



The Farmville Enterprise

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FRENCH LAUNCHING ATTACK ON SOGGY TUNISIAN FRONT

Advancing Steadily In Drive Below Tunis; All-Out Offensive Imminent

London, Dec. 22.—French forces have launched an attack toward the Tunisian east coast below Tunis and are advancing steadily after having seized numerous enemy prisoners, armored vehicles and field guns, the Morocco radio reported tonight.

Other reports said that, despite more torrential rains, the Allies were massing in final battle array all along the Tunisian front for a grand assault to be coordinated with an accelerated British Eighth Army smash through western Libya to envelop Tripoli and the Axis garrisons in Tunis and Bizerte.

The Allied-controlled Morocco station said the French had attacked southeast of Pont du Fahs, 30 miles south of Tunis, at a point within 30 miles of the Gulf of Hammamet and the coastal line of Axis troops moving to northern Tunisia from Sfax and Gabes.

Quoting a French communiqué, the Morocco radio said that other French forces farther south in the region west of Kaairouan, 80 miles below Tunis, captured new positions yesterday and threw back repeated Axis counterattacks with "serious losses."

Fighter Sweeps.
Allied fighter planes conducted sweeps over enemy advanced positions in Tunisia yesterday, the Morocco radio said, and raked enemy motor vehicles with cannon fire. Two Axis bombers were shot down and one Allied plane is missing.

A BBC report said it had been "officially announced" that the British First Army's concentrations on the left wing of the Allied Tunisian line were completed, while American armored forces deployed along the center and French colonials manned the right.

Axis broadcasts said the Allies already have launched tentative thrusts, far stronger than the patrol excursions which have marked the recent Tunisian fighting, but claimed they were repulsed.

New torrential rains in the last 24 hours, described as the worst of the campaign to date, again have turned the Tunisian battlefield into a quagmire, keeping American fliers aground and delaying the start of the final push, unofficial reports said. Since the start of the North African operation, 12 and one half inches of rain has fallen, almost six times as much as normal.

Will Take Time.
United States Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Sir B. L. Montgomery of the Eighth Army have approved joint operations against the Axis from west and east even if they have not actually conferred personally, advisers from North African headquarters said. The dispatches cautioned, however, that the motto for the impending Allied operations will be "take your time and make sure of success."

Special Agricultural War Courses Offered

Three special short courses to train women and girls, and draft-exempt men and boys for war-time agricultural jobs will be offered by N. C. State College, it is announced by Dr. L. O. Schaub, dean of the School of Agriculture. The courses will start January 15 and will last for three weeks.

Dean Schaub said that training will be given in (1) Animal production, including the feeding and management of all types of livestock, including dairy cattle; (2) meat cutting and merchandising; and (3) testing of milk and other dairy products. The tuition fee will be only \$5.00 for each of the courses, and applications should be sent to Dr. A. O. Shaw, head of the Animal Industry Department, N. C. State College, Raleigh. "Students will be able to obtain rooms off the campus, and meals at nominal cost in the college cafeteria."

The agricultural short courses, designed to relieve the labor shortage caused by the war, were suggested by Governor J. M. Broughton at a conference with Colonel John W. Havelston, administrative dean of State College, and Dean Schaub. The Governor expressed special concern over the shortage of trained labor on dairy farms and in dairy processing plants.

Dr. Shaw said that chain stores and other food dealers have pledged their cooperation in sending new workers to the courses for training in meat cutting and merchandising. "It is hoped," he said, "that a number of women and girls will enroll in the courses, and that they will be able to help in the home production of meat and other food products."

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Correcting notice of last week, the Post Office will be open just one hour Saturday morning, December 26th, from eleven a. m. to twelve noon.

Orthopedic Clinic Greenville, Jan. 1st.

We wish to remind our readers of the State Orthopedic Clinic to be held Friday, January 1st, in Greenville, from 12 to 4 p. m.

This Clinic takes all types of cripples, both white and colored, free of charge who are unable to afford private treatments. It is desired, though not required, that patients be referred by a physician or the Welfare Officer, and that the patient bring such note to the Clinic.

The Clinic is set up to serve especially the Counties of Beaufort, Carteret, Pamlico, Pitt, and Tyrrell, though patients from other Counties who desire to come may do so.

The Clinic is conducted by Dr. Hugh A. Thompson, orthopaedist, of Raleigh, North Carolina. This Clinic has been running for something over three years and is now serving a large number of cripples, adults as well as children, in this area.

The Pitt County Health Department Offices are located at the corner of Third and Greene Streets, Greenville, N. C., and it has recently expanded its office facilities.

To Stop Issuing B and C Cards

Washington, Dec. 22.—Issuance of B and C gasoline ration books is being halted for the next few days in the 17 east coast states while the Office of Price Administration readjusts mileage tables to conform with the new unit values of the coupons. The unit values in the east were cut from four to three gallons each over the week end.

Validity of the B and C books already issued was not affected by the order temporarily halting the issuance of new ones.

The Whiner creates discord in life's chorus.

Allies Pushing Japanese Into 2 Coastal Areas

Americans and Aussies Consolidate Buna Positions; Jap Targets Bombed

With United States Troops Somewhere in New Guinea, Dec. 22.—More than 100 pillboxes with many Japanese dead in each one were left behind today on Cape Isidore as American and Australian troops pushed the enemy into two narrow coastal sectors with a combined length of approximately five miles.

Sweeping inland from Cape Isidore, which was captured Saturday in a fierce assault, the Australians had advanced one mile to Semlini Creek. Simultaneously, the Americans completed capture of the new airstrip at Buna and its defending pillboxes.

The Japanese caught inside this pressure apparently had withdrawn to a point on the coast, where the next big battle probably will be fought.

The other and longer Japanese strip stretches from a point west of Buna village, held by the Americans, to Cape Killerton beyond Saisanada to the northwest.

United States troops split the Japanese into these two pockets by driving a wedge to the east at Buna village, and while the areas vary from one to two miles in depth and are not long, it appears that some time will be needed to crush the thickly-studded and cleverly-camouflaged Japanese pillboxes.

Land Mines.
Americans mopping up in the Cape Isidore sector found small land mines placed alongside trails. These exploded with a pressure of 15 pounds. Engineers worked during the day touching these off.

In a tour of the cape area, the Allies were found busy consolidating their captured positions and turning them into strongholds of their own.

The result of semiotics is the making of Christians.

Reduction in size and form of the manufacture of ice cream and frozen desserts will save \$300,000,000 worth of butter in December, or almost four-fifths of a year's supply for every soldier in the U. S. Army.

Christmas CHEER

Come..... Let Us Adore Him

Once more the Christmas carols on mortal lips float up to join the angelic chorus. "Glory to God in the highest..." to sound the joyous message of God's love for humanity... Wars come and go but the song of the angels is echoed eternally on Christmas morning and there are some in every nation who will hail Him with a newborn song of faith and adoration in their hearts.

Declares Henderson Was Crucified By Politicians

Washington, Dec. 22.—Asserting that administration leaders "crucified" Leon Henderson to appease congressional critics, Senator Brewster (R-Maine) predicted today they soon would be "praying for his return" as price administrator.

Henderson has submitted his resignation to President Roosevelt and is expected to be replaced by Senator Brown (D-Mich.) early in the new year.

As Brewster spoke, Rep. Andrew (R-Minn.) issued a statement assailing what he called "discrimination and bungling in government handling of gasoline and oil."

"One set of unfair and stringent rules in the rationing of gasoline," Andrew said, "is causing a complete breakdown in essential transportation."

"Another set of rules permits unlimited use of gasoline for the bureaucratic rule-makers, and for thousands of government-owned cars, engaged in non-essential work."

Andrew declared he had received no reply to a letter which he wrote Henderson on November 22 inquiring about the source of gasoline which he said was used to fly Mr. and Mrs. Henderson to their New Jersey home in a private airplane on election day.

While Henderson attributed his resignation to poor health, Senator Brewster laid it to "administration ineptitude in high places," which he charged was "the greatest bottleneck in Washington today."

"Within six months," Brewster told reporters, "they'll be praying to have Leon Henderson back."

A member of the Senate War Investigating committee, Brewster described Henderson as "a tub thrown to the congressional whales" and added "this will not keep them quiet very long."

He blamed congressional opposition to Henderson on the latter's failure to consult with senators on appointment of local administering officials their home states and on dissatisfaction with price-fixing policies.

"I know that in Maine he appointed the most competent administrator that could be found in the state in former Democratic Congressman E. Carl Moran," Brewster said. He added he heard with regret that Moran had resigned because of his own health.

At the same time Brewster said most of his colleagues in the senate would be pleased by the selection of Senator Brown, who failed of reelection last month, to succeed Henderson.

"He is a very estimable and very gentle gentleman," Brewster declared.

Reduction by 20 percent in the manufacture of ice cream and frozen desserts will save \$300,000,000 worth of butter in December, or almost four-fifths of a year's supply for every soldier in the U. S. Army.

THE HOME FRONT

(Office of War Information) (For Release Dec. 17)

Our economic strategy on the Home Front is designed to advance the war at the least possible cost to civilians in discomforts and dislocations of their normal ways of living, but primarily it is designed to win the war—at whatever cost. In the process of adjustment to a strict wartime economy certain items of news which seem of minor importance become extremely significant when examined in the light of our largest strategy.

For example, between October 13 and November 17 the average family food bill rose by 1.2 percent. That may appear to be a small rise in retail food cost, but on November 17 every American family was paying \$1.31 for every dollar of average food expenditure for the period 1935-39. During this same month, prices of foods directly under price control rose but one-half of one percent, chiefly owing to reasonable price adjustments made on the basis of increased costs. But the prices of the uncontrolled foods—mostly fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and fresh fish—rose by an average of 6.6 percent, and these foods were 21 percent higher than in May of this year.

Individual percentages, however, do not begin to tell the whole story in the absence of price control over rents, a great number of services, and a very large number of items of every description, the entire cost of living would spiral rapidly upward, carrying with it wages, raw materials, and the cost of all war weapons and war equipment.

Far-Reaching Changes Coming.
The year 1943 will see far-reaching changes in our buying and budgeting habits. Before spring, the "point" method of rationing scarce products will be in full swing, and families then must decide whether to use up more points of Ration Book Two by purchasing scarcer articles, or use less points by buying more plentiful ones.

By next summer there'll be fewer kinds of canned goods in metal tins on store shelves than at present. Tin-can metals are needed for our war machines. The bulk of our canned food products, if they continue to be sold, will come in glass or other metal-substitute containers, many of the "fancy" canned goods and delicacies will be unobtainable, and the housewife will be cooking more products sold in bulk or brought in fresh from the farm without passing through a canner.

The wartime demand for labor of all kinds will be felt in almost every home in the country, partly in the absence of familiar articles for the manufacture of which neither labor nor materials can be spared. The greatest change, however, will be in the number of members of families at work. It is expected that by the end of 1943 about 70 percent of all persons in the United States between the ages of 15 and 65 will be employed or in military service, around 30 million of these will be in war industry. To secure millions of new

They need only to accept the same supplemental agreement as other coal companies now operating six days per week.

Negotiation on the longer work week bogged down on the issue of whether the sixth day would be voluntary or mandatory for the workers. A mandatory provision which the operators want, would subject the workers to penalties for absenteeism on that day.

Twelve bombers were lost, mostly to night fighters which found their prey outlined in bright moonlight against clouds. At least two enemy night fighters were shot down, the Air Ministry said.

The pilots described the anti-aircraft fire as weak and said few searchlights were in action.

The British loss indicated that upwards of 250 bombers, mostly four-engine bombers, participated in the attack, the second in Germany in as many nights.

Continued expansion in industrial activity and in consumer income during the next few months is expected to increase further domestic demand for farm products.

Coffee and tea production in this country, or satisfactory substitutes, is not in the offing despite persistent ray rumors born of war shortages, according to scientists.

INCREASE

RUMORS

Ickes Says 6 Day Week In Coal Mines Necessary

Washington, Dec. 22.—John I. Lewis, chief of the United Mine Workers, today blamed mine operators for the dispute which solid fuels Administrator Ickes said was delaying extension of the six-day week in the eastern soft coal fields.

Ickes, asserting the nation needed "an unprecedented amount of coal to speed the winning of this war," called upon Lewis and Eardis Van Horn of Cleveland, chairman of the operators' Appalachian joint conference, to "settle their controversy and to act at the earliest possible moment" to modify the existing contractual provision for the five-day, 35-hour week in the industry.

Ickes, in identical letters to each noted yesterday that he first made the request for extension of the work week September 29 and declared that unless there is unprecedented production of coal "the war will be prolonged at the unnecessary cost of human lives and suffering."

Replying by letter, Lewis charged the operators of commercial mines in the Appalachian field had "banded together to resist the further acceptance" of the six-day week which he said had been adopted by operators of steel company-owned captive mines and by commercial operators in six western and northwestern states.

Commercial mines sell their output on the open market while the production of captive mines goes to the steel companies.

Ickes called the failure of the operators and the union to agree on the six-day week a distinct disappointment and reminded Lewis and Van Horn that the government had offered to revise price ceilings to make possible the payment of time and a half pay for the sixth day of work.

Lewis told Ickes that any bituminous coal company or any single coal mine could operate six days this current week "if they choose to do so," adding:

"They need only to accept the same supplemental agreement as other coal companies now operating six days per week."

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ADVANCING RUSSIAN ARMIES DRIVING NEARER TO ROSTOV

WAR IN BRIEF

Red army, pressing its mighty winter offensive, drives on toward Rostov in effort to trap more than million Germans at Stalingrad and in the Caucasus.

French troops in Tunisia launch drive below Tunis as Allies continue massing forces for all-out effort to hurl Axis from Africa. British Eighth Army continues chasing Rommel's forces.

Royal Air Force's greatest bombers blast Munich, birthplace of Nazi party, with great load of explosives and incendiaries.

British fighter planes attack Japanese base of Akyab as ground forces continue progress toward that goal in Burma.

Rumanians, losing heavily in Russian front fighting, express belief that Axis is doomed and fear for future of own country.

Nazi propagandists strive to explain war setbacks to people. Americans and Australians continue heavy pressure upon Japanese entrenched in Buna area of New Guinea.

Be Santa Claus To Uncle Sam In 1942

Greenville, Dec. 22.—"While we are manifesting the Christmas spirit toward each other it will be a fine thing for all of us to include in our Christmas generosity Uncle Sam and his boys who are fighting to win this war as well as Santa Claus," said Mrs. James S. Ficklen, chairman of the Woman's Committee for the sale of War Bonds and Stamps in Pitt county.

"Every time you buy a War Stamp or War Bond you are helping the soldiers, sailors, marines, the air corps and the coast guard to do a good job of finishing up Hitler and Hirohito for keeps and making America and the other Allied nations safer," Mrs. Ficklen stated. "Let's be patriotically Santa Claus to Uncle Sam—buy War Bonds and Stamps," she added.

Hoarding rationed commodities in these war times is neither clever nor shrewd. Oh, well, you know what it is.

Munich Blasted By RAF Bombers

Birthplace of Nazi Party Hit Hard by Britain's Largest Air Raiders

London, Dec. 22.—A mighty British aerial armada, composed almost entirely of four-engine bombers, set huge fires last night in Munich, birthplace of Nazism and Germany's "second capital," the Air Ministry announced tonight.

Thrusting 500 miles across Axis Europe, the giant planes dumped a "great weight" of bombs, presumably including four-ton super-blockbusters, on the Bavarian city, the ministry said.

German bombers retaliated today by bombing eastern and southeastern England under cover of clouds in daylight. A number of persons were killed and some damage caused, a communiqué reported. Two of the raiders were shot down.

British bombers also were active in daylight, attacking railways and other targets in northwest Germany and the Low Countries, the Air Ministry announced. British fighters on offensive patrols sank three tugs and a bombol gun posts in Holland and a freight train in France. One bomber and one fighter were lost.

Possibly There.
There was a possibility that Adolf Hitler was in Munich during last night's raid. He has been reported shuttling between Berlin and Munich recently for talks with Nazi henchmen and last Sunday was in conference with Count Galeazzo Ciano, Italian foreign minister, at the "Fuehrer's headquarters," possibly at Munich or nearby Berchtesgaden.

The bombardier of a Lancaster bomber which arrived late for the attack said that he saw many fires in Munich.

Twelve bombers were lost, mostly to night fighters which found their prey outlined in bright moonlight against clouds. At least two enemy night fighters were shot down, the Air Ministry said.

The pilots described the anti-aircraft fire as weak and said few searchlights were in action.

The British loss indicated that upwards of 250 bombers, mostly four-engine bombers, participated in the attack, the second in Germany in as many nights.

Success of Current Russian Offensive Would Trap Approximately Million Germans At Stalingrad and in Caucasus; Russians Report Capture of Large Equipment Stores

Moscow, Dec. 23.—The Red army fanning across the middle Don river with gathering speed have seized Kamenak, only 90 miles north of the key city of Rostov, in their effort to throw a noose around perhaps 1,000,000 Germans extended deep into the Caucasus and bore Stalingrad, the Soviets announced early today.

Kamenak, on the Moscow-Voronezh-Rostov railway which skirts the Ukraine border, apparently was taken by Russian units that bypassed Millerovo, 40 miles to the north, but for weeks now other Red army troops have been fighting their way westward from Stalingrad in the Don river bend toward Kamenak.

A special Soviet communiqué announced this gain and other advances and said for the second straight day that "our troops are pushing the disordered retreat of the German Fascist troops..."

Popovka and Morozovka, astride the Moscow-Rostov railway about midway between Minskerov and Voronezh, were among "several dozen populated places" liberated by the onrushing Red Armies, the communiqué said.

Exit Threatened.
The Russian offensive across the Don was beating westward toward the Ukraine, and also spreading southwestward toward Rostov, where seizure of that city would cut off the retreat, except by sea, of all the German troops stalled in the Caucasus and in the Don-Volga river pocket before Stalingrad far to the east.

A total of 65,000 Germans have been killed or captured in this single offensive spurt since December 16, the communiqué said. Twenty thousand of these surrendered to the advancing Russians, who were reported employing masses of tanks and infantry despite the heavy demands on two other offensive fronts, the central northwest of Moscow, and on both sides of Stalingrad.

In addition, this booty was listed as captured in the seven-day-old drive:

One hundred and eight German tanks, 1,637 artillery guns, 2,369 machine-guns, 6,786 trucks, 5,500 horses, 82 ammunition and supply dumps.

A total of 7,000 Germans fell on the snowy Don steppes during yesterday's operations alone, the Soviet communiqué said.

Kamenak is on the Dnestr river and a short distance above Likhaya, the railway junction of a line running eastward to Stalingrad. For several weeks the Russians have reported their troops were operating west of Schorivino in the Don river bend in an effort to reach Likhaya or Kamenak.

May Be Trapped.
The junction of these two movements would greatly enhance the Red army's chance of trapping a great portion of the German and Rumanian troops who overrun the Don basin and the Caucasus last summer and fall.

The Russian mid-day communiqué yesterday admitted that Nazi counterattacks had increased, but it reported at that time that the middle Don push had overrun "a large populated place," which could have meant Millerovo.

The regular mid-night communiqué that followed the special bulletin gave this additional data on the middle Don river:

"Under blows of Soviet troops, the enemy is abandoning arms, equipment and ammunition. Organized attempts of separate enemy groups to hold back the offensive of the Red army have been unsuccessful and have only increased the already great losses of the Germans."

One entire battalion of enemy infantry, including its commander, surrendered to one Soviet unit that in two days of fighting had killed about 6,000 Germans, the communiqué said.

UNCHANGED
The general level of farm prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities remained unchanged during the month ending November 15 at 163 percent of the 1939-1941 average.

FELTS
Shawnee and other felts are being produced in large quantities in this county, according to reports from the local felting industry.