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Nazi Assault On Egypt Begun Churchill Is Back In London

FDR And Churchill Assert New Plans To Divert Germans

Joint Statement Also Hopes for Reduction in Toll of Merchant Shipping; Methods Against Japan Also Adopted to Aid China.

AEF Europe Boss



The War Department announced that the newly established European theater of operations for United States forces will be headed by Maj. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The new commanding general will have headquarters in London. He was formerly assistant chief of staff in charge of the Operations Division.

Premier Is Expected To Defeat Foes

Quick Return Home from Washington Is Surprise; Attacks on War Policy Continued by Strong Opponents At Home.

London, June 27.—(AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill came back to London today from his historic conferences with President Roosevelt and stepped from a trans-Atlantic plane into the most serious crisis of his career.

He returned to a nation troubled by the serious setbacks to British forces in North Africa and the imminent axis smash at Egypt.

The long held British stronghold at Tobruk fell while the prime minister was discussing war strategy with President Roosevelt and the capture of some 25,000 British troops there brought strong criticism of his conduct of the war.

Facing him in the House of Commons is an insurgent motion for a vote of "no confidence" in his direction of the war.

Political observers believe the prime minister will win a vote of confidence—as he has before—with some twenty votes cast against him, and a number of members abstaining from the vote.

All observers agreed that Churchill, with the strategy mapped in Washington fresh in his mind, would respond to his critics in a fighting mood, but they also agreed that his opposition has never been more outspoken.

The conservative London Times attacked Britain's war direction today and called for a combined general staff, in an editorial declaring there has been "too many symptoms . . . of reluctance to subordinate personal petty predilections or established interests to the urgent need of bringing fresh blood and fresh ideas into the conduct of the war."

Although the prime minister's early return had been expected, his reappearance so soon after the official announcement of his meeting with congressional leaders and the Pacific War Council in Washington Thursday was surprising.

Bombers of Japan Are Given Medals At Bolling Field

Washington, June 27.—(AP)—Twenty-three army fliers who took part in the American raid on Japan last April received distinguished flying crosses today at nearby Bolling Field. The aviators, who returned to this country recently, brought additional details of the havoc and confusion wrought by the air invaders in raiding Tokyo and other cities on April 18. They also disclosed that the secret Norden bomb sights were left behind because of risks they might fall into enemy hands.

An improvised bomb sight, costing only 20 cents to make, but adequate for hitting targets from the extremely low altitudes at which the raiders flew, was substituted in each of the planes.

"The lack of pursuit opposition, the lack of warnings between cities and the inaccuracy of anti-aircraft fire were factors which mystified, and continues to mystify, all who took part in the raid," the War Department said in a statement prompted by the return of the fliers.

Election Returns

Returns from the run-off primary for sheriff throughout the county, and for constable of Henderson township will be gathered by the Daily Dispatch tonight and the results announced as rapidly as the vote is received. It is anticipated that the returns should come in more speedily than usual, due to the single contest in the county at large, and only one officer in Henderson township.

U. S. and R. A. F. Fliers Talk It Over In Egypt



Air crews of U. S. and R. A. F. bombing planes talk over a combined attack on Nazi bases in Libya after their return to an airbase in Cairo, Egypt. These are the men who took part in the recent bombings of the Italian fleet and Bengazi Harbor. Now they are attacking advance units of the axis forces under Gen. Erwin Rommel which have swept into Egypt. This picture was flashed by radio from Cairo to New York.

Chinese Battling Japanese Invaders On Dozen Fronts

(By The Associated Press).

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese armies, reinforced by American fliers, battled Japanese spearheads knitting toward the heart of China on a dozen fronts today, while in the battle of Australia, Allied aviators were credited with another sweeping victory over the Japanese.

General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters reported that Allied intercepter planes clashed with 13 Japanese heavy bombers yesterday over Port Moresby, key United Nations outpost in New Guinea, and probably shot down six to ten of them. Little damage was inflicted

by the raiders.

The situation on the east China war front remained serious, but there were indications that General Chiang's armies were stiffening against Japanese invasion columns in Chekiang and Kiangsi provinces.

Significantly, the Japanese were silent on this important phase of the vast and complicated struggle.

Turning to other sectors, Japanese dispatches asserted that Japanese forces in the south China province of Kwangtung have opened a general offensive against Chinese troops southwest of Tsungfa and sent the Chinese 152nd and 53rd divisions fleeing into the mountains.

Tsungfa is 50 miles northeast of Canton.

Other Japanese dispatches said General Liu Chin, commander of the Chinese 27th Army, defending southern Shansi province, had fled to the mountains with a "handful" of his men.

It was also announced officially in Chungking today that Brigadier-General Claire Chennault, commander of the American volunteer group which has been flying with the Chinese air force, will remain in control of air operations against the Japanese in China after his "flying tigers" are inducted into the United States Army Air Corps July 4.

Huge Bill Okeyed By Senate Group

Washington, June 27.—(AP)—A \$42,820,000,000 military supply bill providing funds for the purchase of 23,559 war planes and the equipping of an army of 7,500,000 men was unanimously approved today by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The record-breaking measure, already passed by the House 552 to 0, is expected to go before the Senate Monday.

Included in the total was \$12,706,000,000 for lend-lease material, increasing to \$62,914,639,450 the amount thus far voted by Congress for aid to others of the United Nations.

Sub Comes Up Near Vessel And Is Sunk

(By The Associated Press)

An enemy submarine, surfacing too near a United States cargo ship, was hit at the water line at point-blank range, the captain of the merchant vessel reported today.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we got the sub," First Mate L. B. Hansen said when the ship reached a Florida port.

The ship was off the coast of Cuba with its engines stopped when a submarine, apparently unaware of the ship's presence, surfaced about 400 yards away, the officer said. A gun crew lookout spotted the raider and within a minute all five men were at their stations and firing.

The first shot was a miss, but the second, fired at about 200 feet, struck the submarine just forward of the conning tower as it seemed to be flash diving.

"There was a muffled explosion and the submarine turned over sideways as it went down," Hansen said.

Meanwhile, the unofficial Associated Press count of merchant vessels sunk in the Western Atlantic since Pearl Harbor stood at 313.

Indications that Japanese submarines were on the prowl in the Pacific while the Nazi U-boats preyed on Atlantic victims, became evident yesterday when survivors of two Allied merchantmen reached an Australian port to tell of the torpedoing of their vessel.

Navy in Washington meanwhile, disclosed the sinking of two more ships—a small United States cargo craft and a medium-sized British vessel—the first in the Gulf of Mexico May 4 and the other in South American waters about two weeks ago.

Reports that Baron Edgar von Spiegel, World War U-boat commander, was captured in the Atlantic.

Chinese Say Japs Have Again Taken Line of Railroad

Chungking, June 27.—(AP)—The Chinese high command announced today that Kweichow, on the western leg of the Kiangsi-Sheking railway, again had changed hands, the Japanese recapturing it and reducing the Chinese-held portion of the railroad to about fifty miles.

The invaders were still checked at Shanghai, the eastern claw of the Japanese advance along the railway.

The communique also acknowledged a second Chinese setback in the Shui area, one of the principal Japanese objectives in Chekiang province on June 24 after street fighting and heavy casualties on both sides.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Continued warm tonight.

British Are Reorganized For Defense

U. S. and British Airmen Hamper Rommel's Advance; Russians Admit German Wedge at Kharkov; Sevastopol Repels Nazis.

(By The Associated Press)

Italian headquarters said today axis motorized forces "have made contact with the defenses on the Matruh," indicating that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel has opened his grand assault in the four-day-old battle of Egypt.

Matruh, 130 miles inside Egypt, is the main British stronghold barring Rommel's path to the rich delta lands of the Nile and the Suez canal.

With mastery of the entire middle east perhaps hanging in the balance, General Sir Claude Auchinleck's British imperial armies were said to have been reorganized and reinforced to meet the axis onslaught.

Dispatches from Cairo said damaging blows by U. S. Army and RAF bombers had already gained precious hours for the realignment of the hard hit British eighth army, borne by the long retreat across the sands of the Libyan desert.

Striking at Rommel's major Libyan bases at Tobruk and Bengasi, American and British airmen were said to have hampered the flow of vital food, water, oil and munitions to the axis invaders, delaying the lightning pace of Rommel's advance.

An Italian communique emphasized the "repeated and violent encounters with enemy bomber and fighter formation," and asserted that axis planes had shot down 43 British aircraft, while anti-aircraft defenses sent another crashing into the desert in flames.

As Rommel lunged forward into decisive battle, Adolf Hitler's Ukraine armies synchronized with it a violent and developing offensive below

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U. S. Airmen Soon To Join German Raids

London, June 27.—(AP)—It was reliably disclosed today that United States Army air force units are in the British Isles, laying the ground work for American participation in the mass raids on Germany.

Nothing has yet been said to indicate that aircraft have arrived to equip the units for actual operations.

Precedent indicates that the first public announcement of United States participation in the European air warfare will be by the blast of bombs on Germany.

The first official hint of United States air crews' presence in Britain was given Thursday in a statement by Major General Dwight D.

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Germany May Soon Occupy All France

London, June 27.—(AP)—German military leaders are urging Adolf Hitler to occupy all France to meet the growing threat of an Allied attempt to establish a second front in western Europe, an unusually well informed foreign source declared today.

At the same time the independent French news agency at Beirut reported that 500,000 Italian soldiers were concentrated in northern Italy ready to move into France to reinforce the German army of occupation.

The intimation that the Nazis

might be preparing to take over the third of conquered France which still is unoccupied was said to have come through "trustworthy underground channels"—the same channels which recently reported that the Germans were moving heavy guns from the Maginot and Siegfried lines to the French west coast.

The source credited with relaying this information also said he had been informed that more than 1,000,000 French residents have been evacuated from coastal areas in connection with the German defense preparations.

Churchill On Short Visit To Ft. Jackson

Fort Jackson, S. C., June 24.—(AP)—(Delayed)—Winston Churchill saw a spectacular display of America's expanding might today at the Army's largest infantry training post, where crack paratroops plummeted from the crack by hundreds and live ammunition from big field guns whistled di-

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Gasoline Is Lifted 2 1/2c Per Gallon

Fuel Oil Prices Also Raised Two Cents by Order of Leon Henderson; Administrator Says He Regrets It; Costs Higher.

Washington, June 27.—(AP)—An increase of 2 1/2 cents a gallon in the retail price of gasoline, and two cents a gallon for ordinary domestic fuel oils and kerosene was approved for the eastern seaboard today by the Office of Price Administration.

The increase, effective Monday, is expected to finance increased cost of transporting petroleum products into the gasoline rationing area.

Price Administrator Leon Henderson

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Three Held In Rape Of Bessemer Girl, 12

Kings Mountain, June 27.—(AP)—Louise Mason, 12, of Bessemer City, was reported in serious condition today in Gaston county hospital as a result of a criminal attack allegedly made upon her at Lake Montona early last night.

Paul Johnson, 19, Leroy Cooper, and C. J. McCaslin, all of Gastonia, are being held in the Gastonia jail in connection with the attack, J. A. Burns, local chief of police, said. Two other unidentified youths are being sought.

Police Chief Burns quoted two companions of the Mason girl as saying that they were accosted by five youths in a car while they were at a drink stand in Bessemer City last night. The youths offered to

take them to Kings Mountain, where the girls planned to visit relatives.

On the way the boys purchased whisky, Chief Burns said the girls reported, and soon after a fight allegedly made upon her at Lake Montona early last night.

Chief Burns said the driver of the car and the two girls came to Kings Mountain to report the incident, and that later he and two other officers drove to the lake and arrested three of the youths and carried the Mason girl to a doctor.

Stock Trading Mighty Slow

New York, June 27.—(AP)—It was another case of safety first in today's stock market, as most buyers merely nibbled at favorites, and sellers exhibited equal timidity.

The war crises in Russia and Asia remained as the principal argument for conservative market operations. In addition, many bullishly inclined for the long pull kept commitments light pending clarification of the forthcoming tax program. Transfers were around 10,000 shares for the two hours, one of the smallest aggregates since August, 1940.

15 B-24 BOMBERS IN ATTACK ON RUMANIA

London, June 27.—(AP)—Fifteen consolidated B-24 bombers from Egyptian air raids participated in the United States Army air force raid which struck at the Rumanian oil center of Ploesti two weeks ago, it was disclosed in London today.

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