

British North Africa Offensive Seen as Feeling out Strength Of Axis and Possible Danger

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Special To The Statesman

Although axis officials describe the British offensive in North Africa as a "major" operation, it appears so far to be only an offensive-defensive move.

General Wavell's main purpose probably is to feel out axis strength. Unless the resistance is so feeble as to indicate no substantial axis reinforcement on that front via the Sicilian straits in recent weeks, a British attempt to retake the Libyan coast line seems wholly improbable.

Nevertheless, the British offensive, whatever its strategic or tactical purpose, is definitely important. It confirms Prime Minister Churchill's recent report to parliament that Wavell now felt himself stronger in Egypt.

One purpose of the British foray west of Bardia may be to determine the composition of axis forces in that area. While Nazi air and land forces have been withdrawn from Sicily, from Greece and presumably to some extent from Bulgaria and elsewhere in the southern Balkans, there has been no indication that any have been removed from Libya.

Should it develop that such a transfer has been made, that only a thin screen of German troops and specialists remain in Libya and that the bulk of the axis army there is now Italian, it would alter British strategic conceptions.

For one thing, it would be unchallengeable evidence that the Nazi high command is eyeing some other main route eastward to break Britain's hold on Egypt, the Suez canal and the eastern Mediterranean.

With only an Italian army confronting him in Libya, however reinforced with German staff specialists, Wavell could be virtually certain it is not in western Egypt that his greatest danger lies.

London's doubt that the German-Russian crisis will lead to Nazi-Soviet hostilities still seems justified. There is no certainty, however, that Turkey may not also be an objective of Nazi politico-military maneuvering. The Germans may desire access to Turkish bases on the Mediterranean coast close up to Cyprus.

Cyprus would be the logical stepping stone for a Nazi air-and-sea borne invasion of the Levant states, for which Germany's capture of Crete paved the way. Without air bases in Turkey, however, capture of Cyprus would be a far bigger job than was the taking of Crete.

Ickes Hits Alcoa Firm On Defense

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mittie, said he had no knowledge of the requests. Truman "suggested" that he obtain the information "as expeditiously as possible."

Ickes, saying the Aluminum company was "as perfect a monopoly as was ever devised by man," contended the corporation sought control of all aluminum sources and wanted to prevent the spreading out of production facilities "regardless of the consequences to the United States."

"When the story of this war comes to be written, it is to be said that it was lost, it may be because of the reallocation of the Aluminum Company of America," the secretary testified.

"The company uses very cunning methods. It all adds up to obstruction."

Ickes said the company acted to prevent competitors from producing despite the "crying need" for more aluminum in the defense construction program.

Ickes said the bureau of mines had developed a method of making aluminum from alunite, a material found in Utah and Washington, and had found it "economically feasible."

"I have urged that full-sized commercial operation of this process be financed by the government," the secretary said.

County Defense Councils Urged To Slate "Week"

County defense councils Monday were requested by Jerrold Owen, coordinator for the state defense council, to set aside the week of June 23 to 28, or some other convenient dates, as civil defense enrollment week.

Owen urged that the defense enrollment week be publicized by proclamations issued by the mayors and radio programs. Police authorities have been asked to furnish finger-printing equipment and operators to assist in obtaining the prints.

The purpose of county defense councils is to enlist civilians in defense activities and cooperate with national and state defense units.

Civilians would be known as Oregon Civil Reserves. Volunteers will be sought to assist in the enlistment work.

Blanks required for civil enlistments have been printed and are being sent to all county defense councils.

Here's Mural That Miffed Indian Postoffice Pickets



Protesting against what they termed gross inaccuracies in a mural representing their forbears, Cheyenne tribesmen picketed the postoffice at Watonga, Okla. After studying the mural, Chief Red Bird, 71, expressed the opinion: "It stinks." The white man is Mayor A. E. Goerke, who said he was on the Indians' side 100 per cent. The panel is below. The Indians later withdrew the pickets on assurance the mural would be altered. The story was carried on page one of The Statesman Sunday.

Americans in Rome Strapped

Italy Freezes Funds in Retaliation of US Action on Axis

ROME, June 16.—(AP)—The fascist government blocked American bank accounts in Italy today in the first of the "suitable" measures the fascist regime announced would be taken in reprisal for the freezing of Italian holdings in the United States.

This move was presaged in a communique Monday which said immediate registration had been ordered for "all property belonging to the United States and existing in Italy."

American who sought to withdraw funds this morning were turned away and the Bank of Italy instructed other banks to freeze their checking accounts.

Finding themselves in a position similar to that of 1933 at home when President Roosevelt closed American banks to avert panic, Americans in Rome jokingly asked one another about the possibility of making a "touch" for lunch money.

The amount in the blocked accounts could not be ascertained but such accounts were believed to be few.

Rome's American colony is made up almost exclusively of diplomats and newspapermen.

The American embassy's account, like those of the correspondents, was frozen.

It was believed in American circles that some arrangement could be effected for transfer of enough funds for living expenses after Rome and Washington have learned exactly what measures each is taking.

An estimate of American property holdings and credits in Italy will not be available until the figures appear in registrations.

It was understood, however, that Americans own shares in about 60 Italian companies. (Washington placed the value of American interests at about \$142,000,000.)

Board Acts On Strikes

By The Associated Press

Union officials and the defense mediation board began a double-barreled effort Monday to end the strike of San Francisco shipyard machinists who rejected a plea from President Roosevelt that they return to their jobs.

Harvey W. Brown, president of the AFL's international association of machinists, left Washington for San Francisco to see what he could do by means of personal persuasion.

At the same time the mediation board began drafting recommendations for settlement of the dispute between the Bethlehem shipyard at San Francisco and the machinists. Many regarded this particular dispute as the crux of the whole west coast strike involving both AFL and CIO machinists and affecting 11 shipyards and drydocks.

Bethlehem holds \$300,000,000 of the \$500,000,000 of ship construction and repair orders affected by the strike.

Judy Canova Marries
HONOLULU, June 16.—(AP)—Th Star-Bulletin said Monday that Judy Canova of the films was married Saturday night to James Ripley, auditor for United States engineers on duty here.

The actress denied she had been married to Ripley, identified by the newspaper as a nephew of the newspaper as a nephew of the cartoonist, Robert Ripley.

Pilots May Train at City Airport

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sition to be quoted for publication, they have information much more definite.

By the time of the luncheon party next Monday noon it is expected that the proposed development can be described with more exactness and that Salem's obligation, if the project is to become an actuality, can be announced.

Heretofore there have been hints that some of the air corps' activities might be based here but there was no indication that they might amount to more than the establishment of refueling and repair facilities.

A training center, on the other hand, would necessitate a considerable personnel, as may be judged from the fact that at the Pendleton air base there will be 2300 enlisted men and 300 officers.

Rain Halts Opening of City Pools

Cold and rainy weather Monday curtailed opening day activities at Salem's playgrounds. Harold Hauk, director of recreation, said, but the program is expected to draw added numbers of children today. The pools at Olney and Leslie are to be opened today regardless of weather, he added.

Craft classes and games head the summer program. Attendance Monday was about 350 at Olney and 375 at Leslie.

War News Briefs

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ces said, but bombs fell in residential quarters in several places and caused some civilian casualties.

NEW YORK, June 16.—(AP)—A "face-saving formula" probably will be worked out by Russia and Germany in regard to German demands on the Soviets, Martin Agronsky, NBC correspondent in Turkey declared Monday night in a broadcast from Ankara.

DAMASCUS, June 16.—(AP)—A naval battle in waters off Beirut between a British squadron of two cruisers and six destroyers and two French destroyers was fought at dawn Monday. It was reported here. The French units were not damaged, authorities said.

TOKYO, Tuesday, June 17.—(AP)—A sharp United States embassy protest to Japan Monday over bomb damage to the American safety zone in the Chinese capital of Chungking was followed today by a government spokesman's statement that Japan was investigating the incident.

STOCKHOLM, June 17.—(Tuesday)—(AP)—The Swedish liberal newspaper Dagens Nyheter reported today there were signs that Finland had decided to abandon its neutrality in favor of Germany in any conflict between Russia and Germany.

The newspaper detailed reports of a state of suspense in Finland because of travel restrictions, the transit of German troops ostensibly bound for Norway evacuation of women and children from the capital, Helsinki, and reported Russian preparations for mobilization.

US Ousts All Nazi Consuls

Embassy at Capital to Remain; Move Is Seen as Rupture

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lory" of all German nationals connected with the consulates and the three organizations, the German library of information in New York, the German railway and tourist agencies, and the Trans-ocean news service.

In announcing the action which was taken on orders of President Roosevelt, Sumner Welles, under-secretary of state, said it did not imply a break in diplomatic relations or affect in any way German diplomatic officials in this country. It stirred speculation, however, that it might serve to hasten a formal rupture of relations.

In any event, it was considered certain that Germany would retaliate promptly, at least by forcing the remaining American officials out of the Reich and German-occupied territory.

At San Francisco, Capt. Fritz Wiedemann, German consul general and often spoken of as the No. 1 Nazi in this country, shrugged his shoulders when he heard of the government's action and said:

"All I can say is that when of hope and good intentions, I came here 2 1/2 years ago, full by no means, realized this as the desirable end."

Other German consuls mostly refused to comment. Baron Edgar von Spiegel, consul general at New Orleans, declined to see reporters.

Von Spiegel created a furore June 14, 1940, by asserting in an interview that "Germany will not forget that when she was waging a struggle for her very life the United States did everything in its power to aid her enemies."

Later he said that he had been talking of the record. The state department protested his remarks.

PORTLAND, June 16.—(AP)—Robert G. Closterman, German consul general for this district, which includes Seattle, said Monday that he interpreted the state department order closing German consulates to apply only to those accused of improper activities.

Although lacking official information, he said he believed the order would not apply to the Portland consulate. Closterman, a naturalized American citizen, said no German nationals were in the consulate here.

HONOLULU, June 16.—(AP)—"Don't disturb me. Get out!" snapped R. F. Lange, German consul in Honolulu when told of the state department order for evacuation of all German consulates in the United States. Without another word Lange resumed work at his desk, dominated by a large picture of Adolf Hitler.

LA PAZ, Bolivia, June 16.—(AP)—The influential newspaper La Razon Monday published a story charging that the German embassy was a focal point for Nazi infiltration of Bolivia and urged the government to take energetic steps.

Asks Time to Plead
DALLAS—The Polk county sheriff's office arrested Wyvern Ritenour here Saturday, charging him with obtaining money under false pretenses. He appeared before Charles Gregory, justice of the peace, on Monday and asked for further time in which to consult an attorney.

Survivors of US Ship Alive

Missing 35 Landed at Cape Town; Taken up by British Freighter

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commander of the vessel, which was "without question German" to spare the Robin Moor.

Falling in that plea, the officers of the Robin Moor declared they had given this firm warning to the submarine crew:

"You will be sorry if you carry out your threat to sink our ship."

A few minutes later, the Robin Moor went down. At the submarine's orders Monday went aboard her when the Robin Moor was stopped May 21 south of the Cape Verde islands and midway between Africa and Brazil.

"I told the commander we had nothing but ordinary merchandise for South African ports—merchandise such as pleasure cars—but he wouldn't listen to me," Munday said.

"He kept saying over and over again, 'You have supplies for my country's enemy and I must therefore sink you.'"

The 35 survivors included three women and a two-year-old boy. They had not been heard from since June 9, when a fourth boat with 11 survivors was picked up by the Brazilian ship Ozorio and news of the sinking was given.

Captain Edward Meyers, of Baltimore, said Monday night he had not believed the submarine commander when he promised to send for help, so ordered the lifeboats to leave the scene. Part of the United States' charges that the incident was a violation of the humanitarian rules of warfare rest on whether help actually was sent for.

Here is the way Munday told his story Monday night.

"I had just taken over four o'clock watch and was drinking coffee on the bridge when I saw blinker lights on the horizon."

"The lights said 'AAA,' which means 'what ship?'"

"I answered 'American steamer Robin Moor.'"

"I was very careful to signal the word 'American' first because I had a suspicion it was a submarine."

"There was no immediate answer, so I sent someone down to awaken the captain."

"He came on the bridge in pajamas."

"Then the captain ordered the signalman to signal 'who are you?'"

"The answer came back immediately: 'A minute later the submarine flashed 'LRL' which meant 'I am a minute later the submarine.'"

"Submarine."

"I flashed 'don't use your wireless.' We stopped our engines on our captain's orders and so informed the submarine."

"Then the submarine flashed 'send a boat to me.'"

"We uncovered two lifeboats. The captain sent me along with the boatstain, four able-bodied seamen and one other seaman in our number one lifeboat to the submarine."

"Before I left I cautioned the wireless operator not to touch his key until we returned. The submarine was showing only a pinpoint of light, although we had asked for a light to guide us."

"The commander of the submarine was waiting on the deck for us. The first thing he asked was 'where are your papers?'"

"I told him he had not asked me to bring them."

"The commander was in a brown coat with tweed trousers. He asked the name of our boat. I told him."

"As he talked I saw men in naval uniforms. The conning tower bore a painted mascot of a red bull's head. We had no way of finding out the name or number of the submarine."

"It was obvious, however, to all of us that the submarine was German. All the men—even those who spoke distinct English—did so with a decided German accent. I have known plenty of German sailors so I was sure."

"Another proof we had was that the submarine commander gave me bandages for my leg which was injured. Each bandage was marked with German trade-marks."

"The commander asked me the name of our ship. When I told him we were the neutral American freighter Robin Moor he asked what our cargo was."

"General merchandise for South African ports," I told him.

"But you have heavy machinery on board," he said.

"You are wrong," I told him. "That is nothing but automobile parts we cannot carry in the hold."

"He then asked me if I didn't have motors among the cargo."

"I replied that the only motors were automobile pleasure car motors."

"What is the rest of your cargo?" he asked.

"I replied 'nothing but tin plate.'"

"The submarine commander then said what he frequently repeated before we saw the last of him: 'You have supplies for my country's enemy and I must sink you.'"

"I asked him then how much time he would give us. He replied 'Only 20 minutes.'"

"Then I pleaded with him. I

told him we had eight passengers—that we didn't care about ourselves but that we ought to consider the passengers. I pointed out that one of the passengers was a little child. He only shook his head.

"Then I tried to impress him that we had women aboard. He still shook his head. I told him about a man and wife who were in the sixties."

"We can't get people like that in boats in a hurry," I told him. "Well, maybe I'll give you 30 minutes," he said.

"Before we left the submarine commander promised he would take our lifeboats in tow. He warned us he would sink us without waiting if we used our wireless to send an SOS."

"The last thing I did before leaving the commander was to try to beg him to take our ship to some neutral port such as South America where we could discharge our cargo or take possession of our ship or anything he pleased as long as he got the passengers ashore safely."

"He absolutely refused. He kept repeating: 'You carry supplies for my country's enemy.'"

"As we pushed off toward our ship I called back: 'You will be sorry if you carry out your threat to sink our ship.'"

"Later the submarine commander fired 33 shells into the Robin Moor from her deck gun. The ship went down in 18 minutes."

"Then the submarine fired volley after volley from her anti-aircraft guns at floating cargo until it all sank."

"The submarine commander promised me several times he would radio our position to rescue ships but when no help arrived I knew his promise had been an idle one. Then we began rowing in the general direction of Brazil."

Rites Set for Woman Lawyer

Miss Grace E. Smith Funeral to Be Held This Afternoon

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ed assistant attorney general, Miss Smith served as law clerk in that office.

Miss Smith was also admitted to practice in the United States district court for Oregon and the United States supreme court and was the 13th woman to appear before the US high judiciary.

Among her many activities here were included membership in the Salem Writers club, the First Methodist church and its Sunday school directors, the Phi Delta legal fraternity, the AAUW, POE Sisterhood, Salem Women's club, the Altruists, Daughters of Civil War veterans and the Business and Professional Woman's club.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Elva Walton of New Jersey; three brothers, Paul Smith of Santa Monica, Calif., and Ray and Ernest Smith of Salem.

Salem Colonel Is Stricken

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assistant plans and training officer for the division, from Tacoma, Wash., was ordered transferred to Letterman general hospital in the San Francisco Presidio today for continued observation of ulcers.

Lieut. Col. H. L. Kraft, chief surgeon of the Fort Ord base hospital, said the ailments of both officers were chronic and had recently become acute.

HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif., June 16.—(AP)—Sudden illness of 57 soldiers from acute gastritis which "knocked them out cold" on a river bank was revealed here Monday. Army medical men blamed it on lemonade.

The lemonade was served company H, the anti-tank company, of the seventh infantry last Thursday. It was kept overnight in cans and served again Friday, to the 57 men who had gone by truck to the river.

The men lost consciousness en masse. The first medical regiment was called and all men recovered completely in four to eight hours.

CAMP HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif., June 16.—(AP)—The Seventh division of the fourth army was moving toward the Pleyto area of the Hunter Liggett reservation Monday as preparations went ahead for opening of huge war games next Monday.

By Friday the entire division, plus attached corps troops, will have its total strength of 22,000 men here, ready to act as the "red" force against 40,000 Fort Lewis, Wash., troops already in the field and designated as the "blues."

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Trial Seen for Parking Meters

City Council Elects New Alderman; Votes Zoning at Capitol

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went rapidly through the three required readings to become city law.

Major new provision is the establishment of a capitol zone, a stretch of territory from one-half to two-thirds of a block wide completely around the present state structures in mid-Salem and the area where it is planned the capitol group of buildings eventually shall stand.

Only one method of changing zones, instead of the two previously provided, is allowed by the new ordinance and that method is made more difficult. Petitions must be signed by owners of 65 instead of merely 50 per cent of the property in the affected area; signatures must be made before a notary public or accompanied by an affidavit from the solicitor, and hearings will be held before the zoning commission rather than the city council.

One such hearing, scheduled for Monday night, that of Thomas H. Wolfe who had proposed to build a grocery store or service station on property in the area touched by Capitol, Nebraska and E streets, was cancelled when a petition signed by owners of less than 25 per cent of the property owners in the area was presented. However, residents of that sector of the city, attending the council session for the hearing, remained to hear the new zoning ordinance explained and adopted.

James M. Clark, 1957 Sagnaw, finance company assistant manager, was elected alderman from the seventh ward to replace Armin Berger, whose resignation because of absence from the city in army service, was accepted at Monday night's meeting. Only other nominee was C. F. Clark, whom Berger replaced on the council.

Glenn Gregg was named to temporary membership on the street committee to serve while Bert Ford is absent because of illness.

WPA grading for Luther street between Fairmount and John and for Academy between Laurel and Hazel was approved on recommendation of the street committee as was grading and graveling for Bellevue from South Winter to 12th street. Lee between 12th and 13th streets was scheduled for future grading and graveling.

Upon recommendation of the city attorney, the county voted \$100 damage maximum permitted, to Mrs. J. H. Engelhart for injuries sustained in a fall January 1 of this year on 19th street between the Southern Pacific tracks and Lee street.

Installation of an arc light at the intersection of 16th and Roosevelt was approved.

Union Hits Strikes
ASTORIA, June 16.—(AP)—Oregon AFL delegates condemned "needless wage and hour strikes in national defense industries" Monday.

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