

ROOSEVELT SALUTES MALTA



IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA I SALUTE THE ISLAND OF MALTA, its people and defenders, who in the cause of freedom and justice and decency throughout the world have rendered valorous service far above and beyond the call of duty.

Under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood alone but unafraid in the center of the sea, one tiny bright flame in the darkness—a beacon of hope for the clearer days which have come.

Malta's bright story of human fortitude and courage will be read by posterity with wonder and with gratitude through all the ages. What was done in this Island maintains the highest traditions of gallant men and women who from the beginning of time have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind.

HERE IS A REPRODUCTION of the scroll presented to the people of Malta on behalf of all the American people by President Roosevelt when he stopped at the Mediterranean island while returning from Teheran. It will be cast in bronze; put in Valletta's main square. (International)

Senate Committee Votes For Freezing 1944 Security Tax

Coal Shortage Approaching Catastrophe

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The Office of War Information reported today the coal shortage is so acute that if stocks cannot be replenished next summer the situation will "approach catastrophe."

"The plain fact is," said OWI, "that we aren't digging as much coal as we are using. Therefore, we have had a progressive shortage throughout 1943. Stocks in the bins of industrial users and retail dealers will have declined from 86,000,000 tons last January 1 to about 60,000,000 tons at the end of the year.

That is only a little more than a month's supply. By March 31 the stocks will be considerably less than a month's supply—a dangerously low level, OWI said.

Civilian's Butter Supply Unchanged During Year 1944

Chicago, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The American civilian's share of butter probably will continue to be about a pound a person each month in 1944, Tom G. Stitts, chief of the War Food Administration's dairy and poultry branch, told members of the American Butter Institute today.

Stitts outlined the probable butter production and allocation for next year, saying:

"The official allocations for the calendar year 1944 aren't completed yet, but I can give you a few preliminary estimates.

"We'll probably send the Russians about the same quantity of butter as we will ship this year. We are not supplying the British with butter, but Australia and New Zealand are providing our armed forces with about 20,000,000 pounds a year on a reverse lend-lease basis."

9 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

I'm a good boy!

Buy Christmas Seals

WAR SHORTENED BY DECISIONS REDS TAKE DNIEPER BASTION

Nazis Admit Losing Of Cherkasy

Ukrainian Army in Big Victory Drive; Reds Near Junction

London, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Cherkasy, last remaining Nazi bastion on the middle Dnieper river between Kremenchug and Kiev, has been lost to a charging Red army, the Berlin radio announced today, as General Vatutin's first Ukrainian army turned the tide against Field Marshal Manstein in the bloody battle of the Kiev bulge.

Cherkasy is a strategic river port on the main railway linking Minsk and Gomel with Odessa on the Black Sea. Its capture paves the way for the junction of Russian forces operating out of the Kremenchug bridgehead with those on the second edge of the Kiev salient.

The reluctance of the Germans to evacuate Cherkasy was emphasized by the desperate and costly battle they fought to cling to the Dnieper port of 60,000 population, the outskirts of which were reached and bypassed on November 19 by the Red army.

"After several weeks of bitter fighting in the Cherkasy area, which was successfully sustained against many times superior tank and infantry formations, the German command last night withdrew German garrison forces from Cherkasy to flatter and more favorable positions," said the broadcast.

Fresh Gains On Italian Front Made

German Tanks Are Crushed By Shells From Allied Guns

Alziers, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Indian troops who are attacking in the center of the British Eighth Army front in Italy crashed through German defenses and captured a number of prisoners, headquarters announced today, while Canadians along the Adriatic coast hurled back Nazi armored attacks, wrecking tanks and inflicting casualties.

Activities of the Fifth Army front were confined to artillery duels and patrols.

British guns knocked out a number of tanks which tried to break through and counterattack, and inflicted casualties on the attackers. The Eighth then resumed its advance and broadened its bridgehead south and southwest of Ortona in a number of local engagements.

The weather was overcast and showering on both the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts.

German self-propelled artillery and mortars were extremely active sniping Allied positions along the Liri valley. American big guns replied in a brisk artillery duel.

In the air war, American bombers attacked a German oil depot at the Yugoslav port of Split and also blasted warehouses farther up the coast.

In other operations yesterday fighter-bombers and fighters at German gun positions and communications set fire to motor transports.

Two Allied planes failed to return.

FRENCH AND BELGIAN CITIZENS EXECUTED

London, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The Germans have announced the execution of nine Belgians and two Frenchmen for sheltering Allied airmen, the Belgian news agency said today. Ten Belgians were hanged at Antwerp on charges of sabotage and assault with explosives and fire arms.

Western Germany Bombed by British Without Any Loss

London, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The RAF's sleek Mosquito bombers stabbled at western Germany last night for the fourth successive night, the air ministry announced today, slipping through the Nazi defenses to return to their bases without loss.

The raid followed up a daylight assault on unspecified objectives on western Germany yesterday by formations of United States Liberators and Flying Fortresses, during which American fighters shot down fifteen Nazi fighters to bring to 187 the total number of German planes downed by the Eighth Air Force this month.

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DEANNA DURBIN IS GRANTED DIVORCE

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 14.—(AP)—Deanna Durbin, singing screen star, was granted a divorce today from Lieutenant Vaughan Paul in proceedings which took less than ten minutes.

Hard Blows Against Japs in Pacific in Near Future Likely

Knox Says U. S. Now Is Ready to Strike With Great Force

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Secretary of the Navy Knox predicted today "hard blows" against the Japanese in the Pacific in the near future.

"We are getting stronger and stronger," he told a news conference. "The preliminaries are out of the way. We are getting ready to drive home some hard blows."

He gave no indication of where the most of the United States could be expected to strike.

Knox reviewed the war of attrition and added:

"Of course, the whole strategy is becoming apparent. It is perfectly obvious now that what seemed to be only nibbling has been carried on with the express purpose of decimating the enemy's strength. He has contributed by sending down small task forces which have been regularly overwhelmed."

One of the "striking things" noted by the Navy secretary in the Pacific war is that "we seldom encounter transports and cargo-carrying ships in outlying ports held by the enemy."

"Because of severe losses in this type of craft inflicted by American submarines, surface ships and airplanes, he said, the Japanese have resorted to the use of barges in attempts to move men and materials to their bases.

"Hundreds of these barges have been sunk," he said, "and a great many thousands of Japanese soldiers have been lost in their effort to relieve beleaguered garrisons."

Discussing the aerial warfare, he said that the actual figure of losses showed that six or eight enemy planes now are being sent down for every American plane lost.

Generally, Knox said, operations over the Pacific are "going forward very satisfactorily. We have had a period of preparation and training. Now we have the equipment and men to do the job."

Rockingham Has Fire Loss Of \$250,000

Rockingham, Dec. 14.—(AP)—A stubborn fire in the heart of downtown Rockingham early today destroyed two department stores and other buildings, causing a loss expected to exceed \$250,000.

The blaze was discovered in the Q & K grocery store shortly before midnight. It spread in spite of the efforts of local firemen to control it, and swept through Kirsch's Department store, a barber shop, the Hub department store, the store rooms and offices of Woods' 5 & 10 Cent Store and about 30 offices, most of which were occupied by insurance companies.

Firemen from Clio, S. C., Hamlet, Wadesboro and Camp Mackall helped the Rockingham department in fighting the fire. It was brought under control by 3 a. m.

Patton's Arrival In Cairo Arouses New Speculation

Cairo, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The arrival in Cairo of General George S. Patton, Jr., commander of the U. S. Seventh Army, accompanied by various members of his staff, stirred speculation today about new developments that may be brewing in the Middle East.

Patton's unexplained appearance here yesterday came at a time when possible solidification of the Mediterranean and Middle East commands has been a topic of discussion.



Turk Army Chief

PLAYING a leading role in the military moves in Turkey is Marshal Fevzi Toprakcioglu, Supreme Chief of the Turkish Army. He is now carrying out plans to double the strength of his army within a period of months. (International)

Review All Occupation Deferments

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Selective service officials issued today instructions requiring review of the occupational deferment of every registrant whose principal place of employment and local board are in different appeal board areas.

Appeals boards which have jurisdiction over the registrant's principal place of employment will audit "the necessary review as contemplated by recently adopted amendments to the selective service and training law."

No review will be required, the agency stated, when the registrant's principal place of employment and local board are in the same appeal area, or where no appeal board exists, such as outside the United States.

Under the new procedure, the file of every registrant who was occupationally deferred in Class 2-A or 2-B on 11 before December 10 will be forwarded by January 9 to the appeal board having jurisdiction over his place of employment. The file of registrants classified in these two groups after December 10 will be forwarded to the proper appeal board within ten days after the local board's classification.

Smashing Successes Are Claimed By The Chinese

Chungking, China, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Smashing Chinese successes in the nation's river land regions were claimed today by the high command, which announced the recapture of the important highway town of Lin-Fu, 25 miles north of Chanteh, and a number of villages.

Earlier press dispatches which said the Chinese had retaken Shihmu were confirmed and the communique added that a Japanese detachment south of Shihmu was being surrounded and its liquidation is merely a matter of course.

The Chinese forces, "in hot pursuit of the beaten foe," were pressing forward against the enemy forces with the evident intention of trapping all Japanese troops south of the Li river, which runs into Tungting.

Eden Tells Commons Of Conferences

Britain Is Pledged to Stick for Crushing of Japan

London, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, reporting to Commons on the Teheran-Cairo conferences, declared today "the war will be shortened" by decisions reached with Premier Stalin, and again pledged Britain to battle to the final destruction of Japan.

He told the Commons House that Prime Minister Churchill has "still more work to do in the sphere where he is now." Churchill has stayed on in Cairo, meeting last week with leaders of smaller powers.

Quicker defeat of the Axis was assured by the "close cooperation of military plans" at the Teheran meeting of President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin and Churchill, Eden declared.

"Every plan is now agreed upon. The timing is now agreed upon, and in due course the decisions of Teheran will be unrolled on the field of battle."

"The military mission agreed in Cairo" at the British-American-Chinese meeting "is a future military operations against Japan."

Eden termed Japan a "menace to Britain as to the United States and China, and said Britain still was "a principal in the Far Eastern war" because "to destroy Germany and then make a compromise peace with Japan would only sow the seeds of a third World War."

Other high lights of the foreign secretary's report:

Turkey—The conference with President Inonu gave "good hope" for a "sound basis for future cooperation between ourselves, Soviet Russia, America and Turkey," and was "encouraging. Further than this I cannot go today."

Postwar—Complete cooperation of Britain, Russia and the United States is assured. "We three can work together," Eden said; "the recurrent threat of war can only be met if there is an international order firmer in strength and unity than any any enemy could seek to challenge."

Balkans—A British military mission.

Certain Arabs To Have Citizenship Rites of French

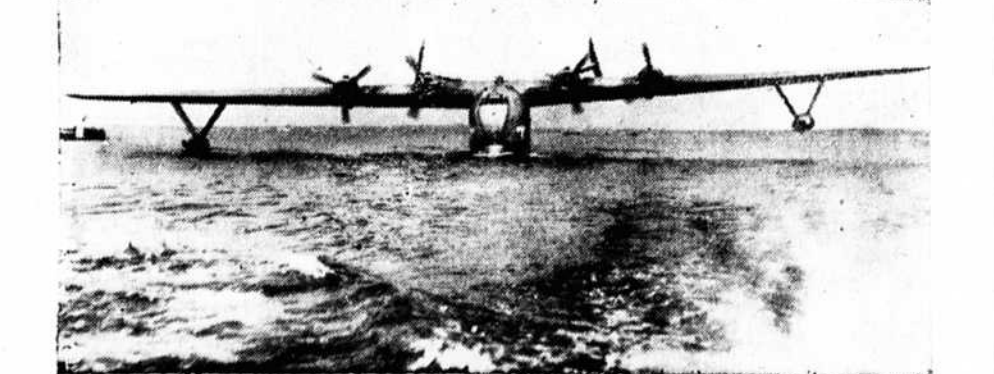
Algiers, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The French committee of National Liberation today decreed French citizenship immediately for all Arabs in Algeria who can read and write French, thus carrying out the first of the pledges made Sunday by General Charles de Gaulle.

Citizenship will be extended without forcing the Arabs to renounce the Koranic law, as previously required.

The committee also voted to increase the size of Arab representation on provincial, departmental and municipal assemblies. This fulfilled another DeGaulle pledge.

The committee is preparing steps to give citizenship to other Arab groups not covered by the term "intellectuals," which was defined as meaning persons literate in French.

BIGGEST PLANE SETS LOAD AND DISTANCE RECORDS



Carrying 13,000 pounds of Christmas mail for the Armed Forces, the giant cargo-carrying flying boat Mars made a 4,375-mile non-stop hop from Patuxent River, Md., to Natal, Brazil. She returned eight days later to the U. S. loaded with strategic war materials. The giant naval craft is pictured as she settled down on the Patuxent River at the conclusion of her round-trip. Official Navy photo. (International Sound-photo)