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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REDS ADMIT NAZIS IN SEVASTOPOL

Allies Face Crisis As Battle Of Egypt Rages Furiously

CHURCHILL WINS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Premier Pins His Hopes On Aid To Egypt

Says Reinforcements 'In Progress' But Admits 'Near Disaster' Menaces

By DREW MIDDLETON

LONDON. — (AP) — Prime Minister Churchill won an overwhelming vote of confidence from the House of Commons today after he had gravely asserted the Allied position in the Mediterranean and Middle East war zones as a near-disaster with a hope of victory pinned on "very considerable" reinforcements now in progress.

The vote was 475 to 25.

The parliamentary victory came at the end of a speech one hour and 28 minutes long in which Churchill staunchly defended his direction of the war as the best possible under the circumstances.

Churchill sketched a dark picture of the Battle of Egypt. He said it had developed "a reversion of our hopes and prospects in the Middle East and Mediterranean unequalled since the fall of France."

115 FAIL TO VOTE

The 475 to 25 vote left 115 of the House's 615 members unaccounted for.

Of the 115 some members undoubtedly expressed partial disapproval of the Churchill Government by abstaining from the vote but many could not attend the session because of wartime duties and other causes.

Tremendous cheering greeted announcement of the vote, which squelched the most serious challenge yet made to Churchill's premiership. The opposition vote was the highest since the Prime Minister took office May 10, 1940.

The motion upon which the vote was taken was the thirty censure resolution introduced against the present Government. Previous votes

See CHURCHILL on page 9

Battle Line Near Great Sea Base at Alexandria

British Claim Rommel Halted

By ROBERT RUNNELLE

LONDON. —(AP)—Fighting the Battle for Egypt in a desert sandstorm, the British announced today the repulse of powerful Axis armored and infantry attacks at El Alamein, 70 miles west of Alexandria, but the Germans and Italians asserted they had seized that drab coastal village and were pursuing the British heading toward the inviting green delta of the Nile.

All sources agreed on the intensity of the conflict, but on nothing else.

"Results were not unfavorable to us," British Headquarters in Cairo declared in reporting a battle that continued all day yesterday.

The armored forces of Nazi Marshal Erwin Rommel were acknowledged to have made a temporary break at one defended locality, only to be driven out again by the British columns.

STAND ON THE COAST

Farther south, on the edge of the great Qattara Depression, British forces ranged seventeen miles west of their positions to engage Axis units, but the main battle obviously was along the coastal road toward Alexandria, where General Sir Claude J. E. Auchinleck chose to make his stand against persistent frontal assault.

Despite the sandstorms, the RAF continued intense bombing and strafing of the enemy in the El Alamein area, the British said, but the Axis claimed domination of the skies over the battlefield.

The Germans credited their dive-bombers with paving the way for the claimed break-through at El Alamein.

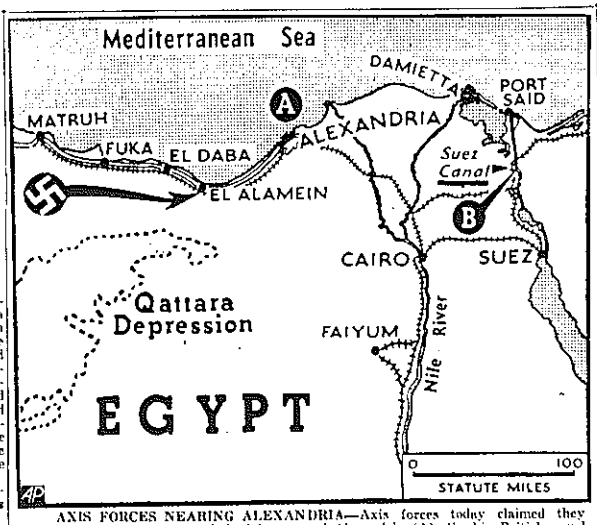
In recognition of the close threat to the Nile Valley, the Egyptian Government replaced police guards with soldiers at all important bridges, dams, and buildings and began rounding up criminal elements as a precaution.

SUCH AT STAKE

It seemed certain that on the outcome of the battle depended not only the fate of Alexandria, with its great naval base, but the whole British position in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Allies' backdoor supply route to Soviet Russia.

Britain's Eighth Army was bolstered for the struggle by support troops and reserves stretching back

See BRITISH HOLD on page 2



AXIS FORCES NEARING ALEXANDRIA—Axis forces today claimed they had passed El Alamein in their drive toward Alexandria (A), the big British naval base on the Egyptian coast. Official circles in London hinted the Suez Canal (B) might be destroyed as a waterway if German invasion threatened that section.

Germans Carry Battle Into Russian City

But Declare That Bitter-Fighting Is Continuing in Stronghold

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW—(AP)—The Red Army reported at noon today that bitter fighting was continuing in Sevastopol and dispatches telegraphed yesterday to the army newspaper Red Star said German assault troops had carried the battle into the city itself.

Red Star's accounts pictured heavily superior numbers of Nazi forces rolling slowly forward against stanch defenders of the Crimean base.

While fighting was carried into the ruined city, the Russians were believed still to hold strong positions on rocky Cape Fiolent, to the south, between Sevastopol and Balaklava.

The Germans have announced capture of Sevastopol and Balaklava but have acknowledged that fighting still is in progress on the Khersonese Peninsula, of which Cape Fiolent is a part.

FLEET BASES

Even without Sevastopol, the Red Navy's Black Sea Fleet, including the modern cruisers "Red Crimea" and "Red Caucasus," could find bases at a number of good ports on the Caucasian coast, including Novorossiysk, Tuapse, Sukhum and Batum.

The situation in the last Soviet stronghold in the Crimea was described as "extremely tense and difficult."

(Two successive Russian communiques have ignored Germany's claims of having captured Sevastopol.)

The latest information came

See RUSSIANS on page 9

British Retreat In Egypt Is Claimed

Berlin Says Axis Forces Are Pursuing British in Egypt

BERLIN (From German Broadcast)—(AP)—The German Army reported today that Axis forces were pursuing a British retreat toward the Nile Delta after having broken through the defenders' El Alamein position 65 miles west of Alexandria.

The High Command also said that a German submarine, off Port Said, Mediterranean terminus of the Suez Canal, sank a British munitions steamer of 1,600 tons.

This was the German communique version of the fighting by land in North Africa.

"In Egypt, German and Italian division, supported by strong dive bomber formations, having broken through the El Alamein position after bitter fighting. They are pursuing the beaten British forces which are retreating towards the Nile Delta."

DNB, official German news agency, said the German Air Force was giving the British troops no respite.

German bomber and destroyer planes, DNB said, also "effectively attacked" Haifa, Palestine Harbor, and dropped pamphlets over Damascus, in Syria.

The German communique announced also "great devastation and fires among aircraft on the ground and on airfield installations" at Lucca, on the British Mediterranean Island of Malta as a result of new German air operations.

Despite the High Command's report of a break-through 70 miles from Alexandria in the Battle of Egypt, Berlin military quarters are not of the opinion that Egypt will now drop easily into the hands of German and Italian forces, the Transocean news agency said.

"It is rather expected that in view of the importance attached to the positions hitherto held by the British that they will put up a fierce fight," the agency dispatch continued.

"It is not believed in these quarters that the British Fleet has steamed off to the Red Sea as some reports would have it.

"British warships have probably departed from Alexandria but this move is not interpreted in Berlin military circles as proof that they have also left the Mediterranean, for that they intend doing so for the time being, since the fleet is an almost indispensable factor for England in the present defensive fighting for British positions in Egypt."

WEATHER

Thundershowers this afternoon; slightly colder tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 83; L. 66
Sunset today 8:41
Sunrise tomorrow 6:13

Fast driving can heat your tires to 185 deg. F. on a day like this, wearing them out four times faster than in winter weather.

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 9

Many Air Cadets Being Accepted

Aviation cadets were continuing to take off from the Charlotte Army recruiting office in Independence Building, Lieut.-Col. J. P. Edgerly, who is a member of the examining board, suggested today that the candidates would save themselves time in a great many cases by getting their releases from their home Selective Service Board before appearing here for the examinations.

Locate Spy Ring In Caribbean Area

Report 20 Arrests Extending From British Honduras to Panama

UNITED STATES ARMY HEADQUARTERS, PANAMA CANAL ZONE. — (AP) — Lieut.-Gen. Frank Andrews, defense commander of the Caribbean area, announced today the arrest of twenty persons who, the Army charges, formed spy rings engaged in fueling Axis submarines and disclosed information of United States shipping to the enemy.

A roundup completed June 25 included arrests extending from British Honduras to Panama.

Involved are prominent business men, laborers, night club hostesses, Coast Guard shipping employees, and trusted Panama Canal Zone workers.

All 20 persons now are being held for trial.

The governor of British Honduras is awaiting the authority of the British Government before determining trial procedure of those arrested in his territory.

A United States patrol plane uncovered the first definite evidence of the location of the ring's operations when it spotted a slow ship in the Caribbean carrying oil drums.

Ownership of the vessel was traced and a U. S. Army observer placed on the trail. Attempts were made to poison him and to sabotage his plane.

He survived the attempts and with the co-operation of Army, Navy, Canal Zone and British authorities, he managed to round up all he believed to be involved, including one man who was arrested at sea by the crew of a U. S. naval patrol plane.

General Andrews issued this statement:

"We must understand that the enemy probably expects us to smash this ring sooner or later and most likely has preconceived plans to place another echelon into operation.

"Our intelligence agencies will leave no stone unturned in ferreting out the evidence on any such activity. We will endeavor the enemy agencies before their activities can be used to their further advantage."

Spy Trial Board Named

8 Accused of Landing In Florida and N. Y.

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Roosevelt created today a military commission of seven Army generals to try eight persons accused of landing in Florida and New York to try to commit sabotage.

The commission was set up by means of a Presidential military order, and it will begin its deliberations in Washington July 8.

An accompanying proclamation denied the accused men access to civil courts.

COUNCIL FOR DEFENSE

The prosecution is to be conducted by the Attorney-General and the Judge Advocate General, the military order said, and two colonels, Cassius M. Dowell and Kenneth Royall, will be counsel for the defense.

Mr. Roosevelt provided that the record of the trial, including any judgment or sentence, should be transmitted directly to him for his action.

The death penalty is expected to be sought by the Government.

The generals appointed to the military tribunal are Major Generals Frank R. McCoy, as president, Walter S. Grant, Blanton Winship and Lorenzo D. Gasser and Brigadier Generals Guy V. Henry, John T. Lewis and John T. Kennedy.

The saboteurs were seized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which said they had landed from enemy submarines with equipment for sabotaging key military installations and war plants.

The military order said that the

See SPY TRIAL on page 9

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.

Attack Japs In Celebes

Allies Strike Blows At Enemy Warplanes

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Australia—(AP)—The long arm of the Allied Air Force reached out more than 800 miles northwest of Australia yesterday to rain explosives on Japanese warplanes concentrated at the Kendari Airdrome in Dutch Celebes, General MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

In other farflung operations Allied bombers struck simultaneously at Japanese bases at Dili, former capital of Portuguese Timor, at Lae and Salamaua in New Guinea, and at Tulagi and Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

The attack on Kendari caught the Japanese completely off guard, returning pilots said, and the Allied raiders were able to make several low-level runs over the airdrome, scoring many direct hits on grounded planes and buildings.

"It was a most successful raid," declared the leader of the formation. "Airplanes were parked on the airdrome everywhere. I saw bombs hit one group of aircraft and our incendiaries started fires."

A headquarters communique reported that many Japanese airplanes also were destroyed at Dili, which is about midway between Kendari and Darwin, Australia, and that fires were started in the wharf area.

Vessels Warned About Certain Alaskan Waters

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—(AP)—Maj.-Gen. Simon B. Buckner Jr., commanding the Alaska defense forces, today proclaimed all Alaska coastal waters westward from Cape St. Elias, extending 20 miles offshore as a "mobile zone dangerous to navigation." Vessels were warned to enter only under Navy direction.

The area extends from longitude 144 degrees west and includes all islands within the 20-mile limit.

Call Sevastopol "Nazi City" Now

Axis Forces Ready for Second Great Phase of War on Russia

BERLIN (From German Broadcast)—(AP)—Germany claimed full possession of Sevastopol today and military authorities declared Adolf Hitler's mainland armies had completed fine-straightening operations preparatory to attack in a second great phase of the war against Soviet Russia.

Mobilization for an all-out offensive was implied.

Hitler's newspaper, the Voelkischer Beobachter, said the Sevastopol campaign and other operations on the Russian front all "were initiating a new phase of the fight."

STRIKE QUICKLY

(German dispatches in neutral Switzerland indicated that every available weapon was being utilized in drives intended to consolidate invasion positions in Russia and the Mediterranean Basin before the end of July and before the institution of Allied action to which the Axis press refers as "the coming siege of Europe."

Germans pictured the Crimea—studded with potential air and sea bases for thrusts at the rich Caucasus — as essentially cleared of organized resistance and DNB said that mainland armies of the Reich and her Allies were aligned for a resumption of the drive to the east.

Sevastopol's fall was announced with a fanfare of trumpets by the German High Command last night.

A communique said survivors of the Sevastopol garrison, driven by Nazi and Rumanian forces from that "most powerful land and sea fortress in the world" at noon yesterday, faced annihilation on the Khersonese Peninsula, which juts into the Black Sea southwest of the city and its cliff-lined harbor.

German military sources said fighting still going on today in Khersonese Peninsula was only local. The communique today repeated yesterday's special announcement that Sevastopol had fallen.

Axis battle flags were declared to have been hoisted over Sevastopol "after a 25 days' hard fight."

(Yesterday was the 27th day of the Axis offensive by Soviet accounts. Moscow said the heavy shooting started June 5.

DOCKS BURNING

German dive-bombers left docks and warehouses along the waterfront burning fiercely and shro

See NAZIS CLAIM on page

Guide to Good Reading

BETTE DAVIS SPEAKS OF PICTURES & HOME

Top-flight Movie Actress Bette Davis enjoys middle-age roles, thinks three pictures a year are enough for one actress and looks to a different and her own home, reports Emery Wister, ex-bright young movie expert who interviewed Miss Davis during a recent vacation in Hollywood, illustrated, the story's on page 3.

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CASH AND FUN FOR CAMERAMEN

Thousands of dollars will be paid winners in the National Amateur Snapshot Contest this year. Presented in Charlotte exclusively by The News the contest opens Monday. For full details see the story on page 4.

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PRESCRIPTION FOR TREATING SABOTEURS

Our Columnist Dorothy Thompson, an old Nazi enemy, sees in the recent landing of German spies on our shores a chance to stamp out a huge ring of saboteurs before it strikes at our war industry in force. She urges the sight on hand shot, of which we agree, and suggests new ways to crush the whole Nazi menace within our borders. On the editorial page.

—Mr. MacKenzie's Analysis:—

Waiting For Egypt Decision Like Sitting Through Operation Vigil

By DE WITT MACKENZIE
Wide World Military Analyst

This waiting for the decision in the Battle for Egypt is like sitting outside an operating room in a hospital while a surgeon wields his scalpel in a life or death operation.

The momentous engagement which now is going full blast across the desert near El Alamein, 70 miles west of the great British naval base of Alexandria, may be one of the threads upon which hang "our way of life." Equally it may determine the fate of the Nazi who would make us servitors and rob us of our heritage."

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, the British commander, himself suddenly ended the withdrawal of his army and deliberately precipitated the big battle. At latest reports the fighting was along a front about 40 miles between the confines of the sea and the great Qattara Depression which forms a barrier to military operations and so would protect the Allied left flank.

CHOSE 'POSITION'

Auchinleck chose this position, I should say, because only a few miles further east the Qattara Depression ends and the desert widens out. Thus further retirement would present Nazi Field Marshal Rommel with an opportunity to try to outflank the enemy on their southern wing.

It was the supreme moment for which Rommel had been striving, since he not only was anxious to engage the British before the latter had a chance to reorganize their disorganized forces, but he wanted to do battle before his danger-

See EGYPT BATTLE on page 9

Vichy Protests Idea Of Wrecking Of French Fleet In Alexandria

VICHY — (AP)—Asking, "do the English want to destroy our fleet at Alexandria?" the Vichy Government served notice in a semi-official statement today that any such action against the interned squadron would be considered "an act of violence."

(Nine war vessels of the French Fleet have been interned at Alexandria since the Summer of 1940.)

Setting up an article in the London Times raising the question of putting the interned squadron out of commission lest it fall into the hands of the Axis forces advancing in the desert, the statement said this would be "a new act of violence which the English might perpetrate against the French Fleet in the course of events which are now feared at Alexandria."

The interned squadron consists of the 22,000-ton battleship Lorraine, built in 1916, the newer 10,000-ton cruiser Suffren, Tourville and Duquesne; the 7,000-ton cruiser Gloire, Tourville, the destroyers Basque, Fortune and Forbin, and the submarine Protee.

Because of the squadron and French interests in the Suez Canal, interest in the Egyptian situation was marked here on this 14th anniversary of Napoleon's capture of Alexandria.

At the same time an authorized source declared, "informed circles in Vichy attach no more importance to the recent accusation of the Tass agency concerning shipment of supplies to the Germans through Tunisia than they do to previous accusations by the same source on the same subject."