

RIP BALIKPAPEN

By JOHN CASHMAN

Staff Correspondent Int'l News Service
MANILA, June 26 (Tuesday).—Another heavy air attack against Balikpapan, Japan's last major stronghold on the east coast of Borneo, was announced today by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Liberators of the United States Thirteenth Air force dumped 225 tons of bombs on Borneo targets in stepped-up aerial strikes against the East Indies.

The United States Fifth Air Force was reported in the Borneo action for the first time, adding its huge Liberators and deadly Mitchell bombers to the daily pounding of the Nip stronghold.

Thirteenth Air Force and RAAF flyers have been hitting the key enemy position for thirty days.

ON TO TOKYO

Ace Downs 16 Japs

MANILA, July 10.—(UP)—Lt. Col. Bill Harris of Springville, Calif., who knocked down one Japanese plane last month to bring his total to 16, is the leading fighter pilot in the 13th Air Force.

GETS BLOOD FOR BALIKPAPAN ASHORE IN PERILOUS SEA

BALIKPAPAN, Fri.—Three days after the 7th Division landed at Balikpapan, an urgent signal was sent to Morotai for 1600 lbs of fresh blood. How Capt. Harry C. Remington, of Dallas, Texas, got it ashore in a Catalina through the tremendous seas which rage off Balikpapan can now be told.

A seaplane was the only way of getting the blood ashore. The RAAF Air Sea Rescue Group had already lost 2 Catalinas in a gallant attempt to maintain a courier service with base, and had no plane available. So it passed the blood request on to 13th Rescue Group of the US 13th Air Force.

The Americans were warned of the dangerous seas, but Col. Ford, CO of the Rescue Group, guaranteed to deliver the blood. Capt. Remington was selected and with his crew of 7, an Australian officer and the blood, he took off early in the afternoon.

Seas with waves 15ft. high were sweeping the entire bay as Capt. Remington reached Balikpapan, and one look showed him he would never get his plane down safely. But he put the Cat's nose down.

She struck the crest of a vicious

bombing and strafing of enemy gun positions and pillboxes, and attacked Ranau and Bintulu airfields in western Borneo.

MacArthur also announced that Army and Navy planes blockading the China Sea had bombed Sarachau airdrome southwest of Hongkong, and had attacked points in French Indo-China

JUNGLE AIR FORCE

IMPROVISE NEW FIRE BOMBS
Belly Tanks of 13th Air Force Planes Dropped on Borneo.

WASHINGTON, July 11.(AP)—Improvised "belly tank" fire bombs dropped by 13th air force fighter planes helped drive the Japanese from the beaches during the landings on Borneo, a fighter group leader reported today.

Col. Leo P. Dusard, jr., 29, commander of the "Sun-Busters" fighter group of the 13th, said the Japanese "just couldn't take it" from the fire bombs. In his opinion, the bombs will be "tremendously valuable" in any invasion of the Japanese homeland.

The bombs are made, he related, by filling a fighter plane's spare gasoline tank with a jellied gasoline mixture which on hitting the ground throws out a huge ball of fire covering an area 100 by 125 feet.

"I'd hate to be on the receiving end of one of them," Dusard said. "Nothing lives where one of them lands."

Dusard, a resident of Kirkwood, Mo., just has returned from twenty months' service in the Southwest Pacific.

wave and bounced drunkenly onto the next. The impact split the entire seam running along the keel and smashed out the rivets. With the crew frantically bailing amid crashing waves, the pilot tried to stall the plane in towards the shore.

A US crash boat sped to her aid, but a tremendous wave hurled it against the Catalina's tail and smashed the tail to matchwood. Remington was unable to taxi. The plane was rapidly filling with water. Tide and sea began carrying her swiftly along the coast to where Jap shells were falling. Buffeted incessantly, she drifted for 4 miles before another navy boat reached her and took her in tow.

Just before dark she was caught and wrecked on a reef 30 yds. from the beachhead. But an "alligator" from the shore came alongside and the blood was delivered intact.

Balikpapan Raids Debuted by 2600 Mile Non-Stopper

HQ., 13th AAF.—The first heavy bomber missions against Balikpapan started 30 September 1944, and were the initial strategic strikes against Jap war industries in SWPA. They were also the longest missions—2,600 miles non-stop—ever flown by bomb-loaded landbased aircraft.

Two bombers were shot down on the first mission and seven more were lost on the second. On succeeding missions, the need for greater protection spurred development of "Jungle Air Force" P-38s as long-range planes. Fitted with special extra fuel tanks, the fighters accompanied the Liberators to the great oil base.

After half a dozen major strikes, ended 14 October 1944, the campaign accomplished crippling Balikpapan's paraffin and lubricating oil works, put Pandansari refinery out of action, and completely knocked out the Edeleanu refinery.

Balikpapan Tough

2nd Emery Sq.

Yank Daring Tested In Rescue Of Fliers

By SPENCER DAVIS

HEADQUARTERS, 13TH AIR FORCE, Philippines—(P)—Hundreds of bombing missions struck Balikpapan prior to the landing of the Australians—but it's still recognized by pilots of the 13th Air Force as one of the toughest targets east of Singapore.

There was the case of one Liberator which had flown through flak-filled skies to give a low-level pasting to antiaircraft guns and Japanese troops and barracks. Going home, the Liberator gave out under the strain and with two engines knocked out the pilot ordered the crew to jump.

Only four men survived to tell the harrowing story. They were 2nd Lt. Walter E. Kulig, navigator, of Freeland, Pa.; Sgts. Robert Kaul, engineer, of Hammond, Ind.; Daniel Loeffelholz, radio operator, of Potosi, Wis.; and Glenn D.

Galenby, assistant engineer, of Gallatin, Mo.

The bombardier and tail gunner jumped but never were seen again. The other four crew members landed on Japanese-held Celebes and watched as the big bomber crashed with pilot and co-pilot still aboard. Both manager to swim away from the sinking plane and joined Kulig and the three enlisted men ashore.

Less than an hour later a 13th Air Force Catalina flying boat dropped down to rescue survivors while a sister Cat and several other Liberators strafed and bombed the shore to keep the Japanese from capturing the men. But tragedy still pursued the survivors.

The Catalina pilot, Lt. Arthur G. Carothers Jr. of Orbisonia, Pa., took the survivors aboard but the choppy sea proved an unexpected obstacle. Gunning the big seaplane, Carothers tried to take off but rough water ripped the hull, nearly tearing the rescue plane in two. It nosed over at high speed and dived into the sea.

The Liberator pilot and co-pilot, so recently rescued, were killed outright. Carothers' navigator also was killed.

Watching the crash of his sister ship, Lt. Bryan D. W. Guess, pilot of the second Catalina, made a risky water landing.

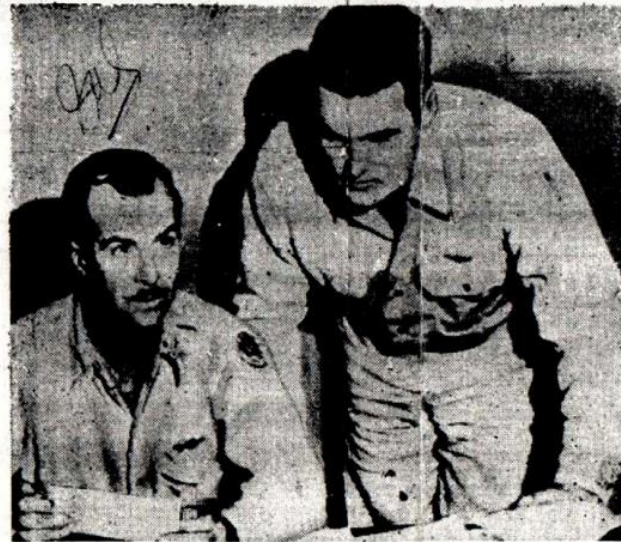
Hig flight surgeon, Capt. Nicholas Bailey of Manhattan Beach, Calif., dived overboard to help the survivors. He saw a flash of gold and blue—it was the shoulder patch of the crashed Catalina's radio operator, Pfc. Granville S. Mason of Delhi, Ontario—and pulled Mason from the wreckage.

The crew of the wrecked Catalina, with the four Liberator survivors, crowded into the waist of Lt. Guess' Catalina. There were nineteen aboard when he started his takeoff.

Waves eight feet high smashed the plexiglass window and flooded the waist. Pilot Guess battled for 45 minutes before his Catalina soared into the air.

"None of us thought we'd get out of that one alive," said Navigator Kulig, "but Guess pulled her up."

The rescued men were taken to a Dutch East Indies base where doctors said they'd fly again after treatment and rest.



—AP Radiophoto

Aerial offensive against Balikpapan, Borneo, where Australian troops landed Sunday, was planned and directed by Maj. Gen. Paul B. Wurtsmith (left), Detroit, Mich., 13th AAF commander, and Col. Arno H. Luehman, 3839 N. 18th st., 13th AAF chief of staff. The air blows which preceded the invasion began June 16.

'13TH AAF PAVED WAY TO BALIKPAPAN'

What American planes did to the Ploesti oil fields of Rumania, the 13th Bomber Command of the 13th Air Force did to smash oil installations of Balikpapan, Borneo and to pave the way for the Philippines conquest.

The story of the "13th of the 13th" was told by its chief of staff, 29-year-old Colonel Joseph C. Reddoch of Alabama, now back in the United States for reassignment after 21 months overseas service.

To bomb Borneo, the Yank bomber group flew 2600 miles from Noemfoor Island without fighter escort, and kept on bombing Borneo until the Australian invasion. It has been moving closer to Japan ever since.

The 13th, a small force by present standards, accomplished its successes, Colonel Reddoch believes, because it was compact enough for teamwork. Many of the pilots have flown 45 and 60 missions without relief.

JUNGLE AIR FORCE

Labuan Raids In 8th Day

MANILA, June 10 (AP)—Heavy air raids for the eighth consecutive day on Labuan island off the northwest coast of oil-rich Borneo were announced Sunday by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The communique failed to confirm, however, Japanese reports of Saturday that an allied invasion on Labuan had been launched.

United States 13th air force, royal Australian air force and United States 7th fleet heavy, medium and fighter-bombers dealt the Borneo blows as the air war in the East Indies reached a crescendo.

Liberators of the 13th air force cascaded a heavy tonnage of bombs on Labuan and on a nearby airfield, while delayed reports showed the R. A. A. F. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday smashed the nearby mainland town of Brunei in a succession of raids, destroying many Japanese buildings. These strikes were followed by another 13th air force raid on the same area.

2nd Emery Sq.