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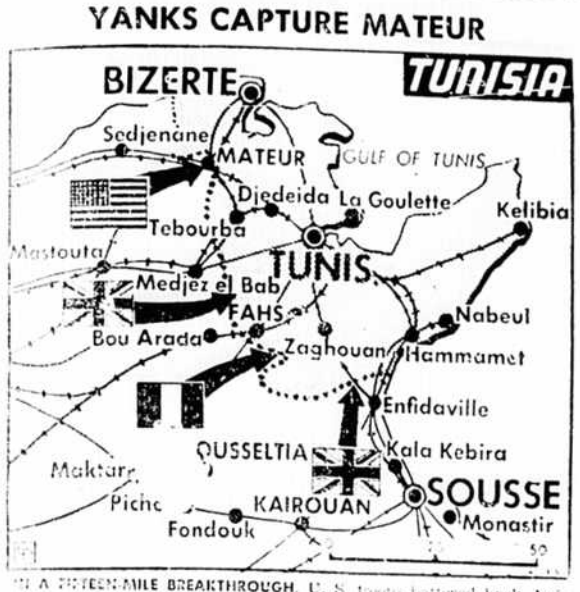
DOOR TO TUNIS PLAINS OPENED

Japs Ready For Knockout, Tojo Says

YANKS CAPTURE MATEUR



IN A FIFTEEN-MILE BREAKTHROUGH, U. S. troops battered back Axis defenses and captured the strategic town of Mateur. The thrust cut the Axis rail link between Bizerte and Tunis. British troops made gains near Medjez el Bab while the French took the hill of Djebel Dava southeast of Pont du Fahs. Montgomery's Eighth Army pushed back the enemy on the line below Hammamet. (International)

Says Final Blow Ready For Enemy

Premier Declares in Speech in Manila His Invasion Armies Preparing To Strike

(By The Associated Press)

Premier Tojo of Japan asserted today that the Mikado's invasion armies were "now prepared to deal a decisive blow at the enemy," and simultaneously a Chinese army spokesman said Japan was preparing to launch "an important move" in the Pacific war theatre.

The spokesman said China was the most probable target of new all-out Japanese offensive although he conceded that an attack on India, Australia or even Soviet Siberia could not be ruled out.

Coincidentally Chinese headquarters announced that the Japanese had opened a new drive against China's "rice bowl" in north Hunan and south Hupeh provinces, with 7,000 to 8,000 troops leading the assault.

Heavy fighting was reported in progress. An Axis broadcast quoted Premier Tojo as declaring in Manila, in a speech marking the first anniversary of the fall of Corregidor, that Japan had strengthened all strategically important bases in greater east Asia, and was preparing to strike.

"We are now in readiness to launch a thoroughgoing attack on the enemy's armies and navy."

U. S. TROOPS MANEUVER IN HILLS OF AFRICA

ON MANEUVERS IN TUNISIA, U. S. [illegible]

U.S. Troops Also Make Fresh Gains

Americans Force Germans To Stand And Fight; Sicilian Straits Lifeline Strafed

With the U. S. [illegible] Near Bizerte, May 6—(AP)—[illegible] smashing toward Bizerte have taken Djebel Cherita, the biggest remaining barrier to a breakthrough to the sea at the naval base.

The Americans advance along the entire sector, now with foot troops and armor.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, May 6—(AP)—American troops captured part of an important ridge on the southern shores of Lake Achkel, while the British First Army opened a drive on the plain of Tunis yesterday by attacking fiercely resisting enemy from another strangle hilltop twelve miles northeast of Medjez-el-Bab, it was announced today.

In what appeared to be a desperate fight to organize defenses on the roads to Bizerte, along which both American and French forces have been pressing to distances as close as ten miles, Axis troops counter-attacked repeatedly yesterday in the area north of Lake Achkel.

All attacks were repulsed and the Americans took more than 200 prisoners, most of whom were Italians.

[illegible]

NOSE TIGHTENS.

Washington, May 6—(AP)—Secretary of War Stimson declared today that "the noose is tightening around the Axis army" in North Africa, but there is every indication the enemy will continue to fight their.

"There has been no evidence," he told his press conference, "of any [illegible] to evacuate any considerable number of the Axis army."

Stimson said action for the "obvious desired combination" of the American, British and French armed forces, and for the [illegible] of the Mediterranean to the point where it no longer is necessary to use it as a supply line from the United States to the [illegible] Axis forces in Tunisia.

By a special war review, the secretary said that in the South Pacific the Japs's aims is interference with our operations, but General Douglas MacArthur's fliers have made a number of successful raids.

Lewis Union Still Ignores WLB Move For Miner Accord

Washington, May 6—(AP)—John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers continued to ignore the War Labor Board's efforts to settle coal wage dispute today as it took testimony from operators.

[illegible] and Charles O'Neil [illegible] for the Appalachian operators.

[illegible] CMW [illegible] Board. The CMW, which defied the WLB, gave no sign that they would participate in the hearings.

Picking up where they left off—in line with the board policy not to reopen cases during a production drive—the panel meeting started with Charles O'Neil speaking for the Pacific Appalachian operators.

House Body For Holding Trade Pact

[illegible], May 6—(AP)—A [illegible] of the short-term Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, not only to [illegible] but to make it means of peace and prevention.

[illegible] was presented [illegible] Committee by Chairman [illegible] of the House Ways and Means Committee [illegible] adjournment of [illegible] that the report [illegible] can be [illegible] before [illegible] the national [illegible] of unity in the [illegible] a secure peace here [illegible] of American prosperity.

[illegible] desirable [illegible] the Axis [illegible] an [illegible] in [illegible] order that our allies and [illegible] of the United States may [illegible] that international cooperation [illegible] the postwar reconstruction [illegible] a party matter.

[illegible] be made that the extension [illegible] in this form and for the [illegible] has formerly been used, [illegible] no unnecessary doubt [illegible] be created.

Police Chief At Norwood Badly Shot

Norwood, May 6—(AP)—Chief of Police Jack Skinner, 65, was found [illegible] fatally, and Roy Gordon, about 50, was [illegible] wounded in a gun battle on the street here last night.

Deputy Policeman Franklin Hill [illegible] and the shooting ended when he and Skinner [illegible] to arrest Gordon after the latter [illegible] chased and [illegible] a [illegible] Chinese [illegible] Hill said that when they drove up to their car and stopped near where Gordon was standing, Gordon drew a gun and ordered the chief to put up his hands. A fusillade of shots followed, during which the chief fired one shot and Policeman Hill fired six [illegible] .32 caliber rifle. Both Skinner, "the boss of the head," and Gordon received [illegible] bullet wound in the neck and one in the body.

Bill Neal, a bystander, said that immediately following the shooting Gordon staggered about 100 yards up the street where he fainted [illegible] and [illegible] to a doctor.

Both Skinner and Gordon were [illegible] to the general hospital at Albemarle. Report from the hospital early today indicated the chief's wound [illegible] fatal. Gordon's condition was not regarded as critical.

STATE BOUGHT OVER $166 MILLION BONDS

Shelby, May 6—(AP)—North Carolina's subscriptions to the $13,000,000,000 war loan campaign reached a total of $166,920,920.25 through last Monday, against a quota of $62,000,000 and the totals were reported continuing to grow. Former Governor Clyde R. Hoey, State chairman of the campaign, announced the figures today.

Hoey said the total included sales in all categories except purchases by commercial banks. The figures were given him by the Fifth Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

The campaign, he said, will continue until May 8, when final figures will be given.

JACKSONVILLE BUSSES STOPPED BY STRIKE

Jacksonville, Fla., May 6—(AP)—[illegible] transportation in the Jacksonville metropolitan area, embracing [illegible] persons, was thrown out of gear today when 175 buses of the Atlantic Transit Company ceased operation as the result of a machinists' strike involving 60 workmen.

Stalin Will Favor Independent Poland When War Ends

Moscow, May 6—(AP)—Establishment of a strong and independent Poland after the defeat of Germany was advocated by Premier Josef Stalin in a letter to Ralph Parker, New York Times correspondent, made public here by Tass, Soviet official news agency, and broadcast by the Moscow radio.

Stalin added that, should the Polish people so desire, postwar relations between Poland and the U. S. S. R. should be based "upon the fundament of an alliance providing for mutual assistance against the Germans as the chief enemies of the Soviet Union and Poland."

Stalin's letter was written Tuesday in answer to questions addressed to him the day before.

Treasury Regards Trio of Tax Plans As Very Similar

Washington, May 6—(AP)—The Treasury told the Senate Finance Committee today that while there is "little room for choice" between three plans for current collection of taxes, the abatement of revenues proposed under the Carlson-Ruml measure advocated unsuccessfully by Republicans in the House," is very inequitable and unfair.

In an analysis of the House-approved Forand-Robertson bill the rejected Wass and means committee measure, and the Carlson-Ruml plan, Randolph Paul, Treasury general counsel, said that any choice between the three measures must be based primarily on the proposals to abate 1942 tax liabilities.

Food Goals Will Be Met, Davis Feels

Washington, May 6—(AP)—Food Administrator Chester C. Davis reported today the farm labor supply should be "sufficient to produce and harvest a 1943 crop up to the levels of the announced goals."

In a report to Economic Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes, Davis said that if the potential labor supply is fully used, farm production need not suffer this year from lack of labor.

While the farm [illegible] that is not entirely satisfactory, Davis reported [illegible] have been taken to improve it. A to fertilizer, he said 100 per cent of requirements was assured for cotton, corn, wheat and 75 percent of normal needs for other crops, including [illegible] and [illegible].

Davis has been [illegible] by Byrnes to give his immediate attention to the [illegible] to supply [illegible] with sufficient [illegible] machinery and supplies to carry out the government's [illegible] crop production program.

The labor, he said, will come from

(Continued on Page Six)

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Slightly warmer tonight.

Red Army Is Pushing Germans Back Toward the Black Sea

London, May 6—(AP)—The Red Army has advanced "far to the north" Kremlin [illegible] in the Caucasus and won a [illegible] Germans, [illegible] announced. The Moscow radio reported today in a broadcast.

Moscow, May 6—(AP)—The Red Army, hammering today at the northeastern approaches of Novorossisk, has taken a dozen more villages in the area in addition to Kievskaya and nine other towns which the Soviets announced they captured yesterday in pushing through the Kuban delta lowlands toward the Black Sea port.

[illegible] crushed. For weeks Hitler has been [illegible] up tanks and [illegible] possibly in preparation [illegible] offensive in the Kuban.

The loss of [illegible] thousands of [illegible] men [illegible] last few days has [illegible] Axis forces, but [illegible] probably remains [illegible]

General Davis Is Named As Successor to Andrews

Made Commander of Armed Forces in Place of General Killed in Iceland Crash

Broughton Invokes War Power Twice

Invasion In 1943 Certain, Davis Says

Washington, May 6—(AP)—Director Elmer Davis of O. W. I. today [illegible] no question but [illegible] of War Information, said that there will be Allied operations on Continental Europe this summer.

Davis, asked whether Allied forces could clean up North Africa soon enough to permit invasion of the continent this year, said he was confident they could.

However, he added, it might be necessary to leave a pocket of Axis resistance at Bizerte to be reduced by sustained pounding, even while the continental operations are under way. The big naval base of Bizerte already is within heavy artillery range of American and French troops to the north.

"The Allies may encounter difficulties when they get the Axis knocked down to Bizerte, where the Germans evidently intend to make their final stand," said Davis, who is in close touch with military strategists here.

"In my opinion, it would be possible to go ahead with the invasion plans, even though Bizerte remains for a time in Axis hands."

Davis gave these opinions in a brief interview.

ANDREWS CRASH IS LAID UPON WEATHER

[illegible]

British First Army troops of Lieutenant General Anderson, following close behind an earth-rocking aerial bombardment and artillery barrage, rushed the blood-drenched ridge northeast

Postwar Relief Program Is Urged by Works Chief

[illegible] May 6—(AP)—Major [illegible] today urged the [illegible] Philip B. Fleming, Federal [illegible] to proceed [illegible] with plans for [illegible] after the war. We [illegible] what [illegible] to do [illegible] Fleming said in an address [illegible] Chamber of Commerce here. His job, he explained, is to see that [illegible] the necessary to the War [illegible] and other [illegible] and other [illegible] to order [illegible] from [illegible] Fleming said [illegible] the Federal Works Agency [illegible] Federal Public Buildings Administration [illegible]