

RUSSIAN ARMIES DRIVE AHEAD AMERICAN AIRMEN CRASH AT BIZERTE

Vital Axis Supply Port Struck Hard In 3 Raids

Spatz Commands New Air Force

By WES GALLAGHER
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—The United States Air Force has struck one of the heaviest blows of the war at Bizerte, a vital Axis supply port, with big four-motored Flying Fortress bombing it on three separate raids, it was announced today.

The attack coincided with the news from Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied commander North Africa, that U. S. Major General Carl Spaatz has been named commander of a new Allied air force on that front. Spaatz will supervise not only

LONDON — (AP)—The Fighting French, announcing the capture of two Axis outposts in the desert of southern Libya, declared today that "the defeat of the enemy in the desert is becoming a fact."

At Ghatun, 180 miles farther south, in the region of Murzuk, also was reported to have been stormed and seized.

The capture of Ghatun marked the clearing of the way for the Fighting French based at Lake Chad to a junction with the British Eighth Army driving westward toward Tripoli along the Mediterranean coast.

Presumably General Leclerc's forces have also several strong advance columns, moving toward different Axis objectives in the desert. A caravan trail leads almost directly from Brach toward Tripoli.

The 12th U. S. Air Force under Maj.-Gen. James H. Doolittle but also the RAF under Air Vice-Marshal Sir William Mitchell and such French units as may serve with the Allies.

FIVE PLANES LOST

Four American planes were lost, all P-38 twin-engine Lightning fighters.

The fortress taken at Bizerte would be the most concentrated attacks of the campaign on a single target, carrying out their bombing despite enemy fire and fighter opposition.

The bombers shot down four planes over Bizerte, which is rated among the most important anti-aircraft areas in the world. Enemy docks in Tripoli also were attacked.

Operating along the enemy supply line leading south from Kasserine toward Gabes, American medium bombers — B-25 Bells —

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Veronica Lake Has Operation

HOLLYWOOD — (AP)—Film Actress Veronica Lake underwent an appendectomy last night.

She complained of the itching side while working before the cameras late yesterday, and was taken to a hospital where an operation was decided upon.

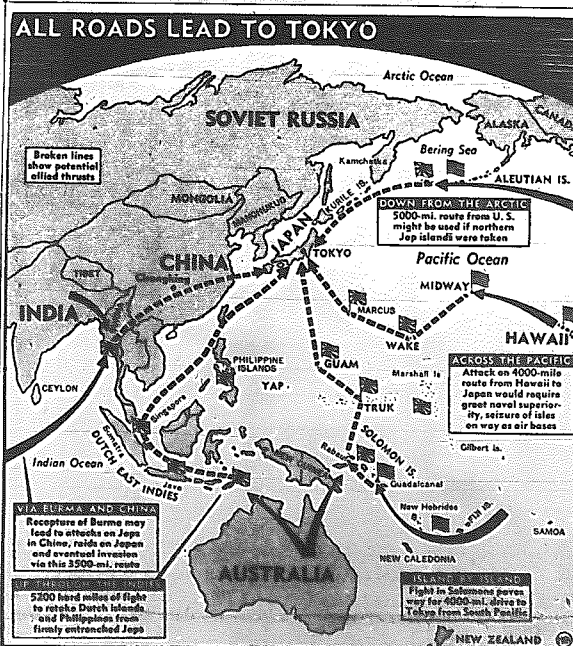
Her physician, Dr. Arnold Stevens, today said her condition was satisfactory.

Great Majority Of Motorists Appear Observing Driving Ban

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
New York City schools were ordered closed for a week beginning Feb. 1, while in Rhode Island a five-day work-for-non-war business establishments appeared probable today as public officials and private citizens worked to secure maximum use of the available fuel oil supply in the East.

There were indications that the great majority of motorists were observing the Government ban on pleasure driving in seventeen Atlantic seaboard states and the District of Columbia.

For example, when 64 Office of Prices Administration inspectors, accompanied by police, opened the Massachusetts campaign to enforce the pleasure driving ban, they



Many are the military paths to the heart of Japan, but each presents its difficulties of distance and enemy opposition to overcome. Island by island advances across the Southwestern Pacific may be a slow and costly process of beating Japan. Striking from China or down from the Aleutians presents the possibility of killing off Japanese resistance by capturing the capital—but there are obstacles to attack here.

If Admiral Halsey's forecast of victory in '43 is to be fulfilled, the world may yet see United Nations forces taking one or more of these roads to Tokyo.

Opposes Dropping 11 Bodies Of "A" Gas Cards Recovered

Henderson Sees No Immediate Need For Taking Such Action

WASHINGTON — (AP)—Price Administrator Henderson expressed emphatic opposition today to suspension of wholesale reduction in the value of "A" gasoline ration stamps in the East, and said he foresaw no immediate necessity for trimming the value of any coupons.

Henderson told a press conference that suspension of "A" books would leave upwards of 5,000,000 cars stranded in the East. He made public a telegram from Thomas F. Henry, president of the American Automobile Association, who said that certain persistent reports "that certain individuals inside and outside the Government" had urged total suspension of rationing of "A" books for an indefinite period.

Henry said that such action would be "disastrous" and would bring a breakdown in transportation in the Eastern States.

SHARKE VIEW
Henderson said he shared Henry's view.

He added that an OPA canvass indicated no further cut in rationing in the value of "A" and "C" coupons.

OPA's recent action in outlawing all pleasure driving in the seven Eastern States and the District of Columbia received an "extraordinary reception," but said it was still too early to make any estimate of the amount of gasoline saved.

Asked if many motorists were in the "doghouse" as a result of the pleasure driving ban, Henderson commented that he was "in their own house."

He also predicted that a "non-discrimination" order in the handling of fuel oil would result in a much improved situation in the East. The order, in effect, requires that all dealers to honor coupons from any household.

Rescue crews, held back by intense heat and groping through smoke-filled streets, recovered eleven bodies after the crash of a plane at 2:30 A. M. There had been hope the trapped motorists would be rescued in some other part of the mine.

Officials believed that Robinson's plane had crashed close to his home.

Quinn, 33-year-old night porter, gave his life in a vain attempt to save the men he knew were caught behind the wall of fire.

He escaped with 65 others shortly after the fire broke out at 4:30 A. M. Prisoners returned and tried to open two mutilating doors.

Dairymen Threaten To Stop Deliveries

NAMPA, Idaho — (AP)—Nampa dairymen today agreed to continue home deliveries of milk pending a clarification of Federal maximum price regulations.

They threatened to halt deliveries unless they were permitted to raise their prices from 12 to 13 cents a quart.

3 Japanese Transports Sunk & 4th Is Damaged

Pursued Into Lae Harbor

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, AUSTRALIA — (AP)—A badly battered Japanese convoy—three of its transports at the bottom of the Pacific and a fourth damaged—was pursued into the harbor of Lae, New Guinea, and there, along with the landing area and other enemy beach installations, was given a merciless pounding yesterday by almost every type of plane at the call of the South-Pacific Air Force Command. Allied communiqué reported today.

The Japanese, trying to reinforce their remaining New Guinea strongholds by carrying troops from New Britain to Lae, succeeded at best in landing only "fragmentary" troop elements, the communiqué indicated.

In addition to the three transports reported definitely lost, the convoy was sighted and attacked Jan. 6, 20 more Japanese scout planes were reported destroyed, bringing to 38 the enemy aircraft shot down in the action.

CLOSE IN ON POCKET

While the aerial hammering at Lae continued, American and Australian troops closed in on the only remaining pocket of Japanese resistance in the Buna region at Sannananda. General Douglas MacArthur returned to Australia from high praise for the Australian and American forces under his command.

He awarded Distinguished Service Crosses to twelve American and Australian officers "for extraordinary courage, marked efficiency and perfect execution of operation during the capture of Buna."

General MacArthur also gave high praise to the magnificent conduct of the troops and elements of the command, and to the difficulties rarely if ever surpassed in a campaign.

SEES LONG WAR

Similarly, Admiral Harold R. Stark, commander of American naval forces in European waters, told reporters he still held to his previous opinion that the war would be "long and tough."

SEES LONG WAR

Stark's statement to Congress Thursday that it was "within the realm of possibility" the war might be won in a year, was a far cry from the world from future fear was amplified at a press conference yesterday when he expressed hope in building it.

SEES LONG WAR

Some who spoke for the record and some speaking privately informed an interviewer they preferred to wait and see whether Americans themselves wanted to fight a long war.

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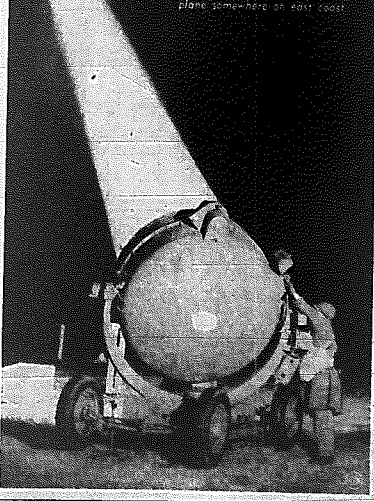
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ON THE SPOT

800,000,000—(AP)—The Japanese navy is hunting for the U. S. Navy's fleet somewhere in the East Coast.



Senators Chary Of Post-War Planning

Would Wait Until Victory Achieved Before Drafting Programs

WASHINGTON — (AP)—A tendency to avoid blueprint formulas for the post-war structure of the world until the war is won was indicated today among the Senators who were told by President Roosevelt they might have a hand in building it.

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Push Great Offensive Against Nazi War Hordes

Rains And Snow Hamper Drive

By HENRY C. CASSIDY
MOSCOW — (AP)—Despite cold rains and light melting snow that converted roads into bogs and turned the Caucasus campaign temporarily into an "engineers' offensive," four Russian armies plunged steadily ahead today in their giant enveloping movement against the Germans in the whole lower area of the Eastern front.

Red Army technicians followed the retreating enemy closely and removed thousands of land mines. Thirty-four thousand mines were estimated to have been neutralized in a single sector in the past two weeks.

Fog reduced visibility in some sectors to 100 yards, the Army newspaper Red Star reported. Nevertheless, the Russians were reported advancing rapidly toward the north and west in the Caucasus and toward the Black Sea.

The Germans were described as "fighting like beasts in a cage" as the Russian victory was methodically to clean out the northern factory district in Stalingrad. The Nazis refused to yield any point without a struggle, Red Star said, and the Russian tank units were in hand-to-hand combat.

Red Army artillery silenced enemy guns while Soviet troops surrounded and stormed individual German fortifications. The drive toward Rostov was reported farthest advanced where the troops of Lieut.-Gen. Constantine Rokhmanov, through Strakhov, about 65 miles east of the Don River port.

North of the Rostovskiy column was that of Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin, which was mopping up German garrisons in the region between Stalingrad and Rostov.

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