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U. S. Bombers Score With 35 Direct Hits On Two Axis Vessels

Italian Naval Squadron So Battered it Never Made Contact With British Convoy it Sought to Meet in Mediterranean.

(By The Associated Press)
Big U. S. Army bombers were credited today with scoring 35 direct bomb hits on two Italian battleships in the great sea-air battle in the Mediterranean last week-end and a British source declared the American fleet had so battered the fascist naval squadron that it never made contact with a British convoy it set out to intercept.

"It was like shooting fish in a barrel," said Major A. F. Kallaberger, who led the Americans on their first battle flight against the axis in the Mediterranean theatre.

The fascist battleship was hit 20 times, the other 15. Kallaberger said. In addition, a cruiser was set afire and a destroyer damaged.

Simultaneously, the RAF announced that a second air attack Monday night had resulted in another hit on one of the two Italian battleships by the U. S. Army and RAF last Monday morning.

An RAF communiqué said the battleship was hit despite a heavy smoke screen laid down by four attacking destroyers, which were also attacked again.

The communiqué said 14 axis planes were definitely shot down in the central Mediterranean, fighting in many others were "so badly damaged that it is unlikely they will reach their bases."

The British themselves acknowledged sharp losses in sending such a heavy force to Malta and the beleaguered north African fortress at Benghazi, but said the results would not be disclosed until the information would no longer be of value to the enemy.

Wrecking Yard Taken Over

Washington, June 17.—(AP)—The federal government today took over the A. O. Schuler & Co. wrecking yard here and requires it to scrap 200 tons of iron, steel and rubber scrap.

George L. Danne, Chicago field representative of the automobile emergency management, said Schuler had refused to sell the scrap and had "barred" the government to requisition it.

E. G. Flanagan Dies Of Attack

Greenville, June 17.—(AP)—Edward G. Flanagan, 65, Greenville business man, banker, member of the State highway commission, and former legislator, died of a heart attack today at his summer cottage at Atlantic Beach.

Surviving him are the widow, Mrs. Rosa Hooker Flanagan, three sons, Edward, Graham, John, and Charles; and a daughter, Mrs. T. I. Wagner, all of Greenville.

Funeral plans were not immediately available.

Flanagan re-elected to public life after the 1937 legislature, when he offered the Flanagan anti-slur machine act. He served five terms in the legislature, four in the house and one in the senate.

He had extensive business holdings and was a member of the advisory board of the reconstruction finance corporation, Charlotte. He was well known in educational circles and was a member of the board of trustees of East Carolina Teachers College.

Survives Sky Duel



There's little doubt that this RAF pilot standing beside his damaged Curtiss Tomahawk in Libya won't praise the construction of American-built fighter planes. In action near El Regeh, a high explosive shell struck the tail of his plane and almost blasted his rubber and elevator away, but he still managed to return to his base and land without difficulty.

(Central Press)

Sub Sinking Total 275

Two Merchant Vessels Added to List of Those Sunk in Atlantic Sub Warfare.

Washington, June 17.—(AP)—The Navy announced today that two merchant vessels, a medium-sized Panamanian and a small Honduran, have been torpedoed in the Caribbean and survivors have been landed at an east coast port.

The sinkings brought the announced total of Atlantic submarine victims to 275.

Yesterday in a dawn daylight attack a submarine torpedoed two American merchantmen within sight of Honduras and also sank a small ship in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Navy said that one of the two ships torpedoed in the Virginia shore was sunk but the other was towed into port.

The destroyer attack occurred Monday under the eyes of beach crowds who watched bombing planes, a Navy ship and a half a dozen surface craft drop bombs and depth charges in an effort to sink the invader, the fate of which was not announced by the Navy.

BURNED BODY FOUND STUFFED INTO CHEST

New York, June 17.—(AP)—The burned and still smoldering body of a young man was found stuffed into a leatherette cedar chest in a vacant Brooklyn lot early today.

The body, unrecognizable, was discovered at 629 A. by a laborer who had taken a short cut through the lot on his way to work.

Britain Votes New War Fund

London, June 17.—(AP)—The house of commons promptly voted a new 1,000,000,000 pounds (\$4,000,000,000) credit for war purposes today at the request of Sir Kingsley Wood, chancellor of the exchequer, who said it brought Britain's total war-time budget to 10,000,000,000 pounds (\$40,000,000,000).

Britain's rate of government expenditures recently has risen to \$84,250,000,000 (\$37,000,000,000) a year, Sir Kingsley said.

Allied Bases In Danger May Act Invoked In Camp Areas

Governor 'Welcomes The Move'

Provisions of Act Will be Invoked in Fort Bragg Area Immediately, and to be Extended Over State in Short Time.

Raleigh, June 17.—(AP)—The Army stepped in today to control prostitution in military areas of North Carolina and Governor Braghton said that the same "will be in the hands" of the state.

Provisions of the May act, making violation a federal offense, will be invoked almost immediately in the Fort Bragg area, the governor said, and in all probability will soon be extended all over the state.

The governor made the announcement at a light conference with Brigadier General John T. Kennedy, commanding officer of Fort Bragg, and Colonel W. H. Hantley, commanding officer of Camp Butler.

Prostitution or any act identified with it, in areas designated by the Secretary of War, come under the May act, which carries stern punishment and fines for offenders.

Army officers have long complained of the high infection rate among their men, and the number of arrests made by local authorities has greatly increased, but still the condition has not been wholly relieved.

"The problem," said the governor, "is ever growing. A good number of young men is being brought into North Carolina, for training and we have welcomed the move to all in this device."

"This," said the governor, "is no way to be considered a reflection upon local authorities."

The governor said that attacks would soon be announced by Secretary of War Stimson.

Upon invocation of the rigid May act, federal law enforcement agents, principally the federal bureau of investigation, would move into the affected areas to enforce its provisions.

FDR Joins Fitness Drive

Washington, June 17.—(AP)—President Roosevelt called on the nation today to engage in a concerted drive for "total physical and moral fitness," with particular emphasis on elimination of "red light" districts in war industry areas.

In a letter to Paul McNair, director of the office of defense health and welfare, the President declared that such districts contributed a major part of the venereal disease infection found in Army camps and naval stations.

Curtin Says Australia 'Can Be Lost'

Melbourn, June 17.—(AP)—Australia Prime Minister Ben Chifley, declaring today that "Australia can be lost," warned today that if the Japanese could not be kept out of the North Australian coast, the whole North Australian coast would be open to Japanese attack.

"It is not that the Japanese will win if they do not get the prize money," Chifley said, "but that Australia can be lost if the Japanese get the prize money."

That was the point of the speech in Melbourne, where Chifley said that it should be recognized.

The Australian government can only be won if Australia is lost.

"If Australia is lost, then the United States will be in a very bad position," Chifley said.

Meanwhile, Japanese bombers, which were in the air yesterday, scored an air blow against the coastal town of Australian port of Darwin and Manila received no news today, their east General MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

Altogether, the Japanese and their allies of 27 bombers, shot down six of them, the allied headquarters announced today.

In all, the Japanese have lost 13 bombers and fighters in a single day, but the United States in the Pacific which have been struck by signs of turbulence in the Japanese attack and strength in the air, the day.

Yesterday's raid, in which the allies bagged a bomber and a fighter but lost two planes, was the first of the important Australian radio jamming operations.

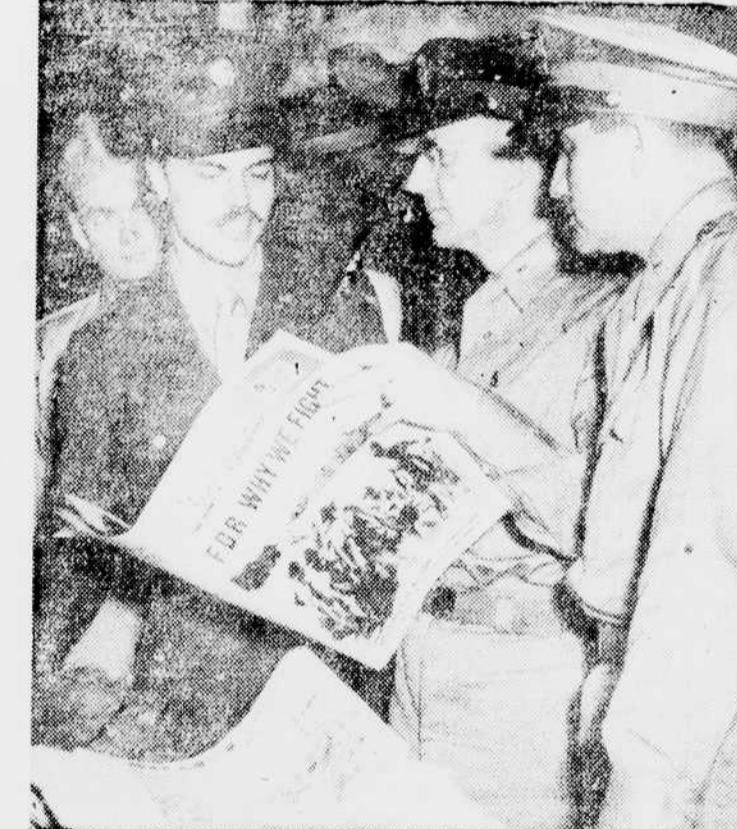
The communique said "damage was negligible."

Washington, June 17.—(AP)—Petroleum Coordinator Harold I. Ickes announced today approval of plans for the construction of an eight-inch petroleum products pipeline across northern Florida to help supply the Atlantic coastal areas as far north as Norfolk, Va.

The project was proposed by the American Liberty Pipeline Co., of Dallas, Tex., to be built with second hand pipe excavated in Texas. Ickes said the company now was negotiating financing arrangements with government agencies.

With a daily capacity estimated at 35,000 barrels, the proposed conduit would extend from St. Joe on the Florida gulf coast to Jacksonville on the east coast, a distance of 220 miles.

Debut of Army's Own Newspaper



Lt. William Richardson, managing editor of "Yank," the Army's own newspaper for men in the services of Cuch Sam, is shown (left) with Lt. Col. Robert White (center) and Major Franklin S. Forsberg as they looked over the first edition of the paper. Leading article "Why We Fight" was authored by the Commander in Chief, President Roosevelt.

Shangjiao Captured By Japanese Forces

Pay Increase Becomes Law

Washington, June 17.—(AP)—A new law providing the minimum base pay of the nation's fighting forces to \$90 a month was signed into law today by President Roosevelt.

For most of the men, it means at least \$20 more each month in his pocket, and the minimum on that side, or to some base, will be dependent.

The bill varies in degree making the increase retroactive to June 1st.

The maximum increase came up to and including that of second lieutenant in the Army and the comparable grade or position in the Navy, whose base pay would be increased from \$700 to \$1,200 a year.

The bill also will have retroactive effect on the officers. Under existing laws, enlisted men abroad or on sea duty receive an extra 20 per cent and officers, 10 per cent of their monthly pay.

Tar Heel Dies In Plane Crash

Labelord, Fla., June 17.—(AP)—Second Lieutenant Stephen A. Wood of Raleigh, N. C., was killed early today when the transport plane he was piloting crashed in an attempted landing in Duane Field.

Three other officers and four enlisted men who were with Wood on a routine training flight escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

The plane crashed into trees half a mile beyond it and burned.

Sevastopol And Tobruk Threatened

Britain and Russia Fight Desperately to Hold Vital Key Citadels; RAF Renews Assault on Ruhr and Rhineland.

(By The Associated Press)
Britain and Russia fought desperately to hold the two key citadels of Tobruk and Sevastopol under increasingly violent assaults by the axis armies today while the RAF reported heavy new blows overnight to Adolf Hitler's Ruhr and Rhineland industrial centers.

On the north African front, Lieutenant General Neil Ritchie's troops, reinforced by sea-borne supplies delivered with the help of U. S. Army fliers, broke up axis attacks on both flanks of Tobruk but it was apparent that the danger to the historic British stronghold on the shores of the Mediterranean was growing hourly.

With the axis attacking on a half-moon front, British headquarters reported that imperial forces had driven off an axis armored lunge at Sid Regein and repulsed daylong thrusts at Acrea.

Sid Regein, 50 miles west of the Egyptian-Libyan frontier, is 25 miles southeast of Tobruk. Acrea lies 20 miles southwest of Tobruk.

A third axis force was massed at El Adem, 10 miles due south of Tobruk, but failed to attack," the British said.

By contrast, Premier Mussolini's high command asserted that axis forces had lifted into some British positions in the Aegean and El Adem's front and captured more than 100 prisoners.

On the Russian front, nazi dispatches reported that German troops had stormed Fort Siberia at Sevastopol and dislodged the Red army defenders from a series of strongly fortified positions of the Crimean naval base.

It was the 13th day of bloody, massed assaults by the German spearheads attempting to knock out the Black sea fortress before striking into the Soviet Caucasus.

Soviet dispatches said the German assault forces totaled about 100,000 men.

MARION GOP LEADER DIES IN ARKANSAS

Arkansas, June 17.—(AP)—Crawford P. James, 65, Marion independent and Republican leader, died today in a hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., where he had gone seeking for treatment. Word of his death was received here today.

James served as Republican chairman for McDowell county. At the postmaster's express for Wendell L. Willie, Jr. was North Carolina's official representative.

Nelson Fights High Excess Profits Tax

Washington, June 17.—(AP)—Chairman Donald Nelson of the war production board expressed opposition today to a 100 per cent excess profits tax for corporations, contending it might endanger the war production program.

Nelson told Chairman Doughton, Democrat, North Carolina, of the House ways and means committee, which already has tentatively approved the 94 per cent rate, that if a tax higher than 80 per cent should be approved the excess above that level should be treated as a post-war credit, preferably in the form of a government obligation with definite maturities.

He told Doughton that should the committee retain an excess profits rate above 80 per cent without post-war credit, he strongly urged thorough exploration of possible exemptions designed to encourage through preferential tax treatment increased efficiency in war production and savings in the use of scarce resources.

SOLDIER KILLED AT CAMP DAVIS

Camp Davis, June 17.—(AP)—The public relations officer, announced here today that Corporal Robert W. Gaston of Canton, Ohio, a student at the anti-aircraft officers training school, was fatally injured yesterday by the recoil of an anti-aircraft gun. It was the first fatality at the training school.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Little change in temperatures except slightly lower temperatures in east portion tonight.

(Continued on Page Three)