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Rommel Erases British Gains

British Fail In Burma Drive

AMERICAN GUN CREW DIGS IN AT GAFSA



Less than a week ago, U. S. Armored Forces, under the command of Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., advanced toward the Tunisian front to recapture Gafsa, from which they had been driven in the early and to smash Rommel's. An American gun crew, above, is shown digging in and on the alert during the battle. This is one of the first radiotelephotos to be transmitted from the African front by a new Signal Corps system. (Signal Corps Radiotelephoto from International Soundphoto.)

Truce Ends Mine Row

Union and Operators Agree to Extension of Negotiations Until May 1 at Least

New York, March 21—(AP)—Threat of an immediate stoppage in soft coal production, vital to the nation's war effort, was stayed off today until at least May 1 in part, it is all of the rich Appalachian coal fields.

Two days after the silent Roosevelt told operators and miners of the Appalachian region that there must be no interruption of work when the present coal truce expires March 31, the northern operators acceded to the miners' demand for a 90-day limit on continuance of negotiations on a retroactive basis.

John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers' president, said last week that the mine would not go into the mines April 1 without a contract.

Charles O'Neill, spokesman for the northern operators, in a statement said:

"We have a present agreement at hand for us through the operation of which, for as long as it is expected, on a retroactive basis, suggested by the President."

Meat Scarce, Demand Heavy

(By The Associated Press) Today's market report of point values for meat, fat, cheese and other foodstuffs, that are under rationing control, showed a sharp and little change in the generally prevalent condition of heavy demand, scant supplies.

There were scattered reports of meat buying rushes, but at those points the story was the same as in nearly every other community—there was little to be had. Demand for cheese also was reported heavy Sunday.

Look a bit to the future, one number of a Kansas City parking plant said it would like a white to see how meat rationing works out "but I have to ask it will be in the supply line, even if it is the country." Of course, the added, "meat rationing will complicate our accounting considerably."

Meat Rations Announced

Washington, March 20—(AP)—Disclosure today of coupon values of meat showed that Americans will be allowed, starting Monday, to buy a maximum of two pounds of steak or three and one-half pounds of hamburger per person per week under rationing.

Actually, most people will buy less because they will want to use some of the same coupons for butter, lard, cheese or canned fish. They will have 16 points to spend per week at an average coupon cost of eight points per pound for the whole group of meats.

A point value chart for meats, cheeses and fats, with a complete description of the new program, will be found elsewhere in today's paper.

Air Forces Trade Blows

Allied Airmen Strike Across Channel and Nazi Planes Bomb School in England

London, March 21—(AP)—Trading punches with the Germans across the English Channel, allied airmen struck again this morning at enemy targets in northern France as Nazi warplanes resumed hit and run raids coastal districts of Britain.

Heavy explosions were heard in the Folkestone area after formations of allied planes had streaked across the channel.

The burst of daylight activity proved a follow-up to night attacks by RAF fighters on railway communications in northwest Germany and occupied territory.

The German day raiders hit a school in a southeast inland town. Three hundred children in the school went to a shelter a few minutes before the bombs struck.

One enemy plane was shot down.

ARMY FLIER KILLED IN CRASH AT BRAGG

Fort Bragg, March 24—(AP)—A training plane crashed on a routine flight five miles north of Fayetteville, killing one soldier and injuring another, the public relations office announced.

Staff Sergeant John R. Mancuso, son of Mrs. Teresa Burgesano of 246 White Street, Egglewood, N. J., was killed in the crash and Private Michael Rotondo, whose wife lives at 161 Beach 97th Street, Rockaway Beach, N. Y., was injured.

Jap Attack Is Forecast

Canadian Commander Assault Now Likelier Than Heretofore

Edmonton, Can., March 21—(AP)—Major General G. H. Peakes, chief of Canada's Pacific command, believes a Japanese attack on continental North America is more likely now than heretofore because war equipment is being sent westward through Alaska to the battlefronts of Asia and eastern Europe.

"Supplies are being sent to China and India, possibly the largest but longest routes," he said. "General Peakes said that the troops of Edmonton are being moved to the Yukon, and high ranking Canadian soldiers are being moved to the Yukon."

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HIGH COURT UPHOLDS SENTENCE OF DEATH

Raleigh, March 24—(AP)—The State Supreme Court affirmed the judgment of the trial court in the case of *State vs. ...*

Other opinions were given by the court.

Billy ...

Mossley, et al. v. ...

Steel Fraud To Be Probed

Washington, March 24—(AP)—The Justice department today announced it will probe a steel fraud in the case of *...*

Campaign Now Halted By Monsoon

Wavett's Assault Said to Have Failed Through Inability To Take Two Points

(By The Associated Press) British and Indian troops have failed in attempts to crush Japanese defenses on the tip of the Malay peninsula in Burma, dispatches said today, and now must retreat their positions to avoid the 200-inch rains of the monsoon.

Only a few weeks remain before the flood begins.

Observers said the British campaign bogged down mainly because they were unable to capture two Japanese strongholds on the peninsula whose fall was opposite the big enemy base at Akyab on the Bay of Bengal.

Dispatched observers said the British had achieved three objectives:

1. They killed many Japanese.

2. They gained valuable experience in jungle warfare.

3. They inflicted many Japanese plan wounds before the monsoon.

British and Indian headquarters at Imphal, on the Malay peninsula, said Japanese troops had been driven from the Akyab peninsula and the Japanese had been driven from the Akyab peninsula.

Japanese planes attacked an airfield in southeast Bengal province, India, and inflicted a few casualties and slight damage.

In the southwest Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced that allied forces delivered a heavy blow to Japan's growing air power in the South sea, dropping 51 tons of bombs on enemy planes at three airbases at Rabaul, New Britain.

Other United Nations airpower forces in the Pacific reported that they had destroyed a Japanese plane in the Pacific.

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MEAT POINT RATIONING EXPLAINED



OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION officials J. H. Westing (left) and Leon Borch use models to explain the point rationing system for meats, fats, fish and cheese, to members of the press in Washington, D. C. The new point rationing order goes into effect March 20. (International)

Wickard Seeks Plan To Boost Production

Washington, March 21—(AP)—The internal revenue bureau reported today that February collections were nearly \$200,000,000 greater than for the same month a year ago.

February receipts from all internal revenue sources totaled \$1,000,000,000, the bureau reported, compared with \$801,149,007 in the same month a year ago.

Wallace In Panama

Panama City, Panama, March 21—(AP)—An allied victory over the axis will mean reestablishment of liberty and democracy for all nations of the world, large and small, Vice President Henry A. Wallace said in a speech at an official visit to Panama as Latin American countries.

Part of a seven-nation tour of Latin America, Wallace is on his way to the Panamanian congress.

Wallace, referred to by the "common desire of our two countries to win victory for the free peoples of the world," and added:

"We, the nations of the New World, must stand in the face of tyrannical oppression confronting the free peoples of the earth, and we must devote ourselves to the task of defending and maintaining the principles of democracy, liberty and peace, which are the only basis for the survival of the free world."

Following delivery of the speech, Wallace planned to fly to Chile, where the invited association ever accorded a foreign visitor has been prepared.

TWO NEGRO CHILDREN DIE AS HOME BURNS

Hickory, March 21—(AP)—Cousins of a young boy, J. Robinson of Hickory, W. Va., and a young girl, the St. Mary's community of Orange county, were burned to death yesterday in a fire that destroyed the home. The cause of the blaze was unknown.

'Desert Fox' Lashes Back In Tunisia

Situation Described As 'Very Confused'; American Troops Advance in North

(By The Associated Press) Field Marshal Erwin Rommel has lashed back with a series of violent counter attacks and virtually wiped out the British eighth army's breach in the March line. It was officially announced today, but has failed to dislodge the British from the March line, which is the upper end of the "Mittle Maginot" fortifications.

Dispatches said the situation was "very confused."

In the north, tank-led American troops were reported to have inflicted a decided reverse on the Germans in the El Guezar sector and pushed on five miles toward the sea from Maknassy in a threat to Rommel's northern life line.

Front line reports said U. S. artillery fire destroyed 10 to 20 tanks out of a force of some 100 German tanks east of El Guezar where the Americans were within an hour's drive of the sea.

Prime Minister Churchill told parliament in London that Rommel had regained the greater part of ground lost in the British eighth army's assault, which had torn a mile-deep salient into the German defense zone near Zarut.

An Algiers broadcast, unconfirmed elsewhere, said the eighth army was continuing to advance within 13 miles of Gabes.

A bulletin from General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters said the Germans, making a bitter stand in response to Hitler's reported order for them to "fight to the last man," counter-attacked in all three main sectors of central and southern Tunisia yesterday.

A communiqué reported that serious losses were inflicted on the counter-attacking Germans, and more than 2,000 prisoners were captured. Some 2,000 Axis prisoners had previously been reported taken since the allied offensive began last Saturday.

Churchill, who said he based his statement on the latest information from Tunisia, declared that Rommel's forces had now largely restored the main axis defenses in the March zone.

The prime minister pointed out that the battle had not yet reached its climax and that much hard fighting lay ahead, but declared that "on the other hand I have great confidence in the final result."

In the Russian campaign, Soviet dispatches reported today that the Red armies were beating off every German attempt to storm across the upper Dnieper river, in the Kharlov-Belgorod sector, and had killed up to 7,000 Germans in a five-day

(Continued on Page Five)

Japs Bomb Guadalcanal

Some Material Damage Caused, But No Casualties Result from Raid

Washington, March 21—(AP)—Japanese planes, caused "some material damage" to the American airfield on Guadalcanal island in the Solomons during an attack Tuesday night, the Navy disclosed today.

"On March 23, a force of Army fighters straddled the enemy seaplane base at Rekata Bay in the central Solomons. Results were not reported. All U. S. planes returned.

"During the night of March 23-24, a small number of Japanese planes attacked the airfield on Guadalcanal island. There was some material damage but there were no casualties to personnel."

Guadalcanal was last attacked on the night of March 14-15 when two Japanese planes bombed American positions without causing casualties or damage.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA Slowly rising temperature tonight.