



# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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## Fifth Smashes Through to Naples Plain

### Allies Sink 7 Ships Off New Guinea

60 Planes Also Destroyed In Crushing Blow to Enemy at Wewak

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Sept. 29—The Fifth U.S. Air Force and the RAAF yesterday sank seven Jap ships and 60 planes over Wewak, New Guinea, dealing the Japanese in the South Pacific their third crushing air and sea defeat within three months.

Three oil tankers and four merchant ships of about 5,000 tons were left flaming and sinking in the harbor, 50 planes, caught napping on the bomb-scarred airfield, were destroyed, and 14 fighters were shot down by the Allied fighters, medium and heavy bombers in the surprise daylight attack.

In addition, 29 Japanese supply barges and luggers were either destroyed or damaged.

#### Smash Air Support for Japs

The Allied blow—which cost the Fifth Air Force only three planes—has smashed the Japs' efforts to re-establish their air base at Wewak, from which planes could fly to support their isolated garrison at Finschafen, 100 miles to the east.

Latest reports from the Finschafen area said the Japs were battling desperately to hold their positions against strong Allied attacks. Enemy casualties are "high," according to Gen. MacArthur's communique.

With practically no air support—probably the result of the Wewak attack—the Japs have little chance of surviving. Their chance of an evacuation by sea is remote because of the strong U.S. surface fleets which have been patrolling the King William Cape area.

#### New Island Taken

In the broader scene in the Pacific, the Allies have gained more territory in their island-hopping to Tokyo.

The island of Nanumea, the northernmost of the Ellice Islands, about 1,000 miles from New Guinea, has been taken by U.S. troops without any opposition.

The island, of little importance for attacking the Japs farther north, will serve as a supply base for ships and planes shuttling from Pearl Harbor and the United States to the Solomons and New Guinea.

Activity in the Solomons is still quiet. Allied medium and torpedo-bombers yesterday attacked Jap positions on Kolombangara Island, scoring direct hits and starting fires. Fighter patrols intercepted and drove off 38 Jap planes near Vella Lavella, shooting down one plane without loss.

#### Air Activity in Burma

NEW DELHI, India, Sept. 29—With the monsoon season over and better flying weather, U.S. bombers of the Tenth Air Force yesterday blasted Jap railway communications in central Burma. Several buildings were demolished by direct hits near Mandalay and Myingyan.

Other formations hit warehouses and supply dumps south of Myingyan. All planes returned safely from all operations.

### ETO's First WAC Bride To Wed Old Sweetheart

Pvt. Mary Elizabeth Elliott, of Kingston, N.C., will become the first WAC bride in this theater when she says "I do" to Sgt. Wallace R. Best, of Raleigh, N.C., next Thursday, Oct. 7, at an Eighth Air Force station where she has been on duty since her arrival with the first WAC expeditionary force.

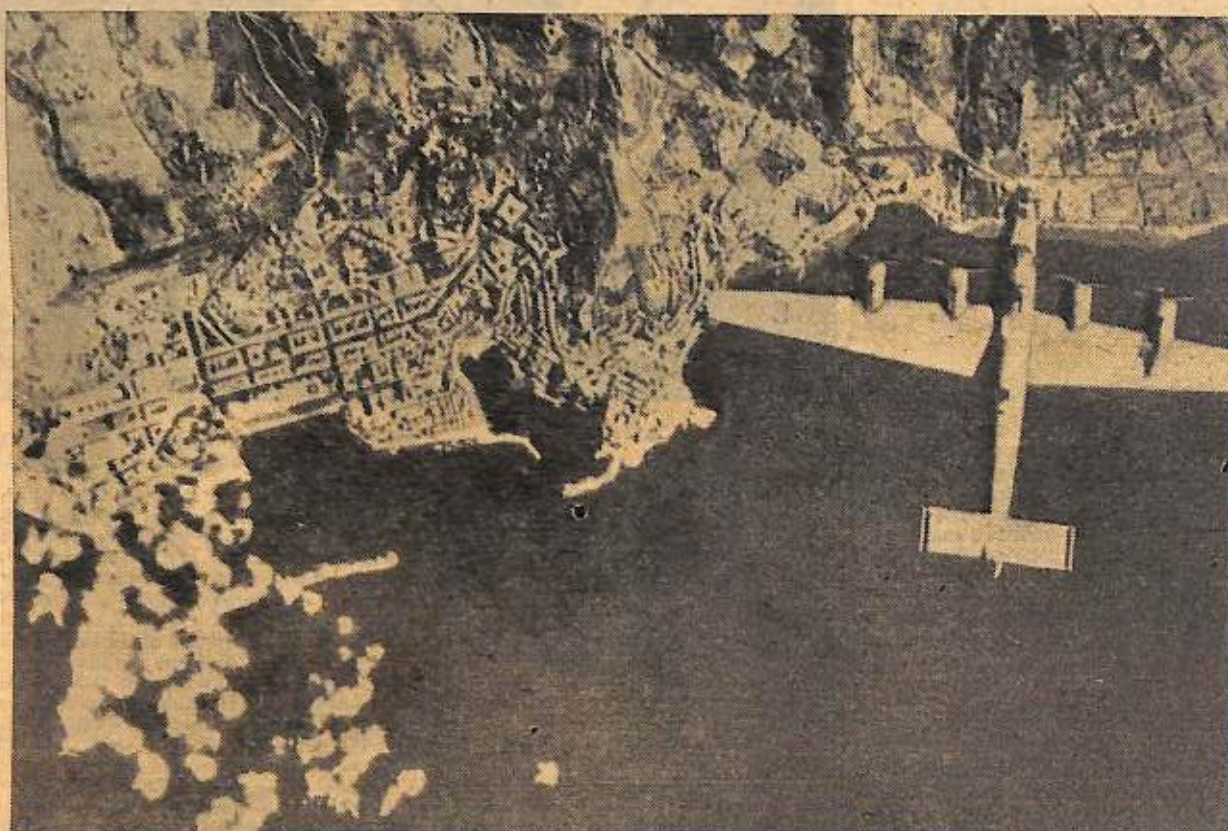
The couple became engaged in the United States and met here at a replacement depot the day Pvt. Elliott arrived. Sgt. Best had a hunch his fiancée might be with the first WAC group and was on hand to greet her.

The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. G. M. Napier. Pfc Dorothy Whinery, of Anoka, Minn., will be maid of honor; Maj. William H. Buell will be best man, and Maj. Jacob W. Frederick, of Wakarusa, Ind., will give away the bride. Pfc Jane Elise Hastings, of Washington, and Pfc Olive Spencer, of Alliquippa, Pa., will provide wedding music.

#### Proxy Marriage Arranged

DAVENPORT, Iowa, Sept. 29—Annie Peattie, of Columbus, Ohio, and John Wood, an RAF pilot in England, will be married today by proxy. Such marriages are recognized in Iowa.

### Eighth Air Force Libs Hit Corsica from Africa Bases



Eighth Air Force Liberators—which recently flew from the ETO for special duty with the Northwest Africa air forces—pound dock installations at a port in Corsica where the Germans are attempting to evacuate men and equipment to France and Italy.

### Carrier-Based Avenger Sinks Three U-Boats in Atlantic

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—The certain destruction of three U-boats and the possible destruction of the fourth by one carrier-based Avenger bomber on Atlantic convoy duty was described today by the Navy Department.

The pilot of the Avenger was Lt. R. P. Williams, who was attached to the aircraft-carrier Lexington before she was sunk in the South Pacific.

The first of Williams' four engagements in the Atlantic was with a U-boat being strafed by Grumman Wildcat fighters from his escort carrier. He swooped in low and straddled the Nazi sub with bombs just forward of the conning tower. Though the U-boat was hopelessly damaged, the Germans opened fire and downed two fighters.

After a few minutes Williams' plane and another bomber scored the kill. A destroyer picked up 33 Germans from the sea.

The following morning, again on patrol, Williams sighted another periscope about eight miles from his position. He got one bomb "very close" to the sub as it crash-dived, leaving a trail of oil. This was listed as "a possible."

Two days later one of Williams' bombs exploded directly beneath another sub. The explosion threw five men clear of the wrecked vessel and scattered debris and oil.

Two of the Germans were drowned, the other three rescued by a destroyer.

Williams' third kill was made after several days. In this he was helped by three other planes from the carrier, but it was Williams whose bombs brought the U-boat to the surface and sank it, its conning tower throwing off dense smoke as it went down. Thirty of its crew were taken prisoner by a destroyer.

#### 960 War Prisoners Flee Italy

Swiss radio said yesterday 960 former prisoners of war and 21,860 other refugees had entered Switzerland from Italy between Sept. 17 and 27.

### Facing Labor Draft by British, U.S. Civilians Rush to Be GIs

The London recruiting office of the U.S. Army has had a sudden rush of recruits following the announcement by Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labor, that his department expects soon to begin the drafting for the British forces of Americans of military age living in Britain.

More than 25 "eligibles," some of whom have been living here for a considerable time, have called to join up. Recruiting officials say they expect many more before the Allied Powers (War Service) Act, 1942, which has already drafted nationals of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia, is applied to American citizens.

After it goes into force there will be a period of two months before drafting begins, according to officials of the Ministry of Labor. Many Americans in Britain are doing essential war work and

### Russians Pound Nazis in Flight Across Dnieper

Thousands Trapped as Red Drive to Gomel Hits Year's Fastest Pace

MOSCOW, Sept. 29 (UP)—The battle of the Dnieper raged today along practically the entire 400 miles of the middle and upper reaches of the river, with only a handful of German bridgeheads still on the east bank. These were being wiped out swiftly, one after the other.

South of Kiev the Russians mopped up the east bank as far as a point north of Kremenchug. Masses of guns bellowed out by day and night across the Dnieper and hundreds of planes hammered away at the Germans who were still swarming over to the west bank of the river.

Swift Russian motorized units smashed their way into the German lines on the east bank at a large number of points and actually reached the river banks before the slower German units could get there. Thousands of the enemy were encircled in this way, and thousands of Russian civilians, destined for the slave markets of Germany, were released.

On the Dnieper itself masses of men and material jammed the river crossings established by the Germans in their frantic rush to get to the comparative safety of the other side.

At Kiev, Kremenchug and Dnepropetrovsk the Germans clung desperately to steadily dwindling footholds on the east bank, fighting a definite rearguard action with large numbers of tanks, self-propelled guns and infantry units. These forces launched as many as 12 counterattacks a day against the advancing Russians.

### Enemy Line In Mountains Is Shattered

Port's Fall Imminent; Allies Seize All of Sorrento Peninsula, Sea Base

By the Associated Press

After six days of bitter struggle, the Fifth Army last night had broken through to the plain of Naples, southern Italian metropolis whose fall to the Allies appeared imminent.

American and British troops under Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark climaxed a week of fierce battling by driving the Germans out of their fixed mountain positions and seizing the town of Nocera, a vital road junction at the beginning of the coastal plain leading to Naples itself.

Routed enemy forces began a general retreat which not only yielded the entire Sorrento Peninsula to the Allies but carried the possibility that the Nazis may not halt before reaching the Ventura River line well north of Naples.

With the Allies now a mere 15 miles from the city, the Germans were reported by Algiers radio to have sunk seven Italian ships in the harbor in an effort to render it useless to occupying forces.

Castellamare, important naval base on the southern shore of the Bay of Naples, also fell into Allied hands. The initial breakthrough on the eastern portion of the front extending all the way across Italy resulted in capture of the great air-base city of Foggia earlier by the British Eighth Army and signaled a general advance by both the Fifth and Gen. Montgomery's forces.

#### 7 Miles From Key Junction

Smashing their way forward six miles against crumbling enemy opposition, units of the Fifth were last reported within seven miles of Avellino, road and rail junction which is the key to inland communications east of Naples.

Capture of Avellino would constitute a threat to any German attempt to make a new stand anywhere east or south of the beautiful city lying on the famous bay.

The Eighth Army meanwhile wiped out an enemy salient on its western flank and established a straight line between San Angelo and newly captured Meli. Along the Adriatic, Gen. Montgomery's forces drove northward 11 miles from Margherita di Savoia and occupied the town of Zappanetta on the Gulf of Manfredonia, due east of Foggia.

#### Fierce Battle at Sala

British troops on the extreme southwest end of the Allied line began the final shove against the enemy in the mountains north and northwest of Salerno at dawn Tuesday. The fiercest fighting was encountered at the town of Sala, which already had changed hands many times in the past week's furious struggle.

This time Gen. Clark's troops seized it for keeps and swept on triumphantly. The Germans, apparently realizing any further attempt to make a stand in that area was futile, began to fall back.

All reports indicated that the retreat was orderly, and there was no suggestion that the Allies were taking large numbers of prisoners. Fighting on the front has been exceedingly grim, however. German parachute troops among what prisoners have been taken frankly admitted they had had enough.

"We have been doing nothing but retreat," they said. "We are tired of fighting rearguard actions. We had only 17 men left out of our company."

Unfavorable weather hampered the Allied aerial offensive in combat areas. Fighters and fighter-bombers attacked a train and a small motor transport convoy.

### Allies Said to Have Lost Two Italian Luxury Liners

Reports from Italy say that the Italian liner Rex has fallen into German hands at Trieste, at the northern end of the Adriatic, and that the Conte di Savoia had been scuttled by its crew at Venice. These two luxury liners, fastest Italian ships, formerly made the Genoa-Naples-New York run.

### Attempt on Laval's Life, Bomb Found in His Car

Brazzaville radio said yesterday an attempt on Pierre Laval's life was made ten days ago by the placing of a bomb in his car as the Vichy-French leader was leaving for Castelbeau, his country residence. The bomb was discovered shortly before he entered the car.