

# AMERICAN PLANES DOWN 77 JAP AIRCRAFT

## Axis Invasion Jitters Increase

### DAVIS QUALIFIES CRITICISM OF PRESS COVERAGE

Washington—(P)—Director Elmer Davis of the office of war information (OWI) said today his criticism of press coverage of Washington was based on a "general impression" rather than any specific instances he could cite of failure to report major war developments in the capital.

Admits "Large Statement"

Questioned at a press conference on his Monday speech before the American Newspaper Guild convention in Boston, when he suggested Washington news was "less adequately covered than any other news in the world," Davis replied that this was "probably a large statement" but added:

"It certainly is less adequately covered than news from overseas."

His chief complaints, Davis said, were on reports of conflicts in government agencies which he objected to not on grounds of inaccuracy but because he said they got newspaper space disproportionate in their importance, and to "rumors, gossip and so on."

### Give Wrong Impression

The accounts of rows, he said, gave the impression that Washington was "principally the scene of dog fights."

Davis was asked whether he proposed, as reported, to dispense with the services of Lowell Mellett, chief of his bureau of moving pictures and former head of the old office of government reports.

"I don't know," he replied, adding:

"Mr. Mellett has done some excellent things in the moving picture bureau, but after yesterday's recommendation cut in our domestic branch appropriations we don't know how much of a moving picture bureau we will have."

Davis said he did not know whether Mellett would want to continue as head of a drastically reduced bureau.

### 38 Per Cent Cut

The house appropriation committee yesterday recommended a 38,500,000 or 38 per cent cut in OWI's domestic budget for 1944.

Davis took issue with statements in congress of Senator Bridges (R-N. H.) and Representative Short (R-Mo.) critical of his Boston remarks. He denied Bridges' assertion that OWI "now seeks to silence the nation's press" and that OWI had "prevented industry from telling the full story of production."

"That is false," Davis said, "I do not know what evidence he could have twisted into that conclusion."

### Predicts Blow-Up

Look for a major personnel blow-up in the office of war information soon—involving Elmer Davis, one of his top executives and maybe even the White House.

That was the word today from D. C. Speaker, strictly unofficial but well-informed District of Columbia news source.

"Ironically," said D. C., the mythical capital spokesman who represents authentic but unquotable sources, "the row is coming to a climax right after a speech by See—ELMER DAVIS—Page 9"

### Commander Utegaard Showing Improvement

Lieut. Commander Tom Utegaard, who underwent a major operation at the U. S. naval hospital in Brooklyn recently, is showing some improvement although it is likely he will remain in the hospital for another month or more. Mrs. Utegaard, who is with him, may return to Wisconsin Rapids next week.

The Utegaards' eldest son, Tom Jr., a midshipman at the U. S. Naval academy at Annapolis, Md., arrived Tuesday night for a visit, after stopping in Brooklyn to see his father. He will return to the academy to resume his studies early in July.

### Proclamation Issued For Father's Day

Madison, Wis.—(P)—A Father's day proclamation, asking Wisconsin citizens to join with fellow Americans next Sunday in honoring their dads, was issued by Governor Goodland today.

He said:

"On every front in this tragic war for survival, the father is bravely fighting. He is fighting to preserve the institutions of home as free men have known in this blessed land for over 150 years. The father is head of the house, its protector and the symbol of the security of the American home."

### Ambassador Erkin of Turkey Is Recalled to Ankara From Vichy

Bern, Switzerland—(P)—Ambassador Behic Erkin of Turkey has been recalled to Ankara from Vichy in protest against recent severe Gestapo restrictions upon his embassy, a Turkish diplomatic source said today.

While this withdrawal was not considered a rupture in relations between Turkey and Vichy France, this source said it could be a step in that direction.

Hint at Allied Pressure

In addition to a protest against Nazi surveillance of the embassy, another reason for the recall of the ambassador was said to be pressure on the part of the allies, who thereby hope that Vichy will take a similar action and recall Gaston Bergery from Ankara.

### Near Vote On Pay Issue in Mine Dispute

Washington—(P)—The war labor board tried to reach a vote late today on the crucial portal-to-portal pay issue in the soft coal wage dispute while members of the United Mine Workers murmured threats of a new nationwide shutdown next Monday unless their demands were satisfied.

Some members of the UMW policy committee, after a session of more than three hours yesterday, said suggestions were made to hold district conventions on the strike question with the objective of relieving President John L. Lewis of responsibility if another tieup of the coal mines develops and the president signs the anti-strike bill. The current extension of the truce declared by the UMW leadership expires Sunday midnight.

Policy committee members said Lewis has fixed \$1.30 a day as the absolute minimum settlement which he would accept for travel time. The committee was to reconvene at 4 p. m. today.

The WLB, it was learned, had been far from unanimity and considered awards ranging up to 80 cents a day.

An award of 80 cents a day would be based on travel time of 48 minutes at straight time working rates, which basically are \$1 an hour. The only government survey of travel time made six years ago, shows 48 minutes as the average. Lewis contends it is at least 90 minutes.

One member cautioned against any predication, except that 80 cents a day was the extreme maximum which could be expected and even that was unlikely. This amount, with the concessions already granted by the board, would add up to about \$1 a day.

Some of the WLB public members were reported authoritatively to have suggested for consideration a formula based on the fair labor standards act which would permit a payment of \$1.02 a week.

### Brown Says OPA Doesn't Seek to Control Profits

Washington—(P)—Price Administrator Prentiss Brown said in a statement today that the office of price administration "has no program with respect to the reduction of profits, as such."

Read to the house Smith subcommittee investigating OPA rent control activities, Brown's statement was in reply to charges of Committee Counsel Harold L. Allen.

Allen had told the committee that "under the guise of war-time price control the office of price administration is seeking to bring the entire American industrial system under bureaucratic control, by regulating not the price of its products, but by controlling the sum of its profits."

Brown, however, said "it (OPA) has been granted no authority by the congress to control profits of individual concerns. It has not been directed by the president to do so. It has never sought to do so. In the very nature of the case, it would not be able to do so."

### June Selectees Leave for Milwaukee Today

The J. A. contingent of selectees from the south Wood county selective service district left here this noon for Milwaukee, where they are to be examined Friday morning at the army induction center. The list of those accepted for service in the armed forces will be made public early next week.

The June quota included a large number of married men, but no fathers were in the group, local selective service officials said.

### Many Differences of Opinion in Congress

Washington—(P)—Illustrating how far apart the house and senate were on the \$875,000,000 farm appropriation bill members of congress disclosed today that their joint conference had ironed out only 61 of 134 differences of opinion.

This is what conferees after a night session described as progress.

### French Group Finally Agrees

Algiers—(P)—Thirteen members of the French national liberation committee, with Gen. Henri Giraud presiding, reached an agreement at an 80-minute meeting today on procedure and collective responsibility, it was announced.

Rene Massigli, commissioner of foreign affairs, informed the first plenary session of communications received from other governments concerning recognition of the committee as the provisional government of the French empire.

Aim at "Consultative Assembly"

The committee began the first steps toward the creation of a "consultative assembly."

It also was announced that an exchange of views had taken place on the problems concerning the organization of French military forces, one of the principal causes of friction between Giraud and Gen. Charles De Gaulle.

One committeeman told the press "everything went admirably—an absolutely Democratic institution has now been born."

He said the six commissioners attending the committee meeting for the first time accepted, like the original seven committeemen, the principle of collective responsibility and the pledge to relinquish the committeemen's powers when France is freed.

See Quick Solution

The announcement that agreement on procedure today "will bring to a conclusion the various questions now pending which need to be solved urgently" was interpreted as the most hopeful indication that the quarrel over military power between De Gaulle and Giraud might soon be solved.

The committee set no date for its next session.

### ROME REPORTS MANY LANDING CRAFT MASSING

London—(P)—The Rome radio quoted a correspondent of the newspaper Il Messaggero today as reporting the concentration of "many landing craft" from the North African coast toward the allied-conquered island of Pantelleria.

"Since Pantelleria ceased resistance," it said in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, "the final struggle in the Mediterranean has been characterized by an increase of axis air force activity against enemy shipping in the Sicilian channel."

Axis Claims Good Results

"The axis aerial offensive continues unrelentingly against many landing craft concentrating from the African coasts toward Pantelleria, against the concentration of naval units in that bay and against enemy convoys sailing eastward from Gibraltar. Good results for this offensive are reported daily in axis communiques."

"That proves that the great lines of the strategic situation in the Mediterranean are practically the same and that after taking possession of Pantelleria and Lampedusa"

### ALLIES TAKE DAY OFF

Allied Headquarters in North Africa—(P)—The mass of allied aircraft in the northwest African theater took a day off yesterday, activity being limited to patrolling and reconnaissance after heavy assaults the day before on five enemy airfields on western Sicily.

Once again, long range RAF fighters sallied out from their middle east bases yesterday to attack enemy shipping in the Aegean sea. A Cairo announcement said three sailing vessels were sunk in an island harbor.

The enemy must take notice that the difficulties of attacking the European fortress are still the same.

"From the aerial point of view and the naval point of view the 50 miles advance obtained (by the allies) during the latest operations cannot make easier an attempt at a big-scale landing in insular and peninsular territories."

Deny Peace Rumors

Meanwhile, referring to another development in axis-held southern Europe, the Rome radio reported from Bucharest that Rumanian authorities in a communique denied that Rumania was seeking a separate peace. An Ankara report yesterday said Rumania had sent out peace feelers.

Axis anxieties about the Balkans were emphasized today with a report of the hurried dispatch of Ernst Kaltenbrunner, chief of the German security police, to Rumania for reorganization of the police force there.

At the same time, the Moscow radio reported that the atmosphere in Bucharest, the Rumanian capital, was "very tense" and that many of the country's prominent politicians were in hiding.

A Tass dispatch from Geneva reported both developments.

Tass said that various leaders of the Rumanian security police had been arrested, that General Uleua, the court chamberlain, was in protective custody, and that Julio Manu, Peasant party leader, was under Gestapo supervision.

### Dividend Declared By Nekoosa-Edwards

Announcement was made Wednesday by John E. Alexander, president and general manager of the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper company, that a dividend of 50 cents per share on the capital stock of the company has been declared.

The dividend will be paid to all stockholders of record as of June 19, and will be mailed by June 30.

### Report Italians Withdrawing Troops

New York—(P)—A Moscow radio broadcast recorded by CBS said today that several incidents among the Italian garrisons of Sicily and Sardinia had led the Italian high command to start withdrawing "its demoralized troops from the islands under the pretext that it is regrouping its forces."

### Report Huge Convoy at Gibraltar Harbor

Madrid—(P)—A dispatch from La Linea today said 75 allied ships, including a battleship, two aircraft carriers and 10 destroyers, were concentrated in the harbor at Gibraltar.

Eight freighters were reported to have arrived from the United States today.

### Marshfield Soldier Dies in Japanese Prison Camp

Marshfield, Wis.—The first report of a Wood county man to die in an axis prison camp, and the seventh Marshfield man reported dead in the present war, came today when Andrew Gehl, Marshfield, received a war department telegram saying his brother, Pvt. Donald C. Gehl, 24, who was captured by the Japanese in the taking of Corregidor, May 7, 1942, died in a Japanese prison camp on the Philippine islands June 11.

Special requiem high mass services will be held at St. John's Catholic church, Marshfield, Monday at 8 a. m.

Donald Gehl enlisted in the army early in 1938 and was a cavalry corporal at the time of his honorable discharge after three years of service. Three months after his discharge he joined the army again, this time as an air force bombardier with rank of private.

The last letter received from him by his relatives here was mailed from Manila November 29, 1941, a week before Pearl Harbor. On August 10, 1942 the war department notified Marshfield relatives that Pvt. Gehl was "missing in action." Word that Gehl was in a Japanese prison camp was received early in February this year.

The report to Andrew Gehl today of his brother's death came from the war department, through the international Red Cross, which received the information from the Japanese government.

## Troublesome Balkens Cause Nazis, Italians Grave Concern; Rumor Rumania May Quit Axis

Cairo—(P)—Increasing resistance by opposing groups within axis satellite countries of south-eastern Europe, a situation which Nazi authorities apparently are handling with unusual liberality, was reported today in information reaching Cairo.

Underground leaders in collaborationist Rumania and Bulgaria are becoming more and more outspoken, it was said, and in Bulgaria, where many elements have strong ties with the Soviet, there has been a resurgence of the old "mother Russia" sentiment.

Give Voice to Dissatisfaction

The extent to which disaffected groups in Rumania are permitting themselves to give voice to their dissatisfaction was indicated in a recent speech by Baron Manfred Von Killinger, German minister to Bucharest.

"We laugh at all these dwarfs," he declared, "these anti-Germans, politicians who are nothing but talkative loafers, Jews, pro-Jews and those who are servants of Jews."

Then he added: "All these must take care. Our patience will end."

Some quarters here expressed the view that the various underground movements may be moving too fast for their own good, for German technique frequently has been to allow the opposition sufficient rope to hang itself.

Should Reach Peak at Invasion

The ideal movements for the allies, it was pointed out, are those which would reach their peak at the moment of invasion of Europe.

(These reports of dissatisfaction within the satellite countries were highlighted by a roundabout report yesterday through Turkey that Rumania was sounding out the allies on what she might gain by withdrawing from the war.)

(Semi-diplomatic sources in Ankara said Rumania had approached allied authorities through a neutral diplomat and suggested that Rumania would desert the Germans in Russia if Rumania were allowed to keep at least parts of Bessarabia and Bukovina, both claimed by Russia.)

Claim Atlantic Front Impregnable

(In a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, the military critic of the Berliner Boersezeitung declared that the Atlantic front "may be considered impregnable." This commentator said that "there remains in the enemy press one hope of possible attack—in southeastern Europe." He asserted this hope is vain because the Balkans have been made a bulwark.

Reports reaching here indicate that Hungary is laying plans to abandon Hitler's "new order" if the necessity arises.



NOW IN ALLIED HANDS—RAF Boston bombers high over the small Italian island of Lampedusa in the Mediterranean before its garrison, in movie-scenario style, surrendered to British Sgt. Sidney Cohen when he made a forced landing on the island's airfield. (Radiophoto passed by British and U. S. censors.)

## Mediterranean Islands Cost Only 40 Airmen Sec. Stimson Declares

Washington—(P)—Secretary of War Stimson disclosed today that 85, possibly 105, German fighter planes were destroyed by American and British fliers raiding Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven last Friday.

In those raids, in which he asserted heavy damage was caused to enemy industrial areas, the secretary added that eight Flying Fortresses were lost. Preliminary reports had placed the Nazi air losses at 54 craft.

Islands Cost 40 Airmen

Stimson also reported that the capture of Pantelleria, Lampedusa and two other small Mediterranean islands cost "only about 40 airmen and a few planes." He said "substantial numbers" of Axis prisoners were taken—at Pantelleria they totaled 11,135 and at Lampedusa "between 4,000 and 5,000."

Discussing allied raids on Kiel and Bremen in which he said "damage believed very heavy" was inflicted on the enemy, Stimson reported that 24 Flying Fortresses were lost instead of the originally announced 26. He explained that two of the big bombers originally reported lost returned to their bases safely. Those raids, he added, accounted for 65 enemy fighters.

Sighted Shortly After Taking Off

Explaining the allied losses in the Bremen and Kiel raids, he told a press conference that the participating planes apparently had been sighted by enemy reconnaissance planes or patrol boats shortly after taking off from bases in England.

The flight later divided, two-thirds flying to Bremen and one-third to Kiel, said Stimson, adding: "The Germans apparently correctly deduced that we are going to attack Kiel and disposed their fighters accordingly. The bombers attacking Bremen met relatively light opposition, probably not more than 2-3 German fighter planes. Near See—AIR WARFARE—Page 9"

## 'ICE FAMINE' IN PROSPECT HERE

Wisconsin Rapids faces the prospect of an ice famine this summer, unless OPA officials see fit to raise the ceiling price on ice, now pegged at \$8 a ton in this community.

Announcement was made today by the Daily Lumber & Fuel company, only concern now supplying ice here, that deliveries will be discontinued effective Saturday, June 19. The company's ice house at 60 Love street, will be open from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. week days and from 7 a. m. to noon Sundays, during which hours ice may be purchased there.

Cite OPA Restrictions

In announcing the suspension of ice deliveries, the company said the action was necessitated "because OPA restrictions do not permit us to adjust our prices to take into consideration our rising costs, and for other reasons beyond our control." The "other reasons" relate to the difficulty in obtaining manpower.

The company early in April applied to the OPA district office at Green Bay for authority to increase the price of ice above \$8 a ton but such authority has not been forthcoming. The company submitted records to the Green Bay office to substantiate its contention that it could not deliver ice at the present price except at a loss.

Last summer Wisconsin Rapids was served by three ice companies, but two of them did not resume deliveries this spring.

Board of Health Intervenes

At Stevens Point, which also has only one concern selling ice this year, deliveries were discontinued for one day recently after an attempt to obtain a price increase through OPA failed. The board of health, declaring that ice deliveries were essential to the health of the community, arranged for a resumption of the service pending OPA action upon a new application bearing the endorsement of the board of health and the mayor. Ice deliveries in Stevens Point are continuing on a temporary basis.

The Daily Ice & Fuel company's announcement concerning the suspension of ice deliveries here Saturday said, "We regret having to take this step, and if at any time in the future, conditions warrant again making deliveries we will do so."

## 6 U. S. PLANES ARE MISSING IN GREAT VICTORY

Washington—(P)—In one of the great air battles of the Pacific, American planes shot down 77 Japanese aircraft over Guadalcanal island Wednesday while losing six of their own number, the navy announced today.

Never before had the enemy's air losses in the Guadalcanal area been so heavy. The 77 total was almost exactly twice that of the Japanese losses last April 7 when 39 enemy craft were destroyed during a single raid.

Navy communique No. 415 said:

"South Pacific:

"1. A brief report received from the South Pacific reveals that in an air battle over Guadalcanal island on June 16 United States planes shot down 32 Japanese bombers and 45 Zero fighters. Six United States planes are missing.

"2. No further details have been received."

The description of the American planes as "missing," suggested that some of them, or at least some of their pilots, might turn up later.

Magnificent Record

The 13 to 1 score turned in by American combat fliers in the Solomons, who have in the past included army, navy, and marine pilots, was one of the best, possibly the best, ever recorded in a single action.

In the action of April 7 the Japanese attacked shipping at Guadalcanal with 98 planes, including 50 bombers, and while they lost 39, American losses were three ships and seven planes. Only two American pilots failed to return from their crashed craft, however.

The latest raid in the Guadalcanal area prior to Wednesday's action was on last Saturday when the Japanese sent a force of 40 to 50 fighter planes into the vicinity of the Russell islands, American air base territory lying immediately north of Guadalcanal. Their move then appeared to be aimed at winning aerial supremacy by overwhelming American fighter planes forces and driving them from the skies, thereby laying American ground installations open to a smothering assault. As it turned out the Japanese had 25 planes definitely shot down and eight probably. American losses were six planes and two pilots.

Japs Return to Earlier Tactics

The make-up of the enemy force in the Wednesday battle suggested that the Japanese had returned to their earliest tactics of fighters escorting bombers, after their Saturday thrust with fighters alone failed so completely.

It was not clear, however, on the basis of available information why the Japanese should be directing air forces of such considerable size and See—WAR IN PACIFIC—Page 9

## Goodland Signs Bills Into Law

Madison, Wis.—(P)—Governor Goodland signed into law today a bill increasing the annual appropriation for home economics, 4-H clubs, and agricultural extension work in counties from \$90,000 to \$150,000.

Other bills signed by the governor provide that:

Cities, by an affirmative two-thirds vote of their councils, may engage in re-development projects, appropriate the necessary money, and exempt such property from taxation up to 10 years.

The state department of agriculture may inspect farm products submitted to it voluntarily.

The maximum pay for emergency fire warden shall be raised from 35 to 50 cents an hour, and special equipment operators must be paid at the prevailing wage except when it exceeds 60 cents an hour.

Localities shall refund to class "B" tavern operators who enter the armed forces one-twelfth of the annual license fee for each month of the unexpired license.

## THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Cool north-central portion tonight. Continued cool remainder of state tonight and Friday forenoon.

COOLER

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m., 73; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m., 58; temperature at 7 a.m., 59. Precipitation, .59.