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ALLIED FORCE IN TUNISIA

Destroy 17 Jap Planes In Raid on Guadalcanal

Intercepted by
Americans

WASHINGTON. (AP)—(AP)—Destruction of seventeen Japanese bombers and fighters which tried to attack American positions on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands was reported today by the Navy. Seven United States fighters were lost.

In addition to the planes definitely destroyed when the American fighters intercepted two enemy dive bomber formations over Guadalcanal on Wednesday (Guadalcanal Time), five Japanese bombers and fighters were reported as probably destroyed.

These definitely shot down raised the total of Japanese planes listed in Navy communiqués as having been shot down or otherwise destroyed to 566 in the Solomon campaign.

A Navy communique said the first attack on Wednesday was made by ten enemy dive bombers and twelve fighters.

Our interceptors—Grumman Wildcat—shot down six bombers and five fighters.

U. S. Undercover Job Before African Campaign Disclosed

Gen. Clark Led American Staff in
Amazing Mission to Dark Continent

By WES GALLAGHER

U. S. Correspondent with the AEF in North Africa
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, North Africa. (AP)—Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower disclosed today the story of one of the war's most amazing undercover exploits by a commando-escorted staff of American officers who made tour of French North Africa and gained essential military information three weeks before the American occupation began.

Major Gen. Mark W. Clark, the American commander-in-chief of the 40-year-old right hand man was the leader in this mission, as surprising as any created in the imagination of an E. Phillips Oppenheim.

Following are the characters and story as placed together from details furnished by Eisenhower and Clark:

On the mission with Clark were:

Brig. Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, 42, of Honesdale, Pa.

Col. Archibald L. Hamilton, 44, of Maine; Col. J. H. C. 42, a former member of the American diplomatic service; Capt. Gerald Wright, 37, of S. N. Y. Washington, D. C.; and Commando Captain C. J. Courtney, 37, of Livingston, and Lieut. J. D. Ford.

About three weeks before the campaign opened it became evident there was a large group of Frenchmen in North Africa.

See YANKS DO on page 8

Main Force Of Rommel Within Libya Now

Transport Hit on
Coastal Road

By PAUL KERN LEE

CAIRO. (AP)—Long-range two-engine RAF fighters attacked the El Agoula airfield at Tunis, capital of the French protectorate. The attack was a fire nineteen planes definitely identified as German and damaging nineteen others, the British announced today.

Scuttling Axis pretensions that German and Italian air forces were not in Tunisia, the British reported that the planes known to have been destroyed were six Nazi models—eleven Junkers 87's, five Junkers 52's, one Heinkel 111, and one Fiesler Storch.

ATTACK FROM MALTA

The attack, which a communique said was carried out yesterday, presumably was launched from the island of Malta, British "unsinkable aircraft carrier." The attack was made at 200 miles off the Tunisian coast. Tunis is out of fighter range of Egyptian airfields, some 1,200 miles away.

Allied fighters shot down 23 Axis planes in these battles. It was reported six of these planes were destroyed as large transport carriers.

The mass of Rommel's retreating army has reached a point between Bardia and Gambut in Libya, the communique said. Trucks and armoured cars were attacked by fighters and fighter bombers of the Allied air forces.

INTERCEPTION SOUGHT

The RAF snafu at the Tunis airfield was made as United States troops were speeding toward the Tunisian border from the west, determined to crush any Axis attempt to take over the French protectorate, and at the same time be in a position to intercept Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's retreating African corps.

The British announced that the mass of Rommel's battered army had reached a point between Bardia and Gambut, well within Libya, yesterday, and that his transport was being attacked on the coastal road by Allied fighters and fighter-bombers.

Later dispatches, however, said that the Eighth Army had finished clearing Egyptian desert of the enemy. The only Axis soldiers remaining were on their way out as prisoners, and a small force of German troops at Bugbug, just inside Egypt, where a Nazi soldier was reported tried to hold out yesterday.

The British communique said that the report from Allied sources was that Rommel was on page 8.

Far Outnumbers Opposing Troops

African Operation May Be Developing on
Larger Scope Than Was Indicated in First Landings

LONDON. (AP)—Reuters said the Vichy radio broadcast today that the town of Bone, in eastern Algeria 60 miles from the Tunisian border, was occupied by American troops this morning. The Americans landed from British ships to take the town, the broadcast said.

By E. C. DANIEL

LONDON. (AP)—British and American troops together were driving toward Tunisia today from the west in perhaps the largest combined Allied operation of the North African campaign.

This force—far outnumbering any troops Hitler has been able to land in Tunisia—was the newly-designated British First Army under Lieut. Gen. Kenneth Arthur Noel Anderson, 50-year-old Scots veteran of Dunkerque, and Americans under Major Gen. Charles Ryder, with Anderson in command.

Few Nazi Planes Over Stalingrad

May Indicate That German Air
Strength Moved Westward

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW. (AP)—A sharp reduction in German air activity over the Stalingrad front was reported today in Soviet military dispatches, which noted that the Nazis were using outdated planes and dropping only small bombs.

(This might indicate a shifting of first line air units to other fronts, perhaps Southern Europe.)

During the past 24 hours, barely 200 flights over the lines were observed, the newspaper Pravda said, by comparison with a previous daily average of 1,500 to 2,000 flights.

The German raids were aimed at Russian communication lines. Damage inflicted on towns and villages on the east bank of the Volga was small, and no deaths were reported, the dispatches said.

Two companies of Nazi infantry were decimated by Russian gunfire at one point within the city.

The Russian report of enemy troops was wiped out in an attempt to penetrate Soviet defenses.

Hitler was reported today to be withdrawing troops from the Stalingrad front and moving them hastily westward to protect his flank against a possible Allied thrust across the Mediterranean.

According to a well-informed source, who says many German preparations are being made by the Germans to billet 40 divisions from the Russian front in Hungary and Yugoslavia—or approximately a quarter of the entire Nazi force now battling the Red Army.

CHANCE FOR REDS

Such a withdrawal, if carried out, obviously would relieve pressure on the Russians and might enable them to launch a winter offensive with good chances of success, it was stated.

Active fighting last night said that Rumanian and Hungarian railroads already were crowded with German troops moving westward in the general direction of Greece and Italy.

The movement appeared to be still holding, falling and bleeding Germany's mightiest war machine of modern times.

This Red Army has many things which any first-class army must have. It has a large cadre of professional officers who have had long, rigid training in their military tasks. It has an artillerymen of exceptional merit who are inspired by long-established Russian tradition. It has tank crews and aviation technicians and officers who have for nine years, spurred by the menace of Hitler's Wehrmacht and Hitler's Luftwaffe, have concentrated upon developing

Mystery as To Fleet

Main Body Believed
Still at Toulon

By THOMAS F. HAWKINS

BERN, Switzerland. (AP)—A cautiously worded broadcast from Vichy today said the Germans by decision of Hitler himself would not occupy Toulon, the home of the French fleet in the Mediterranean, because the Navy commander there had pledged themselves to resist "all aggressors."

Although this indicated that the Germans were satisfied the French would take care of Toulon themselves if the Allies attacked the base, the announcement could also be interpreted to mean that the French sailors were determined to fight the Germans if they attempted to enter.

A Berlin broadcast said Toulon had been proclaimed a "camp retranché" an area set apart and by-passed.

Only developments would tell whether the French commanders now at Toulon had entered into an understanding with the Germans or were standing off.

But at any rate it seemed to confirm reports that at least a considerable portion of the fleet still was at Toulon.

The broadcast communique said, "Toulon the chiefs of our Marine, having made an engagement to defend themselves against all aggressors, the German High Command has decided that the fortified port of Toulon will not be occupied and our ships will be safeguarded."

Queen Elizabeth Hit Reported

By German Broad-
cast

BERLIN (From German Broad-cast)—The German High Command said today the 45,000-ton British passenger ship Queen Elizabeth, sister ship of the Queen Mary, had been torpedoed in the North Atlantic.

(There was no confirmation of this report from Allied sources and the German High Command did not claim the ship had been sunk.)

It was the liner Queen Elizabeth which was torpedoed, the High Command said, by the British battleship Queen Elizabeth as reported in a communique yesterday.

Algeria Bombed

HELLIN (From German Broad-cast)—The German High Command said today that Axis planes had bombed Algerian cities and that German planes had scored hits with heavy bombs on an aircraft carrier, a cruiser and big merchant ship off the Algerian coast.

The communique said that two transports totaling 15,000 tons were sunk at Bougie, the Allied-occupied port 100 miles east of Algiers, and that "continuing waves" of Axis planes attacked a landing group and damaged twelve warships, merchant ships and passenger ships.

British Strike First Air Blow In Tunisia

Axis Planes Blasted in Assault by
Allied Attackers

LONDON. (AP)—The air battle for Tunisia was underway today with Allied fighters getting in the first blows while German and Italian forces rushed to help American invasion of Europe from the south.

These were the battle lines drawn in the western Mediterranean.

—French naval chiefs pledged their Toulon fleet to "resist all aggression" and their navy to "fight to the last" in the event of an Axis attack on the port.

Long-range two-engine RAF fighters, striking yesterday from Malta, attacked the airfield at Agoula at Tunis yesterday, destroying nineteen planes, damaged six others, and identified themselves as German Junkers, Focke-Wulf and Fiesler Storch model fighters.

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Petroleum Cut Slated

Recommendation for
Eastern States Made

WASHINGTON. (AP)—Petroleum Commissioner Harold L. Ickes disclosed today he had recommended a cut of nearly twelve per cent in petroleum consumption in the seventeen nations East Coast states.

The recommendation was made to War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson, who has authority to direct the Office of Price Administration to make the cut.

Ickes said, "I think it has been accepted."

A spokesman for the War Production Board said last night that Nelson had ordered a reduction in civilian use of petroleum products but that no decision had been made as to how much of the reduction would be borne by gasoline, fuel oil and other products.

The co-ordinator declined to discuss methods of effecting the cut.

Ickes, at a press conference, said his recommendation would reduce rationed consumption of all oil and petroleum products on the East Coast by 139,000 barrels a day.

Knock Calls for More Production

MCKEESPORT, Pa. (AP)—Secretary of Navy Knox declared last night that a second front now is "wide open" and called for vastly increased production of war materials for the Allied armies fighting all over the world.

Production officials, Knox said, have told him a 20 to 25 per cent increase could be achieved without increasing the work-week or reducing profits, adding:

"A per cent increase in production would be equal to adding an army of millions of additional trained workers."

Report Nazi Troop Move

Believed Being Taken
From Russian Front

ANKARA, Turkey. (AP)—As a result of the new American-British offensive in North Africa Adolf Hitler was reported today to be withdrawing troops from the Russian front and moving them hastily westward to protect his flank against a possible Allied thrust across the Mediterranean.

According to a well-informed source, who says many German preparations are being made by the Germans to billet 40 divisions from the Russian front in Hungary and Yugoslavia—or approximately a quarter of the entire Nazi force now battling the Red Army.

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