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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final
22 Pages—Price Five Cents

ROMMEL CAPTURED BY ALLIED ARMS

Both Sides Make Sharp Thrusts on Red Front

German Donets Attacks Fail

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW (AP)—The Russian-German front was generally quiet today but along some sectors there were sharp thrusts by both sides. South of Balaklava, which is midway between Chumov and Izum on the Donets River, the Germans again during the night attempted to assault. Red Army positions but lost 200 killed and gained no ground. This sector includes an area where the Soviet troops have a bridgehead on the Donets, and the attacks by the Nazis likely were designed at trying to smash through and clear up the western bank but all their efforts have failed. Within the last 24 hours the Germans have lost more than 500 men killed in the sector. At one spot the Germans drove into the Russian positions yesterday but the Soviet troops regrouped quickly and hurled them back to their original positions. South of Izum a few weak attacks were launched against the strong Soviet lines and the enemy was repulsed, losing a large number of their infantrymen, the Russian said. (The German communiqué broadcast by the Berlin radio and recorded by the Associated Press, asserted that two Russian battalions were "annihilated" in mopping-up operations on the middle Donets River front and that numerous prisoners were taken. German heavy army artillery "shelled strategically important objectives in Leningrad with telling effect," it said. (Otherwise, the Germans said, only fighting of local importance was reported.)

Seeks Divorce From Ark

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—A woman, who is wealthy, will learn next week whether he can continue with his Arkansas divorce suit, which she has moved to Arkansas. Chancellor Frank H. Dodge announced after a hearing yesterday he would not rule before next Tuesday on Miss Knight's motion to quash the divorce suit. Cameron's demurrer to her motion. Neither principal was present at the hearing. Cameron charged that his 30-year-old wife "abandoned herself to the company of other men for unexplained purposes and upon her return would be in an intoxicated condition and her attitude revealed. He charged her with rudeness, unmerited reproach, contempt and studied neglect.

Strong Quake Is Recorded

WESTON, Mass.—A "very strong earthquake" lasting about 15 seconds, and occurring about 3,500 miles in an undetermined direction from Weston, was recorded at 5:07:02 A. M. by the Weston College seismograph.

U. S. Battalion Clings To Hill For 3 Days Without Food, Water

By HAROLD V. BOLE
WITH U. S. FORCES IN TUNISIA, April 8.—(Delayed)—A United States infantry battalion which clung to a hill position under heavy artillery and mortar fire for three days without food or water and endured the ordeal with undisturbed possession of a mountain and 200 Italian prisoners is back now for a ten-day rest. A grinning lieutenant and a tough sergeant told of the battalion's experiences today. "We moved in on the Italian flank and got between their line and it took us three days to find out who was in the hole—them or us," said Sergeant Bradley E. Casey, 33, of Chicago, who has been in the regular army ten years. "We attacked them on the point of a horseshoe curve of a hill east of El Ghar March 28," said Lieutenant Cedric Ladd, 24, of Enosburg Falls, Vt. "They held the heights above us and poured so much mortar and artillery fire on us that the commander ordered us to pull out the night of March 29. But because of communications breakdown we did not get the order and we sweated it out. "The next day we attacked the Italians, who were pushing us back. We were unhurriedly killed 200 prisoners. By pushing them off the mountain peak we got between them and the enemy's mortar points which enabled our artillery to pave the way for our mortar breakthrough down the Caves road." The two men told their story while the unit pulled back for

Newspapers Unite In Campaign For Fighting Dollars

American Press Lends Its Full Support To War Loan Effort

WASHINGTON.—(P)—Frank E. Tripp, chairman of the Allied Newspaper Council, today asserted that America's newspaper men—bought with sweat, blood and tears—are marshaled on the home front lines, ready "to help their Government borrow 13 billion fighting dollars from Americans from every station of life." "They await the zero hour on April 12 to strike a blow for the preservation of all human rights," Tripp said in outlining plans for press participation in the Treasury's second war loan campaign slated to start Monday. Through millions of lines of editorial and advertising space, the papers "will spill forth the message of the second war loan appeal with the force and roar of Niagara," he said. Tripp recalled that once the American press went through the underground battle now being waged in Europe, with presses smashed and our editors murdered because newspapers dared to fight for the second war loan, the press men in this war are living up to free press traditions, "they are dying on the battlefield and on the seas." His statement was made in the "Newspapers of the country go to battle on April 12th on the home front to help their Government." See PRESS BACKS on page 10

Ceiling Price Plan Discussed By F. R.

Dollars-and-Cents Tops To Be Put on Commodities Affecting Living Cost

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—President Roosevelt said today that dollars-and-cents ceiling prices probably would be placed on all food commodities which affect living costs, while James F. Byrnes, Economic Stabilization Director, said the Office of Price Administration might be able to place specific ceiling price plans tomorrow, following those now laid down for meats. Byrnes was sitting in on a Presidential press conference, which dealt largely with the Chief Executive's new order designed to help control inflation, through more rigid restrictions on prices and wages. The President said the whole problem resembles a four-legged stool. Food prices are one leg, wages another, rationing a third, and taxation and saving are the fourth, he said. An effort is being made, he said, to prevent up and down and up and down in prices and wages, and to prevent the stool from falling over. FOURTH LEG His executive order was a step in that direction, he said, but Congress still has to provide the fourth leg, taxes and savings. Asked whether \$10,000,000,000 is still the Administration's goal on new revenue, as mentioned in his budget message to Congress, Mr. Roosevelt said it is the Administration's hope. He was not asked, also, how materially he has increased the powers given Byrnes, and Mr. Roosevelt said he would make us feel bad, to see

Furious Engagements Raging for Days

CHUNGKING.—(P)—Crack Chinese troops recaptured a strategically important hill which had been lost in hand-to-hand fighting with several thousand Japanese troops equipped with planes and tanks. Chinese dispatches said today in reporting furious engagements which had been raging for more than four days west of the Tungpu Railway in southwest Shansi Province. Another encounter, which the Japanese tried to win, was lost in a battle which cost them more than 1,000 troops changed hands seven times in one day but finally the Chinese flag crowned the summit. The dispatches added, Three to four hundred Japanese were killed or wounded in the battle. The Japanese attempts to dis-

Japs Claim Two Warships Sunk

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Tokyo radio broadcast a communiqué from Imperial Headquarters reporting that large Japanese Naval and all formations attacked an Allied Fleet off Formosa Island in the Solomon Sea, Wednesday, sinking a cruiser, a destroyer and ten transports. In addition, the communiqué said, three other Allied transports were damaged and 37 Allied planes were shot down against the loss of six Japanese planes which crashed down into enemy objectives. The bulletin apparently referred to a Japanese announcement yesterday in a U. S. Navy Department communiqué which reported that Japanese Navy planes had been shot down Wednesday, Solomon time, when they attacked American shipping near Guadalcanal. Florida Island is approximately 25 miles north of Guadalcanal.

Act To Put F. R. Freeze Order Into Effect Now

Farm Prices and Wages Held Down

By IRVING PERLMETER
WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Official Washington mobilized a small army of its rule-drafters today in an effort to speed compliance with an overnight order from President Roosevelt to hold farm prices and wages at almost rigid levels of the day. First action came from the War Labor Board, which telegraphed its regional offices and related agencies to stop all wage increases "except those that clearly come within the 15 per cent limitation of the Little Steel formula." At the Office of Price Administration officials indicated that early orders could be expected freezing the market in foodstuffs and other basic agricultural commodities. The War Manpower Commission was ordered to prohibit workers from shifting jobs in search of higher pay and utility commissions were ordered to hold on to rates in line with the Government's policy of keeping down the cost of living. WMC Chairman Paul V. McNutt called his aides into conference today to prepare regulations governing transfers to higher-paying jobs. How the commission could control hiring throughout the nation was uncertain, although McNutt has authorized his regional and area directors to set up control over hiring—largely through the employment service—in areas where he believes it would help solve manpower shortages. Thus far, control plans have been established in only about 50 areas. Twelve of the 36 areas designated as having manpower shortages have no plans in effect, but the system is being extended to new areas constantly.

Hill Taken By Chinese

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Two Mistakes By General Rommel Turned Into Victory By The Allies

By DON WHITEHEAD
WITH THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY NORTH OF GABES, April 7.—(Delayed)—It is now apparent that Field Marshal Rommel may have made a mistake in his two mistakes—which may go a long way toward shortening the war in Tunisia. In the first place he pulled the bulk of his tank strength back from positions facing the British Eighth Army to meet an American threat on his flank. Second, he made the assumption that the Eighth would be unable to attack as soon as it did. In the second place, when the attack came, he obviously miscalculated the direction of the British main thrust and counter-attacked in a sector which failed to slow up the push.



EISENHOWER MEETS MONTGOMERY—General Dwight D. Eisenhower (right) of the U. S. Army, Allied commander in North Africa, shakes hands with General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the Central British Army, during a recent tour of the southern Tunisian front, after the British breakthrough at the Mareth Line. This picture was radioed from Cairo.

British First Army Shelling Terrific

Great Concentration of Artillery Fire Paves Way for Ground Assault

By WILLIAM B. KING
OUED ZARGA, ON THE NORTHERN TUNISIAN FRONT, April 8.—(Delayed)—The full-scale offensive of the British First Army which opened Wednesday hinged on this deserted little wayside village. From the shadows of its sheltered buildings, it was possible to see the tanks and troops creeping into action and watch Nazi bombers make a vain effort to wreck our transport. From a hill a short distance away I watched as a huge barrage shattered the quiet of the chill, starry night to lay down the heaviest concentration of artillery fire yet seen in this part of Tunisia. Along the twelve-mile front 172 of our guns poured high explosives into the German front positions so they were easy prey for the British assault troops, which rushed in immediately from less than 200 yards. The full force of the barrage was at 4 A. M. flashes galloped the sky with a crackling, rumbling fury, sending mad, zig-zag patterns of reflection across the valleys of the Medjerda and Zarga Rivers. NAZI ANSWER The German response was immediate. Distress signals lights flared and slowly upward in white and red glows. Tracer bullets cut across the horizon. Front line troops

Hands Off Coal Dispute

WASHINGTON.—(P)—The War Labor Board declined today to take immediate jurisdiction of the Southern soft coal wage dispute by referring to Secretary Perkins telegram from the Southern operators requesting intervention. The board sent the telegram to the Labor Secretary with a letter of transmittal which said, "there is transmitted to you herewith for your consideration a telegram received from the operators' negotiating committee of the Southern Appalachian joint wage conference." The effect of the board's action, at least for the present, was to leave to Miss Perkins the question of whether the dispute is to be

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British, U. S. Forces Take More Captives

Eighth Army Approaches Junction With Second American Column

By DANIEL DE LUCE
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA.—(AP)—Axis forces are abandoning Mahares, only 22 miles south of the vital harbor of Sfax, and the railway town of Mezouza in a continuing withdrawal under Allied blows on a broad front between the central Tunisian mountains and the sea, it was disclosed today. Armored vanguards of the British Eighth Army pursued Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's beaten men, who were fleeing north from Mahares and northeast from Mezouza, 52 miles from Sfax, under the hammering of the Western Desert Air Force. United States troops captured the Djebel Mazalla, a height in the mountain range north of Mahares. A communiqué announced that the Eighth Army had taken 9,500 prisoners since the initial attack on Rommel's Wadi El Akarit positions Tuesday morning and military headquarters said 1,200 more were captured by the U. S. Second Army Corps. The U. S. and British forces are now in the mow-up of the El Gueitar sector. Military quarters announced that Allied observers saw Axis troops heading out of Mahares yesterday. Both Mahares and Mezouza are way stations on the Gafsa-Sfax railway. Mahares lies 50 miles northeast of Gabes. While American and British aircraft maintained assaults on the retreating Axis columns, it was announced that 120 enemy vehicles had been destroyed and 200 damaged in the past two days. SHORT OF TRANSPORTS Pressed hard by the Eighth Army, Rommel was growing short of motor transports to extricate his rear guards. In the Medjerda-Rib sfer of northern Tunisia the British maintained the offensive launched Wednesday on a twelve-mile front. Long range guns wrecked out two enemy tanks there. Military quarters said one enemy tank concentration in that area was observed yesterday under violent attack by German dive-bombers which obviously had mistaken their target. It was not ascertained how many tanks were knocked out through the action of the Stuka pilots, but British troops were jubilant at the sight and trusted that the results were decisive. BAD WEATHER IN NORTH Windy and rainy weather hampered ground operations in the north. However, fields and roads were turned into the same adhesive mud which the troops had endured all Winter. More than 400 prisoners have been taken in the Medjerda-Rib sfer since Wednesday, a communiqué said. Without naming the points, it reported that the British had occupied some tactically important localities. In the central sector enemy transports moving north to Zaghuan, 15 miles east of the Nazi base at Pont du Fahs, were attacked by RAF Spitfires and four vehicles were wrecked. General Bernard Montgomery's

Associated Press Bulletins

BATCH OF MAPS SEIZED
STOCKHOLM.—(P)—Seizure of a batch of maps consigned to Germany, with rail and communications lines to Sweden and Norway, in a extraordinary event, has announced last night by the Swedish Foreign Office. It said a complete investigation had been ordered.

DAVIS URGES MORE TAXES

WASHINGTON.—(P)—Higher taxes and increased investments in war bonds were urged by War Food Administrator Chester C. Davis today as essentials of a successful Governmental program for preventing ruinous inflation. TROUBLE AT FORD PLANT DETROIT.—(P)—A dispute started when plant production men broke up a dinner game in a lavatory halted production on armored car vehicles at the Ford Motor Co.'s Highland Park plant, a company spokesman said.

TO EXCHANGE PRISONERS

ANKARA, Turkey.—(P)—The largest exchange of wounded prisoners during this war is scheduled to take place next Wednesday at Smyrna, when 1,200 British wounded will be given up by the Axis in return for 1,200 of their wounded men.

FRENCH FIGHT IN RUSSIA

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POINTERS FOR WAVES

LONDON.—(P)—Mrs. James Forrester, wife of the Undersecretary of the Admiralty, arrived in London today to get some pointers for U. S. WAVES from Mrs. Vera Lons Mathews, director of the British WAVEs, a women's auxiliary to the British Navy.

AXIS INTELLIGENCE CHIEF

LONDON.—(P)—A well-known foreign source has said that Admiral Canaris, former chief of the German Intelligence Service, had been made chief of all Axis Intelligence forces in Southern Europe. It was stated that the Admiral had been named commander in chief of all Axis Naval forces in the Mediterranean.

WEATHER

Little change in temperature
Today's Temp. 11-79 F. 7:00
Sunset Today 7:10
Sunrise Tomorrow 6:17
Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 10