

Big Stores Burned at Spartanburg

Leader, Sheridan's Gone; Loss \$250,000

SPARTANBURG, S. C.—A fire of undetermined origin this morning completely destroyed the large W. Main St. department store, virtually destroyed the adjoining store and building of Sheridan's Department Store and did other damage tentatively estimated at a total of approximately \$250,000.

The basement of the nearby retail hardware store of Montgomery and Crawford was flooded by several feet of water from the store's sprinkling system, set off by the heat from the fire.

The Backus Department Store, also nearby, suffered slight smoke damage to merchandise and furnishings and had several inches of water in the basement.

Camp Croft and Greenville fire departments sent apparatus and firemen to assist the Spartanburg fire department in fighting the flames.

The fire had smoldered for several hours before breaking out. One of the first persons to notice it was a newspaper carrier en route to the newspaper plant for his morning supply of papers.

Within five minutes after the fire broke into greater intensity and began spreading, the entire leader building was a mass of flames. Great showers of sparks and cinders shot from the burning structure.

Firemen extinguished all of these fires.

Reds Hit at German Lines

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within three miles of it. East of Poznan Soviet troops took a line unidentified place. Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper, said the "Kursk" army, as it called itself, does not exist any more.

It is reported that General Scheridner led his division as the Russians approached. "Keep on retreating," he ordered. "Stalingrad was too frightening a factor as the Soviet troops swept forward."

The Germans had hoped that their lines before Kursk would hold near Shkibin and Tim. When they were smashed last week, anxiety mounted within the garrison.

The Red Army troops then took the station of Zorino, cut the railway at Kursk-Low and stormed into the village of Le Buzhik. The Kursk army's advance posts were knocked back, the Russians said, and at dawn yesterday the Russians reached the suburbs.

The first heavy thrusts at Kursk was delivered from the northeast.

Sandlot Ball Needs 2,000 Empire's Bally

WICHITA, Kan.—Sandlot baseball needs 2,000 umpires by April 1, Gen. S. S. Sizer, high commissioner of the National Semi-Pro Baseball Congress, declares.

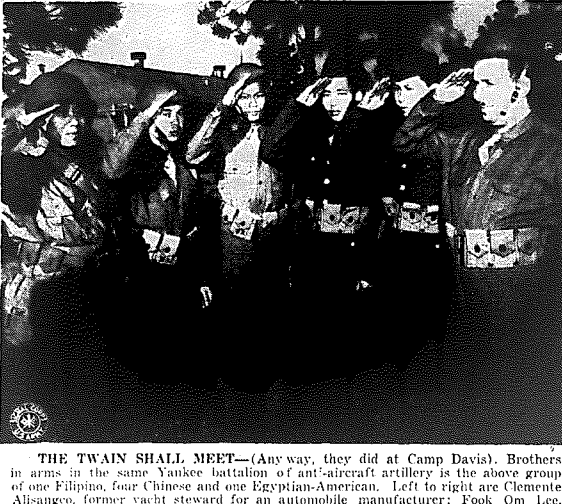
He said the Congress is launching a national campaign to find veteran umpires or men who want to learn the profession.



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The Twain Shall Meet—(Any way, they did at Camp Davis). Brothers in arms in the same Yankee battalion of anti-aircraft artillery is the above group of one Filipino, four Chinese and one Egyptian-American. Left to right are Clemente Allsavage, former yacht steward for an automobile manufacturer; Fook On Lee, Robert Koo, Kum Jew Chin and Gee Men Chin.

Jap Loss In Island Campaign Very High

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and land as well as air forces. As aerial campaign against Guadalcanal which has continued with almost daily attacks for two months has so far failed to stem enemy operations from that base.

The incident which probably sealed the fate of Japanese forces on Guadalcanal came in mid-November when the Japanese dispatched a huge armada from the New Hebrides, including 100,000 troops, to attack the island.

This resulted in a three-day battle with American tank forces and air forces in which the Japanese armada was completely smashed. Such troops as did get ashore from beached transport and cargo ships were apparently landed without supplies or arms and were more of a drain on than a help to the enemy forces already ashore.

From the time that American troops invaded Guadalcanal until the mid-November battle, the American beachhead had been a very small area of land surrounded by the almost solid walls of the time field was within artillery range. It was thus protected by shore fire as well as by a bombardment and occasional bombardment from Japanese warships.

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Another Flurry

Around the first of February it appeared that a major new enemy effort to recapture Guadalcanal was under way. A Navy communique indicated this was indicated in the extensive sea and air activity against the Solomon islands and the results of that activity have thus far not been announced, except insofar as they may be indicated in the enemy's withdrawal from the island.

In the period from August to mid-November, the Japanese made reinforcement movements into Guadalcanal almost daily. On several occasions their activities resulted in sea battles in which the

The Weather

WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 9, 1943

Sun sets today, 7:00 a.m.; sun rises tomorrow, 6:14 a.m.

TEMPERATURE Report 8:00 48 2:30 43 10:00 46 8:30 41 11:00 43 9:00 39 12:00 36 11:00 33 1:00 30 12:00 28 2:00 26 3:00 24 4:00 23

PRECIPITATION Total for 24 hours ending at 8 A. M. for local 0.10, normal 0.12, excess 0.02

Fire His Elkin Dairy ELKIN—Fire destroyed the dairy building at Elkinville, N. C., today. The cause of the fire was not known. The property is owned by Thurmond Quantman of Winston-Salem and Elkin, now a lieutenant-commander in the Navy.

Japs Quit Guadalcanal

Withdrawal From Island Admitted

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The Japanese forces were under pressure by the enemy but the latter's moves were checkmate (checked) and the transfers of the aforementioned Japanese forces were concluded in an orderly manner.

LOSSES GIVEN "The results have been ascertained today and losses in the foregoing operations were as follows:

"First, losses inflicted on the enemy: more than 25,000 troops destroyed; more than 230 enemy planes shot down or destroyed on the ground; more than 30 gun destroyed and more than 25 enemy tanks set afire and destroyed.

"Second, our damages: 1,673 troops killed or died from illness and 139 planes destroyed on enemy objectives or not yet returned.

The Japanese figures for Allied losses are much higher than those indicated by United States authorities. General MacArthur said Allied casualties in the Papua campaign were less than half the Japanese, who were believed to have lost at least 15,000 men.

Guadalcanal becomes the first major island to be wholly retaken by the Allies from the Japanese, who, until the Marines landed there last August, had remained almost without check their conquests in the Southwest Pacific.

SUGAR COAT NEWS

The effects of the Tokyo announcement on the Japanese people is likely to be profound. Although an effort was made to sugar coat the bad news, even the docile Japanese people should be able to recognize that the long, uninterrupted chain of victory announcements has been broken.

NAZI MARSHAL VISITED

We were taken to see Field Marshal Friedrich Von Paulus, the commander of the obliterated Sixth Army. He looked thin and stooped and bitter. He was quartered in an unheated wooden house outside the city. He kept his eyes fixed beyond us as we stood there. His eyes twitched nervously as he gave brief answers to the few questions asked by a Soviet officer.

Paulus and two of his staff members were living alone except for Don Bakus, a Red Army sergeant who was called to the house and seemed very happy over the occasion.

Other German animals were quartered in similar houses in the same area—Lieut. Gen. Schellmer, a member of the 14th Tank Corps, complained about the rations and a Soviet sergeant who was being investigated.

Lieut. Gen. Von Daniel, commander of the 30th Infantry and a veteran of the first World War, was asked how the Red Army fought.

"The Red Army always fights well," he answered.

The mission of Major Von Dreber, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, asked why the Soviet Union was being ordered to hold a certain line after that.

"The Germans then surrendered later," he said.

The Red Army came from the north. We were out of it. We had no food, no water, no air.

Cards May Lose Jimmy Warner

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—The St. Louis Cardinals may have been forced to lose Jimmy Warner, pitcher, to the Navy yesterday.

Warner, scheduled to report to the Navy for training after a big year with Fresno in the California State League, is the next in line to be called by Chief Baseball Executive Branch Rickey to join the sea service.

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New U. S. Blows At Jap Bases Loom

Continued from Page One

By air and general reconnaissance," Knox said, "there was no significant number of Japanese in any one group. Several groups were surrounded and cut off from supply and ammunition."

Knox's belief that Guadalcanal was now entirely in American hands except for very small scattered groups which may not have been able to get to a debarcation point apparently marks the end of a campaign which began on Aug. 7, at a time when it was feared that the steady southward surge of the Japanese would, unless quickly checked, cut vital American lines of communication with Australia.

The enemy could have used Guadalcanal and the nearby harbor at Tulagi as a base for direct submarine and air attacks on Australian shipping or could have struck at important American bases, notably those in the New Hebrides and New Caledonia.

Yanks Capture Nazi Patrol

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one German who wanted to fight it out.

"There were two Germans in the ditch long ago. I thought they were dead and called one of my men to come over and examine them," Dean said.

"While I was standing there, one of them raised up with his rifle in his hand. I didn't give him a chance to get into action. I put a couple of bullets into him right quick. The other one came out in a hurry, screaming and with his hands up."

After the prisoners were rounded up, Lieutenant McGee took them back to the American lines with them and part of his force under Second Lieutenant Robert Mullen of Concord, N. H., was sent against the deserted village of Goubault, where other Germans were suspected hiding.

"I spread my platform out in the formation because we didn't know what we would find," Mullen related.

NAZI SHELLS FIRED "But as we made our way across flat country, a German artillery opened up with a terrific barrage."

"There was nothing we could do but bury our noses in the ground. They had shells all around us. Several men were scratched or had their clothing torn by shrapnel but only one was badly wounded."

"One thing that saved us was that there were a lot of ducks on the barrage," Mullen added. "That was the work of the fifties column in Germany we saw during Europe 11 here to say I appreciate it."

PATCH ESTIMATE

Knox recalled that when he was on Guadalcanal Jan. 21 the commander, Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, had estimated that there were about 4,000 to 6,000 enemy troops still in existence there.

"We were pretty well satisfied

Sales Tax Plan Is Up

Bill Would Pay Part Of Tax To Merchants

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against vote. Representative Lumpkin of Franklin said, but whether it is to be controlled. The plan would have a 10 percent rate, he added, because it otherwise would not function properly. Representative Lizee of Rowan said there had been no trouble in handling regularly procured amendments with synthetic wines. A leading minister in his community, he said, had endorsed the wine control bill after reading it carefully.

A motion by Representative Spruill of Bertie that all the proposed amendments to the table passed 56-43. Then Representative Umstead offered an amendment to provide that wine of 14 to 20 per cent content, known only in grade "A" establishments, it passed on voice vote.

Meanwhile, the Legislature received assurance that careful consideration would be given its petition asking removal of price ceilings on "only hogs." The resolution, adopted last month, explained the petition would be sent to North Carolina farmers who feed swine on peanuts and soybeans.

Laurie's resolution suggested that tobacco price ceilings be computed on the buyers' averages and not by individual baskets or bins.

The Pitt lawmaker said representatives of farm organizations would appoint a committee today to take the resolution to Washington for presentation to the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of Price Administration.

The Caviness "wine control" bill, from this reading debate by other bills, was scheduled for action today in the House calendar for possible action today.

Senator Greg Cherry of Gaston introduced a bill authorizing the issuance of \$15,000,000 in State Highway bonds, with proceeds to be used following the war for repairing and constructing highways, easements and bridges. The measure was offered both to provide post-war employment aid to restore the State's Highway system to pre-war condition. The State Treasury would be authorized to issue the bonds "from time to time."

RANGERS IN SERVICE

NEW YORK—New York Rangers, who failed to win a hockey game in thirteen straight starts, lost two full teams to the Canadian armed forces.

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