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GREAT U.S. CRESTS WEST OF TUNISIA

Smash Into Flanks of Retreating Nazi Forces

Germans Thrust Back 12 Miles

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW. — (AP) — Red Army forces were reported driving steadily forward on the plains west of Voronezh today, tearing into the flanks of the retreating Germans who already had been thrust back more than twelve miles, losing 9,000 men killed and captured.

The Germans, using reserves, mounted counterattacks in vain efforts to stem the Soviet advance. The Russians were at points only about 75 miles from Kharkov and Kursk.

The capture of Kastornoye at the crossroads of railways between Moscow and the Dnieper Basin to Taganrog on the sea of Azov was effected by sharp attacks from the north and south of the strongly fortified city. Dispersed German troops were driven out house by house and street by street with bayonets and grenades.

Among the 8,000 enemy troops reported captured overnight on the Voronezh front, some of these were three generals.

Other troops were reported closing in on the important rail and road junctions of Kropotkin and Tikhoretsk.

The capture of the Caucasian cities the spread of a pincer movement around the Maikop oil field provided the most spectacular gains claimed for the Soviet troops in current fighting, but the capture of Kastornoye and the advance in the Voronezh "thrust" center.

Roosevelt Meets Brazilian Leader On Journey Home

President Back on New World—Soil After African Conference

NATAL, Brazil. — (AP) — President Roosevelt, safely back in the Western Hemisphere after his historic meeting with Prime Minister Churchill in Casablanca, conferred here yesterday with President Getulio Vargas of Brazil, largest South American state among the United Nations.

It was the first meeting between the two Presidents since 1936, when Mr. Roosevelt visited Brazil on a South American tour, and came as this republic celebrated the first anniversary of her rupture of relations with the Axis powers.

It was understood that Admiral Jonas Ingram, commander of United States Naval forces in the South Atlantic, and the ambassador Jefferson Caffery sat in on the talks.

Natal, situated on the "bulge" of Brazil, is the main western terminus of Transatlantic plane services operating between South America and Africa. It is the site of an important Brazilian naval base from which the United States Navy operates and likewise the site of a great U. S. Army air base from which American planes take off for far-flung fighting fronts.

Like the conference at Casablanca, the meeting with Roosevelt, a 10-day trip to Natal, in the week to fly to Sao Paulo.

While details were not immediately available, it was presumed the two Chief Executives had an opportunity to discuss Brazil's strategic importance in hemispheric defense.

Meanwhile the White House disclosed last night that Mr. Roosevelt had received a dispatch from Ambassador Vargas in Natal, in which he stated that the President's visit was a "great triumph" for Brazil.

Damage Two Jap Cargo Ships, Two Destroyers

10 Enemy Planes Destroyed

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — In two furious days of fighting in the Solomon Islands, the Navy reported today, American forces damaged two Japanese cargo ships, two destroyers, and a tanker, destroyed ten enemy planes and killed 36 Japanese troops in operations which resulted in the capture of an enemy command post.

Three Japanese were taken prisoner.

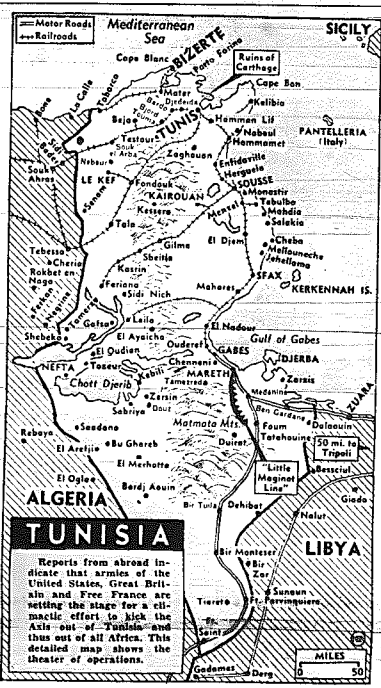
One of the cargo ships which was damaged probably sank. Four American planes were reported missing.

South Pacific Mail dates are East Longitude 170; South Pacific 175; West Longitude 175.

Ground operations on Guadalcanal Island resulted in the capture of a large, well-established enemy command post. Thirty-three Japanese were killed and three prisoners and a large amount of equipment were captured.

During the morning, enemy dive bombers and high-level bombers in complete formation attacked the island.

Four U. S. planes are missing.



Guns Blaze, Foil Break At Prison

Tower Guards Kill One Man and Wound Two Others in Wisconsin

WAUPUN, Wis. — (AP) — Straight-shooting tower guards killed one man and wounded two others today to frustrate the attempted escape of four young convicts from the Wisconsin State Prison at Waupun.

The fourth man escaped injury and got over the 22-foot west wall but was tracked to a private garage by four blocks from the penitentiary. Guards found him hiding under an automobile.

The convict killed was Frank (Big Boy) Bennett, 23, of Milwaukee, who was serving three to thirteen years for burglary, second degree.

He had a small firecracker which he set off, and the sound of the explosion was heard by the tower guards.

Sfax Blasted In Americans' Hardest Blow

Axis Shows Fears of Big Move By Allied Ground Forces

LONDON. — (AP) — The harbor and railway yards of Sfax, a supply port vital for regrouping of Axis forces in Tunisia, were officially declared today to have been hard hit by the 12th U. S. Air Force's greatest raid of the war.

While British Eighth Army anti-aircraft men duelled with Marshal Rommel's rear guard in the Zuara area 35 miles east of the Tunisian frontier.

The Axis betrayed jitters by suggestions that the British First Army already had started a big move in the Tunisian theater, these following unconfirmed reports that preparing an offensive.

The broadcasts had no confirmation and today's communique from Allied Headquarters in North Africa said there is no change in the ground situation.

Axis heavy and medium bombers, escorted by P-38 Lightning fighters, struck Sfax in four waves yesterday, blasted the rail yard and harbor facilities, left many fires burning and shot down two Axis planes which attempted to intervene.

A 12th Air Force spokesman said the number of planes used by the American command was again a single target. The 12th Air Force Command acknowledged the damage was heavy.

Axis troops and vehicles were bombed and shot up in a series of attacks from the Post. De Pans area to the Ouzletia valley and three enemy bombers were reported shot down.

Despite the fact that Rommel's rear guard was not reported to have been in the area of the Dipollitan port, London military sources reiterated the opinion that he would not make a real detour stand before he reached the March 12th.

Well-placed observers said it was not yet apparent that the Fifth Army's operations in the Gafsa-Maknassy area of central Tunisia were of sufficient weight to indicate an attempt to cut between the front and the rear.

These sources said the moves were designed merely as a screen to protect the Gafsa Air port—the best in the region.

Liberia Visited By Chief Executive

Left Churchill at Town in Morocco. One Stop Made on Trip to Liberia

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL
WASHINGTON. — (AP) — Piling precedent on precedent, President Roosevelt is taking advantage of his historic trip to North Africa by stopping off enroute home and conferring with the heads of Allied nations in both hemispheres.

The latest of these meetings came yesterday, when Mr. Roosevelt left Casablanca for Liberia, where he will see President Getulio Vargas of Brazil at Natal, in the South American continent.

While details were not immediately available, it was presumed the two Chief Executives had an opportunity to discuss Brazil's strategic importance in hemispheric defense.

Meanwhile the White House disclosed last night that Mr. Roosevelt had received a dispatch from Ambassador Vargas in Natal, in which he stated that the President's visit was a "great triumph" for Brazil.

There he reviewed American news reports and inspected a plantation turning out war-vital rubber. News of his Liberian visit was contained in a dispatch from Ambassador Vargas, released through the White House, which told for the first time that the President's visit was a "great triumph" for Liberia.

The conference ended Sunday, and Chief Executive and Prime Minister, drove southward to the Atlantic coast, where they spent the night and then they said their farewells to the Liberians.

With one intervening stop, which was not identified, Mr. Roosevelt will reach Washington on Monday.

State Guard May Get Aid

Bill Proposes Nine More Units

RALEIGH. — (AP) — Bills to finance summer encampment of the State Guard, to provide all the men with equipment and to increase the number of units from 42 to 51 were introduced today by Senator Earthing of Watauga and Representative Caviness of Guilford.

Requested by Adjutant General J. Van B. Metts, the measures would appropriate \$3,000 for the nine additional units, \$118,901.95 for equipment and \$103,349.12 for a ten-day encampment.

In addition, Caviness would authorize the use of school buses to carry the State Guard to places of encampment.

General Metts, who appeared before a committee of the State Board of Education today, said that the Guard was responsible now for certain types of civilian protection, since the National Guard had been called into service. Additional units, he said, were needed and would provide their worth in cases of emergency.

A measure similar to one introduced in the House yesterday would carry the State Guard to 51 units, including 10 units for children of disabled or deceased veterans of any World War. Should more units be authorized, the State Board of Education would be authorized to provide for their training.

Australian Plan Scored

Draftee Use Program Called Inadequate

CANBERRA, Australia. — (AP) — A bill to enlarge the geographical boundaries within which conscripts (militia and conscripted soldiers) may serve was offered the House of Representatives today by Prime Minister Robert Menzies, who drew immediate criticism as not far-reaching enough in its effects.

The opposition was led by former Premier Robert Menzies, who described the Curtin proposal as "astonishingly inflexible, parochial and unpractical."

Curtin asked that the commonwealth defense act be amended to permit the service of militia and conscripts anywhere south of the equator in the zone between the 10th and 15th degrees north latitude, but only in such particular areas of this zone as may be specified by proclamation.

Under the law as it stands, the service of enlisted men in these branches of the armed forces is restricted to fill their requirements.

French Not United

Limited Agreement Between Generals

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA. — (AP) — General Henri Honore Giraud declared today that there was no general agreement of any single united French movement at the present time, and that the only agreement between him and General Charles De Gaulle would be only of "diplomacy on military matters."

Giraud, high commissioner for French North West Africa, took a press conference that he had not taken up "the question of politics" with the leader of the Fighting French when two were brought together during the Roosevelt-Churchill conference at Casablanca.

"There is no question of a single united French movement through the world at the present time," he said.

"We are establishing a permanent liaison on critical economic and military questions," Giraud told the conference he was willing to give the Jews in North Africa their property and allow Jewish children in the schools, but added that these moves must be made gradually.

Before the conference the general issued a long statement, much of it in French, in which he said that the discussion with De Gaulle at Casablanca was a preliminary step to others which would be taken.

Speaking of the Jewish question later, he said he had no sympathy with German views thereon but added that the question in North Africa was not an internal one in which the world as a whole has no interest.

Giraud had had asked President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill for substantial equipment for the French army, but he said he had not received a reply.

Says Lend-Lease Aid Has Made Britain Mighty Base For Drive

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — American lend lease aid has made the British Isles "an impregnable base for offensive operations," Edward R. Stettinius told Congress today.

Stettinius, Lend Lease administrator, asked continuance of lend lease aid until July, 1944.

In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Stettinius said a large part of the North African campaign and the Middle East, Italian Africa, Syria and Madagascar offensives stemmed from the British Isles.

Will Draw Up "Draftee Pool"

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — The Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will draw a draftee "pool" for use to fill their requirements.

The new system, announced by Selective Service Headquarters today, is effective Monday. While the drafted men can not be certain which branch of the service will claim them, Selective Service officials said, individual preference will be given the fullest consideration practicable.

A single set of physical standards will be used for all branches of the service and each service will notify the Selective Service headquarters how many men will be needed during a certain month, for example.

"Flying Tiger" Major Saved By Missionary From Death In Tibet

LOS ANGELES. — (AP) — Mal. C. W. Sawyer told today how two native firing squads argued over which man should shoot him, following a Tibetan jungle, and how a missionary intervened and saved his life.

Sawyer was forced down by weather and was taken from the first firing squad by the American "Flying Tiger" in China.

Huge Appropriations Voted By Nipponese

NEW YORK. — (AP) — The Berlin radio, in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, reported that Japan in a Tokyo dispatch that the Japanese cabinet had approved budget expenditures of \$2,400,000,000 for the coming fiscal year, exclusive of sums to be set aside for military purposes.

"The yen was foreign exchange before the war."

Advertisement for a product, possibly a food item, with a small image and text.

Weather forecast section with a small graphic and text: "Today's Temp: H. 84; L. 68. Sun. Today. Sunrise Tomorrow."