

Martin Sees Passage of Skip-a-Year Tax Program

GOP Steering Group Meets

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The House Republican Steering Committee met today to tighten party lines behind the Rumt plan, and Representative Martin of Massachusetts, the minority leader, reported "I now feel certain" the proposal to skip an income tax year will pass the House.

The committee meeting was held in Martin's office with a view to planning strategy when voting begins, probably tomorrow, on various pay-as-you-go income tax proposals.

"We can't discuss our strategy," Martin told newspapermen, "but we are confident."

Meanwhile, the Democratic leaders continued their running battle against the plan originally advanced by Representative Clegg of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and embraced in modified form a bill by Representative Clegg, Republican, Kansas, and various plans for a compromise that would abate a large part, but not all, of one tax year, were in the air.

As the fourth day of one of the bitterest tax battles in history opened on the House floor, Representative Jenkins, Republican, Ohio, declared that "90 per cent of the American people" want the Clegg-Rumt Bill, and that the "no abatement" measure submitted by a majority of the Ways and Means Committee "has practically been abandoned by many leading Democrats."

Representative Knutson, Republican, Minnesota, Ways and Means member, said the "no abatement" measure would result "to the end" any attempt at a compromise "will be a failure."

He said was gathering force on the Democratic side.

Despite Knutson's stand, Representative Miller, Republican, Nebraska, told the House that he believes "we're heading for a compromise."

Jenkins said in this speech that those who are taking compromise know that "the people who do not accept the Committee Bill," adding:

"ONLY WAY OUT"
"The people want to pay as they go and do not want to pay two years in one. There should be no compromise. The people are supporting this plan regardless of party affiliation and Congress should not make it a party matter. There is nothing political about paying taxes."

On the other hand, Representative Mills, Democrat, Arkansas, Ways and Means member, said the Rumt plan would redistribute wealth in favor of the wealthy.

"Cancellation of 1942 tax liability would add to the net worth of a part of the American public the colossal sum of \$100,000,000," he said. "Such a redistribution of wealth would be an economic event without precedent in our history, or world history."

President Emeritus of Actors' Equity Dies

NEW YORK—(AP)—Frank Gillmore, 75, president of the Actors' Equity Association and for years a familiar figure on the American and English stages, died today at Roosevelt Hospital.

Say Nazi Cruiser Laid Mines Off New Zealand

By Associated Press
The Berlin radio today broadcast a claim that a Nazi auxiliary cruiser traveled underground several thousand miles through the Pacific and laid mines before the harbor of Auckland, New Zealand.

Daniels Named Administrative Aide To President

Tar Heel Given Federal Post

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The appointment of Jonathan Daniels, Raleigh, N. C., newspaper man, as an administrative assistant to President Roosevelt was announced today by the White House.

Presidential Secretary Stephen Early said Daniels would operate in no particular field, but would serve in a "fact finding capacity" on jobs assigned to him by the Chief Executive.

Daniels has undertaken a number of confidential assignments for the President from time to time since giving up his position several months ago as assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense.

"He left the editorship of the Raleigh News and Observer to which Government work," Daniels, who is Secretary of Navy, was President Roosevelt's "best" during the last world war, Mr. Roosevelt, then was Assistant Navy Secretary.



DANIELS

Greatest Raid Of War Hits Berlin

British Resume Attacks on U-Boat Bases After Blasting German Capital

LONDON—(AP)—RAF bombers resumed their assaults on German submarine bases last night, after the greatest raid of the war on Berlin Saturday night, by blasting the base at St. Nazaire with a "concentrated attack," the Air Ministry announced today.

Two bombers did not return from the St. Nazaire raid, which was carried out in considerable strength and added new damage to the U-boat haven which has been attacked often and heavily in the past.

Nazi Strike Back
The German radio meanwhile announced that German bombers, retreating for the Saturday night RAF raid on Berlin and a day light raid yesterday by American Fortresses and Liberators on the railroad yards at Rouen, France, smashed at Norwich, England, during the night.

Hit and run German raiders appeared over the south coast this morning and made a direct hit on a school clinic in a coast town. Rescue workers were digging in the wreckage for members of the staff and any pupils who might have been trapped there. Authorities said two enemy aircraft were destroyed during night raids on Britain.

The great load of almost 800 tons of bombs hurled down on Berlin Saturday night was almost double the heaviest total of explosives and incendiaries the Germans air force dropped on London in its heaviest attack.

The German High Command announced the raid was from Berlin and recorded by the Associated Press said Allied air attacks had been repelled by western territory caused "heavy losses" among the population.

"The communists claimed destruction of eighteen planes there and over the Norwegian coast, an area that the Axis did not mention."

Last night's RAF attack on St. Nazaire was the 40th of the war and the fifth this year. The BBC said GREAT RAID on page 6

Chicago Cruiser Drive Over Top

CHICAGO—(AP)—Chicago's "40 million" in 40 days' war bond drive to replace the sunken cruiser Chicago went over the top today.

Campaign Chairman Oscar C. Mayer announced that reports came in early today showed that \$40,000,000 worth of bonds had been purchased. The reports were still being checked.

The story attributed to a war correspondent, Wilhelm Wetzl, in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, said the vessel encountered Australian territorial waters kennelled by defended planes or surface craft and carried out her mission in the peaceful waters of the Hauraki Gulf.

Reds Rebuff Nazi Attempt To Crack Donets Line

Mud Hampering Slugging Armies

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW—(AP)—The Red Army fought on in the mud during the night, breaking up two German efforts to crack its line along the upper Donets River, and capturing four more villages in the slow drive toward Smolensk, the Russians said today, but the once flaming battle line apparently had subsided temporarily to a series of local and inconclusive engagements.

The mid-day communique reported that there were "no material changes on the fronts" and was devoted almost exclusively to isolated engagements involving relatively small forces.

In the push toward Smolensk, which has been the main German base, the Russians reported that the column which has been driving westward from Vyazma and has been in the column which has been driving southward from Bely, about 25 miles to the north-east of Smolensk.

The single village captured was taken during a night attack and success came after the Russians in earlier fighting had been pushed back by the column which was driving westward from Vyazma and has been in the column which has been driving southward from Bely, about 25 miles to the north-east of Smolensk.

In a neighboring sector a Russian scouting party slipped behind the German lines and attacked a German infantry column moving up to the front, killing 70 Germans with machine-gun and rifle fire, it was announced.

ATACKS BROKEN UP
The Germans attempted to storm back into positions they had lost but the Russian line held. The attack was frustrated and the Germans were forced to retreat to their original positions. The Russian line held.

"There was no mention in the German communique of the capture of Sevsk, a town 170 miles northeast of Kharkov, which the Germans had reported to have captured. The Germans said the town was taken after a bitter three-day fight."

The Russian successes on the Donets River were achieved after the Germans had succeeded in forcing back the Russian line in one sector in the middle reaches of the river, the Southwest Pacific, where the Germans attacked in another sector in an effort to break the Russian line. The attack was frustrated as well.

In the Belgorod district northeast of Kharkov, where bitter fighting has raged for days, the Russians reported that they had captured a German tank and a number of other vehicles.

Ship Sinking
Toll Is at 639
By Associated Press
Loss of five cargo ships, announced last week as sunk by Axis submarines in the Western Atlantic, raised to 639 the total of ships lost in the war since Pearl Harbor.

The five losses represented four less than the average announced weekly sinkings in the western Atlantic during the 67 weeks of the war. Twenty-two vessels have been announced as lost in March this year.

Map Fight Against Japs

High Officers Complete Washington Parleys

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A group of high ranking Army and Navy officers from Pacific war theaters has just completed a series of conferences in Washington on plans for future campaigns against the Japanese.

In making this announcement today, the War Department said the United States joint chiefs of staff called the meetings to acquaint commanding officers in the Pacific theater with the strategy approved at the Casablanca conference of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill in January.

NONE DECISIONS GIVEN
None of the decisions was disclosed.

Heading the group of fifteen officers were Lieutenant General Delos C. Emmons, commanding Army forces in Hawaii, Lieutenant General George C. Kenney, commander of Allied air forces in the Southwest Pacific, and Lieutenant General Milburn F. Harmon, commanding Army forces in the South Pacific.

The announcement said the officers would be returning to their overseas stations in the near future.

Representing Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, were Emmons, Rear Admiral R. A. Spruance, Brigadier General L. B. Boyd, U. S. A., Captain F. P. Sherman, USN, and Captain E. C. Small, USN.

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Rommel Flees Northward As Defenses Lost

Montgomery Again Masters Rommel And Sends Afrika Korps Reeling Backward

By EDWARD KENNEDY
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Mareth Line defenses have collapsed under the pounding of the British Eighth Army and his forces are retreating northward with heavy losses, it was announced today.

Scattered pockets of resistance were left behind, but Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's infantrymen were reported mopping them up, one by one, as Allied aerial squadrons joined ground forces in power attacks along the Axis escape corridor.

The Mareth Line broke on a 25-mile front at three points, ranging from 20 to 30 miles from the Axis supply port of Gabes.

Set by powerful forces forward and the desert, flanking columns at El Hamma in his rear, Rommel yielded Mareth, Matmata and Toujane at the northern end of the Mareth fortifications yesterday and dispatches said that every strong point of that 40-mile-long Mareth Line was now in Allied hands.

FIERCE COMBATS
They were wrested from the enemy in some of the fiercest combats of the war—combats in which more than 6,000 German and Italian soldiers were captured. Thousands of tons of bombs had been loosed upon the line by day and by night to supplement continual heavy artillery barrages.

Dispatches from Cairo said it was officially announced that Axis air fields protecting Gabes were being plover and that Rommel intended to abandon that area to the Allies.

Since air protection would be necessary for a Dunkerque-style by Rommel's Army through Gabes, any further withdrawal probably would mean he intended to attempt a fighting retreat for 200 miles or more up the coast to a junction with the command of Colonel General Jürgen von Arnim in the Tunis-Blaube region.

Threatening his escape corridor for a stretch of 100 miles were the United States forces of Lieutenant General Patton Jr., pushing toward the coast from newly captured Fondouk, Maknassy and El Gharbi.

AMERICAN SMASH
Field dispatches said American infantrymen smashed forward before the enemy's strong resistance from El Gueirra Pass toward the last important high ground between the coast and the sea, the Ghabes. First reports told of the capture of 30 prisoners and said the warship's predicament would become increasingly grave.

"The attack which was launched on the afternoon of March 26 on the enemy's strong resistance south of El Hamma has forced the enemy to withdraw from the Mareth area."

and German infantry from Djebel Abiod, one of the great key hill masses.

"We are running up against lots of barbed wire, machine-gun fire and mortars," said one officer.

"This is getting more and more like an old-fashioned World War battle."

THE PUSH was made across barren crags and in a thick, whirling spring dust storm which choked and blinded and gave them something to sneer at besides the enemy.

After penetrating a certain distance, they swung in the right to help some of their buddies planned on the slopes leading to the Djebel Chemet heights, bordering the Ghabes Road, by Axis artillery entrenched on Chemet.

Seen more to the right, the Americans ran into tougher opposition from mortars while trying to rout dug-in Italian

Today's Temp.: H. 55; L. 38
Sunset Today 7:42
Sunrise Tomorrow 7:13
Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 5

Mr. MacKenzie's Analysis:
It Would Seem That There Is No
Escape For Troops Of Rommel

By DEWITT MacKENZIE
The cracking of the Mareth Line by General Montgomery's Great Eighth Army—one of the fiercest and most decisive of the war—has placed Marshal Rommel and the entire Axis force in Tunisia in dire peril from which there would seem to be no escape.

There has come on a 25 mile front on the powerful full scale end of the line, and dispatches indicate that the Nazi marshal is making a "fight for his neck" in an effort to join up with General Von Arnim before he can be cut off. His chances of escape are slim.

Our young fighters under General Two-Gun Patton had been doing a workmanlike job over the week-end. Patton not only held steady the wedge which he is trying to drive to the coast in the Sousse-Sfax sector, but even advanced it and has now reached the edge of capturing Fondouk in a surprise attack.

Meanwhile the flying column which Montgomery set round the Southern end of the Mareth Line had made a sensational advance to El Hamma, about twenty miles west of the important port of Gabes. It looks as though he may be able to capture Gabes, which is Rommel's nearest coastal base. If Montgomery could reach Gabes before Rommel's main force could retreat northward, the warship's predicament would become increasingly grave.

During the week-end all the Allied forces, from far north to extreme south, have been pushing forward.

See ROMMEL on page 8

First Army Opens Assault In North

British and French Troops Smash Against German Positions

By WILLIAM B. KING
BEJA, Northern Tunisia—(AP)—The Allied offensive in Northern Tunisia opened yesterday in the Djebel Abiod sector with British and French troops smashing against German positions straddling the Tabarca-Mateur Road.

The first day's fighting resulted in the capture of a considerable number of Italians and some Germans and the occupation of positions the Axis troops took up after they pushed the Allies back 24 miles along the road earlier in the day.

A picked unit of Nazis launched a counter-attack during the afternoon against the spearhead of the Allied drive but its effect was not immediately known.

High explosives were poured on the enemy position just ahead of the advancing Allied troops with shattering results. Artillery fire on the enemy's scattered batteries silenced most of them.

Gabes Area Under
Naval Bombardment

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—The Gabes area, toward which Field Marshal Erwin Rommel is retreating, has been subjected to a heavy naval bombardment, it was announced today.

(This dispatch did not bring out immediately the makeup of the naval task force or the time it struck. Such a foray might have been executed from Algerian, Libyan or Egyptian bases to supplement the air and ground attacks upon Rommel's troops fleeing from the Mareth Line.)

American Doughboys In Old-Fashioned Push

By HAROLD W. BOYLE
WITH UNITED STATES FORCES IN SOUTHERN TUNISIA, March 28—(Delayed)—(AP)—American doughboys by an old-fashioned drive at the type remembered by thousands of veterans of the first World War drove ten miles through mountain goat country today, seeking to win the last Axis-held heights between El Gueirra and the Mediterranean.

Seen more to the right, the Americans ran into tougher opposition from mortars while trying to rout dug-in Italian

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