

Allies Tear Holes in Rommel's Fort Line

Bombers Hit Jap Pacific Bases, Find Signs of Enemy Growth

250 Jap Craft Plastered at Rabaul Center

Substantial Part of Planes Destroyed; Guinea Strafed

By VERN HAUGLAND
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Wednesday, March 24.—(AP)—Allied bombers plastered the Japanese air base at Rabaul, New Britain, in a two-hour raid Tuesday, aiming 54 tons of bombs upon three aerodromes and 250 enemy planes clustered on them to strike a heavy blow to Japanese air power, the allied command announced Wednesday.

It was one of the heaviest raids of the war upon Rabaul, launched after reconnaissance disclosed the largest concentration of Japanese aircraft ever observed in this sector. The allied force destroyed or damaged "a substantial proportion" of the grounded planes.

Rabaul, a Japanese naval base as well as air center, is some 500 miles northeast of Port Moresby, New Guinea.

The presence of so many planes was noted at Lakunai, Vanakuni and Rapopo aerodromes by allied reconnaissance planes.

Tuesday night in the face of heavy anti-aircraft opposition and searchlight barrages, heavy bombers attacked in coordinated action.

"Fifty four tons of bombs ranging from 2000 pounders to fragmentation incendiaries were dropped on the runways, dispersal areas, installations, searchlights and gun positions for one and a half hours," reported the noon communique from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters.

"Fires immediately broke out in all the target areas, rising and multiplying as our aircraft increased, their pressure columns of smoke reaching thousands of feet into the air.

"Congested aircraft on the ground were repeatedly hit and it is apparent that the attack destroyed or damaged a substantial proportion of this pack. Several of our planes were damaged but all returned."

The presence of so many aircraft backed up reports recently released from allied headquarters that the Japanese are building up their strength in the southwest Pacific.

The bombers on their return to base passed nearby Cape Gazelle, spotted a 10,000-ton Japanese transport and set it on fire.

Gasmata aerodrome, on the south coast of New Britain, 325 miles from Port Moresby, was the target of two harassing night attacks.

Also referring to the New Britain sector, the communique disclosed that an enemy cargo ship previously reported as heavily damaged in Borgen bay definitely was sunk, as confirmed by aerial reconnaissance.

Salamaua, the Huon gulf base of the Japanese in New Guinea on which allied ground troops have moved closer by mopping up the Mambare area 100 miles to the south, was strafed and bombed by planes which flew through heavy rain and low clouds. Later medium bombers strafed the area, machine-gunning enemy barges and bivouac localities.

In the islands on the northwest approaches to Australia, medium bombers strafed a Japanese coastal vessel off Masela on Babar island and raided the town of Sum-laki on Tanimbar island.

An enemy schooner was bombed by an allied plane in the harbor of Lorengau, admiralty islands.

The attacks on Salamaua, New Guinea, were coordinated with six bombing runs and 27 strafing sweeps over positions held by Japanese troops at Mubo, which is only 12 miles below Salamaua.

The communique stressed the fact that although ground fire was encountered near a Japanese plane rose in opposition. Allied planes weathered the ground fire and all returned to base.

Disguises Aid Enemy Escape

LOURENCO MARQUES, Portuguese East Africa, March 23 (AP)—Six Italian prisoners of war, two of them disguised as British officers escorting the other four to another prison camp, have reached Portuguese territory after escaping from a British prison camp in Kenya colony. It was reported Tuesday. (The fugitives included Prince Giovanni Corsini, the Rome radio reported in a broadcast heard in London. He was not otherwise identified, but in 1937 a Prince Corsini sold a Renaissance painting "Presentation of the Virgin" to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.)

Board Favors Distribution

Schools Urge Snell; Changes Made in Teaching Staff

Salem school directors went on record Tuesday night as favoring the recent legislature's amendment to the elementary school tax law which would provide that the two-mill levy now distributed to school districts over the state on the basis of assessed valuation should be turned over to those districts on the basis of teacher-pupil enrollment.

Directing Roy Harland, board chairman, to write Gov. Earl Snell of the board's attitude toward the measure, which would increase by approximately \$15,000 Marion county's share of the school tax, board members indicated their belief that the readjustment would result in a more equitable allocation of tax funds which do not now come from property but from incomes.

The name of Miss Jennie M. Reinhart, physical education instructor at Parrish, was added to the list moved up to two-year rating in the tenure scheme, having been erroneously left out at a previous meeting.

Resignation of Mrs. Bertha Englehorn Lenhart, now on leave, and Miss Meryl Corbett, both of the Bush staff were accepted.

Miss Velma Yeoman, Independent, now replacing Mrs. R. A. Forkner at Washington; Mrs. (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Schaupp Goes On Road Board

Appointment of Arthur W. Schaupp, Klamath Falls attorney, as eastern Oregon member of the state highway commission was announced by Gov. Earl Snell here Tuesday.

Schaupp succeeds Herman Oliver, John Day, whose term expires on March 31. This is the first time that Klamath county has been recognized with the appointment of a highway commissioner.

The new highway commissioner is a graduate of Willamette university law school and was admitted to the bar in 1911. He served as city attorney of Klamath Falls from 1926 to 1930 and represented Klamath county in the lower house of the state legislature at the 1931 session. Prior to locating in Klamath Falls in 1922 he lived in Walla Walla county, where he served as district attorney.

He also was mayor of the city of Joseph.

Oliver, who retires from the highway commission, previously was a member of the state board of higher education.

Latin-Russian Relations Urged

PANAMA, Panama, March 23 (AP)—Vice President Henry A. Wallace said at a press conference Tuesday that he thought resumption of relations with Russia would be a good thing for all Latin American countries.

A better understanding between the Slav and Latin peoples, the vice president said in answer to a question, would be a definite contribution toward a lasting peace throughout the world.

Kiska Raiding Directed at Field Building

'Impossible' Task Of Flight Strip Tried on Island

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON, March 23 (AP)—America's stepped-up air offensive against the Japanese force on Kiska island, it developed Tuesday, is designed primarily to prevent the enemy from accomplishing the almost impossible task of building an airfield on the mountainous Aleutians base.

New Blows in this offensive were reported by the navy in a communique which said that Kiska was attacked Monday by two groups of Liberator heavy and Mitchell medium bombers but that "except for one large fire results were not observed."

These raids boosted the number of raids on Kiska this month to 21, as compared with a total of only nine attacks during the entire month of February. Improving weather conditions have been credited here (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Fake Tests Admitted On Steel

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(AP) Before a senate investigating committee, officers and employees of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel corporation readily acknowledged Tuesday that tests had been faked on steel turned out by its Irvin (Pa.) plant to fill war orders, but steadfastly denied there was any motive except patriotism—a desire to get on with the war effort.

J. Lester Perry, white haired president of the corporation, testified that the "regrettable failure" to carry out testing procedures on steel plates for the navy, maritime commission and lend-lease was not known to the "higher management," and declared he intended to "clear it up" as quickly as possible.

Perry said he thought it was simply a case of lax work by "a few individuals responsible for making the tests, having an intimate knowledge of the high character of the steel and honestly believing that the plates in question would fully meet all requirements."

No one profited, he said, declaring that if the steel had been rejected as not up to government specifications it could have been sold to others for just as high a price.

Later B. F. Fairless, president of the United States Steel corporation (Carnegie-Illinois is a subsidiary) asserted he had been as "shocked" as the committee by the revelations, and added "We are going to get the facts."

"Whoever is responsible, whether they are underlings, intermediate officials or tops, will have to walk the plank," Fairless declared.

Labish Celery to Equal 1942 Production

By RALPH C. CURTIS
Celery plants from filled-to-capacity greenhouses started moving Tuesday to the rich Klamath river bottom soil of the Labish district amid circumstances which held promise that this major Marion county crop will this year, despite absence of the Japanese and Japanese-American farmers who formerly cultivated it, equal in quality and volume the 1942 production.

Due to the demoralizing uncertainty of those experienced celery growers' status following Pearl Harbor and their evacuation after the production season had started, the Labish district's celery output was reduced about 40 per cent, from approximately 197,000 crates in 1941 to about 117,000 in 1942. The 1939 crop had exceeded 200,000 crates. It

will not be possible to return to the former peak this year. But the industry carries on, producing food for victory.

Thirty one farmers now compose the Labish Celery Growers' cooperative, participating in an arrangement whereby they have both an initial financial stake in the joint undertaking and opportunity to share equally in the returns. Meanwhile they and the additionally employed workers draw wages which compare favorably, living costs considered, with income obtainable in other war industries. And please take note of the adjective "other."

A civilian purchaser for the army recently informed Ronald E. Jones, manager of the cooperative, that the army's celery requirements for Alaska, Washing-

Capital Eating Waste 'Huge'

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(AP)—A farmer-congressman who appointed himself a one-man committee to investigate the eating situation in the nation's capital Tuesday reported that he had found "shocking waste" in Washington restaurants.

"Chicken dinners only half eaten—halves of good, juicy steaks left on the plates—whole bowls of peas from which only one spoonful had been taken—good desserts nibbled at and left—I was amazed at the terrific waste," said Rep. Gross (D-Pa.).

Gross, who proudly lists himself in the congressional directory as a member of "a typical farm family" said that over the weekend he had made it his "business to circulate around Washington and look into some of the restaurants."

CIO Leaders Shown Blitz

Unionists Work, Live With Soldiers, See How Attack Runs

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind., March 23.—(AP)—The United States army showed CIO union leaders from war plants in four midwestern states Tuesday how tough it really is.

The Ranger "blitz course" and a tank-led attack problem did it. As visiting shop committeemen and local union officers of the United Automobile Workers stood on a nearby knoll, the 33rd combat division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Frank W. Milburn and supported by medium tanks from Fort Knox, Ky., loosed a terrific assault on a simulated enemy position on a hill.

First artillery units cut loose with 105-millimeter cannon, sending explosive shells into a target area about 300 by 200 yards. Heavy machine-guns joined in the firing. After this preparatory fire the tanks opened up with their 75-millimeter cannon and machine guns, rumbling up the hill, followed by waves of infantry.

After the firing ceased, Gen. Milburn and Walter P. Reuther, international vice-president of the UAW-CIO, stood on a knoll half a mile away and expressed satisfaction with results of the unionists' three-day visit here.

Reuther said that "Our boys are returning to their war plants determined to exert every effort to increase war production and back up the fighting men we have worked with and lived with at Camp Atterbury."

"Without being sarcastic or critical," Reuther added, "I think management ought to organize some of its top-flight boys and send them down here on a similar trip."

Union Control Law Signed in Kansas

TOPEKA, Kas., March 23.—(AP)—An experimental labor union control law designed to ban the closed shop, sidwown strikes and secondary boycotts was signed into law by Gov. Andrew Schoepel Tuesday. Almost before the ink from his pen was dry, representatives of the CIO, AFL and some of the railway brotherhoods branded the act unconstitutional and promised it would be tested in the courts as soon as possible.

Senior high school mathematics pupils figured ration ratios, while teachers of the system had served as registrars.

Salem and County Schools Praised

Schools of Salem and Marion county "did the outstanding job" of processing fuel oil rationing registrations in Oregon and Washington, C. B. Maxfield, fuel oil authority with the district OPA office in Portland, has written school authorities here, Supt. Frank B. Bennett revealed Tuesday as he read the Salem school board letter sent him and Miss Beryl Holt, head of the schools' mathematics department.

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Americans Put On 'Squeeze' From West; Mareth Flanked

Senate Scraps FR's Ceiling On Salaries

Repealer Attached To Raising of Debt Limit

WASHINGTON, March 23 (AP)—With the approval of the democratic leadership, the senate voted 74 to 3 Tuesday to scrap President Roosevelt's order putting a ceiling of \$25,000 (after taxes) on all salaries.

The house has approved the same objective but in a different manner, so the two versions will now be threshed out in a joint committee representing the two branches.

Only Senators Bone (D-Wash.), Downey (D-Calif.), and Langer (R-ND) opposed repealing the salary limit.

The repealer is attached to an administration measure raising the statutory limit on the public debt from \$125,000,000,000 to \$210,000,000,000. The whole bill, with the rider, was passed on a voice vote and returned to the house.

Chairman George (D-Ga.) of the finance committee, leading the fight to nullify the salary limitation. (Turn to Page 2, Story C)

Tekyo Warns Of Air Raids

NEW YORK, March 23.—(AP) Tokyo broadcasts are warning Japanese people to expect air raids over Japan and increasing submarine attacks upon shipping.

A war review broadcast, reported by the office of war information, said "the enemy is still continuing air raids on our forces. The American planes in China will be further strengthened and therefore the enemy hopes to carry out raids over Japan. Chungking has many plane factories and field repair shops. We must realize the situation."

As to shipping, the broadcast said "the enemy is using her submarines in the hope of destroying our supply lines. Of course, we cannot underestimate submarine activities by enemy submarines and therefore must build more ships to replace our lost ships."

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Tunisian Offense Grows



Allied forces broke into the Mareth line of southeastern Tunisia on Tuesday and at the same time flanked it to the south. Meanwhile General Patton's American armored force captured Maknassy and raced on toward the coast in an attempt to split the axis forces in north Africa.—Associated Press Teletext.

Reds Repulse Nazi Onslaught; Toll Big

LONDON, Wednesday, March 24.—Strong German forces which had smashed against the Moscow-Bryansk rail trunk north of Zhizdra have been beaten back in four days of violent fighting which cost them 7000 officers and men in killed alone, Moscow announced Wednesday.

In addition, prisoners were taken and much Nazi equipment fell to the defending Red army. It was stated in the midnight communique as recorded here by the Soviet press.

The Russians in their own offensive west of Moscow toward the big Nazi base of Smolensk captured an additional number of populated places, said the midnight bulletin, which also indicated that the Red army was threatening to flank the German position at Yartsevo, next big Soviet objective on this front.

The communique reported that despite strong infantry reinforcements rushed up by the Germans and despite powerful artillery and mortar fire, the Russians beat off fierce counter-attacks "before Dukhovschino," a town 12 miles northwest of Yartsevo and only 32 miles northeast of Smolensk itself.

The Russians also reported successes on the bloody Belgorod front above Kharkov and in the Caucasus, but in all cases they made it clear that fighting was heavy and that the Germans both in attack and defense were packing a heavy punch.

The German high command Wednesday reported that its attack west of Kursk, the area in which it maintains the heaviest fighting is now taking place, "gained still more ground against the Soviet forces."

The fiercest reported seeing bombs explode on dead center of their target, one of France's principal locomotive works now producing quantities of steam and electric engines for German rail lines and equipped to build tank turrets and gun parts.

At dusk Tuesday several enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the southwest coastal area of England, but caused little damage. The air ministry said one plane was brought down by anti-aircraft fire.

Whirlwind fighter-bombers attacked railway targets in Brittany Monday night while the larger planes were over St. Nazaire. The dual night attack followed Monday's devastating daylight assault on the Nazi U-boat base at Wilhelmshaven by American heavy bombers. All the Whirlwinds returned from Brittany.

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Rommel Fights Fiercely as Infantry Gains

2-Mile Gap Broken; Yank Armors Take Maknassy, Move On

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 23 (AP)—The crack British Eighth army in a thunderous, savage assault smashed the Germans' Mareth line Tuesday, tearing a hole in those bristling fortifications from the coast to a point two miles inland, while a flying column of other veteran troops outflanked the line on its southern end in another sweeping attack.

Fighting still raged Tuesday night on a scale surpassing even the ferocious offensive at El Alamein—and Marshal Rommel's forces appeared in dire peril with the coastal anchor of their fortifications breached, and the other extremity by-passed by British troops who now can attack from the back.

This was the long-awaited general offensive in Tunisia, and Rommel's Africa corps was put in greater danger by American troops that recaptured and drove beyond Maknassy in a drive to the sea to close a steel trap on the axis in southern Tunisia.

Rommel slashed at American troops advancing southwest of El Gueitar with a heavy tank force in a desperate effort to stave off their surge, and a fierce battle impended or was raging in that sector too.

Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's forces broke the Mareth line at 3 a.m. Tuesday after less than 30 hours of furious fighting, Associated Press Correspondent Don Whitehead, who is with those veteran troops, reported.

The British attacked after a withering artillery barrage, Whitehead said, and in an infantry assault over the powerfully-defended Wadi Zizgaou, breached the line, tearing a gap from the coast to a point two miles inland, and deepened their bridgehead across the Wadi to about 1000 yards.

The assaulting troops stormed across the Wadi despite mine fields, cross fire, and all German defenses. The breach was opened and men and tanks poured in, Whitehead said.

(The London radio said that "our casualties so far have been very light" in the control assault.)

The Eighth army had scored a tremendous success by the Mareth line break-through, but to exploit the success it must move armor and guns across the precipitous Wadi Zizgaou under fire of German artillery.

The desert column that flanked the southern end of the line, although it has fought through defenses built on the remains of an ancient Roman wall southwest of El Hamma, still has rugged country line with German guns to conquer, with panzer units available for counter-attacks.

Allied bombers were making almost continual attacks against some 50 tanks that Rommel had massed for blows against US troops near El Gueitar. Here there has been little or no rain for several days and the grassy battlefields are almost dry.

The battle for southern Tunisia thus was on in full fury, with the next 48 hours likely to see decisive fighting, a test of men and stamina and vehicles and leadership, with Rommel—the "desert fox"—harried by Irish "blood and thunder" Montgomery on his southern flank, and by American "blood and guts" General Patton on his west. Gen. Sir Harold Alexander had studied the operations with Patton, while Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower coordinated the work of all three, and kept the endless supply lines going to their forces.

The Mareth forces were reported to be chiefly Italian infantry lacking motor transport to escape, but there was a steel corps of German panzers and grenadiers on hand to strengthen them.

Jefferson May Get New Flax Plant

JEFFERSON, March 23.—The new flax processing plant whose construction was approved Monday by the war production board in Washington, DC, will be erected in Jefferson if details can be worked out, Chairman A. L. Page of the Santiam Flax Growers association said Tuesday.

Exact status of the project will be explained at a membership meeting Friday night, Mr. Page added.

Sen. Charles L. McNary announced Monday that WPB had approved construction of one new plant and expansion of ten existing plants in connection with prospects of a doubling of the 1942 flax acreage in Oregon this year to attain a total of 4000 acres.