

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT

"THE LIFE LINE"

The New York Times today says:- In October, 1916, the late Earl Jellicoe, then C-in-C of the British Fleet, wrote the Admiralty that unless the German submarines were checked it was quite possible that within six months Britain and France must accept peace terms "which the military position on the Continent would not justify and which fall short of our desires".

It is not known if during this war any high British sea commander has written a like letter to the British Admiralty, but it would not be beyond the realm of possibility. Fortunately for civilization, the submarine menace was finally overcome in the last war. Fortunately again for civilization, it appears to have been mastered in this war, or at least so minimized that any possibility that an undersea blockade of Britain might be made so effective that the war could not be continued has long since been overcome.

It must have been with the greatest of satisfaction that the two men who probably above all others on the United Nations side appreciated the possibilities of the submarine menace on the basis of what it almost accomplished in the last war - Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt issued their joint statement declaring the U-boats to be now the hunted, not the hunters.

The Roosevelt-Churchill statement says more than 500 Axis submarines have been sunk in this war, or two-and-a-half times the number the Germans lost in 1914-18, and that during July more U-boats were destroyed than there were merchant ships sunk by the dwindling wolf-packs.

Seeing the large and small blue-grey freighters lying in the river or dropping downstream with the tide outward bound, it is difficult to invest them with the importance they would hold and have held in the battle of the world. Although the airplane provides a supplementary traffic link, it is very small compared to that of the ships. The latter is the life line, the jugular vein which the Germans again have failed to cut.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE 0830 D.B.S.T. (I.E. FOR EVENING PAPERS) ON FRIDAY 11th AUGUST, 1944. THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO.

SANK FIVE SHIPS IN ONE PATROL.

Within a period of four days during a recent operational patrol in the Mediterranean one of His Majesty's submarines sank a total of five enemy ships, including a 5,000 ton supply ship, a salvage vessel of 1,000 tons, a lighter, a minesweeper and an R-boat.

Described as a "brilliant patrol, where every opportunity to inflict damaging blows to the enemy's cause was unflinchingly seized," these successes are particularly outstanding in view of the scarcity of enemy shipping now to be found in the Mediterranean.

The submarine was commanded by Lieutenant G.E. Hunt, D.S.C., R.N., of Moffat, Dumfriesshire.

After torpedoing and sinking the salvage vessel, which was in company with seven other craft, Lieutenant Hunt dived to avoid the attentions of escort craft.

"After a short time," he said, "I decided to come to periscope depth as things had quietened down considerably. The salvage vessel had sunk and there was much wreckage floating in the water.

"Three large lighters were observed hurrying eastwards, with an air of men who had just remembered about an urgent appointment."

Lieutenant Hunt then observed an R-boat alongside a 400 ton lighter. One torpedo was fired and a few seconds later there was an enormous explosion which shook the submarine considerably. The R-boat completely disintegrated while the lighter was sunk.

Later Lieutenant Hunt sighted a 5,000 ton supply ship escorted by a destroyer. He manoeuvred his submarine to a favourable attacking position and fired a salvo of torpedoes. "There was a most terrific explosion as one torpedo hit," said Lieutenant Hunt, "followed by a long muffled rumbling noise."

An ineffective counter attack by the destroyer forced the submarine to dive, but on coming to periscope depth some time later there was no sign whatsoever of the target. The destroyer was seen circling some distance away while in the last observed position of the target there were two small craft whose decks were seen to be crowded with people, presumably survivors. In addition there were three lifeboats, a raft and some unidentified objects floating in the water, possibly wreckage.

The minesweeper blew up and sank following a brisk gun action. Another minesweeper and shore batteries forced the other submarine to withdraw.

Lieutenant Hunt has served in submarines since 1939 and has taken part in many successful patrols in the Mediterranean. He was awarded the D.S.C. in June, 1942.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS.

Photographs available from P.N.A.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST IN OVERSEAS BULLETINS OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE 2330 D.B.S.T. ON FRIDAY 11.8.44 (i.e. FOR SATURDAY MORNING PAPERS). NOT TO BE BROADCAST IN THE MIDNIGHT NEWS OF AUGUST 11/12 THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

THE GRENADIER GUARDS IN ITALY (To July 20)

The Grenadier Guards have played an important part since the first days of General Alexander's great offensive of May 12th. The regiment spent the first half of May in the Cassino area, where it was constantly the target of enemy bombardment and local attacks. Reports have revealed how every spare man in the battalion took up supplies by night on foot into the battered town along a road swept by machine-gun fire.

Then came the great assault. The Grenadiers were swiftly in the van of the attacking forces and, having early crossed the Rapido, they helped to beat back heavy opposition in their drive forward to force a crossing of the Melfa on the 25th May. On the next day they continued their advance, meeting and crushing strong resistance on the slopes of Monte Orio. They engaged in heavy fighting south-east of Arce on May 27, and on the next day shared in the taking of the strategically important Monte Piccolo and Monte Grande, overlooking Highway 6 and blocking the road to Rome.

The regiment continued to advance. By the 4th June it had gained the high ground to the west of Alatri, and for several days afterwards it took part in a series of heavy actions, which failed to impede its progress, as did the numerous demolitions with which it found itself confronted. Enemy resistance became particularly stubborn on the 10th and 11th June, south of the Galanina River, but the Grenadiers went resolutely forward in the teeth of fierce reaction. On the 19th the formation with which the regiment was fighting attacked and occupied Monte Comeo, and the initial assault was so successful that, although twice counter-attacked on the following day, it advanced to enter Perugia. Less than a week later the Grenadiers had shared in the taking of Monte Bagnolo and Monte Pacciano, north of Perugia.

On July 2nd, the advance pressed forward still further. Monte Tizio was reached on the first day of the month, and a fortnight later the great assault on Arezzo was mounted. On the first day of the attack the Grenadiers shared in the taking of many peaks and ridges of great tactical importance, and later played their part in the action which brought about the fall of Arezzo itself.

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11/8/44 - No. 18

Air Ministry No. 15105

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

Yesterday evening off Heligoland Beaufighters of R.A.F. Coastal Command attacked a west-bound enemy convoy of five merchant ships and ten escort vessels.

A medium-sized merchant vessel was hit with torpedoes and left burning fiercely, and another merchantman, possibly hit with a torpedo, was set on fire.

Of the escort ships, one was hit with rocket projectiles and blew up whilst four minesweepers, one of which was left in a sinking condition, were set on fire.

Four of our aircraft are missing.

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11/8/44 - No. 22

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMUNIQUE NO. 220

Advance Post  
August 11, 1944

NORTH BURMA:

Allied troops captured Taungni on the Burma railway seventeen miles south-west of Mogaung late on Wednesday afternoon. Leading elements are now south of Taungni.

Chinese troops and Kachin levies moving south in the neighbourhood of the Myitkyina-Bhamo road have advanced approximately seven miles south of Myitkyina.

Tiddim Road and Kabaw Valley: Japanese losses during the last fortnight from our raids on the Tiddim road supply line inside Burma have now risen to more than four hundred dead and one hundred and fifty wounded.

Our forces moving directly south on the road are now within ten miles of the Burma frontier.

Patrols east of the Yu river in the Kabaw valley are still out of contact with the enemy.

AIR: R.A.F. aircraft attacked targets at Tonzang on the Tiddim Road in the Kabaw valley and at Kaing opposite Kalewa. River craft on the Chindwin and Mayu river were also strafed.

Long range R.A.F. fighters were actively engaged against rivercraft, road transport and rolling stock on the Chindwin River and in Central and South Burma.

No Allied aircraft is missing.

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HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NUMBER 9379

11 August 1944

FROM: HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES IN EUROPE

A number of German fuel dumps and airdromes in the vicinity of Paris, and two railroad yards in Alsace-Lorraine, near the Rhine, were attacked in clear weather with good results this morning by medium sized forces of B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators of the Eighth Air Force, with medium sized forces of P-51 Mustangs as escort.

Targets bombed were:

Fuel dumps at St. Florentin and Pacy, on the Armancon River, about 75 miles southeast of Paris.

Airdromes at Villacoublay, on the outskirts of Paris; Toussus-le-Noble, southwest of Paris; and Coulommiers, about 30 miles east of Paris.

Railroad yards at Mulhouse and Belfort, in Alsace Lorraine.

E N D

2:30 P.M.

SERGEANT DECORATED FOR ASSISTING AT SCENE OF FLYING BOMB EXPLOSION

HQS NINTH AIR FORCE -- Sergeant Chester A. Reynolds of Orange, Virginia, received the Soldier's Medal Friday, for the aid he rendered at the scene of a flying bomb explosion in S. England.

Reynolds, a driver in the transportation section of the Ninth Air Force, arrived at the scene of the explosion before any other outside help.

He carried victims to a first aid post, then returned to help put water hoses in action. He worked with disregard for the danger of falling walls and the possible explosion of stocks of combustibles.

He left before civilians he had been assisting could thank him and his action only came to light when he was late for a formation and officers checked the reason for his absence.

The medal was awarded Sergeant Reynolds by Brigadier. General V.H. Strahm, Chief of Staff of the 9th Air Force.

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MOSQUITOS DESTROY FIVE BY NIGHT

Carrying either a mine or a large bomb slung externally, a Ju.88 was blown up in the air by the commanding officer of the RCAF Cougar Squadron, W/Cdr. George Abner Hiltz, of New Brunswick, over Normandy's beaches last night (Thursday).

Enemy activity over the beachhead area was on a moderate scale, but AEAFF Mosquitos succeeded in destroying five, three being accounted for by RCAF Squadrons.

W/Cdr. Hiltz, a former schoolmaster, caused a violent explosion in his Ju.88 as soon as he had opened fire and it crashed into the sea, lighting up the clouds with a vivid orange flame as it fell. It was his first "Kill!"

Five members of the crew of another Ju.88 baled out when their aircraft was attacked by S/Ldr. Frederick Chase, of Cambridge, a former master at Rugby School, who now has a personal score of five destroyed.

This enemy aircraft crashed into the sea of Pecamps with both engines ablaze.

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11/8/44 No. 38

9th A.F. No. 18

AMMUNITION DUMP BOMBED BY MARAUDERS

H.Q.S. NINTH BOMBER COMLAND: An ammunition dump in the Foret de Roumare, five miles east of Rouen, was attacked by two waves of Marauders and Havocs during the noon hour Friday.

Marauders made the first attack and bombed through clouds with Pathfinder techniques. Results of this raid were unobserved though bombs went into the target area.

Thirty minutes later Havocs began bombing. Through a break in the clouds they saw their bombs falling squarely on the target.

"I saw several large explosions and then black smoke covered the whole area," Staff Sergeant John A. Fejes, Box 363, Irwin, Pa., a gunner, said.

Another Marauder force was out at the same time to attack a temporary bridge over the Seine River near Oissel. Pathfinder planes said the bombs were in the target area.

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11.8.44 - No. 39

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 15107

FLYING BOMBS DESTROYED

A number of the flying bombs launched against this country last night and to-day were destroyed by fighters of air defence of Great Britain and anti-aircraft defences.

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U.S. GENERAL SOMERVELL DISCUSSES AMERICAN ARMY'S SUPPLY SITUATIONWashington, Friday

General Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Service Forces, has informed the U.S. War Manpower Commission that although "on the whole" the U.S. Army was in fine shape with respect to supplies, it was short in about 320 critical items, W.M.C. Chairman Paul V. McNutt said yesterday. McNutt said that General Somervell, in a talk before the Management Labour Committee of W.M.C, declared that about a dozen items merited special attention from a standpoint of manpower.

Production which the Army had expected during the first part of this year had not materialised, the General added, and, as a result, production during the second half of 1944 had to be expanded. He also said requirements had been increased for certain items as the needs of the overseas fighting forces grew.

"In fighting a war you always have an enemy to contend with and you have to adjust yourself to his actions as well as to those other considerations which generally apply in business," General Somervell said. The General said thousands of miles of pipe, 80,000 heavy trucks, tyres, ammunition of various MM types, tanks, aircraft equipment, radio equipment, tractors, artillery cranes, derricks, bull-dozers and shovels, are some of the war materials in which there were shortages.

"One General had to call off 100 air missions because he didn't have the right type of bombs," he said. "Now, although we may be long on certain types of bombs, we're short on the ones that were needed for those 100 missions." In another theater of war, he continued, "four-ton dump trucks were badly needed. We had to tell the General that we couldn't furnish him with the four-ton dump trucks that he wanted, because we don't have them."

Indicating a need for thousands of additional workers for production of ammunition, General Somervell said the rate of fire for artillery had been more than doubled above estimated. "Heavy artillery, rather than air power", he said, "caused deadlocks at Anzio, Casino and in Normandy". He said the Army had set about increasing his programme for more guns of larger caliber and ammunition last January.

Buttressing his pleas for production increases of cranes, derricks and essential engineering supplies, the General said that demolition carried out by the Germans in ports of Naples, and Cherbourg were devastating. In Naples, he said, "The Germans sank a ship at every berth and toppled giant cranes on top of them. They destroyed bridges, signals, switches and whole sections of railroad beds.

He compared the amount of shipping during the last war with that of this war, saying during all of the other war General Pershing got a total of 8,800,000 tons. "We're shipping half of that amount every month now" he added. The peak month of October, the General said, calls for deliveries 21.5 per cent greater than the 1943 monthly average.

"The situation," he said, "is that production has dropped off slightly in the face of increased demands which have been the result of increased demands on us from overseas.

"We'll have to make up what we've lost, and, in addition, we will have to supplement production in order to take care of these overseas demands. We can't debate these things for a long time."

"This is the final round," he said. "There isn't any doubt about that, and if you can give these fighting forces what they need, all the heavy artillery they need, all the trucks they need to haul that ammunition; if you can give General MacArthur the tents he needs so he can take care of his men without stopping to build shelters, they'll push along fast enough and everybody is perfectly willing to do it."

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MORE U.S. MAGAZINES AVAILABLE FOR U.S. TROOPS

Washington, Friday -- The U.S. War Department said today that following analysis of additional data received by the department since publication on July 19, 1944, of the list of 189 magazines preferred by U.S. soldiers, the department had released today thirty-three additional magazines of general circulation within the U.S. for which the soldiers had shown a preference. The list now totals 218 titles, four of the original 189 titles having been withdrawn when it was determined that they were properly classifiable as books rather than magazines.

Under the law, the army is permitted to make available to soldiers magazines of general circulation in the U.S. irrespective of political content if the soldiers show a preference for them through a reliable method established by the U.S. Secretary of War.

The "Revised Preference List" of 218 titles includes all the magazines for which soldier preference has now been determined under the statute. The army will check the list periodically for any future changes in preference.

Any magazine included on the "Revised Preference List" may be delivered by the army free to soldiers or made available under army sponsorship to soldiers inside or outside the U.S. irrespective of its political content. But the law does not require the army to furnish all the magazines or any specific magazine on the list. Any thirty-three additional magazines of general circulation within the U.S. Furthermore, the law does not prevent any soldier from subscribing to or receiving any magazine that he wants or having it mailed to him by family or friends stationed at home, were properly classifiable as books rather than magazines.

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2ND TAF/AIR INF. 327.

11/8/44 No. 57.

DAY BOMBING AHEAD OF CANADIANS.

ONE BROTHER IN AIR: ANOTHER ON GROUND.

German artillery and mortar positions in front of the Canadians in the Falaise sector were bombed without loss this evening by Mitchells and Bostons of R.A.F. 2nd T.A.F.

A New Zealand squadron leader, a staff navigation officer in a Mitchell wing, described the operation as "very satisfactory". He was in the aircraft which led the second wave of Mitchells and saw that the first wave had started fires in a wood where enemy forces were concentrated.

Among many Canadians who found particular enjoyment in this operation in support of their own Army was F/O Melvin Smith, an air gunner of Windhaven, Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was making his 50th sortie of his second operational tour, the first having been on Wellingtons.

"My brother, Malcolm, a lance-bombardier in an anti-tank outfit, was down below there somewhere, so it gave me plenty of satisfaction to see our bombs making the way easier for the boys".

Malcolm and Melvin Smith came to England together in 1941.

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9th Air Force No. 20

NINTH AIR FORCE MARAUDERS AND HAVOCS POUND ST. MALO GUN DEFENCES; OTHER  
MARAUDERS DROP ALMOST FOUR MILLION LEAFLETS TO RESISTING GERMANS IN  
BREST PENINSULA

NINTH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS--- Marauders and Havocs of the Ninth Air Force pounded German coastal gun positions at St. Malo Friday evening in support of ground forces engaged in mopping up last remnants of enemy resistance in the besieged fortress, while other Marauders dropped close to four million leaflets on isolated German garrisons in the ports of Brest, Lorient, and St. Nazaire.

The medium and light bombers struck at enemy batteries and barracks on the Ile de Cezenbre, immediately north of St. Malo harbor and at heavy guns on the St. Servan entrance to the harbor.

Other Marauders penetrated deep into Northern France to attack two important rail bridges at St. Maximin, 20 miles north of Paris, and at Fismes, 60 miles northeast of Paris.

The special leaflet mission this evening boosted to more than eighteen million the number of leaflets which have been dropped on enemy troops in Normandy and Brittany by the Ninth Bomber Command. The leaflets pointed out to the Nazis the futility of their resistance and enjoined them to surrender.

1st. Lt. Paul Harrison, 636 State St., Salem, Oregon, a Marauder pilot who dropped leaflets said, " I got a big kick out of being a flying newsboy.

If our cargo will help capture the port, and save American lives, I'm all for having more of it."

The Marauders and Havocs were escorted by Thunderbolts and Lightnings of the Ninth Air Force. All of the bombers returned.

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HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NUMBER 9386

11 AUGUST 1944

FROM: HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES IN EUROPE.

After escorting heavy bombers throughout Friday afternoon, Eighth Air Force fighters strafed railway yards near Evreux, west of Paris, and in an area from Paris southeast to Dijon; and damaged or destroyed 43 locomotives and 56 rail cars. Strafing P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs also shot up 20 trucks and eight armored cars. Three grounded aircraft were destroyed on airdromes near Chartres and Metz.

Little enemy opposition was encountered during the escorting of the heavies, but three enemy planes were shot down.

Two Me 109s were shot out of the air by 2nd Lt. Charles E. Parmalee, of Lakewood, Ohio, a Thunderbolt pilot.

Another Jerry was shot down southwest of Paris by 1st Lt. Max B. Hungate, Flint, Mich., a Thunderbolt pilot.

"We fought at about 40 feet," said Lt. Hungate. "Once I had to skip a telephone wire to keep on his tail. With my first hits, his engine quit and he bellied in."

One of the strafing attacks was described by Lt. Col. Kenneth W. Gallup, P-47 Thunderbolt squadron commander from Clint, Tex., who destroyed an FW 190.

"As I came along to make my pass at a plane parked near a flak tower I saw about 20 men emerge from a nearby farmyard and make a dash for the guns," he said. "I kicked a little to the left and gave them a full burst. If those Jerries were having supper -- and I think they were -- it was the last meal for a lot of them."

Another plane - a Junkers 52 - was destroyed on the ground by Flight Lt. Warren B. Peglar, of Toronto, Ont., Canada, an RCAF pilot flying with an Eighth Air Force Fighter Command Mustang group.

Other ground targets strafed included flak positions, power stations, radio installations, water towers and oil tanks.

Two of our fighters are missing.

The following pilots reported destruction of enemy aircraft:

TWO (AIR)

2nd Lt. Charles E. Parmalee, 2177 Richland Ave., Lakewood, Ohio.

ONE (AIR)

1st Lt. Max B. Hungate, 2617 West Court St., Flint, Mich.

ONE (GROUND)

Flight Lieut. Warren B. Peglar, 144 Glengarry St., Toronto, Canada.  
Lt. Col. Kenneth W. Gallup, Clint, Tex.

E N D

12: 10 A.M.