

# TWO RED COLUMNS MOVE ON VYAZMA

## German Base Threatened By Red Drives

Westward Push for Russian Army Legions Continues

By EDDY GILMORE  
MOSCOW.—(AP)—The Red Army rolled on westward today with fresh Soviet troops pouring into gaps in the German lines far west of Ghatask and south of Olenino where two Russian columns apparently are planning the doom of the important German base at Vyazma, 35 miles west of Ghatask.

The advance of more than a hundred miles was reported in the last 24 hours while most others are falling continuously and still others are blocked by the Red Army and on the way of falling.

Winter weather is still holding its strong grip on central and northern Russia. During the day the fast climbing sun soaks the low layers of snow and ice, the shadows fall from the clouds and the sun is seen.

Two large Red Army forces are pushing forward from the German lines and converging in the area northwest of Olenino. The advance is being made by the Red Army and on the way of falling.

## Yank Bombers Raid Jap Burma Bases

Join RAF's Assault and Sink or Damage Three Jap Cargo Ships

NEW DELHI.—(AP)—Big bombers of the Tenth U. S. Army Air Force, joining the RAF's assault on Japanese bases in Burma, have sunk or damaged three Japanese cargo ships in Rangoon River, started a huge fire in Moulmein and damaged the approaches to the vital Myittha bridge south of Mandalay, an Air Force communique said today.

## Dr. Watkins Succumbs

Death Takes Hospital Superintendent

MORGANTON.—Dr. F. B. Watkins, for five years superintendent of the State Hospital here, died early this morning at a Rutherford hospital.

Dr. Watkins was 64 years of age and had been on the medical staff of the hospital for 33 years. For 28 years, before becoming superintendent, Dr. Watkins was assistant superintendent. When he became superintendent he was elected to succeed Dr. John McCannell.

Within the last year Dr. Watkins was involved in a sweeping investigation of the hospital and his administration at Morganton as a direct result of a series of newspaper articles written by Tom P. Johnston and published in "The News".

As a result of the investigation, ordered by Governor Broughton, a number of changes were made immediately at the institution and others have been approved in legislation enacted during the present session of the General Assembly.

## Pacific Fleet Men Getting Set To Go After Japs In A Big Way

By NORMAN BELL  
WITH THE PACIFIC FLEET—A widespread feeling is apparent among crews of the fleet that the war has entered a new phase with Navy task forces at last free from the burden of guard duty and getting ready to go after the Japs in a big way.

The attitude, growing since Navy successes in the Solomon and our entente capture of Guadalcanal, is that the triumph of the American fleet is now a matter of time. The fleet is now being trained for the big battle that is expected to take place in the Pacific.

## Manpower Problem Is Attacked on Broad Front

Men Over 38 Given New Status

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The critical manpower problem was attacked on a broad front today as reliable reports made clear that Administration leaders still hope to meet farm labor needs without cutting down on the armed forces.

Over the week-end: A Special Service announced a four-point program for draft administration of farm workers and men over 38 were ordered reclassified in a move to get them into farm work or possibly into the armed services.

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It was stated on high authority that the White House committee, headed by Senator Charles McNary, is working on a bill to give men over 38 a new status.

## May Delay Tax Filings

Justifiable Cases

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Extensions up to 30 days in filing income tax returns because of the war situation have been granted in justifiable cases, Senator Gillette, Democrat, Iowa, said today.

He added that the bill, which would give men over 38 a new status, is being considered by the House.

## Bread-Slicing Ban Will Be Lifted Soon

House Committee Takes Action; Will Decide on Ruml Plan

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The House Ways and Means Committee approved tentatively today the source collection feature of a pay-as-you-go income tax system, including a 20 per cent withholding levy against the taxable portion of pay envelopes and salary checks.

Chairman Doughton, Democrat, North Carolina, said the committee endorsed the action of a subcommittee which worked out a method for pay-as-you-go collection against America's \$40,000,000 individual income taxes.

The subcommittee by-passed the issue of a new tax on the 25-member Ways and Means Committee, Representatives Gearhart of California and McLean of New Jersey, voted against approval of the subcommittee report.

## U. S. Bombers Raid in France

LONDON.—(AP)—United States heavy bombers raided Rouen and Rennes today, it was learned today.

Reinforcements in Britain, it was learned today, are being moved to the Channel coast to meet the expected invasion of France.

## Heavy Losses Inflicted By Eighth Army

33 Nazi Tanks Destroyed Without Loss of Single British Tank

By HAROLD V. BOYLE  
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA.—(AP)—March 5.—Eighth Army has completely failed and "Round one is over" with his tanks and infantrymen in retreat toward Mareh Line positions north and northwest of Medenine, a competent military source said today.

"Round one has been won by the Eighth Army," he added. General Sir Bernard Montgomery's men, after stopping two German tanks Saturday morning, disrupted four more thrusts in the course of the afternoon and forced Rommel to withdraw into the hills, it was announced.

Noted by ground fire and bombardment, the tanks of the Eighth Army were destroyed while not a single British tank was lost, it was announced.

The heavy action of the southern front of the Tunisian desert, which was accompanied by aggressive Allied tank activity and tank units in the desert, was reported today.

Two German tanks were destroyed by British tanks, it was reported today. The British tanks were reported to have been destroyed during the day, while "none of our aircraft is missing," it was reported.

American tanks, in two series, captured 33 Italian tanks and 1,000 motorcycles, it was reported today.

Authorities said, however, that other United States patrols had been reported to have been destroyed during the day, while "none of our aircraft is missing," it was reported.

Allied air forces were credited with a contribution to the stemming of the attacks Saturday. The attacks were reported to have been stopped by the Allied air forces.

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## Not Sending Island Food

Maritime Cuts Off From U. S. Supplies

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The United States Maritime Commission today announced that it had decided to cut off food supplies to the Japanese islands.

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## Approve Source Tax Collections

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## Morganton Sergeant, Who Took Part In Japan Raid, Heads Home

By THORNBURN WILANT  
NEW DELHI.—(AP)—Technical Sergeant Adam R. Williams, 23, of Morganton, N. C., who helped in the Japanese raid upon Japan last April 18 and later became the outstanding top-turret gunner on the China Air Task Force, was headed back to the United States today, grinning from ear to ear.

Broad shouldered and clean cut, Williams had a good trip home. He is to become a gunnery school instructor.

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