



Nazis Retreat Before Americans

GENERAL BEN LEAR AWARDED DSM



GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army, pins the Distinguished Service Medal on Lieut. Gen. Ben Lear (right), commanding officer of the Second Army. The award was made prior to a luncheon commemorating 45 years in service. (International)

U. S.-Finnish Break Believed Imminent

Helsinki Advises Indicate Small Hope For Any Change In Policy

Stockholm, April 26—(AP)—A break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Finland appeared imminent today—perhaps only a matter of hours—as advisers from Helsinki indicated little possibility of a change in Finnish foreign policy which might ease the situation.

While the Finnish public was reported deeply disturbed by the prospect of a break, Finland's official position was summed up tersely by a source close to the government with these words:

"The Americans cannot expect us to be a most ardent ally."

The statement was an obvious reference to American desires that Finland settle her differences with Russia, break her ties with Germany and withdraw from the war.

Germany has been reported bringing strong pressure on Finland to stop up her military efforts against Russia and to aid the Nazis in mounting a spring offensive against Leningrad.

Reports were current last night that Washington already had broken relations with Finland, but they were denied as "premature" by a high Finnish foreign office source in Helsinki.

Finland is the only country fighting beside the Nazis with which the United States has maintained relations.

Kuban Delta Front Quiet

Moscow, April 26—(AP)—Halted by heavy losses in their counter attacks in the Kuban delta of the western Caucasus, German forces prodded at various sectors of the long Russian front today, but there were no reports of important engagements.

The mid-day communiqué said nothing of significance had occurred.

Both sides were active scouting operations on almost all fronts and the communiqué said 100 Germans were killed during a minor action on the Donets river front and 70 more in a light engagement on the western front. There was scattered artillery activity.

Apparently the temporary activity west of Rostov had died down as there were no further reports of operations in this area.

SINKING IN GULF

New York, April 26—(AP)—The sinking early this month of a small Norwegian freighter in the Gulf of Mexico—one of four allied and neutral western Atlantic merchant losses announced last week by the Navy—marked the first announced destruction of a vessel in those waters in more than seven months.

M'NAIR'S WOUNDS ARE NOT CRITICAL

Washington, April 26—(AP)—Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair will be incapacitated several weeks as a result of the wounds he received in Tunisia last Friday, the War department reported today, adding that he was not critically injured.

Axis Losses Mount High

Allied Headquarters in North Africa Says 66,000 Men Killed, Wounded or Captured

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, April 26—(AP)—Allied headquarters announced today that the axis lost 66,000 men, killed, wounded and taken prisoner from January 1 to April 15.

In the same period, it was added, they lost 250 tanks, 3,000 vehicles, 425 guns and 31 ships, sunk by land-based aircraft alone.

"In air combat," the announcement added, "our air forces destroyed 218 enemy planes, probably destroyed 274 more and damaged another 586."

Allied air raids accounted for another 300 enemy planes destroyed on the ground. Land-based aircraft also sank eleven U-boats.

It said that axis shipping losses did not include those inflicted by the royal navy.

"The losses in enemy ships now listed as authentically sunk during the same period include eight merchant vessels, two tankers, two barges, eleven fleet submarines, two destroyers, one cruiser, and eight vessels of unidentified types," the statement said.

ALABAMA MINERS DECLINE TO WORK

Birmingham, Ala., April 26—(AP)—Approximately 1,100 miners employed by the Republic Steel Corp., failed to report for work this morning in the newest developments in Alabama's coal situation.

A company spokesman said the men came to the mine but declined to go to work. He said no demands had been made on the company and added that he believed the stoppage was caused by general dissatisfaction over what he said was failure to negotiate a permanent contract in the Alabama field.

AIR ACTIVITY IS RENEWED IN PACIFIC

Kiska Raids Are Resumed After Lull

Four U. S. Fighters Down Five of 30 Jap Planes in Battle Off Guadalcanal

Washington, April 26—(AP)—Four American fighter planes engaged ten enemy bombers and 20 Zeros off Guadalcanal island, the Navy reported today, and shot down five of the Japanese fighters.

Two of the United States planes failed to return after the aerial battle fought 95 miles northwest of Lunga Point on Guadalcanal in the Solomons.

Washington, April 26—(AP)—Gambling their navigation skill for a chance to slow up construction of a Japanese airbase in the Aleutians, American fliers have resumed their bombing raids on enemy installations at Kiska.

For two days the United States pilots apparently were earthbound because of fog and storms which in the north Pacific can roar up into plane-crushing blasts in a matter of minutes, but yesterday the Navy disclosed the raids have started again.

Despite storms, bombers and fighters took off Saturday to roar down on the rocky island near the end of the Aleutian chain, loosing explosives and strafing enemy positions with machine gun fire.

The weather was so bad, however, that the pilots were unable to observe results.

Meantime in the south Pacific the much-bombed Japanese base at Munda, New Georgia island, again felt the blows of Avenger torpedo bombers. Dauntless dive bombers and Wildcat fighters.

Some indications were seen in the south Pacific that the recent comparative lull in operations, highlighted in recent days only by news of the occupation of the Ellice Islands by American forces, might be a prelude to new offensive actions.

It was considered logical that any such offensive actions would include close collaboration between General Douglas MacArthur, directing southwest Pacific operations, and Admiral William F. Halsey, commander of U. S. naval forces in the south Pacific.

The British announced from New Delhi that the Japanese had launched an attack on allied positions in the Mayu river area of Burma, but said there had been no change in the lines, although the fighting continued.

Delayed dispatches from Burma said five Japanese planes were destroyed and four others probably were shot down Sunday when 25 enemy aircraft attempted a raid on an advanced American airbase in Hman province, China. Only one of the American planes was damaged. None were lost.

American bombers from China raided the lead and zinc mines at Nantun in Burma, scoring direct hits on the plant and storage sheds.

Race Trouble Is Averted

Greenville, April 26—(AP)—Prompt arrival of State highway patrolmen at Grifton Saturday night prevented serious trouble by a crowd of Negroes who tried to storm the jail and prevent police from detaining Rosa Lee Picott, Negro, on charges of being drunk and disorderly and creating a disturbance.

Highway patrolmen brought the woman and her husband, John Picott, and her two brothers, to the county jail here.

Patrolmen from Greenville and Kinston under the command of Lieutenant Lester Jones were on the scene in less than 20 minutes after the trouble started in a cafe. They cleared the street of Negroes and by 10 p. m. the town was quiet.

AXIS TROOPS KNOW WHEN THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH



SURRENDERING ITALIAN SOLDIERS in North Africa (top picture) are no longer a novelty; surrendered Germans (below) are speedily becoming less of a rarity. The young Nazis, of the 15th Panzer Grenadiers, wearing medals of various types, smoke their last looted cigars with enjoyment. (International)

Russia Breaks With Poland

WLB Plans Coal Panel

Lewis Refuses To Nominate Member; Hearing Scheduled For Tomorrow

Washington, April 26—(AP)—The war labor board pushed ahead today with plans to set up a fact-finding three-man panel to hear the soft coal wage dispute despite a refusal by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, to nominate a labor member of the panel.

Spontaneous strike outbursts have been reported from various parts of the Appalachian field. Uniontown, Pa., reported 6,000 miners stopped work in that area. Some steel company "scab" mines elsewhere also went down.

The board was expected to announce its selections today of persons to represent the public, industry and labor on the panel. A preliminary meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and hearings on the dispute itself are to start Wednesday, the day after a meeting of the UMW policy committee in New York.

New York, April 26—(AP)—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, declined today an invitation of the war labor board to nominate a labor member to a three-man WLB panel which will hold hearings on the wage dispute between the union and soft coal mine operators.

K. C. Adams, press representative for Lewis, said at 9:30 a. m.—deadline time for the WLB invitation—that Lewis had no intention of accepting the invitation.

RAF BOMBERS RAID NAPLES OBJECTIVES

Cairo, April 26—(AP)—Heavy RAF bombers attacked the Italian port of Naples again Saturday night unleashing explosives near a railroad station, on a steel works and a shipyard, a Middle East air communiqué announced today.

Long range fighters were reported to have set an enemy ship on fire earlier in the day in the Ionian sea. All planes returned safely from these and other operations, the communiqué said.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Scattered light showers this afternoon or early tonight.

Navy Denies Nazi Claim Of Sinking

Washington, April 26—(AP)—The Navy denied today German claims that the aircraft carrier Hanger had been torpedoed and sunk in the north Atlantic.

(By The Associated Press)—"One of our submarines has sunk in the middle north Atlantic the United States aircraft carrier Hanger, which was employed for the guarding of a convoy lane across the Atlantic," the announcement, repeated by the Associated Press, said.

(By The Associated Press)—The Berlin radio, in an otherwise unconfirmed report, said in a broadcast last night a German submarine had sunk the 14,500-ton U. S. aircraft carrier Hanger in the north Atlantic.

"One of our submarines has sunk in the middle north Atlantic the United States aircraft carrier Hanger, which was employed for the guarding of a convoy lane across the Atlantic," the announcement, repeated by the Associated Press, said.

Action Delayed On Deferment Of Fathers

Washington, April 26—(AP)—With Secretary of War Stimson vigorously opposing its enactment, Senate consideration of a proposal to grant blanket draft exemptions to fathers was postponed another week today.

Senator Johnson, Colorado Democrat, announced his decision to wait until next Monday before moving to call up another measure to which Senator Wheeler planned to offer an amendment prohibiting the calling of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers for the remainder of 1943.

Stimson's views were made known in a letter dated April 20 and made public by the Senate military affairs committee. He said approval of the Wheeler proposal would be "unjustified."

"The War department is advised by the national headquarters of the selective service system that as of January 1, 1943, more than 8,000,000 men of age were classified in the deferment category of 3-A, and that more than 6,000,000 of such number were classified in the deferment category of 3-A because they have one or more children under the age of 16," Stimson wrote. "The proposed legislation, therefore, presents the simple issue whether the war effort can enter, without serious impairment, the withdrawal of 6,000,000 men who are eligible for training and service from the national pool of manpower. Plainly, it can not."

Nazi Accord Is Charged

Polish Government In Exile Accused Of Being In League With Germans

Moscow, April 26—(AP)—Soviet Russia severed relations with the Polish government in exile yesterday, accusing it of being in league with the Germans in carrying out a "hostile campaign" against the Soviet Union in connection with the deaths of several thousand Polish officers near Smolensk.

Foreign Commissar Molotov handed the Polish ambassador a bitter note, denouncing the Polish government, the news agency Tass reported. It charged the Poles with carrying on a hostile campaign against the Soviet Union.

Washington, April 26—(AP)—The State department expressed regret today over the break in diplomatic relations between Soviet Russia and the Polish government in exile.

Asked for comment, a department official said that without reference to the merits in the matter of the differences between these two governments, and without knowing as yet the full facts, it was with regret that the government learned of this development.

Soviet Union along the same lines as the recent German propaganda diatribes, accusing the Russians of murdering 10,000 Polish officers near Smolensk. The Russian note flatly charged that the Germans had killed the Polish officers.

"The Polish government, to please Hitler's tyranny, deals a treacherous blow to the Soviet Union," Molotov's note said. "The Soviet government is aware that this hostile campaign against the Soviet Union was undertaken by the Polish government in order to exert pressure for the purpose of wresting from it the territorial concessions at the expense of the interest of the Soviet Union, Soviet Byelorussia and Soviet Lithuania."

"All these circumstances compel the Soviet government to recognize that the government of Poland, having slid to the path of accord of disunion, has abandoned its duty to the USSR and adopted a hostile attitude toward the Soviet Union. On the strength of all above, the Soviet government has decided to sever relations with the Polish government."

West Wall In Tunisia Gives Away

American, French And British Units Continue Progress In All Sectors

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, April 26—(AP)—Germans were reported in retreat on the American manned northern sector of the Tunisian front and that there were indications that the mountainous west wall was finally giving away.

Even as a field dispatch said that the Germans had begun withdrawing from positions before the second U. S. Army corps this morning, headquarters announced that the French 19th army corps, serving at the "hinge" between the British first and eighth armies, had won five mountains without heavy opposition and wiped out a German salient that had poked dangerously into allied lines.

A military spokesman said Colonel General von Arnim was definitely to have committed most of his armor to "fight it out" against British tanks which penetrated the narrow plain east of Goubellat, between the French and American sectors.

"This is a vital area," the spokesman said. French, British and American units were declared in a communiqué to have "continued their steady progress on all sectors," with powerful air support against enemy detachments who were steadily retreating every inch of ground.

An important mountain peak dominating the road from Medjelzel-Fab to Tebourba, was finally secured by British infantry and tanks of the last axis resistance in an attack which a spokesman termed "a magnificent effort."

"The remnants of the garrison were captured," the communiqué said. Infantrymen opened a path for the tanks in this final thrust to reclaim the mountain, which had changed hands three times in the last ten days. Other Nazi strongholds, however, remained in the sector, 20 miles airline west of Tunis.

Yesterday an axis garrison which had been holding out in the isolated valley finally was liquidated, the communiqué said.

Allied aircraft, hammered Saturday by poor weather, resumed heavy attacks on enemy transport and positions and several fires were started on a Tunisian airfield. A number of vehicles also were set afire.

Fighter planes escorted its bombers and carried out sweeps over the battle area, destroying seven enemy planes during the day. Twelve allied planes were lost, but two of the pilots are known to be safe, the communiqué said.

New Authority For Byrnes Expected

Washington, April 26—(AP)—Early Senate approval was predicted today for a civilian supply agency measure described by Senator Taft, Republican of Ohio, one of its authors, as a step toward clothing economic stabilization Director James F. Byrnes, with authority that would make him an assistant president.

Strongly opposed by WPA chairman Donald Nelson, the bill would strip the director of authority from the war production board, giving the new setup equal claimant powers with the Army and Navy. Byrnes would have the final word in settling disputes over allocations between those agencies.

Senator Maloney, Connecticut Democrat, said he would attempt to call up the measure this week and while objections are expected to delay its consideration until more senators from unofficial Easter vacations, administration lieutenants said there was little doubt the bill would pass later.