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Nazis Forced Back In Tunisia

STRAFING THE AXIS IN AFRICA



AMERICAN AND BRITISH AIR FORCE PILOTS continue their engagement at Rommel's retreating forces in Africa. Photo shows them flying over the long line of retreating troops and supply trucks. An American pilot is shown (top) just as he goes into a dive before strafing a column of trucks and trailers. Trains on trailer of the road to Rommel, he sweeps down, bullets spattering the trucks (bottom) and kicking up the desert dust. Photo from News of the Day Newark (International)

Only Wrecks Remain Of Jap Armada

Damaged Destroyers Are Sunk

Allied Planes Bomb Lifeboats Carrying Japanese; Airfield At Lae Is Raided

(By The Associated Press)
Charged, cheating wreckage over a large area of the desolate, shark-infested Bismarck sea was the only visible remnant of a powerful armada of 42 Japanese warships and transports that set out from Rabaul over Britain for the New Guinea port of Lae.

All had been destroyed by the Allies, saw of Lieutenant General George C. Kenney—the American, British, Australian and Dutch flyers of his southwestern Pacific command who in continuous waves had sent the ships to the bottom by ones, two and threes.

The remaining 12 ships were added yesterday in a communiqué from General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced today, when two damaged destroyers which had remained adrift through the night were sent to death.

The Japanese were silent as a tomb.

Lots of barges and rafts, drifting adrift and rammed in parts of the hundreds 15,000 Japanese soldiers and thousands of sailors in the convoy were bombed, split open with incendiary bombs and eaten fire and sink, the communiqué said.

Spiders was observed over a 20-mile area," an allied reconnaissance plane reported.

An allied plane message:

"Were about 500 men with battle equipment in water. Only 200 when aircraft left. Sharks seen around life rafts and boats."

Pressing their advantage, Kenney's aircraft swarmed upon Lae yesterday and poured 30,000 rounds of cannon and machine gun bullets into an airfield, destroying at least six Japanese planes along with their full trucks and shooting down at least eight of 17 Japanese fighters which tried to beat off the raiders.

All told, 42 Japanese planes were shot out of the fight in the battle over the convoy and in related actions. The entire victory cost the Allies four planes. American flyers the backbone of the allied force.

American and British aircraft pummeled the Japanese in Burma, too, according to New Delhi communiques. The RAF raided Akyab on the Bay of Bengal and nearby positions, while the Americans bombed both approaches of the Rangoon bridge and the Alpine dock area near Rangoon, and railway yards near Maymyo in central Burma. Heavy black smoke rose from hits on the railway yards near the docks.

Observers said there was nothing in the record of either Premier Linkomies or Rangoon which would make their unacceptable to Soviet Russia and consequently handicap chances of the nation in any peace negotiations.

Linkomies, leader of the Conservative party, Rangoon has important business ties with Britain as a prominent Finnish shipper.

Socialists increased their posts from four to five while the Agrarian and Conservative parties shared representation with four each.

NOTED VIRGINIAN DIES.
Richmond, March 5.—(AP)—Henry Taylor Washington, 93, president pro tem of the Virginia senate, silent alumnus of Washington and Lee University and a distinguished public figure in Virginia since 1872, died here early today.

MOORESVILLE CHILD SUCCUMBS TO BURNS.

Mooreville, March 5.—(AP)—Violet Mae Johnson, nine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Johnson, died in a hospital here from burns received when her clothing caught fire while she was standing before an open fireplace at the home.

'YANK' MAKES THE WILD MEN WILDER



FIJI ISLAND NATIVES, once noted for digesting the white man, now digest the white man's magazine "Yank," published by and for our fighting men in all the services. The dusky dweller (second from left) expresses silent disapproval of one of the many pin-up pictures with which the magazine abounds, while the man (right), wearing an ivy coat suit, is merrily voicing the Fiji equivalent of "Wow!" (International)

Major Drive Is Believed To Be Near

Allied Fliers Mount Sweeping Offensive; Russians Capture 52 Towns in North

(By The Associated Press)

Forty-on Chinchilla tanks of the British first army were reported today to have thrown the Germans out of Seidman, about 10 miles west of Bizerte in northern Tunisia, as the allied air forces mounted a sweeping offensive in evident preparation for bigger things to come.

On the Russian front the Red army smashed one German defense position after another northwest of Moscow and captured 52 towns and villages, while to the south its drive northeast of Kharkov was shaping the second arm of a miners, now spread 250 miles apart, to flatten out the huge German central front salient.

Field reports of allied headquarters in north Africa of the British forces showed the Germans at the little village twelve miles south of the sea on the Matruh-Cairo road and after still stiffer fighting held Colonel General von Arnim's forces in check.

In central Tunisia a series of attacks yesterday within three miles of El Gamil, starting right at Marshal Fevzi Pasha's front-line defenses, were considered as those western anti-allied communists are destined.

Farther south, French forces advanced Nofra and pushed toward Batna, 60 miles to the east, the communists said. The Fighting French of their forces had joined General Henri Giraud's Frenchmen in the effort threatening the rear of the Mareth line.

Allied patrols were officially described as "very active" before the Mareth line, and patrols from advanced bases in Tripoli started to move across the desert to the west, the other in an effort to knock out the enemy's rear position. The waves of bombers and fighters were followed by fast mobile groups.

French patrols in Tripoli, between Sidi Barrani and El Agouem, were only recently taking enemy contacts in the Sidi Barrani area.

Fresh gains up to six miles

(Continued on Page Three)

Food Shortage Is Predicted

Linkomies Heads Cabinet Of Finland

RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATIONS OFF 40 PER CENT

Raleigh, March 5.—(AP)—State OPA Director T. S. Johnson said today that registration of rental property in the federal rent control areas in North Carolina was off approximately 40 per cent and that a check was being made of area rent control offices to inquire into the deficient rental property owners.

Areas mentioned included Wilmington, New Bern, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Durham, Henderson, Jacksonville and Lumberton. The latter area is under the Charlotte OPA district office.

Wickard Says Belts Must Be Tightened

Washington, March 5.—(AP)—The Senate military committee reported today that the prospect of a 1943 food crop as large as last year is "almost hopeless" of realization.

It recommended legislation to restrain the movement of labor away from the farms to avoid a result that "may be tragic."

The report, to the Senate, asked passage of a bill to defer the induction of farm workers into the Army for the remainder of 1943.

Administration of existing legislation providing for the delimitation of essential farm workers, the committee said, has been "so unscrupulous by red tape" that it has not accomplished the desired results.

Meanwhile, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard told the Senate committee that America must tighten their belts because there is not going to be enough food to satisfy all of the demands of the United States and its allies this year.

Wickard's statement was disclosed today to have been made at a closed meeting of an appropriations subcommittee headed by Senator Bartram of Alabama, author of a bill providing for the blanketed delimitation of farm workers.

When Senator Nye, North Dakota Republican, who has forecast a food shortage because of insufficient farm lands, and he was satisfied there was going to be enough food to go around, Wickard replied:

"We are not going to have enough to satisfy the demands and it is a question of how much we can produce. If we cannot produce enough, we are going to have to tighten our belts. We can never satisfy the demands."

Conservative members said Wickard was apparently taking into account not only domestic civilian and military food needs, but the food demands of the lend-lease and foreign relief programs.

In response to questions by Nye,

Wickard testified that the prospect of getting as much food acreage planted this spring as last "doesn't seem very good now."

The secretary said he was hoping that a program of getting school children into the fields was going to help some but he was "not too optimistic."

"For example," he said, "if we have a cold, late spring, we are not going to make it."

178 Perish In London Raid Shelter

Cagney, Garson Get 'Oscars'

Hollywood, March 5.—(AP)—James Cagney and Greer Garson, established Hollywood performers but newcomers to the "Oscar" roster, received the Motion Picture Academy's awards early today for the best actor and actress performances in 1942.

Cagney's award was for his role in "Yankee Doodle Dandy," a Warner Bros. film, and Miss Garson's for her performance in MGM's "Mrs. Miniver," the picture which was adjudged the best production in 1942 in which virtually swept the list of "bests." Other major awards:

Best supporting performance by an actor Van Heflin, now an Army lieutenant, in MGM's "Johnny Eager"; best supporting actress, Teresa Wright, in "Mrs. Miniver"; best directorial achievement, William Wyler, now an Army major, in "Mrs. Miniver."

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Rain tonight and warmer in east portion.

Broughton Names Members Of State Education Board

Raleigh, March 5.—(AP)—Governor Broughton, acting in accordance with recently adopted constitutional amendment, ratified the legislature today of his appointments to the unified State board of education.

Nominations to the board, which will take office April 1, were confirmed by the legislature in a joint session.

A board member was named from each congressional district. Those named from odd-numbered counties were given two-year terms and those

from even-numbered counties, four years.

The present legislature has just enacted a bill calling for another change in the amendment. Instead of having members from congressional districts, the governor would appoint them from eight educational districts, to be set up by the assembly and would name two members at large.

The lieutenant governor, the State treasurer and State superintendent

(Continued on Page Three)

(Continued on Page Three)

(Continued on Page Three)