

*Planet*

# WAR in the AIR

Good News Comes Thick  
and Fast: Air Offensive  
Nears Its End: Bombers  
Feeding Holland:  
Rangoon Freed



OUT FOR TRADE: A busy scene at a Coastal Command base in Scotland with Mosquitoes taxiing to take-off for a shipping strike.

WITH good news coming from all parts of the Western Front almost faster than one can assimilate it, the task of recording the air side of the war in Europe becomes difficult. The death of Hitler, presuming that he really is dead, would a month ago have seemed the biggest and best of all news. When he survived the bomb plot some time ago *Flight* expressed its satisfaction that the competent German Generals were not to be relieved of the necessity of obeying a Führer whose intuitions had led so many German armies into disastrous positions. But in the last stages this utility of Hitler to the United Nations ceased to be effective. Göbbels may have disappeared also into tracts unknown; but, if so, the fact seems relatively unimportant.

Then Berlin fell to the Russians after a comparatively short but fiercely fought siege, and on May 2nd the aircraft ceased to whirl and dive in combat over the doomed German Capital. Its capture is valuable to the Allies from many points of view; but as a purely military piece of news the surrender of all the German forces in

Italy stands by itself. Even the fall of Hamburg to the British is of less importance. It has fallen to the lot of that very great commander, Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, to achieve the two greatest and most complete victories of this war—Tunisia and Italy. In each case a very large German Army, with its Commander-in-Chief and his staff, surrendered to this British leader, helped in the latter instance by his very competent assistant, the American General Mark Clark. The campaign in Italy was one in which the terrain did not permit the air superiority of the Allies to tell so

heavily as it did in Normandy and elsewhere. If it is not too ungracious at this moment to look for spots on the sun, one may even question whether the use of bombers to destroy Cassino was a proper use of air power. But all's well that ends well. From Alamein onwards, the British, with contingents from many other nations, have won every battle, including the last. That rather upsets another old saying; and if it is still to have force we must cast our eyes back to the campaign in the Low Countries which ended at Dunkerque.

Now our eyes are drawn to the Far



TO BAMBOOZLE: Japanese dummy aircraft, made of bamboo, found on the Katana airstrip when the airfields on Okinawa were captured. The dummy on the right presumably appeared in a "game" book as "Destroyed on the Ground."