

EVENING EDITION

M T. WASHINGTON NEWS BULLETIN

No. 17

July 13, 1944

6:30 P.M., FINAL

== (Compiled by Overseas Branch, Office of War Information) ==

Lawrence Steinhardt, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Thursday told newsmen in Washington after a conference with Roosevelt that British-American-Russian discussions now going on in Turkey are looking toward "much closer cooperation" between Turkey and the Allies. Steinhardt left Turkey about a week ago.

The German DNB news agency reported from Tokyo Thursday that Vice Admiral Nichi Hasegawa of the technical staff of the Japanese naval air headquarters has been killed in action.

FRANCE -- A Supreme Allied Headquarters spokesman said Thursday that U.S. troops driving southward at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula have made small advances at seven separate points on the front between La Haye du Puits, western anchor of the Normandy Line, and the road hub of St. Lo, near the center of the line. Major gains were below Carentan, where St. Andre de Bohon, five miles (eight kilometers) southeast of Carentan and Gournay, two miles (three kilometers) farther to the southeast, were liberated. In the St. Lo area, the U.S. drive appeared to be by-passing that city, having carried to a point two and one-half miles (4 kilometers) east and slightly south of St. Lo. At the western end of the line, U.S. troops were reported to have secured their positions on hill ninety-two which dominates the area between La Haye and Lessay, four and one-half miles (7 kilometers) to the south. The situation around Caen was described as a "stand-off" with the British fighting off heavy German thrusts. The British recaptured Maltot, about five miles (8 kilometers) southwest of Caen, but withdrew from Collombelles and St. Honorine, about three and one-half miles (6 kilometers) from the city.

A Vichy radio Thursday said reports of the death of former French Premier Edouard Herriot, seventy-two, were "erroneous." It said he is in "excellent health".

LATIN AMERICA -- A Buenos Aires dispatch said the last German diplomatic representatives in Argentina are en route back to Germany aboard an Argentine ship which left Wednesday night for Lisbon.

Argentina broke relations with Germany in January. An initial group of 180 Germans, including 159 diplomatic and consular representatives, sailed for Lisbon July 6.

AIR WAR -- A Rome dispatch said U.S. heavy bombers Thursday attacked targets in Northern Italy. A London dispatch said the attacks resulted in hits on oil storage tanks at Porto Marghera, slightly north of Venice and Trieste. Also hit were four railyards on Milan-Venice line.

The British Air Ministry said more than 1300 RAF bombers took part in Wednesday's night attacks on railways and flying bomb installations in France, industrial objectives in the Ruhr, and in mine-laying operations. French railway yards at Tours and Coulmont-Chaldney were the main targets. Twelve bombers were lost.

A United States strategic air force communique issued in London said "very strong" heavy bomber formations Thursday attacked communications in the Munich and Saarbrücken areas of Germany. It was the third attack on Munich in as many days. Seven German planes were shot down, and ten U.S. bombers and five fighters are missing.

Acting U.S. Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson said Thursday in Washington that U.S. planes, in attacks in the last week on vital German war industries, destroyed 222 German planes in two days. He also said that the U.S. Fourteenth Air Force, operating in China, killed or wounded more than 14,700 Japanese from May 29 to July 5.

(Over)



ALGIERS -- An Algiers dispatch said General de Gaulle returned there Thursday night from his visit to the United States and Canada.

ENGLAND -- A joint United States Navy-British Admiralty statement Thursday said that three American and three British destroyers were lost in the invasion of France. Total losses were fifteen vessels, including a transport, minesweeper, destroyer-escort and tug from the United States Fleet, and three frigates, a trawler, and an auxiliary from the British Fleet.

The British Ministry of Home Security said Thursday that British air raid casualties in June were 1,935 persons killed or missing and 5,906 injured -- a total of 7,841. (Prime Minister Churchill in his statement to the House of Commons last week said flying torpedo casualties from June 15 to July 6 were 2,752 killed and about 8,000 injured).

PACIFIC -- United States Pacific Fleet announcement said Guam Island in the Southern Marianas was hit in a three-day air and naval bombardment Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Five barges were sunk and gun emplacements, block houses and warehouses hit. It also said that Rota Island, likewise in the Marianas, was hit Tuesday and Wednesday by United States carrier-based planes.

RUSSIA -- Stalin said in an Order of the Day Thursday that Red Army troops have captured Vilna after five days fighting, and have annihilated the entire circled German garrison there. Vilna is the fourth of five fortresses on the one-time German railway defense line to be liberated by the Red Army. Previously captured were Lida, Baranovich and Luninets. A fifth fortress of this line, Dvinsk, 100 miles northeast of Vilna, has been outflanked.

Thursday's Soviet communique said 8,000 Germans were killed and more than 5,000 captured in the five-day battle for Vilna, and that 156 guns, sixty-eight tanks and self-propelled guns, and 1,500 trucks were captured. It said the Red Army Thursday captured more than 200 places, including eight railway stations, west and southwest of Vilna.

NORMANDY -- A Supreme Allied headquarters communique Thursday night said Allied forces are making slow but steady progress in the area north of Lessay near the western end of the Normandy battlefront. It also said "south of Carentan we have advanced 1,500 yards (1,360 meters) and driven the enemy from the village of St. Andre de Bohon.

"Further gains have been made along the Bayeux-St. Lo road near La Barre-Desemille."