



THIRTIETH YEAR

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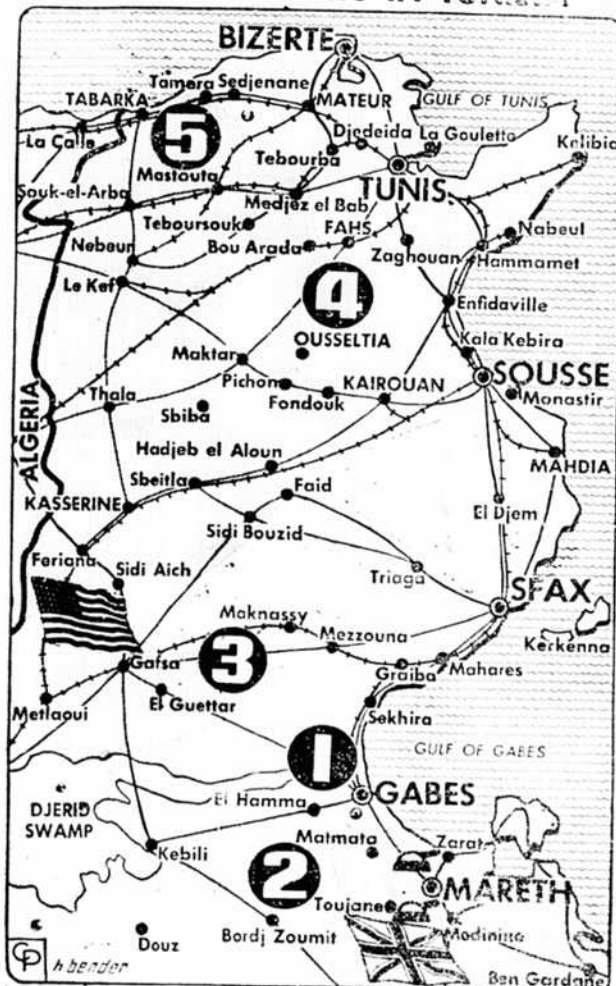
HENDERSON, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 1, 1943

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FORTRESSES BLAST AXIS 'DUNKERQUE FLEET'

ROMMEL RETREATS IN TUNISIA



ALLIED FORCES CONTINUE TO KICK THE AXIS AROUND IN Tunisia. Rommel's troops, falling back on Gafes (1), were shelled by naval units from the sea. Touane and Matmata (2) are in the hands of Montgomery's Eighth Army. Americans are pushing for the east and southeast of El Guettar (3) and east of Maknassy. French forces at Ousseltia (4) have brought a sufficient force to the German line. In northern Tunisia, close to Bizerte, the British First Army, aided by French troops, are hammering out east of Tabarka (5). (International)

Axis Beset By Invasion Jitters

'Chute Base Is Reported In Norway

Allied Parachutists Said Established In Mountains; Italy Shows Invasion Fears

London, April 1—(AP)—Signs of increasing axis invasion jitters from the Balkan frontier to the Scandinavian peninsula were highlighted today by a roundabout report that allied parachute troops had established a base in the Norwegian mountains and had sallied out in raids on nazi-controlled factories.

The Norwegian government-in-exile here—commenting on the report—declared that "Quisling and the Germans appear to be generally alarmed" but said it could not give any confirmation.

The story came to London from Stockholm in patches which said an allied parachute base was situated in the Hardanger mountain lake area, an ideal district for an airplane and that it was equipped with a meteorological station.

The London Daily Press quoted the German radio as saying that nazi troops are hunting the parachutists, said to be British, in the mountains.

On the southern border of the allied invasion are, meanwhile, the Italian propaganda minister announced that Sicily, of the toe of the Italian boot, had become "a fortified outpost of the European continent itself, against any and all attacks coming from the Mediterranean." Only yesterday Italy announced a new mobilization law to be applied in event of invasion.

The Daily Mail said in a report from Madrid that 350,000 French shipping immobilized in Mediterranean ports since the German occupation of southern France had been ordered sent to Genoa and other ports in Sardinia.

"The obvious inference is that a Dunkerque fleet is being collected for Rommel," the Mail said. Emergency crews of Italians would man the ships, the paper said.

STATE'S WAR LOAN QUOTA \$62,000,000

Richmond, April 1—(AP)—Hugh Leach, president of the Fifth Federal Reserve Bank at Richmond, said today that the district's quota for the second war loan campaign to open April 12 would be \$350,000,000, exclusive of the investments to be made by commercial banks.

NEW RATION BOOKS FOR EATING HOUSES

Washington, April 1—(AP)—OPA said today it plans to issue a special type of ration book for use by small food-serving establishments.

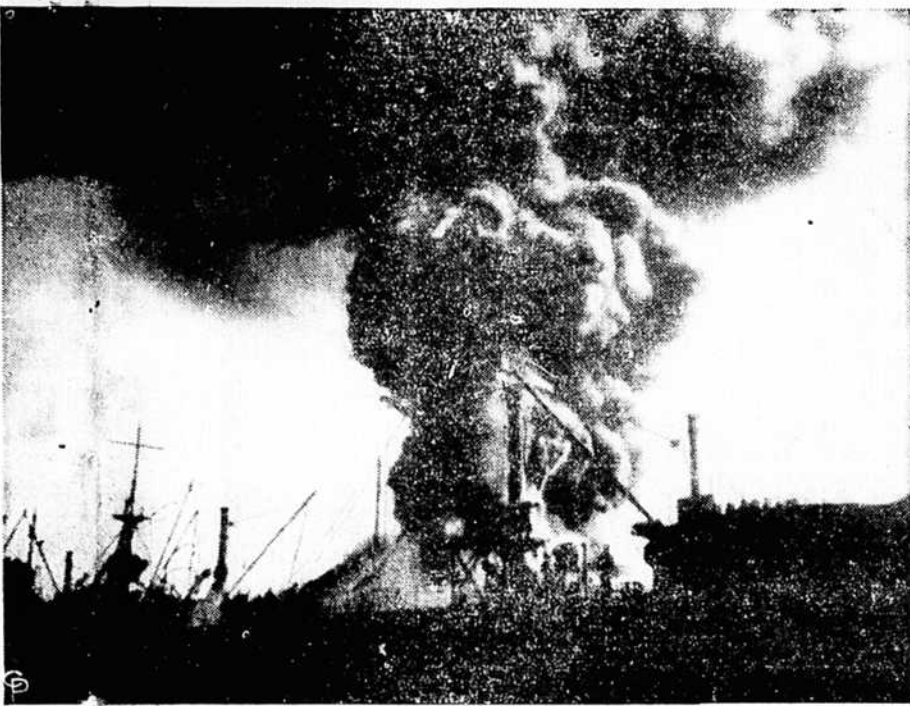
CRASH VICTIM

Gastonia, April 1—(AP)—Tom McCarver, 31, of Shelby, died in a hospital here today of injuries he suffered in a collision yesterday between an automobile and an Army truck.

National Political Scene Overshadows State Races

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

DIRECT HIT ON ALLIED CONVOY VESSEL IN PORT



DANGERS OF THE VITAL MEDITERRANEAN CONVOY RUN are not over even when our ships arrive in port. A direct hit on a convoy vessel in an Algerian port endangers not only the bombed ship but the rest of the convoys and gasoline cargoes of every convoy member berthed nearby. In this instance a stilling agent waves of Nazi planes raged all night. (News of the Day from International)

Many Ships Are Damaged Off Italy

Nearly 100 Fortresses Have Begun Smashing At Axis Ships; Allies Advance in Tunisia

Moscow, April 1—(AP)—A Tass dispatch from Lamsanne, Switzerland, broadcast today by the Moscow radio, said that concentrations of transport and hospital ships and railway trains had been observed in ports of southern Italy.

There is every indication that Italian authorities are preparing for mass evacuation of axis troops from Tunisia," the dispatch said.

It said also that hospitals which would accommodate at least 90,000 patients had been set up in Naples, according to Italian reports.

(By The Associated Press) Allied headquarters disclosed today that an armada of nearly 100 U. S. Flying Fortresses, the largest single force of its type ever massed, has begun smashing at axis ships off southern Sardinia in what appeared to be an attempt to wreck an enemy "Dunkerque" fleet for escape from Tunisia.

Dispatches said the great striking forces of Fortresses, strongly escorted by fighters, attacked the Sardinian port of Cagliari yesterday, hitting five merchant ships and 21 smaller craft.

In addition, the allied raiders destroyed or damaged 57 aircraft on the ground and shot down 11 axis fighter planes in attacks on three Sardinian airbases. It was announced.

Axis transport ships, escorted by fighters, also blasted enemy ships in the Sardinian narrows, attacking a successful convoy with these results: a large merchant ship sunk, another left burning and sinking, two others in flames, a large transport hit twice. Six German fighters which attempted to intercept the Mitchells were shot down in the sea.

All allied planes returned from the mission, the communiqué said. Meanwhile, allied military quarters said British eighth army troops had advanced twelve miles beyond newly-recaptured Oudra in southern Tunisia, on the coastal highway to Sfax, and were skirmishing with axis rear guards dug in well above the Gafes bottleneck.

The operation of a United Nations commando suggested that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel might be attempting a new stand after four days of retreat from the Mareth line.

In the north, the British first army (Continued on Page Three)

48-Hour Work Week Generally Accepted

Order Into Effect In 32 Areas; Fourth Term Issue Injected Into Capitol Talk

Washington, April 1—(AP)—The Capitol eyed early effects of the 48-hour work week which went into effect in 32 labor-short areas across the country today, while increased congressional interest indicated new action on such issues as a fourth term, an allied food conference, an anti-sabotage bill and farm prices.

A survey of affected cities showed compliance with the 48-hour week was "about 100 per cent," war manpower commission officials said, adding that no cases of open defiance had been reported. Exemption requests were few.

Another angle of the general labor picture was the presentation of competent observers that a gradual liquidation of the war production board's labor production division is impending. The new unit—a "manpower board"—and the new "management labor council"—were expected to absorb the new functions which remain to the division.

The fourth term question was forced to the front as Republicans angled for Democratic support before introducing a Senate resolution proposing a constitutional amendment limiting a president's tenure in office to two four-year terms. Senator Butler, Nebraska Republican, who said he and other Republicans planned to offer the resolution soon, added that an informal canvass indicated "several" Democrats would support the measure.

Congressmen exhibited a yearning to sit in on a United Nations conference on post-war food problems late this month, which President Roosevelt previously had indicated would be strictly an executive session. Influential lawmakers of both major parties said they felt Congress

(Continued on Page Two)

CHARTER ISSUED

Raleigh, April 1—(AP)—Secretary of State Thad Eure today issued a charter of incorporation to C. C. Hatchell Packing Co. of Lumberton, to carry on a slaughtering business, authorized capital stock, \$25,000; subscribed stock, \$4,000, by C. C. Hatchell, J. L. Hatchell, Sr., and David H. Fuller, all of Lumberton.

Solons Plan Visit To Front

Washington, April 1—(AP)—President Roosevelt was reported today to have given tentative approval to a proposal that members of the Senate war investigating committee make an inspection trip to the American-held front in north Africa.

In letters to congressional leaders, the President was said to have agreed that if such a trip is made, the inspection group be limited to four members of the committee, which is headed by Senator Truman, Missouri Democrat.

Wallace Gets Big Ovation

Valparaiso, Chile, April 1—(AP)—Vice President Henry A. Wallace was acclaimed by shouted "vivas" from large and enthusiastic crowds in Chile's second city today.

Accompanying him were President Roosevelt and other officials of Chile. He planned to return to Santiago tonight to attend a reception in his honor.

An inspection of Chilean naval facilities here officially terminated Wallace's visit to Chile, hailed by President Roosevelt as having opened "a new phase of understanding in Chilean-American relations."

Welles Asks Peace Stand

Undersecretary Says Allies Have Doubts As to U. S. Policy After Victory

New York, April 1—(AP)—Assistant Secretary undersecretary of state said today that "one of the gravest doubts that exists as to the success of the present of the United Nations plan is the doubt as to the policy of the United States after the war."

Welles, in an address to the Chamber of Commerce of the state of New York, declared that our allies remember that after the victory of 1918 the United States "withdrew from almost every form of practical operation" with friendly nations in the reconstruction tasks, and "made no effort to win the peace."

"Our allies are asking themselves now whether we will again follow that same course," Welles said. "In a very real sense the decision that will be made with regard to the renewal of the League of Nations act will be regarded by peoples throughout the world as an acid test of our future intentions."

"They will see in that decision a clear indication as to whether the people of the United States have determined upon a policy of international cooperation for the future, or whether they will once more turn back to that road of isolation which leads to inevitable disaster."

Welles said that the creation of reliable and permanent peace is the greatest single interest and objective of the nation, but voiced an opinion that the greatest obstacle to success in the next project was defeatism.

Labor Demands Rigid Ceilings

Washington, April 1—(AP)—Labor leaders "insisted" at a conference with President Roosevelt today that rigid ceilings be established on all prices at retail stores and asked for labor representation "at the top" on governmental agencies, particularly the war production board and the war manpower commission.

Those present comprised the combined labor war board, representing the CIO, AFL and railroad brotherhoods. They said President Roosevelt received their views and took notes on what they said.

CHINESE CRUSH 13 JAP ATTACKS

JAP BASES AT KISKA AND ATTU ARE RAIDED

Washington, April 1—(AP)—American bombers and fighters "raided" Japanese positions on Kiska island in the Aleutians today Tuesday and attacked Attu island once, the Navy reported today.

One bomber was lost to enemy aircraft fire.

Fourth Term Query Refused

Washington, April 1—(AP)—Frank Walker, Democratic national chairman, said today it was too early to discuss presidential candidates and that he would like to see an agreement between the two major parties for late national conventions and a short 1944 campaign.

Reporting to a press conference on a trip through a dozen western states, Walker was asked if he would support Roosevelt to run for a fourth term.

"I'll not discuss candidates at this time," he replied.

Walker said he heard some discussion on his western trip of the possibility of Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio or Wendell Willkie being the Republican candidate next year. He reported that Democratic party prospects for 1944 "looked very good to me."

(Continued on Page Two)

Rommel Still Rated Strong

Stimson Says Force Largely Intact and May Join Von Arnim In Northern Tunisia

Washington, April 1—(AP)—Secretary of War Stimson said today that German Marshal Erwin Rommel apparently still has the bulk of his Tunisian force intact and that a strong chance remains he can effect a union with axis forces under General von Arnim in the north.

In such an event, the secretary told a press conference, the enemy in Tunisia could offer strong resistance and "before the final phases of the north African campaign, there will in all probability be a good deal of heavy fighting."

Rommel suffered an important defeat at the Mareth line, the War secretary said, due principally to the skill and leadership of British General Montgomery and the course of his British eighth army. Estimates of axis losses are incomplete. Stimson continued in a review of the war, but large numbers of German and Italian soldiers have been killed, several thousand wounded and taken prisoner, and the allies have captured and destroyed large amounts of axis equipment.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Continued warm tonight.