

THE NEW AMERICAN CONQUERED BY GERMAN

Allied Airmen Pursue Remnants Of Jap Convoy

ALLIES MAINTAIN PRESSURE IN TUNISIA

Axis Positions Are Pounded By Big Guns

Blows Struck in North While Pursuit of Rommel Continues to South

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Allied forces maintained their pressure on the enemy in northern Tunisia yesterday and their heavy artillery inflicted considerable damage on Axis positions north of Beja and east of the crossroads town of Sedjenne, a communique said today.

Expanding their holdings in pursuit of Marshal Erwin Rommel's defeated armored forces, Allied vanguards "pressed on to the south and southeast of Beja," the captured rail town 125 miles southwest of Tunis.

The communique reported there was little activity in the central sector and said only patrol activity was developed by the British Eighth Army, which is pressing upon the March line.

Allied troops bested small thrusts by the Axis in northern Tunisia, spokesmen said, while Allied planes bombed and shot up

enemy troop concentrations at several points, knocked down five Axis fighters and a bomber and heavily attacked Tunisia and the nearby harbor of La Goulette.

Heavy artillery of the American-supported British First Army shelled enemy positions, while infantry and vehicles advancing on the road four miles east of Sedjenne, twelve miles from the coast, and the enemy withdrew after losing four armored cars.

Another small infantry attack was thrown back five miles north.

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Meat Rationing Is Expected In April

Cheese, Butter, Cooking Fats, Oils Also May Be Affected April 1

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Meats, cheese, butter, cooking fats and oils will be rationed beginning April 1, it was reported today, under current plans of food and rationing agencies.

The sources for this information, who withheld use of their names, said the red coupons of the No. 2 ration book would be used and that meat rations probably would run about 1-3/4 pounds per person a week.

Price Administrator Prentiss Brown told reporters that plans to start rationing of meats, cheese and other commodities would be discussed at a press conference later.

Plan Meat Ceilings

Will Set Prices on Pork and Beef

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown announced today uniform, community-wide dollar and cent ceilings on pork and beef will be established shortly in an effort to break up black markets in meat.

Brown's disclosure was made to a Senate agriculture subcommittee which has heard natters complain that many independent are being forced out of business by a squeeze between ceiling prices on meat and rising, uncontrolled prices of live hogs and cattle.

PRICES VARY

Black markets have been operating, Brown said, because under present ceilings, meat retailers are permitted to charge the highest prices they received for various meats last March, thus varying the ceiling price from store to store and making it possible for those charging higher prices to pay a premium for black market pork and beef.

The new ceiling, fixed for each community, will be accompanied by an acceleration of a drive to convince the public that purchases

stay away from their war production jobs.

FOR ANY SORT OF CURB

"I wish to state to the committee," Knox said, "that whatever the loss of the meat supply may be, I am heartily behind any action that can be done to reduce it."

"I feel that there is no place in the whole naval establishment for a chronic absenteeism, and steps have already been taken to remove them from our employ after the new year of inducing into military service men who willfully

Knox Protests That War Plant Absenteeism Causes High Loss

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary of the Navy Knox testified today he had received reports that time lost in war plants was "many times greater than the time lost due to strikes or shutdowns," and that such loss of time and production had been "increasing during the past year, rather than decreasing."

Knox appeared before the House Naval Committee during consideration of a bill to create a new agency by requiring war contractors to report work absences to draft boards, with the new law inducing into military service men who willfully

Workers Give Day's Pay In Red Cross Campaign

WALTHAM, S. C.—(AP)—Five hundred employees of the Lonsdale Company, a textile firm near Seneca, today volunteered to give a day's pay toward Oconee County's \$1,600 quota in the war fund campaign of the American Red Cross.

It was disclosed that Dr. Robert E. Wilson, chairman of the Economic Committee of the Petroleum Industry War Council meeting suggested informally yesterday that the ban be lifted as soon as stocks on hand warranted.

Dr. Wilson told the council that public co-operation in the quarterly campaign had been "surprisingly good," according to a Government official who attended the session but went on to say that the Government, if it wished to get similar co-operation in future campaigns, should lift the prohibition as soon as the increased urgency of the situation warranted.

This gave color to a report that the A coupons might be cut to as low as two-dollar value in the East when and if the restriction is removed. The OEA spokesman said this, too, was in the realm of possibility but was far from being a settled decision.

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Jap Armada Blasted By Bombers of MacArthur

Widely-Scattered By Attacks

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA—(AP)—The crippled and widely-scattered remnants of a fourteen-ship Japanese convoy, smashed by Allied bombers and fighters yesterday, staggered through the fog-shrouded Bismarck Sea today, locked the enemy base at Lae, New Guinea, with General Douglas MacArthur's planes relentlessly on its trail.

At least four transports and cargo vessels of the original armada of seven Japanese warships and seven merchant ships have been sunk or damaged, and thirteen Japanese fighter planes out of the number of 30 or 40 that tried to provide protection to the convoy have been shot out of action, Allied headquarters said.

"One has to hold the position," a headquarters communique said.

The bulletin said a 10,000-ton transport had hit five times and left awash in flames; an 8,000-ton transport had been sunk after breaking in two; a 6,000-ton transport was directly hit on the bow and a smaller vessel was damaged and set on fire.

STAY THROUGH HAZE

Allied fighters and attack bombers, with a fleet escort of P-38 fighters, stabbed through murky haze, thick clouds and rain to deliver their blows in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire and Japanese fighter planes.

Other hits were scored against warships and cargo ships, results of which have so far been impossible to assess, the communique said. Pilots reported a near hit on a Japanese light cruiser.

General MacArthur's army also pounded Lae, bomber and attack planes punishing the airframe area.

At the same time his bombers attacked the Japanese base at Sombawa Islands, northeast of Australia, destroyed an ammunition depot and the arrival of German bombs at Wide Bay, New Britain, and smashed at the Gasmata, New Solids, which was an air-attack base, the communique said.

Elated pilots who participated in

See JAP ARMADA on page 7A

Report Hitler-Duce Meeting

BERN, Switzerland—(AP)—A Stockholm dispatch to the Lagen newspaper Corriere Del Ticino said today "it is reported from Rome that before the arrival of German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop in Rome (last Wednesday), Mussolini met Hitler in an Italian-German border locality."

"Following this first meeting," the dispatch said, "the two leaders continued the conversations."

The dispatch said that the German Foreign Minister left Rome Sunday night on a dispatch plane, and that the meeting was reported by Hitler and Mussolini to other newspapers or Axis radio stations.

Driving May Be Allowed

Lifting of Ban About March 22 Considered

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown said today lifting the license driving ban in the East about March 22 is "under consideration" but that no definite decision has been made.

Brown made this statement to a reporter shortly after an OPA spokesman had said that the possibility in saying, however, that no date or action has been decided on.

Speculation has centered on March 22 because that is the deadline for expiration of the present period four coupon, worth three gallons in the Atlantic Seaboard states.

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See RAF ATTACKS on page 7A

British Attack Western Germany

Nazi Fail To Retaliate for Monday Night's Raid on Berlin

LONDON—(AP)—Objectives in western Germany were attacked again last night by the RAF, the Air Ministry announced today, acknowledging that three Allied aircraft were missing after the seventh successive night of raids on continental targets.

The Ministry did not identify last night's targets. It said also that mines were laid in enemy waters.

The Berlin radio announced that British air raiders were over western Germany last night and the German-controlled Paris radio told of attacks on occupied France.

WEATHER BAD

The Berlin broadcast said that comparatively few planes participated in the raid on Germany and spoke of bad weather over the continent. The Germans acknowledged, however, that the RAF raiders had caused some casualties and damage to buildings. They reported one British bomber shot down.

Contrary to expectations, the Germans failed to retaliate for Monday night's smashing RAF raid on Berlin by striking back at London.

See RAF ATTACKS on page 7A

On Tunisian Battle Field: Nazi Crews Desert Tanks While Foot Soldiers Break And Run

By WILLIAM KING

ON THE NORTHERN TUNISIAN FRONT, March 2—(Delayed)—German tank crews deserted their machines on the field of battle, and their infantry broke and ran in the rolling green valley north of this village, which has been subjected to a four-day assault from massed German strength.

I reached the battlefield, which smelted of burning vehicles and acrid explosive materials, just before dark.

Mark VI tanks blasting like bonfires illuminated the hill and the wrecked hull of another Nazi tank stood out in dim outline of a nearby ridge.

While there was a reconnaissance vehicle returned with a report that a company of Germans was seen to be completely destroyed by a mortar artillery barrage.

Even after dark the crack and whistle of British artillery continued putting round after round on the road which the Germans must use if they plan to take their vehicles out of this area.

As I stood beside a huge Churchill tank discussing the battle with

elated major several groups of prisoners led by to the rear with their long overcoats making an unfamiliar silhouette against the blackening sky.

"We started this war well," an English-speaking officer prisoner was heard to say to one of his captives.

As we drove back one of the German war cars called to one of the guards:

"How many have you got?"

"Just stacks of them, sir," he answered.

Groping their way forward in the darkness, they were seen to be NAZI CREWS on page 7A

Fast Ended By Gandhi

21-Day Hunger Strike Concluded in India

NEW DELHI—(AP)—Mahatma Gandhi, 73-year-old Indian nationalist leader, ended a 21-day hunger strike today, saying his fast was broken by the British by a glass of orange juice at 9:30 A. M. today (Monday), FWT, Reuters.

A communique announcing the end of the fast said that Gandhi was well and showed signs of strain but was in good spirits.

In contrast to public ceremony, which many members of his immediate family very present, Aga Khan's palace at Poona to take part in singing and prayers as his self-imposed ordeal brought to a conclusion.

MEDITATION

Two minutes were spent in meditation before Gandhi accepted the orange juice, representing the first nourishment he has taken in three weeks, except for small quantities of water and lime juice.

Six doctors who attended him throughout the fast will remain on hand to maintain a close watch over Gandhi during his convalescence.

With the end of the fast, Gandhi reverts to his status as a political leader, a responsibility which permitted him to receive visitors being withdrawn. Only his relatives will be permitted to see him as long as he remains under detention.

This was made clear by a communique issued by the Government of India, which said:

"On the termination of Gandhi's fast arrangements for his detention and that of other political prisoners detained at the Aga Khan's Palace which, during the fast will now be required to be maintained in a state of tension and nursing as may be necessary will continue for the time being."

The wily little Hindu leader has been confined in the palace since last Aug. 9, when his last fast was broken by a British rule, which ended a long period of civil disobedience campaign against British rule. He embarked on his fast Feb. 17 following an announcement of correspondence with the viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, in which he had demanded an end to the violence resulting from the campaign and asked that he be released.

At the start of the fast Gandhi had said:

See FAST ENDED on page 7A

Fourth Term Idea Broached

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Some Democratic National Committee members broached the idea of a fourth term for President Roosevelt at a White House meeting today, Chairman Franklin D. Walker said it was not a serious presentation and also that it "got no response" from the President.

A committee consisting of officials and members of the National Committee called on the President and Walker said "two or three" of them spoke of a fourth term.

Walker said he did not know whether the President had heard the remarks about another term, and he declined to say whether Walker said it was not a serious presentation of the issue.

Nazi Allies Hard Hit

Moscow Radio Paints Picture of Losses

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Moscow radio, in an English-language broadcast reported by the Federal Communications Commission today, summarized the losses of the German army and navy, and declared:

"Hitler is ready to keep on fighting down to the last round and the last man."

The FCC recording listed the

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Withdraw To Shorten Line Against Reds

Nazis Announce Troops Have Left Town 130 Miles From Moscow

LONDON—(AP)—The German High Command in a communique broadcast by the Berlin radio announced today the evacuation of the town of Rzhev, 130 miles west and slightly north of Moscow, saying German forces withdrew according to plan in order to shorten the front line.

The announcement of the Rzhev evacuation was read over the radio first as a DNB dispatch and about ten minutes later a cryptic message was read saying that this had been "withdrawn."

About a half hour later, however, the original announcement was repeated, this time the source being given as a communique.

London military sources declined to speculate on just where the shortened line might be established but some observers said they thought it might go back to Smolensk, establishing a front running northwest from Smolensk to Vellie, and southeast to Bryansk.

As long ago as Aug. 31 the Russians announced that they had crossed the upper Volga west of Rzhev and pushed on, all but surrounding the heavily fortified town at the tip of a very narrow salient pointing at Moscow.

VICTUALLY IN RUINS

At that time Rzhev, a twelfth-century city was virtually in ruins with houses burned and brick and stone buildings mostly battered down, Moscow dispatches said.

The standing walls served as machine-gun and artillery positions for the heavily fortified town.

Up to that time Rzhev had been fortified by the Germans for six months and two strong defense lines had been thrown around the city, one of which the Russians broke when they entered the northern sector. Besides the fortifications as an obstacle to military attacks, the city has swamps and bogs in the vicinity.

The Germans announced today at the same time that Russian attacks on the Kuban bridgehead, in the Caucasus and German positions in the Mius River sector west of Rostov had been repulsed.

To the north of there, in the Tsimmer sector southeast of Kharkov, the Germans claimed that they had repulsed the middle Donets "on a broad front."

In announcing the withdrawal of the Rzhev salient, the German High Command said:

"The town of Rzhev was evacuated in accordance with the plan."

See GERMAN on page 7A

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Weather

Cold wave tonight; lowest temperature about 12 deg.

Today's Temp. 11, 42; 1st Sunset Tomorrow Sunrise Tomorrow

Additional L. & W. forecasts will be found on page 7A

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