

SECURE TRAP BREASTS NAZIS

33 Killed And 119 Injured In Canadian Train Wreck

BRITISH EDGE ROMMEL REAR GUARD

Must Decide About Taking Stand Soon

Might Have To Give Up All Tripolitania Without Fighting

LONDON.—(AP)—Marshal Erwin Rommel's retreating African Corps was rapidly approaching Misrata today where it must decide either to make a stand or give up all Mussolini's Tripolitania and join the Axis forces in Tunisia where pelting rains kept Allied and Axis armies at a standstill.

General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery reported in a Cairo communique that his British Eighth Army had engaged Rommel's rear guard in the region of Wadi Bi el Chebir, 40 miles west of Sirte and only about fifteen miles east of Buerat El Husn. The Libyan shore bends northward there toward Misrata and forms a huge hump in the coastline.

Flanking marshlands and hills by the immediate stretch ahead gave Marshal Rommel his most advantageous position to stop and fight since his defeated Army pulled up stakes at El Achelia, 220 miles west of Buerat El Husn.

Axis forces in Tunisia by quickly abandoning his Libyan positions, military commentators pointed out that the Eighth Army and its powerful air force would be at his heels and ready to join the British First Army in a two-day drive upon Tripoli and Bizerte.

The Italian High Command admitted today that "reconnaissance" activity was growing more intense in the Sicily.

See HIT ROMMEL on page 8

Troop Train Runs Into Rear Cars Of Local

Little Damage to Military Train

ALMONTE, Ont.—(AP)—Thirty-three holiday passengers were killed and 119 injured, many critically, when the locomotive of a Canadian Pacific troop train plowed through the three rear wooden cars of a local train standing in the station here last night, officials of the railway said today.

Virtually all the dead and injured were in the three coaches which were taking about men, women and children at Almonte on the run from Pembroke, Ont., to Ottawa.

The troop train was only slightly damaged. It was moving from the wreckage of the smashed cars, rescue workers toiled to release trapped passengers and remove the dead.

Scattered in the deep snow were reminders of the recent holiday festivities, torn bundles in the vibrant color of Christmas wrappings.

6 SOLDIERS DIE

Although civilians made up the bulk of the casualties, at least six soldiers were among the dead. Among the bodies identified was that of Lieutenant Douglas Markham of Vancouver.

It was believed that they were passengers on the Pembroke-Ottawa train, which was standing in the Almonte station when the troop train crashed into it.

It was the worst train wreck in Canada since 1910, when 43 persons were killed in the derailment of a train at Spanish River bridge, West of Toronto.

AT GRADE CROSSING

The collision occurred at a grade crossing, beside the intersection of the Bridge Street, the latter Almonte's main thoroughfare. So great was the impact of the train that two sizable trees by the light-of-way were blown off by the telescoping coaches.

Except for the three cars telescoping into each other.

See 33 KILLED on page 8



DISGUSTED PRISONER — The scowling gent at left is a German officer taken prisoner who unwillingly poses for Lieutenant Robert Longini, American Signal Corps photographer who was recording different reactions of prisoners to being captured.

Pincers Being Closed In By Huge Forces

Strong German Armies in Upper Caucasus May Be Placed in Peril

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW.—(AP)—Russian troops advancing southward in the middle Don sector were reported only 45 miles from those striking southwestward from Stalingrad today, and thus a second Russian trap threatened German forces in the Stalingrad area.

Should these two huge forces join somewhere on the lower Don—and the mid-day Soviet communique reported they were moving forward—the strong German forces at Kotelnikowski in the upper Caucasus also would be in great peril.

The capture of Birtukov by the Red forces southwest of Stalingrad and the seizure of Solonetski northeast of Birtukov by the armies of the middle Don brought the two massive forces near a junction.

Birtukov, in the southeast corner of the Don Elbow, is about 22 miles northeast of Stalingrad. Stalingrad railway up past Kotelnikowski to Stalingrad.

Solonetski is northeast of Birtukov and it was the capture of this village which put at least the advance of the two armies 45 miles apart.

RELENTLESS ATTACK

The Russian armies, engaged in the winter offensives, were pursuing every advantage night and day while Russian dispatches pictured the Germans as wading through the mud and abandoning great stores of equipment in their haste to retreat as others were reported trapped in the Volga-Don River area by this drive, based on the repudiation of the Stalingrad.

Six hundred Germans were slain as the Russians fought through the night here, repelling a bitter German counter-attack in which the communiqué said.

In the middle Don offensive, where the Russians are pressing into the Ukraine and plunging toward Rostov, German troops strong in the Caucasus, 500 Germans killed in only two sectors. Large quantities of equipment and food stores also were seized in this area, the communique reported.

The vital artery of the fast dividing German communications system in southwestern Russia has been cut by the Russian occupation of Tatsinskaya, 50 miles east of Likhaya, on the railway line leading from the Moscow-Rostov line to Stalingrad.

ANGLE HELD

Almost all of the angle east of the Moscow-Rostov railroad and the angle west of the Likhaya-Stalingrad line is now in Russian hands.

The offensive was reaching so deep into the German rear that railroad stations like Tatsinskaya, near of Likhaya, together with German and Soviet currency was seized in a bank at Volzhino, west of Millerovo, together with a bank.

See NAZIS FACING on page 8

Japanese Drop Supplies By Chute

Desperate Effort to Help Guadalcanal Forces Blasted By Americans

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Navy announced today that the Japanese had dropped supplies by parachute to their hard-pressed forces on Guadalcanal Island, but the parachutes and their cargo were discovered on the ground and bombed and strafed by United States Army planes.

Navy communique No. 232.

South Pacific:

(All dates are East longitude.)

1. Additional reports have been received of the attack by dive bombers from Guadalcanal Island on a small group of enemy ships south of Vandam Island in the New Georgia group of the Solomon Islands (previously announced in Navy communique No. 229).

See DROP SUPPLIES on page 8

Air Blows Traded

Japanese Come Off Second Best in Attacks

CHUNGKING.—(AP)—United States and Japanese bombers traded blows over the Christmas weekend and the Japanese wound up in second place, losing eight of 21 bombers in raids on Yunnan Province yesterday. Chinese Air Force Headquarters at Kunming announced.

A flight of American bombers manufactured by volunteers dropped incendiary cargoes of bombs on Japanese barracks and warehouses in Teng-Yueh in Western Yunnan Province Christmas Eve and every day since they returned to a holiday eve party this night.

NEW OFFENSIVE

Yesterday's attack by 21 Japanese bombers was part of a new offensive against Chinese Air Force Christmas Day, when more than 20 Japanese planes swept over the province.

See U. S. JAP on page 8

All Canned Foods To Be Rationed

Will Be Started in February; Warning Against Hoarding Given

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—You will need a ration book with your can opener beginning in February.

In an extraordinary broadcast to the American people, Food Administrator Claude R. Wickard outlined plans last night to ration all canned, dried, and frozen fruits and vegetables, and their juices, including soups, as soon as the machinery can be set up.

The purpose, as Wickard explained it, is to insure an equitable distribution on the home front while supplying the armed forces and our fighting Allies, who together will need about 25 per cent of all the food that we produce next year.

In a warning against hoarding, the Office of Price Administration emphasized that consumers must list stocks on hand when registering for war ration books, two "pounds" rationing book which will be used for canned goods, and plans for meats and other commodities.

Stamps will be deducted to cover the goods on hand before the ration book is issued.

HEAVY PENALTIES

"Heavy penalties" said OPA, "are provided for any applicant who makes a false declaration of the amount of goods he has on hand."

Fresh fruits and vegetables, and those preserved at home, will not be affected.

Wickard, declaring that nearly half of next year's production of canned and dried fruits and vegetables will be needed for military purposes, said:

"On the average, 33 pounds of canned, frozen or dried fruits and vegetables are expected to be available for each person in 1943 as compared with an average of about 48 pounds a year from 1937 to 1941."

"But that doesn't mean," he said, "we will be poorly fed. At present—assuming that we meet production goals and that military and lend-lease needs stay in line with present estimates—about 100 per cent of our civilian food supply will be available for our civilian population in 1943 as compared with an average of about 100 per cent of the 1935-39 period."

"Potatoes—150 to 160 per cent. Beans—100 to 125 per cent. Potatoes—85 to 100 per cent. Fresh citrus fruits—125 to 130 per cent. Fresh vegetables—90 to 95 per cent."

Cereals—Abundant supplies, we can have all that we want to eat."

See WILL RATION on page 8

De Gaulle Visit Looms

Probably Will Visit Washington Soon

LONDON.—(AP)—Gen. Charles De Gaulle probably will visit Washington soon to lay the blueprint of a new French Government before President Roosevelt, then proceed to North Africa to see Gen. Henri Giraud, successor to Admiral Jean Darlan, well-informed quarters said today.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden received General De Gaulle today for an interview.

The creation of a new French Government, centered probably at Algiers, based on the repudiation of the armistice with Germany and Vichy's dissolution of the French Republic, was said to be among the aims of the Fighting French leader.

Ration Act Condemned

Announcement Far in Advance Deplored

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

A spokesman for the National Association of Retail Grocers and the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Representative Fulmer, Democrat, South Carolina, joined today in condemnation of the Food Administration's secret announcement, more than a month in advance, of its plans to ration more than 200 kinds of commercially processed foods.

"We deplore Government officials' giving the unscrupulous portion of the public a month to do their hoarding," said Mrs. Rose Marie Kieffer, the grocery secretary, Chicago. She said rationing would be necessary next year but there is no shortage at the present time."

Price Administrator Leon Henderson, in announcing last night

See RATION ACT on page 8

P-38 Dose Given Japs

American Fighters Go Into Ground Action

ALBANY, HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA.—(AP)—Allied troops storming heavily fortified Japanese defenses are steadily smashing the last Japanese line at Buna in New Guinea, the Allied Command announced today in a communique which also declared that America's P-38 fighters had scored their debut on that front with a smashing victory over enemy planes.

Hammering ceaselessly at Japanese remnants trapped in a coastal strip in the Buna area, Allied troops attacking from the left have driven a wedge into the enemy defense system, and on the right important enemy gun emplacements have been taken," the communique reported.

Further up the coast, east of Sattaniang Track, the Allies were said to have made "small but important gains."

The Japanese are staging last-minute efforts to break through the line.

See P-38 DOSE on page 8

Guide to Good Reading

UNUSUAL CASES FOR STUDY OF AFRICAN HISTORY

American Army doctors on the African front are getting a wide variety of experiences. For instance there was the fellow who broke his arm when he fell off a rifle's neck. Other cases are chronicled by the AP's George Tucker in a column on page 1 of this edition.

MARRIAGES SPOILED BY LITTLE TROUBLES

It's the little things, not great ones, that are responsible for most of the divorce cases that clutter the court docket of this country. A survey by the AP's George Tucker, in a column on page 1 of this edition, tells of some of them.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE BUDGET

A new Congress about to convene, and a new Congress ready to do its job, are the time of Roosevelt's new budget means a new definition of just to keep up with the times. The AP's George Tucker, in a column on page 1 of this edition, tells of some of the things that are going on.

See ARRIVAL on page 8

Washington Wonders What Has Happened To Japanese Air Force

BY JOHN HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—One of the questions intriguing Washington authorities today is this: What has happened to the Japanese air force?

For more than a month it has been conspicuously "inactive" in the communique from Pacific and in the theater, both in numbers and in activity.

HAVE POWER LEFT

The Japanese have suffered heavily in the number of planes destroyed since last June but it has been generally assumed that they have a considerable force left. Authorities here believe that the explanation of their current inability to fight effectively in the air probably involves other and more complex factors than simple attrition.

One of these may be that the Japs have been forced to concentrate planes and supporting ground units in the South China and Burma areas for both defense against the British thrust into Burma from India and for their own drive in China's Yunnan Province.

If this explanation is true, it may mean, according to qualified but unquotable authorities here, that the Japanese air force is insufficient to protect all the vital spots where they must expect attack in the months ahead.

The record of recent enemy air activity in the Pacific is highlighted by these facts:

Since the great sea-battle of November-December, the Japs have bombed the American airfield on the British island of Guadalcanal and then only with lone planes. Previously there had been daily raids in force and frequent night attacks.

At Munda, on New Georgia

See JAP FORCE on page 8

Arrival Of U.S. Troops Brings New Life To Badly-Crowded Dakar

(Editor's Note: The arrival of American troops in Dakar was disclosed last week by Joseph Morton of the Associated Press, the only American war correspondent on hand to report the stirring news in a dispatch direct from that French West African port. In the following dispatch Morton gives more details of the situation there, and the reaction of the Americans found in Dakar.)

By JOSEPH MORTON

DAKAR, Dec. 26.—(Deloitte)—The mysterious and strategic port of Dakar, closed for many months to the Allies and Axis alike, is beginning to awaken from a long sleep of war-imposed seclusion.

With the arrival of American troops, an air of expectancy and impending big doings has permeated the city. The 40,000 white residents, most of them youthful Americans, are facing the prospect of once again having something important to do, and somewhere to go.

The man in the street anticipates that the swing of French West Africa to the Allies will be a big change in the badly-crowded metropolis teeming with soldiers and sailors. He is tired of pillbox construction, bicycles, pony carts, charcoal-burning auto omnibuses, crowded apartments and hotels, rationing, propaganda, counter-propaganda, and counter-counter-propaganda.

Now that West Africa is all on one horse, he would like to get on with the war. He wants an end to the complexity caused when the old First Column (of pre-Allies) became Vichy. He wants the labor relations changed from the

See ARRIVAL on page 8

WEATHER

Occasional rain and showers; slightly warmer.

Today's Temp.: H. 68; L. 50.

Weather Today: Sunny with a few clouds.

Additional information: The weather is generally favorable for the day.