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16

END NEARS FOR AXIS IN TUNISIA REDS BATTLE WITHIN NOVOROSSISK LINES

Afrika Korps Turned Into Wild Rabble

By DANIEL DE LUCE GROMBALLA, ON CAP BON, May 10—(Delayed)—(AP)—Adolf Hitler's famous shock troops became a desperate rabble, running for their lives into the hills of Cap Bon Peninsula or surrendering in thousands to the British First Army today.

The collapse of the once proud German Divisions rivals that of their scorned Italian Satellites. All morning I have raced forward with the armored scout cars and seen the amazing spectacle of the German Army humbled in the dust of a panicky retreat.

Only a few artillerymen are making any sort of resistance to the British. Five thousand German infantrymen surrendered in the last four hours to one armored brigade.

A fate worse than Dunkerque has overwhelmed Hitler's African Corps. I have just entered Gromballa and six miles away on the left, the little town of Soliman also has been captured.

A German vehicle containing three dead officers was still burning across the road from my car. Four German armored force grenadiers who said they had come from the Russian front to Africa last December came up and asked me to accept their surrender.

"We are kaput (ruined), ordered a grimy-faced blond sergeant who towered above my own height of six feet three inches. "We have no food, no munitions, no gasoline."

The four stood in the whirling white dust of the main highways, their guns abandoned and little blanket bundles slung over their backs while passing British armor ignored them.

VERY OBEDIENT "You must march to the prisoner of war stockade at the junction," I advised the pictureless Moslem. The little group shuffled off obediently.

Further on a lieutenant colonel formally accepted the surrender of a German major and all his surviving junior officers and men. Military police clambered into a captured German half-track troop carrier and escorted a column of 200 toward the rear.

"Would you like to ride?" asked the colonel politely. "Thank you," the major replied in good English. "But I should prefer to march with my men."

Meet Tough Opposition From Axis Defenders

Bloody Fighting Raging By EDDY GILMORE MOSCOW.—(AP) Red Army troops crawling forward yard by yard in some of the bloodiest fighting of the Russian-German war since the days of Stalingrad, battled furiously today within the German defense lines at Novorossisk, but it was reported they were meeting stiffening Axis resistance.

The Red Air Force meanwhile kept up a major series of attacks against the German supply lines all along the front but apparently was not successful in halting the flow of supplies and reinforcements.

The German command reported that the Germans pushed into sectors of the Kuban to meet their numerous counterattacks. "Armed tanks, motorized artillery and heavy field pieces were reported to have been brought in by the Germans."

The noon communiqué told how a Red Army detachment advanced in their Novorossisk defense lines, killing 20 of the enemy in the process. In repulsing an Axis counter-attack in another sector of the battle front, 200 Germans were killed, a large quantity of guns was captured, and enemy equipment was destroyed, it stated.

The midnight communiqué credited Red Army artillery with smashing German gun positions and blockades in the Novorossisk defense line. A German attempt to answer the Red Air Force against their rail lines and airfields by sending 200 planes in an attack on the Novorossisk air base, gateway to the peninsula, was met by withering anti-aircraft fire which brought down 43 of the raiders, it stated.

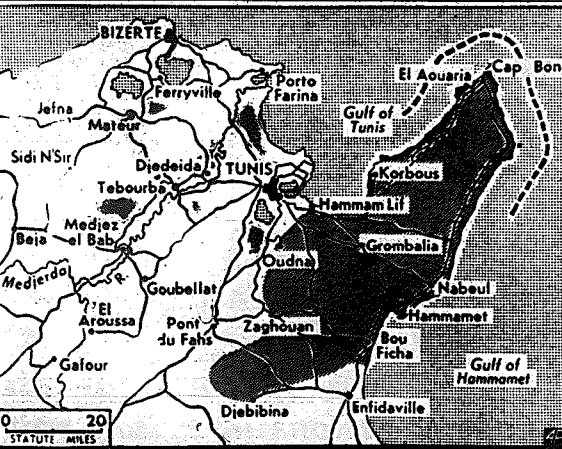
Sherman tanks swept through this gap nine miles southeast of Tunis in a ten-hour battle yesterday, outflanking a line of German 88s by sending one squadron along the sandy beach.

ARMORED SHOW It was strictly an armored show; no British infantry was used today. This morning the armored advance guard swept forward nine to thirteen miles as the enemy defense collapsed in a mad rout.

Huge stocks of military supplies were found untouched in the warehouses of big vineyards near Gromballa and Soliman. In their frantic haste the enemy failed to blow up any bridge or to lay a single mine.

Large parking lots filled with undamaged enemy vehicles are scattered in the fields and the hills to the right of the main highway. Field and orchards are dotted with the personal baggage cast off by the fleeing Germans.

Many mobile 88 guns have been abandoned but usually only after their breeches were smashed by explosive charges. Refugees and carts piled high with bedclothes and



AXIS FORCES BLOCKADED—While naval forces stand guard off the Cap Bon Peninsula, British troops have driven across the neck of the base to Hammamet. Thus the final stage of the Battle of Tunisia has arrived and the end is in sight.

Resistance Is Folding Up In Entire Area

Report Nazis in Zaghuan Hills Asking Truce; May Give Up on Cap Bon

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (AP)—Armored columns of the British First Army moving rapidly along coastal roads on both sides of Cap Bon found many German sentries today and indications that the Germans were preparing for wholesale surrender.

The Algiers radio, in a broadcast recorded in London, said that a headquarters spokesman estimated 100,000 prisoners had fallen into Allied hands and that not all had yet been counted.

By WILLIAM B. KING ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters announced today that British armor had forced a complete breakthrough on the neck of Cap Bon Peninsula, closing the last Allied airfield and pocketing enemy forces which still were fighting fiercely to the south and west.

(A Reuters dispatch from Allied Headquarters and a French communiqué broadcast from Algiers indicated Axis resistance was rapidly folding up in all Tunisia. (The French communiqué said General forces in the Zaghuan mountains to the pocket southwest of Cap Bon had asked for an armistice and had been told the terms were unacceptable.)

This opportunity last night the Axis forces facing the British Eighth Army by the sea offered determined opposition. The Reuters dispatch said it was officially announced that Allied headquarters that enemy resistance on Cap Bon was collapsing and that the number of prisoners was growing hourly.

ARMYING FROM THE HAMMAM LIF area on the north side of the neck, the British First Army crossed the base of the peninsula to the outskirts of Hammamet on the south side, and took Soliman, the town of the peninsula, both in the center, the communiqué announced.

(A Reuters dispatch from Allied Headquarters said British armor had broken through the British Eighth Army's line of defense on the night of May 10, and that the British had captured the town of Hammamet on the night of May 10.

ALLIED CONGRATULATIONS LONDON.—(AP)—The French parliamentary commission today announced that the British communiqué had been received by the French government through Fighting Forces headquarters.

TO ACT ON VICTORY LONDON.—(AP)—The British government today announced that it had received the British communiqué through Fighting Forces headquarters.

Big, New U. S. Fleet Speed Carriers En Route NEW DELHI.—(AP)—The new American fleet speed carriers are en route to the Indian Ocean.

WEATHER

New Threat To India

Tokyo Says Japs Within 12 Miles of Border

By ASSOCIATED PRESS A Tokyo broadcast asserted today that Japanese troops, rolling back Field Marshal Sir Archibald P. Wavell's British forces, had advanced within twelve miles of the Indo-Burma frontier in one of the gravest threats of invasion yet to confront India's \$90,000,000.

The locale of the thrust was not disclosed, and confirmation was lacking from any Allied source. British headquarters acknowledged the advance, but asserted that Marshal Wavell's legions had been withdrawn from Butheada, 60 miles north of the big Japanese base at Akyab, under pressure by enemy infiltration forces.

The Tokyo radio said Japanese troops were "occupying up enemy remnants" near the border. Other developments were said to include the capture of 14th U. S. Air Force planes and seven locomotives, and blast furnaces in the two days of strafing sweeps over Japanese-occupied Indo-China, which, it added, had resulted in 150 deaths.

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Tunisian Debacle Plagues Hitler

Tries To Cushion Blow on Axis Morale and Bolster Invasion Defense

LONDON.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler faced the double task today of speeding the defenses of Axis-dominated Europe against the next Allied blow while cashioning the impact of the Tunisian defeat on German morale at home.

Indications that Hitler conversed daily the week link in his chain of fortifications across Southern Europe, the Moscow radio quoted dispatches from Switzerland saying he had entrusted Italy's defense to one of his most trusted lieutenants—Feldmarschall Hermann Goerring and Heinrich Himmler, head of the Reich Police. Goerring will take over the reorganization of the Italian Army, the broadcast said, while Himmler, through puppet monarchs under various groups, will attempt a "stabilization of the internal front."

AMERICANS STUNNED A Berlin dispatch to the Swiss newspaper Tribune De Geneve last night described the bulk of German troops that were being sent to Tunisia as "a warning army as though hit on the head" by the news of the Allied triumph in North Africa.

People everywhere grasp at official information or reports, the correspondent wrote, but access to the most official information was difficult to obtain. He added that to understand the astonishment of the German people, it must be realized that, during the long retreat across Africa by Axis forces, it was never anticipated that the German withdrawal was "anything but voluntary."

Hit to the last commander, said all of Berlin's newspapers were full of the Tunisian situation and spoke of the "collapse" of the German army. The press and propaganda agencies were "now having difficulty to explain the affair."

AMERICANS TOUGH The Bern De Bund said that the American fighting ability, which had not been held in esteem by Berlin, came as a shock to all Axis.

See TROUBLES on page 6

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Eisenhower Praised

Churchill Sends His Congratulations

LONDON.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill, in a congratulatory message to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, said today "the simultaneous advance of the British and United States armies side by side into Tunis and Bizerte is an augury full of hope for the future of the North Africa."

The text of Churchill's message: "Let me add my heartfelt congratulations to those which have been sent to you by His Majesty and the War Cabinet on the brilliant result of the North African campaign by the Army under your supreme direction."

The comradeship and conduct seen in the battle, the message said, was a model for the world. He congratulated the British and United States forces and with our French Allies, have proved a solid foundation for victory.

The simultaneous advance of the British and United States armies side by side into Tunis and Bizerte is an augury full of hope for the future of the world. Long may they march together, striking down tyrants and oppressors of mankind.

See END NEARS on page 6

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Yanks Raid Munda

A Navy commando reported that U. S. dive bombers and torpedo planes escorted by fighters pounded the Japanese base at Munda on New Georgia Island, in the Solomons, in the 11th day since Nov. 23 and left fires burning.

Other American planes raided enemy positions at Vangavanga on Kolombangara Island, also in the Solomons.

Australia's Leader Congratulates FDR

MELBOURNE.—(AP)—Prime Minister John Curtin, in a message of congratulatory greetings to President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill today on the North African victory, said: "We pray this campaign, which proved the superiority of the United Nations, will be a prelude to a complete and speedy victory against all our enemies."

Some observers even speculated See BAY F.R. on page 6

FR-Churchill Parley To Plot Next Blow Against Axis Talked

LONDON.—(AP)—Under the headline "Churchill and FDR may meet" Lord Beaverbrook's Evening Standard today quoted a New York Herald-Tribune dispatch from Washington which said observers believed that Allied successes in North Africa would be followed by American and British conferences to determine where the Axis will be hit next.

No other newspaper in London printed such a dispatch and there was no official comment on it whatsoever. In Washington no official comment was available. The logic of holding another American and British conference

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