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REDS FASHIONING GREAT NEW TRAP

Both Sides Suffer "Moderate" Sea Fight Losses

EISENHOWER TAKES CHARGE IN AFRICA

Commander-In-Chief Of All Allied Forces There

British 8th Army Moves To Attack

By Associated Press

Lieut.-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S.A., was disclosed today to have been named commander-in-chief of all Allied forces in North Africa even as an Algiers broadcast reported that the British Eighth Army was now 60 miles inside Tunisia for the coming showdown with the Axis.

Establishment of a North African theater of operations relieves Eisenhower of his joint command over the European theater of operations which is now a separate unit under Lieut.-Gen. Frank M Andrews.

General Eisenhower's appointment, presumably arranged at the historic "unconditional surrender" conference of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill three weeks ago, gave him the call over both the British Middle East commander, Gen. Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander, and the field commander of the victorious British 8th Army, Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.

The American General thus will lead the climactic phases of the two-way Allied "squeeze" against the joint Axis Armies of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and Col.-Gen. Jurgen Von Arnim.

The Algiers broadcast said that General Montgomery's troops now are "a good 60 miles inside Tunisia" and are swiftly bearing down on the Mareth Line where Marshal Rommel was expected to make a last bid to hold Tunisia, Reuters recorded the broadcast.

HEAVY RAINS

While renewed heavy rains held aerial activity to a minimum over Tunisia, ground patrols continued to spar cautiously in the mountains flanking the long Axis supply line along the coast and a quick German jab succeeded in dislodging British troops from one strategic height.

BRITISH LOSE HEIGHT

A communique from Allied Headquarters disclosed that the British force which captured Djebel Mansour, twenty miles southwest of Pont Du Fahs, last Wednesday had been forced out again by a German counter-attack. This was the only land action other than patrolling reported from the entire Tunisian theater, and an Allied spokesman described it as a "small scale" operation.

A broadcast German High Command communique reported the

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American-Born Japs To Get Chance To Fight

SACRAMENTO—(AP)—California is going to give American-born Japanese the chance to show their loyalty by fighting for the United States.

Those who want to avail themselves of this opportunity will be able to do so starting Feb. 23 by registering for volunteer combat duty at the State's two large relocation centers, Col. Kenneth H. Leitch, State Selective Service Director, announced today.

—Tunisian Situation—

United States Forces Poised For Grim Test

By WES GALLAGHER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA —(AP)—An untried and inexperienced American armored and infantry force stands before the mountain passes in Tunisia on the eve of testing its strength for the first time against a veteran Axis army numbering perhaps 170,000 troops.

Part of that Axis army is wearied by a long retreat across Libya, but it is still a powerful one, wise in the ways of wars and led by a brilliant field marshal who has at least one great battle left in his system.

GALLAGHER

Any doubt that that battle may never take place because of an Axis withdrawal from North Africa already has been dispelled. Every day Hitler has been pouring more troops and material into Africa. It is his best material, too—including new giant tanks never seen on the Russian front and swarms of Messerschmitt 109's and Focke-Wulf 190's.

LUFTWAFFE READY FOR CONTEST

In fact, fully one third of the German air force apparently is poised in the Mediterranean ready for an aerial slugging match which must precede the anticipated land engagement.

It is too late now even if Marshal Rommel wanted to withdraw. The British Eighth Army is too close, and on his exposed flank rests a British and American army looking for the slightest sign of weakness.

Since November Lieut.-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has been fighting a "logistic" battle, and only now signs are indicating that this battle may have been bearing fruit.

It has been a battle of trying to build up an Army supplied from bases 3,000 miles away, then funneling this Army and its supplies through a bottleneck over four mountain roads 600 miles to the front while the Axis pumped in an Army over sea lanes less than 100 miles long into ports less than 70 miles from the front.

OUR FORCES OUTNUMBERED

Somehow it has been done. Not that the Allied force in Tunisia is as big as it might be—in fact it probably is considerably less in numbers than the Axis Army, but at least it is a formidable striking force equipped with the best British and American weapons and ready for action.

This is the situation in Tunisia as it stands now:

First, thanks mainly to the inability of the Germans to develop an air weapon capable of dealing with the Flying Fortress, the Allies enjoy a wide margin of bombing superiority. The Fortresses, followed by B-26's, B-25's and Bostons fight their way through the German defenses daily to batter the German supply ports and ground troops almost every hour from dawn to dark.

The German Air Force, on the other hand, has been forced to resort mostly to night bombing of Allied ports, the once wide-

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14 Die In Collision Of 2 Army Bombers

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(AP)—Public relations officials at the Greenville Army Air Base today disclosed that fourteen men were killed in the crash of two Army medium bombers on a farm twelve miles south of Newberry, S. C., late yesterday.

The victims included the crews of the two bombers, which were flying in formation on a routine training flight from Tampa, Fla., officials said. Other planes in the formation arrived at their base safely. A board of officers was assigned to investigate the crash which was believed caused when the two machines collided in mid-air. However, officials here said they had not been able to confirm the report that a collision preceded the crash.

H. T Long, Newberry policeman, said the planes crashed in a pine woods on the farm of Hubert Carlisle and one of the planes burned. Wreckages and bodies were scattered over a wide area, he said, adding that two unidentified Negroes were reported to have been eyewitnesses.

Air base officials said the crash occurred at 4:30 P. M.

Bodies of the victims were removed to funeral parlors in Newberry.

The public relations office listed the following victims:

THOSE KILLED

Second Lieut. Kalarno Mannio, 26, pilot, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kalle Mannio, Rt. 2, Crystal Falls, Mich.

Second Lieut. Donald G. Alley, 25, co-pilot, (2125 Oxford St.), Rockford, Ill.

First Lieut. John E. Wilson, 28, pilot, son of T. P. Wilson, (127 E. Second St.), Muscatine, Iowa.

Second Lieut. Julius X. Zarchin, 25, navigator, son of Mrs. Minnie Zarchin, (160 Riverside Dr.), New York City.

Second Lieut. Randolph V. Donaldson, 23, son of M. M. Donaldson.

See 14 KILLED on page 7

Knox Makes Report On Solomons Navy Action

Still In Preliminary Stage

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Both Japanese and American air and surface forces have suffered "moderate" losses in the developing new battle for the Solomon Islands, Secretary Knox reported today.

The Navy Secretary told a press conference that there was so far nothing specific to indicate the exact Japanese objective in renewing violent activity throughout the Solomons area; and he added that the size of the force the enemy might eventually throw into the fight also was not known.

The action is still "in a preliminary stage," Knox said, but the various activities now in progress "would ordinarily precede an engagement of some size."

The Secretary declared that the losses included "nothing significant, nothing of a major character," and while he did not elaborate, this apparently meant that no aircraft carriers or battleships, and possibly no heavy cruisers, had been sunk so far as was known here.

GUADALCANAL ADVANCE

A Navy communique was issued at the Secretary's conference, covering action in both the North and South Pacific but throwing no further light on the sea-air fighting in the Solomons area. The communique said that American troops had continued their advance along the northwest coast of Guadalcanal Island against weak enemy resistance. Some patrols reached points a mile and a half past Tassafaronga, near the Umasani River, on Thursday.

That was an advance of about a mile beyond the furthest point previously reported.

In the north Pacific, five enemy float-type planes bombed American positions in the northwest Aleutian Islands on Thursday afternoon, but caused no damage.

On Thursday night, Liberator heavy bombers, Mitchell medium bombers and fighter escorts attacked Japanese positions at Kiska Island. Three of five float-type Zeros which sought to intercept were shot down and all U. S. planes returned.

ALEUTIANS ACTION

There were numerous desultory actions in both the north and south Pacific. In the Aleutians area on Thursday, an American

See KNOX on Page 7

U. S. Airmen Get 25 Nazis

Heavy Toll Taken Of German Planes

LONDON—(AP)—Flying Fortresses destroyed at least 25 defending German planes in Wednesday's large scale raids on Northwest Germany, the U. S. Eighth Air Force announced today.

This was three more than the toll claimed in the raid on Wilhelmshaven and Eden Jan. 27.

Five bombers were lost in Wednesday's raid, made again unannounced targets in northwestern reaches of the Reich, against three lost in the U. S. Air orce's first thrust against Germany.

The latest record by the American bombers was regarded by observers as impressive. In the sortie on Wilhemshaven the resistance encountered consisted of only about 25 German fighters and anti-aircraft fire was weak and erratic.

In Wednesday's raid the fliers met a much heavier barrage. Returning pilots said that the Germans put into the air practically all the available

CONVALESCING IN BRITISH HOSPITAL — Lieutenant Jack A. Marshall, Louisville, Ky., infantry officer wounded in the campaign in Tunisia, and First Lieutenant C. E. Spires (in chair) of Salisbury, N. C., a paratrooper injured in the same campaign, are convalescing in a hospital somewhere in England. Between them stands Sister K. M. Morse of Norfolk, Va. (Photo by radio from London.)

Errol Flynn Wins Acquittal Verdict

Actor Comes Clear of Charges Of Attacking Two Girls

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—Errol Flynn was acquitted today of three counts of statutory rape.

The jury of nine women and three men returned the verdict after about thirteen hours of deliberation. Flynn had been accused of intimacies with two 'teen-age girls, Peggy La Rue Satterlee and Betty Hansen.

FLYNN TENSE

Flynn sat tensely, puffing cigarettes, during the half-hour or so between the time the jury announced it had reached a verdict and when it returned to the courtroom.

Thus ended a twenty-day trial, one of the most dramatic in Los Angeles' recent history, in which the handsome film star saw himself called a seducer of young women, and defended as the victim of circumstance.

The jury, which went out at 11:15 A. M., yesterday, was reported to have voted 10 to 2 for acquittal on an early ballot, and courtroom rumor had it that that was the count when they returned to their chambers at 9 A. M. today.

As two hours went by without sign a decision had been reached, some court attaches predicted a compromise verdict might be returned.

The calm which Flynn had steadfastly maintained during the long ordeal deserted him at the last moment. He was sitting at the counsel table with Robert Ford of defense counsel when the jury room buzzer sounded twice, indicating a verdict had been reached.

Flynn became visibly nervous now that the decision was at hand. He lighted one cigarette after another, rising from his chair and sitting down again, and talking to Ford.

Question of Honors For Dead Nazi Fliers Raised

LONDON.—(AP)—Parliament prepared today to weigh human resentment against international law as the question was raised whether Nazi airmen filled while raiding Britain should be buried with military honors.

A Laborite member served notice of his intention to query Air Minister Archibald Sinclair whether he was aware that the coffins of three German fliers, brought down Jan. 18, bore wreaths from the RAF and were draped with swastika flags for burial while service planes circled overhead in salute.

The notice said that relatives of the victims of the German air raids felt a natural resentment.

Lower Donets Region Might Be Encircled

Stockholm Dispatches Say Russians In Suburbs of Rostov

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW—(AP)—Red Army troops, sweeping west and south over the snow-packed ground of the Ukraine and the Donets Basin at a pace surpassing that of Hitler's panzer divisions in their Summer advance, were smashing into German communications routes and threatening a vast encirclement of the entire lower Donets region today, while south of Rostov Soviet troops were reported hammering hard on the heels of the retreating Germans.

Behind the armies of Col.-Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin spearing into the Ukraine and northward against Kursk, encircled German garrisons were being mercilessly destroyed, Soviet communiques and dispatches from the front line said.

MORE BRIDGEHEADS

The capture of Izyum and Yama provided the Russians with their third and fourth bridgeheads over the upper Donets River, the other two being Kamensk and Proletarsk. Vatutin's highly-mobile units were reported expanding their advantage by swift dashes that in some places carried them into the rear of the German lines, where they created havoc among the harassed enemy, wiping out garrisons in three towns in one sector.

(Stockholm dispatches to London newspapers said the Russians had already pressed into the suburbs of Rostov. The London Telegraph stated that a vanguard was within five miles of the city proper. This report was not confirmed independently.

(The German High Command, in a communique broadcast from Berlin and recorded by the Associated Press, said that "in the region of the Don estuary, on the Donets and in the Oskol sector, the enemy continues his attacks."

RED LANDINGS

(The German communique said the Russians had made additional landings near the Axis-held port of Novorossisk, but that the newcomers were encircled as were members of the original landing party and six Soviet tanks were destroyed there. Renewed Soviet attacks south of Lake Ladoga were declared bloodily repulsed.

(German fighter bombers were said to have sunk a 5,000-ton Allied ship and set afire another of 6,000 tons in Arctic waters, these attacks being linked with a renewed bombing of the Russian supply port of Murmansk.)

Front line dispatches said that the Germans were employing large numbers of dive bombers and heavy artillery in an unsuccessful attempt to halt mass crossings by the Red Army over the ice of the frozen upper Donets River.

Soviet troops fought back under a hail of shells and bombs, the reports said, and have added new bridgeheads to the four previously reported taken.

A thrust southward from Krasny Liman had taken one column fifteen miles to Yama, on the southern bank of the Donets, and

See REDS MAKE on Page 7

Rule Traitor Should Die

Stephan Death Sentence Upheld

CINCINNATI—(AP)—The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals today upheld a Detroit district court death sentence on Max Stephan for allegedly aiding a German aviator in his flight from a Canadian prison camp.

U. S. District Judge Tuttle ordered Stephan, a restaurant owner, to be hanged Nov. 13, 1942, after his conviction for harboring and giving aid to Oberleutnant Hans Peter Krug of the German Air Force. The sentence was stayed pending appeal.

The 21-page decision, given by Presiding Judge Xen Hicks, upheld the Government contention that Stephan had committed treason by taking Krug into his home.

Counsel for Stephan contended in arguing the case before a five-judge court here in December that he merely befriended Krug and that Krug's testimony was worthless because as a Nazi he had no conception of the meaning of an oath.

Krug was captured in San Antonio, Tex., several weeks after leaving Detroit.

STEPHAN CALM

In his cell at Milan, Mich., Stephan received the news of loss of his appeal calmly and without comment.

Warden Cecil J. Shuttleworth said, "he didn't change expression or say a word when we explained the court findings. He just turned away. Apparently he expected that this was what he would hear."

Nicholas Salowich, attorney for the convicted traitor, said he planned to carry Stephan's appeal to the Supreme Court, adding, "We still contend that Max Stephan is guilty of harboring an alien but is not a traitor."

Federal Court attaches at Detroit said that an additional 30 days must elapse before Stephan can be re-sentenced, during which period the new appeal can be taken.

Execute 17 Axis Chutists

LONDON.—(AP)— Seventeen Axis parachutists who were wearing civilian clothing when captured in Allied territory in French North Africa have been executed, the Algiers radio announced today.

They were among four groups of parachutists dropped east of Constantine Jan. 21 and captured with co-operation of the Arabs, the broadcast said. Those executed were said to have included Germans, Arabs and Fascist Frenchmen who had been in France as recently as November.

Mussolini Ousts Ciano In Big Shakeup; War Reverses Blamed

LONDON — (AP)—Premier Mussolini's abrupt dismissal of his son-in-law, Count Galeazzo Ciano, as Italy's Foreign Minister in a thorough shakeup of his Cabinet was seen here today as the move of a cornered man, desperately discarding half-hearted supporters and preparing for the most critical test of his career.

The loss of the Italian Empire in Africa, diplomatic observers said, was a terrific blow to the personal prestige of Il Duce. On top of that reverse there have been the morale-shattering Axis defeats in Russia, damaging aerial attacks on Italian cities and the ominous portents of the Churchill-Roosevelt conference at Casablanca.

With many of his people apathetic and fearful, Mussolini—already his own Minister of War, Navy, Air and Interior—tightened ... ister from his son-in-law. Only three ministers retained their posts in the swift shakeup—the Ministers of Colonies, Italian Africa and Agriculture.

Observers here did not discard the possibility that the shift might mean Mussolini and Hitler were about to undertake some new adventure, military or political, but the field for such adventures is narrowly limited now.

One informant here even suggested that Ciano, who had done most of the heavy work for Italy might have been dismissed on orders from Hitler himself.

Ciano, this source said, was "believed to have been toying with the idea of Italy separating from Germany." It was pointed out that Ciano, independently wealthy and an opportunist of wide ...

German reaction to the move was vague. A Transocean dispatch broadcast by the Berlin radio said Il Duce was "reforming his Cabinet amidst one of the most decisive and critical periods," and added "Mussolini believes the moment has arrived when the leadership in these two most important ministeries (Interior and Foreign Affairs) must not be left to any other man, no matter how great the Duce's confidence in him has been."

"Il Duce is thus concentrating his power, having taken over the Ministry of Interior some time ago and now having added the Foreign Office, which he took from the hands of one of his closest collaborators."

The change was regarded as significant and encouraging in Lon...

—After Pacific Rescue—

Gen. Twining Smiles, Suggests Ways To Improve Life On Rafts

By CHARLES McMURTY

AN ADVANCED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC—(AP)—Dump a General in the drink, storm toss him for six nights and five days, starve him and up he comes smiling with sound recommendations for the safety and comfort of others who are similarly marooned.

That's what Brig.-Gen. Nathan Twining of Portland, Ore., did after he and fourteen others were rescued on Feb. 1 by two Catalina flying boats. The ... were hospitalized with sun blisters and exposure.

Twining, commander of an Army Air Force on a combat mission in the Solomons, some of his staff and the crew of his Flying Fortress, were forced to make an instrument landing in darkness after what accounts described as "an arduous ten hours of weather-torn piloting," by Pilot Captain Jasper W. Woodruff of Fayetteville, Ark.

The day after his rescue, Twining left the hospital and proceeded to quarters where he ...

"Suggested needs for forced landings:

"Smoke smudge in rafts plus Very pistols. (Twining said he and his party—crowded into two six-man rafts—had neither, but twice saw searching planes and once a ship. Neither the planes nor the ship saw them.)

"Equipment to obtain foods and water. (Twining's bomber sank so quickly that the crew was able to salvage only one chocolate bar, one small can ...

WEATHER

Colder tonight and early Sunday.

Today's Temp.: H. 66; L. 5?
Sunset Today ... 6:5?