

# U.S. AIRMEN MAY BE ORDERED TO HOLD IN CAUCASUS

## U. S. Airmen Strike Heavy Tunisia Blows

**Blast Away in Effective Support Of French and American Troops**

By WES GALLAGHER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (AP)—The United States Army Air Force struck effective blows today in support of French and American ground forces in southern Tunisia, bombing railroad yards at Kairouan and targets at Cherchira, six miles northeast of Fondouk.

American bombers and their escorting fighters shot down four German planes in the day's fighting and suffered the loss of one bomber and one fighter, according to headquarters news.

In the North, bad weather continued to keep the opposing armies inactive.

The Fondouk area, where the French reported beating off German and Italian armored force attacks, is about twenty miles southwest of Kairouan, which is 25 miles inland from the Eastern Tunisian port of Sousse.

The aerial attack on Kairouan was made by the Boston B-25 Billy Mitchell bombers supported by Curtiss P-40s. No aerial opposition was encountered.

Boston A-29s, also escorted by P-40s, ran into German Messerschmitts, however, on the Cherchira attack and it was here that the bomber and fighter were lost, an air force spokesman said.

He added that B-2 Martin Marauders—on a mission whose nature he did not disclose—shot down two German fighters.

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**Forces Told To Hang On In Area at All Costs**

**May Try To Help Armies By Sea**

LONDON (AP)—Reports reached London today that the German armies in the Caucasus have been ordered to hold their positions at all costs—even to a last-ditch stand in the event the Russians cut their corridor of escape through Rostov.

This information, so far unconfirmed, said the German plan was to supply the Caucasus army by sea if land communications failed.

Already the Germans were said to be assembling a fleet of all available Black Sea ships of 200 tons or more to carry supplies to Novorossiisk.

Such a strategy was regarded here as in line with the policy the Germans followed at Stalingrad, where 22 divisions were told to hold on as best they could in encirclement.

Red Army troops threatened to close another giant pincer on encircled Axis garrisons about 100 miles west of Stalingrad, following the capture of Cherekhovsk, on the railroad to Lihavka, and the German air base of Cherekhovskovskaya, 40 miles north of the railroad center, Soviet authorities reported.

The two places were captured yesterday and seventeen planes, the latest of which were the plane bombs and other stores of civilian and war supplies were taken, the Moscow radio announced in broadcasting a special war bulletin recorded here by the Soviet bionics.

Broadcast regular communiqués, recorded by the Soviet monitor, the latest of which was the Soviet Information Bureau's midday war bulletin, told of fierce fighting in the southern, of Stalingrad, in the Middle Don, southwest of Velikiye Luki.

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**Can Blast Japan Airmen**

**Ex-Flying Tiger Would Strike From China**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Major David L. Hill of Hanoi, ex-leader of the China Air Task Force—the old "Flying Tigers"—said today that with new equipment in large quantities, the Japanese Air Force could be destroyed from China.

"If we get enough stuff in there we can take them," he said at a press conference. "I don't think we can hit anywhere else in the world. Nobody else knows their bases like General Chennault. They're a genuine man who never let a battle pass him by. He's a real man who can hit any day."

Hill said the Japanese were now using two new and improved fighters: The Ziv, a single engine fighter with considerable speed over the Zero, and the Ki-44, a twin-engine, high altitude plane, but lacking maneuverability. This conversion meant some loss in performance from reconnaissance type, but it is still, he said, a high performance, high altitude ship.

However, Hill said the American Army Air Force still lead the Japanese in equipment, and he said that the Japanese were now using two new and improved fighters: The Ziv, a single engine fighter with considerable speed over the Zero, and the Ki-44, a twin-engine, high altitude plane, but lacking maneuverability. This conversion meant some loss in performance from reconnaissance type, but it is still, he said, a high performance, high altitude ship.

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**Beef Still To Be Short**

**May Get More in Some Sections, However**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beef may soon be more plentiful in some sections of the country, but reports indicated today that there will be no general alleviation of the civilian shortage.

A spokesman for the American Meat Institute in Chicago, declared that the Army is taking very large quantities of beef and that "Army needs come first."

A cause of the civilian undersupply, some meat packers asserted, is that the Government has placed a ceiling on prices without a balancing ceiling on livestock.

"There is a terrific loss in most beef and to remedy in business we can't afford to kill any more animals than we have to," one Pittsburgh packer said. "It means we keep Army orders first and don't always have the 70 per cent of last year's meat available for civilians."

Slaughtering of local herds was advanced as a chief means of relieving the shortage in many communities.

In Los Angeles a packer spokesman said the situation was "greatly improved" today. He said that although delivery facilities were not adequate, consumers will be able to get their share."

Throughout New England many persons were having trouble in getting steaks with their French fries. Stores in Boston said they were out of beef.

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**Get Whites Off Jap - Held Island**

**17 White Women Among Group of 29 Rescued By Daring U. S. Sub**

By J. NORMAN LODGE

WITH SOUTH PACIFIC FLEET (AP)—A daring submarine operation under the cover of darkness has resulted in the rescue of 29 men, women and children from a Japanese-held island in the Solomon group, Admiral William F. Halsey disclosed today.

The commander of the South Pacific force said that seventeen of those rescued were white women known to have been in imminent danger of ill treatment and death. Three were children.

The operation involved the detaching of a fleet submarine from the task of sinking Japanese shipping and sending her to shallow waters to effect the evacuation.

CNDR JAP'S NOSES

The daring coup was accomplished under the very noses of the Japs.

Information was received late in December that a party of missionaries, who had not been evacuated prior to enemy occupation, were in a remote area of the island. They were in danger of capture by a raiding force of several hundred Japanese.

While Allied bombers pounded Axis targets in the Mediterranean, the Japanese, it is alleged, nearly every night, the missionary said, torpedoes aircraft had greater success than ever before in their attacks on the island.

(Apparently the missionaries sent

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**Allies Doing Well in Air**

**Several Unprecedented Successes Reported**

LONDON (AP)—With the British advance into Burma, the Air Ministry said in a report today, the Allied forces everywhere had passed during December from the defensive to the offensive, scoring several unprecedented air successes in the process.

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**Senate Group To Probe Multiple Controls Of Gas-Oil Rationing**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senatorial investigators said today that some progress had been made toward simplifying the regulations, Federal control over gasoline and fuel oil rationing in an effort to assure the minimum supply needed by civilians.

Chairman Maloney, Democrat, Connecticut, of a special Senate committee announced new public hearings will be resumed next Monday after those of the rationing took place yesterday that no hope could be held out for an increase in rationing for some months to come.

Senator Burton, Republican, Ohio, told reporters that while yesterday's testimony indicated that some progress had been made toward simplifying the regulations, Federal control over gasoline and fuel oil rationing in an effort to assure the minimum supply needed by civilians.

As it now stands, the head man with regard to oil supplies is Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes. Most of the civilian rationing is under the Office of Price Administration. Motor fuel for farm trucks and commercial vehicles, however, is allotted by the Office of Defense Transportation.

Then there are the Lend-Lease requirements of the other United Nations, which Price Administrator Leon Henderson indicated were negotiated by the State Department.

The Army and Navy determine their own requirements.

Under questioning by Senator Maloney, Ickes expressed a need for more power, but said he was reluctant to discuss it until he had consulted with the War Relocation Authority.

Asked who was umpire between the military and civilian allocations, Ickes said there was none, but the Army and Navy had been "very helpful in the past critical days."

The Army had supplied 200,000 steel drums for moving gasoline from the southwest to the Boston area, he explained, while the Navy had "loaned" some of its fuel oil for distribution among civilians.