

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final

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## ALLIED FORCES PURSUE JAP IN MIDWAY VICTORY

### British Smash Nazis Back In Libyan Drive

Armored Superiority Reported Won  
Over Rommel's Forces

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Britain's desert armies were reported to have won armored superiority in the twelve-day battle of North Africa as tank-led British infantry, striking from three sides, ded the Germans back toward a gap in the main British line.

Counting on using the gap as an escape hatch in the event he is forced to retreat westward once more.

The British said Lt.-Gen. Neil M. Ritchie, British field commander, was pressing the initiative west of Knightsbridge, driving the Axis out of Tamar, east of Knightsbridge.

Heavy British artillery fire from the south and north hampered Axis attempts to organize a counter-attack, while British columns which thrust far to the Axis rear attacked German supply lines bringing vital fuel to Rommel's mechanized forces.

An Italian communiqué acknowledged that the British were on the offensive, declaring that British armored attacks had been repulsed. The German High Command said briefly that Axis forces had gone over to the counter attack.

### Sales Levy Needed To Attain Tax Goal

Secretary Warned That More  
Revenue Will Be Necessary

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The House Ways and Means committee was reported today to have put the Administration on notice formally that its tax goal of \$8,700,000,000 could not be achieved without a sales tax.

### Australian Ship Sunk

MELBOURNE.—(AP)—Another Australian merchant ship has been sunk by a Japanese submarine off the coast of New South Wales but survivors said they believed the destroyer raider was sunk by an enemy plane only a few minutes after their vessel went down.

The sinking of two Japanese submarines and probably a third off the east coast of Australia was reported in an Allied communiqué which said that the Australian government was not immediately sure whether the Melbourne disaster referred to this or to still another ship.

Survivors of the ship, merchant ship, one of whom was injured, were picked up at an Australian port.

It was said that the ship, which was a second victim of the Japanese, was the same size as this week's wreck, but that it was not immediately clear whether the Melbourne disaster referred to this or to still another ship.

### Axis Striking Power Blunted— Turning Point May Come In Fall

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER  
WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Military experts reviewing six months of glacial war concluded today that Axis striking power had been blunted, and that the turning point in the war might come in the fall.

The experts, who were gathered here for a conference, said that the Axis had suffered a major blow in the attack on the Soviet Union, and that the German army was now in a position to launch a counter-attack in the fall.

### RAF Tops Off Week of Raids With Ruhr Attack

Also Smashes at  
Occupied Coast

LONDON.—(AP)—The RAF topped off the week which saw it open the greatest air offensive in history with a third battering night assault upon the German Ruhr last night and by sending what observers called the "biggest sweep of the week" against the occupied coastline in a daylight attack.

The "biggest sweep of the week" meant that probably more than 1,000 fighter and fighter bomber planes were engaged in the day operation.

Through the sunny afternoon the Germans were given no respite from bombs and machine-gun fire.

Believed repeating their performance of yesterday, when blows were dealt along a 400-mile stretch of coast were the new British Whirlwinds, each mounting four cannons.

### Reds Hit German Force From Rear

Nazi Central Front Army Loses  
Several Hundred Infantrymen

MOSCOW.—(AP)—Germany's central front army has lost several hundred infantrymen, killed or wounded, and eight tanks in a furious assault upon Red Army forces operating in their rear, the Soviet Information Bureau said today.

### Three Allied Ships Sunk

Enemy Subs Strike  
In Caribbean Area

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The sinking of three United Nations merchant vessels by enemy submarines in the Caribbean area was announced by the Navy today.

Survivors have been landed at Gulf Coast ports. The Navy said the ships were a medium-sized United States vessel, a small British ship and a small Norwegian merchantman.

### Flying Tigers Slaughter Japs

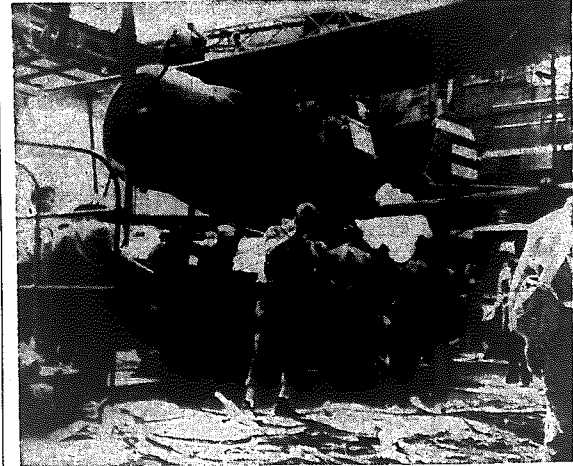
CHUNGKING, China.—(AP)—The Flying Tigers of the American Volunteer Group fighting in southwest China killed more than 24 enemy soldiers yesterday along the west bank of the Salween River.

During the month of May, the communiqué added, the AVG shot down 24 enemy planes in aerial combat, four more were probably shot down and 25 were destroyed on the ground. One enemy bomber, three observation planes and three transports also were reported shot down.

### Say Fruit Ship Sank Submarine

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica.—(AP)—The Fruit Ship Tribune said today that a submarine and a destroyer were attacking her in the Gulf of Mexico while she was en route to Puerto Limon.

How the ship was defended never was explained. The Tribune said, arrived at Puerto Limon.



BLAST JAP ATTACK—American Naval and Marine Airmen played a big part in putting a stinging crimp into the Jap attack on Midway Island. Pictured above during an earlier Pacific sea battle a Navy plane, prepares to take off from a ship.

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### At Least Eight Enemy Ships Handed Blows

First Major Jap Attempt To Take  
Midway Turned Into Apparent Rout

HONOLULU.—(AP)—Battered by alert American defenders who seized the offensive, a powerful Japanese invasion fleet limped away today from an attempt to invade Midway Island with at least eight warships and transports damaged by United States bombers and submarines.

In announcing that American forces were pursuing the retreating invaders, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, did not reveal the exact toll taken on the Japanese force and made no claim to sinking any of the enemy craft.

DAMAGE "VERY HEAVY INDEED"

But damage to the invasion fleet was "very heavy indeed," he said, including "several ships in each of the carrier, battleship, cruiser and transport classes."

This is a minimum of eight craft damaged by bombs and torpedoes in what the Admiral hinted may develop into one of the greatest Allied naval victories of the war.

American losses were confined to planes and aviation personnel, alert and fully prepared, who carried the brunt of the attack. Their apparent rout of the first major attempt to invade the strategic Mid-Pacific island, which has weathered five previous assaults, wrote "another shining page" in their brilliant defense of America's island outposts.

"While it is too early to claim a major Japanese disaster, it may be conservatively stated that United States control remains firm in the Midway area," the Pacific Fleet's commander-in-chief announced last night.

"The enemy appears to be withdrawing, but we are continuing the battle."

No actual sinkings were listed in the cryptic accounts of the battle which the Japanese opened with carrier-based planes Thursday after delivering a possible feinting attack on Dutch Harbor, Alaska, with bombers on Wednesday.

But Admiral Nimitz said a Japanese aircraft carrier hit by Midway's aerial defenders in the first stages of the fighting later was struck by three torpedoes fired by a submarine.

JAP DAMAGE VERY HEAVY

"As more reports come in," he said, "it appears that the enemy damage is very heavy, indeed, involving several ships in each of the carrier, battleship, cruiser and transport classes."

It was the first mention made of transports, lending support to the belief that the huge Japanese force, risking much in an assault so far removed from its home bases, had as its goal the actual conquest of Midway, 1,149 miles northwest of Hawaii.

In the desperation of impending defeat, the Japanese were reported by Admiral Nimitz to have machine-gunned United States fliers forced to bail out in parachutes during dogfights. Americans adrift in rubber boats were believed to have suffered similar treatment.

The size and nature of the United States forces were wrapped largely in military secrecy beyond the Admiral's statement that "the brunt of the defense to date has fallen upon aviation personnel, in which the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps all were represented."

SURPRISE IN REVERSE

But if Japan found to catch by surprise the Midway defenders who have beaten off five weaker assaults, dating back to Dec. 7, the surprise worked in reverse. Swiftly the preparations for just such a major blow, carrying with it a threat to Hawaii and even the United States mainland, have gone forward in the few months since the war opened. But they have been so exhaustive that Admiral Nimitz, on returning a month ago from a visit to Midway, was able

