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U.S. FORCES SLASH AT MIDWAY ATTACKERS

Rommel Moves Reinforcements Into African Battle

Axis Tanks Repulsed Second Time

British Mechanized Forces Smash at Troops Attacking Bir El Hacheim in Bloody Eleven-Day Battle of North Africa.

(By The Associated Press) Marshal Erwin Rommel was reported moving strong axis reinforcements into the bloody eleven-day battle of North Africa today as the British announced they had smashed an axis tank assault on bir el Hacheim for the second time in two days.

Bir El Hacheim, a desert waterhole, is the southern anchor of a 50-mile British defense line stretched across the hot sands to the Mediterranean sea.

British headquarters said British and Indian troops struck from the rear to relieve the Free French and Indian garrison at Bir El Hacheim after the defenders had twice rejected German demands that they surrender the key stronghold.

Front line dispatches said Rommel was spending fresh troops and tanks into the battle sector around Tobruk in an attempt to relieve pressure on a one-mile corridor which axis forces had driven into the British main defense line.

British mechanized forces were reported slashing at axis tanks holding the beach, while German dive bombers pounded furiously at British positions blocking Rommel's advance toward Egypt.

Other European war developments:

Arctic supply route — two blows against Germany's attempt to disrupt the vital far north sealanes to Russia were reported today.

Norwegian quarters in London said RAF bombers had scored several direct hits on the 35,000-ton Nazi battleship Tirpitz and on the heavy cruiser Admiral Hipper in an attack at Trondheim, Norway.

Soviet dispatches reported that Russian planes, fighting to safeguard the ocean route for war materials from Britain and the United States, hammered home three sharp attacks on bases from which German bombers have been ranging the seaway.

At least 40 Nazi planes were reported destroyed and Nazi airfields were heavily damaged.

At warfront—RAF bomber units attacked Germany overnight for the first time this month, centering their blows instead on the channel invasion port of Dieppe, France, and airbases in Nazi-occupied Holland.

Behind warfront, RAF fighter squadrons carried on the offensive with attacks along the French coast.

Italian campaign—Soviet headquarters reported that Russian artillery had smashed a German attempt to drive a wedge into the Red Army lines on the Bryansk front, 210 miles southwest of Moscow, throwing the invaders back with 250 kills.

The long battle line as a whole appeared quiet.

Senate Offers Compromise On Pay Boost

Washington, June 5.—(AP)—Senate conferees on the military pay increase bill proposed a compromise to the House committee today calling for \$46 a month for buck privates and \$52 for first class privates.

The House group took the proposal under advisement and another conference may be held later in the day.

The compromise offer compares with Senate-approved figures of \$42 for buck privates and \$48 for first class privates and House-approved figures of \$50 and \$51, respectively.

Widow Does Bit to Beat Axis



Mrs. Evelyn Casola, widowed by the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor, is getting back at the Nipponese by helping to build bombing planes at a big aircraft plant. She is shown drilling rivet holes in the fuselage of a U. S. bomber. (Central Press)

Retaliation Pledged For Jap Use Of Gas

JAPANESE LOSSES HEAVY IN CHEKIANG

Chungking, June 5.—(AP)—The Chinese high command announced tonight that about 8,000 Japanese were killed or wounded yesterday in fighting around Chushien, rail center in western Chekiang province.

That increased the number of Japanese casualties reported in two days of fighting for the important walled town to 10,000.

Soldier Pay Hike Likely

Service Men With Dependents Probably Will Be Required to Contribute to Them.

Washington, June 5.—(AP)—Early congressional approval of \$50 monthly minimum pay for the armed forces appeared likely today, with the probability that soldiers, sailors and marines having dependents would be required to contribute \$20 to \$22 a month toward the support of their families.

The pay increase measure lay in the laps of the five Senate conferees, but it was being negotiated in an accepting mood by a House proposal to boost the salary of buck privates to \$50, instead of the \$42 it had voted previously.

The House arranged meanwhile to take up on Monday a family allowance bill passed by the Senate yesterday under which wives of military men receive \$18 a month or less would be paid \$50 monthly for their support, the first child \$12 and other children \$10 each.

The Senate-approved measure would require the enlisted man to contribute \$22 in this amount, the government paying the rest, in addition, he could elect to contribute \$5 more, to which the government would add \$15 for a dependent parent, \$25 for two parents and \$5 for each additional brother, sister or grandchild.

Another provision of the Senate bill would authorize the selective service under the President's direction to fix the order in which registrants would be called for active service.

Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio, said Brigadier General Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, had indicated that men would be classified and called in the following order:

1. Registrants unmarried or mar-

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Great Battle Tests Power In Pacific

American and Japanese Naval Units Believed Engaged in Climactic Encounter as Result of Attack on Midway Island.

Washington, June 5.—(AP)—American and Japanese fleet units apparently were engaged today in one of the greatest battles of the Pacific as a result of the enemy's attempt yesterday to raid the strongly garrisoned United States outpost on Midway Island.

Commenting on the communique issued today by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, naval experts here emphasized that Nimitz had said "attacks on the enemy are continuing."

This seemed to indicate, it was said, that the fight which started at Midway yesterday morning had continued for many hours with both American and enemy units maneuvering for advantage in what may be a crucial engagement determining the enemy's ability to strike at more vital points, including Pearl Harbor, the United States west coast, Alaska and even the Panama Canal.

The action off Midway involved not only Japanese aircraft carriers but battleships and heavy cruisers. As great as this force appeared to be, however, there remained a possibility that it was engaged in a diversionary operation and a main force was developing an attack elsewhere.

Two More Ships Sunk

Torpedoings in Atlantic Raise Two-Day Toll to Six Cargo Ships and Patrol Boat.

(By The Associated Press) Two more United Nations ships have been torpedoed in the Atlantic, the Navy disclosed today, bringing the announced losses there in two days to six merchant vessels and a Navy patrol boat.

Two youthful British survivors of the latest sinking said their Norwegian ship was sunk in the Atlantic May 29 and they spent five days in open boats until they were rescued by a Dutch merchantman. Of the 43 aboard the Norwegian ship, at least 14 survive. Twenty-four hours later the Dutch ship met a similar fate and the boys spent three more days in a lifeboat before they were rescued. More than 15 Chinese crew members were killed when the Dutch ship went down and there was no indication how many of the 60 other crew members were rescued.

As the Navy reported yesterday the recent loss of the patrol boat and four merchantmen in the Atlantic and one merchantman in the far Pacific, Chairman Ellender, Democrat, Louisiana, of a Senate naval affairs subcommittee said in Washington that naval officers might be called in a public hearing.

"If we are not entirely satisfied that everything possible is being done to halt these sinkings," Ellender declared, "we are going into the whole matter in public."

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Little change in temperature tonight, except slightly cooler in northern portion.

Writing to Adopted Soldiers



More than two hundred children who attend St. Michael's Parochial School in Chicago have adopted U. S. soldiers for the duration of the war. They pray for the troops and write to them regularly just as the three youngsters in the foreground above are doing. Left to right, they are: Mary Ann Kelbus, Anna Mae Zwonek and Paul Stabulski. (Central Press)

At Least 21 Dead In Arsenal Blast

More Than a Score Injured in Explosion at Mammouth Elwood, Ill., Ordnance Shell Loading Plant; Investigation Pending.

Juliet, Ill., June 5.—(AP)—An explosion rocked the mammoth Elwood arsenal, one of the largest in the nation, early today, leaving at least 21 known dead, Captain David Tunstall, Army explosives officer, announced.

More than a score were injured, and 28 others working in the shipping building escaped unhurt.

Three of the dead were identified, but Tunstall did not announce the names of any of the 40 casualties.

The blast, heard for a radius of 50 miles at 2:33 a. m., destroyed the shipping building of group 2 of the Elwood ordnance shell loading plant, which had been described by its director as the largest in the world.

Captain Tunstall said there was no hint of sabotage, but that its possibility would be investigated by a board of inquiry.

Lieutenant Colonel Don M. Hoffman, commanding officer, probably will convene the board of inquiry, but Tunstall said the time and place had not been set.

Tunstall emphasized that operations in the one group would be interrupted only a short time. The plant was designed with the view of preventing and minimizing explosions and was scattered over a large area of southern Will county south of Juliet.

The two plants were in production some time before Pearl Harbor.

Under censorship, there was no information about the total number of

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House Refuses Rubber-Gas Parley Held

Washington, June 5.—(AP)—Supporting a recommendation from its appropriations committee, the House refused today to vote funds to keep the depression-born Civilian Conservation Corps going on a reduced basis during the war.

By a vote of 158 to 121 the House rejected an amendment by Representative Taylor, Democrat, Georgia, to add a \$75,813,000 allotment for the CCC to the \$1,058,451,860 supply bill for the Labor department, social security board and kindred federal agencies.

The appropriations committee, by a three-vote margin had recommended the elimination of all of the CCC funds.

14 ARMY FLIERS KILLED IN CRASH

San Rafael, Cal., June 5.—(AP)—Fourteen Army fliers died in the crash of a heavy bomber near here last night, the Army said today.

Flames consumed the wreckage when the plane hit a hilltop as the pilot circled for an emergency landing.

Huge Convoy To India

Troops and Materiel Unloaded as Japanese Drive to Within 45 Miles of Frontier.

New Delhi, June 5.—(AP)—As Japanese forces pressed to a point 45 miles east of India's Burma frontier, the British announced today that the largest convoy of reinforcements ever to come to the defense of India had been unloaded at eastern India ports.

The reinforcements included light and heavy anti-aircraft guns, British and American light and heavy tanks, and a large number of both fighting and technical personnel.

The convoy put into Indian ports early in May and was so big it could not be handled at any one port. It came through without loss. Among the troops were some Indian soldiers.

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Jap Assault Driven Off With Losses

Only Minor Damage and No Casualties Inflicted on Defenders as Surprise Attack is Turned Into Staggering Defeat.

(By The Associated Press) American battle forces were reported slashing anew at a powerful Japanese naval squadron off Midway island in the Pacific today after beating off a dawn attack yesterday by battleships, aircraft carriers and cruisers with heavy losses for the enemy.

"Our attacks on the enemy are continuing," said a bulletin from the headquarters of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet.

Only minor damage and no casualties were inflicted on defenders of the tiny U. S. outpost, 1,149 miles northwest of Hawaii and 2,600 miles southeast of Tokyo, a communique said.

Turning the surprise attack into a staggering defeat, American fighters including Harines, sea and air forces were officially credited with damaging a Japanese battleship, an aircraft carrier and possibly other warships, as well as taking a heavy toll of planes.

Thousands of miles to the west, other naval actions marked the growing struggle for control of the seas.

Australia—General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced that allied planes guarding the vital lanes in which U. S. war supplies are flowing to Australia have sunk two more Japanese submarines and probably a third off the east coast of the "down under" continent.

The new successes made a total of six and possibly seven Japanese undersea raiders destroyed in the Australian theatre in the last five days. Four midget submarines were sunk in an unsuccessful raid on Sydney harbor on Sunday.

Madagascar—Imperial Tokyo headquarters asserted that Japanese "special" (two-man) submarines had torpedoed and seriously damaged a 10,000-ton British battleship of the Queen Elizabeth class and a 5,220-ton British light cruiser of the Arethusa class in a surprise dawn attack on Diego Suarez naval base, Madagascar.

Tokyo's claim met a swift denial by the British admiralty, which said Japanese submarines attacked the British-occupied base on May 30 but there were no casualties in his majesty's ships.

British sea-borne forces captured the French colonial base, off the southeast coast of Africa, on May 7.

Baldwin Loses Appeal

Raleigh, June 5.—(AP)—The State supreme court today upheld the conviction of John S. Baldwin for slaying a Duke hospital surgeon, and found no error in the conviction of six men charged with armed robbery and burning of a tractor, trailer and cargo in Guilford county.

The court, in handing down 23 opinions, said that Baldwin failed to perfect his appeal and that the attorney general docketed the case.

Baldwin fatally shot Dr. Ralldolph Jones, Jr., and said he did it because the surgeon allegedly caused his permanent injury through an operation. He was overpowered in a hospital corridor a few seconds after he pumped several bullets into Dr. Jones' body. He later told officers he did not regret the act.

The opinion automatically fixed the execution of Baldwin, a Columbus county farmer, for June 26.