



Allied Forces Capture Sousse

Russians Return To Bury Their Dead



SORROW LINES THE FACES of these Russian women as they return to their village in the Ukraine after it had been retaken from the Nazis by Red Army troops. Taken from an official Soviet newscast, the photo was made shortly after the women had buried their men folk at a mass funeral. (International)

Japan Opens Air Offensive

Large Scale Attack Made On Oro Bay

Twenty-Three of 45 Japanese Planes Shot Down; Hit Scored on Ship

A new Japanese aerial offensive which "may attain considerable scale of effort" has been launched in the southwest Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

The announcement was based on an attack by 45 Japanese raiders on Oro Bay, south of Buna in New Guinea, the second large scale aerial effort the Japanese have attempted in five days.

Twenty-three of the planes were shot down in a sub-stratosphere battle with Lightnings and Kitty Hawks, it was announced, and the Japanese did little damage except to score two direct hits on a 2,000-ton allied merchant ship which was beached. Allied aerial losses were described as insignificant.

As in the attack by 98 Japanese planes last Thursday, in the Guadalcanal area, United Nations anti-aircraft units said the Japanese objectives were allied shipping.

There was no allied announcement, however, concerning the size of the allied shipping concentration. The Japanese have claimed to have sunk ten transports, among other ships in the Guadalcanal area.

The Navy yesterday, in a recapitulation, said allied losses in the latter battle were a destroyer, corvette and tanker sunk, a small fuel boat damaged and seven planes shot down, while Japanese plane losses had amounted to 29.

MacArthur's headquarters meanwhile continued their push from Japanese bases from Timor to the northwest of Australia to New Ireland in the northeast.

The RAF continued its assaults on the Japanese in Buna.

BRITISH CARGO SHIP IS SUNK IN ATLANTIC

WHO SAID JAPS DON'T GIVE UP?



WOUNDED JAP PRISONERS at an American prison camp in the South Pacific area belie the suicidal fervor to which they are driven by the code of Bushido. These Nipponese seem pleased to be out of it all as they line up for medical attention. (International Soundphoto)

Axis Troops Also Flee Kairouan

Final or Siege Phase Of Tunisian Campaign Nears as Rommel Prepares Last Stand

(By The Associated Press) Powerful allied forces drove at a lightning pace toward the final or siege phase of the Tunisian campaign today as General Sir B. L. Montgomery's eighth army warriors captured Sousse, only 70 miles north of Tunis, and axis troops fled from Kairouan to the southwest before other columns.

Destroying stores as they evacuated Kairouan, the Arab high city and an important air base, and leaving ruined and abandoned equipment littering the roadsides, Marshal Erwin Rommel's badly pummeled men were being forced rapidly into a narrow square behind the mountains of Tunis and Bizerte where it was believed they would attempt a final stand.

The Italian and German radios, in announcing the evacuation of Kairouan, 34 miles southwest of Sousse, indicated that city was abandoned shortly after American, British and French spearheads had thrust through the mountain barrier at Fendouk and begun a race toward the coast.

A second eighth army column advancing on Kairouan from the south had bypassed Faid Pass, scene of the first American victory in Tunisia, and trapped 5,000 axis troops were left in that stronghold.

French troops also gained more ground to the north in the Goussella territory, while Lieutenant General Anderson's British first army made further advances in the Medjez-el-Bah area, 35 miles southwest of Tunis.

American Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., took Faid Pass without opposition. Some 2,000 German troops were trapped in the Goussella area, and the remainder of the British and American forces were destroyed.

The terrific pace of the British-American air offensive of the past few days was increased even further, and 11 enemy planes were shot down yesterday at a cost of 11 allied planes.

Accent on Father in Capital News

Draft Regulations Followed by Bill Proposing Deferment; Debt Limit Increased

Washington, April 12—(AP)—The accent was on father in the capital today.

A new selective service order was issued giving thousands of dads their first draft deferment status and a measure to defer all of them opened what may be the last week of Congress before Easter.

Meanwhile, a new law lifted the national debt limit nearly a hundred billion dollars—just in time to fit in the funds from the greatest war bond drive in history—and inflation, post-war trade pacts and taxes posed new problems on Capitol Hill.

From national draft headquarters, word went out to local boards to classify as fathers all those whose children were born before last September 16.

The same also lifted the 3-B classification, 421 increased the 3-A classification, 430 reserved exclusively for fathers the 3-A class, 431 created a new group, 3-D, for dependent "hardship cases" and 432 eliminated the preferred draft status of fathers whose 2-C and 3-C status were left intact.

Going even further than that, the draft deferment bill of Representative Kilgus, Texas Democrat, which would prevent induction of fathers until all childless men of draft age in the same state had been called, was slated to start off what congressional leaders hoped was their last business week before a scheduled two-week Easter recess.

Apart from the draft developments, there was considerable interest in President Roosevelt's announcement that the eye of the Treasury's \$7,000,000,000 war loan campaign—and he had permitted a measure raising the national debt limit from \$175,000,000,000 to \$275,000,000,000 to become a law without his signature.

He did not sign it because it carried a rider which repealed his executive order limiting salaries to \$25,000 after taxes, but "in order to avoid embarrassment to our war financing."

NAVY PILOT KILLED IN CRASH OF PLANE

Withholding Levy Urged

Washington, April 12—(AP)—Speaker Rayburn, Texas Democrat, called today for joint Democratic-Republican action to enact quickly a 20 per cent withholding levy against the taxable portion of wages and salaries as a measure to help prevent inflation.

Rayburn left the speaker's position to give new impetus to a statement after Charles C. Doughton of the ways and means committee told the House that it had the leadership of both parties would agree to enact a simple withholding levy, but that it would not pass a bill until such a measure is passed by the committee to bring the matter to the floor.

Five Persons Die Violently

Chicago, April 12—(AP)—At least five persons died as a result of a gas leak in a building in Chicago, police officials announced today.

Police Station 26, of Western Division, announced a family of five, including a child, died in a gas leak in a building on North Dearborn street, which had a gas leak in a room containing a gas furnace.

J. R. J. was killed as a result of a gas leak in a building on North Dearborn street, which had a gas leak in a room containing a gas furnace.

Charles R. Clark, 45, of Greenwald, Ill., was fatally injured when struck by a truck while on his way home from a theatre.



Buy More War Bonds Today

Hull Pleads For Pacts

Secretary of State Urges Trade Treaties To Demonstrate U. S. Post-War Cooperation

Washington, April 12—(AP)—Secretary of State Hull today urged renewal of the reciprocal trade agreements law in order, he said, to demonstrate that the United States will cooperate with nations not only in war but in the peace to come.

"The many people who look toward this country with hope," Hull told the House ways and means committee, "are waiting for action on the part of the United States which will show them that it will be looked upon as a friend and ally in the peace to come."

"Repudiation of the trade agreements program or the enactment of it in scope or form by amendment, could be taken as a clear indication that this country, which in war is bearing its full share of responsibility, will not assist in peace."

Hull said the United States will continue to work for the peace which we are so vitally interested in the prosecution of the war.

Draft Reclassification Ordered; 3-B Eliminated

Deferment for Men With Collateral Dependents and Wives Only Ruled Out; Other Changes

Washington, April 12—Elimination of dependency as a cause for deferment for men with collateral dependents and wives only, except in the case of men necessary to and regularly engaged in agriculture or in cases where extreme hardship or privation would result, was announced today by Chairman Paul V. McNutt of the war manpower commission.

Major points in the new program, as outlined in memoranda to state directors by Major General Lewis B. Hershey, director of selective service, included:

1. Elimination of class 3-B, the class heretofore used for classification of men with bona fide dependents who were also engaged in agriculture or in the support of the war effort. No registrant will be placed in this class hereafter.

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Major Revisions Made for Draft

Storms Strike In Alabama

Virtually Every Physically Able Man Otherwise Eligible Will Be Drafted

Washington, April 12—(AP)—Major revisions in draft classifications were made today to facilitate the task of providing the armed forces this year with virtually every physically able man between 18 and 38 years old who has no cause for individual deferment.

Selective Service Director Lewis L. Hershey and War Manpower Commission Chairman Paul V. McNutt told a news conference that drafting on such a scale would be necessary to meet the goal of 10,000,000 men in uniform before next January 1.

The only grounds for deferment after the ban against calling fathers is lifted—possibly some time around July 1—will be farm work, individual essentiality in non-agricultural work, and the possibility that induction would mean "extreme privation and hardship," Hershey and McNutt said.

The draft bill that the nation has only 1,000,000 physically fit men in the 18 through 38 bracket, with about half of that number already in the armed forces.

Of the remaining 7,000,000, they said 3,200,000 will be deferred for occupation or hardship by the end of the year and the rest will be drafted during the next nine months.

McNutt said that as a result of the new classification revision, 1. Nearly 3,000,000 civilians were made available for call when their deferment numbers are reached unless they are necessary to the civilian war effort or their induction would mean extreme hardship to dependents.

2. More than 6,000,000, a class designated to take in thousands of men who became draftees between the summer of 1941 and last September 15, were assured a further breathing spell before call on their group begins.

AMERICAN PLANES BOMB JAP BASES

Washington, April 12—(AP)—Two bombing raids, causing heavy explosions and starting fires at the Japanese airbase at Munda in the Solomons were reported today by the Navy in a communique which told also of a raid on Kaiti, and of two bombing assaults on Kiska in the Aleutians.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Showers and thunderstorms this afternoon and extreme eastern portion early tonight; cooler in eastern and western portions tonight.

15 Axis Ships Sunk by Subs

London, April 12—(AP)—Fifteen more axis vessels have been destroyed or damaged in the Mediterranean by British submarines, the admiralty announced today.

The British submarines, continuing to harass enemy shipping attempting to supply Germans and Italians fighting for their lives in Tunisia, were declared to have sunk eight vessels. These were listed as two medium sized supply ships, one medium sized tanker, and five small supply ships.

Seven other vessels, including three large supply ships and a large tanker, were attacked and hit by torpedoes," the admiralty announcement said.

Two Trainmen Die In Crash

Indianapolis, April 12—(AP)—An eastbound, Big Four Railroad passenger train collided with an Indianapolis Union Railway locomotive and car on a west side crossing here today and two railway employees were killed and a third was believed dead under the wreckage.

Four other men were injured. No passengers on the Big Four train were hurt.