

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Eddie Rickenbacker Rescued From Raft In Pacific
U.S. AND JAPANESE FLEETS CLASH

Navy Tells
Of Series
Of Fights in
Solomons

Both Sides
Have Losses

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Navy reported today that a series of naval engagements was in progress in the Solomon Islands area and that both the American and Japanese forces have suffered losses.

The action began on the night of Nov. 12-13 (Solomon time). A communiqué said that no details would be reported while the battle continued.

"To announce details of these actions while the battle is in progress would furnish the enemy with information of definite value to him," a communiqué said.

SCATTERED ENCOUNTERS—From this it appeared that no single outstanding battle had so far developed in the fighting, but that rather a number of scattered encounters had occurred between American and Japanese forces which have been going on for three months now to win domination of the waters around the strategic southern Solomons.

(Without confirmation elsewhere, Imperial Japanese Headquarters in Tokyo announced today that two Japanese destroyers had been sunk and a battleship damaged in a fierce, still-continuing battle off Guadalcanal in which, it said, Allied losses were six cruisers and a destroyer sunk, and two cruisers and three destroyers heavily damaged.)

Preliminary to the general renewal of naval warfare between the surface forces of the belligerents was a bombardment, as reported by the Navy yesterday, of enemy positions on Guadalcanal Island last Thursday.

THE BOMBARDMENT lasted from dawn until well in the afternoon. It was interrupted by an attack by Japanese fighters, which Zero fighters, but yesterday's communiqué made no mention of any air action.

Apparently, the enemy warships did not get into action until Thursday night.

In New Guinea, Allied and American troops moved forward, wiping out invasion—bent Japanese.

Light cruisers and a transport damaged, 30 planes and 30 large landing boats destroyed, a communiqué said. Japanese losses were 500 officers and men killed—these are the enemy losses inflicted by Americans and Allied troops as reported in communiqués by Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur and the Navy last night.

STRIKE AT TRANSPORTS—Roaring down to within 1,000 feet of the foe heavy bombers in an effort to compel them to abandon the 8,000-ton transport, attacked in a new attack on the Buna-Finschhafen area, the Navy said today earlier, the Allied High Command reported, bombers had struck



GERMAN PRISONERS ROUNDED UP IN EGYPT—These German soldiers were captured by the British on the first day of the current offensive in Egypt that drove Axis forces back into Libya. Guarded by smiling Australian troops, the prisoners await transportation to a prison camp in the rear of the fighting lines. This is one in a series of British official pictures fresh from the battle zone.

African Campaign Minor Nazi
Praised By Stalin Gain Made

Says Anglo-American Action Has Tipped Scales in Favor of Allies

By HENRY C. CASSIDY
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MOSCOW.—Joseph Stalin gave high praise today to the American and British campaign in North Africa and declared that it had created the prerequisites for a second front in Europe and shifted the political and military situation in Europe "in favor of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition."

In his second letter in this column in six weeks, the Soviet leader said the operations in North Africa "could have been executed only by 'first rate' countries" and pledged that the "Red Army will fulfill its task with honors as it has been fulfilling it throughout the war."

HELP FOR RUSSIA—The Soviet leader said the North African campaign would result in "a certain relief in pressure on the Soviet Union in the near future and provided the

Editor's Note: Less than six weeks ago, Henry C. Cassidy, chief of the Associated Press, Bureau in Moscow, scored a journalistic coup when he obtained from Joseph Stalin a written statement expressing for the first time the Soviet Premier's views on the second front question. Now Cassidy has scored again by obtaining from Stalin his reactions to the Allied threat into North Africa.

Prospect of the disintegration of the Italo-German coalition. The authorized Russian translation of the statement said:

"There seems to have been an exodus from the Senate today equal to that of the children of Israel," Bailey commented. "Connelly wanted to know if the secret-arm was supposed to execute arrest warrants for members who had gone to their home states."

Bailey then modified his motion so it would apply only to those in the District of Columbia. The legislation definitely was heading into a full-fledged filibuster by Southern Democrats and Connelly confidently predicted "it will never pass."

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Famed Pilot
Is in Good
Condition as
Ordeal Ends

5 Others Safe;
One Man Dead

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Dauntless Eddie Rickenbacker has been rescued, in good condition, the Navy announced today, three weeks after his airplane radioed that it was about out of gasoline and then vanished in the Pacific.

Rickenbacker, America's ace of aces in the first World War and the country's embodied proof that you can't keep a good man down, was picked from a raft bobbing in the sea by a Navy Catalina flying boat along with two of his crew. They were 600 miles north of Samoa.

Three other Army fliers who were with him on a survey of Pacific war zone air force operations have been located on an island. The res-

cue of one was announced yesterday and the seventh man of Rickenbacker's crew died in the long wait for rescue.

Colmel Hans C. Adamson and Private John F. Barker were Rickenbacker's two companions at the time of rescue.

Adamson also was in good condition. The Navy said he was in serious condition. He is expected to recover from the suffering of exposure.

SEVERAL BURIED—A fourth man on the little rubber raft which saved the 52-year-old Rickenbacker had been Sergeant Alexander Kaczmarek. He died several days ago and was buried at sea.

Three men located on the island are to have help from the Navy and the Army. One of them has been flown there. The officer was directed to examine the condition of the men, give them immediate attention as needed and return them to a United States base.

They were located by a Catalina flying boat although there was no indication as to whether it was the same plane that saved Capt. Rickenbacker.

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U. S., British Force
Races Over Border

French and German Troops Fight in Tunis—Hitler
Seeks To Reinforce Grip on French Protectorate

By ROGER D. GREENE
Associated Press War Editor

French and German troops battled in the streets of ancient Tunis today while the vanguard of a powerful Anglo-American expeditionary force raced across the Tunisian frontier to combat Nazi airborne invaders of the key North African buffer state.

Unofficial reports reaching London said the Allies were moving parachute troops into the developing struggle for Tunisia, where the Nazis had seized several airports.

Tunisia lies between American-occupied Algeria and Italian Libya. Simultaneously, British Headquarters announced that Gen. B. L. Montgomery's victorious British Eighth Army swept 40 miles beyond fallen Tobruk in pursuit of Nazi Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's fleeing troops.

Abandoned without a fight, Tobruk fell to the British yesterday morning, and today's communiqué said the triumphant Imperials already had cleared the desert as far westward as Gazala.

"On with the task—good hunting to you all!" was the message General Montgomery sent to his troops as the chase of Rommel's battered forces continued.

"In three weeks we have completely smashed the German and Italian Army," the British field commander said, announcing the virtual destruction of twelve Axis divisions.

A British communiqué indicated that Adolf Hitler was making a desperate attempt to reinforce his tenuous grip on the French protectorate of Tunisia, reporting that Allied fighters yesterday shot down seven large Axis aircraft off a formation of 50 planes flying from North Africa toward Sicily. Six others were badly damaged.

These were presumably Axis transport planes returning north to pick up more troops and supplies. Allied Headquarters said the Germans already had landed 12,000 tanks in Tunisia by air and were trying to bring other reinforcements by sea.

NAVAL BATTLE—French radio broadcast said a naval battle was in progress off American-occupied Algeria, near the coast of Tunisia, which suggested that Allied warships were attacking the Axis sea-borne reinforcement.

Latest dispatches pictured Tunisia, site of the 2,700-year-old Carthage, as the scene of widespread battle, with French troops fiercely resisting Nazi parachute troops in the crowded, walled city.

All French soldiers in North Africa had now apparently been ordered to the side of the United Nations, spurred on by appeals by Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

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Senate Takes Action To Arrest
8 Members To Force Attendance

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Senate today authorized the Vice President to issue warrants of arrest for eight of its own members in an effort to compel them to attend and proceed with consideration of a motion to take up the controversial anti-poll tax bill.

Majority Leader Barkley called for the unusual action when, after nearly an hour's delay, only 44 Senators had answered their names on roll calls. Forty-nine Senators are needed to transact business. Only Senator Connally, Democrat, Texas, was heard to vote against Barkley's motion.

A few minutes earlier, also over Connally's objection, Barkley had successfully moved that sergeant-

at-arms Chester W. Jurney report results of his quest for absentees.

Standing on the dais, Jurney read off a list of members he said were out of town.

S. C. Pilot Feted By Chinese
After Clash With Jap Fighters

By J. REILLY O'SULLIVAN
NORTH AMERICAN FORCES IN CHINA, Nov. 12—(Delayed)—A Recaptured by Chinese guerrillas, two crew members of the only U. S. bomber shot in the big daylight raid on Hong Kong Oct. 25 and a fighter pilot forced down in combat they reached their home base Friday the 13th.

Lived a missing in action are four other crewmen of the bomber, which had shot down two Japanese attackers.

Fighter Pilot Lieut. Marion Sher of Greenville, S. C., came back from a triumphal tour of

China's March of Colima, Calif., this

colony was welcomed by tens of thousands after destroying another of the fifteen or more planes lost by the Japanese that day over Hong Kong.

The bomber, in the rear of the raiding formation, was raked by the bullets from a plane which Lieutenant March identified as a Messerschmitt 109. The right engine caught fire, causing the ship to fall behind as the flight of seven Zeros which chased up while Lieutenant March was on page 8.

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WEATHER

Slightly
cooler
today,
with
freezing
temperatures.

Today's Temp: H. 64; L. 40
Sunset: Today
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:58
Additional H. & W. Weather Bureau
data will be found on page 8.