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## Allies Batter Rommel's Forces

### Japanese Armada Scattered

FROM GERMAN PRISON CAMP



FROM A CAPTURED GERMAN NEWSREEL comes this picture of the repatriation of French soldiers to their homeland in exchange for able-bodied slave labor for the Reich. Ever alert to propaganda values, the Germans have fashioned the returning men with parades. In front of the train a mother tearfully greets a son she has not seen since long before the fall of the French army.

(Wires of the Day from International)

### New Thrust Threatens Guadalcanal

#### Nearly 20 Jap Ships Concentrated Above Australia in Move Toward Solomons

(By The Associated Press)

United Warplanes have scattered a concentration of nearly 20 Japanese ships in the islands above Australia. General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced today, amid signs that other enemy warships may be thrusting anew toward American-held Guadalcanal in the Solomons.

Two actions suggested the new enemy thrust to Guadalcanal:

1. A Japanese communiqué, broadcast by the Berlin radio, asserted that Japanese fleet planes had shot down 17 allied aircraft off the Russell Islands, 50 miles northwest of Guadalcanal. Nine Japanese planes were listed as lost.

2. Tokyo's claim followed issuance of a U. S. Navy announcement yesterday that American bombers attacked a force of five Japanese destroyers on the night of March 31—April 1 near Kolombangara Island, 190 miles northwest of Guadalcanal.

On the evening of the Navy said, American fighters shot down 16 out of 20 to 24 Japanese Zeros in a violent air battle northwest of Guadalcanal.

Allied Headquarters and United Nations Japan planes on 12 Japanese ships, including destroyers, in the harbor at Kavieng, New Ireland, 550 miles above the allied base at Port Moresby, and half a dozen others in nearby Steyer Strait.

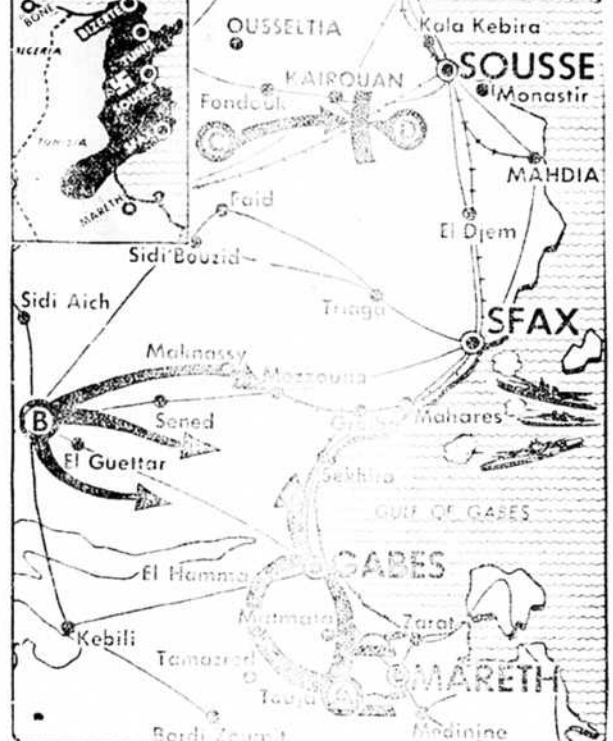
A communiqué said the raiders scored probable hits on a 10,000-ton Japanese transport and on a 6,000-ton cargo ship, but darkness prevented observation of further results of the attack.

U. S. F-5 Mustangs and Liberator bombers attacked the harbor and airbase at Kavieng on the north, east coast of New Guinea.

On the Bay of New Guinea, RAF bombers hit 10 Japanese ships and bombed the base of the Japanese-occupied enemy base at the Malay peninsula along the Bay of Bengal, where Field Marshal Sir Archibald W. Wavell's British legions have been fighting to drive the Japanese back.

Meanwhile, the War department in Army files in a shot down seven Japanese planes for every one they have lost in the last three months, destroying 234 enemy aircraft against 54 of their own.

### ALLIED FORCES PRESS ROMMEL



PUSHING NORTH ON THE ROAD ABOVE GABES (A), the British Eighth Army was rapidly forcing the Axis to retreat. General Patton's II Corps maintained the pressure toward the coast (B). On the central front (C) Allied forces against Rommel repelled an enemy counter-attack (D). In the Tunisian territory remaining to the Axis, El Djem, the Allied forces have been busy with installations. British troops were reported to have captured the town of Medenine.

### First Army Advances On Bizerte

#### General Eisenhower Says Satisfactory Progress Made; Other War News

(By The Associated Press)

Allied troops, tanks and guns were reported battering the enemy along the entire 250-mile front in Tunisia today, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters announced that British first army scored new gains in its drive toward the German naval base at Bizerte.

"Patrol activity continued yesterday on the whole Tunisian battlefield," the allied war bulletin said.

"Further progress was made in the north where our patrols successfully engaged and inflicted casualties on an enemy patrol."

Coincidentally, General Eisenhower returned to allied headquarters from conferences with General Alexander and Montgomery, and declared that fresh allied forces "were continuing to make satisfactory progress."

General Eisenhower, who inspected the Mareth front, said every American had a right to feel proud of the progress made in the five-month-old campaign.

Some quarters believe the commander in chief and his aides discussed strategy for a climactic offensive to drive the Germans and Italians into the sea.

Meanwhile an Axis broadcast said General Montgomery's British eighth army was again rolling north on the Gabes-Sfax road, on the southern front, in pursuit of Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps.

The broadcast said new battles were flaring in all sectors.

American armored forces were reported advancing once more in their drive toward the sea from Maknassy, aimed at chopping off Rommel's escape route to the north. The Americans were last reported to have thrust six miles beyond Maknassy, which lies only 34 miles from the coast at the nearest point.

In the skies, dispatches said, American and British warplanes rained explosives on Axis rear positions at a rate never before touched in the North African campaign and virtually destroyed several of the enemy's dwindling air bases in the north.

On the Russian front, an official Soviet war map disclosed that the Red armies were storming at the eastern base of Novorossiisk, Black Sea naval base, and had advanced within 36 miles of the German keystone base at Simonsk on the central front.

In the Caucasus, the war map revealed that the Russians were not only closing in on Novorossiisk but were also storming the German base at the Kerch Strait entrance to the Black Sea, only seven miles east of Temnyuk on the Taurian peninsula.

Meanwhile, Russia formally renounced the end of her great winter offensive, and declared that the campaign lasting four months and 20,000 miles had cost the Germans 1,193,533 men, including 350,000 killed.

The announcement said the Red armies had recovered from Hitler's invasion losses, and destroyed 9,190 German tanks, 5,000 planes and 20,000 guns.

### Some Stocks Sell Higher

New York, April 3.—(AP)—Utilities and scattered stocks moved to new high ground for the year or longer in industrial stock market while numerous others remained on the wrong side of the track.

There was little change in the generally favorable war and economic picture but many customers inclined to convert profits into cash pending more definite signs yesterday's technical stumble, first since March 19, had been completed.

### WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Continued cold tonight, slight to lower temperature in east and central portion, freezing with heavy frost in interior.

### Truman Condemns U-Boat Pens LaGuardia Rumor

#### Senator Says Mayor Has No More Business As Brigadier General Than Zanuck As Colonel

Washington, April 3.—(AP)—Published reports that Mayor LaGuardia of New York may get a high Army commission brought from Chairman Truman, Missouri Democrat, of the Senate war investigating committee today the comment that "I don't think he has any more business being a brigadier general" than Movie Maker Darryl Zanuck has being a colonel.

Zanuck is a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, having been commissioned from civil life, and Truman today issued this remark about LaGuardia in a committee hearing at which Robert Patterson, undersecretary of War, testified that Zanuck had a lead for an inactive status.

Although saying he did not feel Zanuck qualified for a colonelcy, Truman indicated a belief he should stay in the Army, declaring, "I don't believe in letting fellows back out in the middle of a war."

"Why don't you send him to school and make a real soldier out of him? With his experience I think you could very well use him at the front. That's where you are going to need men."

Chairman Reynolds of the Senate military committee said meanwhile in a statement on the LaGuardia matter that "I can readily see why many people would ask why it has become necessary to appoint general officers in the Army from political life."

### FORT WORTH WOMAN HELD IN SLAYING

Tulsa, Okla., April 3.—(AP)—Common Pleas Judge Grady S. Conwell today ordered Mrs. Ella B. Howard, Fort Worth divorcee, held in \$10,000 bail for trial on a charge of manslaughter in the hotel room slaying of Mrs. E. Karl Simmons, widely known Tulsa housewife.

The 34-year-old defendant spent the afternoon, her first exhibition of emotion throughout the preliminary hearing.

The verdict was a disappointment to County Attorney Dixie Garner, who had asked the court to hold Mrs. Howard for trial on a murder charge.

### U-Boat Pens Are Bombed

#### RAF Heavy Bombers Raid St. Nazaire And Lorient; Nazi Planes Bomb England

London, April 3.—(AP)—RAF heavy bombers attacked Nazi submarine pens at Lorient and St. Nazaire in western France last night, the air ministry announced today. Two bombers were lost on the raid.

The night RAF raid was the first since the outbreak of the war. The bombers were shot down by German fighters. The ministry said that the raid was a success.

RAF fighters also attacked a German bomber which was shot down over the English coast. The bomber was shot down by RAF fighters.

### Dry Docks Follow Fleet Into Fighting

Washington, April 3.—(AP)—A fleet of huge floating dry docks, built to follow the fighting fast speed of damaged warships back into action, soon will provide a new Navy attack in the Pacific.

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### Farm Leaders To Atlanta

Raleigh, April 3.—(AP)—Country Club of Atlanta today held a session to discuss the situation in North Carolina.

### Coal Dispute Stalemated

Washington, April 3.—(AP)—Edward R. Ross, president of the Southern Coal Producers Association, and other contract negotiators with John H. Lewis' United Mine Workers, today reached a complete impasse, and it is expected that the contract will be rejected by the labor board next week.

"There is only way it can be settled," he declared, adding that the operators will make this recommendation to the National Labor Relations Board in New York, to Director John B. Steinhilber of the United States Federal Labor Service, representative of the administration in the negotiations.

### Cotton Closes 15-35 Lower

New York, April 3.—(AP)—Cotton futures closed 15 to 35 cents a bale lower. The market was unsettled by reports of a strike in the cotton fields.

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### Administration Forces Seek to Sustain Veto

#### Four Raids Made on Kiska

Washington, April 3.—(AP)—Administration forces today sought to sustain a veto of a bill by the House of Representatives. The bill was related to the Kiska Island raids.

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### Ickes Orders Reshuffling

#### Petroleum Supply and Distribution System to Be Coordinated

Washington, April 3.—(AP)—Petroleum Administrator Harold Ickes today ordered a drastic reshuffling of the petroleum supply and distribution system in the Midwest to expand the flow of fuel to the oil-hungry east.

Midwestern consumers will be visibly affected, Ickes said. The reshuffling will be completed by the end of the month.

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