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Yanks Capture Maknassy; 8th Army Strikes

Britons Sweep in Wide Arc Around Mareth Line and Are Mile Inside It

By EDWARD KENNEDY ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA

AP—American armored forces have captured Maknassy in a slash toward the sea to cut Axis communications, an Allied headquarters communique announced today, and field reports said parts of the British Eighth Army had swept in a wide arc around the Mareth Line and were now many miles inside it.

While the Americans, under Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., stabbed to within less than 34 miles of the Gulf of Gabes, continuing east past Maknassy, other forces of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army swung a mighty frontal blow at Marshal Erwin Rommel's Mareth Line.

The German radio in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press in London acknowledged that U. S. forces had pushed east of Maknassy but claimed that they had been halted in the mountains at an undisclosed point.

The communique said the operations there were going ahead on schedule despite a bitter contest being put up by Axis forces which yesterday attempted a powerful counter-attack. This was repulsed.

The Associated Press said 1700 Axis prisoners were captured in this operation by mid-day yesterday.

The force which swung in a sweeping movement around the southwestern flank of the Mareth line now faced a strong German concentration of tanks and artillery at El Hamma, twenty miles west of Gabes.

LASH AT ENEMY Allied Air Forces yesterday smashed fiercely at this concentration, the communique announcing that at least 32 enemy tanks were hit and at least nine of them destroyed.

All indications were that the Germans would make a desperate effort to prevent General Patton's armored column from reaching the coast and in fact there were all signs of a big counter-attack impending in this sector.

Patton's column which had branched off from Gabes to El Guetar was now moving along the southern road into Maknassy after 100 miles.

Reports from the American front this morning said the Germans had reached the Mareth line in a desperate effort to keep open the narrowest corridor.

Most of the prisoners captured in this operation were taken by Montgomery's German units.

The Eighth Army units which launched the coastal attack along the Mareth line had now fought their way across the Wadi Zlitan north of Maknassy, and through a complicated terrain system supported by cross fire from machine-gun pools which had been established.

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Another report alleges that an Allied general staff communique filed on April 23, 1943, had failed to disclose that the British Eighth Army had captured Maknassy, and that the British Eighth Army had established a bridgehead through the main enemy position of the Mareth Line, it was announced officially tonight.

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Follows Up Heavy Raid By Yanks On Nazi Center Wilhelmshaven Attack Target

LONDON—(AP)—Squadrons of the RAF's big bombers smashed at the German submarine base at St. Nazaire last night in the wake of a heavy assault on Wilhelmshaven by American Flying Fortresses and Liberators yesterday.

British Whirlwind fighter-bombers also blasted railway targets in Brittany during the night's operations, which cost the loss of one plane, an air ministry communique said.

OFFENSIVE RESUMED The assault on St. Nazaire and Wilhelmshaven represented a resumption of the Allied air offensive against the nest from which Nazi U-boat raiders have been striking at vital United Nations supply lines.

MISSISSIPPI HERO DECORATED—Major Algene E. Key (right) of Meridian, Miss., receives the Distinguished Service Cross from Colonel John H. Hayden of Tampa, Fla., at an investiture held in the hangar of a U. S. airfield somewhere in England.

AMERICAN PUSH Clears Out Japs Steady Guinea Infiltration Costs Enemy at Least 700 Dead

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA—(AP)—The entire Mambare River valley area on the northeast coast of New Guinea 40 miles north of Buna and within 100 miles of the important Japanese base at Salamaua is in the control of Allied ground troops after a steady infiltration which has cost the enemy at least 700 dead and over 100 prisoners, Allied headquarters announced today.

Many other Japanese are believed to have lost their lives of starvation and disease, the communique said, in the American push through the swampy river valleys of the Ambak, Kumul and Opi, which were cleared of enemy troops during the current advance.

REDS TURN Back Nazi Efforts To Cross River Continue Drive On Smolensk

BY EDDY GILMORE MOSCOW (AP)—Battling numerically superior forces of Germans who continue to pour up to the front in long columns, the Red Army of the northern Donets pushed back every German effort to cross the waterway in force, while on the central front the Russians continue to drive toward Smolensk, it was announced today.

The Red Army also held its lines in the face of another tremendous German push north of Zhidzira, 40 miles north of Bryansk on the central front where the Nazis had numerous big tanks and divebombers in operation over a sandy terrain similar to that around Pskov, U. S. S. R.

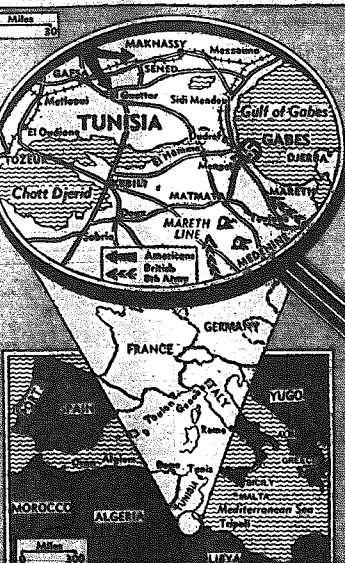
Red Star said heavy German attacks in this area opened up early this morning with massed artillery fire and were supported by big tanks and motorized infantry which crossed the sandy soil as readily as across the deserts of Africa.

ACT TO KEEP Mines Open Union, Operators Offer Counter Proposals

NEW YORK—(AP)—In the wake of President Roosevelt's request that negotiations for a new contract be continued after April 1, the United Mine Workers Union and Northern soft coal operators of the Appalachian area offered counter proposals today under which mines would be kept open and negotiations continued after the expiration of the present contract March 31.

The Northern operators agreed to the miners' proposal that any increase of hour improvements be made upon April 1 be retroactive to that date, but bucked the UMW proposal that a time limit of 30 days after April 1 be set for negotiations.

Citing the President's telegram to union and operators' negotiators yesterday, in which he asked for uninterrupted coal production after the contract expiration date, the operators presented a resolution stating that pending completion of negotiations, the terms and conditions of existing contracts shall remain in effect.



ON AFRICAN FRONT—Chances of the southern Tunisia front where General Patton's American forces and the British Eighth Army are driving toward Gabes shows network of roads and key towns here. Chott Djerid, a great salt marsh, dries up in March and becomes a hard, flat bed that can be crossed by tanks and trucks. American troops were reported today to have occupied Maknassy.

Pacific Is Quiet But May Erupt May Be the Calm Before the Storm, Declares Secretary Knox

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary Knox said today the Pacific was very quiet at the moment, but "this may be the calm before the storm."

STEEL PLATE Tests Faked Probe of Carnegie-Illinois Practices Underway

WASHINGTON—(AP)—J. Lester Perry, president of Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., testified today that the "higher management" of his company was in no way involved in a "ruse" to carry out prescribed testing procedures on steel plate ordered by the Navy and others from the firm's Irvin, Pa. works.

Perry appeared before the Truman Committee hearings today on the special Senate Committee investigating the war program.

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VIERECK Indicted German Propagandist Faces Charges

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Otto Viereck, German propagandist, was indicted today on six counts including violation of the Foreign Agent Registration Act, specifically that he failed to disclose that he was acting for the Nazi Foreign Office in this country.

Viereck recently was freed from the District of Columbia jail after serving a year on a previous conviction of violating the Foreign Agent Act when the Supreme Court ordered a retrial on the ground of error in the judge's instructions to the jury.

Another general strike announced the new indictment and was indicated at the Justice Dept. that the government was willing to eliminate any possible weakness which might be encountered in a trial on the old charges.

Canadian And British Troops End "Mock Invasion" Operation

LONDON—(AP)—A ten-day "mock invasion" operation employing the greatest number of men, planes and tanks ever used in a military exercise in Britain has just been completed by Canadian and British troops, with the "invaders" triumphant in a swift sweep which employed revolutionary new tactics.

BRITISH RAID On Tobruk Failed Because Axis Knew About Attack

By FRANK O'BRIEN ANKARA, Turkey, March 22 (Delayed)—(AP)—The British Commando raid on Tobruk last Sept. 16 failed disastrously because Axis defenders were alerted by a spy network which had advance information about the raid, it was reported today by Prime Minister Churchill's spokesman in London.

Light in heavy fog followed by rising temperature

Today's Temp. H. 61 F. Sun. Today Sunrise Tomorrow