A.P. MAN WITNESS AS BRITISH WHIP ITALIAN ARMADA

Long Fight Against Overwhelming Odds; Puzzled, Defeated Italians Flee.

By Preston Grover

Alexandria, Egypt, March 26—(AP)—With a valor matched not even in the most romantic fiction, a light squadron of British cruisers and destroyers sailed head-on into overwhelmingly powerful Italian fleet in the central Mediterranean, three times drove it away from a British convoy, and ultimately delivered the supplies to the beleaguered little island of Malta.

It was a battle which will go down in naval annals. For not in the recollection of any officer present had such a prolonged fight been won by so small a force against such great odds.

I saw the battle. With another American correspondent, Richard Mowrer of the Chicago Daily News, I was aboard one of the cruisers which charged straight into the guns of the enemy, cuffed him off, rained shells upon and around him, and finally pulled the convoy to safety.

Italians Puzzled

It did so right out of what had appeared certain destruction not only for the freighters but for the bulk of our thin-walled fighting vessels as well.

The battle occurred last Sunday, beginning in the early afternoon and ending only after dark, when the Italian fleet—puzzled, whipped and wounded—finally withdrew.

In the Italian fleet were one battleship of the 35,000-ton Littorio class with 15-inch guns; two cruisers with eight-inch guns of the Trento class; four six-inch cruisers of the Condottieri class, and a screen of destroyers.

There wasn't a single gun in the British squadron which could make more than a minor dent in the Italian battleship. It was like throwing a handful of nails at a rampaging elephant. And yet at the end of the battle every British warship was afloat.

Allies, Japs Swap Blows In Air War

Stopping up aerial attacks, United Nations planes bombed Dili and Koeping (white arrows, 1,) while Japanese (black arrows, 2), raided Darwin, Katherine, Wyndham and Port Woresby, with unidentified planes, presumably Japanese (broken arrow, 3), sighted off Townsville, about 700 miles down the east coast from Cape York. Allied bombers also raided shipping in the Lae-Salamaua area and Rabaul (white arrow, 4).

The Grange

Gold Hill Grange

Mrs. Maude Martin, Ruth Johnson and Charles Hughes of Gold Hill Grange and Mr. and Mrs. Jackson of Central Point Grange were given third and fourth degrees by the Gold Hill degree team with Otto Fuhrman of Live Oak Grange assisting as assistant steward. Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop of Central Point gave inspiring talks.

State Master Gill has asked all masters to appoint committees to collect waste materials for defense use so Master Howes appointed Jesse Fish, agriculture chairman; Florence Lance, H. E. chairman, E. C. Fiene and Ralph Wigle on this committee.

Dennis McGuire spoke on sugar rationing.

Ways and means committee is sponsoring another of their dinners at the hall April 2 from 6 to 8 p. m. Free entertainment will follow with a speaker on travels in India if possible. The public is invited and there will be a nominal charge for the dinner. Fanny Long wishes the committees to meet at the hall right after noon April 2 to help with the dinner.

H.E.C. met at the hall March 24 and worked on blocks for a quilt to turn over to defense. H.E.C. voted to sponsor a first aid class for the community as soon as an instructor is available.

Maude Martin, a new member, signed the by-laws.

Birthdays for the first quarter were remembered and refreshments were served by Gertie Rosecrans, Dorothy McGuire and Pearl Gray. Next sewing committee will be Billie Shunterman, Carrie Puhl, Ethel Martin, for Grange, April 2. H.E.C. will meet at the home of Billie Shunterman April 14 at 1:30 p. m.

NEW YORK STORES TO RATION MEN'S DUDS

New York, March 26—(AP)—The Wall Street Journal said today men's clothing would be rationed shortly under a voluntary cooperative agreement among large New York City retailers.

Suits, overcoats and topcoats will be first on the list of things whose hoarding the store men will attempt to discourage but later all articles of men's clothing may be included, the Journal said.

Men, Women Over 40 Don't Be Weak, Old

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Take Ostrex. Contains general tonics, stimulants often needed after 40—by bodies lacking iron, calcium phosphate and Vitamin B1. A 73-year-old doctor writes: "It did so much for patients, I took it myself. Results were fine." Special introductory size Ostrex Tonic Tablets costs only 35c. Start feeling peppier and years younger, this very day. At all good drug stores everywhere—in Medford, at Chas. Strang Drug.

KEEP SHARP EYE ON POLITICIANS, JENKINS' ADVICE

Klamath Editor Speaker At International Relations Dinner of Ashland Church

Ashland, March 26—(Spl.)—"Ride herd on the politicians" said Frank Jenkins, editor and publisher of Klamath Falls, in summing up his findings in his address "We Have to Win This War—What Can We at Home Do?"

Mr. Jenkins was guest speaker at the International Relations dinner given at the parish house for the A.A.U.W. and guests Tuesday evening.

"All other wars, fought by the United States, could have been lost without losing the vision of individual freedom which has developed in its fullest extent in the American way of life, but not this one," he emphasized.

Freedom Growth Cited

In giving the reasons for winning this war, he cited the growth of freedom, and that the fall of nations was in the regimentation of the people of the state for the good of the head of the state. He interpolated that Hitler was reputed to be the richest man in the world today, he summarized in these points:

"What Can We at Home Do?"

"We can give up our boys and keep them in touch with home affairs. We can pay taxes. We can buy bonds. We can carry on the jobs at home. We can make sacrifices cheerfully."

"The war will not be lost by the boys in uniform but by the shortcomings and failure of the politicians at home. Ride herd on the politicians, not those of South Carolina, or Georgia, but Oregon congressmen and senators, James L. Mott, Rufus Holman and Senator McNary. Let them know your opinions of what is done or not being done in Washington in no uncertain terms," he said.

Too Many Coordinators?

In commenting on the array of coordinators for recreation, and similar efforts, he wondered "if one would be appointed for marbles and mumblety-peg as well as pingpong."

GAS MASK CONFAB—A conference at American Women's Voluntary Services class, Washington, brought together (left to right, take our word for it) Sonia Converse, instructor; Alice Fowler; and Mrs. Donald Church, assistant director.

POWER OVER FORESTS

Salem, March 26—(AP)—The state forester and state fire wardens have discretionary powers in issuing permits to enter forests which have been closed by proclamation of the governor, the attorney general ruled today.

I'm off to Camp White, just out of Medford, where everyone is working so hard to make us comfortable and everyone is so pleasant and cooperative. I know that Karl's Shoe Store, 230 East Main, is cooperating by staying open until 8:30 every Friday and Saturday night.

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FATHER MEYER IS DINNER SPEAKER

Active club and 20-30 club members held a joint dinner meeting at Hotel Medford Tuesday evening and heard Father A. A. Meyer of Sacred Heart church and Dr. Erma Gordon of Portland as guest speakers. The groups also discussed the labor strife in America.

Father Meyer spoke on the basic reason behind war as related to religion. Dr. Gordon is in Medford in behalf of the United China Relief drive and discussed interesting topics having attended university in Germany for five years. Wallace Brill, president of the Active club and Charles Williamson, president of 20-30 club presided.

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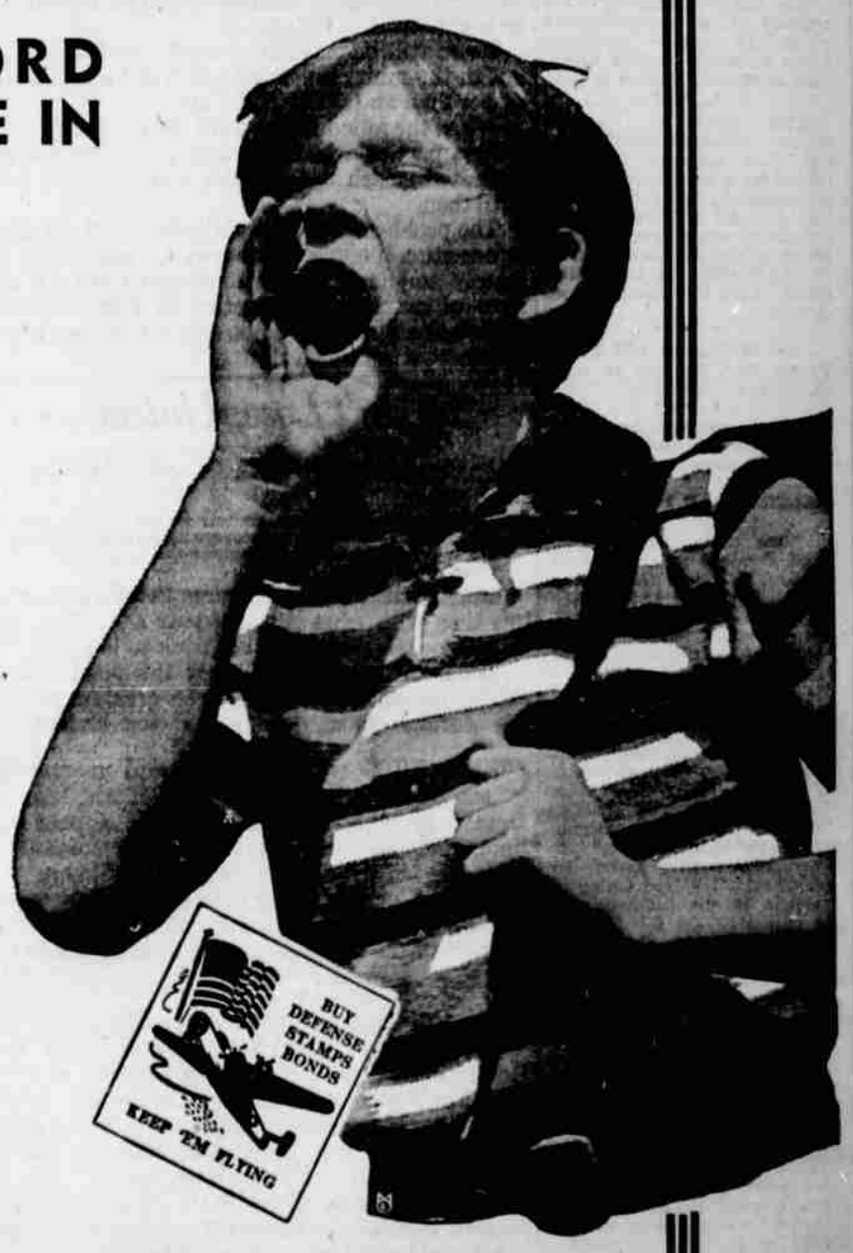

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