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HEAVIEST RAID OF WAR HITS BERLIN

ALLIED ARMS SCORE TUNISIA SUCCESSES

Axis Attacks Repulsed In North Area

In Central Tunisia, Allies Capture Sbeitla and Drive On

By WES GALLAGHER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Allied troops have hurled back all of General Jurgen Von Arnim's attacks in northern Tunisia, knocking out 24 German tanks in three days and killing at least 600 Axis troops, while in central Tunisia the Allies captured Sbeitla and drove on three miles farther east.

In one of their most successful days in the air in this campaign, Allied air forces shot down 25 Axis planes yesterday, an Allied Headquarters communique announced.

The Germans made two more attacks yesterday toward Beja, west of Tunis and a short distance south of the Mediterranean coast, but were driven back after losing six tanks in one action.

Some 20 miles to the south, Americans and British struck out with a counterattack northeast of El Aroussa, killing at least 300 Axis troops and wiping out some machine-gun posts, front reports said.

500 MORE FALL

Advices from the front reported an estimate that another 300 of the foe had been killed in fighting

See ALLIED on page 9

Reds Report Nazi 16th Army Wiped Out in Drive

Campaign Led By Timoshenko

MOSCOW — (AP) — Returning to the forefront of the Red Army's operations against the Germans, Marshal Semeon Timoshenko has driven into their positions on a broad, wind-swept sector of the northwestern front in a sudden thrust that Nazi armor and heavy mortar fire were unable to halt, and has smashed the seasoned German 16th Army, the Russians said today.

Today's noon communique did not mention the fighting in this sector, west of the Valdai Hills, but front line dispatches indicated that Timoshenko has not had to halt his drive to consolidate his forces after sweeping over 900 square miles of territory and recapturing 302 villages in a sparsely settled countryside.

SUCCESSES SHOWN

A special communique last night told of the successes of an eight-day-old offensive in which 8,000 Germans were reported killed and 3,068 captured.

It was the first official mention of Timoshenko in months and the campaign was his first important effort at northern fighting in this war. Previously he had been stationed on the Kharkov-Kursk fronts and on the southwestern front.

His role in the new offensive was interpreted here as an indication the marshal still had Premier Stalin's full confidence.

The strength of Germany's Sixteenth Army has not been stated but Izvestia, the Government newspaper, reported that "numerous German divisions were defeated east of Lake Ilmen."

The German Sixteenth Army was known to have kept the area well-garrisoned during a season of fighters who have had a year's rest from action since the Russians last Winter attacked in the region of Staraya Russa, which they approached within rifle range.

The current fighting on the front is reported to be west of the Valdai Hills, which means that the Germans do not have this defense barrier from which to operate.

Among the towns recaptured by the Red Army were Demyansk, which had been converted into a strong fort in the center of a widespread defense system; Lychkovo and Zaluchye.

CUT RAILWAY

At Lychokovo the Russians cut the railway between Staraya Russa and the railway junction of Bologoe.

Izvestia said the Germans retreated quickly in the region of Demyansk airdrome, and that the town itself fell after a three hour fight.

The retreat of the Germans westward indicates either that they are weaker than last year or that the Red Army has increased its strength with the "double encir-

See REDS MAKE on page 9

AMERICANS OPEN DRIVE ON AXIS POSITIONS—U. S. mobile artillery opens drive on Axis positions in the central Tunisian region of Sened (above); where a group of German and Italian soldiers were captured in a surprise Allied raid (bottom).

Great British Fleet Pounds Nazi Capital

Blow Described as Preparing Way For Allies To Invade Europe

By RICE YAHNER

LONDON—(AP)—In a thunderous prologue to an invasion of Europe, the Royal Air Force's monster bombers last night gave Berlin the heaviest single air raid ever heaped upon the German capital.

The day and night offensive by the RAF and by United States heavy bombers which culminated in last night's blaze of destruction over Berlin was described by Captain Harold Balfour, Undersecretary of State for Air, as "preparing the way for United Nations forces to invade Europe."

"These are but the opening bars, which will rise to the crescendo of a march on Europe," he declared in an address opening Britain's "Wings For Victory" War Savings campaign. "I can look ahead to the time when there will be no hour of the day or night when the Axis can rest from the swoop of Allied aircraft."

19 PLANES LOST

It was estimated that last night's great fleet of four-engined bombers dropped probably 900 tons of bombs, including two and four-ton "block-busters," on the German capital—where the homage the Nazis poured on London in any single night of the attacks of 1940-41. Nineteen planes of the great fleet failed to return from that attack and raids on Western Germany.

The communique said that Britain's biggest bombers — Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings—took part in the raid.

The first wave of bombers started fires which later arrivals could see for twenty minutes before reaching the target. On the way home crews could see the fires from Bremen and Hannover.

British planes also carried out intruder patrols over occupied France and laid mines in enemy waters, the communique reported.

See BERLIN on page 9

Large Jap Convoy Headed For Guinea

Allied Airmen Wait To Strike but Bad Weather Delays Attacks

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA—(AP)—A fourteen ship Japanese convoy, one of the largest ever assembled by the enemy in this sector of the Southwest Pacific, moved westward from New Britain toward the New Guinea coast today as bad weather delayed Allied airmen waiting to strike at the armada.

A communique from General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters said the convoy was last sighted off Talasea, on the northern coast of New Britain and about 175 miles west of the big enemy base at Rabaul.

While its destination was still uncertain, the convoy's position was roughly 250 air miles from the Japanese strongholds of Salamaua and Lae on the northeast coast of New Guinea.

POISED FOR BLOW

Allied airmen were poised for a blow at the Japanese force and awaited only clearing skies, but the communique indicated the enemy had chosen his weather shrewdly, reporting the ships were "moving under cover of an advancing weather front."

If the weather clears sufficiently for reconnaissance planes to spot the moving ships, reported to be accompanied by fighter planes, the resulting battle might rival or surpass the epic three-day battering Allied airmen handed a smaller force en route from New Britain to New Guinea on Jan. 5-10.

A smashing defeat was inflicted on that convoy, bearing reinforcements for Japanese positions at Lae, with the result that only a remnant of the original force of four warships and five transports survived. The Japanese lost at least 75 and possibly 100 planes trying to protect the ships.

Allied reconnaissance planes first sighted the new Japanese force Monday afternoon off Ubili, New Britain, and were able to follow its course along the New Britain

Cut Jap Rail Link

NEW DELHI — (AP) — Heavy and medium bombers of the 10th U. S. Air Force have attacked the strategic Gokteik viaduct between Mandalay and Lashio in Burma damaging it sufficiently to cut Japanese rail communications to troops attacking Chinese defenders along the Burma-Yunnan border, it was announced today.

The last of these attacks, the communique said, occurred Feb. 24, when heavy caliber bombs were dropped and crews reported direct hits and near hits.

The viaduct, one of the engineering marvels of the Far East, is 2,200 feet long and its many steel towers are buttressed into a natural bridge 550 feet above a river gorge 320 miles from Mandalay and 98 miles from Lashio, bridgehead of the Burma Road.

Japanese fighter planes intercepted the bombers returning to their base and in a 30-minute running battle one enemy plane was probably destroyed and another damaged.

All the U. S. planes returned undamaged and one plane in the formation, forced to turn back before reaching the target, dropped its bombs on railroad rolling stock at Paukkan, scoring direct hits and causing considerable damage.

Aim To End Jap Fleet

Promises Destruction Of Enemy Navy

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Navy Secretary Knox promised Senators today that "we'll utterly destroy the Japanese fleet before the war is over."

And when it is annihilated, he added, we'll probably impose upon her that she'll never have another fleet—she has exhibited that she is not qualified to have one."

The cabinet official made the statement in urging the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to approve legislation extending the lend-lease act another year.

Knox told the committee that the responsibility of policing the Pacific and seeing that no aggressive power raised its head there would rest largely upon the United States when the war is over.

To that end, he said, this country must provide itself with adequate bases so that overwhelming sea and air strength can be brought into play whenever and wherever needed.

Senator Vandenberg, Republican, Michigan, whose questions had brought out Knox's views, said he was in entire agreement with the policy the Navy Secretary suggested.

Knox left no doubt that at least the nucleus for such a system of bases already had been created. On a mandated island which he did not name, he said the United States already had built a large operating base.

Vandenberg wanted to know if any steps could be taken now, while goods and services were being lend-leased, to assure this country of retaining such bases after the war. Knox said he thought we had gone as far as possible now, but added:

"We are fighting for a common cause. We've expended our own money on these bases, and I can readily imagine that a group of Americans sitting at the peace table could make a very strong case for retaining those bases."

One Killed in Blasts, Fire at Chemical Plant

BRISTOL, Pa. — (AP) — One person was killed and fifteen others injured last night in a series of explosions and fire that wrecked one of the 60 buildings at the huge Rohm & Haas Chemical Co. plant in this industrial community about twelve miles from Philadelphia.

Heavily-armed soldiers arrived at the scene while the fire still burned and threw a heavy guard around the plant, spread over a quarter-mile-square.

One man told of being hurled through a shattered window. Many of those injured were sprayed with molten plastics used in the manufacture of vital war materials. The first explosion was followed by several less powerful blasts and was felt over a wide area.

Crushed to Death When Building Floors Collapse

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — (AP) — Trapped in the collapse of three floors of stacked feed and seed, N. W. Walker, 20, was crushed to death late yesterday when the heavy supplies crashed through to the basement of the building. Three other persons were injured.

Rescue workers who had toiled through splintered timbers and wreckage of supplies for more than twelve hours recovered his body today.

School Election Is Voted By House

Bill Passes To Submit School Board Issue Again to Public in Nov. 1944

RALEIGH—(AP)—Driving hard toward final adjournment, the House passed on final readings today the $115,000,000 General Appropriations Bill, and a measure to provide for a change in the unified School Board Amendment adopted by the people last November.

Efforts to amend the spending bill were defeated but an amendment was inserted in the education bill, thus forcing its return to the Senate for concurrence. The roll calls on the education measure were 101 to 0, with two members voting present, and 106 to 0 on final reading.

The House adopted an amendment by Representative Arch Allen of Wake to allow the General Assembly to change the boundaries of the eight education districts to care for shifts in population. The eight districts will each be represented on the Board, instead of each of the Congressional districts.

Representative Falls of Cleveland sought to eliminate a provision for two members-at-large on the board but was defeated.

Completing the thirteen-member board will be the Lieutenant-Governor, the State Treasurer and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Falls sought to prevent third reading but Representative Arch Allen moved for suspension of the rules and the measure passed.

Speaker John Kerr Jr., who appointed a calendar committee to hurry consideration of new bills, said the General Assembly probably could adjourn Saturday if Representatives hit a faster pace. New bills last night far outnumbered the measures passed.

Also passed by the Senate was House bill authorizing establishment of an institution for delinquent Negro girls and appropriating $25,000 for its maintenance.

Senator Carclye of Forsyth expressed hope that an abandoned prison camp or CCC camp could be acquired for the school.

Appointed to the calendar committee by Speaker Kerr were Reps. O. L. Richardson of Union, chairman; J. A. Bridger of Bladen, A. C. Edwards of Greene, Frank Hancock of Granville, H. F. Shuford of Catawba, W. Frank Taylor of Wayne and I. B. Watkins of Vance.

Labor Bill Vote Slated

Anti-Racketeering Plan To Come Up

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The House Rules Committee cleared the way today for a House vote probably next week on the Hobbs anti-racketeering bill which has been bitterly opposed by organized labor.

Chairman Sabath, Democrat, Illinois, said there was no roll-call vote on the committee action, but he added the voice vote was not unanimous.

The bill would amend the 1934 anti-racketeering act by specifically defining robbery and extortion in interstate commerce. The new definition, labor spokesmen have complained, would make labor unions subject to prosecution for picketing or other lawful activities.

Madame Chiang Will Make Speech at Garden

NEW YORK — (AP) — Undaunted, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek worked in bed today on her speech to be broadcast from a sold-out Madison Square Garden rally tonight.

The wife of the Chinese Generalissimo was reported recovering from the spells of faintness which she suffered yesterday during her first day of official appearances here at the outset of a cross-country tour. She is recuperating from a recent operation.

Tonight the fragile First Lady of China faces a throng that has bought every seat in the huge mid-Manhattan arena.

Act To Give Jews Aid

Would Be Moved From Bulgaria to Palestine

NEW YORK—(AP)—Great Britain has completed negotiations with the Bulgarian Government for 4,000 Jewish children and 500 adults to leave that country and go to Palestine, says Viscount Halifax, British ambassador to the United States.

In a message last night to a stop-Hitler rally at Madison Square Garden, the British ambassador described this action of his Government as "a first step," and added that Britain "has also undertaken to receive in Palestine, if the necessary arrangements can be made, up to 29,000 Jewish children with a proportion of adults by March 31, 1944.

ASK SANCTUARY

Church leaders, educators, statesmen and labor leaders in speeches and messages to the rally called upon the United Nations to provide sanctuary now and after the war to Jews and to all victims of Axis atrocities.

The meeting was sponsored by the American Jewish Congress, the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Church Peace Union and the Free World Association.

Climax of the rally came when the audience rose and joined in a mass recital of Kaddish, the Hebrew prayer for the dead, for the victims of Nazi massacre.

Speaking from Washington by telephone, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas asserted that "the foundation of our society is the minority."

"Recognition of the smallest minority is written in blood as well as ink in our bill of rights," he declared. "That precious document represents a great historic struggle to make free. It is the cornerstone on which our cultural and spiritual values rest."

Wendell L. Willkie, 1940 Republican Presidential candidate, said in a message that proscribed nations "must be formulated and carried out immediately to save as many Jews as possible, particularly from Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania."

Chilean President Likely To Pay Visit to U. S.

SANTIAGO, Chile — (AP) — President Juan Antonio Rios announced through his secretary that he probably would visit the United States early in May.

He added, however, that a definite decision would not be made until he has conferred with U. S. Ambassador Claude Bowers and Vice-President Henry Wallace after the latter arrives here on his tour of South America.

President Rios' announcement came after Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, disclosed he had been requested by President Roosevelt to invite the Chilean Chief Executive to visit the United States.

Mass Flight of Norse To Sweden Expected

STOCKHOLM—(AP) — Germany's "total mobilization" of manpower in conquered countries is expected to cause a mass flight of Norwegians across the Swedish border.

Hundreds of young Norwegians already have been put to work or sent to German training camps for truck drivers.

As a result of the unrest, the Nazis have greatly increased their guard along the Swedish border and have supplemented the guard service with bloodhounds. It is reported that a barred zone will be established around Oslo.

Mexican Congressman Aids Bus Drive Strike

MEXICO CITY — (AP) — Congressman Rafael Cardenas, once a bus driver himself, has joined 38 dismissed City bus drivers who are conducting a hunger strike at the Ministry of National Economy, where they have established themselves.

Their fast, in protest against the discharge, was in its fourth day yesterday. The Congressman said he sympathized with them.

Ruined Castle Grandstand Used For View Of Battle In Tunisia

By WILLIAM B. KING

WITH ALLIED FORCES AT BEJA, Tunisia, March 1 — (Delayed)—(AP) — A ruined Byzantine castle which figured in many of Africa's ancient wars served as a grandstand today to watch a heavy British air offensive against German troops threatening this important crossroads town with a tank and infantry column massed on the Mateur-Beja Road.

On a visit to the front, where giant Churchill tanks and heroic gunners were holding the Germans stymied, it was impossible to reach a point to watch the action so I returned to the castle battlement high on a hill.

There I had a sweeping view of the broad expanse of fertile valleys, edged into irregular green shapes but roads which the Germans are making a supreme bid to capture.

Formations of bomb-carrying Hurricanes streaked overhead to attack the twisting road, along which the Nazis are seeking to mount an attack strong enough to break through to Beja. Exploding rumbles rolled across the hills like thunder and smoke plumes framed the hills held by the Germans.

The Spitfires and Hurricanes made many independent sweeps. The air was almost exclusively the property of the Allies during the day, although a few enemy planes sneaked in in an effort to repay a fraction of the pounding.

The town of Beja, which is spread out on the hillside below the castle with its neat but irregularly placed houses, was bombed during the morning by nine Stukas. The casualties were almost all civilian.

As I stood on the castle hill a Messerschmitt 109 sneaked in from behind it and loosed a single burst at road traffic on the outskirts of the town. He was answered by an ack-ack barrage which sent him twisting and weaving homeward.

Although the Germans are developing their attacks and strengthening the threat to Beja, there is every indication that they have paid dearly for every inch of ground gained.

Approximately 1,000 Axis prisoners have been taken along the central and northern front and an estimated 23 tanks knocked out, including one Mark six blown to smithereens by sappers who crept out to the abandoned hulks last night, tossed in explosives and set them afire.

Tipsy Soldier Shares His Bottle Of Giggle Soup With A Horse

This morning, in the midst of the noon rush on S. Church St., an Army private staggered out of a beer joint in fit condition for the guard house, weaved across the sidewalk and bumped into the side of a well-fed ice wagon horse. That was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

The private, though his sleeves were innocent of stripes, wore a full-dress set of medals and decorations on his chest (he was apparently back from an active theater, taking his rest). For his station in Army life, however, he made no apologies to the big draft animal which had become his friend in steed.

Hanging on a pole, the unknown soldier patted the ice man's horse on head and shoulders, and finally attempted to feed him a bag of salted peanuts. Those the patient nag refused, save those which were shoved down his throat. Then the soldier had a better idea. His pal was thirsty.

Without a peek around him, he reached into his hip pocket and drew forth a pint bottle of whisky and offered the horse a drink. It was no go, but after getting a sniff, the steed apparently decided he could try anything once, and as the soldier gave out with roars of laughter, he lapped several stiff drinks from a cupped hand.

When the Negro driver came back, the pint had been hidden, but both horse and soldier were in a state of disarray. Without discussion the driver replaced a dropped bridle, brushed the peanuts off the nose of his charge, and the wagon moved up the street. The soldier waved farewell. As far as could be seen, the tracks did not waver. SPCA probably won't like it, but that horse can take his likker, straight.

WEATHER

Snow mixed rain; colder tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 47; L. 26
Sunset Today 7:00
Sunrise Tomorrow 7:00

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