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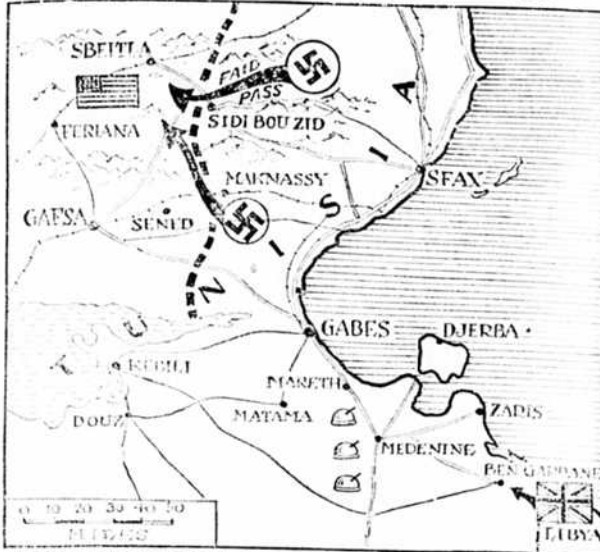
HENDERSON, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 18, 1943

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY.

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NAZIS OCCUPY THREE KEY TUNISIAN TOWNS

WITHESS ROMMEL STRUCK BACK



PARASSED BY THE BRITISH advancing on his rear and hounded by the forces of the United Nations in Tunisia, Field Marshal Rommel again has moved up to his old name "the desert fox" in his new search for U. S. positions in Africa. One German column burst out of Faid Pass to the west of Sbeitla, overwhelming the Americans, while another struck northward to cut the Gafsa-Sidi bou Zid road. (International)

Draft Deferment Bill Is Approved

Amendment Nullifies WMC Rule

House Committee Approves Measure Granting Deferment Priority to Fathers

Washington, Feb. 19—(AP)—By a 25 to 2 vote, the House military affairs committee approved today the Kilday bill to give men with children draft deferment priority and to put selective service draft quotas on a statewide instead of a local board basis.

Repeal of the War Relocation Authority's rule that men shall not be inducted by occupational groups. The purpose of the amendment, Elston said, was to prevent the carrying out of a war manpower commission proposal to draft men in non-essential work regardless of dependency.

Chairman May, of the military committee, said he would ask the rules committee to clear the bill for prompt action by the House, probably next week.

It was opposed by selective service officials and War department spokesmen.

The bill would set up four groups of men and provide for their induction on a group basis, with non one in a higher category being called for induction while qualified men in lower categories were available.

Members of both legislative branches journeyed to Camp Hill this afternoon to visit the Navy's pre-flight school.

After giving opportunity to the Price referendums, he said he would report to the House committee on proposals and grievances raised in society to report the bill and committee members, including the measure and they would not file a minority report.

Speaking against the bill, which would have set a maximum of 10 percent of the total population in the liquor business, were Max Baucus of S. 10, H. P. Foxhall, Eugene C. Kelly, J. O. Colburn, and J. H. S. They also said the present liquor control system is adequate.

An executive session of the senate Finance committee did an extensive job of reviewing the so-called "twine control" bill. The committee placed emphasis on the fact that the Revenue department, in estimating the bill's salary of \$10 million annually, and provision for its operation as a trust, cut out the bill's fixing the price of the twine to be a certain percentage and based commission, and the maximum amount of twine to be covered by the bill from 20 to 14 percent and limited sale of twine, or 20 percent, to ABC companies, and removed the stipulation that the director of the "twine control" division should be a person with an understanding of twine knowledge of the twine industry.

The order, which went into effect at midnight last night, came at the request of Agriculture Secretary and Food Administrator Wickard, OPA said, adding that recent heavy purchases threatened the nation's supply.

Products sold in frozen form and canned goods not sealed or sterilized by heat are not affected. Neither are such combination items as pork and beans and chowders. But the general run of common canned meats and fish came under the order. Wholesale as well as retail sales were frozen, although wholesalers can buy to keep canners' stocks from overflowing.

Mentioning the traditional friendship which she had had for 160 years, Madame Chiang said:

"I feel, and I believe that not only I feel that way, that there are a great many similarities between your people and mine and that these similarities are the basis for our long friendship."

Churchill, London, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill is suffering a feverish cold and is confined to his bed. It was announced today at No. 10 Downing Street.

FIERY WAKE OF RAID ON U. S.-HELD AIR BASE



The German air attack on South El Arba airport in Algiers was at its height when this striking action photo was made. The raid came after the important air base had been captured by U. S. paratroopers. The flames above are from burning oil tanks. This is an official U. S. Army Signal Corps photo from International.

Eighth Army Challenges Mareth Line

Rommel's Nazi Forces Climax 66-Mile Push Into American Lines; Reds Drive for Kiev

(By The Associated Press) Allied headquarters announced today that veteran German tank columns had occupied three key towns near the center of the 300-mile long allied front in Tunisia, while in the south the British eighth army reached the axis-held Mareth line at two points after a 45-mile advance.

A bulletin from General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters said the Germans swept into Sbeitla, Kasserine and Feriana, climaxing a 66-mile thrust from the Faid Pass region in four days.

This indicated that the allies had withdrawn on a 30-mile front but Washington military quarters said yesterday that stronger allied lines were prepared in the hills to the rear and predicted that the Germans would find these hard to overrun.

The allied communique said fighting yesterday was "on a reduced scale" despite the rapid advance of the enemy.

Speaking from the German offensive, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was reported using a full tank division, with a second armored division in reserve, against total American strength of not more than one "short" division of all types of troops in the front line.

Meanwhile, the swift striking British, facing to ease the pressure on American troops in the northeast, rolled up to the 60-mile Mareth position near the middle of the line and at another point 30 miles to the south, it was officially reported.

The British war bulletin made no mention of fighting as eighth army advance forces swept up to the Mareth defense works, leading to speculation that Field Marshal Rommel may have withdrawn his main army northward.

In Russia, the triumphant Red armies struck on 36 miles to the northwest from newly recaptured Khar'kov in a drive toward the ancient Ukraine capital of Kiev, 260 miles west, and piled up fresh successes along a 400-mile front.

London informants said the third front, Khar'kov, apparently marked the start of a new line for the approach of the German army, while Hitler's battered army of armor is expected to make their first major stand.

Soviet headquarters reported the German air falling back with bloody losses, abandoning heavy and light armor.

"West of Khar'kov, our troops have thrust their spearhead into the flanks of the German armor," the Russian command said.

"The Hitlerite path of retreat is covered by the bodies of dead enemy officers and men."

In the south, Russian guerrillas who long have awaited their hour of vengeance were reported falling upon masses of German troops retreating through the 70-mile "corridor" from Rostov, while other Soviet columns plunged deeper into the Donets river basin.

Winston Churchill, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Five of six million, worth about \$100,000,000, were consolidated school, 400 miles north of the city limits, during the night.

Firemen were summoned into last night when the blaze was discovered, but were unable to check the flame due to lack of water.

Gandhi, Bombay, Feb. 18.—(AP)—An India government communique reported today that there was deepening anxiety over the condition of Mohandas K. Gandhi, now in the second week of his projected 21-day fast.

Proposed Law To Require Deferment Of Farm Labor

Bloc of More Than 30 Senators Agrees On Measure to Aid Shortage of Help

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—A bloc of more than 30 senators, striving to plug the gaps in the ranks of farm labor, agreed today to offer legislation compelling military deferment of experienced agriculture workers and the furloughing of others now in the armed forces.

The measures are intended, their sponsors said, to relieve an increasing agricultural manpower shortage that they regard as impeding food production for both civilians and the fighting army.

Senator B. Frank Phillips, Alabama Democrat, said the bill would be introduced shortly by the pledged support of more than a majority of the Senate.

In some congressional quarters the proposals were regarded as a defiant gesture from farm state senators to the Army's refusal to release agriculture help in the armed forces to work on the farm.

The War department was reported to be working on a policy to release such as limitations, to aid farmers in harvesting crops in cases of emergency.

Some senators protested, however, that experience had shown that when these units were used, the larger farmers, they added, "the little farmer could be no better off."

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard told a Senate committee that he would ask that soldiers be released to help on the farms "if necessary."

Some senators, however, declared that the planting season is at hand and that the farmers, they said, are not about to give up having help even if it means that the crop needed for the year's higher yields.

Senate Minority Leader McNary, Oregon Republican, the lawmakers said that the War department last year to toughen soldiers' furloughing but that the request was refused. They expressed belief that because of the Army's insistence on expansion, another appeal also would bring rejection this year.

GOLDSBORO HOUSING PROJECT IS STARTED

Raleigh, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Construction of 491 FHA housing units of the Goldsboro housing program was begun this week, the office of war information announced today.

Five hundred will be dwelling units and 100 will be apartment units, Allen J. Maxwell, Jr., architect and supervisor, told the OWI.

The program is progressing despite cold weather and the entire program will continue as planned, Maxwell said.

The housing program will fill a critical need for housing in the Goldsboro area, OWI said, and the units will be finished to completion as soon as possible. Pointing to the need for housing in that area, it was cited that engineers working on the project were unable to get rooms and had to bunk in a community building while in Goldsboro.

Jap Evacuees Aid Farmers

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Persons of Japanese ancestry who were removed from the west coast after the outbreak of the war will be used to help fill farm labor shortage next summer, the Agriculture department said today.

Food officials have arranged with the war relocation authority to make such persons available to farmers desiring to employ them, and providing they are acceptable to the community in which they would work.

The department said there were more than 40,000 Japanese evacuees in the inland relocation centers, it estimated that about half of them would be experienced in or adapted to farm work.

Mme. Chiang In Senate

China's First Lady Says Four Freedoms Are Death Knell To Aggressors

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Climbing her small right hand, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek told the Senate today that the four freedoms proclaimed by President Roosevelt are "a going of freedom to the United Nations and the death knell to their aggressors."

The petite wife of China's generalissimo, attractively garbed in a long, flowing, black garment of her native land, spoke from the rostrum to a packed Senate and to galleries crowded with women. Among the spectators was Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, her black coat set off with a large silver fox fur.

Speaking slowly, Madame Chiang apologized for not having prepared a speech. She said she had not known that she was to address the Senate beyond a few words of greeting. She declared the American and Chinese people have a plenty of cause, and fundamentally are fighting for the same thing.

"I cooperate with you in the realization of these ideals," she said. "We want them to become realities, not empty phrases, for our children, for our children's children and for all mankind."

Mentioning the traditional friendship which she had had for 160 years, Madame Chiang said:

"I feel, and I believe that not only I feel that way, that there are a great many similarities between your people and mine and that these similarities are the basis for our long friendship."

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Revenue Bill Up In House

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The proposed statewide prohibition referendum apparently a dead issue for this session, the house resumed consideration of the biennial revenue bill this morning after adopting nearly hal the measure following its first meeting in committee of the whole.

Members of both legislative branches journeyed to Camp Hill this afternoon to visit the Navy's pre-flight school.

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Products sold in frozen form and canned goods not sealed or sterilized by heat are not affected. Neither are such combination items as pork and beans and chowders. But the general run of common canned meats and fish came under the order. Wholesale as well as retail sales were frozen, although wholesalers can buy to keep canners' stocks from overflowing.

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U. S. Planes Bomb Munda

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—American bombers, hitting two more assaults in the northern area of the Solomon islands, the Navy announced today.

In one of the attacks on Munda—the 60th on that enemy base—the Navy reported large fires were started.

The actions were reported by Navy communique No. 236, which said:

"Thirteen dive bombers, with fighter escorts, bombed and destroyed the Japanese-held area of Munda on New Georgia Island."

"During the night of February 17-18, United States aircraft bombed enemy positions at Kolombangara Island."

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War Powers Bill Passes

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The senate passed the governor's war powers bill today but struck a snag over a proposal to alter the recently adopted state school amendment.

Senator O'Berry of Wayne, who kept the school board bill from third reading yesterday, sent up a substitute proposal to authorize the governor to appoint six members from the state at large with no limitation upon their vocations.

The substitute, which passed second reading would have provided for a 12-member board with twelve appointed from educational districts and representing business, the professions and agriculture.

The lieutenant governor, State superintendent of public instruction and two state judges would be on the board under each bill, however. The other board would be too large and unwieldy, O'Berry said in behalf of his substitute, but he was challenged by Senator Brooks of

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The arrival of Lieutenant General Walter Krueger in Australia to take command of a new field army of American troops, the sixth army, to be formed of units already in the southwest Pacific, was announced today by Secretary of War Stimson.

Krueger, formerly commander of the Third Army with headquarters at San Antonio, Texas, went to Australia at the request of General Douglas MacArthur, Stimson said, because of the strength of American forces in the southwest Pacific has reached such proportions that the organization of a military army is suggested desirable.

MacArthur, who is now a commander in chief of allied forces in the southwest Pacific, and Stimson said also that Krueger's new assignment would affect the status of other officers. They would be transferred to the Third Army command of Major General Courtney H. Hodges, who became a lieutenant general by virtue of his new job.

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The executive committee of the North Carolina Citizens' Association, organized recently to promote better government, approved plans yesterday to organize branches over the state and publish a monthly magazine for members.

Called "We, the People of North Carolina," the magazine will be edited by Jule B. Warren, who expects the first issue to be ready by April. It will deal with the state's school and health facilities, and feature articles on government. Lloyd Griffin is executive secretary.

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Secretary of War Stimson said today that American forces in central Tunisia had suffered a "serious local setback" which "should not be minimized, but still less should it be exaggerated."

Reports are incomplete, the secretary told his press conference, but the American forces apparently have suffered rather heavy casualties in both personnel and equipment, with a number of tanks destroyed by German armor.

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WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Slightly colder tonight.