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ALLIES STORM NEARER TO TUNIS

REDS CAPTURE NAZI STRONGHOLD

Long Advance Achieved By Soviet Forces

Great Offensive Reported To Be Killing 10,000 Germans a Day

MOSCOW—(AP)— Red Army infantrymen plowing across the snowy steppes northwest of Stalingrad in a double-barrelled offensive, which was reported to be slaughtering 10,000 Nazi troops a day on the south and central fronts, snatched a new stronghold from the Germans and advanced several miles, the Russians announced today.

New German lines on the east bank of the Don were broken by the Soviet troops and 1,000 more Germans were reported to have paid with their lives for the luckless siege of Stalingrad. The Russian infantrymen were supported by tanks and artillery as they moved forward in the second break-through in this sector reported in two days.

FOOD CAPTURED

Southwest of Stalingrad the Russian offensive also moved forward successfully, the mid-day communique reported, and another town and large stores of Axis food and medical supplies were captured.

A special communique last night told how the Russians had driven from the Stalingrad - Krasnodar Railroad Line to capture the town of Oblinaya, 70 miles southeast of Kotelnikovski.

Within the long-besieged city of Stalingrad fighting continued and the Russians said their artillery destroyed 38

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Great Fires Rage After RAF Attack Upon Turin

Heavy British Assaults Made

LONDON. — (AP) — Home-based British bombers attacked Turin last night for the second night in succession and found fires started 24 hours earlier still raging in the Italian arsenal city, the Air Ministry said today.

The attack was made despite bad weather and the raiding force was reported small in comparison with the strong formations which had previously made the 1,500-mile round-trip swing across the Alps to cut at the foundations of Premier Mussolini's war economy.

"Other bombers attacked railway communications in Belgium," the Air Ministry announced.

TWO PLANES LOST

It said two planes were missing.

The Italian High Command acknowledged in a communique broadcast by the Rome radio that Turin was a target, but said that the damage was, not heavy and that one British bomber fell there.

This was the 23rd raid on northern Italy since the beginning of the war and the twelfth since the opening of the new aerial offensive with an assault on Genoa Oct. 22.

More than 100,000 incendiaries in addition to 8,000-pound "blockbusters," were dropped over Turin in the Saturday night raid, and one Canadian pilot who took part said the city's buildings were left "seething as though they were bubbling with molten lava."

The Air Ministry announced that "the weather over the target was good and the attack was heavy and concentrated. Good results were seen."

The Italian High Command added a revealing footnote: Damage was great, "especially in the center of the town," its broadcast said, and the number of casualties had not been ascertained nearly 24 hours after the raid.

Reuters, the British news agency,

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AGED MOTHER SEEKS SON AMONG VICTIMS OF BOSTON NIGHT CLUB FIRE

BOSTON—(AP)—A silent figure moved slowly, hugging the brick wall that led to the door of the Northern Mortuary, where the bodies of many of the 480-odd victims of Saturday's Cocoanut Grove Night Club fire lay unidentified.

Stunned by their own grief, those waiting scarcely turned when a little old lady wrapped peasant-style in shawl and kerchief shuffled toward the door. A police sergeant stepped forward to meet her.

"My Sammy," she faltered. "he didn't come home. He always comes home."

"Do you think you could identify him?" asked the sergeant.

"He's my Sammy," she responded simply.

After a brief conference, she was ushered to the garage where the bodies lay, row on row. At the sight, the old lady turned away.

"I'll tell you what he looks like. Maybe you could tell then if he is in there."

But when her description was concluded, the sergeant slowly shook his head. "I'm afraid I couldn't tell," he said.

She stood confused. "I have nobody else. What will I do?" Then she shuffled away.

A man stepped forward and offered her a seat in his automobile.

And there she sat as the gray afternoon dimmed to twilight and darkness fell. The silent line moved on, and on.

At last, the little old lady slipped out of the car — and shuffled away from the faint radiance of the dimmed out street light—and on into the shadows to the West End flat to which Sammy had not returned.

Push Within 12 Miles Of Tunisian City

Driving Wedge Toward Coast to Separate Axis Strongholds

LONDON. —(AP) — British and American forces, supported by a rising tide of aerial blows at the enemy on both sides of the Mediterranean, have stormed forward to within less than twelve miles of Tunis in a drive which has all but isolated that city and Bizerte, main Axis-held strong point in Tunisia.

The Allied advance was disclosed today by a headquarters communique which said fighting now was progressing east of Djedeida, which is 12 miles northwest of Tunis on the Tunis-Bizerte railroad. This indicated the Allies were driving a wedge straight toward the coast, to separate the Axis strongholds.

BIZERTE ATTACKED

Bizerte was the target of an attack by Allied planes which scored hits on the naval base, the communique said, and Allied fighters were credited with destruction of four enemy planes in operations over forward areas.

The Allied announcement failed to disclose the extent of thrust toward Tunis but the Morocco radio said yesterday that the Allies already were within cannon range of that capital of Tunisia.

Being astride the railroads, these forces have cut the only link between the Axis defense zones except for the coastal road. Absence of reports of fighting west of Djedeida suggested the Allies were attacking one town at a time, or were leaving Bizerte to a column advancing along the northern coast.

HIT ROMMEL

Simultaneously with the Allied assault on the hastily contrived Axis defenses in Tunisia, German and Italian communiques reported that the Eighth Army's tanks struck the first blow at Marshal Rommel's El Agheila line in Libya. The Axis claimed these attacks repulsed; the British kept silent.

A storm of Allied aerial bombs burst upon the Axis in North Africa and Italy last night and yesterday, underscoring Prime Minister Churchill's declaration that the enemy soon would be cast from his African lockholds and that Italians must get out of the war or be bombed out.

TARGETS

Tunis, Bizerte and Tripoli were targets of new punishing attacks over the week-end in a prelude to impending assaults by American and British land forces in Africa, and the great Italian industrial city of Turin shuddered to the impact of RAF bombs last night for the second time in 24 hours.

Shipping and harbors were blasted a three Axis-held African ports and traffic along Marshal Rommel's road of escape to wards Tripoli was strafed, while in Tunisia the fighting grew in intensity as the area hour for the all-out land attack neared.

BRITISH REINFORCED

From Vichy came a broadcast that British troops on the Tunisian-Algerian border had been reinforced by armored units, indicating that the all-out Allied attack upon the naval base at Bizerte and Tunis, the capital of

See ALLIES STORM on page 7

Sees Italian Explosions

Hull Gets Reports on Unrest in Country

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary of State Hull indicated today the Government was expecting explosive developments in Italy unless the situation soon.

Hull was asked at his press conference about reports of serious unrest in various parts of that war-weary country, including mutinous behavior in the Army. He replied that he still was assembling reports coming in on that situation and might have some comment to make later.

Meanwhile, he added, one should not be surprised to hear of just such developments in Italy.

In reply to another question, Hull expressed hope that the people of Albania, which was invaded without warning on Good Friday, 1939, would take advantage of any opportunity to turn against their oppressors and shoot on sight every Italian soldier there.

Hull said he had no information on the situation at Toulon since the reported scuttling of the French Fleet. Asked whether the American consular general at Dakar still was under arrest, he was reported arrested when American troops landed in French North Africa) Hull replied he did not believe so, but had no definite information at the moment.

1,400 Belgians Sent To Work in Germany

LONDON — (AP) — The Belgian news agency reported today that 1,400 Belgian workmen had been deported to Germany from Ekkiaas, in eastern Flanders.

Japs Pocketed By Australians

Several Hundred of Enemy Trapped; Lines Believed Cut

By VERN HAUGLAND

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA. — (AP) — Australian ground troops, supported by planes and artillery, have captured a beach area about 900 yards east of Gona and have pushed on toward Sananda, it was disclosed today.

The Australian attack was launched after a well-coordinated, all-day air attacks over the Buna-Gona area had softened up some of the beleaguered Japanese positions.

The advance (which apparently has cut through the elongated Japanese beachhead to the coast) is believed to have cut off a pocket at Gona holding several hundred Japanese.

START FIRES

United States Flying Fortresses dropped many thousand-pound bombs on the Gona area, starting several fires and blowing up an ammunition dump, and leaving only two small native huts standing.

P-40 fighter planes followed up the heavy bombers' attack with effective divebombing and machine-gun attacks along the Japanese-held beachhead.

(The Australians' drive to the beach presumably would cut communications between the main Japanese centers of resistance, Gona and Buna, some twenty miles to the southwest. Sanananda, toward which the Australians are driving lies about halfway down the curving coast between Buna and Gona.)

Other Flying Fortresses meanwhile rode out stormbreads to bomb four enemy destroyers caught off New Britain. Two ships were hit

See AUSSIES HAND on page 7

Free French Get Island

LONDON — (AP — The French Island of Reunion has joined the forces of Fighting France, General Charles de Gaulle's headquarters announced today, following a bloodless landing upon the island of a force composed entirely of fighting French.

The announcement that the Indian Ocean outpost had aligned itself with the Fighting French followed a Vichy radio announcement that Reunion had surrendered under a two-hour ultimatum presented by "Allied forces".

Contrary to the Vichy report, the de Gaullists emphasized that only Fighting French participated in the operation, which wrested from Vichy France the last of the French Islands under its control.

"Patriotic demonstrations on quays welcomed the arrival at St. Denis of the Fighting French destroyer Leopard on Saturday," the announcement issued here said.

"The only resistance was from a coastal battery on Point des Galets.

"M. Capagorry of the Colonial Services has been entrusted by the French National Committee with administration of the island."

French Submarine Reaches Algiers

LONDON —(AP)— Reuters said the Algiers radio announced that a French submarine reached Algiers this evening from Toulon.

This is the second French submarine reported to have escaped from the German-occupied naval base. Spanish authorities at Barcelona have interned the other, identified as the 592-ton Iris.

Vichy reported the escape of two submarines when the fleet was scuttled and also reported that a third struck a mine parachuted to the sea by a German plane.

Algiers is occupied by the AEF and would offer a haven for any escaping French craft.

Death Toll In Night Club Fire At Boston Reaches 477

Tiny Match Flame in Hands of Busboy Started Terrible Conflagration; Many Injured

BOSTON.—(AP)—State and County law-enforcement officers went into immediate action today to determine whether any law violation had contributed to the Saturday night fire that suddenly converted the Cocoanut Grove Night Club into a house of flaming death for 477 merrymakers.

Moving under instructions from Acting Public Safety Commissioner John F. Stokes, State Fire Marshal Stephen C. Garrity turned over to District Attorney William J. Foley of Suffolk County a preliminary report of the fire that flared from a match-flame lighted by a sixteen-year-old bus boy as he sought to replace a light bulb removed by a club patron.

Meanwhile, a hundred bodies still lay unnamed and unclaimed in the city's morgues, posing a terrific problem of identification to officials who said that many had been burned almost past recognition.

In undertaking establishments throughout New England, preparations were underway for the hundreds of funerals that will carry the bodies of the victims to their graves.

OTHERS NEAR DEATH

Hospitals ministered to more than 150 others trampled and burned patrons—many of whom hovered close to death, in the wake of one of the worst holocausts in the nation's history.

As he entered a conference with the state fire marshal, District Attorney Foley declared,

"if some of the stories I have read are true, there have been several law violations in connection with the operation of the club."

Fire Marshal Garrity's preliminary report embodied information given at inquest, which will be resumed late today, including the testimony of the first Boston fire chiefs to reach the scene.

They testified that the searing flames spreading through paper palm trees and other decorations sent a thousand patrons stampeding in a fighting frenzy toward a few exits. A deputy fire chief told of finding bodies near a closed door whose safety lock—designed to open under pressure—was out of order.

Police Commissioner Joseph F. Timilty, indicated in an interview that under the law, a sixteen-year-old boy "isn't supposed to" work in a place where liquor is sold.

The busboy whose match started the inferno was identified by Deputy Police Superintendent James R. Claflin as Stanley F. Tomaszewski.

The boy related, Claflin said, that he was trying to replace an electric light bulb which had been unscrewed by a prankster in the recently opened melody room of the club when the match flame

See DEATH TOLL on page 4

Guide to Good Reading

SOMETHING NEW IN SERIALS

The News today offers an innovation in the presentation of a newspaper serial story — the picture story of a Book-of-the-Month novel. First selected for this treatment was Anna Seghers' dramatic "Seventh Cross." The first installment is on page 5 of this edition.

* * *

LUDWIG FORSEES HITLER'S DEATH

Hitler will not survive the war, more than likely will be killed by a Junker soldier when German armies have been worn out by the constant pounding of ever-increasing Allied Nations power. Such is the prediction of Emil Ludwig expressed in today's column of "The History We Are Living" on page 2.

* * *

ROCK HILL FAMILY PUTS BOYS IN NOISE

Probably America's only family with three sons on the gallant destroyer Boise, which limped halfway around the world after a damaging run-in-to battle with Japs in Solomons waters, is that of Fred Lee Blackwelder of Rock Hill, S. C. Brenton, Otto and Buster Blackwelder played vital roles in the sea encounter in which six Jap ships were sunk in 37 minutes. The story of this trio, and two other brothers who also are navy men, is told on page 10, pictures accompanying.

Churchill Warning To Italian People To Quit War Stressed Again

LONDON —(AP— Prime Minister Churchill's warning to the Italian people—to get out of the war or expect a "prolonged, scientific and shattering air attack"—was pounded home again and again to the Italians today by the British Broadcasting Corp.

The BBC preceded Churchill's victory speech Sunday with broadcast appeals to the Italians to make a separate peace and followed up by rebroadcasting at intervals the full text of the Prime Minister's 30-minute speech, addressing Germany and France as well as Italy.

GIVEN THREAT

Churchill promised that the war would be carried to Italy "in a manner not hitherto dreamed of by its guilty leaders" and added:

"It is for the Italian people to say whether they want this terrible thing to happen to them or not."

He reviewed Allied strategy on the African and Russian fronts, discussed what he called a "reunion" with France and its "resurrection," and spoke somberly of the portents of 1943 as "ending new tests 'in the face of victory."

"I promise nothing, I predict nothing," Churchill said. "I cannot even guarantee that more successes are now on the way.

"The dawn of 1943 will soon loom red before us and we must brace ourselves to cope with the trials and problems of what must

See CHURCHILL on page 7

Gestapo Chief Reported In Toulon To Handle Fleet Loss Aftermath

LONDON —(AP—Roundabout dispatches reported today that Heinrich Himmler, chief of the German Gestapo, had arrived in Toulon to deal with the aftermath of the destruction of the French Home Fleet by its own officers and men.

The Moscow radio broadcast a Tass dispatch datelined Geneva which said Himmler was at the French Mediterranean naval base while the Nazis were carrying on a campaign to arrest and punish all Frenchmen in the former unoccupied zone accused of opposing the German authorities or belonging to illegal organizations.

Such persons, together with officers who opposed the demobilization of the French Army, will be tried by courts martial, the Tass dispatch said, and may face sentences of death.

The Iris, a 597-ton French submarine, was reported immobilized at Barcelona, Spain, where her crew brought her for refuge after slipping out of Toulon.

She was the only warcraft known to have left Toulon when the French Fleet there was scuttled.

Under international law, the commander of the Iris had 48 hours to make his boat seaworthy and quit the neutral port, but a Reuters dispatch from Madrid declared that Spanish naval mechanics Sunday had boarded the vessel and removed essential machine parts.

"A British radio broadcast heard by the Federal Communications Commission said the crew of the Iris was interned Sunday afternoon).

The Vichy radio said last night that in blacked-out Toulon rumblings of explosions in the scuttled French ships still could be heard.

From the Nazi-controlled Paris radio, meanwhile, came an accusation that Pierre Laval was responsible, if indirectly, for the suicide of the French Fleet.

"Laval's ambiguous policy fos-

See GESTAPO on Page 7

WEATHER

Slightly cooler

Today's Temp.: H. 55; L. 40
Sunset Today 6:12
Sunrise Tomorrow 8:13

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 4B.

For The Newest Thing In Newspaper Entertainment, Turn To Page 5