

ARMY MOVES IN FRONT SMOLENSK

RUSSIAN FIRST ARMY MAKES ADVANCE

Ridge Taken In North; Axis Patrols Hit in South

Allied Artillery Routs Vehicles

By DANIEL DE LUCE
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS
NORTH AFRICA—
(AP)—The British First
Army in Northern Tunisia,
advancing in the Sedjenne
area without meeting resistance,
has occupied a strategic
wooded ridge, and some
Allied forces and artillery
support have routed strong
enemy patrols of armored
vehicles in the Gafsa area, 200
miles to the south.

An Allied Headquarters commu-
nique which announced these
successes on the ground, also told
of an outbreak of new fury in the
struggle for air supremacy in
Tunisia.

The artillery action in the area
of Gafsa was accompanied by
heavy raids on Mersaouir Air-
drome, 68 miles northeast of
Gafsa, in which the British air-
field and a number of parked
planes were blanketed by burst-
ing bombs.

ATTACK CONVOY
"Heavy bombers" continued to
threaten the Axis air force line
across the Sicilian straits, and in
an attack on a convoy scored a
direct hit on the lead ship.

The Western Desert Air Force,
with activity confined to patrol-
ing along the Mersaouir line
positions facing the British Eighth
Army, also conducted sweeps
among Axis transport north of
Toujane.

Toujane is a strong point of the
Mareth Line.

British infantry, which pre-
viously had failed to clear out
the German elite troops from the
forested high ground four miles
southeast of Tameria in the Sed-
jenne area, also advanced again
yesterday and found the enemy
had withdrawn to new positions
protecting the road to Sedjenne.

Sedjenne is about 40 miles west
of Blertre and only about twelve
miles south of the Mareth line.

French forces with American
guns turned back the patrols of
enemy armor which were advanc-
ing between Gafsa and Metlaoui,
twenty miles to the west, where
the French were consolidating re-
cently won positions in that min-
ing region.

The Mersaouir airdrome 50 miles
southwest of Sfax was hit in two
raids of less than five minutes.
Two motorized bombers, one with
lighting and Spitfire escort first
sprinkled fragmentation bombs
from one end, and the other, with
other and among twelve single
and twin-engine aircraft.

Twin-engine aircraft followed
immediately and reported hits
among ten to twelve enemy air-
craft believed to be Junkers 88
two-engine bombers. Clouds of
smoke drifted from the field.

The communiqué said five Axis
fighting planes were shot down
yesterday, four of them during the
raid on the Mersaouir airdrome.

On the other hand, the Allies lost
two planes during the raid.

In successfully dispersing strong
patrols of enemy armored vehicles
in the Gafsa area, the Allies evi-
dently were continuing their pres-
sure on the middle reaches of
Axis coastal corridor. They aban-
doned Gafsa at the start of Mar-
shal Rommel's central Tunisian
offensive last month, however, yes-
terday the French announced that
they were consolidating their po-
sitions east of Metlaoui, only
about twenty miles west of Gafsa.



BATTLES ON TWO FRONTS IN RUSSIA—On the central front (top map), massed Russian troops (shading) forced westward on a drive aimed at Smolensk. Meanwhile, on the southern front (bottom map), Nazi forces had recaptured Kharkov. The solid lines represent the approximate battlefronts at present.

De Gaulle Meet Held

Consider Invitation Of General Giraud

LONDON—(AP)—General Charles
De Gaulle announced his Fighting
French National Committee to a
special session today for quick
consideration of General Henri
Giraud's invitation to discuss de-
tails for the union of all French
forces now opposing the Axis
powers.

It was expected an announce-
ment concerning the Fighting
French would be forthcoming
at the end of the meeting.
De Gaulle spokesman declined
to make any comment beyond
their assertion last night that
Giraud's action was "encouraging."

OUTBREAK FACTOR
Informed quarters expressed be-
lief, however, that current out-
breaks of sabotage and opposition
to Nazi law decrees in France
had become a major factor in
the efforts of the two French
groups to reach agreement.

French authorities here appar-
ently believed that the situation
in France was highly critical and
that a Giraud-De Gaulle fusion
may be preliminary to furnishing
aid to the French partisans in
Africa.

It was pointed out in Algeria
that the features to which Gen-
eral De Gaulle alluded in his
speech were:

See DE GAULLES on page 7

Dairy Workers Quit Work

Protesting AFL Moves

PORT HURON, Mich.—(AP)—
Approximately 80 non-union drivers
and employees of nearly a dozen
dairies here ceased work today,
cutting off milk supplies in this
city.

Delivered to homes, restaurants,
war plant cafeterias, groceries and
other retail outlets were halted.
The group continued deliveries to
the city hospital, and dairies were
struggling to provide milk for
hospitals and nursing homes.

Clarence R. Smith, spokesman for
the non-union drivers, said:
"We are satisfied with their jobs
and working conditions. They want
to continue without outside inter-
ference."

The Associated Press Monitor
who recorded the broadcast said
could not recall the German raid
ever broadcasting a "no raid" bul-
letin heretofore.

Sirens Wail In Chungking

CHUNGKING—(AP)—Air raid sirens

wailed again today in bomb-
scared Chungking as 34 Japanese
planes were reported heading toward
the Chinese metropolis. The
city, with no raid materialized and
the all-clear was sounded after a
half hour.

This provisional Chinese capital
last bombed on Aug. 31, 1941.
There have been severe air raids
in recent weeks but they have proved
unsuccessful.

See TUNISIAN on page 7

Eastern England Raided By Nazis

Germans Strike Back After RAF Attack on Airfields in France

LONDON—(AP)—Striking back after the RAF had
bombed German airfields in France at dusk, the planes ad-
vanced several localities in Eastern England last night in
raids which the Berlin radio said centered on Grimby at
the mouth of the Humber River.

About twenty German aircraft
were said to have participated in
the thrusts, but not more than
half of these were believed to have
actually crossed the British coast.
The British reported that at least
four and possibly five of the enemy
raiders had been shot down, and
the Germans acknowledged the loss
of at least two.

LIGHT DAMAGE
Authoritative sources said the
German raids caused only light
damage and no casualties.

The RAF report last evening was
aimed at the airfield at St. Brice
in Normandy and was carried out
by a formation of Ventura bombers
escorted by Spitfires, the Air Min-
istry said. One bomber was re-
ported lost.

This raid, the communiqué
said, followed a daylight attack
by German fighters on the British
shipping off the Dutch coast,
during which an armed trawler was
set afire.

The fact that no British raiders
were seen Germany last night was
news on the Berlin radio, an an-
nouncer reading a bulletin report-
ing that the German raid had been
successful.

The Associated Press Monitor
who recorded the broadcast said
could not recall the German raid
ever broadcasting a "no raid" bul-
letin heretofore.

Wished To Die American- But Time Is Too Short

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(AP)—Canadian-
born George Washington Dunn, 69,
whose failing health prompted him
to speed his naturalization so he
could die an American citizen, was
sitting on the front row in U. S.
District Court waiting for the judge
to grant him citizenship today.

A hush filled the courtroom. The
judge was coming in. Dunn was
seated in the front row.

A heart attack struck him.
He died, a Canadian.

Nazi City's Devastation: Martial Law In Bombed Essen-Trains Evacuating Thousands

STOCKHOLM—(AP)—The great
German industrial city of Essen
was put under martial law as a
result of recent destructive
bombing raids by the Allies.

It was reported that the city
had been hit by a series of heavy
bombs which had caused the death
of several thousands of the popu-
lation.

The paper said that many Es-
seners had been killed. It was
necessary to set up new ones
immediately—even if it is only
to replace the dead.

It was reported that the city
had been hit by a series of heavy
bombs which had caused the death
of several thousands of the popu-
lation.

Police and Troops Hunt For French Guerrillas

Nazi Ultimatum Defied By Youths

By THOMAS F. HAWKINS
AT THE FRENCH FRONTIER
IN SWITZERLAND—
(AP)—Motorized French po-
lice led by German SS troops
deployed into the hills of
the Swiss border today in a hunt
for several thousand well-armed
French youths who had de-
fied a Nazi ultimatum to sur-
render.

All last night and today the
police and troop units rolled
along the roads into the valleys
and up into the hills but they did
not appear so far to have made
contact with the insurgents who
were said to number at least 5,000.

The youths, rebellious against
the German labor draft, were re-
ported led by former French of-
ficers and generals.

BANDS BOMBED
(London reports said the French
bands were being bombed by Ger-
man planes. Three of the planes
were reported destroyed—two
been shot down.)

Some of the youths were
gradually trickling back to
their homes despite their earlier
defiance, because they
lacked food and had been per-
suaded by their parents that
resistance now is futile.

Some said they had expected
the second front to open and when
it did not they felt it was impos-
sible to go on alone. Those re-
turning home were sent immedi-
ately to Germany.

Lyons continued as the center for
SS and German troop action. The
troops circled blocks of houses
viciously and granted no quarter
to the men who were sent immedi-
ately to deportation centers.

Information from Geneva
spoke of "nothing more," in-
dicating that the resentment
See POLICE on page 7

Thousands Walk Out Of Ford Aircraft Building

DETROIT—(AP)—Protestion in
the Ford Motor Co. Rouge plant was
suspended today, a company spokes-
man said, after a group of employ-
ees walked out in protest against
the disciplining of
seven United Automobile Workers
(UAW) shop committeemen.

The men disciplined, the spokes-
man said, were accused of engaging
in a fight with plant protection
employees last week. The actions
were said to have resulted in a
discharge to two-month layoffs.

See TAX BATTLE on page 7

13,600 British Casualties Suffered At El Alamein

LONDON—(AP)—The British
Eighth Army suffered 13,600 casu-
alties in the battle of El Alamein,
Egypt, from which Marshal Erwin
Rommel began his long retreat to
Tunisia, Sir James Grigg, British
retail, said today in a written re-
ply to a question in the House of
Commons.

Axis casualties in that battle were
30,000, including 7,000 prisoners, he
added.

He estimated the Axis forces at
80,000 Germans and 45,000 Italians
when the battle started.

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Central Front Gain Made But Kharkov Lost

Appear To Have Established Strong Line East of City, However

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW—(AP)—The Red Army is continuing to
smash westward toward Smolensk the German key base of
the central front, and also appeared today to have estab-
lished a strong line east of Kharkov after announcing the
loss of the Ukraine city recaptured only Feb. 16.

Four spearheads are aimed at Smolensk from an ar-
ranging northward from Vyazma and one of the new-
est and most spectacular successes was that reported by a
column surging forward from Kholm-Zhirkovsky, west of
the upper Dnieper River.

The troops pushed the German
ward, chasing the remnants of the
German divisions, front line dis-
patches indicated.

The Soviet Union commu-
nique stated that "more than
one" of the Russian westward
south of Vyazma and that
the German spearheads were
toward Smolensk said that "our
troops already have advanced
several miles east of Vyazma."
This may be an advance on
the part of the Red Army.

No specific figures were given
last night for the Red Army advance
units were this movement but from
current reports and their last
position it was reasonable to
assume that the Red Army
was about 30 to 40 miles from
the base.

THREAT TO KYANKA
The Russian advance also offered
a threat to another German base,
Kyank, with some troops fighting
still holding south of Vyazma.
The railway station of Kyank
captures the railway station of
Mityukovsk-Zavod, on the Vyazma-
Bryansk railway 30 miles north
of Bryansk. This is the closest
point the Red Army has approached
that vital railway line.
The advance from Kyank-
Zavod represented the first time
in any Russian offensive since the
beginning of the war that the
Soviet had reached and recaptured
the Bryansk River, the great
western Russia.

Now they are fighting in an area
where forests are covered
streams and roads typical of
the whole sector from Vyazma
to Smolensk.

STRONG RED FORCE
The Russian advance in this
in this advance was not reported
but it was apparent here that
the Red Army was making a
move which had pushed
westward of Rzhys.

The fate of the captured
station in Rzhys was not
remained a question. There
was reason to believe that
there were many soldiers
20,000 inhabitants who did not
get away.

There was no official Soviet
explanation for the capture of
Rzhys but recent Russian com-
munique said reports had de-
clared that the Red Army had
continued heavy fighting
in the Rzhys area with great
serves launched against the city.
A writer in
declared "Hitler's front divisions
looked Kharkov but did not
the battle."
The correspondent said that in
the gloomy days of retreat
and Supreme Command
Stalin had led the youth to
people, and in the days of
the pointed out that the army

Lines Drawn Up For Tax Battle

Republican Leaders for Ruml Program While Democrats Oppose

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Party lines were drawn up for
the House of Representatives today for a pay-as-you-go tax
battle which may echo in 1944 political campaigns.

Republican leaders were lined
up for and Democrats opposed the
plan making pay-as-you-go
income tax year, with both sides
predicting a finish fight on the
floor.

Democratic leaders met and de-
cided to support a tax collection
system without any abatement,
as approved by the Ways and
Means Committee.

The Republican Steering Com-
mittee already had decided to go
all out for the pay-as-you-go
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Map Fight Against Subs

Agree on Best Methods Of Defeating Menace

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Members
of the American, British and Cana-
dian High Command have
reached "complete agreement," the
Navy announced today, on the
best methods of defeating the
Axis submarine menace in the
Atlantic.

The decisions were made at a
conference here under the chair-
manship of Admiral Ernest J.
King, Commander-in-Chief of the
United States Fleet. It was said
in a communiqué issued simultane-
ously with identical announce-
ments in London and Ottawa.

SERIES OF MEETINGS
The meeting was described as
one of a series "which have been
held since the outbreak of the war
to provide co-ordinated action by
the forces of the three nations com-
bating the undersea offensive against
Allied supply lines to Britain,
Russia and Africa."

In London, Prime Minister
Churchill told the House of Com-
mons earlier today that the cur-
rent campaign against the U-boat
inspired full Allied co-operation.

The joint disclosure of the re-
cent conference said "a complete
agreement was reached on the
policy to be pursued in the
Atlantic and in the best method
of employing the Allied effort
in defeating the U-boat
menace."

There was no explanation from
the Navy as to why, since such
meetings have been held for some
time, there should be announce-
ment of the recent session now,
but speculation included the possi-
bility that this might be both a
means of reassuring the United
Nations as to the co-ordination of
the anti-submarine resources of
the Atlantic powers, especially in
view of the fact that there has
been considerable activity recently
for the creation of a unified
anti-submarine command under
one officer.

Japs in Balkans Said To
Have Been Called Home

ANKARA, Turkey, March 15—
(AP)—Reports have been received
here today that 16 Japanese na-
tionals, now living in Bulgaria,
have been ordered home by their
government.

They were expected to reach
Turkey in a group during the next
two weeks and proceed home across
Russia.

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Weather

Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday, March 16, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Wednesday, March 17, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Thursday, March 18, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Friday, March 19, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Saturday, March 20, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Sunday, March 21, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Monday, March 22, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Tuesday, March 23, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Wednesday, March 24, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Thursday, March 25, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Friday, March 26, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Saturday, March 27, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Sunday, March 28, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Monday, March 29, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Tuesday, March 30, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Wednesday, March 31, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Thursday, April 1, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Friday, April 2, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Saturday, April 3, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Sunday, April 4, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.

Forecast for Monday, April 5, 1943:
Partly cloudy, with light rain
in the afternoon. Temperature
in the 40s and 50s.