

THE CHALLENGE

Final

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1943

ESTABLISHED 1888

22 Pages—Price Five Cents

RUSSIAN SCORES IN MILITARY OPERATIONS

Completely Clear Long Stretch of Railroad

Reds 80 Miles of Latvia Border

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW—(AP)—Striking out from Rzehev, the Russians have recaptured scores of towns southwest of the fortress city and have completely cleared the 270-mile-long railway between Moscow and Velikie Luki with the occupation of Orshino, 85 miles due west of Rzehev, it was announced today.

Coupled with new gains by Marshal Semion Timoshenko's forces on the northern front and with advance by Red Army columns northwest of Khar'kov, the Soviet successes increased the immediate threat to German positions at Orsh, Bryansk, Gubinsk, Vyasma and Staraya Russa. The potential menace to German key bases at Smolensk and Kholmogor was intensified.

At Velikie Luki, the Red Army was only 60 miles from the Latvia border and a short distance from north and south railway lines which are the backbone of the northwest front in the Lake Linga sector. In other announcements the Russians drove their tanks way east which the Germans have shifted supplies between southern and central front bases.

MAINTAIN DRIVE

The Russians maintained their drive in yesterday's fighting, the military communique announcing that 42 more towns had fallen to the army pressing southwest and south of Rzehev, through stream-coupled forest land.

With the southern army fighting its way in the direction of Bryansk, the Russians have two bodies moving toward each other now about 250 miles apart, and threatening to crush between them the remaining German garrisons before Moscow front stretches from Gubinsk, 100 miles west of Moscow, through Vyasma and southward to Bryansk.

Greer Garson and Cagney Get Oscars

'Mrs. Miniver' and Male Star of 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' Adjudged Best

WASHINGTON—(AP)—James Cagney and Greer Garson, established thespians but newcomers to the "Oscar" roster, received the Motion Picture Academy's awards early today for the best actor and actress performances of 1942.

Fifteen hundred guests at the academy's 15th annual dinner will and a noisy until well after midnight for announcement of the winners of filmland's most coveted honors bestowed by "Oscars" of approximately 11,000 motion picture people.

OWI Probes News Leak

Farm Department Involved in Inquiry

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Office of War Information, which claims the exclusive right to release Government information pertaining to the wartime food program, has started an investigation to determine how newspapermen obtain information from other sources.

EDITOR'S PROTEST

News of the investigation and the reported inter-departmental strife which was said to have preceded it recalled the recent contention of editors from throughout the United States that OWI should be made public at its original source whenever possible.

Survivors Of Worst U. S. Sea War Disaster Tell Of Heroism

BOSTON—(AP)—The United States' greatest sea disaster of the war—the sinking of a passenger-cargo vessel with a loss of 618 lives in the mid-trip North Atlantic—was marked by many acts of heroism, survivors related on reaching here.

Wreckage Is Only Visible Remnant of Jap Armada

Two Destroyers Put to Death

By Associated Press
Charred, floating wreckage over a large area of the desolate, shark-infested Bismarck Sea was the only visible remnant today of a powerful armada of 22 Japanese warships and transports that set out from Rabaul, New Britain, for the New Guinea front at Lae.

All had been destroyed by the flying buzzsaw of Lieut.-Gen. George C. Kenney—the American, British, Australian, and Dutch fleets of his Southwestern Pacific Command who in continuous waves had sent the ships to the bottom by ones, twos and threes.

Attack Meat Black Market

Indians To Control Slaughter and Sale

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Government launched a two-front attack today on black market operations in meat.

ABATE SUPPLY SEEN

Wickard also asserted his orders would result in adequate supplies of meats for direct war needs, and would bring about more equitable distribution.

BLOW AT BLACK MARKETS

Describing the pork ceilings as a heavy blow at black markets, Wickard said they will enable the housewife to know exactly what she should pay, and divide available meat supplies more equitably among stores and communities.

Germany Attacked For Ninth Night

Furious Allied Round-the-Clock Offensive Carried Forward

LONDON—(AP)—Royal Air Force bombers smashed at targets in western Germany last night—the ninth successive night that Germany has been attacked, it was announced officially today.

FINN NEW

Finn Cabinet

Pro-Fascist Party Not Represented

HELSINKI—(AP)—Finland formed a new cabinet today under the Conservative Prof. Edvin Linkomies, in which ministerial representation of the Pro-Fascist Peoples Party was eliminated and the foreign portfolio was assigned to the Liberal, Sjoestedt.

RAID-DAMAGED MILAN SCHOOL To Be Moved

BERN, Switzerland.—(AP)—Premier Mussolini's Milan newspaper Il Popolo D'Italia was reported by the Swiss to have announced today that it would have announced plans to move the school-damaged University of Milan to a new campus island, the Navy announced.

Brothers' War Record Defended By Lt.-Col. Elliott Roosevelt

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Llewellyn C. Elliott Roosevelt, enlisting an attack on the war record of his brothers, asserted today that their "lay-off" and declared that "for God's sake, let us fight with our backs to the back for the sake of politics."

Nazis Forced Out After Push Into Village

Heavy Losses Inflicted on Germans; Bombers Sink Four Axis Vessels

By HAROLD V. BOYLE
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Allied bombers sank four Axis vessels from a six-ship convoy yesterday and shot up German and Italian motor transport in an aerial accompaniment to ground fighting during which tanked First Army forces repulsed a determined attack at Sedjenane.

What Foreparts Of Names Mean In North Africa

NEW YORK.—(AP)—Sidi, Bou, Djebel and the other names which form the foreground of many place names in North Africa, all have a definite meaning in the names.

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Several armored cars were knocked out and heavy losses were inflicted on the German infantry," a competent military source said.

The heavy action in the south was accompanied by intense action of activity by Field Marshal Rommel's forces in their southern front and a corresponding increase in the activities of the British tank attack.

CONSIDERABLE GAINS

The communique issued by Allied Headquarters said Allied troops continued to consolidate their recent gains in the central sector, where Rommel's forces are virtually back to the position of their ill-fated February drive.

Allied reconnaissance patrols established contact with Axis troops in the central sector, where Rommel's forces are virtually back to the position of their ill-fated February drive.

Despite increased fighting on the outskirts of Medjel-el-Bah, that town, 35 miles southeast of Sedjenane and an equal distance southwest of Tunis—remained in Allied hands, it was announced. Shelled enemy positions on the ridges northeast.

WEATHER

Rain and warmer tonight.

Today's Temp. H. 41; L. 31. Sunset Today. Sunrise Tomorrow.