

Allies Advance to Outskirts of Bizerte, Tunis In Bitter Fight

8th Army Hits Rommel 70 Miles From El Agheila

British Column Races Across Desert After Capture Of Bengasi

CAIRO, Nov. 21.—(AP)—Racing westward at a speed unequalled in modern desert warfare, the British 8th army today hurled its forward elements against Marshal Rommel's rearguard at Agedabia, some 70 miles from the narrow El Agheila defile.

The British, apparently making a supreme effort to keep Rommel from organizing a defense at Aghella, pressed on without pause at the heels of the enemy after triumphantly hoisting the Union Jack over Bengasi yesterday for the third time in this war.

Already the 8th army was half way to Tunisia from its starting point at El Alamein in Egypt, and more than half way to Tripoli. Contact was established with the Axis rearguard at Agedabia, on the coastal road 100 miles south of Bengasi, by one of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's forces which made a beeline across the Libyan hump. Other 8th army forces followed the lower route around the hump and marched into Bengasi.

Air Blows Struck

Supporting the two-way Allied drive against the Axis in Libya and Tunisia, Malta-based bombers yesterday bombed Catania, Augusta and Cosimo airdromes in Sicily and struck new blows against Axis shipping in the Mediterranean.

Flying from Malta to the support of American and British troops closing in on Bizerte and Tunis in Tunisia, British bombers also attacked a large Axis vessel off Cape Bon, Tunisia, and raked it with cannon fire.

Two German planes were shot down in the same area, the communiqué said. One British plane was reported lost in the operations.

The occupation of Bengasi had been expected for hours since the German high command announced yesterday that the port had been abandoned by German troops.

Agedabia, where British forward troops were reported in contact with the Germans, is about 100 miles south of Bengasi and approximately 70 miles northeast of El Agheila, where Rommel is expected to take advantage of favorable terrain and make a stand.

Coffee Sales Suspend At Midnight Saturday

PORTLAND, Nov. 21.—(AP)—Coffee sales will be suspended in Oregon and throughout the nation effective at midnight tonight until midnight, Nov. 28, the office of rationing today announced.

Thereafter holders of sugar rationing books may buy one pound of coffee with sugar stamp No. 27, covering the period from Nov. 23 to Jan. 3.

If by that time all-purpose ration books have not been issued, other sugar stamps will be designated for further coffee purchases.

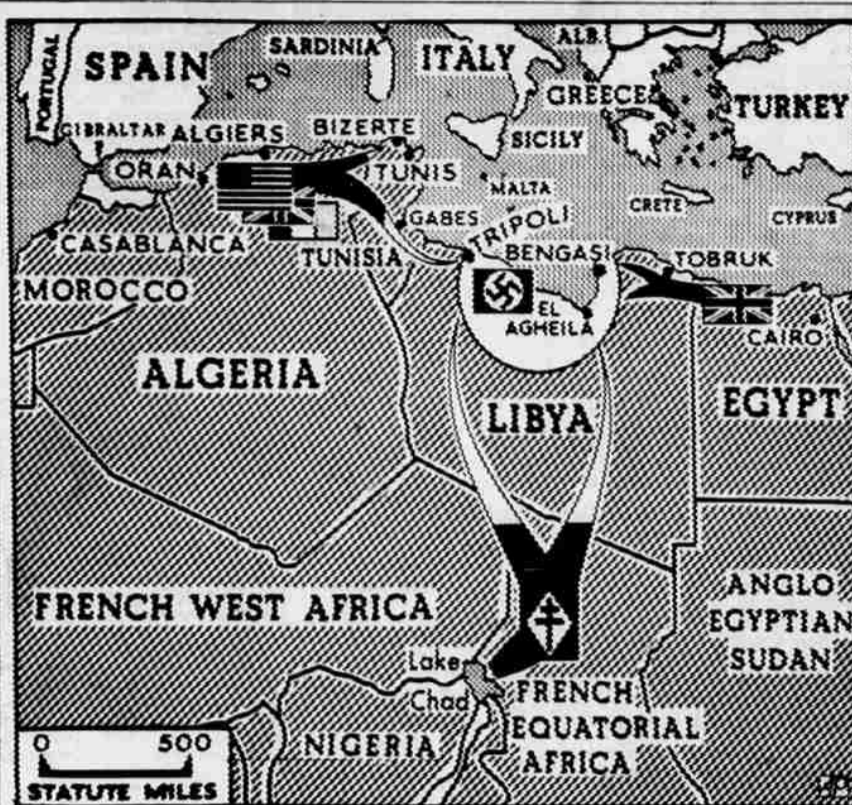
Those without sugar ration books will obtain from their local ration board sugar books with the first 16 stamps removed. These they may use for coffee purchases. Persons without sugar books whose sugar stocks are exhausted before all-purpose books are issued, also may get sugar ration books from the local boards.

Industry Accident Toll Dwarfs War Casualties

CHICAGO, Nov. 21.—(AP)—The national safety council today compared total casualties of 3,844,500 among war workers since Pearl Harbor to 48,963 casualties in the armed forces as grim evidence that accidents drain the nation of manpower needed for victory.

Those who die in battle die for a cause, said Ned H. Dearborn, executive vice-president of the council. "Those struck down by accidents die in vain."

The council said casualties to American workers since Pearl Harbor up to Nov. 15 have been 44,500 dead and 3,800,000 wounded. Government figures for casualties in the armed forces during the same period were 5,894 dead, 3,435 wounded and 39,827 missing or prisoners. The total national accident toll since Pearl Harbor has been 89,000 killed and approximately 8,800,000 wounded, the council said.



SWING IN TO CLOSE TRAP ON ROMMEL—Fighting French force was pushing up through Libya to help close the trap on Rommel's battered forces still in retreat south of Bengasi. Vanguard of the British 8th army raced westward along the coastal hump and south of Bengasi area in attempt to cut off foe from El Agheila corridor. The allies continued to push eastward into Tunisia. Dark shading of areas in pointers indicates approximate penetration.

Enemy Hemmed In Along 30-Mile Strip

Bitter Fighting Rages; Hitler Reportedly Rushing Reinforcements

By ROGER D. GREENE
Associated Press War Editor
American and British troops, scoring a five-mile advance in one direction, pitched into the Germans on the outer defenses of Bizerte and Tunis today while U. S. Flying Fortresses rained deadly punishment on the enemy hemmed in along a 30-mile-wide coastal strip.

German reports said Adolf Hitler was rushing a stream of air-borne reinforcements, including tanks, across the Mediterranean in a desperate effort to stem the Allied offensive.

Field dispatches said the battle was growing more bitter hour by hour, with Allied troops storming Nazi fortifications only 20 miles from both cities in the French North Africa colony.

One Allied vanguard was reported to have driven forward five miles to a point 25 miles southeast of Tunis, the capital, fighting over ancient battlefields of the Carthaginian empire.

Italians Claim Success

Italian headquarters asserted the battle was developing "on the Tunisian-Algerian border"—about 50 miles west of the scene described by Allied dispatches—and declared that operations "have gone to the advantage of the Axis."

A facetious communiqué said British and American troops were "forced back in the frontier region after losing armored cars and trucks."

The German radio claimed that Axis forces Thursday night seized a railway station east of Tabarka, 65 miles west of Bizerte, and reported that fighting French De Gaulle troops had been thrown back to the Tunisian frontier in the south.

The Nazi broadcast said 12 Allied tanks and 18 armored cars were destroyed in the first clash in Tunisia.

Axis Pinned to Coast

A Nazi broadcast, quoting Allied sources in Spanish Morocco, said Allied forces had reached the area of Hammamet, about 40 miles southeast of Tunis, on the gulf of Gabes.

This, it confirmed would mean the Allies had now pinned the Axis into a small corner of the northeast Tunisian coast and cut off the route of retreat to Italian Tripolitania. In that case, the two main Axis forces in Tunisia and Libya would be split.

The Algiers radio said French troops below Tunis had captured some Nazis in a fight northeast of the Port of Gabes.

Lehman Seen Choice For Relief Director

NEW YORK, Nov. 21.—(AP)—The New York Times reported today that President Roosevelt was expected to name retiring Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York to a world-wide post as administrator of feeding, clothing and rehabilitating countries friendly to or occupied by the United Nations.

Lehman could not be reached for comment immediately.

The article said the post "is one of such magnitude" that it is believed the effort would be undertaken jointly by the United Nations, but with the United States, as the wealthiest, bearing the largest burden. Lehman would not have any domestic food responsibilities.

Police Take Escaped Convict at LaGrande

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 21.—(AP)—State police headquarters here announced today the capture of Turman Wilson, 16-year-old convicted rapist and escaped convict, in the climax of a wild automobile chase near LaGrande, Ore.

Officers said they understood Glenn Wilson, Turman's 17-year-old brother, had been surrounded in the LaGrande railroad yards.

The youths escaped the Oregon state penitentiary yesterday, descending from the roof on a "rope of towels." With an older brother, Rassic, they were serving long terms for the rape of two St. Johns, Ore., girls.

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