

Eyewitness: 'Largest Fleet Of Carriers Plastered Wake'

(Continued from Page One)

tive total, while the escorting cruises pumped in 375 tons and the destroyer screen added 81 tons more. The land-based navy Liberators that joined the attack dropped an additional undisclosed tonnage.

Throughout the raid the Japanese failed to send a single defense ship to interfere with the American task force, leaving the defense of the island to coastal batteries, anti-aircraft guns and fighter planes.

Rear Adm. Alfred E. Montgomery, the task force commander, said that about three-fifths of the Japanese water storage facilities and a good deal of their oil, warehouses, barracks and administration buildings had been destroyed.

In addition, he said, the island's main radio station probably was wrecked and damage was inflicted on three power plants and two water distillation plants.

The navy's new Grumman Helicat fighter proved itself against the Japanese fighter defense on the first day. Except for a few enemy planes caught around on the first pre-dawn bombing yesterday, the Helicats accounted for all 31 Japanese aircraft trapped and destroyed on the runways and shot down every Zero in aerial combat.

Zeros Outmatched

To the best of my knowledge, the Zeros failed to down a single navy fighter, although it is possible that one or more Helicats may have been "tagged," as the fate of missing carrier planes is seldom definitely known.

Thirteen American planes were lost in the two-day assault. Seven airmen later were rescued from the water.

During the first half-hour of the initial raid yesterday, Cmdr. Leonard Southern said, "Dogfights broke out all over the sky like measles," with the Helicats knocking down every Zero in sight.

Adm. Montgomery, a graying, quiet-spoken aviation specialist, maneuvered this great striking force within easy range of Wake without being spotted by the Japanese and the first attack caught the enemy completely off guard.

He proved that large formations of carriers can maneuver and launch their planes simultaneously. There were no collisions between the carriers and their escorting warships, not between the swarms of planes that took off and landed continuously throughout the attack.

Only Light Fire

The first bombing wave left this carrier flagship in the pre-dawn darkness yesterday morning and, although Wake island was known to be heavily defended, the raiders met only light anti-aircraft fire.

Within 20 minutes, however, the surprised Japanese had recovered and manned all their guns, and they threw up a terrific flak barrage.

Most of the six to eight inch coastal guns guarding the islet

were knocked out by the bombers, but the Japanese attempted to shell one of our cruisers, probably with one battery, and the warship gunners blasted it out of action.

There was the only time the task force was forced to fire a shot in its own defense, and none of the enemy's planes tried to attack our surface units.

So complete was our domination of the entire battle area, that some photographic planes flew to within 30 feet of the ground to take pictures of Japanese troops in their trenches, firing rifles at the attacking planes. The Helicat fighters went in at a very low level to machine gun the troop-packed trenches.

Every Plane Downed

The Helicats cleaned up every Japanese plane in sight by nine a. m. of the first day, but the enemy either moved in a number of dive bombers and fighters during the night or brought reinforcements out of underground hangars. These were knocked out promptly today.

Among the 61 or more enemy planes destroyed were 10 out of a group of bombers caught by our fighters today while en route to reinforce Wake.

I went along on today's repeat bombing in a torpedo plane piloted by Lt. Cmdr. Paul E. Emrick, Butler, Pa., a veteran torpedo squadron commander.

We took off at 8 a. m. at the head of an attack formation and broke through a heavy cloud formation over Wake without meeting any fighter opposition, although light anti-aircraft guns on the ground threw up a fierce barrage as soon as we penetrated the overcast.

Start Explosion

One huge fire already was burning from the previous wave's attack as we started down from 3000 feet. I had trouble relieving the pressure on my ears until the bomb bay opened at 800 feet and I looked down at the target. The pain was forgotten as I caught a quick glimpse of our string of a dozen bombs spraying the target.

Not a single bomb landed in the water, except on a bigger scale. Then it happened. A bomb hit what must have been a huge oil or gasoline tank and a great cylinder of orange flame and black smoke spurted up toward us. The flame kept pace with the smoke until it reached a height of 400 to 500 feet.

Then we got out of there, leaving seven big columns of smoke and four burning oil buildings behind. Our plane came through the flak undamaged, but as our starboard wing plane pulled up alongside, I counted a half-dozen machine gun holes in his port wing, and we learned later that a radium in one torpedo plane had been killed.

Among the outstanding fighter pilots who cleared the way for the bombers by their quick clean-up of the enemy fighters was Lt. (j. g.) Mark Bright, 24, Anderson, Ind. Bright downed a Zero over Wake in the first dawn battle.

BRITAIN GETS AZORES BASES

Portugal Turns Over Ports, Airfields for Battle of Atlantic.

(Continued from Page One)

"certain facilities in the Azores which will enable that better protection be provided for merchant shipping in the Atlantic."

Eden Took Part

Portugal agreed to grant the request and arrangements, effective at once, have been concluded regarding conditions governing the use of the facilities by the British and the armed forces and for maintenance of the country's economy.

"The agreement concerning the use of facilities in the Azores is of a temporary nature only, and in no way prejudices the maintenance of Portuguese sovereignty over Portuguese territory," Churchill said.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden negotiated the agreement, Churchill revealed, and did the job "with the very greatest skill and patience," the prime minister continued.

Exchanged Greetings

On the conclusion of the negotiations, Eden and Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar of Portugal exchanged "most cordial" messages, in which Eden "affirmed his conviction that the facilities now granted by the Portuguese government greatly contribute to the effective defense of our shipping and thus prove an important factor in shortening the war."

Salazar, in response, said he shared the hope that the agreement would help bring about greater safety for shipping in the Atlantic, "and that he trusted this new proof of Portugal's loyalty to her traditions and to the bonds of friendship uniting the two peoples."

Churchill observed that the Portuguese government's loyalty to the British alliance "never wavered in the darkest hours of the war."

A member of commons asked if the government would take the opportunity to draw the attention of Elze to the agreement. Another asked whether, if Germany should regard this as a hostile act, it would be made known that full assistance would be given to Portugal.

Churchill said he was not prepared to add anything to his statement.

Washington Approves New Azores Bases

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (U. P.)—The state department announced today that the United States "approved" British acquisition of naval and air bases in the Portuguese Azores, and British representatives here said American ships will have full access to the new North Atlantic facilities.

These British officials said that all the United States would benefit by the added protection which it



Politics BY EARL RICHERT

LIKE A FLOCK of corporation vice presidents watching the condition of their ailing company president, so are all Indiana Republicans interested in next year's senate race keeping their eyes on Lt. James M. Tucker.

Not that the arn wound received at Salerno, Italy, by the former secretary of state is a question of life or death. It isn't that at all. It's a question, as far as the G. O. P. politicians are concerned, of whether it will result in him being discharged from the navy, thus catapulting him squarely into the '44 senatorial picture.

Rumors are a dime a dozen: First, that he will be discharged; second, that he won't.

The most reliable information is that the wound, from the standpoint of retaining full use of his arm, is more serious than was first believed and that he will have to be evacuated to the U. S. for surgical treatment.

Picture Would Be Altered

HIS DISCHARGE, should it come, unquestionably would alter the senatorial picture, except for the candidacy of Homer E. Capehart, Indianapolis businessman, who is in the race to the finish.

State Auditor Richard T. James, a long-time friend of Lt. Tucker and now one of the leading prospective candidates, probably would take himself out of the race and plump for his former boss. (Mr. James served as chief deputy secretary of state during Mr. Tucker's first term, leaving that post when he took office as state auditor.)

Lt. Tucker's re-entry into the picture also probably would eliminate Atty. Gen. James Emmert from the senate race since the attorney general has made it clear that he will not be a candidate unless the organization wants him. The present Gates-dominated state organization owes a lot to Tucker and it would be hard for them to support anyone else. The

will now be possible to provide for the shipping lanes to Gibraltar and the Mediterranean.

The state department said: "With reference to the statement made by Prime Minister Churchill concerning the use of facilities in the Azores, the agreement on which the statement is based was concluded by virtue of the ancient Anglo-Portuguese alliance, the United States government has been informed and has approved the arrangements made."

Use of the Azores will be of great benefit to the allies in combating the resurgent German U-boat campaign against United Nations shipping.

ANNE BULLITT TO WED PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 12 (U. P.)—The engagement of Anne Bullitt, 19, only child of William C. Bullitt, former U. S. ambassador to Russia and France, to 24 Lt. Daniel Baugh Brewster Jr. of Brooklandville, Md., was announced today. Miss Bullitt is employed in the navy department at Washington.

ALUMNI TO HEAR SIGMA CHI HEAD

Honor Fraternity President At Luncheon Friday At Club.

Ben S. Fisher of Washington, D. C., national president of Sigma Chi fraternity, will be honored by Indianapolis Sigma Chi alumni at a luncheon Friday at the Indianapolis Athletic club.

Mr. Fisher will speak on the fraternity's wartime problems and discuss a newly organized foundation which will aid members, now in military service, to resume their college work after the war. He is a native of Anderson.

Members of the active chapter at Butler university will be luncheon guests.

Committees Named

Harold L. Ross is luncheon chairman, assisted by J. Dwight Peterson, trustee of Sigma Chi; Evan B. Walker, head of the Indiana program; Frank M. Jones, Jack Albers, Marion Bostain, James L. Beattie, and George W. Ford, Indianapolis alumni president.

Fraternity members on the reception committee will be Booth Tarkington, William A. Atkins, William G. Irwin, Howard C. Caldwell, Smiley Chambers, Clarence A. Jackson, Fred Bates Johnson, Jackie W. Joseph, Hal R. Keeling, Bishop Titus Lowe, Frank M. McHale, Myron McKee, A. Kiefer Mayer, Fred Mills, William Mickimen, James M. Ogden, Merle Sidener, and Guy A. Walnwright.

MAYORS TO BE HONORED

ODDS AND ENDS: The G. O. P. and Democratic state committees will honor Republican and Democratic mayors at luncheons on the following dates.

The G. O. P. committee will hold a formal meeting at 4 p. m. Saturday following the state meeting of the Republican Federated Women's clubs. . . . Governor Schriener likely will appoint Municipal Judge Louis Welland when his term expires in December. Judge Welland is a Democrat. . . . Public Counselor Howard T. Bateman of Terre Haute denies reports that he will be a candidate for the sixth district Democratic congressional nomination next spring.

SOLDIER'S PRANK ENDS IN TRAGEDY

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Oct. 12 (U. P.)—The prank of a soldier who lost his balance as he playfully held a woman companion over the railing of a bridge here Sunday night, cost the man's life and brought criminal injuries to the woman, police reported today.

The soldier was identified as Sgt. Edward W. Dickey, 28, of Lexington, Ind., who was stationed at nearby Rosecrans Field. Mrs. Charline Sexton, 22-year-old widow, was reported in critical condition with multiple bone fractures.

The pair plunged 35 feet from a bridge which spans an historic road dug through the hills by Union soldiers during the civil war.

The woman was taken to a local hospital.

The investigation of the wreck of the Congressional Limited here Labor day was closed today by a coroner's jury which said no criminal negligence was involved and that the wreck in which 90 persons were killed had been caused by a burned-out journal box.

Bureaucracy Is Worry of Indiana Cities' Officials

(Continued from Page One)

the preparation for winning the peace as well as winning the war. Mayor Tyndall prefaced his remarks with the jocular remark, "As mayor of Indianapolis, I have one advantage over the rest of you from other cities. . . . I don't have far to go to the state tax board when I want to get an additional 10 appropriation with which to take care of some minor emergency."

In an interview, Rosa W. Castle, mayor of Connorsville, and president of the Municipal league, said his chief concern was over the disproportionate distribution of tax funds as far as cities are concerned. "Our municipalities bear the biggest percentage of this tax burden," said Mr. Castle, "but for some reason we seem to get the smallest return."

He assailed the state government for retaining "the lion's share" of some \$34,000,000 in gross income tax and \$40,000,000 in gas tax.

"Crying For" Share

The league's platform, he declared, calls for the return to local coffers of approximately one-half of the \$15,000,000 which, he said, the state retains as a tax fund surplus every year.

Municipalities throughout Indiana also are "crying for" their fair share of the state gas tax, most of which, he said, goes to the state treasury.

Under present conditions, however, he remarked, "it appears that the federal government will inevitably be a powerful factor in post-war financing and reconstruction."

MULTER TO ADDRESS G. A. R. LUNCHEON

The Indiana society, Sons of the American Revolution, will entertain Smith L. Multer, president general of the national society, at a luncheon tomorrow in the Lincoln hotel.

He will speak at the luncheon and be the guest at a smoker in the evening.

Mr. Multer, a prominent attorney of South Orange, N. J., will be welcomed to the city by a committee in charge of the Rev. J. H. V. Somes, president of the Indiana society; John B. Campbell of South Bend, vice president general of the national society; Col. Robert L. Moorhead, national trustee, and members of the state board of managers.

The committee on arrangements for the state luncheon is composed of Charles A. Breece, chairman; Samuel R. Harrell, R. W. Akin, Capt. C. J. Ancker, and Dr. Fletcher Hodges.

The state reception committee includes Clarence A. Cook, chairman; William H. Remy, Capt. C. Hugh Fee, Col. Earle F. Eltes, Col. Thomas Dobbins of Evansville, George O. Dix of Terre Haute, Prof. Selbert Fairman of Lafayette, Harley T. Ristine of Crawfordsville, James H. Haberly of Ft. Wayne, and Roland Obenchain of South Bend.

The 28th medical depot company, recently activated here with Lt. Col. L. J. Clark as commander, is now being equipped to furnish an entire field army with all necessary medical supplies.

The cadre came here from Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark. Capt. Charles J. Gorrell is executive officer; Sam Leask III is first sergeant, and T. Sgt. Hollis W. Sokness is sergeant major.

28TH MEDICAL DEPOT READY TO OPERATE

Times Special

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A big bag of colored blocks. Designed for small children, they're gay and bright—yellow, green, purple and red. 1.50

It's Not Too Soon to Think of CHRISTMAS TOYS

TOYS—SEVENTH FLOOR

Fleet of four PT boats for navy-minded boys and girls. Made of wood and all four for 1.00

Express wagon with wooden wheels. Made of selected hardwoods with metal kingbolt. 6.95

Pretty and dainty in party pink, she sleeps, she cries, has blond mohair curls and a deep bang. 18 inches tall. 3.00

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Miro Stove Cleaner . . . 79c

For enameled stoves and ranges, refrigerators, aluminum and all unpainted surfaces.

Silvo 5 1/4 fluid ounces . . . 25c

A silver polish, so easy to use because it's liquid. Apply Silvo with soft cloth and rub lightly to obtain a brilliant lasting polish.

Prime 1 gal., 1.50

Removes dirt instantly. Use on walls, woodwork, floors, venetian blinds, etc. And with Prime there's no bother with water, rinsing, or drying. 1/2 Gal., 1.00. 1 Qt., 60c.

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Broom Sarong 89c

Wonderful to use for those hard to reach corners. Gaily printed, easily washed cotton cover . . . fits over any broom.

Vapoo 1.50

The upholstery and rug shampoo for furniture, draperies, lamp shades, automobiles. Soapless, harmless. Makes 7 gallons of solution.

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French Dry Cleaner . . . simple and efficient. No poisonous fumes . . . no offensive odor. It's easy to do your dry cleaning at home.

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TUESDAY, OCT. 12, 1943

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