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NAZIS PENETRATE ALLIED TUNISIAN LINES

Japs Concentrate In Islands Above Australia

Nimitz Says U. S. Fleet Makes Ready

Jap Preparations May Be for Defense Or Offense; Allies Gam in New Guinea

(By The Associated Press)

The United Nations were put on notice by General Douglas MacArthur today that the Japanese, who for months have not attempted any large-scale enterprises, are concentrating their main strength in the ring of islands stretching for 2,000 miles to the north of Australia.

"Our air reconnaissance over the past weeks reports a constant and growing reinforcement in all categories of enemy strength in the island perimeter enveloping the upper half of Australia," said the allied headquarters, communique issued in Australia.

"The enemy seems to be concentrating his main effort in preparation on this front. Such an assemblage of major force indicates he is taking up a position in readiness."

This announcement was supplemented by a headquarters spokesman who said the Japanese preparations might be either for defense or offense, and was watched by a staff note by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the United States Pacific fleet, indicating that the U. S. Navy might have some tasks up its sleeve.

"We are now at the crossroads of the Pacific campaign," Admiral Nimitz said in a broadcast sponsored by the American Red Cross.

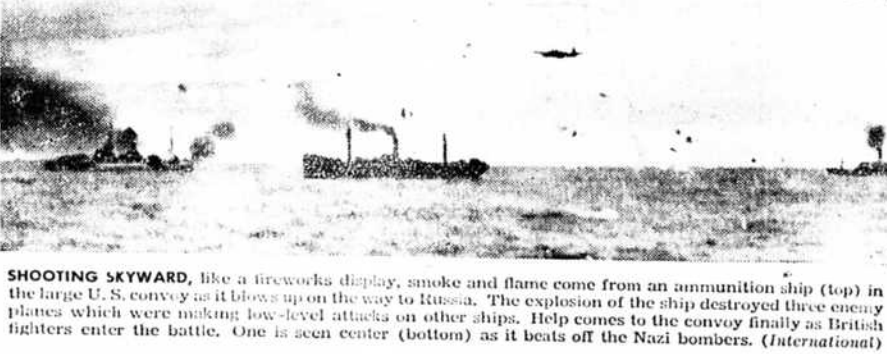
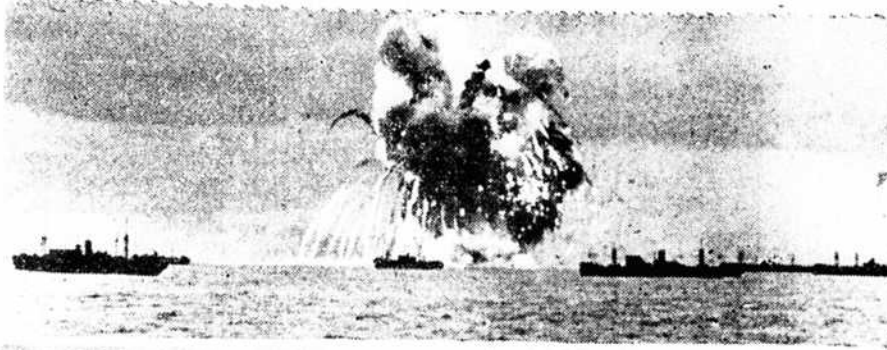
From now on the going will be tougher as we undertake the task of driving the enemy from prepared positions he has been building in the rugged areas.

"It is our job to destroy his ships and planes and to neutralize his land troops and as we drive toward the position from where we can reach with our shells and bombs his vital nerve centers."

This statement was taken in some quarters as a hint that the Navy was about ready for some action in bringing not only American air power, but American artillery, within range of the Japanese stronghold.

Meanwhile, American and Aus-

U. S. CONVOY, RUSSIA-BOUND, UNDER NAZI ATTACK



SHOOTING SKYWARD, like a fireworks display, smoke and flame come from an ammunition ship (top) in the large U. S. convoy as it blows up on the way to Russia. The explosion of the ship destroyed three enemy planes which were making low-level attacks on other ships. Help comes to the convoy finally as British fighters enter the battle. One is seen center (bottom) as it beats off the Nazi bombers. (International)

Hope Fades For Miners

69 Men Entrapped In Montana Mine Since Saturday; Gas Hampers Rescue

Bear Creek, Mont., March 1—(AP)—Ninety, silent relatives of 69 miners imprisoned in the Smith coal mine since an explosion Saturday waited today while rescuers combated deadly gas in an emergency air blower set deep in the hillside mine.

At least five miners were known dead from the blast. Their bodies were recovered. Several other bodies, a source who refused to be quoted, said they had been located but could not immediately be brought out because of conditions in the tunnels.

Wrecks rescue workers coming out of the mine this morning said that it might be 24 hours before the air could be cleared from the shafts. Rescue operations were hindered by the lack of an electric light system in the depths of the mine and the distance, about three miles, from the entrance to the farthest reaches of the tunnels.

Wives, mothers and sisters, waited patiently in the face of rapidly vanishing hopes that the entombed men could still be alive. The miners had been without food since about 11 a. m. Saturday.

It was theorized some of them might have reached rescue pockets of the mine free from gas.

The cause of the blast remained unknown.

Red Cross Drive Opens

Alexandria, Va., March 1—(AP)—Red Cross chapters in North Carolina have accepted a quota of \$1,592,200 as the state's contribution to the American Red Cross war fund drive for \$125,000,000. Red Cross headquarters announced here today.

The campaign was launched today following a proclamation by President Roosevelt designating March as Red Cross month.

In the last Red Cross war fund drive, which immediately followed U. S. entry into the war, North Carolina raised \$941,399 toward the national goal of \$70,000,000.

Approximately 31,000 organized volunteers in North Carolina will participate in a house-to-house campaign to attain the state's quota.

GANDHI MAINTAINS STRENGTH IN FAST

Bombay, March 1—(AP)—Mahatma K. Gandhi, in the midst of the last day of his 21-day fast, was announced today to be maintaining his strength.

A bulletin on his condition said: "Today is Mr. Gandhi's day of atonement. His strength is maintained and he is in good spirits. He is easily tired."

Adjournment By Next Friday Is Possible But Not Likely

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By LYNN NISBET

Raleigh, March 1—With all "mud" legislation out of the way, including revenue and appropriations bills, Congress may adjourn by next Friday. The adjournment date would be subject to a vote of the House and Senate, but there is no likelihood of going until Friday or

Congress Tackles Work Or Fight Law

President Recovers

Washington, March 1—(AP)—President Roosevelt, recovering from an intestinal disorder, surfaced today from inaction to "light duty" and scheduled his first appointments since last Wednesday.

They were with Admiral William D. Leahy, his personal chief of staff, and George G. Winant, United States ambassador to England, who has just returned to this country.

This was Mr. Roosevelt's third day without fever. The chief executive remained in his White House quarters and arranged to receive his visitors in his second floor study.

Ten Deaths By Violence

Fires Cause Six Fatalities in State Over Week-End; One Killed by Gunshot

Charlotte, March 1—(AP)—At least ten persons died by violence in North Carolina during the week-end, a survey indicated today.

Barney S. Fowler, 45, of Rural Hill, was killed instantly when his car discharged as he was climbing a fence at his home. Dr. W. N. Walton and Sheriff Ernie Shire said the shooting was accidental.

Marvin, four, Roosevelt, three and Brenda, nine months, all children of Zolbe Stanback, Negro, died in a fire that destroyed their home near Kannapolis.

D. W. Jordan, Jr., four month-old Negro baby, was injured to death when flames destroyed the home in Charlotte.

Mrs. Conelia McCrackin, 53, died in a hospital of injuries suffered when her clothing caught fire while she was working at her home near Charlotte.

Charles Richard Ginter, about 30, of Raleigh, was killed in an accident on a construction project at Greensboro, where he was employed as a truck driver.

Margaret Mitchell Phoeby died in a Fayetteville hospital of burns received when her clothing caught fire from an open grate in her home near Fayetteville.

W. M. Ferguson, 69, an employee of the Southern Railway Co. at Greens-

Proposed Law Would Make Absentees Liable to Draft ; Other Capitol News

Washington, March 1—(AP)—Seeking to decrease production lags in war industries, Congress tackled "work or fight" legislation today as the nation started its large-scale wartime food ration program.

Alarmed at industrial absenteeism, the House scheduled consideration of a measure providing for the possible drafting of the armed forces of navy yard workers who stay away from their jobs without good cause.

The legislation would require foremen to submit to local draft boards the names of workers absent without authorization. Local boards would be able to classify such men in the draft.

Senator Bankhead, Democrat of Alabama, sought immediate action by the Senate military committee on his bill to halt the military induction of farm workers. Bankhead said the armed forces' plans for having 8,200,000 men in uniform by the end of this year would constitute too great a strain on the manpower resources.

Canned fruits and vegetables were back on the grocery shelves after an eight-day absence, but starting today ration coupons must be submitted along with the purchase price. Each person may "spend" 43 points this month.

The Senate judiciary committee, meanwhile, voted consideration of a measure by Senator McKellar of Tennessee which would require Senate confirmation of federal appointments paying \$4,000 or more yearly. President Roosevelt has vigorously opposed the bill.

Mme. Chiang Grows Faint

Legislature Reconvenes

New York, March 1—(AP)—Madame Chiang Kai-Shek grew faint today while greeting public officials in Mayor LaGuardia's office and part of the official reception was cancelled.

The wife of the Chinese leader, here on a Sunday visit, had just completed her appearance at a public reception and had gone into the mayor's office to talk with city officials and leading Chinese-American businessmen, when she became faint.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Occasional rain this afternoon and tonight, considerably colder in east portion late tonight or early Tuesday.

Housewives Use Points Carefully

First Reports Show General Familiarity With Intricacies Of New "Money"

(By The Associated Press)

Point rationing went into operation in every one of the nation's thousands of food stores today with first reports indicating the American housewife had familiarized herself well in advance with the intricacies of the brand new type of "money."

With only 48 points to spend for canned goods and dried fruits and vegetables for the entire month, shopping for rationed foods was generally tight, despite the fact all sales of those products had been frozen for eight days.

One possible result of OPA regulations prohibiting the use of loose coupons was seen with the action of many New York city stores in requiring that the coupons be removed from war ration book No. 2 in the stores. This would virtually end grocery delivery service, although the rules provide that delivery boys may collect the coupons.

Little confusion was reported among the shoppers, but there were complaints. In New York, for instance, women were quick to note that a 15-ounce box of raisins required 29 points while 10 to 14-ounce boxes could be had for only 15 points.

A number of merchants, anxious to help, had point value as well as price printed on each rationed article, and many kept rationed goods on special shelves.

The general tendency to go easy on points so early in the month was expressed by one shopper in Kansas City, who said, "I'll spend by blue stamp March allowance after I get just what is most valuable in an emergency menu."

An estimated 1,000,000 rationed volunteers were on duty in stores throughout the country to acquaint the public with the program.

WAAC Takes Over



REPLACING SOLDIERS who are going into active duty, a large group of WAACs has taken over many jobs formerly held by soldiers at Camp Upton, L. I., N. Y. Even the work done by nurses has been taken over by the girls. This WAAC is testing a fruit salad. (International)

Finn Peace Discounted

President Risto Rytii Sees No Possibility Of Separate Peace In Inaugural Speech

Helsinki, March 1—(AP)—President Risto Rytii declared at his inauguration for a second term today that "we cannot see any signs of an end to the war" and called upon Finland to continue every effort in the fight which she has waged for months as a partner for Germany.

The president, who before parliament followed a program from United Nations and neutral sources, said Finland was ready for a separate peace, but would not be considered as a separate peace.

"We have held a number of secret peace talks," he said, "but we have not reached any agreement. We are ready to discuss any proposal, but we must have a reasonable basis for the discussion. We will not discuss peace with the victors."

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Main Attack Is Switched Into Flank

U. S. and British Forces Reported Moving Forward In Central Zone

(By The Associated Press)

German infantry and tanks, watching a persistent attack to be broken in scores of the Tunisian front, have battered their way a short distance into allied lines northwest of Medjez-el-Bab in an effort to flank that allied forward base, allied headquarters dispatches reported today.

In the central sector, however, American and British forces were reported moving forward both to the south and the northeast from recaptured Kasserine Gap after their recovery of the initiative in that sector with the smashing of Marshal Erwin Rommel's offensive. The allied advance to the northwest, it was announced officially, was proceeding without meeting opposition.

The allied advance represented only slight gains in the face of stubborn positions by the first army and a terrific effort to recapture which was said to have left a "bloody hole" in its ranks.

This gain was reported after an allied commander had announced that the continuing axis attacks at half a dozen points along a 65-mile front in the north had been turned back yesterday. The communique also reported that a particularly tough assault had been made on the road toward Bep in an obvious effort to flank Medjez-el-Bab, the natural springhead for an eventual allied offensive against Tunis and Bizerte.

Spitfire and Hurricane pilots reported scores of hits on six-wheeled and other armored vehicles and two waves of Flying Fortresses made one of their heaviest raids on Cagliari in Sicily where they reported hits on ships, ships, stores, warehouses and personnel yards. The Italians admitted 200 persons were killed in the raid.

On the now thawing Russian front, the Red Army's 100-day winter offensive appeared to have been brought to a halt in the rich industrial and mining region of the Donets basin, but to the northwest the Soviets were still driving ahead toward the Dniester and the western Ukraine from their new bases of Charkov and Kursk.

The Russians said they had en-

DODGERS MANAGER REJECTED BY ARMY

New York, March 1—(AP)—Leslie Lajoie, manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, was rejected by the Army today because of a performance in the military.

The rejection will be 38 years old. Lajoie has a physical examination which shows a number of other conditions, but which are considered as minor. Lajoie said he was disappointed over failure to pass the examination.

House Meets Tonight To Face Spending And Education Board Amendment Bills

Raleigh, March 1—(AP)—The senate, idling while the house catches up with a loaded calendar, reassembled at noon today to consider mostly untested matters while the house, with spending and education amendment bills still before it, booked a night session.

Representative, announced Saturday for the week end after passing 63 hour bills and setting the \$112,000,000 spending bill for special order tomorrow. They stipulated that immediately following the appropriations measure would be consideration of a companion bill to provide for a 15-member State board of education, in the event the people wish to alter a recently adopted constitutional amendment.

Assembly leaders agreed that final adjournment this week depended upon the clarity with which the house handled the two pieces of major legislation.

Move To Guarantee Prices To Farmers Gains Headway

Washington, March 1—(AP)—A move to guarantee farmers fixed prices for their crops gathered momentum today as legislators struggled to cope with the farm labor shortage without denying the Army and needed men.

Senator Louis G. Armistead, Democrat, proposed that the Agricultural Department take immediate steps to guarantee a "basic price" for food and fiber produced in 1943 and 1944 as a means of stabilizing production.

"I think we might be in a four under trap that would guarantee a fair price for the food and fiber we need and maintain all thought of incentive payment, which confuse the farmer and acre? what he wants?" George told reporters.

Some action along this line was favored by Senator LaFollette, Wisconsin Progressive, who said hog production had reached a peak as a result of government action fixing high prices at a relatively high level.

LaFollette said that he thought that the inclusion of farm labor costs in the calculation of price ceilings, as proposed in a measure now awaiting action by the House rules committee, would help spur production, but Senator Butler, Nebraska, Republican, said he thought it was time to target ceiling formulas and let individual prices themselves go up.

Determined to force more immediate action than any which might result from price increases, Senator Bankhead, Alabama Democrat, sought a showdown in the Senate military committee on his bill to halt the induction of farm workers into the armed forces, a measure on which he has obtained the signatures of 49 senators as co-authors.