

Reds Capture Nazi Machine Gun Nest At Stalingrad



This action series of pictures made by a cameraman whose films often were jarred out of focus by the bomb concussions, shows Russian soldiers attacking and liquidating a Nazi machine gun nest at Stalingrad. Three Red soldiers charge barbed wire barricade under fire (top left). After cutting their way through the barbed wire, they advance toward a German machine gun nest (top right). The Red infantrymen run Indian fashion along wall of shattered building toward their objective (bottom left). The attackers' mission has been completed. While buddies covered him, this Red fighter entered liquidated nest and emerged with machine gun. Note feet of dead Nazi at right (bottom right).

(Central Press)

FRENCH UNDER GEN. GIRAUD DRIVE FOE BACK IN AFRICA; RED ARMY MAKES BIG GAIN

CONTINUE DRIVE

Russian Offensive Has Cost Nazis 80,000 Casualties In 8 Days

8,000 KILLED IN DAY

Towns And Villages Liberated By The Dozens In Soviet Campaign

MOSCOW, Thursday, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The Red army has beaten forward across the Middle Don plains for gains of 72 to 103 miles in 8 days, the Russians announced early today, on a continuing and massive offensive which has cost Adolf Hitler upwards of 80,000 killed or captured in that sector alone.

A special communique said the Germans were sent reeling back for another 12 to 18 miles yesterday and that in the day's fighting 8,000 Nazis were slain and 16,400 fell prisoner.

This brought the prisoner total in the 8-day period to 36,600, while the number of dead Nazis numbered more than 44,000.

The latest in a series of special communiqués reporting unprecedented successes in the winter offensives, said that towns and villages by the dozens were liberated by the Red army.

"The offensive of our troops in the middle course of the Don is continuing," it said triumphantly. Virtually unopposed by the Soviet tide was the key communications center of Millerovo. One Soviet spearhead had driven to Barankivka, in the Ukraine 31 miles northwest of Millerovo.

Another thrust had reached and liberated the town of Voloshina, northwest of Millerovo.

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Allied Raiders Bombard Japs At Rangoon, Akyab

NEW DELHI, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Cascading bombs upon widely separated targets, American and British raiders have struck powerful new blows at Rangoon and Akyab in softening-up raids ahead of British troops moving down the Burma coast while carrier-borne British naval planes assaulted the westernmost Japanese base in the Netherlands, Indies far to the south.

These Allied attacks, carried out over an ever-broadening arc of the Indian ocean against only scant enemy opposition, caught the Japanese flatfooted or show-

ed that they now were surrendering air superiority, or both. U. S. Army Air Force headquarters announced that in two destructive assaults on Rangoon Sunday and a third yesterday attacking Flying Fortresses were challenged by only two enemy fighters and the British naval craft met little or no opposition in their attack Sunday night on the Japanese oil supply base at Sabang, on the small island off the northern tip of Sumatra in the Netherlands East Indies. There was speculation that the Sabang raid was made by

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PRISONERS TAKEN

Attack Position Held By Italians Near Pont Du Fahs

ROMMEL STILL FLEEING

Axis Reports Suggest Imminence Of Tremendous Battle

LONDON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The French under Gen. Henri Honore Giraud have driven the enemy back in a sharp engagement apparently in the Pont du Fahs area and have taken more prisoners and war material, African reports said tonight, and the Axis hinted a big battle was shaping up in the Tunisia corner.

A headquarters spokesman said the French attacked a position held mostly by Italians near Pont du Fahs, 30 miles south of Tunis. Captured equipment included two armored cars.

The spokesman and the official Allied communique reporting the French success over their former Axis overlords in Tunisia directly contradicted a DNB, German news agency, report that a French squadron was annihilated in the fighting and 100 French dead were left on the field.

Vigorous Patrol Activity Reports from the Allied headquarters told of "vigorous" patrol activity on the British and American sectors in Tunisia, with the enemy shelling some of the British First Army's positions north and south of Medjer-el-Bab, a vital point 35 miles southwest of Tunis.

Further south on the French sector, probably in the region of Kairouan, which is 70 miles south of Tunis, the French were said to

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JAPS DESPERATE IN NEW GUINEA

Allies Breach Enemy Fortifications In Many Points At Buna

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Thursday, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Japanese enemy fortifications have been breached in many places in the Buna area of New Guinea by Allied troops, General Douglas MacArthur announced today.

"Many hundreds of his (the Japanese) dead are being buried by our troops," the noon communique said.

"His situation must now be regarded as desperate."

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Aided Giraud Escape



This is an official U. S. Navy photo of Capt. Gerald Wright, 44, of Washington, D. C., who brought Gen. Henri Honore Giraud from France to North Africa in an Allied submarine. The sub in which Giraud escaped, was the same that carried Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark on his spectacular mission west of Algiers in advance of the American invasion. Capt. Wright was a passenger in that operation.

(Central Press)

NEW WLB PROGRAM TO BEGIN SHORTLY

Labor Board To Set Up Smaller Units To Handle Worker Disputes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The War Labor Board, it was disclosed today, is planning to speed up and simplify the handling of labor disputes by giving greatly increased authority to ten "Little War Labor Boards" scattered throughout the country.

Under this decentralization plan, much of the work of settling disputes will be done in the field, with the national board confining itself largely to hearing appeals and making policy.

Another major procedural step will permit the ten regional directors to make final decisions on voluntary wage or salary adjustment cases involving employers of not more than 100 persons.

By this process of regionalizing its work, the board expects to keep nearly all dispute cases and about two-thirds of the voluntary wage and salary cases in the field. The board also said it is drafting a simplified form of application for wage and salary adjustments to make it easier for the small business concern to apply for rulings on proposed adjustments.

The streamlined procedure for handling dispute cases provides for the establishment of permanent panels in major cities. They will be composed of public, management, and labor representatives. Any dispute which the U. S. Conciliation Service is unable to settle

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YMCA TO SPONSOR CHRISTMAS FETE

Yoke Fellows' Club To Bring Cheer To New Hanover County Home

Following a custom initiated in 1910, the Yoke Fellows' club of the Young Men's Christian Association will provide cheer and a big Christmas dinner for inmates of the New Hanover county home, J. B. Huntington, secretary of the YMCA announced Wednesday.

Mr. Huntington said that the county home inmates would hang up their stockings, and that the stockings would be filled with candies, nuts, and fruits. The dinner planned will feature turkey and will include "all the usual good Christmas dishes." Supervisors and others in charge at the home will make final preparations for the holiday celebration.

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HIGGINS TO BUILD BIG CARGO PLANES

New Orleans Shipbuilder Given Army Contract For Transports

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Formal approval of a contract with Andrew J. Higgins of New Orleans for production of an undisclosed number of cargo planes for the Army air forces was announced today by the War Department.

Apparently, the planes will be built at the partially completed shipyards at New Orleans. Construction on the shipyards stopped when the Maritime Commission on July 18 cancelled its contract with Higgins for construction of 200 Liberty ships on the ground that insufficient steel was available.

The War Department said its agreement with the shipbuilder, negotiated by the Air Forces material center at Wright Field, Ohio, and approved by Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, calls for construction of the planes on a cost-plus-fixed fee basis.

The only reference to the size of the order was a statement that "the total outlay will involve more than \$5,000,000." The new planes will be built largely of non-strategic materials, but nothing was said concerning their size or expected performance.

(Curtiss-Wright corporation has announced that the Curtiss-Caravan has been selected by the War Department for construction by Higgins. The first military plane to be designed specifically for use as an aerial freighter, the Caravan is described as being a twin-engine, high-wing monoplane, largely of plastic-bonded, wood-veneer construction.

It has a wing span of 108 feet, length of 65 feet and is designed to operate from relatively small fields. The load capacity of the ship was not disclosed. The plane has been designated the C-76 by the United States Army Air Forces.)

Higgins said six weeks ago that he had completed negotiations with the Army for construction of 1,200 cargo planes and would undertake various other assignments, including a "manufacturing laboratory" to make aircraft accessories not only for Higgins-built planes but for other Army aircraft also.

The manufacture of "wood al-

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Last-Day Contributions Needed In Stocking Fund

This is the last day of the Empty Stocking fund appeal.

This is Christmas Eve—the day when everyone uses every spare moment to make ready for tomorrow. For tomorrow must be filled with joy, relaxation, giving, plenty—the ultimate in good living.

There are homes in Wilmington that will not share in tomorrow's bounty unless citizens of the town open their purses, at this last opportunity, and give to the cause of the Empty Stocking fund. True, there is one thousand dollars in the fund, but that is still not enough for the need.

To give to those who are friends but do not need, is thoughtful—a gesture of goodwill. But to give to those who need desperately is a command and a challenge—one that by all rights should be met by a community as blessed with the flow of material wealth as Wilmington has been this year.

Remember the hundred neediest cases! Remember them today!

The sick, the handicapped, the hungry, the lonely who long for an expression of cheer and friendliness—do not neglect these!

Bring or send your gifts to the

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Camp Davis Commander Extends Greetings To Wilmington Residents

Major General Frederic H. Smith, commanding general of Camp Davis issued the following Christmas greeting Wednesday night.

"The commanding general and garrison of Camp Davis extend to the gracious citizens of Wilmington, the seasons greetings and best wishes for 1943.

"To each who has contributed hospitality or welcome or generous aid, a grateful acknowledgement is made. To your hopes and prayers are added ours from Camp Davis that Christmas 1943 will find us well advanced toward the secure establishment of the reign of the Prince of Peace whose watch day we now celebrate."

'VICTORY LOAN' DRIVE SUCCESS

Treasury Sponsored Plan For Financing Goes 'Over The Top'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The Treasury's victory loan drive has gone "over the top" by \$2,200,000,000, Daniel Bell, undersecretary of the Treasury reported tonight.

He said preliminary figures on subscriptions which close at midnight on the three major issues in the drive indicated sales would total \$11,200,000,000.

"We hope it may even reach \$12,000,000,000," he said.

In opening the drive December 1, the Treasury set a goal of \$9,000,000,000. This was raised to \$11,000,000,000 last Monday after reports indicated the original goal would be passed.

Announcing the oversubscription of the victory loan securities at a press conference, Bell said it was the greatest financing achievement in history.

"We are well pleased with the public response," he said. "We hope this will set a pattern for us to follow in future financing."

TIRES 'TURNED IN'

RALEIGH, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The North Carolina field office of the Office of War Information said today that 288,822 tires have been turned in to the Charlotte warehouse of Defense Supplies corp. under the "idle tire" plan.

Byrnes said the situation demanded "the most stringent economy by every user of such products," and that while steps have been taken to improve conditions, other steps still were required. Railroad representatives will confer with officials here next Tuesday on the problem, he announced.

Meanwhile the Office of Price Ad-

Economic Head Says No Hope Seen For Increased Gas Ration

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Economic Director James F. Byrnes conferred today with officials concerned with the fuel oil and gasoline problem and reported afterward he still saw "no hope of any increased allotment."

Byrnes said the situation demanded "the most stringent economy by every user of such products," and that while steps have been taken to improve conditions, other steps still were required. Railroad representatives will confer with officials here next Tuesday on the problem, he announced.

Byrnes issued this statement after his conference:

"Secretary Ickes, Deputy Petroleum Administrator Davies, Price Administrator Henderson and Transportation Director Eastman reported to Director Byrnes the steps taken within the last few days to improve the fuel oil and gasoline situation. As a result of the exchange of views, other action will be taken as to which no statement can be made at this time.

"Because the increase or even the maintenance of the supply of fuel is dependent upon increased deliveries by the railroads, repre-

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EIGHTH VICTIM OF WRECK DIES

J. N. Kennedy Succumbs After Coroner's Jury Finds Him Responsible

J. N. Kennedy, eighth victim of the automobile wreck which occurred on highway 17, seven miles from Wilmington last Sunday afternoon, died in James Walker Memorial Hospital at 5:15 p. m. Wednesday.

Only one of the nine persons involved in the accident remains alive. Officer Candidate A. W. Sauerbrey, now in Camp Davis Hospital.

At a coroner's inquest held in the grand jury room of the courthouse at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, verdict was rendered that the seven persons injured fatally—Kennedy was living at the time of inquest—"met their deaths as the result of injuries received in the impact," and that the Chevrolet automobile involved, occupied by civilians, was driven by Kennedy in a careless, reckless, and unlawful manner.

The jury, composed of J. H. Nisgel, Foreman H. W. Hewlett, secretary W. R. Allen, D. A. Herrington, W. E. Powell, and George Sloan heard the testimonies of Dr. A. H. Elliott, L. D. Webb, C. S. Roberts, Charles P. Holland, Highway Patrolman W. B. Riddick and Deputy Sheriff E. P. Herring before reaching its decision that the driver of the civilian car, Kennedy, was at fault in the accident.

Dr. Elliott reported that, in his opinion, the persons now dead met their deaths as a direct result of injuries.

L. D. Webb, returning to his home from work, witnessed the wreck through the rear-view mirror in his car. C. S. Roberts, Wrightsville Beach, declared that the Chevrolet had gone from the right side of the road "almost crashing into the Ford coach oc-

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African Envoy



According to a dispatch from Allied headquarters in North Africa, President Roosevelt has named Robert Murphy, former Consul in Algeria, as his personal envoy in North Africa, with rank of Minister.

(Central Press)

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Little change in temperature today.

(EASTERN STANDARD TIME) (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., yesterday:

Temperature 1:30 a. m., 62; 7:30 a. m., 52; 1:30 p. m., 60; 7:30 p. m., 56; maximum, 64; minimum, 52; mean, 58; normal, 48.

Humidity 1:30 a. m., 93; 7:30 a. m., 97; 1:30 p. m., 73; 7:30 p. m., 73.

Precipitation Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 0.39 inches. Total since the first of the month, 2.36 inches.

Tides For Today (From the Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey):

High Low Wilmington 11:00a 5:38a 11:15p 6:16p Masonboro Inlet 8:32a 2:20a 8:53p 2:55p Moore's Inlet 8:38a 2:25p 8:58p 3:00p New Topsail Inlet 8:43a 2:30a (Elmore's) 8:59p 3:05p Sunrise, 7:15a; sunset, 5:09 p. m.; moonrise, 7:09 p. m.; moonset, 8:32 a. m.

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NOTICE!

If your carrier fails to leave your copy of the Wilmington Morning Star, Phone 3311 before 9:00 a. m., and one will be sent to you by special messenger.