

Violent Sky War Raging In Solomons

American Bombers Attack 5 Jap Destroyers; Down 16 Enemy Zeroes

OVER WIDE TERRITORY Newest Fighting Ranges From Guadalcanal To Kolombangara Area

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(P)—A violent upsurge of aerial warfare in the Solomons, with American bombers attacking five Japanese destroyers and United States fighter planes shooting down 16 enemy zeroes, was reported today by the Navy.

Both actions occurred within a few hours on Thursday and spread over a wide area from Guadalcanal to Kolombangara islands, 190 miles to the northwest.

Lone Bomber Attacks It was southwest of Kolombangara that a lone Catalina bomber sighted and attacked an enemy force of five destroyers and a cargo ship. A flight of Army Liberator bombers winged into the same attack. They flew at low altitude, dumping bomb after bomb on the enemy surface force but were unable to observe results of their assault.

Only a few hours later, 30 to 40 Zero fighters roared into the vicinity of Guadalcanal. American fighters—Wildcats, Corsairs and Lightnings—sped to the attack and sent 16 of the Japanese planes twisting into the sea. Six United States planes were shot down but two of the pilots were saved.

That aerial battle was the first reported from the Solomons since early in March when a flight of Japanese bombers and fighter planes was driven off after one bomber and three fighter escorts had been shot down.

The attack on the enemy surface force was the first report of battle with enemy war ships in the Solomons in recent weeks. Presumably the Japanese force was intent upon reinforcing or providing supplies for one of the many enemy bases scattered through the area. The direction in which the force was moving when attacked indicated it

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LOCAL ARRESTS SHOW INCREASE

Police Report Rise In Number Of Persons Apprehended In March

Exclusive of citations for over-parking and other minor traffic offenses, 778 persons were arrested by the Wilmington police department during the month of March, 236 more than in the same month last year.

Chief of Police Charles H. Casten said, in releasing the monthly report for the department, that 696 persons alone received traffic citations which require the recipient to come to headquarters and pay a small fine.

Arrests for all types of offenses showed an increase in general. While arrests for drunkenness for the month totaled 239, an increase of 96 over last March. The increased number of arrests was an active factor in the record receipts of recorder's court here last month. The court received \$10,000 in fines, costs and fees during the month.

According to the department report, 65 automobile accidents occurred.

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Local Shipyard Stresses Safety For All Employees

For a concern more interested in delivering ships than in spotlighting features of its production program, it is difficult for the North Carolina Shipbuilding company to dwell at length on the merit of its design for manpower safety, officials say.

Yet the concern's record for safety in 1942, a document which has just been compiled and which is the statistical answer to all the presenters of the shipbuilding firm has taken to assure protection for its workers, cannot well be hid from public interest.

The pages and graphs that make up the shipyard's complete 1942 report on accidents add up to the one fact: in comparison with the tremendous activity at the local

384 Japanese Planes Destroyed By USAAF In Past Three Months

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(P)—The Army Airforce shot down 384 Japanese planes during the last three months, the War Department announced today, while losing 54 of their own planes.

The tabulation of enemy aircraft was confined to those known to be destroyed, the department said, but the American losses included all planes listed as missing as well as those known to have been destroyed in combat.

"The tabulation does not include enemy aircraft probably destroyed, those damaged in combat and which may or may not have been able to return to base, those which were shot down by anti-aircraft fire, or those which may have been lost because of mechanical failure," said the announcement.

The figure of 384, the department added, also omitted the Japanese planes which probably were shot down by some of the 54 aircraft lost by the airforce, since these were unable to report on their activities.

ROOSEVELT KILLS FARM PRICE BILL

President Says Check On Wages And Prices Must Be Maintained

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(P)—With the assertion that a present check on wages and prices must be firmly maintained, President Roosevelt today vetoed the Bankhead bill and set the stage for a critical battle between Administration supporters in Congress and legislators demanding higher farm prices.

Senator Bankhead (D-Ala.), author of the measure, which would increase ceiling prices on some farm commodities, said a determined effort would be made to override the veto when the question is brought up next Tuesday. Majority Leader Barkley (D-Ky.) was more optimistic that the Senate would sustain the President, but said the House might. He remarked that the "city" vote is much larger in the House.

In returning the bill to the Senate unsigned, Mr. Roosevelt vigorously declared that no economic group could hope to gain advantage in wartime.

"The time has come," he said, "when all of us—farmers, workers, managers and investors—must realize that we cannot improve our living standards in a period of total war. On the contrary, we must all cut our standards of living for the duration."

For that matter, he said, enactment of the Bankhead bill would not aid farmers in the long run, but instead would set off an inflationary upward spiral of both wages and prices which would add to the burdens of all and make "the winning of the war more difficult and gravely imperil our chances of winning the peace."

The Bankhead measure would forbid the inclusion of government

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New Officers Named In Local OCD Setup

Franklin W. Bell, former assistant commander of the local civilian defense organization, has been appointed coordinator of civilian defense in this area, it was announced Friday night. This new position is tantamount to chief of staff for the local OCD group.

Others elevated in the office of the assistant director of OCD, has been named director of the civilian service corps while R. H. Hubbard was appointed personnel officer for the organization.

D. M. Darden was made chairman of the recreation committee with E. S. Prevost appointed senior gas officer. W. E. Curtis was named passive plant protection officer.

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Allies Bomb 2 Japanese Ships Off Kavieng

Enemy Base On New Ireland Raided By Force Of 4 Motored Planes

2 LARGE EXPLOSIONS Probable Hits Indicated On 10,000 Ton Merchant Vessel In Port

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Saturday, April 3.—(P)—Two Japanese ships have been bombed by Allied planes off Kavieng, New Zealand, the high command announced today.

Four - motored bombers, raiding at dusk, found a number of enemy ships in the vicinity of Kavieng, which is approximately 550 miles northeast of the Allied base of Port Moresby, New Guinea. The ships were scattered in the area south of Steffen strait.

Destroyer Recently Sunk This was the same area from which the Japanese recently sent four destroyers bent on carrying badly needed supplies to troops in New Guinea, only to have one sunk off Finschhafen, New Guinea, and the other three were forced to flee.

"Two large explosions indicated probable hits on a 10,000 ton merchant vessel and a 6,000 ton cargo ship was observed settling by the bow after having been straddled by bombs," the communique reported concerning the Kavieng raid.

"Near misses were obtained on other vessels but darkness prevented an adequate assessment of damage. Simultaneously with this attack the airdrome at Kavieng was bombed."

"No interception was attempted and all our planes returned." On New Guinea, where Allied ground troops for many weeks have been facing the Japanese in something of a stalemate in the approaches to Lae and Salamaua, Allied planes bombed the main coastal road above Madang over which the Japanese might try

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COURT REVENUES MARK NEW PEAK

Recorder's Judgments Net County Income Of \$10,092.05 In March

Recorder's court revenues for March were \$10,092.05, largest total in the history of the court, Clerk C. L. Myers said Friday.

The March returns were approximately \$3,000 above the February revenues. Three factors played a part in the rise, Clerk Myers said, the increase in court costs made by the last legislature, the high total of arrests by the police department, and the heavy fines Recorder H. Winfield Smith has been imposing on speeders.

Fines collected during the month, which go into the school fund, totalled \$5,005.40. Costs were \$3,110.65 and jail fees \$82.95. Collected for the emergency pension fund was \$655; \$952.75 for the state pension fund; \$170 for the police pension fund and \$115.30 for turnkey's fees.

Comparative figures show that \$2,813.60 of February's returns were fines, \$2,526.25 costs, \$71.20 jail fees, \$522.05 emergency pension fund, \$516 state pension fund, \$145.60 police pension fund and \$100.70 turnkey's fees.

WEATHER

Table with weather forecast for Wilmington and surrounding areas, including temperature, humidity, and tide tables.

Wins Air Medal



PEACE MEETING SEEN ON TAXES

Possibility Of Get Together Between Opponents Gives Hope For Plan

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(P)—The possibility of a "peace meeting" to compose bitter Republican-Democratic differences on tax abatement, held tonight a slender prospect that the nation will get a pay-as-you-go income tax law by July 1.

Rep. Knutson of Minnesota, who led the Republicans' unsuccessful battle for the Ruml skip-a-tax-year plan, said he and Rep. Doughton, who piloted the Democrats in the tax battle, may rendezvous in Dixie.

Knutson left today for a week's rest in Florida. Doughton left a few hours earlier for his North Carolina home—after telephoning Knutson to inquire where he could be reached in Florida.

The Minnesota Republican smilingly told newspapermen: "May we'll meet at Port Sumner." That's where the shooting in the War Between the States began.

Recalling that Doughton's farm is in a mountainous region, up about 4,000 feet, Knutson commented that the chairman of the Ways and Means committee "might cool off" enough for them to have a meeting of minds on a compromise pay-as-you-go plan.

The chairman yesterday, after a meeting of Democrats on his committee, refused to recall it for immediate reconsideration of current payments legislation. The House has tossed all pay-as-you-go legislation back into the committee's lap.

Knutson has indicated a willingness to compromise on the issue of tax abatement by cancelling a part and not all of one year's taxes. Many Democrats also are courting various compromise proposals.

Rep. Woodrum of Virginia today joined the list of influential Democrats urging quick action. Woodrum said he will be "greatly disappointed" if the Ways and Means committee does not follow Majority Leader McCormack's advice and bring in such a plan "very soon."

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Walter Lippmann Says: We Must Not Play Alone In Future World Affairs

By WALTER LIPPMANN While it is reasonably certain that the United States cannot and will not revert to the unarmored isolation of the '20s and '30s, we must not assume that the nation will therefore adopt what we may call for short the Wilsonian alternative. This consisted essentially of laying down a set of general rules, then of negotiating a settlement which roughly conformed to some of them, and then of establishing a league of all the nations which had an indefinite obligation to guarantee the settlement and almost no power to revise and amend it.

This system did not work. And it is the fashion to say that it did not work because the United States refused to participate. But this, I believe, a misreading of what happened, and one which can mislead us now. The heart of the original controversy was the famous Article X of the covenant, which carried the commitment "to respect and preserve against external aggression the territorial integrity" of all members of the League. Since this was taken to mean that a state in possession of disputed territory could refuse to negotiate because it was bound to be supported, Article X was looked upon as entangling the United States in wars to defend many extremely doubtful frontiers. I think I am right in saying that in the earlier

BRITISH FIRST ARMY ROLLS AHEAD IN DRIVE ON TUNIS; REDS KILL 850,000 GERMANS

FIGURES REVEALED

343,525 Enemy Troops Captured In Giant Winter Offensives

PRaise STALINGRAD

Russians Claim Victory At Steel City Greatest Of All Warfare

LONDON, Saturday, April 3.—Germany suffered 1,193,525 casualties — 850,000 dead and 343,525 captured — in the great Red army winter offensive which swept back the Germans to the west as much as 435 miles and freed 185,328 square miles of Soviet territory, Russia announced early today in a special communique.

At Stalingrad on the Volga where the Russian offensive began last November, the Russians "inflicted on the German Fascist troops the biggest defeat in the history of wars," said the bulletin recorded by the Soviet Monitor.

Fighting Greatly Reduced Spring thaws and transport problems have brought greatly reduced fighting over the vast Russian-German battlefield, which contains but few hard-fought roads.

Red army commanders and their men are working laboriously to keep open supply lines to the front and are generally succeeding, but the extreme maneuverability which has featured Soviet offensives is denied the troops in many sectors.

Gone temporarily are the days of swift-flying ski detachments, motorcycles and infantrymen who could make long night marches to fall upon the enemy's flanks and rear at dawn. It can't be done in mud and slush.

How long present conditions will prevail is a sheer guess. Already there is a bright sun over the Don and certain sectors of the Kuban, and it has not yet had time to dry the ground. The northwestern front, the western front, the northern Donets and the Kuban are flooded. All rivers should be free of ice any day now.

A brief review of the battlefronts: Leningrad: There was no specific information on where fighting was in progress, but recent dispatches told of guns booming beyond Kolpino, 18 miles south of Leningrad. The Russians still were striving to remove any possibility of the Germans renewing their blockade of the city.

Northwestern: At last specific accounts the Russians were battling their way across three rivers east of the German-held stronghold of Staraya Russa — the Polista, the Lovat and the Pola.

Volkie Luki: The Red army still holds the city and positions to the

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Air Commanders in Tunisia



Air Vice Marshal Tedder



Lieut.-Gen. Spaatz



Air Vice Marshal Coningham



Maj.-Gen. James Doolittle

These are four of the generals directing the United Nations' air offensive in Tunisia. British Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder is commander in chief of the Mediterranean air theater with U. S. Lieut.-Gen. Spaatz as his executive. Air Vice Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham commands a tactical air force supporting troops in the field and Maj.-Gen. Doolittle directs bomber attacks.

Americans Using Mules For Transport In Tunisia

WITH UNITED STATES FORCES EAST OF EL GUETAR, TUNISIA, April 1 — (Delayed) — (P) — In hills where even jeeps can't navigate, a mule pack train is being used to supply an advanced United States infantry group along the Gabes road from which area the doughboys have flushed many prisoners since opening their drive on March 17.

"Our boys spent three years practicing amphibious landings but we learned how to be mountaineers in less than three weeks," said one headquarters officer of the first infantry division.

"These boys are so far in the hills and the terrain is so rough we can not follow them with anything on wheels. Even the jeeps can not get over those rocks—but mules can. So we are packing them in supplies, rations, water and ammunition by mule pack.

"We already have cleaned out most of the heights bordering the Gabes road, but there still are some groups of infantry and snipers hiding in caves and ravines and reporting our movements by radio, thus tipping our hand to the enemy's armor and artillery. Our boys are wiping them out as quickly as they can find them, but it is almost a needle in the haystack job to comb them from mountains as rugged as these."

Also slowing the drive in the valley zone were the wadis—dry river beds—which offered perfect entrenchment for German artillery and armored forces. The battle toward the sea now rages from wadi to wadi with the enemy backing up only when forced out by concentrated artillery shelling against which the German mobile 88-millimeter guns duel all the way.

"Each enemy position we take we find has been well wired and dug in—in some cases they excavated full-size underground chambers to give them more protection," said an infantry officer.

"We are sending in our infantry

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NOTICE

The Star-News Circulation Department is open Sundays from 7 to 10 a. m. If you fail to receive your paper, phone 2-3311 before 10 and one will be sent to you by special messenger. After 10 o'clock, the department is closed.

OTHER UNITS SET

Montgomery's Force In South Gathering Strength For New Attack

SEDJENANE IS PASSED

Anderson's Men Plunge Through El Aouana To Take Ridge

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, April 2.—(P)—British First Army troops in the north fought their way toward the Axis strongholds of Tunis and Bizerte today while Gen. Montgomery's Eighth Army gathered force in the south for more smashing blows coupled with the continuing massive air assaults on Marshal Rommel's divisions retreating up the Tunisian east coast.

Axis forces in the north were reported offering little resistance and leaving rich booty behind as the British pushed through el Aouana station, six miles east of Sedjenane, and moved to occupy strategic heights between there and Mateur.

(The Algiers radio said British and French forces in the north had "left Sedjenane well behind" and were slashing at the retreating Germans "in the vicinity of Mateur," which is only about 18 miles south of Bizerte. They thus would have regained almost all the ground lost when Col. Gen. Jurgen von Arnim's Axis forces sprang an offensive a month ago.)

Axis Punished From Air An Allied communique described the Tunisian fighting as "generally quieter yesterday," but told of terrific punishment being dealt the Axis from the air. In one raid on el Maou air field at Sfax on the coast 100 light and medium Allied bombers plastered the strategic base with a shower of bombs that must have destroyed or damaged virtually everything within the target area.

As in the Wednesday raid by nearly 100 American Flying Fortresses on the Sardinian port of Cagliari, not a single Allied bomber or escort was lost in the damaging assault. The Axis was unable even to get a fighter plane in the air to defend the Sfax air base.

Montgomery's forces were believed ready to resume their battering of Rommel's rear guard in the new positions taken up by the Germans and Italians about 24 miles north of Gabes. A report from the Eighth Army said "winkling out" was proceeding, which was translated here freely to indicate that remaining enemy pockets of resistance north and west of oudfref, itself 12 miles north of Gabes, were being wiped out and the British were preparing to continue theirounding of Rommel's stubbornly withdrawing troops.

(The German radio said Rommel's present defense line was 15 miles north of Gabes and said it represented "the achievement of final union between Rommel's forces and those of von Arnim—the original aim of a long prepared plan of operation." The suggestion was that von Arnim's

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Enemy Strengthening 'Soft Underbelly' Of Europe For 2nd Front

LONDON, April 2.—(P)—Keeping one eye on the progress of Allied armies in Tunisia, the Germans and Italians are reported continually strengthening the coastal defenses of Europe, particularly those of the "underbelly" in Italy and Southern France, in preparation to meet invasion.

Dispatches to London newspapers this afternoon reported that persons living along the coasts have been warned to move inland. The fashionable Riviera resorts have been converted into fortresses or razed to clear the way for guns.

The Germans have put thousands of French workers to the job of constructing blockhouses and gun emplacements with commandeered French materials.

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Meat Supplies Again Fair In Most Areas Of Nation

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(P)—Meat supplies are again fair to adequate in most sections of the United States, a survey indicated tonight, but prospects for the first week-end of point-ratio buying were clouded by housewives' reluctance to part with points until they found just how many they needed to purchase Sunday dinner.

"People are hoarding their red coupons just like they hoarded meat up to last Saturday," an Omaha dealer commented, summing up the reaction in many other parts of the country as disclosed in a canvass by the Associated Press.

The situation was like this: A typical housewife had 48 points to spend this week. Monday, per-

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