

ALLEN FLEET SCUTTLED AS NAZIS SEIZE TOULON

Danger Grows For Germans At Stalingrad

New Strength Poured Into City's Soviet Garrison—Nazi Lifelines Cut

By EDDIE GILMORE

MOSCOW.—(AP)—Danger deepened hourly for Hitler's battered spearhead at Stalingrad today, the latest battle spatches indicated, as fresh strength poured into the aggressive Red Army garrison over a newly won land route and fast-wheeling, field columns cut across the besiegers' feltnes to the west.

A confused war of movement raged across the broad steppe east of Stalingrad and it was impossible to define battlelines clearly, but overnight dispatches said that in some places the Red offensive gained such momentum that firing German units were frustrated in efforts to burn warplanes in fields overwhelmed too swiftly to permit take off.

Dozens of planes were reported captured undamaged at one airbase in a sector described only as fully.

Overnight reports pushed to 115.

Allies Move Within 15 Miles Of Tunis

Seek To Drive Wedge Between Capital and Naval Base of Bizerte

LONDON.—(AP)—Allied spearheads were reported today to have lanced to a point fifteen miles from Tunis and to have clashed with Axis forces at Mateur, a communications junction 25 miles south of Bizerte, in an effort to drive a wedge between the fortified capital and the naval base of Tunis.

Both developments were announced in a Berlin radio broadcast.

The position of the task force striking at Tunis was not stated, but an Allied commander earlier announced that British First Army troops, striking northward, had captured Mateur, 30 miles southwest of Tunis, "advancing successfully."

Mateur lies at the railway line and one of two highways between Tunis and Bizerte, in which Hitler has concentrated the majority of German and Italian troops in Tunisia. London commentators estimate their numbers at 20,000. It is 40 miles northwest of the capital. Eastward toward the Mediterranean coast, runs another highway between Bizerte and Tunis.

SMALL SCALE FIGHTING

The Moroccan radio said all ground engagements thus far fought amid the Tunis shovels, the

See **ALLIES MOVE** on page 10

Guide to Good Reading

DR. FREEMAN WRITES OF SOUTHERN GENERALS

Dr. Douglas Freeman, the nation's No. 1 Civil War author, is following up his famous "R. E. Lee" with another series, "Lee's Lieutenants," the first volume of which was published recently. A review of this outstanding volume and other comments on the war can be found in the weekly "After the Book Ends" column on page 4 of today's issue.

PUBLICITY A JINX? THAT'S TOMMYROT

It's an old alibi of stars in every sports field that the spotlight of publicity is their enemy in future performances. But yesterday the sports department of the New York Herald Tribune, which was in the line of Wake Forest's Red Corbhan—and as soon as the paper hit the "red" Mr. Corbhan backed it up by announcing South Carolina almost single-handed, his feat and the coach's comments about them are all on the sports page.

THOSE TAXES ARE GOING TO HURT

You're not worried much about the fellows who earn over \$25,000 a year, and have to fork over the cream of their income to the Government. But had you thought that a policy of business, and turn it off to even heavier burden on the average man? Cripple big business, and turn it off to even heavier burden on the average man? Cripple big business, and turn it off to even heavier burden on the average man?

ward Communism? Paul Mellon goes through the proposition on today's editorial page.

More Japs Sent Into Struggle on New Guinea

Hold in Face of Heavy Assaults

By C. YATES McDANIEL

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA.—(AP) Reinforced by strong and well-equipped Marine units, Japanese troops crammed into the narrow Buna-Gona beachhead are holding their major positions in the face of daylong air assaults and steadily but slightly abated pressure from Allied ground forces.

Comparatively meager official reports from the New Guinea front today showed little progress in the battle picture in the last 24 hours.

But a check on the Japanese dead confirmed earlier indications that the enemy, despite severe blows by General Douglas MacArthur's aerial squadrons, had succeeded in bringing reinforcements into action.

JAP SHIPS SUNK

Since the night of Nov. 19, United States and Australian bombers have sunk a Japanese cruiser, four destroyers and two landing boats, have heavily hit and probably sunk a fifth destroyer and damaged another moving toward the twelve-mile shoreline still in Lieutenant Tomonore's hands.

A dispatch from the New Guinea front said fanatical Japanese resistance and "bravely placed defense positions" confronted American troops in the Papua New Guinea campaign, but they were determined to crush the enemy.

Gales were made totemously, by feet and by tanks. Enemy gun positions fell slowly, one by one.

Major C. M. Weaver of Yankton, S. D., commented that "whoever said the Japanese can't fight defensively are crazy."

"The Japanese are in there to stay until we kill them," he said. "They have had a long time to prepare for our drive and they have made the most of it. It may be more Japs on page 10.

See **MORE JAPS** on page 10

WEATHER

Clear; below freezing; light east tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 41; L. 34. Sunset Today: 5:12. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:10.

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 10.

Behind German Action

Hitler Demonstrates He Considers French Armed Services Hostile

By JOHN EVANS

NEW YORK.—(AP)—Hitler certified by word and deed today to French patriotism and showed he considered the French Army and Navy hostile to the invading Germans.

Old Marshal Petain was said by the Nazi chief to have "taken part in these activities" against Germany but Admiral Jean Darlan, Petain's former right-hand man, and political heir was on record as asserting the Marshal really favored the Allies. Darlan has said Petain acted under duress in appealing vainly for the French in North Africa to resist American forces there.

SAY FRENCH FIRED

The 60 warships at Toulon were reported scuttled while Germans and Italians were occupying by force this greatest of French naval bases. French troops, the Germans said, fired upon them.

Hitler in a letter to Petain asserted he had proof that French forces at Toulon were fired Nov. 27 and to fire if the American and British forces tried to land there.

This might refer to Admiral Darlan's Nov. 12 broadcast from



Our Bombers Lash Tripoli

Big Fellows Pound Main Axis Base

CAIRO.—(AP)—United States heavy bombers, ranging ahead of the British Eighth Army, made a punishing attack yesterday on Tripoli, the main Axis base in Africa, and also raided Rome, 100 miles to the east, it was announced today.

Liberators making their raids scored hits which set off great explosions on two big merchant ships, one at Tripoli and the other at Rome. The latter vessel turned over on its side.

The big four-motored bombers flew through bad weather to plunge their bombs on shipping in Tripoli's harbor and on the Spanish mole, the announcement said. No details of the Rome raid were given.

Wednesday night, it was disclosed, RAF medium bombers attacked Tunis in two waves, the first setting fires which were spreading rapidly when the second came over the target.

In the meantime the British Middle East Command said today, for the first time since the British Eighth Army's offensive was launched against Marshal Rommel's El Alamein Line, Oct. 23, that "there is nothing to report from our land forces" and aerial activity was relatively limited.

A large force of our medium bombers attacked a landing ground at Marble Arch, west of 23 Agheila, on the night of Nov. 23-24, the communique reported. Bombs fell among dispersed aircraft, causing fires.

Docks, gasoline depots and oil tanks were declared fired at Tunis by raiders co-operating with the fliers of Lieut.-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's command, and direct hits were scored on railway installations, freight yards and warehouses.

Three Axis ships were damaged in a series of attacks at sea and in port, the communique said.

"Yesterday, a north-bound Junkers 52, carrying troops, was attacked by our twin-engine fighters and shot down into the sea. The 'Bon Tomia,' it was declared.

French Fleet—Shown above are two pictures of the French fleet. At top parts of the fleet at anchor at Toulon and below some of the ships during maneuvers. Vichy reported today that the fleet at Toulon had been scuttled to keep it from falling into Nazi hands.

Toulon Harbor Desolate Scene

Great Ships of French Navy Lying On Sides, Smoke Rising From Hulks

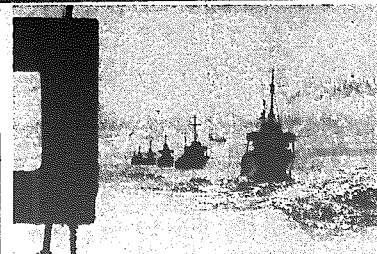
LONDON.—(AP)—The great naval harbor of Toulon, where, according to Vichy accounts, the French Fleet was scuttled, is a "scene of utter desolation with all the magnificent ships of the French Navy lying on their sides and with dense clouds of smoke rising from them," said a Vichy broadcast today that was recorded by Reuters News Agency.

"The Germans said part of the fleet was scuttled."

"The Maritime prefecture, the post office and the town hall fell quickly into the hands of the German troops who swarmed in through the windows from ladders placed against the wall," said the radio account.

A column of German tanks and armored cars entered the arsenal by the Castiglione gate and, guided, fell upon the shipyard. The battleship Strasbourg was moored.

"Another German armored column brought soldiers armed with Tommy guns to the Nauban Basin, in which the battleship Dunkerque was undergoing repairs, and in front of which the cruisers Foch, Alge, Duquesne and Jean de



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MANY CASUALTIES

"There were many casualties both among the defenders and the scuttling crews who sacrificed their lives to prevent the ships from falling into the hands of the Germans."

All captains stood on the bridge until their ships sank. Most of them lost their lives.

"The town echoed to the rattle of German heavy artillery. French prisoners who maintained a calm and dignified front while the experts stood over them with fixed bayonets."

"Even after daybreak the noise of the explosions continued as isolated small ships blew themselves up, while massive roars from the munition dumps and oil tanks at some distance from the docks added their quills to the wreckage."

"There was absolutely nothing left of the complicated and precious material stored in the naval arsenal."

In the early afternoon the mayor of Toulon issued an order for the closing of all cinemas, theaters and public places at 10 P. M., although no restriction had been placed on the movements of the population in the streets."

See **HITLER** on page 10

Great Sea Force Is Destroyed

French Sailors Sink Ships To Keep Them Out Of Nazi Hands

LONDON.—(AP)—French sailors scuttled their proud fleet in the Mediterranean harbor of Toulon at dawn today, the Vichy radio announced, French captains went down with their ships and French crews fought off German boarding parties as Adolf Hitler moved in and occupied the naval base, the last bit of heretofore unoccupied France.

The battleships Dunkerque and Strasbourg and the cruisers Foch, Alge, Duquesne and Jean de Vienne were among the 62 ships rent by mighty explosions as German motorized columns poured through the streets of Toulon and Nazi soldiers swarmed through windows of strategic buildings in an apparent effort to seize the base and perhaps the fleet by surprise.

As an excuse Hitler accused the French, in a letter to aged Marshal Petain, of having ordered the French forces there not to resist if British or American forces landed.

Tonight, hours after the wreckage by fire and explosive, a Vichy broadcast said, the harbor was a smoking ruin, its coastal batteries, arsenals and other works shattered along with the ships.

"All the captains stood on the bridge until their ships sank; most of them lost their lives," said the broadcast, and many lives were lost both among the defenders and the Germans when the crews opened fire to hold off the Germans until the scuttling could be accomplished.

Although the German communique said only that part of the fleet was scuttled, the Germans themselves gave weight to the French report by rebroadcasting the Vichy announcement that all the French warships at Toulon had gone down.

The Germans admitted also that this latest broken Hitler promise had encountered opposition.

The Nazi communique did not tell which or how many of the French warships—including three battleships—were sunk but a Vichy broadcast recorded by Reuters announced:

"By orders of Admiral de Laborde, vessels of the French squadron at Toulon scuttled themselves."

At 10 A. M. there was not one vessel afloat.

At the moment that Nazi armored columns entered Toulon at 4 A. M. today, said the Vichy broadcast quoting a dispatch from Marseille, "Admiral de Laborde gave the order to scuttle which was immediately carried out."

Flares from one big force of German bombers spotted the ships at their anchorages before dawn, it said, while other bombers sowed magnetic mines to block the roadstead entrance.

This sudden stroke, in violation of Hitler's specifications, was a "great blow to the population in the streets."

See **FRENCH SAILORS** on page 10