

JAPANESE CONVOY SMASHED, SCATTERED

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4 Transports Destroyed by Allied Fliers

13 Planes Also Bagged; Fight With Remnant of Nippon Fleet Continues

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, March 3—(AP)—The crippled and widely-scattered remnants of a 14-ship Japanese convoy, smashed by allied bombers and fighters yesterday, staggered through the fog-shrouded Bismarck sea today toward the enemy base at Lae, New Guinea, with General MacArthur's planes relentlessly on its trail.

At least four transports and cargo vessels of the original armada of seven Japanese warships and seven merchant ships have been sunk or damaged, and 13 Japanese fighter planes out of the umbrella of 30 or 40 that tried to provide protection to the convoy have been shot down out of action, allied headquarters announced.

"Our losses are light. The battle continues," a headquarters communique said.

The bulletin said a 10,000-ton transport had been hit five times and left awash and in flames; an 8,000-ton transport had been sunk after breaking in two; a 6,000-ton vessel was directly hit on the bow, and a smaller vessel was damaged and set on fire.

Allied Flying Fortresses and Liberator bombers, with a fleet escort of P-38 Fighters, stabbed through murky haze, thick clouds and rain to deliver their blows in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire and Japanese fighter planes.

"Other hits or near hits were scored against warships and cargo ships, results of which have so far been impossible to assess," the communique said. Pilots reported a near hit on a Japanese light cruiser.

Jap Bases Also Maul'd

General MacArthur's airmen also pounded Lae, punishing the airbase area. At the same time his bombers attacked airbases on Soemba and Soembava islands, northwest of Australia, destroyed an ammunition ship directly with a 500-pound bomb at Wide bay, New Britain, and smashed at the Gasmata, New Britain, airbase in an after-dusk raid, the communique said.

Elated pilots who participated in the attack on the convoy saw heavy bombs explode amidships on the 8,000-ton transport and watched it split in two and sink in flames within two minutes, reports from operations bases said. Flames which poured from the wreckage of other ships were visible for a long distance, it was

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Nine Raids Strafe Japanese on Kiska

WASHINGTON, March 3—(AP)—Carrying out nine raids through fog and storms in the Aleutians, U. S. aircraft during February dropped a half a million pounds of bombs on Japanese positions at Kiska without the loss of any planes, the navy reported today.

In reporting that ten enemy planes were shot down in the nine raids it was pointed out that previous announcements of actions during the month had reported the destruction of eight of those planes.

The navy also reported that the 81st raid on the Japanese base at Munda on New Georgia island in the south Pacific had been carried out by a patrol bomber. No details were given.

Jail Sentences Meted To Japs for Rioting

ALTURAS, Calif., March 3—(AP)—Twelve Japanese from the Tulaleke relocation camp were sentenced by Superior Judge A. K. Whyte yesterday on charges of rioting, as a result of a recent disturbance.

Four were sentenced to six months in jail, with three months of it suspended. The others were sentenced to four months, half of which was suspended.

Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Reizenstein

The president who puts the "dent" in precedent ends 10 years' tenancy of the White House tomorrow. Blunders during the decade call for more power to the left to preserve the constitutional right.

Daunting Blows of Allies Keep Rommel's Forces in Retreat Toward Sea Base

Planes Take Toll of Axis Panzer Units

Drydocks at Two Ports Also Blasted, Batch of Warplanes Destroyed

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 3—(AP)—Allied forces maintained their heavy artillery inflicted considerable damage on axis positions north of Beja and east of the crossroads town of Sedjenane, a communique said today.

Expanding their holdings in pursuit of Marshal Rommel's defeated armored forces, allied vanguards "pressed on to the south and southeast of Sbeitla," the recaptured rail town 125 miles southwest of Tunis.

The communique reported there was little activity in the central sector and said only patrol activity was developed by the British eighth army, which is pressing upon the Mareth line.

Allied troops beat back small thrusts by the axis in northern Tunisia, spokesmen said, while allied planes bombed and shot up enemy troop concentrations at several points, knocked down five axis fighters and a bomber and heavily attacked Tunis and the nearby harbor of LaGoulette.

Heavy artillery of the American-supported British first army shelled enemy positions, axis infantry and vehicles advancing on the road four miles east of Sedjenane, 12 miles from the coast, and the enemy withdrew after losing four armored cars.

Another small infantry attack was thrown back five miles northward east of Medjez-El-Bab. A half dozen tanks approached Beja, midway between Sedjenane

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Youth Chooses Prison To Service in Army

SEATTLE, March 3—(AP)—Federal Judge Lloyd L. Black admonished a 23-year-old Seattle youth, who yesterday chose prison in preference to military service, that he might readily be a victim of murder were it not for the many fellow Americans who were willing to take up arms for their country.

Judge Black imposed a three-year sentence on Charles A. Whitson for failure to register for the draft after Whitson had told him:

"I have no intention of going into the army. I am of the opinion that anyone who takes up arms or helps in the war effort is a murderer or an accessory to murder."

Navy Personnel Casualty Rate to be 10 Per Cent, Knox Warns, in Plans for Armada of World-Domination Size

WASHINGTON, March 3—(AP)—A grim warning to expect a 10 per cent casualty rate in navy personnel was laid before congress and the nation today as Secretary of the Navy Knox disclosed an operating force plan calling for a navy "big enough to dominate all seas over the world."

The solemn navy estimate that it would lose, and have to replace, one man out of each ten—killed or wounded—came as Knox and ranking naval officials unfolded their program for building up personnel strength to 2,250,000 by July, 1944.

Knox's outline of the navy's "operating force" plan and his figures on potential costs of the sea warfare were made public by the house subcommittee on naval appropriations as it completed work on a new \$4,000,000,000 supplemental naval spending bill.

Members of the subcommittee pressed Knox quickly for an explanation of the casualty esti-

A-B-C of Fighting in Tunisia



Here are three steps the Yanks use in going after Axis troops in Tunisia—and bringing them back. Top to bottom, using 105 mm howitzers, allied fighters stage a surprise attack against enemy positions in hills outside Sedjen; then leaving their half-tracks the Yanks run forward to the attack; and lastly you get a picture of the success of the raid by the number of Italian and German prisoners captured.

Chronic Absentee To Lose His Job, Warning of Knox

WASHINGTON, March 3—(AP)—Secretary of Navy Knox testified today he had received reports that time lost in war plants due to absenteeism was many times greater than the time lost due to strikes or shutdowns, and that such loss of time and production had been "increasing during the past year, rather than decreasing."

Knox appeared before the house naval committee during consideration of a bill to curb absenteeism by requiring work contractors to report work absences to draft boards, with the view of inducting into military service men who willfully stay away from their war production jobs.

"I feel that there is no place in the whole naval establishment for a chronic absentee, and steps have already been taken to remove them from our employ after all means have failed to cure them," Knox said.

"The thought of what our men at the front may be enduring for lack of the plane or the gun or the ship or the ammunition should be enough to spur every able-bodied man and woman in this country to redoubled and continuous effort on the production front."

Returned Hero Notes Lack of War Support

SPOKANE, March 3—(AP)—Lieut. Col. Felix Hardison, famed pilot of the famed Suzy-Q, his prized bombing plane which took everything the Japs had to offer in the early months of the south Pacific war, said here yesterday he didn't "think the American people are back of the war over there."

Speaking at a meeting of the chamber of commerce, he said: "Since I've been home I've heard more griping than I did over there at any time."

Motorist Run Over By Own Car and Killed

KANSAS CITY, March 3—(AP)—Howard Oats was run over and killed today by the car he was driving.

His machine and one driven by Andrew Stewart collided, police reported. Oats was thrown out, and his car swung around and ran over him.

State Senate Votes "Juke," Pinball Taxes

Reversal of Original Stand Assures Boost In Old Age Pensions

By PAUL W. HARVEY, JR., SALEM, Ore., March 3—(AP)—Oregon's old age pension recipients were virtually assured today that their average monthly pension would be raised from \$25 to \$38 within the next two years, the senate passing 17 to 13 a bill to levy a \$5 annual tax on pinball games and a \$10 tax on coin-operated phonographs.

The senate previously had defeated the measure by the same vote. The bill, introduced by Rep. Steelhammer, would raise about \$1,000,000 a year. It now goes back to the house, the senate having cut the phonograph tax from \$25 to \$10.

In the meantime, the house was deadlocked in a maze of parliamentary maneuvering over Sen. Burke's bill to give state liquor stores a monopoly on the sale of fortified wines. The vote on the bill is expected to be close, as the sponsors, when they overcame an adverse committee report last Monday, had only 31 votes, exactly a majority.

Opposing the pinball tax bill, Sen. Mahoney, Portland, charged that the bill was "concocted in the minds of racketeers in Portland who want to legalize pinball games by putting the seal of the state on them," while other objectors said that the bill would invade the rights of cities, which already tax them.

Supporters said the money is needed for pensions, and that the bill does not tax illegal pinball games. It taxes only those used for amusement only.

The senate rejected 15 to 14 its ways and means committee recommendation against the bill to permit supreme court and circuit judges to retire at the age of 70 and after 17 years service at \$200 a month. The senate will vote on the bill tomorrow.

Tax Initiative At Issue

The senate assessment and taxation committee recommended passage of the three bills amending the initiative, passed by the voters last November, to give surplus income tax revenues to school districts to reduce property

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Beef, Pork Ceilings Coming to Smash Black Markets

WASHINGTON, March 3—(AP)—Price Administrator Brown announced today uniform, community-wide dollar and cent ceiling prices on pork and beef will be established shortly in an effort to break up black markets in meat.

Brown's disclosure was made to a senate agriculture subcommittee which has heard packers complain that many independent are being forced out of business by a squeeze between ceiling prices on meat and rising, uncontrolled prices of live hogs and cattle.

Black markets have been operating, Brown said, because under present ceilings, meat retailers are permitted to charge the highest prices they received for various meats last March, thus varying the ceiling price from store to store and making it possible for those charging higher prices to pay a premium for black market pork and beef.

"The new ceiling prices on pork should be out in a matter of days," Brown testified, "with those on beef to follow shortly."

The new ceilings, fixed for each community, will be accompanied by an acceleration of a drive to convince the public that purchase of "uninspected black market meat is dangerous," Brown said.

If the projected procedure fails to make it possible for the packer to operate at a normal margin of profit, he asserted, "I'm going to advocate ceilings on live hogs as a starter."

Russian Smash Forces Nazis To Evacuate Rzhev

LONDON, March 3—(AP)—The German high command in a communique broadcast by the Berlin radio announced today the evacuation of the town of Rzhev, 130 miles west and slightly north of Moscow, saying German forces withdrew according to plan in order to shorten the front line.

London military sources declined to speculate on just where the shortened line might be established but some observers said they thought it might go back to Smolensk, establishing a front running northwest from Smolensk to Velikie Luki and south-east to Bryansk.

Meats, Cheese, Butter, Fats Slated for Rationing April 1; Weekly Individual Meat Allowance 1.75 Pounds Weekly

WASHINGTON, March 3—(AP)—Meats, cheese, butter, cooking fats and oils will be rationed beginning April 1, it was reported today, under current plans of food and rationing agencies.

The sources for this information, who withheld use of their names, said the red coupons of the No. 2 ration book would be used and that meat rations probably would run about 1 3/4 pounds per person a week.

Price Administrator Brown told reporters that plans to start rationing of meats, cheese and coffee and other commodities would be discussed at a press conference later in the day.

As disclosed some weeks ago, cheese will be rationed together with meat because of its usefulness as a meat substitute, while butter, margarine, and other cooking fats and oils will be grouped for rationing because of their interchangeability.

Food Administrator Wickard, however, has not yet transmitted to OPA the authorization necessary before cheese, butter and fats and oils can take their place in the food rationing program.

It was stated that the government did not contemplate any period of "sales freeze" preliminary to rationing the new foodstuffs on a point basis similar to that begun this week for canned, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables.

Butter and other fats will be assigned point values in proportion to their scarcity; that is, the same number of points would purchase a small quantity of butter, a larger quantity of margarine, and an even larger quantity of peanut oil or other of the more plentiful cooking fats.

At offices of the food administration it was noted that the initial meat ration would depend largely on results of checks being made by the agriculture department to determine just how much meat has been diverted into black market channels.

Canada Tax Plan As Substitute For Ruml Idea Studied

WASHINGTON, March 3—(AP)—The Canadian plan to forego 50 per cent of 1942 taxes on earned personal income was viewed as a possible pay-as-you-go compromise for the United States today by some leading opponents of the Ruml plan to abate all of one year's taxes.

The joint congressional tax staff requested Ottawa to furnish Washington with more details on its plan immediately.

Chairman Doughton of the tax-framing house ways and means committee pointed out that Canada's action was similar to a suggestion he already has made to break the deadlock on the question of how much taxes should be abated to ease the transition to pay-as-you-go.

However, Rep. Carlson, author of legislation embracing the proposal by Beardley Ruml, New York banker, to bypass a full tax year, said he could accept no plan that required the collection of more than one year's taxes within one year, in the swap-over to a current collection system.

Some members of congress expressed the view that the Canadian system might supply an acceptable compromise.

The ways and means committee three weeks ago voted down both the Ruml plan and the Doughton suggestion, and constituted a five-man subcommittee to draft a compromise.

A majority of the committee appears firmly in opposition to the Ruml plan despite modification to include a 20 per cent withholding levy against taxable income.

NEW YORK, March 3—(AP)—A New York department store wagged \$5,000 today that clothes would not be rationed this year.

Washington as well as our own sources of information brings us definitely to this conclusion, read an advertisement of Lord and Taylor, "If we lose (and mind you we don't think we will) we will divide the above sum between Red Cross, USO, Greater New York Fund."

Damages Awarded in Truck-Auto Collision

PORTLAND, March 3—(AP)—A circuit court jury awarded \$25,000 damages to Mildred Ross yesterday in an action against Frank Hayes, Consolidated Freightways, Inc., and Albert E. Ault as an outgrowth of an automobile-truck collision in Klamath County Dec. 27, 1940.

Claiming she had been injured permanently in the accident, the plaintiff had sought \$45,593 damages.

Land Trades To Save N. Umpqua's Scenic Area Urged

Directors of the Roseburg chamber of commerce at their regular meeting last night adopted a resolution urging upon the county court a program of land trades to preserve scenic spots along the North Umpqua road and river. Removal of timber adjacent to the river and along the road threatens many scenic spots between Rock creek and the national forest boundary, it was stated.

The directors expressed the opinion that it would be possible for the county court to exchange county owned timber lands accessible for logging operations for the tracts bordering the river and urged that such trades be made wherever possible.

A resolution also was adopted endorsing the Red Cross war fund campaign and urging public support.

Considerable discussion was given the matter of providing bivouac grounds for troops on maneuvers and efforts will be made to work out a cooperative plan with army officials, whereby suitable sites can be prepared for anticipated troop movements during the spring and summer months.

Gandhi in Good Spirits At End of Hunger Strike

NEW DELHI, March 3—(AP)—Mohandas K. Gandhi, 73-year-old Indian nationalist leader, ended a 21-day hunger strike in protest against his internment by the British by slipping a glass of orange juice at 9:30 a. m. today.

A communique announcing the end of the fast said that Gandhi was weak and showed signs of strain but was in good spirits.

In contrast to public ceremonies which have attended the termination of Gandhi's nine previous fasts, only members of his immediate family were present in the Aga Khan's palace at Poona to take part in singing and prayers as his self-imposed ordeal was brought to a conclusion.

Victory Program to Be Very Pleasing Event

The surprise program to be given Thursday night at the junior high school auditorium, by the Roseburg Business and Professional Women's club, promises to be an event which will be exceptionally pleasing, it was announced today. The entertainment, featuring local talent, will be in the form of a Victory Center program and a part of the club's war savings bond sales sponsorship for the month of March.

Scheduled to start at 8 o'clock, the program will include a number of novelties, it is stated. No admission will be charged. The committee making the arrangements includes Amanda Anderson, Mrs. Carrie Bell and Verna Carothers.