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23 Axis Aircraft Fall In Big Tunisian Sky Battle Axis Sweep Into Onets

Battle For Rostov Near As Russians Blast Away

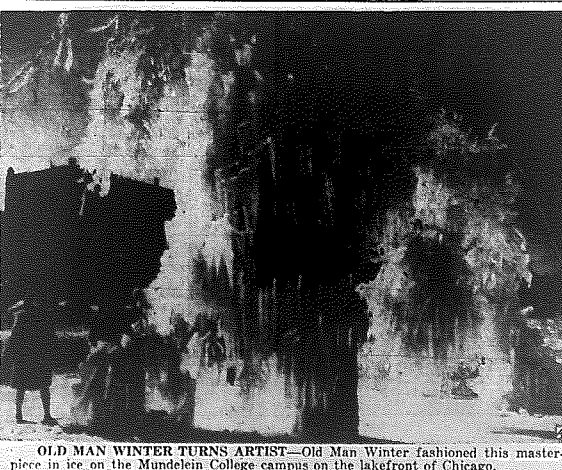
Arrive at Last Natural Barrier By ROGER D. GREENE Associated Press War Editor Russia's triumphant armies, advancing on a 25-mile front, swept back into the Donets valley today, closed a semi-circle around the great German base at Rostov and engulfed 30 more towns in synchronized drives in the Caucasus and the Don River region.

Explosives from Moscow said the Red Army had blasted their way to the east bank of the Donets River twenty miles southeast of Kamensk, while other Soviet columns rolled into the Soviet-Caucasian hills overlooking the Manich River southeast of Rostov.

Front-line reports indicated that the Battle of Rostov itself was about to begin, with the Russians preparing to storm across the Donets River and natural barrier to the city—in a climatic drive to cut off perhaps 500,000 German soldiers in Southern Russia.

Already endangered by a west-bound column only 60 miles away, Rostov was newly menaced by Colonel Nikolai F. Vakhita's Middle Don Army which cut the Rostov-Moscow Railway at Chibokov and reached a point 90 miles northeast of the key German citadel.

Major Soviet gains were also reported on the Lower Don and in the Caucasus, with Cossack-led Russian columns driving back into the



OLD MAN WINTER TURNS ARTIST—Old Man Winter fashioned this masterpiece in ice on the Mundelein College campus on the lakefront of Chicago.

More Miners Idle Despite Order

Over 5,000 Stay Away From Jobs In Face of War Labor Board Ultimatum WILKES-BARR, Pa.—(AP)—At least 5,100 additional anthracite miners due to report for work stayed away from their jobs today in the face of a new War Labor Board ultimatum ordering 10,000 to 17,000 others to end their eighteen-day-old wildcat strike immediately.

Again Strike At Lorient

Nazi Sub Base in Western France Attacked LONDON—(AP)—Lorient, German submarine base in western France, was heavily attacked again last night, the Air Ministry reported today.

Targets in western Germany also were bombed during the night and fighter planes swarmed over sailing targets in France, Holland and Belgium, the Ministry said.

Two bombers failed to return. In the attack on Lorient "the port was well illuminated by fires and moonlight, and after a concentrated attack large fires were seen in the dock area," the Air Ministry said.

On Thursday night British bombers took advantage of the bright moonlight to pound the base, leaving large fires.

The U. S. Air Force based in the British Isles had gone over the port in three daylight precision raids previously in the series of attacks intended to smash the fuel dumps, underground boat pens, power stations and machinery.

No Boost In Bus Service

Can't Be Furnished For Pleasure Seekers WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Office of Defense Transportation advised transit companies in "seventeen eastern states and the District of Columbia" today not to expand bus service "for the accommodation of pleasure seekers" who can no longer drive their own cars.

ODT Director Joseph R. Eastman said, transit firms had been advised with requests to increase service to parks, concert halls and dance halls, night clubs and bingo games, particularly in the evenings and on Sunday.

There is no objection to supplementing street car service, which does not consume gas and rubber, Eastman said, but if additional buses were placed in service to carry pleasure seekers, the gasoline conservation aims of the ban would be partly nullified.

"Bus service should not be supplemented to provide transportation for amusement and entertainment services beyond the normal schedules in operation prior to the ban on pleasure driving in private automobiles," he said.

Eastman also asked public cooperation in saving oil by using public street cars when they are needed to transport war workers and suggested that entertainment events be scheduled to start and end at times not conflicting with the change of shifts in industrial plants.

Nine Killed As Bomber Falls

BOISE, Idaho—(AP)—An Army bomber crashed near Kuna last night, killing "about nine officers and men," General Pershing's relations officer Captain E. D. Davis announced today.

The plane, on a routine training flight, was seen scrambling into a field about 200 yards ahead of the third Jap was trying desperately to get away but I got him in my sights, he was scrambling into the ground shooting flames like me. The other two Americans fell me.

Intense Air Activity In Whole Area Of Tunisia

Americans And British Score By WES GALLAGHER LIELED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—American and RAF fighters and even bombers battled Axis aircraft in the biggest scale aerial dogfighting in the Tunisian campaign by day and night yesterday, blasting 23 German and Italian planes from the skies, it was announced today.

Aerial activity was intense over the whole Tunisian front. More than half of the toll was taken in two actions. The German attempted to bomb advanced Allied airfields, attack British planes. Then P-28 Lightnings and B-25 Billy Mitchell bombers entered the air, attacking the Tunisian coast and shot down seven more.

The Tipitapanian front the British told of strongly increased patrol operations in which casualties in Axis transport planes, Rommel's forces in several sectors, and the Italian High Command reported the outbreak of violent ground fighting.

The Italian report said tank-supported forces were on the attack again from the east and suggested that Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British Eighth Army may have launched a new drive to roll Rommel back to Tripoli from his present holdout positions along the Gulf of Sirte.

The Allied communiqué reporting the Tunisian operations said: "The course of operations off the Tunisian coast by our medium bombers and fighters, a large schooner was bombed and attacked by more than 200 escort formations of enemy transport planes.

Seven transports and two escorting fighters were shot down. Other medium bombers attacked road and rail communications near Tripoli from the northwest. They were made up of escorted formations of enemy transport planes.

Several transports and two escorting fighters were shot down. Other medium bombers attacked road and rail communications near Tripoli from the northwest. They were made up of escorted formations of enemy transport planes.

NEW YORK.—(AP)—Japan may try to trick the United States again, this time with a "jijitsu" peace plot, former Ambassador Joseph C. Grew warned today.

In an address prepared for delivery at the women's National Republican Club luncheon, Grew predicted that the Japanese will pretend defeat, if necessary, to catch the United States off guard with a sudden, smashing blow.

NEW YORK.—(AP)—Ailed ground forces attacking the last pocket of Japanese resistance on the Papuan Peninsula of New Guinea last night, the Allies announced today a section of enemy forward positions at Sanananda and destroyed the Mediterranean base some, were in Portuguese hands last night after forced landings on the island.

3 Destroyers Handed Blows In Solomons

Cargo Ship Left Burning—U. S. Troops Make Gains on Guadalcanal WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Navy announced today that American forces in the Solomons Islands had shot down 20 Japanese planes, damaged three destroyers and bombed and left burning a cargo ship in a series of actions apparently resulting from determined enemy attempts to reinforce and supply Jap troops on Guadalcanal. Seven United States planes were lost.

On Guadalcanal itself, a communiqué said, American troops continued to advance against "stiff enemy resistance." Gains of 3,000 to 4,000 yards were reported.

The heaviest day's fighting reported in the communiqué occurred on Friday (Solomons time) beginning with an attack by a single Catalina reconnaissance plane against a group of five Japanese destroyers sixteen miles northeast of the Russell Islands, which 30 minutes later was west of the American airfield on Guadalcanal. The Catalina scored one direct hit and two near-misses on one of the destroyers and when last seen the vessel was aflame.

Later Friday morning a force of Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by Navy-Marine Corps Wildcat fighters and Army Albatross fighters attacked nine Jap destroyers which were 140 miles northwest of Laeua Point on Guadalcanal. Two of the destroyers were reported seriously damaged.

Twelve Jap Zero fighters attempted to intercept this attack and eight were shot down. One American Zero bomber was forced down and five American fighters failed to return from the action.

Also during Friday morning, an American plane patrolling the air around Guadalcanal engaged and shot down three Japanese Zeros.

There was no lull in the fighting during the afternoon. Army Flying Fortresses with Army fighter escort of Lightning, Albatross and Warhawk went into action against five enemy destroyers 30 miles south of Guadalcanal in the Shortland Island area about 300 miles northwest of Guadalcanal and in the general vicinity of the Japanese airbase at Munda.

None of the enemy vessels was hit in the general vicinity of the twelve enemy float type biplanes attempted to intercept the assault and they were shot down. No American planes were lost.

ATTACK CARGO SHIP Friday evening, a force of dive bombers with Wildcat and Albatross escort attacked an enemy cargo ship 37 miles northwest of Guadalcanal and set her on fire and four near-misses setting her ablaze.

See BLAST 29 on page 7 12 American Planes In Portuguese Hands LISBON—(AP)—Twelve American Albatross fighting planes, part of a flight of more than 200, were buffeted by storms on a flight from the Mediterranean to some, were in Portuguese hands last night after forced landings on the island.

Seven of the planes landed at the Lisbon airport on the Tagus River estuary and the remainder surrendered to the authorities. Grew and planes were expected to be landed at Aveiro in Northwest Portugal.

Three-Day-Old Infant Stands Appendectomy CHICAGO—(AP)—There's a patient at Mt. Sinai Hospital who will live to wait a few years longer to tell about his operation. The patient—the unnamed son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meiss—was only three days old when he underwent a successful appendectomy. Dr. Stephen Meiss, the hospital director, disclosed, Dr. Mannheim said such an operation on a three-day-old infant was a medical rarity.

WEATHER Slightly higher temperature tonight, likelihood of light rain.

Today's Temp: H. 67, L. 47. Sunset Today. Sunrise Tomorrow.

Additional U. S. Weather Service Reports.

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