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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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ROMMEL IN RETREAT AFTER MAJOR DEFEAT

LIEUTENANT HORNE

Stansbury Horne Reported Missing

Message Received Today From Adjutant General's Office

Mrs. G. S. Horne of 1042 Ardsley Rd. learned today that her eldest son, Lieutenant Stansbury Horne, has been missing in action on the Northwest African front since Jan. 31.

The telegram from the Adjutant General read as follows: "The Secretary of War desires to express his deep regret that your son, First Lieutenant Gilder S. Horne Jr., armored force, has been missing in action in Northwest Africa area since Jan. 31. Additional information will be sent you when received."

The mother of Lieutenant Horne says that she firmly believes that there is hope that her boy is not lost and that he may be a prisoner of the Germans. The young man was in charge of a tank company. Mr. Horne, an official of the Rudane Gas Co., is out of town on business.

WELL-KNOWN

Lieutenant Horne is a well-known young Charlottean. He was an outstanding scholar at Alexander Graham Junior High School and Central High School and took part in a number of extra-curricular activities. He was graduated from Central with the class of 1937 and entered Virginia Military Institute the next Fall. Upon graduation from VMI, with the rank of a second lieutenant, he came home for a two-week visit before reporting for duty in the Army.

He elected to enter the armored forces and went to Fort Knox, Ky., for training. Later he was sent to Fort Dix, N. J. Last June Lieutenant Horne was transferred to North Ireland and has been in Africa since the invasion. He was promoted to first lieutenant sometime after he left this country. His family has had a number of letters from him since his arrival overseas and had no idea anything was wrong until the official notice arrived about 9 o'clock this morning.

Lend-Lease Approved

Extension of Life Is Backed By Committee

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously approved today a measure extending for one year the Lend-Lease Act—mutual aid supply line between this nation and its war partners.

The action was announced by a committee attache who said there was no amendment to the bill continuing the life of the act until July, 1944.

It followed three weeks of hearings during which several amendments were suggested, one of which would have sought to secure American interests in foreign airfields for postwar civilian use.

Reveal Churchill Has Pneumonia

LONDON —(AP)— A bulletin from No. 10 Downing Street, residence of the Prime Minister, disclosed for the first time today that Winston Churchill has been suffering from pneumonia.

Announcing that "there is a general improvement in the Prime Minister's condition," the statement said "the pneumonia is clearing but his temperature is not yet settled."

Bludgeon at Kiev Aimed By Drive of Red Forces

Roll Deeper Into North Ukraine

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW — (AP) — The Red Army smashed deeper today into the northern Ukraine northwest of Kharkov where the capture of Sumy, Lebedin and Akhtyrka fashioned a Soviet bludgeon aimed at Kiev and the important railway junction of Konotop.

Today's midday communique said more strongly fortified settlements were captured as Russian soldiers, racing along muddy roads and across barren black fields, struck west of Sumy, 100 miles northwest of Kharkov, 75 miles southeast of Konotop and 195 miles east of Kiev.

A water barrier also was forced and about 600 Germans killed in the capture of a number of towns north of Kursk, where it was announced last night the Russians had driven to within 40 miles of Orel from the south with the capture of Maloarkhangelsk.

TANKS SURGE FORWARD

Soviet tanks bearing automatic gunners followed by infantry surged westward in spite of Spring thaws as the drive proceeded northwest of Kharkov on a 42-mile front, with Sumy at the north end of the line, Akhtyrka at the south end and Lebedin in the center.

Soldiers and drivers discarded their fur hats and coats to cool their steaming faces in the warm wind blowing from the Dnieper.

In their wake peasants were digging out buried grain and hidden tools and waved joyfully at mud-plastered tanks as they prepared to get Spring planting underway in the rich area.

On other sectors of the long front the Red Army was actively pressing its campaign. A Tass dispatch said the "final outcome is nearing in the Caucasus" and "the offensive in the Donets Basin is gradually coming to a head."

(Soviet dispatches did not mention any fighting in the north, but a DNB broadcast from Berlin said the Russians had launched a "major attack on a wide front" with strong tank and artillery support southeast of Lake Ilmen yesterday. The broadcast said 37 Russian tanks were destroyed.

The German High Command said 10,000 Russians were killed in heavy fighting north of Opel during "vain Soviet attacks." The communique said Russian drives in the Caucasus, Donets Basin southwest of Kharkov and west of Kursk were frustrated and a Soviet motorized guard corps wiped

See BLUDGEON on page 6

25 Poles Executed

LONDON —(AP)—The Polish telegraph agency reported today that the Germans had executed 25 Polish hostages at Grodno, in the Bialystok district, for "armed resistance."

The agency added that the Germans were deporting Poles from the Bialystok district in order to create a so-called "security belt" along the second German defense line which, it said, ran through eastern Poland.

FRENCH SAILORS AND MARINES PARADE IN NEW YORK—While New Yorkers stood five deep on the sidewalks, seven hundred French sailors and marines from the battleship Richelieu and the cruiser Montcalm march up Broadway toward City Hall for an official reception by Mayor LaGuardia and Army and Navy officials. They brought their ships to this country recently from Dakar, French West Africa, to have them repaired—for joining Allied Naval forces.

Hitler in Message

Says His Foes Not Near Their Goal

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Berlin radio broadcast today a proclamation by Adolf Hitler, on the occasion of the anniversary of the foundation of the National Socialist Party, in which he told the Germans that Germany's enemies who "now believe that attainment of their goal is within reach will be terribly disappointed." "Quite to the contrary," said the proclamation, announced in Munich, "the German people only now will call on and employ all their energies in a manner as was never before done for war in the history of mankind."

Hitler was quoted as saying: "I am still in the east so cannot be among you."

The broadcast, recorded by the Associated Press in New York, said the proclamation was read in the Munich Hofbrauhaus by Secretary of State Hermann Esser before members of the party's old guard celebrating the anniversary.

The proclamation said that "we shall consider it a matter of course not to spare foreign lives at a time which is demanding great sacrifices of our own lives."

Hitler first discussed briefly the events of the Winter and declared the Russians had succeeded in the east "similarly as by nature's forces in the past Winter to annul also in this Winter part of those successes which have been scored by the heroism of our soldiers in the Summer."

He then referred to the history of the Nazi Party which, he said, also had "no safe or comfortable road to success."

Bucky Harris Takes On Phils

Named Manager of Last Place Ball Club

PHILADELPHIA — (AP) — Stanley (Bucky) Harris, the "boy manager" of the Washington Senators when they beat the New York Giants in the 1924 World Series, was named manager of the Phils today.

William D. Cox, New York sportsman who purchased the Phils from the National League last week, announced the appointment of the 46-year-old Harris at a press conference.

Harris thus leaves the American League where he formerly managed Boston and Detroit, in addition to Washington, to succeed 60-year-old Hans Lobert as manager of the last place National League club.

Hit Jap Bases And Ground Positions

Furious Attacks in South Pacific Reported By the Navy

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Furious bombing of air bases and ground positions in the South Pacific was reported by the Navy today, in telling of a Japanese air raid on the United States base on Espiritu Santo Island and five United States aerial attacks on Japanese bases.

The series of attacks which began Sunday and continued through yesterday was reported in Navy Communique No. 291:

"South Pacific: (All dates are east longitude)

"1. On February 21st:

"(a) During the morning Japanese planes carried out a light raid on United States positions on Espiritu Santo Island in the New Hebrides.

"(b) During the afternoon Avenger torpedo planes (Grumman TBF) and Dauntless dive bombers (Douglas), with fighter escort, attacked Japanese positions at Munda. Several fires were started in the target area.

"(c) During the night of February 21st-22nd, Japanese planes raided United States positions on Tulagi in the Nggela group of the Solomon Islands.

"2. On February 22:

"(a) A United States search plane, operating near Chesterfield Island, scored bomb hits on an enemy barge loaded with Japanese soldiers.

"(b) During the late afternoon Arracobras (Bell P-39), Corsairs (Vought F-4U) and Lightnings (Lockheed P-38) strafed enemy positions at Rekata on the northern shore of Santa Isabel Island.

"3. On February 23rd, during the early morning, an enemy plane dropped bombs on the air field at Guadalcanal.

"4. During the night of February 23rd-24th, Liberator heavy bombers (consolidated PB4Y) bombed enemy positions at Vila and at Munda in the New Georgia group. All United States planes returned."

Targets in Burma Hit

Japs Retaliate With Raid on Assam

NEW DELHI —(AP)—While RAF bombers continued their attacks on enemy targets in Burma, Japanese planes raided the U. S. Army airbase northeast of Assam, India, yesterday afternoon but did little damage and caused only a few casualties, a British communique said today.

The Japanese raiding force consisted of a small formation of bombers escorted by fighters, the British said.

The communique reported that RAF Blenheims bombed Myaungbaw and Paukkaw, Japanese-occupied villages in western Burma, in daylight.

Two large fires were started at Paukkaw, east of Akyab, the British said.

RAF fighter planes were credited with the destruction of a coastal steamer near Ramree Island, south of Akyab, and enemy railway installations also were reported hit.

Akyab, Pounagyun and Prome were bombed last night, it was announced.

All of the RAF planes returned safely from the raids, the bulletin said.

Britain Determined To Strike Back If Nazis Use Poison Gas

LONDON —(AP)— The House of Commons cheered Deputy Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee's reiteration today of Britain's determination to retaliate promptly against any use of poison gas by Germany.

Attlee was asked whether Prime Minister Churchill's attention had been drawn to a speech by Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels in which the German propaganda minister threatened a radical war exceeding anything imaginable today. The questioning member suggested that the speech, made Feb. 19, might have been a threat to use gas.

"I am not sure that the passage of Goebbel's speech bears the interpretation which you appear to attach to it," Attlee said," but the position of the Government in regard to retaliation in the use of gas was made clear by the Prime Minister in a broadcast statement, May 10, 1942, and remains unchanged."

Churchill's statement said:

"I wish to make it plain that we shall treat the unprovoked use of poison gas against our Russian allies exactly as if it were used against ourselves and if we are satisfied that this new outrage has been committed by Hitler we will use our great and growing air superiority in the west to carry gas warfare on the largest possible scale far and wide against military objectives in Germany."

Churchill said Britain "was resolved not to use this odious weapon unless it is used first by the Germans," but asserted that the Soviet Government had expressed apprehension that the Germans might employ gas.

Yesterday, Reginald Purbrick, Conservative member of Parliament, asked that Churchill notify the German people that Britain has sufficient stocks of death-dealing gas to destroy the whole population of Germany, civilian as well as military.

—Blast Foe In Tunisia—

American Artillery Moves Up To Shell Retreating Germans

By NOLAND NORGAARD

WITH U. S FORCES IN TUNISIA, Feb. 23—(Delayed)—Moving steadily and relentlessly forward over a broad battlefield littered with German and Italian tanks and other equipment, United States artillery moved up tonight to shell German armored forces retreating into the narrow confines of Kasserine Pass.

Ahead of the big guns moved American tanks mopping up a few isolated gun positions left to cover the Axis retreat.

American bombers and fighters roared continuously in high-pitched accompaniment overhead—passing over the battle ground to unload tons of armor - shattering bombs on the already badly-battered Axis forces.

At nightfall, the desert veterans of Rommel's newly-re-equipped Africa Corps and remnants of supporting Italian infantry gave no indication of any plan to make a stand inside the broad Hatab River Valley. American tanks leading pursuing forces encountered no organized opposition.

Plastering of German armored columns and supplies, begun yesterday by American Air Forces, continued during the night and was resumed with full intensity throughout today.

DEADLY CARGOES

In steady succession, 26 bombers roared out across the valley to unload their deadly cargoes. Then

See U. S. GUNS on page 6

Americans & British Beat Enemy Back

Hundreds of Allied Planes Attacking; 8th Army Surging Forward in South

By WES GALLAGHER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP—Marshal Erwin Rommel's Army, badly mauled from a major defeat at the hands of battle-toughened American and British troops, today withdrew shattered armored columns toward Feriana in southern Tunisia under a hail of shell fire and bombardment from hundreds of Allied planes.

At the same time General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army surged with increasing power at Axis defenses in southern Tunisia.

(Earlier dispatches from Allied Headquarters said the Germans had been hurled back to the western end of the Kasserine Gap in western Tunisia—a retreat of at least fourteen miles—and the newest report may mean that Rommel had been forced, or was being forced out of the Pass, toward Feriana, farther south.

BIG ARTILLERY DUELS

(The British radio quoted its correspondent with Montgomery as saying "big artillery duels are taking place between the Eighth Army's spearheads, just a few miles from the Mareth Line, and the Axis guns, probably firing from the main belt of the enemy fortifications."

(A DNB radio report heard by the Associated Press in London said reconnaissance units of the Eighth Army had pushed to the area southeast of the Chott El Djerid, the great salt lake whose eastern extremity is only twenty miles from Gabes on the east Tunisian coast.)

The German chieftain is in full retreat, field reports said today, after his tanks had surged to within three miles of Thala, key road junction to the upper plains of Kremamsa, and his battered armor was reported attempting to make a stand only three miles from the mouth of the twisting gap from which he sallied for his attempts to crack the Allied front in Tunisia.

(Rommel thus had been forced to drop back at least fourteen miles from the highwater mark of his advance. Thala is 25 miles north of Kasserine. The Kasserine Pass is five or six miles long and is notrhwest of Kasserine.

(A Reuters dispatch from Allied Headquarters said a battalion of about 1,000 Italians had been trapped in another

See ROMMEL on page 6

How Nazi Drive Started Ebbing

By HAROLD V. BOYLE

WITH ALLIED FORCES IN TUNISIA, Feb. 23 —(Delayed) —(AP)—The floodtide of German arms, which beat for three days at strategic Thala Pass, began to ebb today.

"I could see it ebb from a ridge two miles southwest of Thala and within mashie shot of the highwater mark of the Nazi advance.

Disheartened by the fierceness of the joint British and American defense, which withstood for two days an all-out air, tank and artillery battering, the Germans and Italians started back down the valley before dusk.

Parting shots from a battery of American 105-millimeter artillery sped them on their way and discouraged the Axis infantry from any last stand on a nearby ridge.

Before debris from the final volley settled, a column of Crusader and Valentine tanks, piloted by British Tommies, rolled over the ridge to blast the German legions retreating toward Kasserine Pass after a week-long drive which gained them thousands of acres of sand and cactus, but failed to cut the Allied North-South supply line.

"How sad," exclaimed an observer standing atop a ridge which was an outpost of the Allied defense, "now we've gone and blasted the Jerry's dream again."

Yes," said a British major, who was viewing the field through glasses—only the right lens of which could be focused, "He does it every time. He's a great fighter when everything is his way, but whenever he runs into anything a bit thick he starts to back away."

When the major was told the left lens of his binoculars was defective, he replied cheerily, "Really, old boy, it only takes

See HOW RETREAT on page 6

WEATHER

Colder tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 74; L. 54
Sunset Today 6:18
Sunrise Tomorrow 7:00

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 6.

...JARY 23, 1943

...ler Says 'Humane'

...foxhole, so he stuck ...ade in its tread and ...n. It blew the tread ...tank was then easily ...

Vandegrift: ...o say, the boy was ...ause it was rather a ...do."

...s easy to underesti... ...my, Vandegrift said. ...s as wrong to "build ...hat he is invincible." ...ese are not invinc... ...clared. "They have ...l in the air, on the ...he sea, and on the ...e is no reason to be... ...merican boys cannot ...defeat him.

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