

COMING FROM THE MILES FROM DELTA

Reds Say Nazi Effort To Launch New Drive Thwarted

U. S. CARRIER TAKES PLANES

British Island Reinforced By Help Of Wasp

Trips Completed Without Damage to Carrier or Escort

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — The American aircraft carrier Wasp, venturing dangerously into the mid-Mediterranean battle area, recently delivered aerial reinforcements to Britain's bomb-shattered island of Malta, it was disclosed officially today.

The Wasp made several ferry trips without damage to itself or to the British strongholds. The carrier's mission was to supply the island of Malta. The date of the trip was not given in the Navy's formal announcement, but authorities said it was "a few weeks ago" — apparently about the time that the German and Italian were pouring quantities of supplies into Africa to build up General Erwin Rommel's Libyan campaign.

The peak period of Malta's defense was between May 8 and 12, when at least 120 Axis air raiders

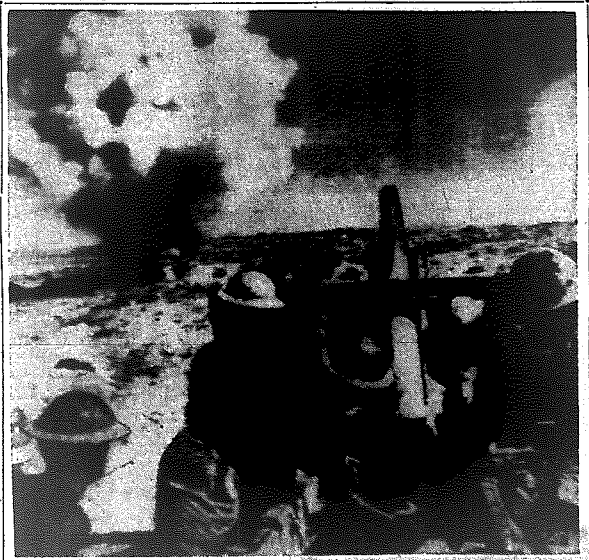
Powerful Red Counter-Attacks Foil Nazi Plans

Declare Germans Lost Heavily

MOSCOW. — (AP) — A German attempt to launch a new offensive near Gzatsk, advance point 100 miles west of Moscow, has been frustrated by powerful Russian counter-attacks, the Army newspaper Red Star reported today.

The seventh German infantry regiment lost more than 2,500 men in this battle, the paper said, and the Russians held their original positions when it was ended.

The Germans apparently abandoned the effort there but continued bitter offensives against Sevastopol and on the Kursk front, with Russian counter-attacks reported to have cost the Nazis whole companies and battalions of shock troops on the latter front 300 miles south of Moscow.



GUNS ROAR AGAINST AXIS—British artillerymen rapidly fired their guns and blazed away at Axis forces despite heavy enemy shell fire outside Matruh, Egypt. A British stronghold and end of the railroad from Alexandria, fell to the Axis June 29.

Egypt Battle Is Building Up Toward Climax

Thousands of British Forces Stand Between Axis Men and Alexandria

By EDWARD KENNEDY

CAIRO. — (AP) — Marshal Erwin Rommel's armored forces were 70 miles from the Nile delta today and a battle which may settle the fate of the Middle East was building to a climax.

Between Axis forces and the Nile river stand several lines of defense, thousands of soldiers and hundreds of cannon while other Allied units have been in German flanks and Allied airplanes strike from overhead.

The main enemy force is hammering ahead in one big column while smaller groups are making sallies to the sides. Other units are desperately trying to make their way over desert stretches under heavy Allied attacks.

British Commander General Sir Claude Auchinleck, in an order of the day, said "The battle is not over yet and will not be over until we have defeated the enemy, and defeat him we will."

The enemy is receiving supplies by plane, but Allied fighters are taking heavy toll of the German and Italian air transports despite their strong fighter protection.

Japs Mass Troops Opposite Siberia

London Quarters Believe Preparations Made for Eventual Attack

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan was reported massing troops and planes on the Manchukuo border opposite Russian Siberia today and London military quarters declared there was "very little doubt" that the Japanese were making preparations for a possible attack.

Coming in with this report, the Domei (Japanese) news agency announced that Japanese troops had launched a general offensive on the far northwest China front in Manchukuo Province, presumably aimed at the destruction of Chinese armies which might embarrass Japanese thrust into Outer Mongolia.

Outer Mongolia, adjoining both Russia and the Japanese "puppet state" of Manchukuo, is under Russia's protection.

A London spokesman said there had been a general movement of Japanese forces northward and that the Japanese were evidently preparing to attack Russia "as their chosen mission."

"I don't wish to imply that their preparations are complete or their attack is imminent," the spokesman added.

Chinese reports had repeatedly asserted that Japan was concentrating upward of 500,000 troops in Manchukuo for a thrust into Siberia.

Neutral observers, however, believed Japan would delay attacking Russia until Adolf Hitler's Summer offensive had gained a decisive victory over the Red Army. There were indications that the Japanese move was fast developing.

Attack Launched Commandos Against Churchill Raid Japs

Officials Deny Lack of Weapons Caused Libyan Defeat

LONDON. — (AP) — Britain's War Production Minister and his predecessor denied today that lack of guns, tanks and planes were responsible for British military defeats in North Africa as Winston Churchill's critics launched their "no confidence" attack on his direction of the war.

Oliver Luttinton, Minister of Production, told the House of Commons that manufacture of six-pounder guns and of tanks and the supply of American-made destroyers to British forces in the field was progressing steadily and added:

"Shortly we are going to surpass the equipment of the enemy in several important weapons."

In the House of Lords, Lord Beaverbrook, former Production Minister, said he did not think there was any shortage of equipment in Libya and he had never heard it suggested that there was any shortage of aircraft.

State Troopers Earl Yeager and Tom Harrison said that ten bodies had been removed from the charred hull and that most of the victims were believed to be Army men.

They said the plane had been loaded with American Airlines.

The plane crashed in a garden about a half mile from the mining village of Premier, three miles from Welch.

Eight bodies were first removed and then two more. Troopers said the search was continuing for others.

All the bodies recovered were buried beyond recognition, the troopers said.

The scene of the catastrophe See TEN KILLED on page 2

Ten Killed In Air Crash

Big Plane Falls in West Virginia Hills

WELCH, W. Va. — A big airplane, apparently a converted bomber, crashed and burst into flames today in the West Virginia mountains near here today with a loss of at least ten lives.

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Trains Crash In Georgia

Engineer Killed and Some Passengers Hurt

CAIRO, Ga. — The Atlantic Coast Line Southbound train, the Southwind, and another train collided near Whigham, Ga., near here early today, resulting in the death of one engineer and the injuring of about 30 passengers, none seriously.

Several passengers were taken to the Cairo Hospital, but reports from there said none was seriously hurt and they would shortly be ready to proceed on their journey.

H. H. Wind, editor of the Cairo Messenger, said the trains collided east of the Whigham station between 5 and 5:30 A. M. The engines were badly damaged but none of the passenger coaches was overturned.

G. T. Anderson, about 50, of Montgomery, Ala., engineer of the Southwind, was killed, and Frank Miller, of the Northbound train, suffered a broken leg. J. O. Nichols, a brakeman, was bruised and shaken when he leaped from the eastbound train.

The Southwind, the report said, was backing into a siding when the collision occurred. Both locomotives were damaged, but none of the passenger coaches left the tracks.

Discloses Japs Use Women As Pilots And Gunners In Warplanes

HEADQUARTERS, HAWAIIAN AIR FORCE. — (AP) — American anti-aircraft gunners are "meeting the challenge of long-range combat operations" in the Pacific area have organized a new chapter in air warfare, Major General Willis H. Hale disclosed today.

He cited the June 27 raid on the Japanese-held island of Iwo Jima, 200 miles west of Pearl Harbor, as an example.

"FINE TEAMWORK"

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Sicilian Volcano Erupts

BERLIN. — (From German Broadcast) — (AP) — German broadcast said that the eruption of Mount Etna, which was commencing in the afternoon, had been intensified by a strong wind from the south.

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U. S. Food For Nazis?

Charge Vichy Supplying Rommel & Also Transporting His Troops

MOSCOW. — (AP) — Tax, official Soviet news agency, said today that the Vichy French Government has played and is playing an important part in supplying war materials and transporting troops for French troops for Nazi Marshal Erwin Rommel in Egypt.

The Tax account, dated Geneva, Switzerland, follows:

"On the strength of information received from French colonial circles, well-informed persons declare that the Vichy Government played an important part in supplying General Rommel's troops with war materials and war provisions."

"French sea routes were used for secret concentration of German forces in North Africa which preceded Rommel's offensive."

"Transportation of troops and war materials was carried out over the guise of regular trade traffic between French and North African ports."

TROOPS ON FRENCH SHIPS

According to the information available, German troops crossed on French ships mainly to Bonne-Riviere, from where they continued to Stax and Gabes by railway. Further, they used the regular automobile line along the Tripolitania coast.

"According to arrivals from Tunis early in June, large numbers of German soldiers and equipment for two motorized divisions, including light and medium tanks, were brought to Stax by way of Bittere."

"The Gulf of Gabes coast has served since the last year as an important rear base for Rommel's Army, but so heavy a concentration of people and materials"

See CHARGE VICHY on page 8

Guide to Good Reading

NEW AEP TAKES OFF FOR FOREIGN LANDS

Raymond Clapper, chief Washington correspondent, visited with the Army recently in an unofficial port of embarkation. He watched thousands of fully equipped soldiers pour into transport ships bound for battle. This story of a new unit of the AEP is on the editorial page.

LONG SUMMER DAYS NOT LONG ENOUGH

Happily, youngsters in Mecklenburg are the season now enjoying a grand time at Camp Borden. Reporter Anne M. Ryan and Photographer Tom Franklin visited the camp, came away with a lot of pictures of these happy, happy youngsters and their activities. Turn to page 8.

LAUGHING LADDER BACK IN FREE PRESS

With writing in the Washington Post, the Washington Post today and a group of writers, were brought to the attention of the public. When the laughter was the last year, the Post had a good laugh. Turn to page 8.

Weather

Little change in temperature tonight with scattered thunderstorms this afternoon and tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 77; L. 71

Sunset today: 8:41

Sunrise tomorrow: 6:13

Your tires wear out twice as fast in this weather as in the winter. Drive slowly and carefully.

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 2-B.

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