

## NAZI ATTACKS ROLLING BACK REDS DRIVE FORWARD ALONG WHOLE FRONT

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### Spectacular Fighting in Area West Of Kharkov

**Sweep Bears On Dnieper Valley**

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW (AP)—Soviet troops are sweeping ahead along the entire front in the face of increasing enemy counter attacks and despite deep snows in Orrel and Kursk Provinces and thick, sticky mud in the Ukraine and the northern Caucasus, field dispatches said today.

The weather had lifted sufficiently, however, to permit the aviation of both sides to increase activity in the southern districts. It was clear enough to allow accurate bombing and numerous aerial dogfights developed.

### NAZI ARMIES ATTACK

The German air force was reported throwing its planes into the support of tank and infantry counter attacks west of Rostov, actions which the Russians said they were repelling with heavy loss to the enemy.

The Berlin radio declared today that available reports indicated 58 Russian planes were shot down in air duels Wednesday, and that anti-aircraft guns brought down three more. Four German planes failed to return from their missions, the broadcast reported.

The most spectacular land fighting was reported in the area west of Kharkov, where the offensive is aimed into a wide sweep bearing on the entire industrial Dnieper River valley, with Poltava and Kameny as the gateways and Kiev, Kremenchuk, Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporozhe as the ultimate goals.

In the last 24 hours two large towns were taken in that sector, the Russians announced. The German Army smashed through enemy screening forces. The towns were identified.

### FRESH NAZI RESERVES

Livest, the Government newspaper, reported in a dispatch from the Ukraine that the Germans had moved fresh reserves to fill the gaps in their regiments and to man tanks in counter-attacks, but that the Red Army had smashed the German's armor with point-blank fire from open gun positions. German armor was dispersed and their trucks were wrecked, Livest said.

Pravda, the Communist Party organ, said of a decided advance by Soviet units through deep snow as the flanks north of Kursk were being pushed to the stronghold at Orrel.

Its dispatches said that numerous enemy counter attacks were repelled, and that the Germans were encircled and flanked, and several towns were captured early in the day.

Heavy enemy counter attacks continued in the Doubs Basin, reported southernmost of Courland and north of Stalingrad, but here again the Russian offensive pushed forward, it was declared.

### Gandhi Is Unchanged

BOMBAY (AP)—An official bulletin said today that there was no change in the condition of Mahatma G. Gandhi, now in the sixteenth day of his 21-day fast.

### Rumors Rife Concerning Peace Moves By Finland

**May Be Near End Of War With Reds**

By WADE WERNER

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the second time in this global war, little Finland seems close to the end of armed conflict with Russia. The air is full of unofficial and unverified reports and conjectures, including rumors that peace terms actually have been transmitted by the Finns through Stockholm.

It was just three years ago that similar reports circulated in various capitals, though at that time there was furious fighting on the Finnish front. In contrast to the relative quiet today.

On Feb. 22, 1940, Soviet Ambassador Ivan Naisky was reported in London to have given the British Foreign Office Moscow's proposal for a settlement of the Russo-Finnish war which had been going on since Nov. 30, 1939. The British Government, after examining the proposals, however, declined to pass them on to Helsinki.

### Sutton Missing In Africa Fight

**Parents of Charlotte Flier Get Message From Adjutant General**

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sutton of Route 4, Charlotte, have been notified by Adjutant General Ulio that their son, Lieutenant Howard Sutton of the U. S. Army Air Corps has been missing in action in Northwest Africa since Feb. 9.

### Reds Deride Nazi Claims

**Reports of Russian Casualties Scoffed at**

MOSCOW (AP)—Derision of German claims concerning the number of Russians killed on the German front was voiced in a statement of the Soviet Information Bureau distributed today by Tass, Russian official news agency.

The statement refuted the German Information Bureau with the assertion the Russians had lost a total of 18,000 men—12,000 killed and wounded and 6,000 captured—in 20 months of war, in addition to 48,000 guns and 34,000 tanks.

### NAZI LOSS REPORT

Premier Joseph Stalin, in his order of the day on the Red Army anniversary Feb. 23, put German losses for the same period at 4,000,000 dead and 5,000,000 wounded.

"These official German data" are nothing but an unscrupulous fabrication of the Hitlerites," the Soviet bureau said. "On reading such statistics every sober-minded person will not be having sustained such losses as those ascribed to it by the crooks from the German Information Bureau."

Four men were sentenced to death for six months. White each drew six-month sentences which were suspended on condition of military service. The fourth man, William Davis, drew a 20-day sentence which was suspended on the same conditions.

### Four Convicted Under Unemployment Act

Four men were convicted yesterday in County Recorder's Court of violating the Unemployment Compensation Act and fined \$100 each.

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ROMMEL TURNED BACK—Bringing hundreds of planes into action with clearing weather, Allied forces have driven back General Rommel's Axis army from a point near Thala to the mountains of Kasserine Gap in central Tunisia. Rommel was reported in full retreat. The Nazis might be forced to abandon the Gafsa because of the severe Allied pounding. Rommel is racing against time, because sooner or later he will have to send some of his tank strength south (dotted arrow) to deal with British forces threatening Mareth Line.

### New Punishment To Jap Shipping

**Hard Blow Handed to Enemy Land Forces in New Guinea**

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA (AP)—General Douglas MacArthur's bomber and fighter planes dealt heavy punishment to Japanese shipping in the New Britain area and delivered smashing blows at enemy land forces in New Guinea yesterday, an announcement from Allied Headquarters said today.

Coupled with dispatches from the front, the bulletin painted this picture of results achieved by the Allied airman:

### LIBERATOR TRIUMPHS

A four-engine Liberator on a reconnaissance mission found it self ringed by thirteen Japanese Zeros near Open Bay on the west coast of New Britain, but fought its way out of the hole, shot down four Zeros and returned to base safely.

Another Liberator, intercepted by three Japanese fighters in the same area, shot down one after attacking a small enemy vessel.

Heavy bombers roared back over Rabaul harbor before dawn and scored a direct hit "from an extremely low altitude" on a 10,000-ton cargo vessel, and near hit two small enemy warships.

Enemy shipping also was attacked near Cape St. George, off New Ireland.

The town and harbor of Bohn and the town of Kassarine, on the northwest coast of New Guinea, were bombed.

Airfields at Madang, and at Mahaling in the Lae area of New Guinea, the villages of Anarai and Vaka, and Cape St. George, off the weight of 300-pound and half-ton bombs, which started racing fires.

### Stimson Says Rommel Repulse

**Clean-Cut But Hard Fight Ahead**

WASHINGTON (AP)—The sharp fighting in Central Tunisia has resulted in a clean-cut repulse of Marshal Erwin Rommel's armored troops, Secretary of War Stimson reported today, but "we will not have an easy nor a quick victory."

Losses by the American forces, he told his press conference, had been less heavy than was first believed to be the case. Material losses including tanks, four half-ton and field guns have been replaced. The early estimates of losses in men have been reduced somewhat.

Stimson said, as a number of units have been sent back to American lines, the situation is still in a state of flux.

### Grip On Vital Pass Is Being Shaken Loose

**American, French, British Troops Make Fierce Counter-Offensive**

By DANIEL DE LUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (AP)—General Sir Harold Alexander, British commander of Allied ground forces, today swung his American, French and British troops into a fierce counter-offensive in central Tunisia where they were shaking loose the last grip of Kasserine Pass and menacing two other strong points at Sheikha and Ousseltia to the northeast.

Combining a three-pronged attack in the north with armored car advances by the British Eighth Army into the outpost area of the Mareth Line in the south, Alexander had the enemy in trouble on all fronts.

As British and American troops stormed into the Kasserine Pass near the Algerian border for mop-up operations, the strong American and Royal Air Force spread their assault deep into the miles' rear, blasting airfields, roads, railways and starting troops and gunboats.

As Rommel retreated he again was leaving Italian territory behind a rear guard, as he did in Egypt, and hundreds of crack Italian infantry and mountain troops were taken prisoner.

### Attack Nazi Naval Base

**No RAF Planes Lost in Wilhelmshaven Raid**

LONDON (AP)—RAF bombers attacked the Nazi naval base at Wilhelmshaven and objectives in western Germany last night without the loss of a plane, it was announced today.

Allied fliers last night hit Wilhelmshaven and the German attack was the sixteenth on Germany this month.

The Air Ministry's terse announcement said: "Last night aircraft of the bomber command made another attack on Wilhelmshaven."

"Bombs were also dropped on objectives in western Germany. None of our aircraft was missing. The blow at Wilhelmshaven appeared to assure the RAF a new record for the number of tons of bombs dropped on Axis targets in a single month."

In a single raid on the submarine base at Lorient earlier this month more than 1,000 tons of explosives were dropped by Allied fliers, and other forces promised to raise the monthly average of 6,500 tons maintained in the record period of June and July, last year.

At the same time came the official announcement this morning that "during darkness there has been no enemy activity over Britain."

### Churchill Spends Restful Night

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill, who has been ill with pneumonia, spent a restful night and his condition continued to improve, it was announced today.

Friends reported the Prime Minister was able to sit up in bed and smile one of his favorite cigars.

### Royal New Zealand Strikes First Blow

TUVALU (AP)—Solomon Islands, Jan. 20—(AP)—The Royal New Zealand Navy struck its first blow in the Solomon campaign when a 150-foot patrol boat sank a Japanese submarine off Guadalcanal.

The submarine, caught while apparently trying to land reinforcements and supplies on Guadalcanal, was sufficiently well sighted by the patrol boat, rammed and battered by depth charges.

### HEAVY FIGHTING DUE

"The outlook is for heavy fighting along the entire Tunisian front," he reported.

The Secretary said he thought