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ROMMEL ARMS AFTER LONG GAINS NEWS SMASH DEFENSES IN OREL PROVINCE

In Tunisia: Raw Courage Displayed By U. S. Soldiers

By HAROLD V. BOYLE. WITH U. S. FORCES IN TUNISIA (AP)—(Delayed) Jerry threw his Sunday punch at us with men, guns and tanks and that, in part, is the story of the American retreat in Tunisia.

The bloody battlefields, littered with broken vehicles and marked with the Cross of Germany as well as the Star of America, testify that the Nazis had no margin in courage.

Out into the long valley and into the hills they marched and rolled on wheels—thousands of American soldiers and armor—toward New York instead of forward toward Tunis and Sfax.

To the Germans it was a retreat. To the Americans it was a strategic withdrawal. But whatever name it's called it had just one effect on the American soldiers and that was to get back at the Germans with all they have just as soon as the commanders give the word.

That's why German patrols roam the planes of the Shebela-Feriana valley tonight and the sleepless French and American guards watch from the hills overlooking the yellow acres dotted with blossoming almond trees, green olive groves and apple caetacs.

As one who has slept and eaten in the field for almost two months of steadily more successful operations with every branch of the American Army, I had my first opportunity to see how they reacted when the going really got tough.

"ANOTHER WEEK" TO WIN. Well, here's the way one infantryman summed it up after plodding fifteen miles cross-country at night.

"That means it will take us another week more now to win the war. But every week I have spent here I have learned more about the States because of these kraut hounds make me just that much sorer at them."

Typical was the reaction of an anti-aircraft gunner. Private Michael Higgins Jr., 35, of New York City, the son of a deputy chief of the New York Fire Department.

"We pulled out of Oafsa night before last and out of Feriana last night," said Higgins, who was a volunteer in the Canadian Army but switched to the American force after Pearl Harbor. "They were cold trips in open trucks."

"The whole valley was red with explosions as we destroyed everything we found. We couldn't take. The Germans went first enough food left to feed a canary, or enough fuel to keep a cigarette lighter going."

Take Point 30 Miles From Nazi-Held City

Taganrog's Life-Line Severed

By EDDY GILMORE. MOSCOW (AP)—The Red Army's capture of Taganrog, a vital rail junction, only 30 miles east of Orel on the railway from Yelctsk, and several other unidentified towns have been taken by highly mobile Soviet troops operating ten miles behind the broken front line in this sector, the Russians announced today.

Taganrog's lifeline was severed northwest of Rostov by the Red Army's capture of Taganrog, 25 miles north of the Sea of Azov port on the railroad to Georgia.

In the western Caucasus the Red Army continued to drive the Germans huddled against the coast toward the Taman Peninsula, where escape across the Kerch Strait into the Crimea might be attempted.

The Russian clamp laid around the Donets Basin increased the pressure on the Germans as numerous settlements were captured in sectors west of Novoharkivsk, southward of, and in the Kramatorsk area.

Front line dispatches said that west of Kharkov Soviet artillery smashed German counterattacks and mobile units dashed in to batter at the flanks of the German troops and speed the retreat.

The closest large city west of Kharkov is Poltava, which will be captured by the Red Army, a population of 100,000, it is 84 miles west of Kharkov, on the river. Voronezh, the center of Russia's sugar territory, it also produces a great deal of flour.

It was the scene of famous battles with Swedish armies in 1709 and the Russian army in 1918. The Kharkov railway and the only city of any size on the great Ukrainian Steppe, now lashed by bitter winds and snow storms, to which the Germans could withdraw.

New Weapon Against Profiteering Wielded. WASHINGTON (AP)—Welding for the first time here against profiteering, Office of Price Administration officials said today they have drafted an order reducing prices on steel castings because manufacturers were making "excessive profits."

Details of the order will not be available for a few days, but officials said it had been approved and sent to the printers.

This will be the first use of a portion of President Roosevelt's Executive order on price control, forbidding any OP who considers "excessive profits" when determining prices.

Catalina bombers, attacking from medium altitudes, ranged for two days in the night and day, at Buia, destroying a number of enemy aircraft and setting explosions that caused fires in dispersal and dump areas visible for 50 miles, it was stated.



FOOD FOR OUR FIGHTERS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC — You may recognize in this picture some of the food you haven't been seeing on grocery shelves of late. It's a typical dock scene in New Caledonia from where food is distributed to U. S. fighters in South Pacific.

Pay Stand Reaffirmed

Back Bill To Repeal Salary Limit Order

WASHINGTON (AP)—Brushing aside President Roosevelt's recommendation for a super-tax on large wartime incomes, the House Ways and Means Committee today reaffirmed its opposition to the President's existing Executive order limiting salaries after taxes to \$25,000 annually.

The measure reported out would peg wartime salaries at their Pearl Harbor levels.

Today's action was taken after a letter to Chairman Douglas, Democrat, North Carolina, from the National Association of Manufacturers, which urged repeal of the measure.

Disney said his measure "takes salary control entirely out of the hands of the War Relocation Authority and Economic Stabilization Director." It does not affect wage controls, and Disney said he did not expect it would affect the "little steel formula" regulating wartime wage increases.

Jap Shipping Under Attack

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA.—Japanese shipping and airbases at Madang, New Guinea, and at Buia, in the Solomon Islands, were the targets of a heavy Allied aerial attack in the southwest Pacific yesterday, a headquarters communique said.

Catalina bombers, attacking from medium altitudes, ranged for two days in the night and day, at Buia, destroying a number of enemy aircraft and setting explosions that caused fires in dispersal and dump areas visible for 50 miles, it was stated.

The Japanese sent up heavy bursts of anti-aircraft fire but all of the Allied planes returned safely. No enemy craft crashed the air.

RAF Strikes At Wilhelmshaven

Other Allied Planes Attack Rail Lines and Coastal Shipping

LONDON (AP)—RAF bombers roared back to attack Wilhelmshaven, German naval base, last night and other Allied aircraft attacked rail lines on the continent and shipping off the coast, the Air Ministry announced today.

Seven planes, including four bombers, were lost in the night's operations, the Ministry said.

A Berlin broadcast said six RAF bombers were shot down. It said that bombs were dropped in residential sections and that there were casualties among the civilian population.

The attack on Wilhelmshaven was heavy as the bombing run was made in good weather, it was said. The last previous attack on the naval base was Feb. 11.

Railways and canal lines in France and Belgium were the continental targets.

A medium sized enemy supply ship was hit off the Dutch Coast and set on fire, a Ministry communique said, but results were difficult to observe as coastal command aircraft sought shipping targets in that area.

Report Tirpitz Getting Ready

LONDON (AP)—A Reuters dispatch from Stockholm today said the Tirpitz, Germany's most powerful battleship, has been undergoing target practice in the North Sea.

The agency said apparently the damage inflicted on the battleship by a Russian submarine in the Barents Sea last June has been repaired and the warship possibly was getting ready for raiding operations.

Drive Tapers Off To Mere Skirmishing

British Eighth Army Pushes On, Posing Threat to Axis Marshal

By DANIEL DE LUCE. ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (AP)—Marshal Erwin Rommel's sledgehammer drive through Tunisia has come to at least a temporary halt near the Algerian frontier, an Allied communique indicated today but to the north Allied lines were being readjusted to meet the new situation.

French troops have been withdrawn from Pichon about 40 miles north of the Faid Pass area where Rommel started his drive Sunday, it was announced.

This indicated that the Allied line to the north were being readjusted to face the threat to their right flank.

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