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MACARTHUR SOUNDS WARNING ON ENEMY SEA CONCENTRATION NEAR AUSTRALIA

U. S. Bombers Striking Hard At Jap Airfields

Allied General Says Powerful Units Within Striking Distance MUST CONTROL SKIES Defenders Must Maintain Superiority In Air To Hold Land

WASHINGTON, April 13.—(AP)—American bombers are striking repeatedly at Japanese plane concentration centers northwest of Guadalcanal, the Navy reported today as evidence mounted that the Pacific war is approaching a crucial new phase.

Japanese might use in building up their air strength in the northwestern Solomons for such raids as their 98-plane attack on Guadalcanal last Wednesday and their 100-plane assault on Port Moresby, New Guinea, over the week-end.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Wednesday, April 14.—(P)—General Douglas MacArthur, whose planes have blunted two big Japanese aerial thrusts at New Guinea by shooting down 76 of the enemy, warned today that powerful Japanese naval forces are within striking distance of Australia which can be held off only if the Allies keep command of the skies.

“The Allied naval forces can be counted upon to play their own magnificent part but the battle of the western Pacific will be won or lost by the proper application of the air-ground team,” his statement said. He asserted that “the first line of Australian defense is our bomber line” and “the range of our air force over surrounding waters marks the stretch of no man’s sea which is the measure of our safety.” His statement, coming on the heels of a warning by Gen. Sir Thomas A. Blamey that the Japanese have massed 200,000 first line troops in the arc of islands above Australia, was issued on a day when the communique from his headquarters made clear that once more the Allies held the aerial initiative.

There were 35 per cent more babies born in New Hanover county last year than in 1941, figures compiled by the county health department revealed Tuesday.

By contrast, the death rate for New Hanover county’s greatly increased population was only 20 per cent higher than that for 1941.

COUNTY BIRTHS ARE INCREASING

35 Per Cent More Babies Born In 1942 Than In Preceding Year

By contrast, the death rate for New Hanover county’s greatly increased population was only 20 per cent higher than that for 1941. According to a report made by Dr. A. H. Elliot, city-county health officer, the total number of births recorded for 1942 was 2,283; 1,549 babies were born in the city and county in 1941.

The number of deaths in 1942 was 897; in 1941, there were 746. The record also shows that births during the first three months of the current year are considerably in excess of last year’s high totals. There were 723 children born in the first quarter of the year.

COLUMBUS YOUTH DIES IN MISHAP

15 Year Old Boy Succumbs From Exposure After Boat Capsizes

WHITEVILLE, April 13.—LeGrand Hyatt, 15-year-old Whiteville youth, died shortly before 4:30 p. m. Tuesday, victim of exposure, after the boat in which he and four high school companions were sailing capsized on Lake Waccamaw around 11 o’clock Tuesday morning, and the group was forced to cling to the sides of the small vessel for five and a half hours.

Plans Are Complete For Annual Meeting Of Commerce Group

Plans for the annual meeting of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, to be held at 7 o’clock Thursday night at St. Paul’s Lutheran church parish house, have been completed, according to F. O. Fockler, secretary of the organization.

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE NAMED

Capt. J. F. Jordan Promoted To Post; Fire Department Men Elevated

Captain J. F. Jordan, veteran Wilmington police officer, was promoted to the rank of assistant chief by the City Civil Service commission Tuesday night in a series of police and fire department promotions. C. W. Shackelford, commission secretary, revealed after the meeting.

RED CROSS HAS BUSIEST MONTH

Home Service Unit Aids Record Number Persons Here In March

Reflecting increased Red Cross activity in the community, the home service division of the local Red Cross chapter in March served more individuals and families than in any other previous month in the division’s history.

Local Women Sell \$13,437 In War Bonds

Booths Placed In Downtown Stores Report Good Sales Here

Students Purchase \$4,868.93 In Issues During First 2 Days

In the first two days of the Treasury-sponsored Second War Loan drive here, booths sponsored by the Women’s division of the War Savings staff have sold a total of \$13,437.50 maturity value war bonds, Mrs. Berenice Stelling, county chairman of the group, revealed Tuesday night.

NEW METER ZONE TO BE DISCUSSED

Establishment Of Additional Two-Hour Spaces To Be Considered

The establishment of an additional two-hour parking meter zone here will be one of the matters presented to the city council for discussion when the council convenes for its bi-monthly meeting in the city hall Wednesday morning at 10 o’clock.

FOE DISLODGED NEAR SMOLENSK

Russians Hurl Germans From Fortified Positions Of 'Importance'

LONDON, Wednesday, April 14.—(AP)—Russian patrols thrusting forward on the Smolensk front dislodged the Germans “from fortified positions of great importance,” Tuesday, while to the north on the Leningrad sector the Soviets have turned back an outbreak of Nazi tank and infantry attacks with “heavy losses” to the Germans, Moscow announced early today.

GERMANS' TUNISIAN HOLD FAILING FAST UNDER ALLIED FIRE

American and British Forces Joined In Tunisia



British armored car patrols (left) and American soldiers (right) pause to exchange greetings at the Gabes-Gafsa road where units of Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton’s U. S. Army Second Corps were joined by a column from Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery’s British Eighth Army April 7 after Axis Gen. Rommel’s Mareth line defenses were broken. This picture was radioed from Cairo.

FINAL CLEANUP BELIEVED NEAR IN TUNISIAN FIGHT

WASHINGTON, April 13.—(P)—The final cleanup of Axis forces in Africa is almost in sight, it was indicated today, and the capital began to talk anew of greater battles to come — on the continent of Europe.

Just over five months from the onset last November, the Anglo-American nutcracker attack in Africa is closing its steel-shod jaws on its ultimate objective, the Tunisian hump.

Hugh MacRae, Local Realtor, Ends Work With Shipyard Board

Hugh MacRae, prominent Wilmington realtor and business man, announced Tuesday night that he had submitted his resignation as a director of the North Carolina Shipbuilding company to Captain Roger Williams, president of the firm.

CITIZENS URGED TO COOPERATE IN COMING CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

If crowded Wilmington is to remain a community, disease-free and clean during the war emergency, it is imperative that citizens back “with full cooperation” the forthcoming clean-up campaign scheduled for next week.

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FORGING FORWARD

British And Americans Driving Ahead On All African Fronts

NO BATTLE OBSERVED

Axis Shows No Indication Of Joint Decisive Fight With Pursuers

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, April 13.—(P)—The Axis Tunisian bridgehead was shrinking rapidly today under pressure of general Allied advances at the south and northwestern sides of the envelopment box being drawn up before Tunis and Bizerte, and nowhere along the front had the enemy shown any disposition to attempt a decisive stand.

Everywhere, the Allied forces were making progress. The British Eighth Army and part of the British First Army, moving up inexorably from the south, beat on beyond Sousse and Kairouan, smashing at Marshal Rommel’s rearguard while his main bodies were withdrawing through the Enfidaville line, which runs inland and northwest from the sea.

Allies Punch Through Enemy Battlefront advances late this afternoon said Allied armored units punched through meager enemy rearguard defenses below both Enfidaville and Djebelina, towns 17 miles apart and 50 miles south of Tunis.

(The Allied-controlled Algiers broadcast that the Allies had occupied Enfidaville, 27 miles north of fallen Sousse. Substantially all of the Italian Vittoria division had been captured, it was said.) As British First Army advance patrols drove north in the direction of Djebelina, an important inland road junction, French troops mopping up the Grand Dorsal range captured Djebel Keraouchin, 12 miles southwest of Djebelina.

The Eighth Army, advancing along the coastal highway from Sousse, pushed back the enemy rearguard which attempted resistance near Lake Kelbia.

The French forces announced the capture of almost 1,000 Axis prisoners.

To the north, other units of the British First Army, striking out in the Medjeh-el-Bab sector only about 40 miles from Tunis, swept over a number of hill vantage points.

In London it was estimated that in pulling back into a rough rectangle before Tunis and Bizerte Rommel and the northern Tunisian Axis commander, General von Arnim, would have at their command an aggregate of about 210,000 men, 150,000 of them Germans.

(The German radio, modifying an earlier melancholy tone, claimed that Axis tank and motorized forces had thrown in counterattacks above the Sousse-Kairouan area which had “inflicted heavy losses and forced the British to withdraw.”) While the Axis land forces thus were being pressed into an ever-narrowing area, the Allied air fleets continued to strike powerfully and crippling blows on the enemy, extending the assault to enemy airdromes around Tunis.

Community Center For Maffitt Village Is Given FPHA Approval

The Federal Public Housing authority has approved the construction of a \$50,000 community commercial center for Maffitt village, huge war housing project of the Housing Authority of the City of Wilmington, Henry R. Emory, executive director of the local authority, said Tuesday.

Bids on the first structure will be asked as soon as plans are completed by the architects, Lynch and Poard of Wilmington. Of masonry construction, it will contain space for a postoffice, grocery store, drug store, shoe shop, and similar establishments. Funds will be provided by the FPHA.

Residents of Maffitt village, located south of Sunset Park and approximately one mile from the North Carolina Shipbuilding company are handicapped, Mr. Emory said, in that no commercial establishments are readily available to the project.

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Cooler 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., 65; 7:30 a. m., 58; 1:30 p. m., 70; 7:30 p. m., 67; maximum, 72; minimum, 58; mean, 65; normal, 61.	
Humidity	
1:30 a. m., 82; 7:30 a. m., 64; 1:30 p. m., 1; 7:30 p. m., 78.	
Precipitation	
Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 0.00 inches. Total since the first of the month, 6.72 inches.	
Tides For Today	
(From the Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey)	
Wilmington	5:00a Low
2:31p High 12:26p	
Masonboro Inlet	2:40a Low
3:21p High 9:13a	
Moore’s Inlet	3:26p High 9:38p
3:50a Low 9:23a	
New Topsail Inlet	3:50a Low 9:43p
(Elmore’s)	3:11p High 9:43p
Sunrise, 5:42a; sunset, 6:45p; moonrise, 1:19p; moonset, 2:28a.	

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NOTICE!

If your carrier fails to leave your copy of the Wilmington Morning Star, Phone 2-3311 before 9:00 a. m. and one will be sent to you by special messenger.

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