Not War—Only Defeat—Destroys the Freedom Of Men And The Privileges Of Democracy

Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

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ALLIES MAKE PROGRESS IN TUNISIA

REDS STORM AT GATES OF NOVOROSSISK

COMEDIAN TAKES KEG TO COURT — With a small rubber keg under his arm, Movie Comedian W. C. Fields appeared in a Los Angeles court to defend a $20,000 suit brought by Harry Yadkoe, who charged he offered Fields a snake story and some gags in 1938 which the comedian used and didn't pay for. The keg, said Fields, contained "snake medicine—in case of an adverse decision."

Hammer To Drive Nazis From Kuban Bridgehead

First Full War Maps Published

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW — (AP) — The Red Army, in a sweeping Winter offensive now ended which is officially declared to have resulted in the killing of 850,000 Germans, has pushed its lines almost to Velizh, 70 miles northwest of Smolensk on the central front, and within about fifteen miles of White Russia, war maps published in the official press disclosed today.

Hammering hard to drive the Germans from their Kuban bridgehead in the Caucasus, the Russians have advanced to the eastern gates of Novorossisk, the Black Sea naval base, are practically at the front doors of Straya Russa in the Lake Ilman area and are but twelve miles east of Taganrog on the Sea of Azov west of Rostov, the maps disclosed.

The maps were the first full war maps ever printed in Moscow of the long Russian front.

Publication of the maps came after a special communique last night announced the end of the Winter offensive in which it was said the Germans lost 1,193,525 men, including 850,000 killed and over 340,000 captured, and in which the Russians regained 185,328 square miles of their territory and captured or destroyed 5,000 German planes, 9,190 tanks and 20,360 guns.

NAZI DRIVE

(The German High Command in a communique recorded by the Associated Press from the Berlin radio declared the Germans had launched thier own offensive south of Lake Ilmen.

("In knee deep mud and breast-deep water our troops fought their way to their objectives, threw back an enemy group in the swamp and destroyed it," the communique said. It claimed the capture of 270 prisoners, the killing of 1,235 Russians and the destruction of 26 tanks. The front elsewhere was quiet, the communique said, except on the Leningrad front south of Lake Ladoga.)

Red Star, printing its first full page map, disclosed that Soviet gains were greater in some places than had been believed by observers.

Velizh, still held by the Germans, is about 60 miles southeast of Velikie Luki. The Russian captured Velikie Luki on the central front early in the Winter and then began enlarging their gains southwest. Velizh is only about 45 miles from Vitebsk which is on the Smolensk-Riga railway.

The map showed the Russians were only about 36 miles from Smolensk at the nearest point where they were just northeast of Yartsevo, a rail station on the Moscow-Smolensk line.

CLOSE IN ON OREL

The Red Army also has closed in on Orel, 200 miles south of Moscow, until it is only 30 miles east of that key objective.

Both Orel and Smolensk therefore are almost within range of big Soviet guns, while Taganrog on the Sea of Azov is well within range.

BOMBER READIED TO GO AFTER ROMMEL AGAIN—Back at its Tunisian base after a mission over Axis-occupied territory, this big U. S. bomber takes on more fuel and ammunition preparatory to paying Rommel's troops another visit.

French Forces Moving On To Smash Axis

Eisenhower Returns From Conferences in Front Line Inspection

By EDWARD KENNEDY

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower, returning from conferences with General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery and General Sir Harold Alexander, said today fresh forces under Alexander, with effective air support, were "continuing to make satisfactory progress" in the task of smashing the Axis out of Africa.

The Allied commander in chief inspected the Mareth front.

He said that every American had a right to feel proud of the progress made and that Americans in this theater shared the pride of the British in the achievements of the Eighth Army in driving Field Marshal Erwin Rommel from the fortified Mareth positions.

The day's Allied communique, reporting patrol activity all along the Tunisian front, said the British First Army of Lieut-Gen. K. A. N. Anderson was making further progress in the north and inflicting casualties on the enemy. British and American aerial sorties against Rommel's retreating forces on the coastal road above Gabes were reported.

LONG PUSH IN NORTH

(A French communique recorded in London from Algiers broadcast said "our forces have left Sedjenane far behind" in the northern sector, and that operations were going ahead successfully in the central sector. An armored attack was repulsed north of the Chott Djerid, the communique said.)

One American patrol attacking in the El Guetar area was reported to have captured 41 prisoners and destroyed a German Mark IV tank and an anti-aircraft gun.

General Eisenhower said the air forces had produced a fighting machine of "the highest morale, great efficiency and complete determination to finish the job."

He said that, on visiting one American air group, he had found the fliers "in the highest spirits and delighted to work with the RAF to get their knowledge and experience."

TROOP DISPOSITIONS

Eisenhower said the situation now permitted the disclosure of certain dispositions of the troops fighting in Tunisia.

The elements which form General Alexander's Eighteenth Army group are:

The British First Army under Anderson in the north, in which is incorporated a French corps under General Koeltz.

The American force under Lieut.-Gen. George S. Patton Jr., in the center—recently regrouped and no longer a part of the First Army—which includes four divisions that already have been in combat, the First Armored Division and the First, Ninth and 34th Infantry Divisions.

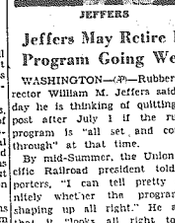
The veteran British Eighth Army under General Montgomery which includes, among other units, a New Zealand division, an Indian Division and two British Infantry Divisions.

"The record of the Eighth Army is too brilliant to need any praise," General Eisenhower told war correspondents. "It has chased one of the enemy's most powerful forces across the desert and it is still full of energy for the final blow in Tunisia.

"Every American soldier shares

See PROGRESS on page 7

Might Quit Rubber Post



JEFFERS

Jeffers May Retire If Program Going Well

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Rubber Director William M. Jeffers said today he is thinking of quitting his post after July 1 if the rubber program is "all set and coming through" at that time.

By mid-Summer, the Union Pacific Railroad president told reporters, "I can tell pretty definitely whether the program is shaping up all right." He added that it "looks all right to me now."

"It all depends on the program," the squarely-built executive said. "If it is all set and coming through after July 1—well, I've got a big job on the railroad to do.

"On the other hand, I'm not going to let anybody down. I'll stick right here until I know the program is a success."

COULD GO WRONG

The synthetic rubber program is a "great big chemical industry," Jeffers said, adding that many things could go wrong before July 1.

Although new butadine and styrene plants now are coming into production, as well as plants for production of finished buna synthetic rubber, some new processes remain to get their first production tests.

Some "bugs" have shown up in the plants already in production, Jeffers said, and output is slightly behind the schedule prepared in mid-February. But "the bugs are being ironed out, and I am banking on U. S. ingenuity and industrial resourcefulness to bring us through in good shape," he added.

Labor To Stem Farm Bloc Revolt

Threatens To Override President's Veto Of Bankhead Bill

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Administration forces in Congress worked feverishly today to stem a new farm bloc revolt that threatened to override President Roosevelt's veto of a bill prohibiting the deduction of Government benefit payments in calculating agricultural parity prices.

Senator Bankhead, Democrat, Alabama, author of the measure rejected by the President on the ground it was inflationary in its effects and dangerous to both the "constructive farm policy" and the "whole war effort," worked just as feverishly to muster votes for Tuesday's showdown when the question comes up again.

WILL MAKE FIGHT

Democratic Leader Barkley of Kentucky conceded that the odds were against getting the necessary one-third vote to sustain the veto in the Senate, but declared he would make the fight. He thought the House, where the so-called "city vote" counts more heavily, offered more favorable prospects for the Administration.

Outside the Capitol Hill lineup, organized labor appeared likely to exert same pressure for sustaining the President's veto, with farm organizations generally expected to join the fight against it.

The Congress of Industrial Organizations and American Federation of Labor came out flatly in support of Mr. Roosevelt's action, with their respective presidents, Philip Murray and William Green, issuing a joint statement to that effect.

However, Albert S. Goss, master of the National Grange, major farm organization, said he could "not agree with the President's reasoning or conclusions" and called the veto unfortunate.

He also apparently did not agree with the Chief Executive's veto message contention that enactment of the Bankhead bill would not aid farmers in the long run. The President said that instead the

See FIGHT TO STEM on page 7

Jap Ships Scattered

Strike At Northern New Ireland Tip

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA—(AP) — Another Japanese shipping concentration has been scattered from its base in the islands above Australia by General Douglas MacArthur's bombers, Allied Headquarters said today, but there was somber news in another headquarters announcement that 47-year-old Brig-Gen. Howard K. Ramey and his crew were lost on a recent bombing mission.

General Ramey was commander of the Fifth Bomber Command of the Fifth United States Air Force. He was the sixth United States general to be killed, listed as missing, or wounded in the war.

He was the successor to Brig-Gen. Kenneth N. Walker, who was lost on a bombing mission over Rabaul last January.

FLEET DISPOSAL

The newest Japanese fleet dispersal was accomplished Thursday in the harbor of Kavieng, on the northern tip of New Ireland, about 550 miles northeast of Port Moresby and 150 miles north of Rabaul, New Britain.

About thirteen Japanese ships, including destroyers, were sighted in the harbor and a half dozen

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Axis Tries Night Raids

Rommel Thrusts At Americans Fail

By HAROLD V. BOYLE

WITH THE UNITED STATES FORCES EAST OF EL GUETAR, TUNISIA, April 2—(Delayed)—(AP)—With his best armor blunted and broken against unyielding American lines, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel now is trying night aerial attacks, using four-engined Axis bombers for the first time in this sector.

His latest armored thrust, in which he used 32 tanks, easily was beaten back this morning by 105 and 155-millimeter guns. The batteries knocked out three tanks in the first concentration and followed with a barrage that sent the remaining tanks fleeing back to shelter.

An indication that Rommel is putting out hopelessly damaged tanks as decoys to get American batteries to waste ammunition and disclose their positions was seen in the fact that fifteen tanks were left exposed in one area, when they easily could have been hidden in adjoining wadis or gullies.

"I watched these tanks for several hours, and, although we dropped several artillery shells among them, they did not burst into flame nor did anyone either come out to them or leave them," said Captain Paul Gale, 23, of Lynn, Mass. "It looks like they almost were trying to bluff us or throw us off balance. In either case the scheme did not work."

YANKS EDGE FORWARD

Incensed at the Nazi bombers which in raids over a ten-hour period last night dropped scores of bombs which did little damage but cost them some sleep, American infantrymen edged forward a half mile through the roughest kind of terrain.

Divorcee Faces Trial

Manslaughter Charge In Tulsa Death

TULSA, Okla. —(AP)— Common Pleas Judge Grady S. Cornett today ordered Mrs. Ella B. Howard, Fort Worth divorcee, held in $10,000 bail for trial on a charge of manslaughter in the hotel room slaying of Mrs. T. Karl Simmons, widely-known Tulsa horse woman.

The 44-year-old defendant wept at the decision, her first exhibition of emotion throughout the preliminary hearing. Her twenty-year-old son, Louis Howard Jr., attempted to comfort her.

The verdict was a disappointment to County Attorney Dixie Gilmer who had asked the court to hold Mrs. Howard for trial on a murder charge.

Shortly before the judge's order was given, Gilmer and Assistant Prosecutor John Ward, argued that it was not possible to prepare a manslaughter case on evidence in the State's hands.

It was the first RAF night raid since Monday night when Berlin and the Ruhr were targets. St. Nazaire also was bombed last Sunday night.

The two German U-boat yards have been among the most frequent and most-heavily bombed targets of the war.

The Air Ministry communique said "last night aircraft of the bomber command attacked submarine bases at Lorient and St. Nazaire. Mines also were laid in enemy waters. Two bombers are missing."

Residents at Folkestone reported they heard a heavy force of aircraft returning over the channel early today following the sound of explosions in the direction of Dunkerque, on France's channel coast.

With cannon blazing and bombs spilling from the planes, a squadron of seven or eight Focke-Wulf 190's raided a town on the south coast late this morning. Several persons were killed when a bomb hit a surface air raid shelter. Anti-aircraft gunners reported they damaged several of the planes.

Previously Britons had confessed they were puzzled by the absence of German reprisal raids. A week has gone by since Berlin suffered its heaviest punishment at the hands of the RAF, and until today's raid there had been no concerted reprisal attempt.

Submarine Pens Attacked By RAF

Night Raid Made On Lorient And St. Nazaire By Heavy Bombers

LONDAN—(AP)—RAF heavy bombers attacked Nazi submarine pens at Lorient and St. Nazaire in Western France last night, the Air Ministry announced today. Two bombers were lost on the raid.

Four Solomons Heroes Tell How Plywood Craft Sank Jap Ships

By WILLIAM HIPPLE

SAN FRANCISCO —(AP)— Four daring young men who fought running duels with Japanese warships in fragile plywood motor torpedo boats for four months in the Guadalcanal area—and helped sink eight enemy vessels—returned to the states today for their first liberty in over a year.

They are Lieutenants Henry S. Taylor, 24, New York City; Robert L. Searles, 23, Leonia, N. J.; Leonard A. Nikolonic, 23, Englewood, N. J., and Thomas E. Kendall 23, Minneapolis.

Taylor, Searles and Nikolonic were [illegible] Pilots Stars on March 8 by Admiral Halsey personally for their "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy in the Solomon Islands."

The four were members of the first torpedo boat squadron to be based in the Solomons. This squadron alone sank six Japanese destroyers, one cruiser and one submarine between Oct. 12 and Feb. 18.

Lieutenant Taylor, a Yale University graduate in 1940, was credited with hitting an enemy battleship on the night of Nov. 13-14.

"I saw the Jap ships turning in circles while pounding shells into the airfield," Taylor said. "I just sneaked up, picked the biggest one and fired four torpedoes. He got hit all right. We saw a lot of smoke and flames go into the air."

Lieutenant Nikolonic commanded a boat which sank a destroyer on the night of Nov. 10.

BLACK NIGHT

"There was a large force of Japs down that night," Nikolonic said. "It was as black as a tar barrel. The first thing I knew a Jap destroyer put two searchlights on the boat and there was

See FOUR SOLOMONS on page 7

Report Jews Ordered From Dutch Provinces

STOCKHOLM —(AP)— Dispatches from Berlin said today that German police in The Netherlands had ordered all Jews moved from eight provinces before April 10.

Naming Of Civilians To Big Army Jobs Under Fire; Zanuck Target

WASHINGTON— (AP)—Published reports that Mayor La Guardia of New York may get a high Army commission brought from Chairman Truman, Democrat, Missouri, of the Senate War Investigating Committee today the comment that "I don't think he has any more business being a brigadier general" than Movie-Maker Darryl Zanuck has being a colonel.

Zanuck is a lieutenant colonel in the Signal Corps, having been commissioned from civil life, and Truman tossed this remark about La Guardia into a committee hearing at which Robert Patterson, Undersecretary of War, testified that Zanuck had asked for an inactive status.

WOULDN'T RELEASE HIM

Although saying he did not feel Zanuck is qualified for a colonelcy, Truman indicated a belief he should stay in the Army, declaring:

"I don't believe in letting fellows back out in the middle of a war.

"Why don't you send him to school and make a real soldier out of him? With his experience I think you could very well use him at the front. That's where we are going to need men."

Chairman Reynolds, Democrat, North Carolina, of the Senate Military Committee said meanwhile in a statement on the La Guardia matter that "I can readily see why many people would ask . . . why it has become necessary to appoint general officers in the Army from political life."

Zanuck's request for inactive status was brought up at another point in the hearing by Truman.

See ARMY JOBS on page 7

Plan Organization Of British Caribbean Force

LONDON —(AP)— A Reuters dispatch from Barbados, British West Indies, quoted the island governor as saying in a radio broadcast today that a new regular unit of the British Army, to be called the Caribbean Force, will be either in Barbados.

The force will be made up of fighting units situated in Barbados, Trinidad, the Windward Islands and British Guiana, and will include coastal batteries, infantry, anti-aircraft units, searchlight troops and engineer, signal and medical units, the dispatch said.

WEATHER

Slightly lower temperature; freezing with heavy frost

Today's Temp.: H. 61; L. 32
Sunset Today — 7:44
Sunrise Tomorrow — 7:06

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 14.