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600 Bombers Raid Nazi Cities

'Vigorous Local Activity' Reported In Tunisia

Air Attacks Continued Furiously

Patrol Action Only Reported from Area Held by Eighth Army South of Tunis

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, April 17—(AP)—"Vigorous local activity is taking place in the Tunis north of the Mers el-Kheir and in the western end of the Enfidaville line, the allied headquarters communique announced today.

Only patrol action was reported from the eighth army's sector on the south.

Bombardment of axis positions meanwhile continued at a furious pace as allied air forces swept over enemy airfields on both sides of the Sicilian strait.

The airport of Oudna, south of Tunis, was covered with bombs in one of these operations, while Palermo docks and shipping were blasted again by flying fortresses.

It was reported that the power house in the Palermo area, and two more steamship vessels were hit at the same time.

One large house blew up in the latter attack.

Enemy planes were destroyed yesterday, while the allies lost three, the communique said.

The action north of Medjerda had apparently been in the direction of the British infantry, supported by massed artillery, had widened a gap in the axis defense chain along the road toward Tunis.

The German radio, in a broadcast received by Reuters in London, acknowledged the situation of axis forces in Tunisia remains critical, but also said: "Some people already are talking about a second Dunkerque in Tunisia, but the German and Italian troops intend to fight to the very end."

39 SEEKING OFFICE IN CHARLOTTE RACES

Charlotte, April 17—(AP)—Thirty-nine candidates today filed for participation in Charlotte's first municipal primary election, April 26. The election, a town-wide, will be held May 4.

Thirty-one were listed as candidates for the city council of eleven members; two for mayor; and six for the school board of four members.

Late Freeze Hurts Crops

Truck crops, berries and other plantings suffer from latest cold in 57 years

Raleigh, April 17—(AP)—The State Department of Agriculture reported today that freezing temperatures of the past two days checked the growth of virtually all truck crops and heavily damaged strawberries and early plantings of snap beans.

It was the latest freezing date recorded in the vicinity of Raleigh in the past 57 years, the department said.

Freezing temperatures and heavy frosts occurred in nearly all principal truck crops areas.

The department reported that much of the snap bean crop in the Tobacco city area was damaged and 50 per cent of the crop in the Mt. Olive area was killed.

Severe damage was done to the strawberry crop in the Wallace area, the department reported, and light damage occurred in the Chadbourn region.

7 SONS, 3 DAUGHTERS IN SERVICE



HERE IS A FLAG WITH TEN STARS in the window of the home of Mrs. Helen Van Cotten, Bronx, N. Y., representing ten children in United States service. Six boys are in the Army, one in the Navy. Three girls are in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. (International)

Soviets Open Drive In Kuban Delta Area

Strong Artillery And Bomber Attacks Precede Infantry In Caucasus Push

Moscow, April 17—(AP)—The Red army has opened a new, slow-going but thorough drive in the Kuban delta of the Caucasus, with strong artillery and bomber preparation preceding an infantry advance into German positions, the Russians said today.

The push was nominarily slowed as rains were commencing and new operations prepared.

The German still have a strong foothold in Novorossiysk, the former Russian naval base, and along a strip of Black sea coast extending into the Taman peninsula.

Red Star, the Army newspaper, reported that rain, mud and a still defense by the Germans made of tasks extremely difficult.

In yesterday's opening battle, Red Star said, Russian bombers and Soviet artillery beat in a steady pounding of the German rear positions while the infantry fought its way into the German base points.

The Germans brought up fresh reserves before the Soviet forces could establish their gains, and by noon a tank of 30 tanks, and more than a regiment of infantry cut off the Soviet advance.

Only in one sector, however, did they take a position, Red Star said, and the first army began to roll back, three in the Caucasus back a second time.

The main German attack of only a small force occurred on the long Russian battle line.

March Liquor Sales Gain

Raleigh, April 17—(AP)—March liquor sales in the 20 wet counties topped \$1,062,300, an increase of approximately \$300,000 over March, 1942, and a slight increase over the \$1,000,000 sale in February of this year, State Motor Chairman Carl Williamson announced today.

Sales by counties included: Boone, \$27,750; Edgecombe, \$68,250; Greene, \$31,125; Lenoir, \$78,125; Nash, \$82,750; Wayne, \$38,225; Warren, \$29,750; and Wilson, \$84,000.

CLAUDE STAINBACK MAKES HONOR LIST

Louisburg, April 17—(AP)—Claude Stainback, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Stainback, of Henderson, was among those affording the mid-summer honorarium list at Long College.

Eisenhower Lauds Work Of U. S. Unit

Second Army Corps Captures 4,680 Axis Prisoners, 150 Guns And Other Material

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, April 17—(AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower disclosed today that the Second U. S. Army corps had captured 4,680 prisoners in recent fighting on the Tunisian front, destroyed or captured 683 axis vehicles and 150 guns.

At the same time he revealed that second corps casualties were 3,570 killed, wounded and missing.

"The second American corps accomplished what it set out to do, drawing off of the eighth army and, at the time in the battle when General Sir B. L. Montgomery's force broke through, was holding approximately 35,000 axis troops in the El Guetar-Maknessa area," the commander in chief declared at one of his rare "on the record" press conferences.

In addition to the prisoners and other material taken, the trophies included 150 machine guns and 25,000 hand mines.

American casualties were listed by Eisenhower as 933 killed, 3,670 wounded and 350 missing.

"Admiral Sir Andrew Bournemouth commends that by sustained air and air action, approximately 50 per cent of the shipping carrying supplies to Africa have been destroyed," General Eisenhower said.

"The results in the air have been outstanding. For example, on April 16, our air forces destroyed 63 German planes in the air, sank one Italian cruiser and damaged another."

NAPLES IS BOMBED

Cairo, April 17—(AP)—Heavy bombers of the Middle East command raided Naples again Thursday night, sending up the quays, docks and buildings of the harbor, a British source said unimpaired today.

"The results in the air have been outstanding. For example, on April 16, our air forces destroyed 63 German planes in the air, sank one Italian cruiser and damaged another."

Despite the destruction, shipping docked in the harbor continued to dock Thursday and extending to yesterday's daylight hours it was considered possible the Japanese succeeded in landing some supplies and men during the night they were in the harbor at Wehuk.

Among the ships which got away were a light cruiser, a destroyer, a gunboat and two merchantmen, lost in the vicinity of Manus island.

Today's moon continued to disperse the fog, but the bombing caused the water's surface of the harbor—a type of bombing first developed extensively at Guadalcanal—MacArthur's forces sent the second Japanese ship to the bottom.

Flying Fortresses, which bombed Wehuk, sent two direct hits with 1,000-pound bombs on the side and deck of the vessel. The result, internal explosion, blasted the ship.

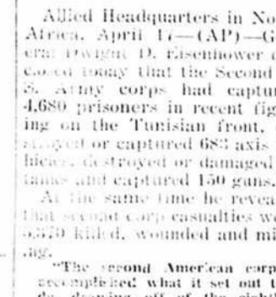
Tom Harmon Reported Safe

Washington, April 17—(AP)—Lieutenant Tommy Harmon, Army football player, who has been missing on a flight since April 8, has been reported safe.

The War department said today it had been advised of Harmon's escape from a plane crash in a South American jungle. It said he had reached a South American base. No details of the accident were available in the report reaching here from the Artillery air task force headquarters, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Chinese Women Build Railroad By Hand

In the innermost regions of Free China, women of the coolie class help to build a railroad by hand. In the picture above, they grade and prepare the road bed for tracks which have been salvaged from railroads in Jap-held territory.



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Jap Convoy Flees From U. N. Planes

Four Cargo Vessels Sunk or Disabled By Bombers; Five Ships Escape

Allied Headquarters in Australia, April 17—(AP)—Remnants of a Japanese convoy fled northward from Wehuk, New Guinea, today out of range of four-engine allied bombers which sank two 8,000-ton enemy ships, forced a 3,000-ton vessel to beached and rendered still another 8,000-ton ship unseaworthy.

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66 Persons Die in Traffic During Month

Raleigh, April 17—(AP)—Fifty-seven accidents killed 66 persons on South Carolina highways last month, twelve less than were killed in highway wrecks in March, 1942, Motor Vehicle Commissioner T. Riddle Ward said today.

In the first three months of the year, 136 persons were killed on the highways. Ward said, compared with 227 in the same period last year, a reduction of 31.2 per cent.

Nine of the March deaths occurred in Johnston county, which had the heaviest toll. Seven persons were killed in Onslow county and four fatalities were recorded in Forsyth, Harnett and Wayne Counties. Wayne had three deaths, and Avon, Beaufort, Gaston, Henderson, Mecklenburg and New Hanover had two each.

THREE KILLED, TWO HURT IN ACCIDENT

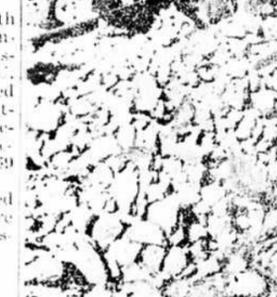
Valdosta, Ga., April 17—(AP)—Two flying officers and a young woman were killed and another young woman was injured in an automobile accident on the Moody Field highway near here late last night.

The dead are Second Lieutenant Warren Gregory, a flying instructor at Moody Field, Second Lieutenant William L. Mann, assistant engineering officer at Moody Field, a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Mann of Albemarle, N. C.; and Doris Fender of Homerville, Ga.

The cause of the accident was not determined.

55 Planes Are Missing From Attack

RAF Night Operation Against Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Pilsen Largest of War



London, April 17—(AP)—More than 600 bombers roared out in moonlight last night to strike heavily at Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Pilsen—the latter in German-occupied Czechoslovakia, the home of the Skoda munitions works—in what the air ministry today called "the biggest night operation this year. Fifty-five planes are missing in the raids, it was announced.

Mannheim and Ludwigshafen are on the Rhine, in southwestern Germany, connected by a bridge across the river.

"Preliminary reports indicate that both attacks were concentrated and successful."

The heaviest losses in the night operation were the greatest suffered by the British in the war.

Although the loss of 55 bombers approached 10 per cent of the fighting force, the authoritative view was that the losses were not out of proportion to the damage done to important targets. A 10 per cent loss has been commonly regarded as an extraordinary, if sustained over a long period, for the continuation of an offensive.

The German air force, making base at Ennsdorf, lost four bombers in London as the first in a night raid, but only a few enemy planes got close enough to the city to drop some high explosive bombs. They caused little damage and few casualties in the suburbs.

YOUTHS ARE FREED BY PERQUIMANS JURY

Hertford, April 17—(AP)—A jury returned a verdict yesterday acquitting three youths charged with assault with intent to rape after a trial in Perquimans superior court.

The charges were brought by a young girl as the result of an automobile ride near Hertford the night of January 11.

Seven-Fleet Navy Formed

One Unit Assigned To Australian Area, Strengthening Hope For Strong Force

Washington, April 17—(AP)—Reorganization of the United States Navy into seven fleets, with one assigned to the Australian area, strengthened the possibility today that strong reinforcements might be destined for Guadalcanal.

Meanwhile, a congressional controversy concerning Pacific and overall allied strategy was highlighted by a call from Senator George Gorham Democrat, for shipment to Australia and China of all the additional planes needed for those fronts.

There was no further official comment from the Navy on Secretary Knox' disclosure today of the reorganization, but it was promptly pointed out elsewhere that there have been no previous reports of major use of naval forces by MacArthur.

Some highly placed observers stressed that the reorganization might be one of "convenience only" involving no important transfer of sea power. But they acknowledged that heretofore the name "fleet" has been reserved for a large naval unit. The possibility that such a force has been assigned to MacArthur started immediate speculation as to whether the allied high command has decided to channel into the southwest Pacific more support—both on land and sea.

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23 Convicts Still At Large

Douglasville, Ga., April 17—(AP)—Twenty-three of the 25 convicts who fled from Tallahassee state prison yesterday remained at large today and three prison guards were under suspicion pending an investigation.

Wagon R. B. DeValley, office re-quest.

Rescued from duty pending the inquiry by the state board of prisons scheduled to begin today were Guards B. G. Morrison, W. E. Overfield and M. N. Spivey, the wardens' announcement said.

Meanwhile, highway patrolmen, sheriffs and police officers throughout the state kept a sharp watch for the escaped convicts, three of whom were serving life terms for murder.

'E' AWARD IS GIVEN TO DURHAM COMPANY

Durham, April 17—(AP)—The Army-Navy "E" production award was presented today to Wright's Automobile Machinery Co., of Durham, makers of precision instruments vital to the war effort.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Occasional light rain and showers tonight and Sunday afternoon.