U. S. Command Changed Amid New Solomons Threat

Not War—Only Defeat—Destroys the Freedom Of Men And The Privileges Of Democracy

Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

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BRITISH OPEN DRIVE IN EGYPT WITH ALLIED AIR & ROYAL NAVY SUPPORT

Full Assault In Solomons Appears Near

Several Naval Losses Dealt Enemy But Japs Landed on Another Island

WASHINGTON. —(AP)— The Japanese showed signs today of poising for a full attack on the American-held airbase on Guadalcanal Island, while in Washington the Navy announced tersely that Vice Admiral William F. Halsey had relieved Vice Admiral R. L. Ghormley as commander of naval forces in the South Pacific.

The shift in command, which was disclosed without explanation, came at a critical time in the affairs of the Allies in the battle of Solomon Islands.

For, although a severe naval loss had just been dealt the Japanese by bombers, it became known that the enemy had landed on Russell Island, 30 miles northwest of Guadalcanal, and might well have established similar positions on other neighboring islands.

BLAST TEN JAPS SHIPS

While the Navy reported yesterday additional destruction of twelve Nipponese planes and repulse of a second enemy "feeler" attack on the Guadalcanal airfield, heavy bombers under Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Australian Command sank or badly damaged ten Japanese vessels including a cruiser.

Raiding with "deadly effect,"

Allied Headquarters said, the bombers dumped explosives on the cruiser, a destroyer and eight transports or cargo ships at Rabaul, New Britain, just west of Bougainville Island in the Solomons.

The low-level attack before dawn yesterday (Australian time) was believed to have sunk the cruiser, destroyer and two large merchant vessels while severely damaging the other ships, the communique said.

JAPS FLANK ATTACK

The Japanese flank attack on troops holding the Guadalcanal airfield occurred Oct. 21, and was the second in two days to be driven back. The maneuver was regarded as a test of the American forces's strength but if successful might

See JAPS THREATEN on page 7

Admiral Ghormley Relieved By Halsey

New Leader for Naval Forces in South Pacific Appointed

WASHINGTON. —(AP)— Vice Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. has been given command of the naval forces in the South Pacific area, relieving Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley.

The Navy, announcing this today, said that new duties for Ghormley, who has directed naval activities in the Battle of the Solomons "will be announced at a later date."

Halsey is a task force commander who has participated in some of the war's sharpest engagements, and the Navy noted he had "conducted carrier operations . . . last Spring with distinguished success."

REPORTS TO NIMITZ

He will report to Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet.

No explanation was given by the Navy for relieving Ghormley. Ghormley is a resident of Moscow, Idaho. Halsey was born in Elizabeth, N. J., and makes his home in Washington.

Another change in commands of the naval forces which are battling the Japanese in the South Pacific received Vice-Admiral William S. Pye as commander of a task force and took him to Newport, R. I. as president of the Naval War College.

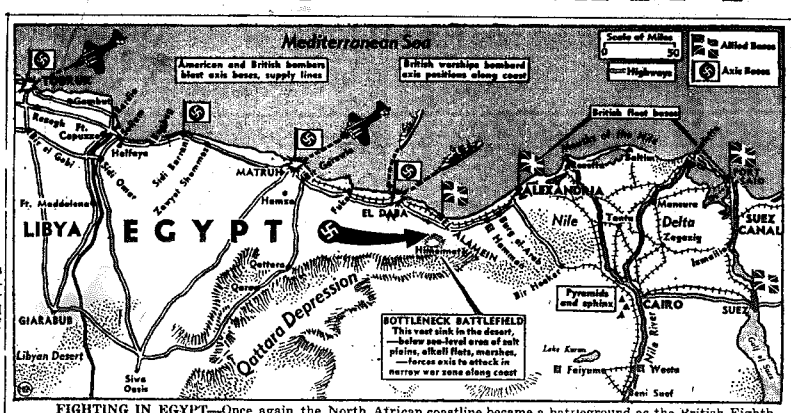
Vice Admiral Herbert F. Leary, until recently commander of naval forces in the Southwest Pacific under General Douglas MacArthur, was given the duties as task force commander formerly assigned to Admiral Pye.

Rear-Admiral Arthur S. Carpender, who has been second in naval command in the Southwest Pacific area, was promoted to the rank of vice admiral, taking Leary's old job.

Halsey, 60, has had wide experience at sea. He was commander of a carrier division in June 1938 and supervised the organization and training of new aviation squadrons for the aircraft carriers Yorktown and Enterprise. He took a command in the fleet on June 3, 1940.

As leader of a force which raided the Marshall and Gilbert Island installations of the enemy last January he won wide recognition and a distinguished Service Medal.

A citation accompanying the medal referred to "his brilliant and audacious attack" and said "by his great skill and determination this drive inflicted heavy damage to enemy ships and planes."



FIGHTING IN EGYPT—Once again the North African coastline became a battleground as the British Eighth Army opened an attack on the Axis positions on the El Alamein front. The main struggle was concentrated in a small area stretching 40 miles inland from the coast to the Qattara Depression, but probably it will spread quickly.

Beat Rommel To Punch With Sudden Drive

Offensive Which May Decide Fate of Mediterranean Appears Underway

By DON WHITEHEAD

CAIRO. — (AP) — Britain's rebuilt and refreshed Eighth Army charged into the Axis' El Alamein line today in an offensive sprung in the night with blows against the enemy by land, sea and air.

The Allies thus beat Axis African Corps to the punch and launched what may be the battle to decide the fate of the Mediterranean this Winter.

With all branches in close co-ordination, the armored army of the desert thrust forward under strong air support, including planes and fliers from the United States, while a task force of the Mediterranean Fleet struck deep on the enemy's sea-girt northern flank near the Egyptian port of Matruh. A Naval communique issued at Alexandria said the naval force suffered no casualties and only "superficial damage" to one boat despite an enemy air attack.

Fighter planes of the U. S. desert air forces were active in the final preliminaries of the long aerial preparation for the offensive, raking the Axis' forward landing grounds yesterday and escorting Allied fighter-bombers on similar missions.

TREND UNCERTAIN

The hour of attack came under a full desert moon last night but it still was too early to discern any trend.

Under a strong cover of warplanes, the Allies lunged against the enemy positions in a swirl of sandy dust with tanks and guns —many of them American-made— hurling thousands of shells at the enemy.

The main battle was concentrated in a comparatively small area, stretching 40 miles inland from the coast to the Qattara Depression, but probably it will spread rapidly as the British have been sending desert patrols hundreds of miles across the desert to strike at the rear of Axis Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

Lieut.-Gen. B. L. Montgomery, commander of the British Eighth Army—a collection of troops from various parts of the empire, Poles, Free French and other Allies—announced recently that his men were "fighting fit and ready for anything."

The General had been faced with the task of replacing the "upwards of 50,000 men" which Prime Minister Churchill announced had been lost along with valuable equipment in the retreat from Libya to the El Alamein line in June. The El Alamein line was stabilized on July 1.

ALEXANDER LEADER

The British offensive was under the over-all direction of General Sir Harold Alexander.

Alexander, the 50-year-old hero of Dunkerque who succeeded Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck as Middle East commander Aug. 18 during a Summer lull in the desert fighting, sent his forces surging across the Egyptian no-man's land last night.

Days of steady air attacks by British and United States fliers upon German-Italian air fields and communications opened the way for the ground push.

"Fierce fighting developed and is continuing," said a terse communique issued jointly.

See BRITISH OPEN on page 7

First Lady Very Busy

Confers on Plans for Tour of Britain

LONDON—(AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt arose early today and breakfasted alone in her apartment at Buckingham Palace as a crowd of sightseers, including many American soldiers, gathered outside the palace, hoping to see the guest of the Royal Family.

Mrs. Roosevelt's apartment in the palace was one of those damaged by bomb blasts some time ago and its windows are partly boarded over.

After leaving the King and Queen, she spent a busy morning conferring on plans for her tour of Britain at war before leaving to give a press interview. The President's wife hopes to study the part which British women are playing in the war and visit American troops in the British Isles.

SEES PRINCESSES

The two Princesses were not in the palace when Mrs. Roosevelt arose this morning. They stayed in London yesterday until she had arrived by train after her Transatlantic flight and then went to their country home for the night. Mrs. Roosevelt had a long talk with them before they left.

Her unusually large conference, attended by more than 100 American and British reporters, was held at the United States Embassy where she said she had been issued neither a gas mask nor a food ration card yet.

In response to British questions, she said it was "hard to say" whether or when there would be conscription of women in the United States and that she doubted whether prohibition would be brought back although campaigners had been active since the 18-year-old draft age question arose.

Reds Force Gap In German Flank

Russian Relief Army Strikes in Area Northwest of Stalingrad

By HENRY C. CASSIDY
Associated Press War Correspondent

MOSCOW. — (AP) — Red Army troops breached the front line of the Germans' fortified left flank northwest of Stalingrad and the city's garrison repulsed all attacks to hold a northside factory against a tank-supported infantry brigade despite a shower of 1,500 Stuka bombs, the Russians said today.

Clouds which recently brought rain and snow to the steppes evidently had lifted, for the army newspaper Red Star indicated that German aerial activity was increased from flights of five or six planes.

The noon communique said a German automatic rifle detachment which pierced the factory lines momentarily was wiped out to a man by the defenders.

GAP FORCED

The communique told, without detail, of a Russian thrust which forced a gap in the Nazi-fortified area to the northwest.

Red Star said the Russian relief army operating there had intensified its operations, advanced somewhat and improved its positions. Finding a weakly defended junction between two German units, a dispatch said, the Russians opened an offensive and broke into the enemy front line.

The Germans counterattacked but, after day long hand-to-hand fighting inside the Nazi positions, they were ejected with a loss of 700 dead and were forced to retreat, Red Star said.

While the victors were occupying this line, a neighboring Red Army force was reported to have pressed a supporting attack in which it killed 300 Germans, captured prisoners and material and

See REDS' BEACH on page 7

Draft Bill Defended

Restrictive Amendment Criticized

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Senator Hill of Alabama, the Democratic whip, opposed any amendment to the teen age draft bill with a declaration in the Senate today that Congress "has got to have faith" in the nation's military leaders to conduct the war as they see fit.

Hill took the floor in an attempt to turn what appeared to be a growing tide of approval for an amendment by Senator O'Daniel, Democrat, Texas, requiring a year's military training before draftees eighteen and nineteen years old could be sent into combat service outside the continental United States.

EXPECT DEFEAT

Administration strategists admitted privately they probably lacked the votes to prevent adoption of the O'Daniel proposal or some other similar amendment, unless a last-minute compromise could be effected.

Hill told his colleagues that to place restrictions on the use of selectees inducted under the legislation, which would lower the minimum draft age from twenty to eighteen, might be courting disaster.

"This is a case where we have got to have faith in George Marshall (General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff)," the Alabama Senator declared.

Hill alluded to letters from President Roosevelt and General Marshall opposing any restrictive amendment to the pending legisla-

See DRAFT BILL on page 7

RAF Again Hits Italy

Savona, Turin and Genoa Under Attack

LONDON. — (AP) — The bombers in the RAF took to the air over Italy for the second successive night, showered explosives on Turin and Genoa last night and also on Savona in a swoop on three of Italy's northwestern provinces.

Especially at Savona, a port on the Ligurian coast about 35 miles west of Genoa and site of the chief Italian foundry center, Fascist communique said the raid "notable" damage.

Without specifying the number, the British again said the raiding armada was a "strong force" and that all but three returned safely.

As on the preceding night the British said, these bombers of the RAF's great four-motored Stirlings, Halifaxes and Lancasters as well as the smaller Wellingtons.

TWO ALPS CROSSINGS

All had to fly roughly 1,000 miles roundtrip, virtually the entire distance over hostile territory and twice cross the Alps, once over the Alps. One Lancaster, it was said, "flew most of the way on one engine."

The three bombed targets of great importance as industrial and military centers and the Italian knowledged that all were pounded with explosive and incendiary bombs.

The Italian communique said

See RAF IN NEW on page 7

12 Die in Air Crash

Airliner Declared in Collision With Bomber

PALM SPRINGS, Calif.—(AP)—After an American airlines official had declared that an Army bomber was in collision with a transport plane shortly before the latter crashed near here late yesterday, killing twelve, a civilian defense airplane spotter told today of seeing the two twin-engined ships come together just before one wavered from its course and struck a mountainside.

Southern California Army authorities maintained a strict silence pending a military investigation. But in San Francisco, Fourth Air Force spokesmen maintained that to their knowledge no military airplane was involved in the crash of the American airliner.

SPOTTED PLANE

The plane spotter is R. M. Martin, also a guard at a telephone repeater station. He told reporters he saw two planes, flying at about 8,000 feet, one about a mile and a half behind the other.

"Both were twin-engined ships," he said. "The one in the rear veered away into a cloud and I thought it had changed course.

"Then it came back and slid in so close to the other plane I couldn't distinguish between them.

See 12 DIE on page 7

Bulletin

Report Czech Workers And Families Shot

LONDON. —(AP)— A Reuters dispatch from somewhere on German frontier said today that all the workers of one department of a Skoda arms factory in Czechoslovakia had been reported shot together with their families for anti-German sabotage.

Guide to Good Reading

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMES B. DUKE

One of the three greatest American philanthropists and the wealthiest and most hated was Tar Heel, the subject of the late James Kimmons Dukes life in the daily lives of all residents of this section. Yet the fascinating story of "Buck" Duke is not widely known. John Winkler has written an authoritative but unbiased biography of Duke which he calls "Tobacco Tycoon." A comparison of the book written by Robert Davis of The News editorial staff appears on page 4.

* * *

THE VICTORY TAX AND YOU

What's the Victory Tax all about? Today's Question and Answer page, where the answer to this question appears, will be found on page 4. Also on page 4 is a table showing what you pay under the Victory Tax.

* * *

MUNT MADE on page 1

WEATHER

Continued rather cool.

Today's Temp.: H. 60; L. 55
Sunset Today 6:38
Sunrise Tomorrow 7:38

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 7.

Note To Readers

Dispatches from Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and other enemy countries are published by The News with the caution that they frequently contain false statements intended for propaganda purposes. This should be taken into consideration when reading the stories credited to Axis sources.

At The Russian Front—

Stowe, In Roar Of Battle, Hears Red Scorn For Foe

(This is the second of a series of exclusive articles by Leland Stowe written about the nine days he has just spent with the Red Army at the front. This is the longest period of time a foreign writer has been with the Russians in the battle zone.)

By LELAND STOWE

(Special Radio to the Chicago Daily News Foreign Service. Copyright, 1942. The Chicago Daily News, Inc.

WITH THE RED ARMY ON THE REMOTE FRONT.—For a August that is within shelling of the enemy, this one is quite special. Guard Col. Shefranov chuckles softly when I explain about it.

"Oh, yes, it is very comfortable here," he remarks. "You see the Germans built it last Winter, and they had everything well organized. They were living here less than three weeks ago when we chased them out. We found everything upside down. A couple of Fascist officers even left their overcoats. The left unexpectedly and in a terrible hurry."

The guard colonel smiles flickeringly. He has brown eyes and strong masculine features that are habitually serious in repose. He is obviously a thoughtful man who knows his own mind. He has one of those handshakes that one remembers. While Capt. Emma is giving him my credentials, so to speak, I have a chance to inspect the German job in deluxe dugout construction.

Once you get down inside this dugout — especially after dusk has fallen, as it had now—you might well feel yourself into thinking it is a house above ground. It has an entrance corridor that also serves as a washroom. Then there is a kitchen alcove with a huge stove built of clay and tiles, which has a chimney like a fireplace and a big oven at the bottom. To enter the main living room you step through a door alongside the stove.

Of course the main room serves as the colonel's office. Its table

See STOWE on page 7

Planes And Surface Craft Seek Rickenbacker, Missing In Pacific

HONOLULU.—(AP)—American war birds of '42 were in the sky over distant Pacific waters today searching the sea for Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, Uncle Sam's ace eagle of '18.

The War Department said Rickenbacker, on an inspection trip for Lieut. General H. H. Arnold, Army Air Force commander, had not been heard from since Wednesday evening when he reported only one hour's supply of gasoline remained in his plane's tanks.

At that time, Rickenbacker and the crew of a large military plane were flying between Oahu, Hawaii and another island in the Pacific.

United States Army Hawaiian Department Headquarters announced that every available Army and Navy plane and surface craft from the southwest Hawaiian Islands was searching for the missing fliers.

The Army did not disclose names of others aboard the plane, but it was believed here there were at least ten persons, including the crew, in the flight group.

RAFTS CARRIED

Officers here hopefully remembered that normal equipment of all such planes includes rubber life rafts. These fragile craft have saved the lives of many military fliers who had been forced down at sea in Pacific fighting. The planes have sunk within minutes after striking the water, but survivors have lived for weeks aboard the rubber rafts.

Many a youngster piloting the earlier planes of this war has nourished his aviation ambitions on tales of "Rickey" triumphs over Germans in the air in 1917-18, and perhaps it was that he would try to be first to spot the rubber rafts which

See MUNT MADE on page 1