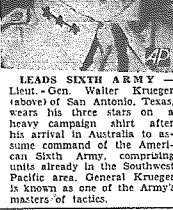


AMERICAN ALLIED SUBTROPICS

Wedge Driven In Axis Lines By Americans

About 1,400 Italians Captured; Eighth Army Presses Mareth Attack

By DANIEL DE LUCE ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP)—American armor drove a wedge into Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's last defense...



LEADS SIXTH ARMY — Lieut.-Gen. Walter Krueger (above) of San Antonio, Texas, wears his three stars on heavy campaign shirt after his arrival in Australia to assume command of the American Sixth Army...

The battle of Tunisia, which Prime Minister Churchill announced last night was under way and going well, found Rommel's southern forces squeezed into a coastal strip of barely 70 miles separating the correlated drives of Montgomery and U. S. Lieut.-Gen. George S. Patton Jr. from the south and the west respectively.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP)—Military dispatches said today the British Eighth Army attacked the Mareth Line on a six-mile front between the sea and the main road from Medenine to the village of Mareth, and encountered strong opposition.

In the north, Col. Gen. Jurgen Von Arnim's troops drove a British First Army detachment from Nefta Station, which lies 47 miles southwest of Bizerte and about two miles northwest of the Djebel Abiad, but the dominating heights of the Djebel Abiad were covered by a new British line.

This was a mere sideshow to the mammoth Allied ground and air offensive which threatens to encircle Rommel in the south.

(A British radio broadcast said the powerful aerial action with which the British Eighth Army opened its attack on the Mareth position "was very much like the beginning of the battle of El Alamein," dust storms and rain clouds which had hampered operations for days vanished Saturday, it said, and the all-out onslaught was launched in clear weather.)

CAPTURE ITALIANS — A column of General Patton's forces thrust due east from El Guestar mopped up Bou Hamran, eight miles nearer the coast, and captured more than 1,000 Italian prisoners. Heavy shell fire by American batteries forced some of them to surrender.

American casualties in the operation were surprisingly light—one source said they numbered no more than 80—but ambulances shuttled from the front to base hospitals all day carrying Axis wounded.

American troops are now at grips with the last Axis defenses guarding communication routes on the coastal plain.

(Both Italian and German communiques, broadcast from Berlin and Rome and recorded by the Associated Press, said violent air and ground battles were in progress. The German bulletin was phrased to imply that Nazi troops were not under fire, saying, "strong British-American forces attacked Italian positions in south and central Tunisia.")

"A violent battle on the ground and in the air is developing," the Nazi High Command reported.

(The battle of supply, the Axis reported—without confirmation from Allied quarters—the sinking of three merchant vessels and an escort craft in the Tripoli harbor by See ALLIED on page 6

Renew Italian Attacks VALLETTA, Malta—(AP)—A British communiqué announced today renewed attacks on Southern Italy and Sicily last night by Allied infantry and armor units. The attacks, which included railway stations and shipping were "effectively cannoned."

Great Losses Inflicted Upon Japanese Shipping CHUNGKING — (AP)—Allied submarines inflicted great losses on Japanese shipping on the sea lanes between Shanghai and Nagasaki, Chinese dispatches said today. The Yashio Maru of 6,143 registered tons and the Kobo Maru.

WEATHER Heavy to blizzard from tonight; temperature about 28 degrees.

Today's Temp.: H. 40; L. 32 Sunset Today 7:36 Sunrise Tomorrow 7:52

Long Silence Is Broken In Address By Hitler

Says Crisis in Russia Ended

LONDON — (AP)—Adolf Hitler emerged yesterday from a 133-day silence which had given rise to rumors of his illness or death to tell the German people in a broadcast the crisis on the Russian front had been surmounted, assure them their losses in war dead were relatively small, and yet admit that many parts of Germany had become "war zones" as a result of incessant Allied bombing.

In one of the shortest and most subdued speeches he has ever delivered the Fuehrer told a German war dead Memorial Day gathering at the Zeughaus (Military Museum) in Berlin, the fourth such assemblage since the war began, that 342,000 German soldiers had been killed since the start of the conflict.

Premier Josef Stalin has set the total of German dead at Eastern front at 4,000,000, and Germany's own admissions of losses in their own month-long battle at Stalingrad would appear to make Hitler's total figure for two years of war unduly low.

Hitler told his people the Army, despite its losses, was being rapidly retrained by additional classes of service men and the return of wounded men who had recovered.

HOME PRODUCTION — "The production at home, spurred by the new 'total mobilization' of the German people, was rising as a result of the utilization of German youth and hundreds of thousands of women and girls.

"Thanks to the sacrifices and heroism of our soldiers on the Eastern front we have succeeded in overcoming the crisis definitely into which our Army had been plunged unexpectedly."

He assured his listeners: "Our front has been stabilized and we have taken measures which will insure that our military success will find final victory is achieved."

While again picturing Germany as the bulwark of Europe against an incursion from "inner Asia," he failed to repeat specific assurances before the signing of the Russian Armistice, and produced nothing to allay the anxieties of March 16, 1941, that "England will fall."

His closely guarded personal appearance before military officials was surrounded by a heavy guard of Nazi dignitaries was not even revealed over the air until 50 minutes before his scheduled appearance. Delivery of his speech was then delayed a further twenty minutes, apparently as a precaution against Allied air raid such as those on Jan. 30 which marked the anniversary of the party's rise to power.

Hitler's failure to appear at that meeting gave impetus to rumors abroad of his death or incapacity. The rumors have since been refuted by his appearance and his confusion into speculation as to whether Hitler might have been deposed or relinquished his command.

See HITLER on page 6

Coal Dispute Federal Intervention Anticipated

NEW YORK — (AP)—Spokesmen for the Southern coal operators and the United Mine Workers have announced that they expect the imminent entrance of Federal controllers into contract negotiations involving bituminous fields.

Appearance of a Government expert at this stage was described yesterday as "a logical possibility" by Edward H. Burke, president of the Southern Coal Producers Association.

K. G. Adams, editor of the Mined Journal and a union spokesman, said that if Department of Labor conciliators appeared it would be nothing unusual; in fact, would follow the pattern of all mine wage disputes. He added that sometimes the conciliators entered the conference on their own authority "when it appears that a settlement is not in sight."

F. R. WROD — The operators last week sent telegrams to President Roosevelt and various Government officials which were understood to carry an implied request for Federal intervention.

To date the negotiations have produced a statement by John L. Lewis, UMW president, that soft coal mines would be idle April 1 if the operators failed to agree to a contract to replace the current one due to expire March 31.

This was followed by a UMW proposal to soft coal operators outside the Appalachian region offering uninterrupted production in those mines and the operators agree to accept any wage increase before the end of the month.

Mutual insults led to many of the Germans pulling their revolvers out of their holsters and firing at each other. "Tolerance declined," it was the second report of disturbances at the Rex since the beginning of the strike.

Enker said American bombers, more heavily armed and capable of greater loads of explosives, were expected to be used in the future. "They will be put into combat as fast as they arrive."

Major union demands are for a 32 a day wage increase, an 88 daily minimum for all who work in the coal fields and unionization of mine bosses below the rank of independent.

RAF in Widespread Attacks in Burma NEW DELHI — (AP)—RAF bombers bombed the Japanese front yesterday and fighters shot a Japanese position near Lanchangbaung in the east side of Burma. Myit Peninsula, in widespread operations from which all aircraft returned with a British communiqué said today.

Enemy aircraft damaged Pen Air force base in northeastern Bengal and caused a small number of casualties," it added.

Trains Attacked By RAF In France

Assaults on German Communications in Area Continued

LONDON — (AP)—British Whirlwind bombers damaged the important railway viaduct at Morlaix, in Brittany, scoring several hits and starting a fire as the RAF continued its attacks on German communications in France over the week-end, the air Ministry announced yesterday.

Fourteen freight trains were attacked during the sorties, which were carried out Saturday night and all the Allied planes returned, it was announced.

Reports from various sources continued to pour in, meanwhile, of the damage done to Nazi-occupied Europe during recent Allied bombing attacks.

The Berlin radio, in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, said last night the two recent heavy Allied bombings of the Nazi submarine base at Saint Nazaire had demolished 80 per cent of the houses in the French port town and left another 20 per cent uninhabitable.

Flying Fortresses and Liberators hit the town and U-boat installations in a daylight raid Feb. 16 and the RAF dropped 1,000 tons of bombs on the night of Feb. 23.

BLOW AT BERLIN — Stockholm sources reported the huge Allied bombing blow at Berlin, predicted 20 Democrats would be homeless and declared that a direct bomb hit had been scored on the sprawling stone building which houses Field Marshal Goering's Air Ministry.

These same sources estimated the dead at closer to 2,000 than the 580 reported by the Germans.

Prospect of additional U. S. Air Force blows at Germany was opened up by Maj. Gen. R. C. Baker, commanding American forces in the European theater, revealed crews were being trained for night operations on German targets, even though most U. S. raids would continue to be made by daylight.

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Hitler at Russian Front, Nazis Say

Berlin newspapers on March 17 published this picture purporting to show Adolf Hitler near the front lines in Russia. DNE, German news agency, said Hitler flew to the front and held discussions with his officers. The German caption identified the men as left to right, Field Marshal Fritz Erich von Manstein, Colonel General Ruoff, Hilmar, General Kurt von Zeitzler and Field Marshal Ewald von Kleist.

Germans in Gun Fight

27 Killed in Paris Movie House LONDON — (AP)—A revolver fight between two groups of German soldiers in a Paris movie house which 27 Nazis were killed and seventeen wounded was reported today by Bernard S. Townes, secretary of the United Association of Great Britain and France.

Addressing a meeting at Epson College, he said the fight occurred about two months ago between German troops stationed at Paris, and troops reportedly on leave from the Russian front.

He did not give his source but said they were attending a movie at the "Kino Soldaten," formerly the Rex Theater. Men of the Paris garrison, Townes said, applauded news pictures, but the troops who had experienced setbacks on the Russian front, "tried out the pictures were not true."

Mutual insults led to many of the Germans pulling their revolvers out of their holsters and firing at each other. "Tolerance declined," it was the second report of disturbances at the Rex since the beginning of the strike.

Rail Town Captured In Drive of Red Army

Push Toward Smolensk

By EDDY GILMORE MOSCOW — (AP)—The Red Army has captured the railway town of Durovo, 57 miles east of Smolensk on the main line from Moscow, and the Russian column driving southward toward the rail line from Bely has made new progress, the Russians announced today as the battle for the Donets River line southwest of Khar'kov grew in ferocity.

Durovo was occupied by the same Russian force which broke through the German defenses at Vyasma, cracked the Nazi front so long pointed threateningly at Moscow. The advance was made in the face of repeated German counterattacks that cost the Germans heavy loss in men and material, the military communique said.

The Russians on the march south of Bely seized two strongly fortified German positions, the communique said, and in one place moved in over the bodies of 275 Germans.

LOSS CONCEDED — After conceding the loss of Belorod, 50 miles north of Khar'kov, last night, the Russians reported today they were holding Susevskiy east and southeast of the city in the area of Chugivur. The Germans have tried repeatedly to cross the Donets River and continue their advance, but each time they have been thrown back by the Red Army defenders, it was said.

A Pravda dispatch reported that several settlements in the Chugivur region were continuously changing hands as the Red Army stiffened its resistance and the fighting increased in ferocity, Soviet artillery, Pravda said, had forced the Germans to change their tank tactics.

Large enemy tank forces are now being broken up into small groups which operate simultaneously, searching for weak spots and trying to elude Soviet fire, the newspaper said. Soviet guns still are knocking out the German tanks, it was said. Soviet cavalry is successfully pursuing enemy machine-guns.

Pravda reported that early this week the central front had greatly hindered the Russians in their efforts to cross the upper Donets and dislodge the Germans from their river strongholds. Nevertheless, the midnight communique said that twelve more settlements on the western bank of the river had been captured.

Pope Suffering From Bad Cold

By ASSOCIATED PRESS A Vatican City dispatch broadcast by the Berlin radio today said that Pope Pius XII is suffering from a severe cold and is confined to his bed with a high fever.

Possible bronchitis and lung complications are the chief concern of his illness, he was suspended, the report said. The Berlin radio was recorded by the Associated Press.

Canvass House In Effort To Round Up Votes Against Ruml Tax Plan

WASHINGTON — (AP)—Democratic leaders began today a formal canvass of the party's House membership designed to head off a potential coalition of a segment of Democrats with Republicans that might avert House passage of the Ruml plan to skip an entire tax year in putting income taxpayers on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Representative Ranspach of Georgia, the Democratic Whip, said many Democrats still have an "open mind" on the tax issue and some are confused by the controversy over the Ruml plan and the Administration tax collection bill, drawn by a majority of the House Ways and Means Committee.

The tax debate begins Thursday. Representative Knutson, Republican, predicted 20 Democrats would join the Republicans to pass the skip-a-year proposal. He said he could find no more than six Republicans who would vote against the Ruml plan.

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