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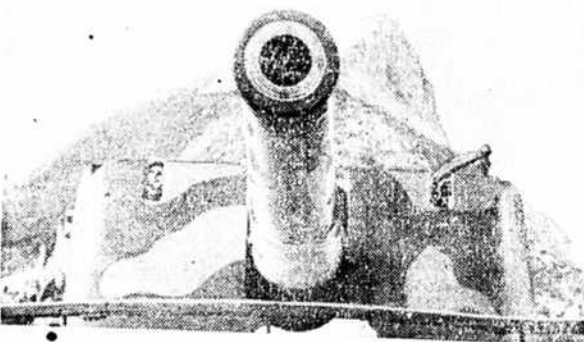
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SPAIN MAY SWING POWER BALANCE IN EUROPE AND IN AFRICA



Hitler-Spanish Showdown Seems Inevitable



From Gibraltar's Base Points Symbol of British Power

REPORTS indicate the Spanish showdown in the offing. Not much longer, it is said, can Francisco Franco hold back the Nazis who threaten to spill over his frontiers. Yet that move is held for the German High Command, to relieve Rommel's position. Should Hitler take over, the disposition of France's estimated 750,000 Nazi-trained troops will be a major force in Allied calculations. Spain's Moroccan artillery can render Gibraltar impotent while other divisions threaten the existence of General Dwight Eisenhower's army. (International)

Timoshenko Hits Nazis in Northwest

Russian Marshal Returns to Forefront in Leading Drive On German Positions

Moscow, March 2—(AP)—Returning to the forefront of the Red army's operations against the Germans, Marshal Timoshenko has driven into their positions on a broad, wind-swept sector of the northwestern front in a sudden thrust that Nazi armor and heavy mortar fire were unable to halt, and has smashed the Russian 16th army. The Russians said today.

Today's noon communique did not mention the fighting in this sector but front line dispatches indicated that Timoshenko has not had to halt his drive to consolidate his forces after sweeping over 600 square miles of territory and capturing 302 V-4 tanks in a sparsely settled country-side.

A special communique last week told of the successes of an eight-day offensive in which 8,000 Germans were reported killed and 3,000 captured.

It was the first official mention of Timoshenko in months and the campaign was his first important effort at northern fighting in the war. Previously he had been stationed on the Kharkov-Kursk fronts and on the southern front.

His role in the new offensive was interpreted here as an indication that the marshal still had Premier Stalin's full confidence.

The strength of Germany's 16th army has not been stated but a Government newspaper reported that "immense German divisions were defeated east of Lublin."

The German 16th army was known to have kept the area well garrisoned with armored fighters who have had a year's rest from action since the Russians last winter attacked that area.

Presidential Secretary Stephen Early said the Chief Executive is continuing to read from an editorial upset which he authored last Thursday.

Knox Pledges Annihilation Of Jap Fleet

Washington, March 2—(AP)—Navy Secretary Knox promised today that "we will utterly destroy the Japanese fleet before the war is over."

And when it is annihilated, he added, "we'll probably impose upon her that she'll never have another fleet—she has exhibited she is not qualified to have one."

The cabinet official made the statement in urging the Senate foreign relations committee to approve legislation extending the lend-lease act another year.

Blasts Kill One Worker

Fifteen Others Hurt In Explosions and Fire at Chemical Company Plant

Bristol, Pa., March 2—(AP)—One person was killed and 15 others injured early today in a series of explosions and fire that wrecked one of the 60 buildings at the huge Rohm and Haas Chemical Co. plant in this industrial community about twelve miles from Philadelphia.

Heavily armed soldiers arrived at the scene while the fire still burned and threw a heavy guard about the plant, speed over a quarter-mile square.

One man told of being huddled through a shattered window. Many of those injured were sprayed with molten plastics used in the manufacture of vital war materials. The first explosion was followed by several less powerful blasts and was felt over a wide area.

The assistant treasurer of the company estimated damage at at least \$200,000. He said the explosion resulted from "a reaction of chemicals used in the processing of plastic materials."

In Thunderous Prologue To Invasion

Berlin Bombed By RAF

Jap Convoy En Route Toward Lae

MacArthur's Airmen Wait For Attack

Armada of 14 Ships Moving Under Cover Of An Advancing Weather Front

(By The Associated Press)
A 14-ship Japanese convoy, moving along "under cover of an advancing weather front," was reported en route to Lae or other New Guinea bases in the southwest Pacific today while General Douglas MacArthur's airmen impatiently waited the opportunity to attack.

The American and Australian fliers were eager to repeat their performance of last January 8-10 when they succeeded in sinking or putting out of action at least five of the six transports of an eleven- or twelve-ship convoy and shot down 75, and perhaps 100, enemy planes in one of the greatest air battles of the southwest Pacific.

As a result of that action the Japanese attempt to reinforce Lae was stopped largely abortive.

The new Japanese attempt to shove in fresh forces to hold their northwestern New Guinea bases despite a formidable allied air blockade possibly was in answer to allied thrusts which have pushed the Japanese back 20 miles from Wau, and close to Salamoa, 20 miles southeast of Lae.

It followed by 24 hours an official warning by General MacArthur that the Japanese were concentrating their main strength in the island-riding Australia to the north and northwest.

Meanwhile, allied bombardiers took a crack at numerous Japanese airfields and shipping, from Wainapoe, to points in New Guinea. They strafed trails in the Mubo area south of Salamoa, and ground patrols surprised and destroyed a collection of Japanese barges at the mouth of a river just south of Salamoa.

Australian War Minister Arthur S. Durrant said he believed the Japanese preparations in the southwest.

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Value Of Raids Is Questioned

Washington, March 2—(AP)—Navy Secretary Knox questioned today whether aerial bombing of German submarine bases along the northern coast of France were doing direct damage to the U-boats holed up there between forays into the Atlantic.

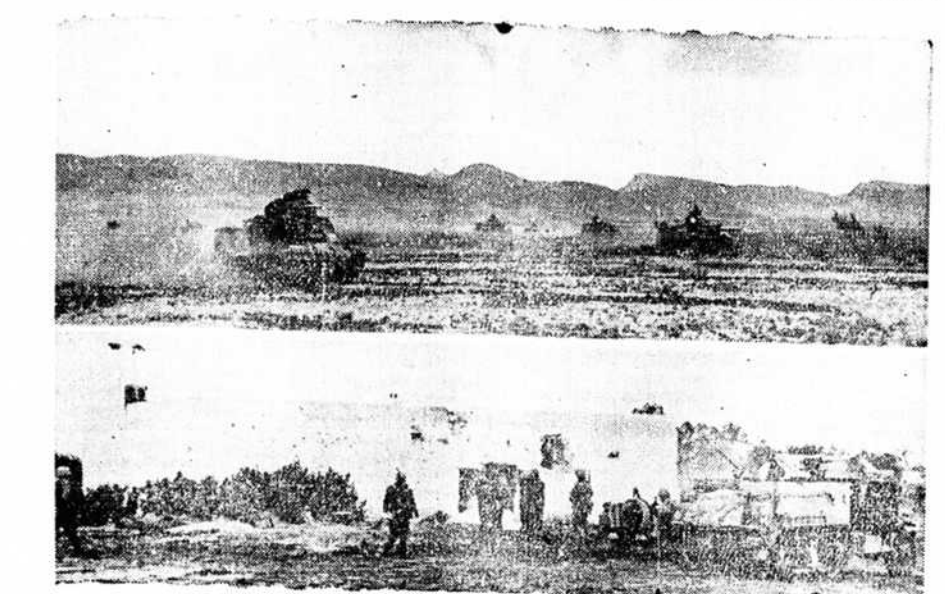
Knox, estimating that the enemy had 200 to 400 submarines presently available, told a press conference he was unable to say how effective the bombing attacks were "in direct hits" and emphasized that "some of the stalls (in which submarines are kept) are heavily protected."

The secretary was asked in starting the discussion whether the bombings had been effective and he replied: "Well, if you put it that way, I'll say they are effective. They certainly are doing some damage— if nothing more than disrupting the life of the community."

Record Appropriations Measure Passes House

Raleigh, March 2—(AP)—The House today passed a bill to amend the \$115,000,000 general appropriations bill and passed the measure on that reading.

WHEN ALLIED FORCES CAPTURED DE SENEDE, TUNISIA



Allied light, medium and heavy tanks are shown advancing (top) on the Axis stronghold of De Sened, Tunisia. The town was captured by the Allied forces and with it many Axis prisoners. British and American soldiers examine the ruins of a De Sened structure (bottom) after the heavy assault on the town. Halftrack on right was the type of conveyance used in bringing the men to the front. (International)

Kerr Urges Fast Action

House Considers Education Measure And Appropriations Bill; Senate Busy

Raleigh, March 2—(AP)—The house, urged by Speaker John Kerr, Jr., to speed its work and complete the introduction of local bills by Wednesday, considered the education amendment bill today and also prepared to act on the \$115,000,000 biennial appropriations measure.

Kerr, who appointed a calendar committee to hurry consideration of new bills, said the General Assembly probably could adjourn Saturday if representatives hit a faster pace. New bills last night outnumbered the measures passed.

The senate, keeping abreast of its work, held three sessions and disposed of a large variety of bills, including a house measure authorizing use of prison labor on farms if and when the governor holds that an emergency exists in farm labor conditions.

The bill, which will become law upon ratification, provides that the rate of pay to be set by the State Highway and Public Works Commission, which shall have charge of the contracts while they are engaged in farm work.

GENERAL DIVISION REVENUES INCREASE

Raleigh, March 2—(AP)—The State's general division revenues increased \$4,737,292 during the eight-month period ending February 28, compared with the same period ending February 28, 1942, but the gasoline division reported its revenue decreased by \$6,336,939.23. During the same period, the motor vehicles department's revenues dropped by \$30,879.32.

Record Appropriations Measure Passes House

Raleigh, March 2—(AP)—The House today passed a bill to amend the \$115,000,000 general appropriations bill and passed the measure on that reading.

At the same time the house passed on final reading a bill to alter the unified school board amendment adopted by the people last November. It provides another vote in the next general election to change the method of selecting members of the

(Continued on Page Five)

Sbeitla Captured By Allied Forces

Gandhi Nears End Of Fast

Poom, March 2—(AP)—With only one more night to survive without food to complete his 21-day fast, Mahatma K. Gandhi continued to hold his own today.

The 72-year-old leader was seeing his last visitors today, for at 4 p. m. tomorrow he will return to his status as a political prisoner whom no one is permitted to visit.

Gandhi's friends will not be permitted to attend the thanksgiving prayer services arranged for tomorrow morning, to precede the breaking of his fast.

Today's official bulletin said: "There is no change in Gandhi's condition and he is in good spirits."

It was reported that Gandhi planned to break his long fast at 9 a. m. tomorrow (11:30 p. m. Tuesday night, EDT) when Mrs. Gandhi would feed him a glass of orange and sweet lime juice.

Island Base Swap Talked

Tydings Prepares Bill Authorizing Permanent Transfer Of British Bases

Washington, March 2—(AP)—Talk of a permanent transfer to the United States of western Hemisphere bases leased from the British took top billing today over pending tax, labor and manpower legislation on Capitol Hill.

Senate Tydings, Maryland Democrat, disclosed he is drafting an amendment to lease and legislation which would place the way for international swapping for the bases—leased to the United States—in exchange for 20 surplus destroyers before his country entered the war. Senate consideration of the bill continuing lend-lease for another year was expected to be delayed until the House acts on a companion measure.

Meanwhile supporters of the lend-lease plan to skip a tax year sought to back such provision onto a withholding levy law; a labor investigation got under way in both houses; and Senate backers of manpower mobil-

Advance Continues From Kasserine in Tunisia; Aerial Activity Increases

Active Headquarters in North Africa, March 2—(AP)—Allied forces in continued advance in central Tunisia have captured Sbeitla, 18 miles from the town of Kasserine, an allied headquarters communique announced today.

In the far south, the war bulletin said, fighters attacked objectives in the Mareth line, but there was no announcement of land action.

On the northern Tunisian battle front, where Axis forces were seeking to drive on to the sea, the allied base of Medjez-El-Bah, the communique said the attacks had lost sight.

In summarizing the fall of Sbeitla, the war bulletin said: "The city is in our hands. Allied forces continuing their successful advance in the area 20 miles northeast of Kasserine occupied Sbeitla March 1 and penetrated three miles east of the city."

As this enemy attack in the north had shown, continuing allied advances along a "details of enemy resistance during the past three days, that he has not had a heavy piece in use and captured and has been held in all sectors. A considerable number of enemy tanks has been destroyed."

There was widespread allied air activity including two raids on Palermo, Sicily, by Flying Fortress and attacks in Tunis which ranged from another bombing of the dock, to the air base of Bizerte and to a night bombing between Sousse and the Tunisian coast and bombing of the enemy in the middle area.

ANTI-RACKETEERING MEASURE APPROVED

Washington, March 2—(AP)—The House today passed a House bill authorizing anti-racketeering act which has been bitterly opposed by organized labor.

Christian Salvo of Illinois said there was no bill will vote on the measure today but he added the vote was 9-4.

The bill would amend the 1934 anti-racketeering act by specifically defining robbery and extortion in interstate commerce. The new definition, labor spokesmen have complained, would make labor unions subject to prosecution for picketing or other unlawful activities.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Rain near the coast and snow mixed with rain in the interior this afternoon and tonight. Cold, tonight and early Wednesday.

Huge Fires Are Started In Nazi City

Bomber Raid Called Heaviest Yet Made On Berlin; 19 Planes Fail to Return

London, March 2—(AP)—In a thunderous prologue to an invasion of Europe, the royal air force's heavy bombers last night gave Berlin the heaviest single raid ever heaped upon the German capital.

The day and night offensive by the RAF and by United States heavy bombers, which culminated in last night's blaze of destruction over Berlin, was described by Captain Harold Balfour, undersecretary of state for air, as "preparing the way for United Nations forces to invade Europe."

"These are but the opening bars, which will rise to the crescendo of a march on Europe," he declared in an address opening Britain's "wings for victory" war saving campaign. "I can look ahead to the time when there will be no hour of the day or night when the axis can rest from the swoop of allied aircraft."

London, March 2—(AP)—The RAF, continuing the non-stop allied aerial offensive against western Europe, bombed Berlin and targets in western Germany last night in raids from which 19 planes failed to return, the air ministry announced today.

The attack on Berlin was described as a "heavy concentrated attack" carried out in clear weather, and the results were said to have been good.

"Berlin got it heavier last night than it has ever had so far," Captain Harold Balfour, undersecretary of state for air, declared.

Thousands of tons of bombs were crashed on the German capital in a half-hour's time, it was disclosed.

The communique said that Berlin's biggest bombers—Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings—took part in the raid.

The first wave of bombers started five minutes before reaching the target. At the way home, crews were hit by the fire from Boxem and Henschel.

British planes also carried out intruder patrols over occupied France and laid mines in enemy waters, the communique reported. It was the RAF's sixth successive night of raiding over the continent.

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Manpower Action Waits

Senate Committee Defers Showdown On Bill Halting Draft of Farmers

Washington, March 2—(AP)—The Senate military affairs committee again postponed today a showdown vote on a bill to halt induction of farm workers into the armed services as selective service officials joined the War department in opposition to the measure.

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