



Henderson Daily Dispatch



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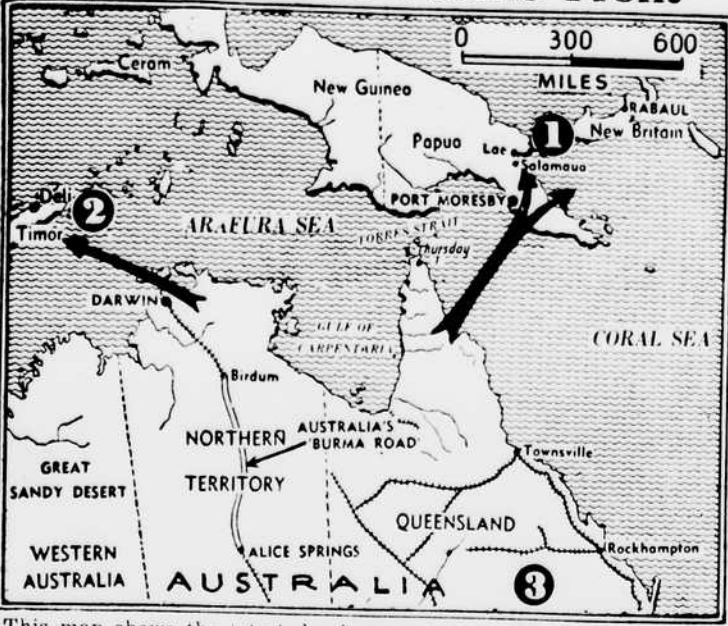
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Action on the Pacific Front



This map shows the latest developments in the Battle of Australia. United Nations pilots bombed land installations and runways at Japanese-held bases in New Guinea (1), and made a direct hit on a heavy Japanese cruiser. This is in addition to the twenty-three Japanese ships listed as hit or sunk by the combined U. S. and Australian air forces. The Japanese air base at Koepang, on the west coast of Timor (2) has been raided by United Nations bombers. Australia (3) prepared to halt an expected invasion attempt by the Japs advancing on Port Moresby, only 350 miles from the mainland.

(Central Press)

Public To Register May 4-7 For Sugar

Industrial Consumers to Register April 28 and 29; Weekly Individual Ration Not Yet Finally Determined.

STORM CENTER

Chicago, March 21.—(AP)—National sugar rationing registration dates were fixed today by the office of price administration for April 28 and 29, and May 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The announcement was made here at a meeting of the 48 state rationing administrators and regional supervisors by Frank Bane, field chief for OPA Director Leon Henderson.

Industrial consumers, such as confectioners and candy makers, will register for their rations on the two April dates, using their nearest high school.

Individual consumers will register May 4-7 at the public schools. Bane emphasized that it had not been finally determined whether the weekly individual ration would be a half-pound or three-quarters of a pound.

However, the stamp books which will be issued at the time of registration will contain 28 one-pound stamps. Bane said, sufficient to last more than a year if the one-half pound ration was decided upon.

BRITISH SUBS SINK TWO AXIS VESSELS

London, March 21.—(AP)—Two large axis supply ships have been sunk in the Mediterranean, the admiralty announced today.

The admiralty said the ships were "successfully attacked" by British submarines in the central Mediterranean, and also said the larger of the two ships was escorted by two destroyers.

Statewide GOP Race

Primary Assured by Filing of Second Senatorial Candidate; County Boards Named.

Raleigh, March 21.—(AP)—A statewide Republican primary was assured today when Sam J. Morris, Raleigh lawyer, filed with the State board of elections a second senatorial candidate for the U. S. Senate.

Another Republican, Stoner W. Klutz of Salisbury, filed for the post several days ago. In the race for the Democratic senatorial nomination, the incumbent, Josiah W. Bailey, is opposed by R. T. Fountain of Rocky Mount.

The State board of elections met here today and appointed election boards for the 100 counties of the state and supervised the closing of the filing period for state offices. W. A. Lucas of Wilson was re-elected chairman and Raymond C. Maxwell of Raleigh was re-elected executive secretary.



Maj. Richard G. Casey

Major Richard G. Casey, former Australian minister to the United States, was appointed a member of the British war cabinet to become minister of state in the Middle East, the appointment causing a clash between Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Prime Minister John Curtin which will be aired in a white paper expected to be published next Wednesday.

Lightning Aids Sub

Flashes Credited With Enabling U-Boat to Sink American Ship In Atlantic.

Norfolk, March 21.—(AP)—Lightning flashes that illuminated the sea for miles helped an axis undersea raider to torpedo and sink a large American merchant ship off the Atlantic coast early Wednesday, members of the crew related on their arrival at Norfolk.

The Navy announced the sinking today. Twenty-six survivors of the 41-man crew were picked up by a rescue ship after five hours in a lifeboat and were landed at Norfolk. Fifteen others were rescued by another vessel and taken ashore at Morehead City. Two crewmen were listed as missing. Their identity was not immediately established.

Expressing belief that an electrical storm aided the submarine in finding the ship, James Miller told newsmen, "there were great bright flashes of lightning and you could see for miles. I think the sub would have missed us if it hadn't had this light to aim by."

There were four lifeboats on the ship, but one was blown to bits by the blast of one of two torpedoes that bored into the port side. Another could not be launched because it was on the windward side of the ship.

Abelodied Seaman James Stafford said the ship went down about 40 minutes after the second torpedo struck.

MacArthur Confident

Soviet Troops In Staraya Russa

Four German Key Bases Assaulted

Russia's Armies Crowd Germans Off Balance Before Hitler Can Launch Spring Offensive; Nazis Admit Increased Pressure.

(By The Associated Press) Russia's armies, crowding the Germans off balance before Hitler can launch his spring offensive, were reported storming against four key Nazi bases on the 1,200-mile front today, and a Vichy radio broadcast declared Soviet troops had already fought their way into Staraya Russa.

Other Russian assaults were aimed at Bryansk, Kharkov and Taganrog.

Staraya Russa, 150 miles below Leningrad, is the base headquarters of the trapped German 16th army which has been cut off for weeks in the frozen marshlands around Lake Ilmen.

A bulletin from Hitler's field headquarters acknowledged the increasing violence of Russian assaults, declaring that Nazi troops had beaten off six fierce attacks yesterday southeast of Lake Ilmen in the Staraya Russa sector, but gave no details on the fate of Staraya Russa itself.

The high command also conceded that the Russians were pressing the offensive in the Crimea, in the Donets river basin of the Ukraine, and on the central (Moscow) and northern (Leningrad) fronts.

From Vichy, Leningrad and Moscow came details—reports that Red army troops had penetrated Kharkov fortifications but were forced back; that there was hard fighting north of Taganrog, Azov sea anchor of the German lines; that 455 Germans were killed and ten blockhouses demolished on the Leningrad front.

Russian guerrillas were officially declared to have killed 1,000 Germans near Bryansk, a railway city 220 miles southwest of Moscow, and audaciously entered its heart to burn German supplies and post Russian pamphlets on German bulletin boards.

FREE FRENCH

London, March 21.—(AP)—Free French columns in the south Libyan desert have raided new Italian outposts in the Zuila-Tenas district, northeast of Korzeek, to a point 300 miles of the Gulf of Sirte, General Charles de Gaulle's headquarters announced today.

Teachers Elect Sisk

Fayetteville School Superintendent Named Vice President; Lockhart President.

Raleigh, March 21.—(AP)—The election of Horace Sisk, superintendent of Fayetteville schools, as vice president of the North Carolina Education Association was announced today at the closing session of the association's 58th annual convention.

John C. Lockhart, of Charlotte, county schools who was elected vice president at the convention last year, was unopposed in the presidential election. He was installed today to succeed K. G. Phillips, superintendent of Gastonia schools.

U.S. On Verge Of Seizing Martinique

Washington, March 21.—(AP)—The United States was on the verge of seizing Martinique last month and has warned Vichy that any harboring of Nazi raiders there would mean American action.

This was disclosed yesterday by an authoritative source who gave the following outline of the situation:

A German submarine entered the harbor of Fort de France, capital of the French island, on February 21 and sent ashore a wounded member of its crew. American observers immediately notified Washington.

It was promptly established that the submarine took on no supplies and did not attempt to open communication with anyone on land. The sailor was suffering from a gunshot wound in the leg, possibly from shell-fire during a surface action against American coastal shipping.

His command apparently put him ashore with instructions to seek the surgical attention he could not be given on board ship. The State department immediately sent to the French government a warning that the United States would not permit the use of French western hemisphere ports by axis warships or planes for any purpose.

The Vichy government subsequently gave categorical assurances that no axis vessels or planes would be allowed to enter French ports or territorial waters in the western hemisphere under any pretext. This closed the incident of the submarine.

U-Boats Claim Seven Vessels

Berlin (From German Broadcast), March 21.—(AP)—U-boats have sunk six more ships totaling 45,000 tons and a U. S. coastal patrol ship in operations off the American and west African coasts, the high command said today.

A German submarine, attacking a convoy in the Atlantic, scored four torpedo hits but was unable to observe the results because of "strong defense put up" by the convoy.

German planes sank a 4,000-ton freighter in British waters and another merchant ship, described as "fairly large" was damaged, it was claimed.

CURTIN ANNOUNCES CRUISER DAMAGED

Canberra, March 21.—(AP)—Prime Minister Curtin announced today that one enemy cruiser was damaged in addition to the one believed sunk in yesterday's raid on the harbor at Rabaul, New Britain.

Thomas Says New Work Law Not Justified

Washington, March 21.—(AP)—A week of testimony by government production officials and organized labor leaders today convinced Chairman Thomas, Democrat, Oklahoma, of a special Senate appropriations subcommittee that "Congress would not be justified in passing wartime labor legislation now."

At the same time, Thomas said he would request another Senate group, the special committee investigating national defense, to look into complaints by Presidents William Green of the AFL and Philip Murray of the CIO that pressure on Congress for wartime labor legislation resulted from organized interests that should be investigated.

"I will make a formal complaint for an investigation by the Truman committee," Thomas said after listening to protests by the labor leaders.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Rain and colder tonight.

Agree on Alaskan Highway



Pierrepoint Moffat, United States Minister to Canada (left), is shown, handing to Canadian Premier MacKenzie King a note containing terms of agreement between the U. S. and Canada, under which the United States will build a highway to Alaska from Fort St. John, British Columbia.

(Central Press)

Lawrence J. Rux Dies In Air Crash

FIVE DIE IN CRASH AT MEMPHIS AIRPORT

Memphis, March 21.—(AP)—At least five persons were killed when a two-motored Army bomber crashed and burned near the municipal airport today.

The dead were not immediately identified.

Railroad Is Seized

President Orders Taking Over of Road With Failure to Arbitrate Strike.

Washington, March 21.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today ordered seizure of the Toledo, Pelee and Western Railroad and its operation by the government on the grounds of the "successful prosecution of the war."

The President acted after a long session of the new state government in Detroit. In a letter to George P. McNear, Jr., president of the 2,000-mile road, to arbitrate a strike of 104 workers.

Mr. Roosevelt issued an executive order authorizing Joseph W. Eastman, director of the office of defense transportation, to take immediate possession of the property and to operate or arrange for the operation of said railroad in such a manner as he deems necessary for the successful prosecution of the war.

MORE SUBS

Washington, March 21.—(AP)—Contracts for 50 additional merchant hulls, 20 mines and 32 emergency cargo vessels were awarded today by the maritime commission.

Destroyer Is Launched

New York, March 21.—(AP)—The 1,630-ton destroyer Buchanan, named for the first American naval officer to set foot on Japanese soil, was commissioned today at the Brooklyn navy yard.

Captain Franklin Buchanan accompanied Commodore Matthew C. Perry at the "opening" of the Orient and he led the men ashore. He also was the first superintendent of the Naval Academy and captain of the Confederate iron clad Merrimack in the Civil War.

Immediate Offensive Impossible

United Nations Supreme Commander Says Careful Preparation Must be Made for Drive; Airmen Credited With Sinking Cruiser.

(By The Associated Press.) Fierce head hunting savages were reported on the verge of returning to cannibalism and inter-tribal warfare in New Guinea today, complicating the defense of that Japanese-invaded island while a Vichy radio broadcast asserted that sea-borne Japanese forces were approaching Australia near the important harbor of Perth.

The Vichy station, which has been reporting Japanese fleets near Australia for several days, made this announcement:

"A Japanese squadron is approaching Cape Leewin, the southern corner of the Australian continent."

There was no confirmation elsewhere, official or unofficial, that a direct attack on Australia was so imminent.

(By The Associated Press.) General Douglas MacArthur, greeted by wildly cheering thousands, declared in Melbourne today he had every confidence of "ultimate success" in the battle to crush Japan's far flung invasion armies, but warned against too eager hopes for an immediate allied grand offensive.

While great crowds accorded General MacArthur a hero's welcome, United Nations airmen were officially credited with sinking another Japanese heavy cruiser in a daring raid on Rabaul, New Britain.

Australia's Prime Minister John Curtin said the cruiser—the 6,4th enemy warship sunk or damaged in the far Pacific theatre—was sent to the bottom by bombers which attacked through violent anti-aircraft fire in daylight, beat off enemy pursuit planes and returned to their base intact.

It was the 27th on the list of Japanese warships and merchant vessels sunk or damaged in less than

(Continued on Page Six)

Japs Raided In Mindanao

Heavy Casualties Inflicted in Surprise Raid by Americans and Filipinos.

Washington, March 21.—(AP)—The War department reported today a surprise raid by American and Philippine troops on Japanese forces near Zamboanga on the Philippine island of Mindanao in which heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

American and Filipino losses were described in a communique as negligible.

Meanwhile the harbor defenses of Manila Bay were reported under "extremely heavy" shelling from Japanese artillery, which included 240 mm. (about eight-inch) guns, but the War department said little damage of military consequence was done.

Fighting on the Bataan peninsula continued in a lull.

In Australia, the War department announced, Prime Minister John Curtin has appointed Lieutenant General George H. Brett, U. S. Army, to command of Australian as well as United States air forces operating on the southern continent.

Labor Unions Denounced

Washington, March 21.—(AP)—Thurston Arnold, assistant attorney general, accused organized labor today of "injuring and destroying" independent business and said that farmers, consumers and business men were "at its mercy."