

American Rifleman in Tunisia



Among the palms and sand dunes of Tunisia, an American soldier draws a head on his target with his Garand rifle.

C. McD. Davis Re-Named President Of ACL Firm

C. McD. Davis, since last October president of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad, was re-elected to the presidency at a meeting of the company's stockholders in Richmond, Va., Tuesday, it was learned here Tuesday night.

Mr. Davis was named president of the railroad when George B. Elliott was made chairman of the firm's executive committee.

A. C. Christian was elected assistant treasurer and E. A. Anderson, assistant controller of the company. Both will retain their headquarters in Wilmington.

Mr. Christian entered the service of the railroad in the office of the Auditor of Freight Receipts on September 3, 1920, and was transferred to the Treasury department and appointed Cashier on December 16, 1922.

Mr. Anderson entered the service of the company on November 16, 1922, as auditor, having previously been connected for many years with the Interstate Commerce commission and other government agencies.

H. A. Marks To Succeed E. A. Laney For Coming Term In Chamber

H. A. Marks, distributor of farm machinery supplies, was elected to the presidency of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the new board of directors of the organization Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Marks succeeds E. A. Laney who has filled the position during the past year.

The slate of officers includes D. H. Penton, first vice-president; L. A. Raney, second vice-president; and H. H. Rorison, re-elected treasurer.

A committee was drawn up to draft resolutions on the problem of rent control in the Wilmington community, to be presented to Rep. J. Bayard Clark of Fayetteville, who has asked that representative groups in the city and county express their view on the handling of rent ceilings here.

WEATHER

Table with weather forecast for Wilmington, including temperature, humidity, and precipitation data for the next 24 hours.

EIGHTY-SEVEN ARMY BREACHES ENFIDAVILLE LINE; DETAIL OF RAID ON TOKYO ARE REVEALED; ROOSEVELT AND CAMACHO PROCLAIM ACCORD

MORE RAIDS SEEN

War Department Warns Enemy That Other Attacks Lie Ahead

CARRIER WAS AIR BASE

U. S. S. Hornet Was "Shangri-la" Of Gen. Doolittle's Fliers

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—The War Department, in a 4,000-word report lifting secrecy of the Army's thrilling raid on Japan last April, warned the enemy tonight that "attacks still lie ahead" and disclosed these details of the action which first carried the war to the Japanese homeland:

Major General James H. Doolittle bailed out of his plane over China, 12 hours after the first takeoff from the aircraft carrier Hornet.

Complete Success

The 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers "carried out with accuracy and complete success" their objective of attacking armament plants, dock yards, railroad yards and oil refineries at Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Osaka, the report said.

Most of the 80 fliers landed in unoccupied China and made their way to Chungking. But eight are presumed prisoners of the Japanese, five are interned in Russia, and two are missing and one—Corp. Leland D. Faktor of Plymouth, Ia.—is known dead.

The takeoff from the aircraft carrier—the first known instance in which such heavy planes have hopped off from a "flat top"—was first planned for just before dark, so that Japan could be bombed at night and the planes could reach safety at Chinese airfields in the morning.

When the Hornet was 800 miles from Tokyo "it met complications," a Japanese ship was sunk and it was feared work would reach Tokyo. So the planes took off 10 hours ahead of schedule and "the added distance to be flown naturally added greatly to the hazards of the mission."

Japanese pursuit planes made some attempt to halt the raid over Tokyo and the Nagoya raiders encountered inaccurate anti-aircraft fire, but "one by one, each objective of each plane was checked off."

The most hazardous section of the venture came after the planes left Japan. With gasoline low in their tanks, the fliers ran into a storm and most of them bailed out.

Some of the details of the raid, such as the use of a 20-cent substitute bombsight in place of the Norden bombsight, already had been made known. The Japanese themselves had broadcast last January that the aircraft carrier Hornet was used for the bombers' takeoff. This ship was sunk last October and in the naval and air battle off Santa Cruz Island, but the loss was not announced by the United States Navy until January.

Names of the participating fliers were announced last May when Major General Doolittle was decorated by President Roosevelt—who said the fliers took off from mythical Shangri-la. That was the United States' first acknowledgment even that American planes had made the raid on Tokyo, although the Japanese radio announced soon after the attack that the bombers were American.

In an explanation of the secrecy, (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

Meet Pvt. Smith



Paul C. Smith, newspaperman who resigned his OWI post and a Navy commission to join the Marines, is pictured in his combat helmet on maneuvers at Parris Island, S. C. Private Smith was named outstanding young man of 1942.

Japanese Cargo Ship Sunk By Big Bombers Of Gen. MacArthur

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Wednesday, April 21.—(AP)—A small but heavy hitting force of Flying Fortresses bombed Wewak, New Guinea, yesterday, destroying a 6,000-ton cargo ship and damaging a smaller boat.

Despite this latest in an accumulation of aerial blows dealt at the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur warned the enemy has been reinforcing ground and air components rapidly in recent weeks.

(These served to point up other similar warnings sounded by Gen. Sir Thomas A. Blamey, commander in chief of Allied ground forces and Lieut. Gen. George C. Kenney, commander of Allied air forces in the southwest Pacific that 200,000 first line Japanese troops are being moved into position on the approaches to Australia and enemy airfields expanded.)

The Price Of Ham

"No ham that can be bought is worth 92 cents a pound," OPA officials said Tuesday night in commenting on the price of ham reportedly being paid at an establishment in Wilmington.

According to the price officials, the "exorbitant" prices said to have been placed on ham and fat-back will receive wide-spread investigation.

One citizen of the community reported Monday afternoon that she had paid 88 cents for two pounds of ham.

"Ceiling regulations will not permit that," the authorities commented. (Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)

Leaders Of 2 Countries Meet After Long Period

MONTEREY, Mexico, April 20.—(AP)—President Roosevelt and President Avila Camacho proclaimed the solidarity of their two adjoining countries in war against their mutual foes, in the doctrine of the good neighbor, and in promulgating a peace in which no group in one country may exploit the resources and people of another.

They spoke at a banquet here a few short hours after the first meeting of American and Mexican chief executives in thirty-four years. Each mentioned the brotherhood of arms achieved by the two neighbor nations in a conflict to crush the Axis powers—a conflict which Mr. Roosevelt once again promised would end only in "unconditional surrender."

LONDON BOMBED BY NAZI PLANES

Few German Raiders Dump Explosives On Two Districts In City

LONDON, April 20.—(AP)—A few German raiders dumped bombs on two London districts last night during a brief attack that sent the capital's devastating anti-aircraft barrage into action.

The Germans struck back after swift Ventura bombers during the day raided Nazi transport and industrial targets in France and Belgium. Possibility that the Allies might be raiding Europe by night was seen in the shutting down of the Berlin and Calais radios shortly before midnight.

One enemy bomber was chased over one area of London by a stream of tracer shells until flame-tinged bursts compelled the raider to twist and dodge.

Anti-aircraft crews shot out two flares a few seconds after they had been dropped.

Enemy raiders also were reported over southeast coast towns after breaking through heavy defenses.

On the offensive side, the RAF carried out its raids on railway targets at Boulogne, docks at Cherbourg, and an industrial plant at Zebrugge without the loss of a plane.

Fighters accompanied the Venturas, but the Germans put up no opposition, authoritative reports said.

Two enemy fighters were reported destroyed in other operations. An Allied fighter brought down one enemy plane over the outer Thames Estuary this morning, the Ministries of Air and Home Security said.

During the night, light RAF bombers hit at German rail lines and roads in Brittany, Holland, and northwestern Germany and shipping in the channel was attacked by Whirlwind bombers. All (Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)

RESUMES CAMPAIGN



First submarine launched by the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, Philadelphia, since 1912, the U. S. S. Dragonet, slides into the water. A few minutes later, she was followed by the U. S. S. Escobar as part of the double launching. (International.)

Montgomery's Veterans Strike At Axis Positions In Mighty Drive

MAY BE FINAL BATTLE

Latest Attack May Presage Last Attempt Of Nazis To Hold Tunisia

A L L I E D HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, April 20.—(AP)—Springing a powerful, sudden infantry charge by moonlight, the British Eighth Army has resumed the offensive at Enfidaville and seized mountain heights dominating the coastal road to Tunis 40 miles to the north, Allied headquarters announced tonight.

Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery loosed the assault late last night, and took his initial objectives in what appeared to be the start of the final offensive to drive the Axis from Tunisia.

In the skies, that offensive was already underway, with 112 Axis planes, destroyed in two days by the mighty Allied air arm.

Make 3 Mile Gain

Montgomery's tough infantry troops, again supported by artillery, smashed ahead in a three-mile advance to capture the Djebel Garci, a 1,200-foot height commanding the area 12 miles inland from the sea, battlefront spatches said.

Heavy fighting still continues, said an Allied spokesman, who announced briefly that the assault had "penetrated the Enfidaville position." The attack into the hilly, heavily-defended Axis positions followed a lull of a week of preparation by the methodical Montgomery.

(The Paris radio reported that two Anglo-American attacks in the region of Medjez-el-Bab and Bou Arada, to the northwest of Enfidaville have been repulsed.) The broadcast was heard in London by the Ministry of Information.

Authoritative sources said there was not expected to be any sudden break-through such as was typical of the desert actions, for the infantry must fight the each foot of ground, and advance hill-by-hill, storming each strong defense post separately.

While the Eighth Army was the only force mentioned in the initial drive, military circles said it was certain that other pressure would be brought to bear not only on the land but in the air and on the sea in a grand concert of action against the 200,000 Axis troops squeezed into the "coffin corner" of Tunisia.

In attacking by moonlight, General Montgomery was following a favorite tactic for the opening phases of a major offensive. His assaults at the Mareth line last month, and in some of his battles across Africa were launched under the light of a full moon.

Last night that same full African moon witnessed the first dash of British infantry across 1,200 yards of flat, barren wasteland to the foothills where the enemy was dug in.

The charge came at 11 p.m., and in less than three hours these battle-tried troops had won their first objectives, a height north west of Enfidaville where Axis gns had threatened the Eighth Army's road of approach along the coast.

But in attacking the Enfidaville line, Montgomery's forces were engaged in a new type of fighting strange to these desert-wise fighters. The country is mountainous and extremely rugged in contrast to the rolling hills and deserts of Libya. The mountain belt that Montgomery is assaulting now is thickest along the coast.

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ARMY FIGHTERS BOMBARD KISKA

Fast Warplanes Tuck Bomb Load Under Wings In Latest Assault

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—Swift Army fighter planes with bombs tucked under each wing raided Japanese positions on Kiska island in the Aleutians nine times Sunday; the Navy reported today, scoring many hits in strategic areas.

Fires were started in Japan's battered submarine base, a communique said, and other bombs fell on sections of the enemy-held island officially described as "the North Head, Salmon Lagoon and main camp areas."

A Navy spokesman said that North Head is at the northern entrance to Kiska harbor and that Salmon Lagoon lies just beyond, but he did not explain what enemy installations are set up at those places. They may or may not be developments in connection with Japanese efforts to convert the rocky hills of Kiska into an air base. On previous raids American bombers and fighters have concentrated on the runway, revetments and hangars.

The nine attacks, carried out by Curtiss Warhawks and Lockheed Lightnings, raised to 124 the number of times Kiska has been raided by American aircraft since the spring offensive against the island started March 1. In April alone 90 attacks have been made.

There was no explanation from officials here as to why bombers did not participate in Sunday's missions. Possibly the fighters operated from one base which was free of bad weather while the bombers available for action might have been weatherbound at another base.

Another possible explanation is that the Aleutians command might have believed the Japanese had finally succeeded in getting land-based fighters on Kiska and might (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

S.S. Virginia Dare's Guns Destroy 7 Nazi Airplanes

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—The Navy disclosed today how a freshman gun crew on the new Liberty ship "Virginia Dare's" Maiden voyage into the war zone shot down seven attacking German planes during their "baptism of fire" and repelled "a series of air and submarine attacks during a blazing eight-day battle."

The entire crew of 25 Navy men was cited for "outstanding bravery, cooperation and devotion to duty" after the merchantman had delivered its cargo of vital war goods safely to a United Nations port. The Silver Star medal was awarded to Lieutenant (jg) John L. Laird, Minneapolis, Minn.

Another officer commended for the same action was Lieutenant John H. Harshaw of San Francisco, Calif., who, though not a regular member of the armed guard crew, volunteered and served as gunner and battery officer during the strenuous days of the enemy attacks.

The Navy account of the action said that in one instance a Junkers 88, already afire, turned to crash dive into the bow of the Virginia Dare.

"The men on the forward gun waited," the account continued, "the gunner's mate who was serving as pointer calmly held his fire until the plane was at point blank range of 60 yards. The gun barked—a split second passed—the German bomber was blown to pieces. It was one of the seven enemy bombers catapulted into watery graves by this crew com-

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The "Virginia Dare" was christened at the North Carolina Shipbuilding company at Wilmington, N. C. Among those of the armed guard unit who have received letters of commendation are the following:

- William Melvin Frazier, Lynchburg, Va.
Thomas James Fournier, Buffalo, N. Y.
Gerard Edwin Ward, Astoria, N. Y.
Arthur Lee, Chicago, Ill.
Felix Edward Rey, New Orleans, La., and Winford Norwood Richardson, of Route 2, Conway, S. C.

Russians Capture Nazi Height Despite Attacks

LONDON, WEDNESDAY, April 21.—(AP)—Sweeping into the offensive on the Kalinin front northwest of Moscow, Russian forces on Tuesday attacked a strong German position and captured and held an important height against repeated enemy counterattacks, Moscow announced today.

Battering vainly against the strategic hill, dominating the entire area, the Germans left about 3,000 officers and men dead on the field, the Soviet midnight communique said.

In the western Caucasus, violent attacks by German infantry supported by tanks and large forces of aircraft were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy, Russian anti-aircraft fire bringing (Continued on Page Nine; Col. 8)

down 12 German planes during the day and Russian aircraft knocking out nine others.

The war bulletin, recorded here by the Soviet monitor, also announced minor activity on the western front, where Russian units killed about 100 enemy troops and silenced an artillery and two machinegun batteries, while south of Balakleya in the Donets basin a Soviet mortar unit wiped out a company of Nazi infantry.

The German attacks in the Caucasus were mounted with new troops rushed to the Kuban area in an attempt to widen the narrow bridgehead extending 40 miles from the heights of Novorossisk (Continued on Page Nine; Col. 8)

NOTICE!

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