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REDS WIN TANK BATTLE BELOW KHARKOV

NAZIS REPORT BRITISH DRIVE ON MARETH LINE

Soviets Say

DECORATION FOR HERO CHAPLAIN



COMMANDING GENERAL of the Afghan Defense Command, Major Gen. Sherif Khan Badshah, Jr., left, is shown putting the "Medal of Honor" on the body of Capt. Charles R. Chapman, A. D. C., at Teheran. The award was made at direction of President Roosevelt for Chapman's temporary heroic service in successfully repelling the advance of German W. Afghans into the city of Kabul, Afghanistan, March 24. The Afghans consider Afghan troops losses of 1,000 men.

Confirmation Is Lacking In London

**DNB Declares Attack
Is Believed to Be
Major Offensive;
Artillery is Active**

(By The Associated Press) A Berlin spokesman reported today that General Sir Bernard Freyberg's British Eighth Army had launched an assault against the British line Mareth in southern Tunisia, and Lord Beaverbrook declared in London that "I think the conquest of Tunis and Bizerte is round the corner."

DNB the German news agency, and the British struck against the old French-built Mareth defense work, last night.

"The scale of fighting cannot be judged by reports so far available, but Berlin quoted before this is a major attack," DNB said.

An Algiers broadcast reported in London, and repeated on the "London air offensive," to drive up approximately 20,000 German and Italian troops out of Tunisia were being intensified.

DNB said the British on August 20 crossed the coastal section of the line and followed a series of objectives.

But it is not already held in sufficient numbers along just the northern end of the line in the Gulf of Gabès.

British-led forces are reported to have cut across the southern end of the line and driving around the axis. Tunisian armies now press on toward a narrow coastal corridor.

There was no confirmation in London, however, of recurring reports that an all-out attack was about to begin in Tunisia. Some reports published in London have suggested that the allies were ready to strike in the south and perhaps farther north.

A British source is silent with the exception of one who declared yesterday "nothing ready for several weeks."

British and military sources were asked if the eighth army was preparing to attack, but said only General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery knew when it would come.

Gen. Bernard L. L. Wedderburn, chief of staff to Gen. Montgomery, told reporters in London today for a second time calling upon Britain to make its forces available to the invasion of the Americas.

General Montgomery, in his speech to the House of Commons yesterday, said: "We must be prepared to do our best to assist in the final victory over Hitler."

General Montgomery also said:

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