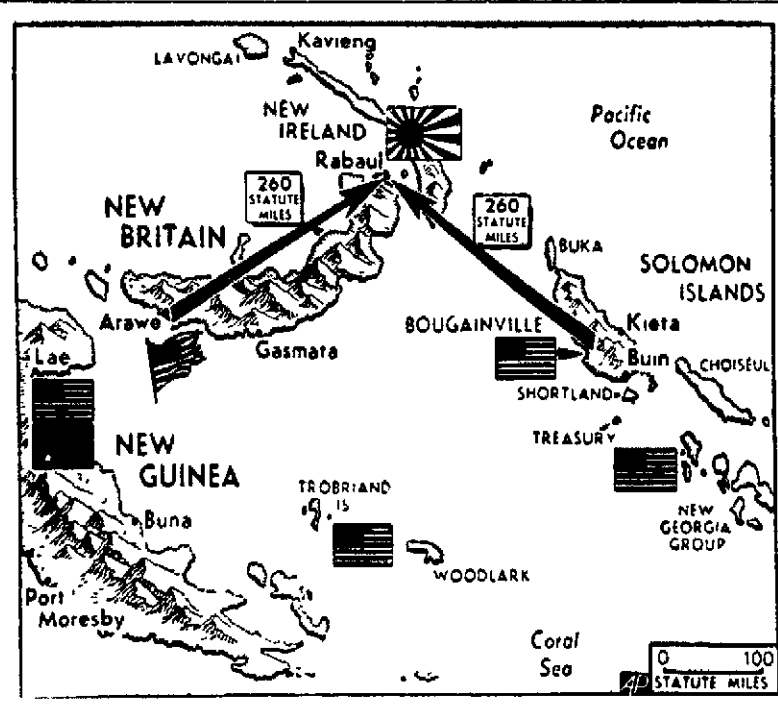
15,000 Tons On Berlin

With last night's attack, which came before bomb-exhausted Berliners had a chance to fall asleep, more than 15,000 tons of high explosives and incendiaries have been showered upon the blackened and shattered city.

There was no clear indication of what area of Berlin the RAF concentrated on last night although private information reaching Sweden indicated that the central section had suffered heavily.

The Swiss radio said the foreign office district was struck, and one Berlin broadcast clung to the familiar line that the residential area had been the target.

The German high command, in its broadcast communique, acknowledged only that "considerable damage" had resulted.



PINCERS MOVES ON RABAU—Rabaul, key Japanese base on New Britain island prime American objective for the forces which have landed at Arawe, is equidistant from Arawe and from the area on the west coast of Bougainville island where Americans have established an airfield. Arrows indicate developing two-way pressure on Rabaul. Figure indicates distances.

American Army Consolidating Positions On Arawe Peninsula; Repel Several Jap Air Raids

General MacArthur's Headquarters, New Guinea—(P)—American troops that invaded the Arawe peninsula of New Britain island Wednesday are consolidating their positions, while the American air force has successfully repelled several Japanese air attacks.

The announcement from General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters was the first since the bulletins yesterday telling of the landing of army troops on the southwest coast of Japan's main island base in the southwest Pacific.

There were no further details of the action at Arawe, but the announcement that Texas army units were consolidating their positions indicated there was little if any additional opposition after the brief skirmishes accompanying the amphibious landings.

Seek Contact With Japs

Patrols are probably branching out into the rain-soaked jungle in reconnaissance missions seeking to contact the Japanese.

At the same time, MacArthur's headquarters announced that Australians on the western side of Vitiaz strait were making "good progress" up the Huon peninsula of New Guinea and capture of Lakona was "imminent."

Repel Air Attacks

Japanese bombers attempted to attack the American positions soon after the initial landings on Arawe, but allied fighters intercepted them and the headquarters spokesman said that in each case "the air attacks were repelled."

The American Sixth army established its hold on the Arawe peninsula, with but few casualties, considering the scope of the operations. The troops moved shoreward with powerful naval and air support and seven hours after the first assault at dawn Wednesday, Brig. Gen. Julian Cunningham, commander of the invading force, messaged Gen Douglas MacArthur "our objective is attained."

First Concerted Action

It was the first concerted action for the Sixth army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, and it won a strategically important position for the allies, giving them command of the southern entrance to Vitiaz and Dampier straits which separate New Britain from the northeast coast of New Guinea, now firmly held by the Australians.

A United States destroyer force under Rear Adm. Daniel Barbey pounded Arawe and the tiny islands at the entrance to the harbor before See—NEW BRITAIN—Page 5

FRENCH TROOPS PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN ITALY

Allied Headquarters, Algiers—(P)—French troops, entering the war on the European mainland for the first time since 1940, have scored outstanding successes against the Germans in mountain fighting in central Italy, it was announced today.

The French have been in forward positions alongside British and American soldiers for some time, but their presence was not disclosed until today's communique from allied headquarters.

Fought in Tunisia

They are the same troops which fought alongside the allies in Tunisia, but since then have been completely re-equipped with American uniforms, guns and materials.

Soon after moving up to the battlefield the French participated in a series of local attacks, capturing several important German hilltop positions and taking a number of prisoners, who expressed surprise at finding the French in action.

The French forces had been trained in North Africa under the direction of Gen. Henri Giraud and their use of American arms came under arrangements made at the Casablanca conference last January.

Creates a Sensation

Their presence created a sensation among the Italian people and the quick successes of the French soldiers contrasted sharply with the abortive efforts recently of the first Italian militia to be sent into the allied lines.

Announcement of the participation of the French coincided with an aerial assault for the second successive day on German communications and supply lines in the Alpine region of northern Italy, where heavy bombers wrecked rail facilities at Padua and Dogna.

Bitter Local Battles

Ground fighting by both the Fifth and Eighth armies was confined largely to consolidating previous gains and to bitter local battles for strategic advantages.

The Germans intensified their efforts to hold off the relentless Eighth army on the Adriatic end of the line, throwing more and more tanks and flame-throwers into the struggle, but New Zealanders and Canadians beat off every Nazi attempt to break their hold on the Orsogna-Ortona highway which had been cut in three places the previous day.



DIES AT BROOKLYN—Lieut. Commander Tom Utegaard, U. S. navy, passed away today at Navy hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y. following a lingering illness.

Tom Utegaard, Navy Officer, Dies in East

Lieut. Commander Thomas Utegaard of Wisconsin Rapids died this morning at the Navy hospital in Brooklyn, N. Y. He had been a patient at the hospital since last May, suffering from a disease that was diagnosed then as fatal. At the hospital were his wife and son Thomas F. Utegaard, Midshipman at the U. S. Naval academy at Annapolis.

Mrs. Utegaard left here to be with her husband last spring when he was moved to the hospital from Bayonne, N. J., where he had been assigned as public works officer of the navy's port located in that city.

No word has been received here regarding funeral arrangements.

Served In Both Wars

Commander Utegaard had the distinction of serving in both World wars. He enlisted as a private in 1917 in the army at Columbus, Ohio after his graduation from the University of Wisconsin college of engineering. Later he entered an officers' training school at Camp Grant, Ill., and was commissioned a second lieutenant.

He was married to Elizabeth Fletcher in New York City just prior to his departure for France where he served for nine months as an officer in the 56th Coast Artillery regiment.

Working leave from his position as civil engineer at Consolidated Water Power & Paper company where he had been since Sept. 1, 1920, he reported for duty with the navy at Norfolk, Va., at the end of February of this year. He took his training at See—UTEGAARD—Page 5

Death Toll Reaches 79 in Southeast's Worst Rail Wreck in History

Lumberton, N. C.—(P)—The toll of dead in the southeast's worst railroad disaster mounted to 79 today, including 47 soldiers, as more bodies were located in four telescoped passenger cars that still blocked the Atlantic Coast line's double-track mainline from New York to Florida.

The Red Cross at Atlanta said bodies of 47 soldiers and 20 civilians had been recovered and that seven more bodies were known to be in one of the cars and five in another.

Cars Jammed Together

The four steel cars, stacked one on top of the other, were so jammed together that they were little bigger than one car is normally. The wrecking trains were able to move the pyramided coaches only six feet all night.

The double pileup of the two crack flyers produced a death list just short of that in the wreck of the Congressional Limited in Philadelphia last September when 80 persons lost their lives.

Record Is 115

The southeastern seaboard's worst railroad rail wreck occurred at Rockmart, Ga., in 1928 when 20 were killed. The biggest wreck toll in the nation's railroad history was 115 killed at Nashville, Tenn., July 9, 1918.

Workers toiled throughout the night and continued today in 12-degree weather to clear the tracks and remove the dead.

C. G. Sibley, vice president of the Coast line, today put the time of the derailment of No. 91, the south-bound train, at 12:50 a. m. (EWT). Northbound train No. 8 struck the derailed cars between 1:25 and 1:30 a. m., Sibley said.

Fail to See Signal

"Our information is that the fireman on Train 91 went ahead of his train to flag the northbound train, but did not succeed in stopping the train with his red lantern," the spokesman said in a statement. "He See—TRAIN WRECK—Page 5

ROOSEVELT GETS NOISY GREETING AT WASHINGTON

Washington—(P)—Bronzed and smiling—but in need of a haircut—President Roosevelt came back home to the White House from his long trek into the Middle East today and found a tumultuous reception awaiting him there.

Members of the cabinet and other top officials of the government were assembled with a host of senators and congressmen of both major parties in the diplomatic reception room of the executive mansion to extend a noisy greeting.

Meets Congressional Leaders

After a general round of handshaking, Mr. Roosevelt got together with the congressional leaders to discuss the possibility of his appearing in Capitol Hill to report on his conferences at Cairo and Teheran. Speaker Rayburn said later the chief executive had decided he would not appear before congress until he delivers his annual message early next year.

"He's got to talk on a world wide hookup the night before Christmas," Senate Democratic Leader Barkley elaborated, "and he thinks that will be enough right now."

May Incorporate Talks

Rayburn said he thought Mr. Roosevelt would incorporate both in the Christmas eve broadcast and in the annual message whatever he cared to say of his journey and the conferences he had with Churchill, Stalin, Chiang Kai-Shek and Turkey's Inonu.

Mr. Roosevelt looked tanned and fit after his five weeks' absence and many of those who greeted him commented on how well he looked.

But to a veteran Negro attendant at the White House who doubles as presidential barber, Mr. Roosevelt remarked: "I need a hair cut, John."

Arranges Conferences

Mr. Roosevelt arranged a series of important conferences shortly after his return, the first with diplomats representing Britain, China, Russia, Turkey, Iran and Egypt, the nations which Mr. Roosevelt visited or whose chiefs he conferred with on his trip.

The Dakar radio disclosed today that Mr. Roosevelt boarded a French ship in Dakar harbor on his homeward journey. The broadcast, recorded by the U. S. Foreign Broadcast Intelligence service, said Mr. Roosevelt visited Dakar in French West Africa Dec. 9 with Admiral William D. Leahy.

They arrived at Dakar by plane, conferred with French officials, and boarded a French ship which took them from Dakar to a rendezvous with a U. S. warship designated to carry the president home.

CHURCHILL IS FEELING BETTER

London—(P)—General improvement in Prime Minister Churchill's condition has been maintained, a bulletin from his bedside announced this afternoon.

"There has been no spread in the pneumonia, and improvement in the prime minister's general condition has been maintained," said the bulletin issued at No. 10 Downing street.

Churchill, suffering from his second attack of pneumonia in 10 months, undoubtedly will require a long period for recuperation and consequently it is expected Britain's war cabinet may name an acting leader to serve in his absence.

Rites Monday for Leonard Pascavis, Rudolph Resident

Funeral services for Leonard Pascavis, 52, town of Rudolph, who died at 7 a. m. Thursday at the Wisconsin General hospital in Madison following a lingering illness, will be held Monday at 11 a. m. at St. Peter and Paul Catholic church here, the Rt. Rev. Magr. William Reding officiating. Interment will take place in Calvary cemetery here.

Mr. Pascavis was born at Meehan Station, June 19, 1891, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pascavis. He resided in this vicinity all his life. He married Elizabeth Schmicke in August, 1913 at Rudolph. Eight children were born to this union.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Frank Pascavis of Stevens Point, his wife of Rudolph and the following children: William P. Pascavis, Mrs. Norbert Gilson and Donald Pascavis, all of this city; Mrs. Allie Pelot, of Rudolph and Genevieve, Violet, Glenn and Lorraine, all at home.

One brother, Stanley of Reed, W. Va., also survives him, as do three sisters: Mrs. John Podgett of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Ernest Hanneaman of Glen Allen, Va.; and Mrs. H. Moss of Vancouver, Wash.

The body will remain at the Krohn and Berard funeral home here until the time of the service and friends may pay their respects there. Prayers will be said at 8 p. m. Sunday.

House Votes to Extend Life of CCC

Washington—(P)—The house voted today to extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation until Feb. 5, thus suspending until then a showdown on the issue of outlawing food subsidies.

The senate earlier had voted a 60-day truce in the controversy. In reducing the time by amendment, the house forced the bill back to the senate.

The amendment to change the extension date from Feb. 5 to Feb. 20 was offered by Representative Kleberg (D-Tex.) and was passed on a standing vote of 103 to 27.

The resolution carried on a voice vote.

The delegates also chose Miles Ruth Jackson, incumbent triple-A secretary-treasurer, to continue in that position.

There was sharp competition in the balloting for all positions on the county committee.

Flu Epidemic is Past Its Crest in This City, Belief

Climax of the influenza epidemic in this city seems to have been passed, according to figures available today from city schools. On Monday of this week, absences in the city schools stood at 300, falling to 97 on Tuesday and 60 on Wednesday.

"More persons have suffered influenza attacks in the past few weeks than in any comparable period since the great epidemic during and just after the first World war," declared Dr. F. X. Pomainville, city health officer, today.

"The present contagion is in a much milder form than in the last great epidemic, however, and deaths are comparatively few, none having occurred from that cause in this city," the doctor declared.

"It is hard to determine the actual number of influenza cases, since many persons suffering from a mild attack do not call a physician. The school absences are not an accurate indication, either, since many children with ordinary colds are kept home by their parents, as we have advised, so that they do not become infected nor spread the contagion themselves," the health officer explained.

John Wirth, 64, Of Nekoosa Dies; Funeral Monday

John Wirth, 64, a resident of the community for the past 23 years, died at his home in Nekoosa at 3:40 p. m. Thursday after an illness of one week of influenza with pneumonia complications. Funeral services will be held Monday, December 20, at 9 a. m. at Sacred Heart Catholic church with the Rev. Alvin Dauf officiating. Interment will be in Riverside cemetery.

Mr. Wirth was born in Austria on February 1, 1879, and came to the United States about 1906. He married Martha Gaber Wirth at Nekoosa on May 4, 1925.

Surviving besides his wife are their two children, Bernard and Marie at home; four children by a former marriage, Carl of Nekoosa, John of Dearborn, Mich., Anna of California and Joseph of Nekoosa, and seven step-children, Frank and Sylvester Gaber of Rhinelander, Mrs. Anna Klappa, Mrs. Amanda Gibula, Mrs. Agnes Meeteer and Ray Gaber, all of Nekoosa, and First Lieut. Leonard Gaber of Salt Lake City.

One daughter, Helen, by the first marriage, preceded him in death.

The body will be at the Voss residence from Saturday morning until Sunday evening, when it will be taken to the family home to remain until time for services.

Triple-A Personnel Is Re-elected Here

All members of the Wood county triple-A committee were re-elected by the 20 township delegates who balloted at the triple-A office in the postoffice building here today. One new alternate was chosen.

Joseph A. Poeppel, Marshfield, was re-elected chairman; George C. Kundinger, Auburndale, vice chairman; Arnold Kempen, Rudolph, committee member, and Leo Wellman, town of Rock, alternate. New alternate is Edwin J. Dix, town of Richfield. The delegates also chose Miles Ruth Jackson, incumbent triple-A secretary-treasurer, to continue in that position.

There was sharp competition in the balloting for all positions on the county committee.

Sends \$10 for Felt Stolen 10 Years Ago

Honesty is the best policy—even if it is delayed a few years—in the opinion of a former Nekoosa-Edwards Paper company employee who sent a \$10 bill to C. A. Jaspersen, Nepco secretary-treasurer, together with a note explaining that "this is to pay for a used felt I took when I was working for you 10 years ago."

The note explained that \$10 would cover value of the felt "plus interest." The letter was postmarked Wisconsin Rapids.

Battle of Changteh Is a Pivotal Success For United Nations Plans

Field Headquarters in the Chinese Ninth War Area, Somewhere in Northern Hunan, Dec. 16—(Delayed)—(P)—Gen. Hsueh Yueh, governor of Hunan and commander of this war area, said today that the battle of Changteh, while it cost 14,000 Chinese casualties against 11,000 for the Japanese, was a pivotal success for the whole strategy of the United Nations in the Pacific region.

The general spoke with visiting correspondents, Russian, British, Fighting French and American military representatives through Lt. Gen. Chao Tseli, his chief of staff, interpolating explanatory remarks to Chao's resume of the struggle in which the Japanese now have been thrown back on a semi-circular front.

City in Ruins

Both generals emphasized the strategic importance of the battle for the north Hunan city, which has been turned to ruins in one of the bloodiest battles of the six-year-old Japanese war against China.

They beamed with satisfaction that they had been able to carry out Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's order for a victory at Changteh at all costs.

Changteh is the military gateway west of Tungting lake and northwest of Changsha. For the Japanese it was the more inviting route to Changsha, which had been successfully defended against three southward drives in 1939, 1940 and 1941.

Changsha Jap Goal

Gen. Hsueh and his chief of staff indicated their firm belief that the main strength of two Japanese divisions plus parts of six other divisions was brought to bear in the Changteh region when the offensive started, not merely for looting the warehouses of the new rice crop but actually in the hope of breaking through to Changsha from the northwest.

Gen. Hsueh and Chao said such a breakthrough would have meant dissection of free China, the loss of her main rail system and a vast impairment of her use as a future base of attack on Japan, even if Chinese resistance continued.

Japs Use Gas

Urgency of the Japanese strategy was indicated by their use of tear and suffocating gas, according to Gen. Chao's resume. He said the chemical nature of the suffocating gas is not yet known owing to the lack of immediate laboratory facilities but he indicated it is used to incapacitate troops rather than to kill them.

Asked whether the battle could have been won without the assistance of the 14th United States airforce, Gen. Hsueh said it would have been difficult "but we simply had to win."



PVT. RICHARD CARLSON

Pfc. Carlsson Dies in Italy, Family Told

Pfc. Richard Dewaine Carlsson jr., 21, was killed in action on the Italian front November 28, according to a telegram received here this week by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carlsson, 220 Fifth street south.

Pfc. Carlsson, who entered the service in August, 1941, received training in five camps in the United States before being sent overseas June 30 this year. He saw action in the North African and Sicilian invasions prior to his being stationed in Italy.

He is survived by his parents, one sister, Mrs. O. J. Altman of Los Angeles, Calif., and four brothers: Pvt. Leon of the army, recently assigned from Camp Sheridan; Donald and Herbert at home and Archie of Mantowoc, Wis.

Richard was born December 12, 1921 at Milwaukee. His parents brought him to Wisconsin Rapids two months later, where he lived all his life until his enlistment in 1941.

He graduated from Lincoln high school with the class of 1938, and was known familiarly as "Carp" Carlsson.

Nobles, Portage Co. Agent, Resigns Job

Stevens Point, Wis.—Harry R. Nobles, Portage county's county agricultural agent for the past 27 years and one of the oldest county agents in point of service in Wisconsin, Thursday afternoon presented his resignation to the county board's agricultural committee.

Mr. Nobles has an interest in chicken hatcheries at Almond and Amherst, in Portage county; in Iola, in Waupaca county, and in Wautoma, county seat of Waushara county, and he proposes to enlarge that business by opening a hatchery at Stevens Point.

The veteran county agent served in that capacity in Iowa county for two years before coming to Stevens Point. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

Nobles told Portage county committeemen he would stay on the job until 30 days after a successor is chosen.

SHERY WOMAN DIES

Mrs. George Jankovitz, 46, died suddenly about 9 o'clock this morning at her home in the town of Sherry. The body will be taken to the residence Sunday afternoon. A complete obituary and notice of funeral arrangements which are in charge of Krohn & Berard will appear in Saturday's issue of The Tribune.

THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Fair tonight and Saturday. Slightly warmer tonight, warmer Saturday.

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 26; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 12; temperature at 7 a. m., 16.

6 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

I see a present for a tall, dark + handsome man

Buy Christmas gifts