

## COCKATOO NEWS SUMMARY

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6th Infantry Division

### 6TH DIVISION DOUGHBOYS ROUT JAPS IN BITTER SIX-DAY BATTLE AT MUNOZ

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters Saturday released further details on the 6th Infantry division's complete rout of the Japanese at Munoz. The battle, one of the fiercest fought on Luzon, ended when the Japs attempted to withdraw into the Sierra Madre mountains. The Nips had placed a high priority on Munoz which guards the important north-south highway town of San Jose but their desperate stand cost them dearly. In the bitter six-day battle doughboys of the 6th and attached armored units accounted for 1,247 Japs, 57 medium and light tanks and numerous other pieces of ordnance and equipment. The Japs apparently realizing the situation was hopeless after five days of intense fighting attempted to withdraw to San Jose under cover of darkness. Our outposts along the highway leading to San Jose permitted the leading tank to pass but one of our Sherman tanks opened up on a truck trailing the tank and set it afire with a high explosive shell to block the road to the rest of the Jap column. Gunners of our 105 and 155 mm howitzers fired point-blank at the Jap tanks and trucks in the bitter pre-dawn attack. A rifle company commander said that bazookas and grenade men knocked out 30 of the 44 tanks destroyed in Munoz itself and one sergeant knocked out eight Jap pillboxes and a tank, all with grenades.

Saturday 6th division troops in Nueva Ecija province crossed the upper Pampanga river at Rizal and Bongabon and secured bridgeheads at both points. Further to the north the 32d Infantry division continued to advance after destroying Jap positions five miles north of San Nicolas. On Bataan peninsula the 38th Infantry division reached a point ten miles south of Olongapo.

### JAPS MAKING FINAL DESPERATE STAND IN SOUTHERN PART OF MANILA

The Japanese are making a final desperate stand in the southern part of Manila, according to Saturday's communique. Two American divisions, the 37th Infantry and the 11th Airborne, are driving them back in bitter house-to-house combat and street fighting. South of Manila the enemy made two counterattacks but were heavily repulsed by the 11th Airborne at Taygaytay where the paratroopers struck a lightning blow a week ago, parachuting down to seize the town and then rapidly close in on Manila.

Army engineers have partially restored the bridges across the Pasig river and supplies are pouring across to American troops mopping up in the central part of the city. The Japanese stripped Manila of food before they fled, even ransacking private homes. As the result the populace is suffering from hunger and hundreds of Filipinos and Chinese are reported dying every day from starvation. However food is reported coming into the city in increasing quantities and food trucks are now given priority over everything else. American nurses were expected in Manila Saturday.

The United Press stated that war has horribly disfigured the heart of Manila. "By the time the last Jap has been killed or driven from the city Manila will have to be rebuilt because of the huge fires, demolitions and gunfire," the dispatch stated. Huge fires have been burning for six days. The biggest fires now are in the walled city. The huge postoffice building has been gutted by fire but remaining government buildings appear untouched. Well-known government buildings destroyed were the opera house, the Great Eastern and Marco Polo hotels, the main department store and the Philippine National and Philippine Trust Bank of India buildings. Fires are still burning in the southern part of the city where the Manila hotel and the Army and Navy club are located.

### CHINESE SET UP NEW HEADQUARTERS, READY JOINT BLOWS WITH ALLIES

Headquarters of the Chinese army has been established at Kunming it was announced Saturday with the former minister of war appointed commander of all ground forces. Naval and air forces remain under their present commanders with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek the supreme commander. A press dispatch says the creation of the new headquarters and the appointment of a new ground chief speeds up preparation for the coming Chinese counteroffensive in collaboration with Allied forces nearing the China coast.

BRITISH DRIVE FIVE MILES AHEAD ON WIDE FRONT TOWARD KLEVE

Allied headquarters in Europe Saturday announced an avalanche of Allied power driving toward the Rhine but just how far units have advanced is not disclosed because of security reasons. British tank and infantry gained five miles on a wide front and were within less than four miles of Kleve, the northernmost fortified city of the Siegfried line. Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery is rushing reinforcements into the mounting battle which is raging from Nijmegen in Holland to a point eight miles inside the German border east of Aachen. More than 1,800 prisoners, almost half of the original garrison protecting Kleve, were captured in two days.

The Allies now hold a 200-mile front with five British and American armies either inside Germany or close to the border. South of Aachen American divisions have reached the Siegfried line and are fighting for the source of the Roer river. Still farther south American troops drove to within less than a mile of Prun, an important communication center on the road to Coblenz. American units continued to cross the Prun river to the north and threaten to outflank the town in an advance which has already carried them eight miles into Germany.

In southern Alsace all enemy resistance has been cleared from the west bank of the Rhine from a point two miles south of Strasbourg to the Swiss border. North of Strasbourg the Germans are withdrawing to prepared positions inside Germany. American forces are already past Haguenau, the road junction about 40 miles northwest of Strasbourg. More than 2,000 bombers and escorts Saturday raided Nazi synthetic oil plants, factories and rail yards and another 1,000 bombers dropped tons of explosives on Prenzlau north of Berlin and less than 50 miles from the Soviet salient. Other Allied bombers concentrated on armament plants and transport sectors in southern and central Germany. Berlin was raided during the night.

REDS REPORTED ON WEST BANK OF ODER IN DRIVE ON BERLIN

Unconfirmed Moscow dispatches Saturday said the Reds were fighting on the west bank of the Oder river bridgehead about 40 miles east of Berlin. Moscow still maintains silence on the central part of the Oder river front.

Russian forces Saturday started a new offensive northwest of Breslau as Soviet artillery laid down a terrific barrage in the area. Other Red troops are said to be less than 20 miles from the Czechoslovakian border and the rich Sudetenland. To the north Soviet troops are advancing on Stettin, chief Baltic port north of Berlin. More than 100 villages and towns were captured, some of them within 21 miles of Stettin. In East Prussia Red Army divisions have surrounded the sea port of Elbing and German warships in the bay of Danzig are moving to safer waters. A German pocket battleship is reported shelling Russian positions in an effort to aid the hard-pressed ground troops.

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS WORLD

Hockey: Montreal 9, New York 4.... Basketball: Bethany 39, Penn State 31; Hamline 58, Westminster 50; St. Francis 52, Holy Cross 48; St. Louis 61, Washington (Mo) 49; Colorado U 50, Utah State 46; Akron 51, Geneva 38; N Car State 55, Davidson 25; S Car 76, Clemson 38; High Point 44, Appalachian . . . W & M 53, Randolph Macon 32; Capital 64, Wilmington 35; DePaul 38, Franklin 36; Valparaiso 50, Central Ind Normal 42; Arkansas 76, Pitt (Kans) 45.... Sports Shorts: Paul Brown, former Ohio State coach and now Great Lakes grid mentor, has signed a contract to coach the Cleveland team in the newly-formed All-America Pro league will get between 15 and 20 grand.... Buck Shaw, former Santa Clara coach, will forsake the colleges for a job with a San Francisco pro eleven.... Dominic Dallessandro, Cub outfielder, has been drafted.

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