

ROOSEVELT ORDERS SEIZURE OF MINES

Yankee Guns Start Firing Upon Mateur

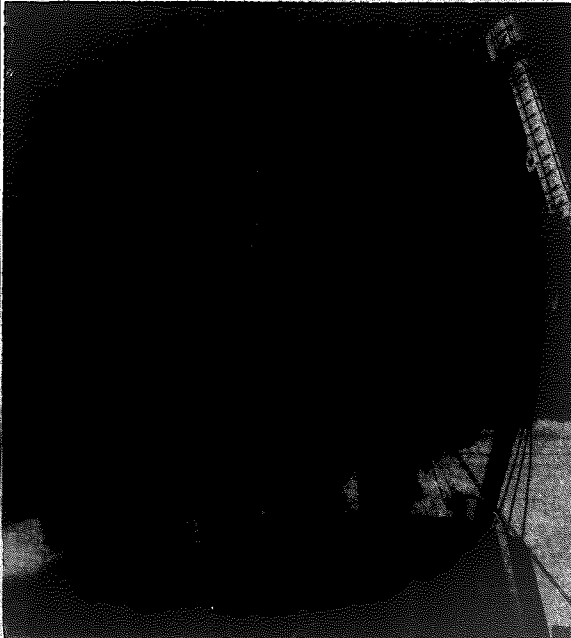
First Important Bayonet Charge By Americans In N. African Drive

By EDWARD KENNEDY ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (AP)—American troops, continuing their stubborn advance toward Mateur, stormed and captured Djebel Tahent yesterday and wrested a neighboring high point from the Germans in a fierce bayonet charge. Allied Headquarters announced today, as Allied air forces blasted an Axis concentration of warships and vessels of all sizes in their most successful attack yet on the enemy's sea lanes. Direct hits were scored by the airmen on at least eight ships, including a light cruiser and two destroyers which were sunk or left aflame and apparently sinking. The Second U. S. Army Corps of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. took Djebel Tahent, known as the 'Djebel' of the area, and captured Hill 323 just to the south. These new positions permitted the army to begin long-range shelling of Mateur, eighteen miles southwest of Mateur. The battle for Hill 323 was the first important bayonet action by Americans in Africa, and French observers said it recalled the American charge at St. Michel and Belgium 'libbies' in the last war. Mateur, German port facilities in Africa have shown much taste for the weapon.

Major Air Battles Rage Over Long Red Front

Nazis Hammered In Donets Action

By EDDY GILMORE. MOSCOW (AP)—Major air battles continued up and down the long Russian front today with the sharpest fights above the narrow Kuban bridgehead between the Germans hold in the western Caucasus, while on the Donets River front a company of Nazi automatic riflemen who forced the river were exterminated or forced to swim back to safety through the icy waters. The Donets action was south of Taguin in the sector 70 miles southeast of Kharkov. The news communique said the greater part of the Germans who crossed were wiped out and "only a few managed to swim back to the right bank." A company nominally numbers 250 men. The latest communique and dispatches told of no renewed land activity in the Kuban, but there was no reason to believe the Red Army was not still fighting against the foe deployed between the sick and the Tannu Peninsula leading to the Crimea. Russian Stenavich planes were credited with "a series of enemy guns while assisting land troops." Continued talks were made of railroad stations and other communications, day and night. The incessant pounding of German communication lines was interpreted as meaning just one thing: that the enemy was trying to wheel up reserves and every kind of war material for an offensive. SCOUTS TO GO OUT Pravda reported from the Kuban on difficulties encountered by Red infantry and artillery. Red dispatch said advance posts are in mud flats and snails go out at night in fishing canoes armed with automatic rifles, mortars, machineguns and light tanks. The units are called "mosquito groups" and they crawl through the brackish slimes from their boats to fall upon unsuspecting German and Rumanian garrisons. Sharp artillery fire was reported. Another two units were credited with picking off German scouts in a month. On the northwestern front south of Leningrad, Russian scouts were said to have crossed a river (possibly the Volkhov) and penetrated German defenses.



EYES OF A TROOP TRANSPORT—Lookouts of a U. S. transport scan the Pacific for enemy craft from a forward gun platform. Aloft in crow's nest is another lookout.

Troops Ready To Give Any Help Needed

President Moves To Remedy Production Crisis Threatened By Walkout

By Associated Press President Roosevelt today ordered Government operation of the nation's struck coal mines—with troops ready to provide any needed protection—and at the same time called upon miners to "return immediately to the mines and work for their Government." Moving quickly to remedy the war production crisis threatened by the walkout of more than a quarter of a million men—with another several hundred thousand expected to leave the pits—Mr. Roosevelt sent orders to Fuels Administrator Ickes and War Secretary Stimson and promised to talk to the miners themselves in a nation-wide radio address at 10 P. M. tomorrow. The White House action came less than two hours after John L. Lewis and the rank and file of his United Mine Workers allowed to expire at 10 A. M. back-to-work ultimatum. The President ordered Secretary of the Interior Ickes to take possession and operate the mines with such workers as he can provide, and told Ickes he could call on the Army for protection for the mines if necessary. "Except in a few mines the production of coal has virtually ceased," the President said. "The national interest is in grave peril." ICKES SENDS WIRES Responding quickly to the Presidential directive, immediately telegrams to 3,400 bituminous mining companies, instructing them to operate their properties in the name of the Government and to apply for military protection if they deem it necessary. He planned shortly to send similar wires to anthracite operators. The Fuels Administrator urged the companies to continue operations with existing personnel so far as possible and "to encourage miners to return to work under present wages and working conditions with the understanding that any eventual wage adjustment will be retroactive. Mr. Roosevelt's order to Secretary Ickes, said he shall take immediate possession of the mines "so far as may be necessary or desirable, together with any and all real and personal property, franchises, rights, facilities, funds and other assets used in connection with the operation of such mines. Ickes was directed to operate the mines or arrange for their operation in such manner as he deems necessary "for the successful prosecution of the war." He also was authorized to do all the things necessary, or incidental to, the production, sale and distribution of coal. PROTECTION He was directed also to provide protection to all employees remaining work and to all persons seeking employment so far as it may be needed. The Secretary of War would provide for protection

Reds Renew Pole Regime Rejection

But Door Left Ajar For New Government To Be Organized

By WADE WERNER WASHINGTON (AP)—Renewed Russian rejection of the Polish government-in-exile headed by General Wladyslaw Sikorski was sounded here today, but the door was left wide open for the Poles to form a new, Soviet-supported regime which need not be in Moscow. And diplomats speculated over whether Ambassador Haxim Litvinoff, who has been recalled to Moscow for consultation, might be slated to settle the Russo-Polish crisis. The Soviet embassy's information bulletins published full texts of recent Moscow assertions that the Sikorski group in London is unauthorized to speak for the Polish people. But an embassy spokesman said the door is left ajar against speculation that a substitute Russian-recognized regime would soon be set up in the shadow of the Kremlin. He intimated that was no reason why the Kremlin should insist on Moscow as the seat of what it might consider a truly representative Polish government. The text, however, left no doubt

Essen Hit By British

Other Planes Go Over Channel Today

LONDON (AP)—The RAF made a "heavy attack" last night on Essen and other Ruhr Valley targets in Western Germany and today several squadrons of heavy bombers, believed to be American Liberators or B-24s or both, flew across the Channel to continue the assault on the Ruhr war potential. The daylight bombers flew at

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Stalin Declares Allied Armies To Break Backbone Of Fascist Beast

MOSCOW (AP)—Premier Joseph Stalin today declared that the Allied armies at Europe today are smashing a second front when all the Allied armies attack the backbone of the Fascist beast. With joint marches from east and west, he said, "another day of utter annihilation and unconditional surrender" of Hitler's Germany. "On May Day the order of the day to his nation and its Army, Stalin echoed the "unconditional surrender" of the German people to the Allies. He said that the "unconditional surrender" of the German people to the Allies is the only way to end the war. He said that the "unconditional surrender" of the German people to the Allies is the only way to end the war. He said that the "unconditional surrender" of the German people to the Allies is the only way to end the war.

Tax Plan Attacked

Republicans Assail Democratic Program

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Ways and Means Committee's Republican minority today attacked the Democratic compromise pay-as-you-go tax plan as "the spirit of political pressure" and presented anew its demand for the modified Ruml six-year alternative. Bluntly, the Republicans contended that the majority bill "socks the rich" and "socks" most other taxpayers; that it is so complicated it will provide a "tax lawyer's dream," and further that it is so unbalanced that it will create a "lean shark's Seventh Heaven."

SECOND SHOWDOWN

With the settling arranged for the second showdown on the tax issue early next week, the Republican members' formal dissenting report outlined their arguments against the Democratic-drafted measure and urged Congress to support the six-year plan for these reasons. 1. "It penalizes the objective of placing taxpayers on a current, pay-as-you-earn basis, and not at some distant time. 2. "It involves no doubling up of payments. 3. "It treats all taxpayers equitably, and is the only plan which abates the 1942 tax assessment on the same progressive principle by which it was imposed. 4. "It is simple to understand, and simple to put into operation and to administer. 5. "It is the only plan which meets every problem squarely, openly, fairly and honestly." Briefly, the Democratic plan would abate an estimated \$4,600,000,000 of last year's taxes by applying the lower 1941 individual rates and higher exemptions to 1942 income. Collection of the 1942 levy would be spread over a three-year period. Both measures carry a 20 per cent

Pennsylvania Coal Mines Deserted

Miners of State Obey "No Trespass" Order of John L. Lewis

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Collieries whose spiraling tips dot the slopes of Pennsylvania's coal producing hills and mountains were virtually deserted today as the state's 200,000 miners obeyed the "no trespass" edict of their union leader, John L. Lewis and joined the nation's "greatest industry-wide shutdown since it went to war."

More Than 200 Mines In Kentucky Closed

HARLAN, Ky. (AP)—Approximately 40,000 of Kentucky's 60,000 soft coal miners were idle today, closing more than 100 mines in the state but there were no reports of picketing or violence.

About 200 Mines To Be Taken Over In Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—About 200 soft coal mines in Illinois will be taken over by the Government under President Roosevelt's order

Americans Engage In Biggest Artillery Duel Of Campaign

By HAROLD V. BOYLE WITH THE U. S. ARMY SOUTH-WEST OF MATEUR, April 30—(Delayed)—United States troops captured Djebel Tahent—Hill 609—in bitter fighting sixteen miles southwest of Mateur and turned their long-range artillery upon Mateur for the first time in this campaign today. The bombardment of Mateur, an important road junction 15 miles from Bizerte, brought an

immediate counter battery fire and the heaviest artillery dueling since the American attack began April 21. The Germans dispatched 15 or 20 800-kg. Wurf 150s in a vain attempt to locate and silence the U. S. guns. The doughboys who stormed up to the top of the tabletop mine immediately began mopping up scattered German units on the

WEATHER

Cooler tonight. The shelling of Mateur apparently caught the Germans by surprise. It was the first time that city had been brought under fire since the early days of the campaign, when a British force drove to the outskirts of Tunis itself before it was compelled to retreat. Slung by the hammering blows. See YANKS On Page 4

Today's Temp. 11. 67. 1. 2. Sunset Today. 6. 5. Sunrise Tomorrow. 6. 5. Additional U. S. weather data will be found on page 4.