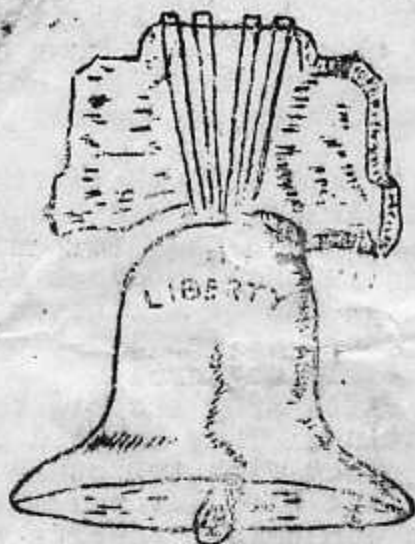


PHILADELPHIAN



RADIO PRESS NEWS

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Copied by:
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SUNDAY

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ALLIES CONTINUE OFFENSIVE ON MAIN ITALIAN FRONT:

The River Rapido has been crossed and several hills and two townships near the west coast were captured. Progress in actual mileage is small but the distance is no measure of what had been accomplished. In the mountains between the Liri valley and Via Veste, the Army had taken a number of important hill points. Along the whole front the Germans have recovered from Monday's losses of supplies achieved by the launching of an attack on so great a scale. They are throwing one counter-attack after another in a desperate effort to halt advancing forces before they can get rolling.

North of Cassino, the Eighth Army has come up against tough and determined defenders of Cassino--a crack German Parachute division. Very heavy fighting continued throughout Saturday over the difficult country as battling along the narrow approaches men of the Eighth Army captured Phantom Ridge. Parachutist launched fierce counter-attacks in quick succession. By mid afternoon the Germans had succeeded in retaking one hill, "Hill 509", which the Eighth Army had occupied earlier.

The Gustav Line has previously resisted all efforts to crack through into the Liri Valley. The night crossing of the river which began immediately after a great artillery barrage was made over the whole stretch between Cassino and the Liri River--a distance of between six and seven thousand yards. Along this, an approximately four mile high German outpost has been

(Italy continued)

in tanks, mortars and artillery across the mouth of the valley, which all day yesterday hindered full exercises of Allied might and proved of considerable help in cracking the building up of Allied strength in new raids on the bridgehead.

The town of Cassino itself is ghostly quiet. There has been no direct attack on the town and German defenders in the Hotel Continental and Hotel Des Roses and other strongpoints have not so far reacted to the powerful onslaught on either side of them.

(Lombard) French troops from the Fifth Army have taken the important hill and village of San Sebastino, north and south-east of Castelforte, which is thus perilously hemmed in while the French are also punching against the town from the south-east. Castelforte is one of the strongest centers of German resistance in the whole of the lower Garigliano area and now appears doomed to early capture.

In the Fifth Army sector, tanks have been officially disclosed as operating. They rumbled into action to help take Ceracoli which together with two other points already captured by Americans, give the Fifth Army a substantial semicircle.

Today's communique reports that Allied cruisers escorted by destroyers supported the Fifth Army by shelling the Appian Way in the Terracina area and one warship on Thursday obtained good results in the bombardment of road junctions south of the Anzio beachhead.

Patrols hopped into intensively action immediately as assault was launched. Small groups of Germans in the Anzio bridgehead were taken under mortar fire. On the right flank of this battle zone Allied artillery silenced another German heavy gun.

TARGETS CONTINUE TO BE SMASHED IN EUROPE:

American heavy bombers in daylight Saturday again struck at targets in Germany. An announcement from American Headquarters Saturday night said, "Strong forces of Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the Eighth Air Force attacked the aircraft assembly plant at Custrow, Germany, railroad marshalling yards at Osnabruck in Germany and other industrial targets in Germany Saturday. They were escorted by very strong forces of Lightnings, Mustangs and Thunderbolts of the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces." Between five hundred and 750 heavy bombers took part in Saturday's attacks with the fighter escort of similar size. Custrow is midway between the Baltic ports of Rostock and Stetin.

Osnabruck, junction of four main lines, was again attacked by the RAF last night and by a simmering attack by Americans the previous day. It is one of the most crowded targets in Germany with about 100,000 people crowded into four square miles of streets. At Custrow, aircraft factories, included the assembly plants for Fockewulf 190 fighters.

While heavies droned over Germany, mediums of the Ninth Air Force and the Second Tactical Air Force were out smashing at communications and airfields in northern France and Belgium. In their fourteenth of seven days, Marauders and Havocs of the Ninth Air Force dropped over 500 tons of bombs without loss at noon Saturday, while a few hours later Thunderbolt fighter bombers went over to attack railway yards at Namur and Tournai in Belgium. Spitfires and Typhoon fighter bombers were out in the morning attacking communications and other targets in northern France.

SHIPBOARD NEWS

Edited by:
Chaplain Burke

BASEBALL;

Yesterdays diamond battle finally ended with the Philly officers coming out on the long end of a 13 - 12 score. It was a see-saw affair with lots of excitement and close plays. Mr Pitcher - who caught for our officers socked the first ball over the center fielders head for a home run starting the Philly off to a lead. This was short lived because the Mighty "K" boys got to Mr. Pederson and went out ahead 8 - 6 in the sixth inning. From then on it was any bodys ball game until the last of the ninth when with Mr. Thomas on second and the score tied - Wally Fite pasted the apple for a sizzling hit into center and knocked in the winning tally.

Today's game between the 2nd and M Division is to decide the champions of the ship. Both teams are raring to go and confident that there will be no doubt about the best team when the last man is out. We wont place any bets from here, because both teams have proven themselves superior in their respective leagues.

As a secondary attraction the "F" and 6th Divisions will settle their own controversy at the other end of the field. A return game is being planned for next week. It will be official.

Below is the prayer we said over the graves of Lt. Comdr. Stephenson and Radioman Pierson. We thought some might wish to see it.

Dear God, Most Merciful Father in this hallowed ground rest the earthly remains of two gallant heroes whom we are privileged to call our shipmates. It was Thy most merciful will that they should be gathered to Thy loving bosom and that we be preserved to carry on the fight. Yet we know that this separation from them is not forever. For Thou who art Eternal Truth hast clearly promised that every one that liveth and believeth in Thee shall no die forever. And we look forward to that reunion when sadness and sorrow be no more, when Thou shalt wipe away all tears and give true peace to our restless hearts.

Bless then O heavenly Father this grave. It is now truly a little bit of our native soil of America. Grant that the deaths of our gallant shipmates may give a rebirth to the world. May the weeping of their loved ones move Thy Heart to hasten the days of peace. May the sight of us assembled on this foreign soil be a witness to Thee that we covet no earth but that wherein our honored dead lie buried. And may the moments we pass here be an instruction to us how swift is life, how conclusive is death, how foolish is our conceit-our pride-our vanity.

Make us worth of our ship, our Navy, our country even as these men were worthy. And when in loving mercy Thou dost send Thine angel to summon us to Thee, may He find us ready, willing and reconciled. May He find us even as He discovered them-doing their duty, obeying and sacrificing that the souls of all men might struggle out of the depths to the light of freedom,

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This is our humble prayer. This our supplication.
May the Angels lead them into paradise; may the apostles who loved
the sea greet these souls who have made their last crossing, and
reached their home port. May He who calmed the restless waves
saying Peace be still, - May he who walked upon the waters
grant them eternal rest in their heavenly anchorage.

And when the great Captain calls us for His final
inspection may it be our blessed privilege also to hear Christ's
own words - "Well done."