AMERICAN PILOTS BAG 37 JAP PLANES

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

Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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HARD-FIGHTING ALLIES ADVANCING ON ALL FRONTS IN BATTLE FOR TUNISIA

Associated Press Bulletins

BOMBS ON JAP AREAS

NEW DELHI, India — (AP) — The Tenth United States Air Force scored direct hits on the railroad yards at Rangoon and Ywataung and strafed and bombed areas near Shingbwiyang where Japanese troops are concentrated, a communique said today. From these operations on Tuesday and Wednesday all of the U. S. aircraft returned safely, the announcement added.

WILL VISIT WASHINGTON

ASUNCION, Paraguay—(AP)— President Higinio Morinigo has accepted an invitation from President Roosevelt to visit the United States the middle of June, it was announced officially today.

URGES RUML PLAN

WASHINGTON —(AP)— House Republican Leader Martin of Massachusetts called today for passage of pay-as-you-go tax legislation before the start of the Congressional Easter recess scheduled to begin April 17.

11 DIE IN QUAKE

SANTIAGO, Chile—(AP)—The Government announced today that eleven persons were killed in the earthquake that rocked nearly 2,000 miles of the 1,000 Chilean coast Tuesday.

ANTI-UNION BILL

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — (AP) — A bill to prohibit closed shop contracts in Florida was introduced today in the State House of Representatives.

NO STAR FOR LA GUARDIA

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Secretary of War Stimson said today that Mayor La Guardia of New York had offered his services to the armed forces but that "it would be very difficult to find any place in the Army" where he could be as helpful as in his present job.

DE GAULLE EXPLANATION

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Secretary of War Stimson indicated today that postponement of the scheduled meeting between General Charles de Gaulle and General Honore Giraud in North Africa was decided up on by Allied military and civilian leaders because of the immediate military operations in Tunisia.

DESTROY 70 NAZIS PLANES

LONDON —(AP)— American gunners destroyed 70 German aircraft in Sunday's daylight bombing of the Renault works near Paris and Monday's raid on the Erla Aero Engine Works at Antwerp, it was announced officially today.

ITALIAN IN COMMAND

LONDON —(AP)— The British radio said today Rome broadcasts were stressing the statement that Italian forces in Tunisia were under the command of an Italian, General Giovanni Messe, not Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and Col.-Gen. Jurgen Von Arnim.

WOMEN WORKERS STRIKE

JOLIET, Ill.—(AP)—Major Kenneth Keber, commanding officer of the Elwood Army Ordnance plant, reported today 200 women employees were on strike over staggered rest periods and demands for a 10 cents an hour wage increase.

ANOTHER ACE ACCLAIMED

CAIRO —(AP)— Twenty-eight-year-old Capt. Lyman Middleditch of Highlands, N. J., was recognized today as the first ace of the Ninth United States Air Force. Middleditch shot down his fifth plane in a dogfight over Tunisia a week ago.

APPEALS TO LABOR BOARD

NEW YORK —(AP)— Former Senator Edward R. Burke, spokesman for the Southern Bituminous Coal operators, announced today his group had dispatched a telegram to the War Labor Board asking it to bring immediate jurisdiction in the wage dispute between the

Air Armada Blasted in Battle Off Guadalcanal

Navy Announces Victory in Sky

WASHINGTON— (AP) — American fighter planes destroyed 37 Japanese aircraft in a sky battle over the southeastern Solomon Islands Wednesday, the Navy announced today, where the enemy atruck at American shipping off Guadalcanal with an armada of 98 planes.

Seven American fighters were lost, but one pilot was rescued.

The battle, one of the greatest ever fought in the air of that area, climaxed a two-day period of aerial activity during which American planes made six forays against enemy shipping throughout the Solomons archipelago.

Whether the Japanese, whose force included 50 bombers and 48 Zeros, were successful in reaching American ships at Guadalcanal was not reported.

Navy communique No. 337 said:

"South Pacific (all dates east longitude).

"1. On April 6th:

"(A) During the morning a force of Dauntless (Douglas SBD) and Avenger (Grumman TBF) dive bombers escorted by Wildcat (Grumman F4F) fighters attacked Japanese installations at Vila in the central Solomons, hits were scored in the target area and a large fire was started. All United States planes returned.

"(B) In the early evening, three Japanese planes bombed Guadalcanal. There were no casualties to personnel and only light damage was reported.

"(C) During the night of

See AIR ARMADA on page 9

Polish Airmen Join U. S. Forces

LONDON—(AP)—To staccato orders snapped in Polish fohtreen men and boys in Royal Air Force blue marched into the bustling United States Army office in an erstwhile department store annex, participated in a simple ceremony and a few minutes later marched out—to orders shapped in American soldiers.

They were Americans, most of them of Polish descent, who went to Canada before Pearl Harbor and enlisted in the Polish branch of the RAF and who were exchanging their blue uniforms for the brown of the Eighth U. S. Air Force. They were sworn in as American soldiers.

Mussolini and Hitler in Huddle

BERN, Switzerland — (AP) — A conference between Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini on what steps to take for the defense of Europe against invasion was reported from informed circles in Rome last night. It was said the meeting probably took place in the Brenner Pass.

Farm Price Boost Strongly Opposed By OPA Director

Brown Says Inflation Certain If Pace Measure Is Enacted

WASHINGTON. —(AP)— Asserting that enactment of the Pace Bill would end the stabilization of prices —and of wages," Price Administrator Prentiss Brown asked the Senate Agriculture Committee today for its "sympathy and understanding" in his efforts to hold down living costs.

Testifying against the House-approved measure to include all farm labor costs in the parity formula, Brown said it would have a "very far-reaching inflationary effect."

In a hearing that served as an anti-climax to yesterday's Senate battle when the Bankhead Bill to raise farm price ceilings was sent back to committee to join the previously-shelved Pace measure, Brown reiterated previous contentions that the latter bill would raise parity prices of farm products by "upwards of 14 per cent."

This in the course of time, he said, "would drive up retail prices of food by 10 1-2 per cent, add two and one-third billion dollars to the annual food budget of consumers, and increase by three-quarters of a

See BROWN HITS on page 9

Eden Invites Hull To War Talks In London

Commons Is Told Britain and U. S. in Accord on France

LONDON—(AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, discussing his recent conferences in Washington before the House of Commons, disclosed today he had invited Secretary of State Cordell Hull to visit London and said he was satisfied there is "complete agreement" between Britain and the United States on the "future policy toward France."

He also reported that he and United States authorities "found a very close similarity of outlook" on post-war problems.

"I am satisfied," the Foreign Secretary said, "that as regards the future policy toward France there is complete agreement between us."

Eden said "There had been some misunderstanding in this country of the purpose the United States Administration had in mind in maintaining relations with Vichy," but that these misunderstandings had been smoothed out.

"We naturally wanted to see all sections in France prepared to fight the common enemy united and together," he added.

NEW PLANS MADE

He said an agreement on policy toward Spain, Portugal, Turkey and other European neutrals was reached and plans had been made for an improved exchange of information on enemy and enemy-occupied territories.

Eden said the invitation was extended to Hull with the approval of Prime Minister Churchill, but he did not state whether Hull had accepted.

He said his discussions in Washington fell mainly under three headings: First, "operational matters—immediate questions concerned with the conduct of the war;" second, "political co-operation between us in connection with actual military operations that have taken place or will take place;" and, third, questions arising out of the war.

Eden said he thought "the Prime Minister was satisfied with the

See EDEN BIDS on page 9

Italian Bases Plastered

Palermo and Naples Visited By Bombers

CAIRO—(AP)—Palermo Harbor was attacked by Liberator bombers of the Ninth U. S. Air Force in daylight yesterday, a communique announced today.

Hits were observed along the quay and in the vicinity of a seaplane station, a communique said, and enemy fighters attacked the formation in vain. All of the planes returned, it was announced.

The American Liberators attacked the harbor in a follow-up to raids by Allied heavy bombers the night before on Naples and the Sicilian ferry terminus at Messina, which were announced by the Middle East Command in a communique.

Fires again were started in Naples Harbor, the objective of a series of devastating blows by Allied bombers. All planes returned safely from Tuesday night's attack, the communique said.

Lehman in London

LONDON—(AP)—The United States Embassy announced that former Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York, U. S. director of foreign relief and rehabilitation, had arrived in London tonight.

Nazis Lose Many Tanks As Russians Renew Drive

Repeated German Attacks Smashed

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW —(AP)— While no big changes took place overnight on the Russian-German front, still oozing with the Spring thaw, increased action was reported today in several sectors.

The Red Army stormed German positions south of Izyum and captured advantageous lines in the face of sharp Nazi fire after several days of numerous German attacks.

In the Sevsk sector northwest of Kursk the Germans again began counter-attacks but they availed nothing. The Russians pursued their large-scale enemy epitaphers there.

The Volkhov front saw battling again, with the Germans once more trying to take a Soviet position, and again failing. Although there was sharp fighting in this sector, southeast of Leningrad, the conflict was not believed to be a major operation.

Artillery duels and scouting operations took place on the Western Front where the Russians have been edging toward Smolensk.

Nothing was mentioned in the noon communique about the Kuban area or west of Rostov.

NAZIS LOSE TANKS

A Red Army newspaper dispatch said the Germans' recent attacks south of Izyum had cost them tremendously in manpower.

"In all directions in which they attempted to advance, the ground was littered with piles of burned tanks put out of commission by Soviet artillery fire," Red Star reported.

The Red Army's guns also smashed many trucks caught near the front line trenches south of Izyum.

The dispatch from the Izyum sector reported considerable scouting activity, which may mean the Germans are preparing for still another assault upon the Red Army bridgehead, hoping again for a major break-through.

General Grant "Can Take It"

CAIRO — (AP) — Four direct hits from a German 105 millimeter gun failed to knock out a United States General Grant tank in recent savage fighting in a forward area, General Harold Clacksfield of Bex-Hill-On-Sea, England, said today.

The tank number, he reported, was 24096.

Staff Changes in Japanese Army

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Tokyo broadcast, recorded by the Federal Communications Commission, reported today the appointment, of Lieut.-Gen. Kitasaburo Hata as vice chief of the Japanese General Staff.

The broadcast also announced that Lieut.-Gen. Sosuku Suzuki, veteran of the Malayan campaign, had been named chief of transportation in the War Ministry.

Hata was said to have seen action in the Chinese campaign and to have served the empire in Russia, Rumania, Sweden, Poland and Bulgaria.

Slav Guerrillas Kill 300 Nazis

LONDON—(AP)— Yugoslav guerrillas killed about 300 Axis troops in a clash near the town of Stolac and killed 50 more near Knin, a Moscow radio broadcast recorded by the Soviet radio monitor here said today.

Guerrillas also were seizing a great deal of Axis war material

JOIN FORCES: General George Patton's (top) Second American Corps and General Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth Army have joined forces in Tunisia and increased the pressure on Rommel's Africa Corps.

British First Army Striking Hard In North

General Patton's Americans Join Forces With Montgomery's Eighth

By EDWARD KENNEDY

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP)—The British First Army gained four or five miles by a surprise attack in the Medjez-El-Bab bulge area yesterday as the Second U. S. Army Corps and the British Eighth Army united in a relentless pursuit of the enemy in the south, it was announced today.

The First Army's advance in the northern sector carried its vanguards to within less than 27 airline miles of Tunis, Nazi-held capital of the French protectorate.

It was announced officially tonight that the Eighth Army had advanced fifteen miles beyond the captured Wadi El Akarit line.

(This would place the army 50 miles from the port of Sfax.)

More prisoners were rounded up in both northern and southern sectors and Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's positions again were blasted and shot-up by Allied aerial reconnaissance.

The Second U. S. Corp of Lieut.-Gen. George S. Patton Jr., and General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army collaborated like two woodsmen at the ends of a crosscut saw to rip Rommel's rearguards from their positions.

A communique disclosed that the Eighth Army, after smashing the Wadi El Akarit position twenty miles north of Gabes at dawn Tuesday, repulsed determined enemy counter attacks in heavy fighting that afternoon.

Marshal Rommel apparently had abandoned all hope of holding out in that area and, realizing that the big armored formations in front of the Americans along the Gafsa-Gabes road were in an untenable position, began a withdrawal under the cover of darkness Tuesday night.

PATTON'S FORCES ATTACK

General Patton's Americans immediately pushed ahead, cleaning up pockets of resistance which Rommel had left behind and attacking at times with the infantry and armor itself to attack a point 15 to 30 miles east of El Guettar.

It was at this point that the Americans encountered advance patrols of the Eighth Army yesterday afternoon.

Enemy columns retreating toward the port of Sfax, and under heavy bombardment by Allied Air Forces, were trapped within sight of their own advance forces. Fourteen enemy aircraft were shot down in air combat with a loss of one Allied plane, and Allied anti-aircraft batteries in the northern sector destroyed three more.

FIRST ARMY STRIKES

Lieut.-Gen. K. A. N. Anderson's First Army drive against German positions from the Medjez-El-Bab region at dawn yesterday. By noon that first drive and 150 prisoners were taken. The advance continued very slowly so difficult that enemy mines largely rolled upon to have supplies.

Competent sources said it was now obvious that Rommel had believed he could hold Tunisia longer in the Wadi El Akarit positions and the disappearance of his forces there compelled him to withdraw.

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Eisenhower Commends His Forces In Africa

Now in Position To Exact Full Price From the Enemy, General Declares

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a message of congratulations to General Sir Harold Alexander, his deputy in charge of land operations, said that the Army, Navy and Air Force "are now in a position to exact the full price from the enemy confronting us in Africa."

His message follows:

"I hope that you and all ranks serving under you will accept my personal congratulations and those of the entire Allied headquarters on your recent successful operations which joined up the victorious Eighth Army with the British, American and French forces that have been carrying on for four months a magnificent fight in Central Tunisia under the most unfavorable conditions.

"While everyone of us fully appreciates that great difficulties and bitter fighting still lie ahead of you and that beyond this campaign lie still greater hardships and sacrifices, still you and your 18th Army group, the Navy and the Air Force are now in a position to exact the full price from the enemy confronting us in Africa.

"You may be sure that the whole democratic world is applauding your success against the forces that have outraged our concepts of freedom and human rights. Good luck!"

"Hello, You Limey" And Two Armies Meet

WITH U. S. FORCES IN SOUTHERN TUNISIA—(Delayed)—(AP)—"Hello, you limey!"

That was the affectionate hail given by Sergt. Joseph A. Randall of State Center, Iowa, to Sergt. A. W. Acland of Maida Vale, London, as reconnaissance patrols of the British Eighth Army and armored forces of the Second U. S. Army Corps met in a historic juncture on the hard-surfaced road amid desert wastes 42 miles from Gabes today.

"Very glad to see you," answered Acland, with typical British restraint.

These two enlisted men—the helmeted, grinning American and the freckled, red - haired Briton with blue beret, stepped forward and shook hands for the first formal contact uniting British forces which had pursued Field Marshal Erwin Rommel 1,500 miles and the Americans who slapped the Germans back 140 miles from Kasserine Pass in six weeks.

This is Acland's own story of the meeting, to which soldiers of both organizations had been anticipating eagerly for weeks:

"At first we thought you were Jerries because of your helmets. We had been having trouble with Jerry all the night before been picking up Italian prisoners.

"We were seriously considering opening fire on you, especially when we saw a big gun sticking out of your armored lorries. Then we got the idea it was you. We remembered everybody yesterday was saying we would meet the Yanks today and when you fellows started running out of your vehicles we recognized you.

"Then everything happened at once. We were in a big stretch of wasteland in the middle of nothing. There were five armored cars on your side —your half tracks with 15-millimeter guns—and we had three armored dingos or scout cars, each holding two persons."

"There was a lot of handshaking. A small community took form on the spot. Some of the Yanks started offering us American cigarettes as soon as they saw us and one even passed around a flask. Some of the boys started exchanging Lugers and other captured equipment.

"One Yank hollered 'what's this?' when he saw everyone ahead of him start throwing their arms around each other. All of us were chuckling. I am a British Army photographer

Americans In Foxholes Escape Devil's Darts Hurled By Nazis

By HAROLD V. BOYLE

WITH U. S. ARMY EAST OF EL GUETAR, Tunisia.—(Delayed)—(AP)—German night-raiding bombers, seeking to break the morale of advancing American troops, have showered them with steel darts but the unimpressed doughboys are building roofs over their foxholes to protect them against the new "Devil's Needles."

"Since we brought up our big ack-ack guns and started throwing up heavy stuff at them, they practically have cut night bombing," said

(5802 Pierce St.) Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Their last stunt was to drop bunches of steel darts with tail fins, so that they drop point first. As soon as we found them we cut down trees and put thick branches over our foxholes.

"They didn't hurt anybody with them but we found one dart—we call them devil's needles—with the point stuck through a two-inch tree limb. We started a dart game with those we found."

Here are some typical reactions to the Nazis' new night bombings, which is something new in their battle experience:

FEARS JIVE BOMBERS

Said Sergeant Leonard Lindberg, of (69 Bartlett St.) Beverly, Mass.: "I can only tell you about my own foxhole but the truth is that I have more trouble at night from 'Jive bombers'—that's the dusk to dawn Tunisian mosquitoes—than from German Dive bombers."

Technician Norman W. Har-

"Hello, You Limey" And Two Armies Meet

See ALLIES on page 9

WEATHER

Continued warm tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 78 L. 51
Sunset Today
Sunrise Tomorrow