

PATTON MAY GET INVASION FORCE

Observers Believe General Would Fill Need Under Combat.

WASHINGTON, March 22 (U. P.).—News that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. is to command a new allied army prompted unofficial speculation today that the colorful former 7th army chief may lead one of the tough landing operations in the coming western European invasion.

Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch Jr., who headed the army forces that replaced the marines on Guadalcanal, succeeded Patton as 7th army commander.

Any ideas that the shift was a disciplinary move resulting from the face-slapping episode in which Patton was involved were dispelled when the war department revealed that Patton had been given command of another, but unidentified army.

It was recalled also that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke highly of Patton's ability as a combat leader when the controversy over his slapping of two enlisted men was raging last winter. In his present job as commander of allied invasion forces in western Europe, Eisenhower will need tough and proven field commanders. And despite the furor over the slapping incidents, most observers here agree Patton fills the bill.

Eisenhower acknowledged that Patton's maltreatment of the enlisted men was "repulsive," but believed that Patton had made amends by his apologies. Eisenhower praised Patton as the "main-spring" of the 7th army's drive from Gela to Messina in Sicily and lauded his "unquestioned value as a commander of an assault force."

Indicates Another Army

"He absolutely refused to accept procrastination or any excuses for delay with a resulting rapid advance of the army which had much to do with the early collapse of resistance in Sicily," Eisenhower reported.

Word of Patton's new assignment was interpreted to mean that the United States now has at least one army organized as such in Britain. So far only U. S. armies identified abroad have been the 5th and 7th armies in the Mediterranean and the 6th in the Southwest Pacific.

It was believed here that the job of spearheading the invasion of Europe could be the sort calling for Patton's particular driving qualities. Eisenhower, it was believed, may want him for one of the toughest and most important assignments in the invasion command.

The allied team of commanders now being lined up against Germany has been strengthened by the assignment of Patton to the 7th army. He is recognized as one of the most successful generals in the Pacific operations. Guadalcanal is considered by most critics as the turning point of the Pacific war and it was Patton who brought operations there to so satisfactory a conclusion.

YANKS USING NEW 'BLOCKBURNER' BOMB

WASHINGTON, March 22 (U. P.).—American airmen are now dropping on Nazi Europe a new 500-pound "blockburner" incendiary bomb which cannot be extinguished once it starts blazing, the war department revealed today.

In an official review of incendiaries, the department said the new bomb, known also as the M76 or "Goop," was a "tremendously destructive fire agent developed by the U. S. chemical warfare service. It contains a mixture of kerosene and finely powdered scrap magnesium, which, when set off by a small powder charge, gives the bomb its deadly effect.

The report noted that aerial fire bombs now pay greater dividends per pound of weight in bomb racks than do high explosive bombs and that the use of incendiaries therefore has increased twofold since the start of the war.

3 JAP SHIPS SUNK BY YANK BOMBERS

CHUNGKING, March 22 (U. P.).—Planes of the 14th U. S. air force, ranging from French Indo-China to the East China coast, sank three ships, destroyed a railroad train and strafed a Japanese troop column, it was announced today.

Fighters and fighter bombers Saturday sank two 800-ton cargo vessels north of Jaiphong in Indo-China, inflicted "many" casualties on the troop column near Thanhhoi and destroyed the train south of Langson. A 1000-ton steel vessel was attacked and sunk at Campha.

GIRAUD ANNOUNCES RAID ON NAZI ISLE

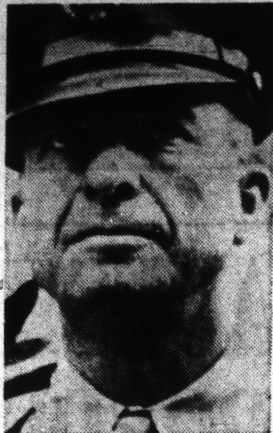
ALGIERS, March 22 (U. P.).—French commandos made a hit-run raid on a German-held island between Corsica and Italy Saturday night with "complete success," taking 36 prisoners without notable losses, Gen. Henri Honoré Giraud's headquarters announced today. The communiqué said several Germans were killed.

TWO ALLIED FLIERS SCORE ON 20 PLANES

LONDON, March 22 (U. P.).—Lt. J. Luma of Helms, Mont., and Flight Lt. B. MacFadyen of Toronto, royal Canadian airforce, shot down 20 German planes Tuesday, it was reported today.

The two pilots knocked down the only three enemy planes they encountered and then strafed German airfields, leaving 17 planes burning or severely damaged on the ground.

Gets New Post



Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch Jr. succeeds Gen. Patton as commander of the 7th army. He is a veteran of Guadalcanal.

U. A. W. LEADER SET FOR EARLY INDUCTION

DETROIT, March 22 (U. P.).—Victor G. Reuther, 32, key man in the United Auto Workers (C. I. O.) was slated for early induction today after passing his army physical. He is the father of three children.

Reuther, assistant director of the war policy division, U. A. W.-C. I. O. said when he learned the international union had asked for an occupational deferment for him he wrote his draft board that the request was without his knowledge.

Three other top officials, Secretary-Treasurer George F. Addis and Vice Presidents Walter P. Reuther and Richard T. Frankenstein, have received occupational deferments which will expire soon, union heads said.

NEW SUB BASES FOR U. S. SEIZED

Seen Intensification of Undersea War on Jap Shipping.

WASHINGTON, March 22 (U. P.).—Naval experts believed today that the American submarine fleet will soon intensify its campaign against the already battle-shaken Japanese sea communications system with the aid of newly won advanced bases in the Marshall Islands.

The Marshall Islands, it was observed, provide the United States submarine bases closer to the Japanese homeland than any now available. By reducing sharply the distance that submarines must travel to and from refueling points, these advanced bases will serve to increase the time that the vessels can spend on actual patrol against enemy ships.

High naval officials regard the American submarine campaign as one of the most important of all Pacific operations.

Successes Increase

And there is evidence that it is becoming increasingly successful with each passing month. Announcements of American undersea successes are coming with more frequency and the totals in each bag remain at a high level.

For instance, the navy yesterday announced that 15 more Japanese ships were sent to the bottom in Pacific and Far Eastern waters. Less than two weeks before, on March 9, it reported the sinking of 16 enemy vessels, and on Feb. 29, the destruction of 14 others.

To date, a total of 642 Japanese ships have been sunk or damaged by U. S. submarines. This includes 492 sunk, 36 probably sunk and 114 damaged.

Yanks Seize 2 More Isles, Trap 90,000 Japan Troops

By UNITED PRESS

An estimated 90,000 Japanese were isolated in the South Pacific today after U. S. marines seized two islands in the St. Matthias group to complete the encirclement of the Bismarck archipelago in a maneuver timed to match a heavy bombardment of Kavieng, New Ireland, by American battleships.

While the marines were occupying the islands of Emirau and Elusao almost without opposition Monday, the battleships delivered probably the heaviest naval bombardment of this theater, firing 1000 tons of shells into Kavieng, 84 miles to the south.

The landing in the St. Matthias Islands was the northernmost penetration of the Southwest Pacific. It brought allied forces only 580 miles south of the big Japanese base at Truk in the Carolines and completed the ring around the Bismarck archipelago.

Eye-witness accounts of the Kavieng bombardment said the barrage knocked down nearly every building at the New Ireland base as the battleships raked the targets at will after silencing a few shore batteries.

Allied airmen continued their widespread attacks, striking enemy bases from the Marshalls in the Central Pacific to New Guinea in the southwest.

Four Japanese positions in the Marshalls were attacked Sunday by army, navy and marine fliers, who dropped 30 tons of bombs and returned safely to their bases, in a follow-up of the heavy battleship and carrier-based plane attack on Milil atoll Saturday.

Solomon-based medium and light bombers hit Rabaul, New Britain again, while other Allied air units ranged over northern New Guinea, damaging a 6000-ton freighter-transport at Hol-

landia, destroying "many" parked planes at Aitape, and sinking three small craft along the Madang coast.

Torpedo and dive bombers attacked enemy positions around Torokina and Bougainville in the Solomons, where the Japanese were estimated to have lost 6000 dead in a futile 10-day attempt to breach American positions on the Empress Augusta bay beachhead.

Army Liberator pilots disclosed they were guided to Truk in an attack early last Wednesday by huge flood lights under which Japanese laborers were attempting to repair the damage inflicted by carrier-based navy plane assault last month.

CHARGES U. S. SOLD WAR DEVICE TO NAZIS

BOSTON, March 22 (U. P.).—John Hays Hammond Jr., an inventor, was quoted in the Boston Traveler today that Germany purchased from the U. S. patent office at 10 cents per patent the secrets of radio control for glider bombs.

The article, passed by the office of censorship, contended the United States might have had exclusive use of a radio controlled "flying bomb" had Hammond's discoveries and patents been safeguarded. Instead, they were placed on sale at the U. S. patent office by authority of an American admiral, it charged.

Hammond said he first demonstrated his experiments with radio control in 1911. He said he showed he could control torpedoes, bombs or boats by radio from a considerable distance. The government bought 200 of his patents in 1933, but subsequently placed them on sale, he charged.

He declined to name the admiral.

FINNS RECEIVE RUSS WARNING

Soviet Says Country Has Taken Responsibility for Consequences.

MOSCOW, March 22 (U. P.).—Russia warned Finland today that by rejecting the Soviet terms for an armistice she had "assumed all responsibilities for the consequences."

The warning came in an announcement of the foreign office information bureau reviewing the exchange between the two countries after Juho K. Paasikivi, former Finnish premier, extended peace feelers to the Soviet legation in Stockholm last month.

Soviet newspapers gave prominent display today to yesterday's Finnish communique announcing that Russia's terms were unacceptable without further clarification and promising to continue efforts to reach a satisfactory basis for peace. The press refrained from comment.

Recalling that the foreign commissariat had published Russia's terms March 1, the announcement said that Finland's reply a week later revealed that "the Finnish government hesitated to accept the Soviet conditions for an armistice without preliminary discussions."

Russia replied March 10 that she considered the Finnish answer unsatisfactory and called Finland's attention to the fact that the Soviet proposals given to Paasikivi were "minimum and basic conditions."

COCAINE PIONEER DIES

NEW YORK, March 22 (U. P.).—Dr. Carl Köller, 86, an ophthalmologist credited with the introduction of cocaine as a local anesthetic, died at his home yesterday.

Germans Rush Men Through Tunnels to Cassino Front

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, March 22 (U. P.).—The "Green Devils" of the Nazi 1st paratroop division traded blow for blow with New Zealand infantrymen in the streets of Cassino today while scores of German field guns and mortars raked the allied lines heavily from commanding positions along the lower slopes of Mount Cassino.

Front reports said German resistance inside the devastated town and in the surrounding hills had strengthened measurably as the Nazis shuttled reinforcements through a maze of tunnels and ravines connecting their various strong points.

United Press War Correspondent James E. Roper reported from the battlefield that the Germans launched a strong attack at 5:30 this morning against allied hill positions overlooking Cassino in an effort to win new artillery "platforms" from which to step up their shelling of the town.

Planes Supply Troops

The thrust was beaten off, however, after a short, sharp action. In the surrounding hills, the Germans appeared to have gone over to the attack on a limited scale, although the offensive still remained in allied hands.

British infantrymen tried twice yesterday to break into the German guns on hills 165 and 236, just west of Cassino. The first attack wave ran into a German mine field and was forced back when the Nazis began moving through a deep ravine toward the British rear.

The second thrust, a flanking attack around the north end of the German-held hills, bogged down under heavy enemy fire. A small band of Indian Gurkhas was reported holding out tena-

closely, however, on Hangman's hill, a plateau halfway up the slopes of Monastery hill, with German positions completely surrounding them.

American invader planes kept the Italians supplied with food and ammunition.

Headquarters spokesmen denied reports that the allied situation inside Cassino had become critical, but it was admitted that the ability of the Germans to shuttle reinforcements through the secret passages from the ancient Roman amphitheater just south of the town had added to the difficulties of the attacking New Zealanders.

Since the destruction of the town by allied planes and artillery last Wednesday, 238 enemy troops have been captured inside Cassino.

NAZI BOMBS START FIRES IN LONDON

LONDON, March 22 (U. P.).—German night raiders attacked London early today, killing a number of persons when one high-explosive bomb hit a crowded vehicle and another landed outside the building of a publishing firm.

A canister of explosive incendiaries set 12 fires in one street, setting a garage ablaze and touching off a gasoline blast. Many people were evacuated as the fires spread to a big block of workers' apartments and smaller houses.

Nine of the raiders were shot down. The German force was estimated at more than the approximately 100 which last week gave the British capital its biggest fire raid since the 1940-41 blitz.



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