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GERMAN FORCES GAZE IN TUNISIA REDS WITH 7 MILES OF KHARKOV



SYMBOL OF LOST EMPIRE—This marble arch was raised by Italians near El Agheila to celebrate building of Libyan coastal road.

Germany & Italy Bombed By RAF

Cologne and Milan Attacked in "Large Scale" Operations

LONDON (AP)—Royal Air Force squadrons, bombing Germany and Italy in a double-barreled assault, attacked the Rhineland city of Cologne and the Italian arsenal city of Milan last night, it was announced today.

Generals in Brazil Talks

U. S. and British Leaders See Air Minister

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Three general officers of the United States and British armies en route from North Africa have conferred at Recife with Brazil's Air Minister Joachim Salgado Jr. today.

Reich Railway Station Explodes

By ASSOCIATED PRESS The Berlin radio reported in a dispatch today that two persons were killed and several injured in an explosion at the Friedrichstrasse subway station of the Berlin Metropolitan Railway.

Challenge Declined: Jap Navy Refused To Come Out And Fight With Pacific Fleet

BY NORMAN FLEET WITH THE U. S. FLEET IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC—The Japanese Navy today apparently refused to accept an extensive aerial scouting of the strong United States Pacific Fleet, refused battle in the final phases of the fight for Guadalcanal.

Germany & Italy Bombed By RAF

LONDON (AP)—Royal Air Force squadrons, bombing Germany and Italy in a double-barreled assault, attacked the Rhineland city of Cologne and the Italian arsenal city of Milan last night, it was announced today.

Rostov Falls Before Big Offensive of Soviet Army

"Great Events" Promised

MOSCOW (AP)—Rostov fell before Red Army infantry and swarming tanks in a bloody struggle Sunday, some of its buildings ablaze and hundreds of corpses of its German defenders littering streets and alleys where they attempted to hold under a mandate from Adolf Hitler to his generals to defend the city to the last, dispatches from the front said today.

The British radio said that Taganrog, 40 miles west of Rostov on the Sea of Azov, already was under Russian artillery fire and that the bulk of the Germans trying to flee from the Donets Basin had been trapped. It did not bring out whether the Soviet guns were those of batteries stationed on the captured southern shore of Taganrog Gulf or from a spearhead that had lanced down through the Ukraine.

The Soviet armies of the southern front also took Goneshivograd, a prime industrial city in the mineral-rich Donets Basin, and Krasnyy Kholm, about 52 miles north of Rostov.

Today the Germans were desperately trying to form a line to hold off the powerful Red Army push driving west in the fury of a snowstorm in an attempt to "honeycomb" stations on the retreating German line in the Donets Basin, the Russians said.

Dispatches also reported that the assault on Kharkov, Ukraine capital, continued along an arc around about the city, with the heaviest last reported within seven miles of the strongly fortified German stronghold.

It was said in Moscow that the Red Army was driving with such steamliner force that great events may be expected shortly.

The German High Command communique broadcast from Berlin today acknowledged the fall of Rostov and Voroshilovgrad and reported fresh Russian troops had been thrust into the conflict.

These fresh units are attempting to score a "decisive success" through piercing the German line, it declared. The Cologne raid was concentrated and a "great weight" of high explosives was rained on the city in a half hour, authorities said. Defenses of the oil-bombing site were reported less active than usual.

It was the 11th attack on Cologne, which was last visited by the RAF on Feb. 3 as well.

LARGE FIRES AT MILAN Milan also was subjected to a concentrated attack and large fires were started in the city's industrial section where war industries and transport facilities are centered. It was reported Italian defenses also were shattered.

An Italian communique said the attack on Milan was carried out by several waves of bombers. The Rome broadcast reported heavy damage and that the city was being bombed.

Reports of what then seemed like an impending fight to the

finish between large units of the American and Japanese fleets were current early this month, and in a communique Feb. 2 the Navy Department told of increased activity by the enemy in the Solomon Islands.

"Subsequent Navy communications reported a number of surface engagements between the opposing forces, in which both sides were to have suffered losses. But the expected pitched battle



GUADALCANAL DEVILDOGS TAKE WELL-EARNED REST—These tired U. S. Marines, heading for a rest at an unnamed Pacific port after months of bitter fighting on Guadalcanal, lead their dogs down the gangplank with them.

Great French Battleship Richelieu At New York

35,000-Ton Warship Makes Way From Dakar Through Submarine-Infested and Stormy Atlantic Waters

By JOSEPH MORTON NEW YORK (AP)—The 35,000-ton French battleship Richelieu, crippled but still far from impotent, slid into New York harbor last Thursday after dodging a pack of submarines in mid-Atlantic and riding out the toughest gale many of her crew had ever experienced.

The 7,600-ton French cruiser Montcalm, a six-inch gun vessel which, like the Richelieu, had been based at the west African port of Dakar, made most of the Atlantic crossing with the battleship and berthed at Philadelphia. The two parted company two

Two large new French destroyers, La Fantasque and Le Terrible, each 2,300 tons, also made the crossing from Dakar and put into an undisclosed East Coast port.

At a press conference announcing the arrival, Vice Admiral V. B. Raymond A. Fox, chief of a French naval mission to the United States, issued a statement which said:

"For the first time since 1929, there arrived a few days ago in certain Eastern ports a most important contingent of French war vessels under the orders of Generalissimo, including a battleship, a cruiser, and several destroyers, which are to undergo necessary repairs in different Navy yards where they will be cordially received and treated just like all other United Nations ships.

They are of the most modern types and constitute a valuable addition to the force of the United Nations.

CREWS GLAD "The crews are glad to be in the United States, where most of them are visiting for the first time, and they have their hearts set on speeding up the repairs of their ships.

"After more than two years of enforced inaction, they are anxious to take up the fight once again against our common enemy. They will soon join their comrades of the French Navy who have since last December taken their place with the British and American Navies and are doing their share in keeping open the sea lanes to the North African front."

Censorship permitted the disclosure today of their arrival. The Richelieu had lain at anchor at Dakar for more than two years.

The Richelieu permitted me to make the 3,700-mile trip from Africa with her "just in case anyone should be taken."

U. S. DESTROYER ESCORT The United States destroyers escorted us all the way, safeguarding us from the enemy. The French and Italy to sink such a prize while she was able to move only at slow speed.

The men aboard were excited and happy as the Statue of Liberty broke through a heavy fog at journey's end.

Drive Wedge In American Battle Lines

U. S. Anchor Position at Gafsa In Danger of Being Isolated

LONDON (AP)—A battle for central Tunisia was developing today west of Faid Pass with the Germans driving some twenty miles into American-held positions in a strong attack with infantry, artillery, dive bombers and tanks perhaps sent on ahead of the African Corps by Marshal Rommel.

American forces at Sidi Bouzid, ten miles southwest of Faid Pass, were said to have suffered heavily yesterday morning under dive bomber attacks, and at 9 A. M. were last reported moving back to the southwest.

A spokesman at Allied Headquarters indicated that there was little doubt from the forces engaged in the attack that it was sprung by Rommel's veterans, the advance guard of his tank corps.

An Allied communique announced that "heavy fighting took place and is continuing."

At Allied Headquarters it was disclosed that the American anchor position at Gafsa, 60 miles southwest of Faid Pass, was in obvious danger of being cut off and might have to be evacuated temporarily. The Germans, using perhaps 50

Great Raid Hits Rabaul

Hardest Allies Attack Yet in Eastern Area

By VERN HAUGLAND ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA (AP)—In the greatest mass bomber raid carried out by the Allies in this war theater, more than 2 heavy bombers rained upwards of 50 tons of explosives and 3,500 incendiary bombs early yesterday on the Japanese navy and air base of Rabaul, New Britain.

Four waves of Flying Fortress and Liberator attacked the city and its harbor for more than two hours, starting huge and numerous fires, a communique said, and apparently hitting and damaging two ships.

For more than a week the crews of the heavy bombers had been waiting for a chance in the words of one bomber pilot, "Rabaul does again."

Capt. Kenneth McClyde of Belleville, Miss., said the Japanese had been building up Rabaul since our bombers first burnt her down months ago until now she had nearly

"She's a regular Milan in regard to concentration of searchlights and anti-aircraft positions."

This was only a part of Sunday's aerial offensive against the Japanese in the Solomon and on New Guinea and New Britain.

Libertors twice bombed New Britain's Port Moresby yesterday afternoon while Catalina's raided Buna and Port Moresby. Liberator thrust past toward the hills north of Sened toward the road to Gafsa from Sidi Bouzid, ten miles southwest of Faid Pass.

Another broadcast quoted a German military spokesman as saying that "a mobile German force had been sent to destroy fourteen American tanks."

The German High Command's communique made no mention of such a gain, however, and told only of "lively patrol activity" on the Tunisian front.

The Allied Headquarters communique announced that "the enemy launched attacks by tanks, infantry and artillery, supported by dive-bombers" in the Faid area. "Heavy fighting took place and is continuing."

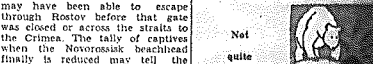
See NAZIS CRACK on page 6

New Premier of Iran Named

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—All Sobhy was named Premier of Iran today and was charged by the Shah with the formation of a new Cabinet.

Sobhy, former Minister of Britain, held the Premiership before Premier Ahmad Qavam Bafqeh, who recently appointed him Ambassador to Afghanistan. He was preparing to leave for his post when Qavam's Cabinet resigned.

Sobhy was expected to announce the new Cabinet tomorrow.



This map shows the general scene of action reported in central Tunisia.

WEATHER Not quite so cold tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 80; L. 50. Sunset Today: 6:30. Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45. Additional U. S. Weather forecasts on page 6.