

POSSESSION OF KHARKOV IN DOUBT

U. S. PLANES POUND ROMMEL

City's Capture Is Claimed By German Army

Russian Dispatches Indicate Reds Waging Hard Fight To Hold Bastion

By Associated Press

The possession of Kharkov, possible jumping-off place for a third great German Summer offensive in a last desperate effort to crush Russia, was in doubt today as the Nazis announced its recapture and Russian dispatches indicated the Red Army was waging a battle against great odds to hold that bastion of the Ukraine.

Not conceding the loss of the big steel city which they captured Feb. 16, or even admitting fighting within the city itself, the Russians nevertheless admitted today that their lines had been progressively forced back in the "Kharkov area" in the face of hundreds of tanks and overwhelmingly superior German numbers.

"During the day and night Red Army men of one unit repulsed incessant Hitlerite attacks," the mid-day communique from Moscow announced. It reported the destruction of fourteen enemy tanks and 600 enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand fighting in one small sector.

These assaults, apparently limited in scope, followed a series of heavy night air attacks on the city. The Luftwaffe was reported dropping bombs at several points in the city, including the railway station, the airport, and the city center.

The Russian command was reported to be waging a hard fight to hold the city, but it was not clear whether the city was still in their hands.

Jap Shipping Massed at Banda Sea Isle Bases

Report Growing Concentration

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA — (AP) — Growing concentrations of Japanese shipping at island bases in the Banda Sea area within 500 miles of Darwin, Australia, were reported today as General MacArthur's Headquarters announced that Allied airmen had blasted two more ships in an enemy convoy off Wevok, New Guinea.

A communique said the Japanese are massing both transport and supply ships in the Ambon (Amboi-Dobo) area northwest of New Guinea and declared that enemy ground forces there are being re-inforced. New airfields also are being constructed in that sector by the Japanese, the bulletin said.

The island of Ambon, former Dutch possession and one of the most important naval bases in the Netherlands East Indies, is about 200 miles northwest of Darwin.

Dobo, southeast of Ambon, is the main Japanese base in the region. At Allied headquarters were declined to comment on the news of the Japanese presence actively, but the news statement in the communique added that the enemy must not be under-rated in this theater.

HEAVY JAP FORCE — The Japanese, meanwhile, were paying a heavy price for their latest attempt to reinforce their garrisons in northeastern New Guinea. The two ships reported blasted this week raised to four the number of Japanese ships in a running attack on an eight-ship convoy which began Saturday in stormy weather.

Of the vessels hit yesterday, one was described as a large destroyer and the other as a 2,000-ton cargo ship. A direct hit was scored with a 500-pound bomb on the bow of the destroyer. The cargo ship was strafed from low level, the bulletin said.

The communique also announced that an 8,000-ton ship, previously reported bombed had later been seen to explode and when later destroyed. The ship was a transport, the bulletin said.

Despite these losses it was believed here that at least a part of See JAP SHIPPING On Page 7

Long Lines Move Into Tax Offices

Many Thousands Wait To File Income Returns Before Midnight

By Associated Press

Income tax payers by the uncounted thousands—many of them first-timers—stood in ever-lengthening lines throughout the country today waiting to file their returns before the midnight deadline.

Even greater crowds were avoided by the elimination for the first time of the requirement for non-payment of returns, thus permitting all who wished simply to mail checks, money orders or even cash.

But many cities reported record numbers at internal revenue collection offices and post office money order windows throughout the morning. Police aided in handling some of the crowds.

Despite scattered reports of an "I won't pay" let 'em come after me" attitude, Treasury officials in Washington expressed confidence that nearly all would pay.

EMPTY THREAT — At Cleveland, whence came first reports of a possible tax strike, Collector Frank P. Genich reported that week-end returns were more than twice the number for the first two months of the year.

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Walkout At Plant

Roller Bearing Firm Production Tied Up

CANTON, Ohio.—(AP) — A walkout by 600 first shift employees tied up operations today in the Timken Roller Bearing Co.'s Gmbarin plant, a company spokesman reported.

Finis Reynolds, president of the CIO United Steelworkers Union which has a contract with the plant, said the walkout was unauthorized and that an CIO members' participation would be expelled from the union. Reynolds and the company spokesman, who declined to be quoted by name, were protesting promotion of 27 Negro workers.

The company reported the Negroes had been promoted to replace workers leaving the plant for other jobs or for armed service.

"We are in favor of having Negroes promoted, the same as any one else," said Reynolds. "If the boys in the armed-forces are not too good to fight alongside Negroes, they are good to work in the plant."

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Famous Airman Killed in Crash

MONTREAL.—(AP) — Capt. Clarence "Duke" Schuler, internationally known veteran aviator who was a combat pilot in World War I and an RAF Ferry Command pilot in the current conflict, was killed yesterday in a crash night landing at Bermuda, it was announced today.

The first announcement contained few other details.

Some other members of his crew were killed, it was stated, and possibly one man was injured.

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Hurricane Tankbusters Are Used Against Rommel Army In Tunisia

By EDWARD KENNEDY

CAIRO.—(AP) — The Allied air forces operating with the British Eighth Army have been using "Tankbusters" Hurricane fighter planes against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's tank army for months, it may now be disclosed by the lifting of a censorship ban.

On Tuesday a dispatch was sent on March 12, 1942, while with the RAF in the western desert at the time of the British Eighth Army offensive against the German line at El Alamein which drove Rommel's forces out of Egypt and Libya.

Tank-attacking planes mounting heavy cannon have been in operation in the Western Desert for the past four months.

Their score to date: Direct hits on 74 tanks, 46 trucks, eight armored cars, eleven troop carriers and three gasoline tank trucks.

"I think they are an answer to tanks from the air," said Wing Commander Roger Forster, who commands them and who flies in many of their forays.

"Tankbusters" is the desert name of these Hurricanes with heavy caliber guns.

They are guns especially designed for the job. The RAF tankbusters are quite different from the Russian model.

On finding the target—preferably a cluster of tanks, but self-staked vehicles will do—the plane attacks from every angle.

Squadron Leader Donald Westcott has five tanks to his credit. The tankbusters seldom encounter return fire from the British. They have come at them too swiftly for that.

Shells fired at point range can today's Temp. 11.00 L. 7.00 Sunset Today 7.00 Sunrise Tomorrow 7.00

Giraud Offer To De Gaulle Made

Would Meet Fighting French Chieftain Half-Way

By WES GALLAGHER

ALGERS.—(AP) — Gen. Henri Giraud, after offering to meet Gen. Charles De Gaulle half-way in a union that "must be effected" among all anti-Axis Frenchmen fighting for a rebirth of the French Republic, today drafted a series of decrees repudiating the last vestiges of Vichy influence in North and West Africa.

In a Casablanca conference yesterday, the civil and military commander-in-chief also disclosed that he was wedding a striking force of 200,000 men, equipped with Allied heavy bombers grounded by the weather, Axis convoys presumably stepped up traffic from Sicily to Tunisian ports.

Perhaps referring to the Helmsford formation shot up by the Spitfires, the Italian Air Force communique broadcast from Rome and recorded by the Associated Press, said Axis heavy bombers operating off Rome hit a large merchant ship in a convoy.

The communique, which also mentioned adverse weather in Tunisia, said anti-aircraft fire destroyed an Allied plane and German fighters shot down another over the Sicilian coast.

BLAST ENEMY BOMBERS — Two enemy bombers were destroyed U. S. PLANES On Page 7

Hull Warns War May Be Long

WASHINGTON.—(AP) — Secretary of State Hull, back in the capital from a Florida tour, declared today the war will be more long-drawn-out, by all reasonable calculations, than one might expect on the basis of hasty judgment.

Hull made this press conference observation after a day-long conference with Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary, who he agreed with Eden's Saturday warning that Americans and Britons must not relax their vigilance about how long the war will last.

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U. S. Bombers Unleash Heaviest Raid Of Year On Japs At Kiska

(Editor's note: Eugene Burns, writer of the following dispatch, has been close to the Pacific war from its first moments. In Honolulu at the time, he witnessed the Pearl Harbor attack and telephoned the Associated Press' first report of it to the mainland. Later he was assigned to the Southwest Pacific and saw action both from shipboard in sea battles and from the beach grounds of Guadalcanal before the enemy was eliminated from that island. This is his first report from that front.)

By EUGENE BURNS

AN ADVANCED BASE IN ALASKA.—(AP) — (Delayed) — Heavy and heavy bombers, accompanied by man-made lightning, today released the heaviest load of explosives of the year on Japanese installations and barracks at Kiska. This bombing heralded the opening of a mighty Spring offensive against Kiska, weather conditions permitting.

Once more planes, ammunition and pilots are ready.

Today's raid does not include mention of demolition and fragmentation bombs and boosted the nine months' total dropped on the Japanese occupied island to 1,427, 700 pounds, quoting Army figures.

This weight does not include thousands upon thousands of machine-gun shells, and 20 millimeter and 37 millimeter cannon shells.

Many of the enemy's anti-aircraft guns failed before today's five-minute reception was over.

The Navy Department, reporting on the action in a communique March 12, said the attack was made by Liberator and Mitchell bombers and that bomb hits were scored on both anti-aircraft batteries and buildings in the camp area without loss to the raiders.

Many buildings took fire, but this is not the worst of the bombing. If our 50,000 pounds of dynamite shook the ground at Kiska as much as the bombs shook the ground at Guadalcanal, then there will be frightened Japanese awaiting our next raid and frightened Japanese can't shoot straight the next time.

And those Japanese that were alive tonight must think: "Today's raid was the heaviest and most of planes the greatest ever yet experienced. The roar of the planes was more audible toward the end of the raid because our guns became silent."

Perhaps Tokyo officials thought today's planes are making the sixth raid in ten days. When good weather comes it will be worse. In January the weather permitted only two raids.

Fight Frisco Crime Wave

Arrests Stand Close To 1,000 Mark

SAN FRANCISCO.—(AP) — Arrests in a new, concentrated police drive against San Francisco's wartime crime wave stood close to the 1,000 mark today after a three-day campaign.

But there was a dance hall Friday in which six men were killed and seven jailed; there were eight strong-arm robberies, a number of burglaries, and a sailor died of injuries received Thursday in a street fight.

Most of those arrested were booked as drunks; many as vagrants, and several score for not carrying Selective Service cards. Police squads went through bars, pool halls and card rooms, and gave night-time street loiterers a close looking over.

Municipal Judge George Harris said: "The crime wave is still here, but it is being fought."

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\$200,000 Fire in New Hampshire

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—(AP) — A fierce general alarm fire leveled a one-story block, housing five business establishments in the center of the city, early today, scorched window sills and the roof of the nearby Commercial Hotel, and caused smoke damage to the Montgomery and Ward department store.

Police estimated the damage at \$200,000.

Sixty guests were driven from the hotel during the height of the blaze. Two guests were injured, one suffering a broken ankle when the front wall of the wrecked collapsed.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. William Stevens of Portland, Maine, a guest at the hotel, and a "survivor" of Boston's Coconut Grove nightclub fire which claimed 490 lives last November.

Judy Canova Weds Private

NEWTON, N. J.—(AP) — Judy Canova, singer, comedienne, and actress, today married a private, Chester B. England, were married yesterday at the First Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Clarence Rouse, former pastor.

Storms in Portugal — The German-controlled Paris radio reported today that two German bombers had considerable damage to crops and disrupted communications and making the sixth raid in ten days.

The broadcast was recorded by the Associated Press.