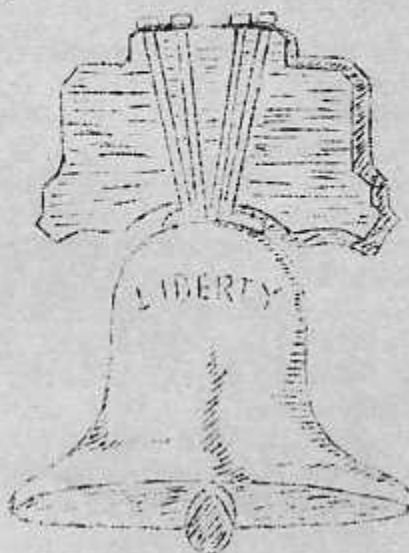


# THE PHILADELPHIAN



## RADIO PRESS NEWS

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THURSDAY

18, May 1944

ALLIES CONTINUE ITALIAN OFFENSIVE: -- Advanced Allied Hq. Italy:

Wednesday: French and American patrols from the main Allied Army Battalion are pressing forward across roads and highways and are now stretching ahead to make their first contact with the Adolf Hitler Line. To the north Allied tanks and heavy guns are streaming into the second defense line. In Pignatillo and Cassino British troops have made an important 400 yard advance to main highway six--the main road out of Cassino--under heavy machine gun and mortar fire. In the general sector German troops hurrying out of their defenses have been counter-attacking strongly.

Troops in the Rapido bridgehead have further extended their hold on the west positions below Cassino. That is the general picture of the twenty mile battlefront less than six days after General Alexander's twin armies leaped forward. At the upper end of the front the battle line is moving behind Cassino. British tanks and infantry which on Monday rolled within a mile of highway six have made another quarter mile advance.

This force yesterday ran into stiffer opposition with the Germans putting everything they had into the effort to save Cassino and the road to Rome. This region is essential to the Eighth Army as a supply route as further attacks develop. Troops from training areas have been used where the British have advanced in the face of large counter-attacks. The Germans yesterday threw in anti-tank guns and 88mm guns in an attempt to halt the advance. German resistance tapered off across the Liri

(Italy Offensive continued)

Valley to the south and British and Indian troops had encircled Pignatillo to take the town at nightfall on Monday. Since then they have continued to push northwest creating the line back in the area of Pignatillo.

North of Cassino patrols are engaged in savage fighting although there has been no reports of general offensive. Cassino itself remains quiet. The French advance from San Giorgio in the southern part of the Liri Valley had gained another four thousand yards. Driving west from Ausonia raging French forces have broken through additional mountain defenses to occupy high ground two and a half miles south of Esperia. Among some American troops of the Fifth Army are fanning out in the mountains south of the French advance and their forces have taken a number of tops and important points. Their gains include the town of Castelonorati and the height of Monte Scauli rising from the coast extending toward the Formia road into the Gulf of Gaeta.

Germans at the rear are mostly withdrawing leaving only scanty opposition. Attacking downhill into the town Americans lean into the string defenses formed by numbers of concrete pillboxes. Tanks knocked off at least six of these positions with their 75's. In the streets Americans found great numbers of German dead.

Off shore in the Bay of Gaeta British and American cruisers are lending the support of their big guns to soften up the path ahead of the Allied Armies.

LULL ON RUSSIAN FRONT CONTINUES: -- Moscow:

Soviet forces are hesitating and perfecting their tactics for the next big rush while the present lull in ground operations on the Russo-German front exists. A commander of the 313th German Infantry Division captured by the Russians disclosed a plan of tactics which consist in attempting to lure the enemy into an attack against an apparently weakly defended sector which is actually heavily covered by guns thus creating a firetrap for the attackers. He said, "Gaps in our defense are not weak spot. On the contrary they are left in order to destroy the enemy." The Red Seal added that the German morale does not seem to be as strong as it was.

ALLIED AIRCRAFT ACTIVE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC:

Wednesday: American Liberators and Mitchell bombers started large fires and off-touched heavy explosions on Tuesday in another 220-ton attack on Wakde-Sarmi area, 110 miles west of Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea.

Allied planes hit Scheuten Islands 260 miles from Hollandia where sharp enemy opposition was encountered. Fighters downed five of twenty Japanese interceptors, it was announced in Gen. MacArthur's communique today.

American Navy Ventura and Corsair search planes, Dauntless dive bombers and Corsair fighters and Navy Hellcat fighters bombed and strafed objectives in the Japanese held Marshall Islands during the day and night on May 15, today's communique from Commander in Chief of the Pacific, Admiral Chester Nimitz. Fuel dumps, airstrips and buildings were hit.

GERMAN ACE REPORTED DEAD: -- London:

Wednesday: Germany's third ranking fighter Ace Commander Col. Walter Oseau credited by the Germans with shooting down 116 Allied planes has been killed by an American Thunderbolt fighter during a recent daylight raid over Germany the Berlin Radio reported yesterday.

## SHIP'S NEWS

TIME	STATION	CHANNEL
0630	BBC	One
0700	BBC	One
0800	BBC	One
0900	BBC	One
1000	BBC	One
1100	BBC	One
1200	BBC	One
1300	BBC	One
1400	BBC	One
1500	BBC	One
1600	BBC	One
1700	BBC	One
1800	BBC	One
1830	SOUNDOFF	Two
1845	SOUNDOFF	Two
1900	BBC	One
1900	DOWNBEAT	Two
1915	DOWNBEAT	Two
2000	BBC	One
2100	BBC	One
2200	BBC	One

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ARNOLD SPEAKS ON DETROIT STRIKE: -- Detroit, Michigan:

Wednesday: General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of the U.S. Army Air Forces stated today that the Detroit formen's strike was "One of the most serious set-back the airforces had had. If it continued it would allow the German airforce to "Recover just when it is diminishing under our blows." The strike had cost the United States 250 P51 fighters. The statement was made when he appeared unexpectedly to attend a hearing called by the War Labor Board.

Detroit: A late press dispatch received said, "The formen's association this afternoon called off the strike in thirteen Detroit War-plants.

#### PARIS RADIO REPORTS:

The Paris Radio said tonight, Wednesday? "Several reports have been disclosed today that General Eisenhower has massed fifty divisions and eighty thousand paratroops in Southern England for the Allied assault on Europe. A whole armada consisting of transport vessels, merchantmen, invasion barges and destroyers have been concentrated in the harbors of Southern England. Invasion troops have been massed at their embarkation ports for the past eight days and all evidence points to face that the invasion will be launched sooner than some people may expect. It is impossible to give the exact date of the invasion but German anti-invasion forces are on their toes for the attack the Allies will not be able to surprise them. Meanwhile the gigantic battle in southern Italy is taking shape of one of those great offensive battles of last year".

#### FORMER GOVERNOR OF CALIF DIES:

William D. Stephenson, 84 years old, former governor of California died after a serious illness in a Santa Monica hospital. He served as Lt. Governor, congressman and other political positions since 1917.

