

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS CAPTURE GAFSA AS GEN. PATTON LEADS DRIVE

TANK INSPECTED FOR "BOOBY TRAPS"—War-wise U. S. soldiers in Tunisia carefully look for "booby traps" in this crippled Italian tank. The photo is one of the first received in this country to illustrate the successful American counter attack against the Axis in the Kasserine Pass in February.

Fun Driving To Be Legal But Limited
Gasoline Ration of Holders of "A" Books Cut "Roughly" in Half

WASHINGTON (AP)—Starting Monday, Eastern motorists can drive for fun again, as far as their gasoline will take them—but for the luckless "A" bookholders, at least, that can't be very far.

Deferment Bill Opposed
War Dept. Against Plan To Defer Fathers

WASHINGTON (AP)—New War Department opposition to the bill developed today as the House Rules Committee began hearings on the measure.

Archbishop Makes Gift For African Churches
ALGERIA (AP)—Archbishop Francis Spellman of New York made a gift of 100,000 francs (\$20,000) for African churches damaged by the war in concluding his visit with Archbishop Lyaudet in Algiers.

Jap Plan To Garrison New Guinea Base Thwarted By Fleet Blasting

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters announced today discovery of elaborately prepared Japanese positions about 50 miles above Buna, New Guinea, which apparently were intended for use as the base for a new offensive by the 15,000 enemy troops reported killed in the battle of the Blamarek Sea.

Great Tank Struggle Raging in Donets Area

Red Planes Strike At Nazi Armor

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW (AP)—A titanic tank struggle, with a German Air umbrella of Junkers dive bombers met by hurtling Soviet Stormoviks trying to knock out the German armor, was being waged today in the northern Donets River valley, but the Russians reported their lines refused to give before the masses of tanks hurled against them.

URGES CIVIL DRAFT LAW
Patterson Says Much Work Being Wasted

WASHINGTON (AP)—Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, urging adoption of a civilian draft law, said today that despite the need for workers in war industries, thousands still busy turning out such things as artificial flowers, jewelry, toys and cosmetics.

FIGHT FOR EXISTENCE
Describing the war as a "fight for existence which is far from won," Patterson said the United States is the one of the principal belligerents without a system of universal war service.

FILMS SHOW REDS HOW U. S. FIGHTS
MOSCOW (AP)—Admiral William H. Standley, United States Ambassador to Moscow, has taken another step to acquaint the Soviet Union with the scope of what the United States is doing in the war by inviting Red Army officers to view 25 new-reels showing Pacific battle scenes and workers turning out tanks, planes and ships.

Holds That Train Seat For Friend Too Long
KANSAS CITY (AP)—City Fireman John L. Haley is sorry he went to the railway station to find his friend Robert J. Lorimer.



NAMED TO NEW COMMAND — Lieut-Gen. George S. Patton has been named commander of American troops on the Western Tunisian front. He is pictured above in characteristic pose.

Gen. Fredendall Patton Replaces

Armored Force Specialist Commands U. S. Troops in Western Tunisia

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Lieut-Gen. George S. Patton Jr., 57-year-old offensive-minded American armored force specialist, succeeded Maj-Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendall as commander of United States troops on the western Tunisian front, General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters announced formally today.

FALL BACK IN BURMA
British Readjustment Forced By Japs

NEW DELHI (AP)—The British announced today that "further adjustment of our positions" had been necessary on the western Burma front to prevent isolation of units north of Rethadung.

JAPS MAKE NEW YUNNAN THRUST
CHUNKING (AP)—A Chinese Army spokesman said today that 2,000 Japanese troops had attacked the Chinese forces in a new thrust in Yunnan Province, adjoining Japanese-occupied Burma.

Key Tunisian Town Taken Without Loss Of Single American Soldier
By NOLAN NORGAARD
WITH THE U. S. ARMY ON THE TUNISIAN FRONT, March 17—Delayed—(AP)—United States troops today recaptured Gafsa—key town of the Central Tunisian front—without the loss of a single soldier, after heavy artillery and bombardiers had put the German and Italian defenders to flight.

U. S. Soldiers Push On From Tunisian Point

Eighth Army Men Better Their Holdings Before Mareth Line

By WES CALLAGHER
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—United States troops led by Lieut-Gen. George S. Patton Jr., newly named commander of American forces on the Tunisian front, have recaptured Gafsa after a 30-mile drive and pressed on beyond that rail city and air base toward the Gabes bottleneck, it was announced today.

Attack Jap Sub Base
Another Raid Made On Kiska Island

WASHINGTON (AP)—American bombers blasted the Japanese submarine base at Kiska Island in the Aleutians (Rear Area, Tuesday) the Navy reported today, and in a fourth action American fighters shot down two enemy aircraft and probably destroyed others.

NOT SO HEAVY
The Tuesday raids on Kiska apparently were not so heavy as those made on Monday since the Navy in its latest communique did not specifically use the word "heavy" to describe the actions. It was apparent, however, that there were carried out in considerable force.

RAIDER BOMBS ENGLISH HOSTEL
LONDON (AP)—A low-flying German raider bombed a women's hostel, killing five persons and injuring twelve in an attack on the coast town.

Nazis Give People Of Paris "Invasion Order"
NEW YORK (AP)—The Federal Communications Commission reported today a British radio broadcast that General Otto von Spreti, German military commander in Paris, had issued orders to the inhabitants of Paris commanding them to "prepare for invasion."

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WEATHER
Occasional light rain; a few clouds; warmer tonight.
Today's Temp.: 48 to 54
Sunset: 7:53
Sunrise: Tomorrow 7:18
Data will be found on page 1.