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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1942.

NO. 90.

AIR FORCES WHACK JAPS IN ALEUTS

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, July 4—As Egypt goes, so goes the whole middle east theater of war. No more military information than that provided by a world map will tell you that axis closure of the Mediterranean will require a whole new concept of the world struggle by the United Nations. A changed strategy for victory will have to be devised.

The shipping distance from New York and London to Basra, at the head of the Persian Gulf, is greater than from San Francisco to Australia. Any middle east defensive campaign, based on that port (which would be the only feasible one left by Egypt's fall)—could be sustained only to a very limited and difficult extent.

Any effort to keep the tiny dot of Malta in the middle of the Mediterranean would hardly be worthwhile. The navy nearly gave some military experts heart failure the other day by announcing, during the battle of Egypt, that the American aircraft carrier Wasp had arrived at Malta with vital plane reinforcements.

With Egypt tottering, it was no time for an American aircraft carrier to be there. It developed the Wasp venture had been carried out earlier. As a matter of fact, it was darned exact, about last May 1, to be exact.

THE British could have no use for Malta, with Egypt gone, because there would be no landing place for British or American convoys to go, through that inland sea.

Nor could they use it for planes or subs to bomb or prey upon Rommel's line of supplies, because Rommel's supply route could go straight from Italy to Alexandria, beyond plane range. Malta no doubt would have to go as Egypt goes.

A stand might be made in Palestine or Syria for the Near East oil fields, but, as pointed out above, this defense would have to be supported hazardously by the circuitous route of supplies back through Basra, while the Nazis enjoyed perfect interior supply routes back to Germany.

(Continued on Page Four)

HOLIDAY DEATHS SHOW SLIGHT DIP

(By The Associated Press)
Despite tire and gasoline shortages 72 persons died on the highways yesterday (Saturday) and 73 others met violent death in other forms as the nation celebrated Independence day.

The figures compared with 162 deaths, 114 of them caused by traffic accidents, last Fourth of July.

A toll of 21 lives was taken by drowning. The fact that there were no reports of fatalities caused by fireworks was largely attributable to heavy restrictions on pyrotechnic displays in coastal areas and strictly enforced local safety laws.

Automobile traffic in all sections of the country was reported lighter due to the tire and fuel saving campaigns.

California led the states in traffic deaths with a toll of 14 recorded.

JAPS AT CENTER ENJOY FOURTH OF JULY PARTY

Portland, Ore., July 4.—(P)—Japanese at the evacuee assembly center here observed the Fourth of July with a party today.

They saved sugar from weekly rations for massive cakes, which were decorated to resemble American flags. More than 3,500 evacuees participated.

TRANSPORTS AND SHORE STATIONS SUFFER DAMAGE

Army and Navy Both Reveal Landing of Blows—Fog, Rain Handicap Efforts.

Washington, July 4.—(P)—A flying general reported today on his return from the North Pacific that army and navy air forces had "severely damaged" Japanese ships, air and shore installations in the invaded Aleutians.

Brigadier General Laurence S. Kuter, deputy chief of the army air staff, said the bombers in the Aleutian war zone were "carrying the fight to the enemy" and were well equipped but were handicapped by fog and rain.

Hit Three Transports
The war department made public its statement a few hours after the navy reported American fliers again had been striking at Japanese forces in the Aleutians, including an air attack on three transports and their convoys.

The navy communique commented, however, that the situation in the chain of islands reaching out from Alaska toward Japan "has not changed materially" in the last two weeks.

This was the first navy communique concerning the Aleutians since that of June 21 when it reported the Japanese had set up "minor temporary structures" at Kiska. That communique also reported that army bombers had scored hits on an enemy carrier and sunk a transport.

"American airmen are devising special means to put the Japs within range of fighter planes operating from the Aleutian bases," Kuter said. "Distances are great, and bad weather increases gasoline consumption. Nevertheless, whenever the weather even approaches 'flyability', our bombers take off to fight the enemy with bullets and bombs."

Patrol Kiska Seas
Regardless of weather, he said, army and navy air forces operating under unified command were keeping the Japs on Kiska island under observation and patrolling adjacent seas.

Despite the latest reports from the army and navy there were renewed expressions of concern about the Aleutian situation.

Delegate Anthony J. Dimond of Alaska said the reports "shows they're working at the situation," but he added that he was "scared pink for fear we're going to dawdle until the Japs take over 'the whole Aleutian chain.'"

He expressed particular concern over Kiska, saying that today's navy communique disclosed that the enemy was digging in at that spot, to which the Japanese pushed after its initial landing at Attu on the western most tip of the Aleutians.

"We ought to throw in at least 500 planes immediately and bomb the hell out of them," Dimond said, referring to the Japanese positions at Kiska and elsewhere in the islands.

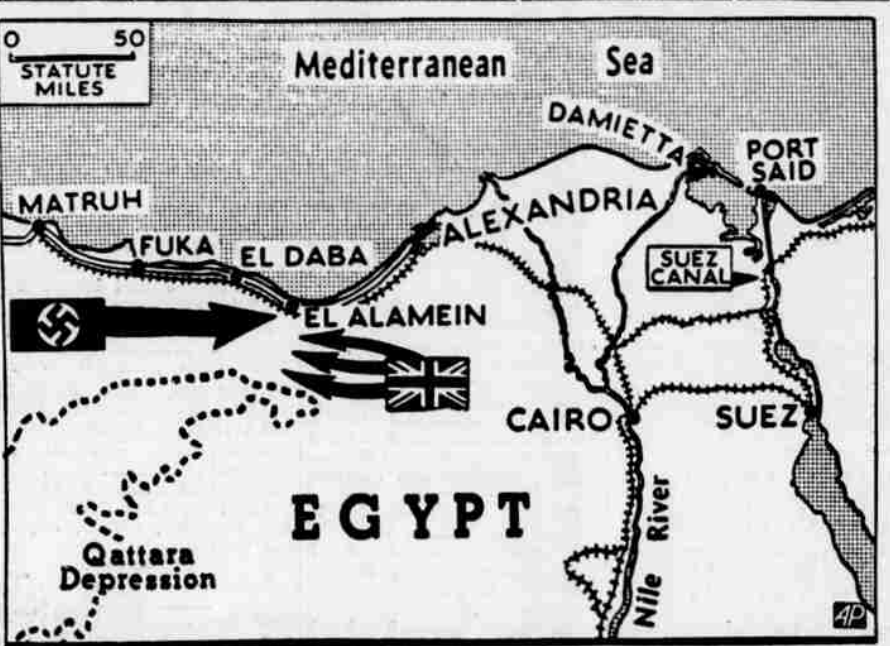
CHILD IS KILLED BY CRASHING TREE

By The Associated Press
A giant hemlock tree toppled in a sudden wind storm today in the Silver Springs recreational area of the Snoqualmie national forest, striking three children attending a family picnic and killing one of them outright.

It was the worst holiday accident in Washington state during a day that saw at least ten persons killed.

Jo Reen Carvo, 11, daughter of Thomas J. Carvo, White Center, Seattle suburb, was killed outright by the falling tree. Her head was crushed.

Yanks Help British at Bottleneck?



The British announced the repulse of axis attacks at El Alamein as the battle for Egypt raged in the "bottleneck" between the Mediterranean coast and the Qattara Depression. An Italian dispatch claimed several thousand American troops were fighting alongside the British at El Alamein.

FOREST SERVICE HAS ALL BUT ONE FIRE CONTROLLED

Portland, Ore., July 4.—(P)—All but one of approximately 75 small forest fires set by lightning last night in Oregon and Washington were reported under control tonight.

The lone exception was a blaze which had burned over about 10 acres on Roundtop mountain in northwestern Washington county of Oregon and C. C. Scott, secretary of the forest protective associations, said "it is being brought under control."

About 50 fires were in the national forests of Washington, reported C. Otto Lindh, assistant sixth regional forester in charge of fire control. Twenty-nine were in the Wenatchee and 14 on the east side of the Snoqualmie, he said.

Approximately 25 fires were out of national forest territory, 10 in Oregon, 15 in Washington.

Portland, Ore., July 4.—(P)—U. S. forest service officials said today they had not been informed officially that Oregon and Washington national forests were included in a western defense order banning forest camp fires where air raid warning were not available.

Issuance of campfire permits, required since July 1, will be continued in the two states pending clarification of the confusing situation, said C. Otto Lindh, assistant regional forester.

QUIET 4TH FOR MEDFORD FOLK

Fourth of July in Medford yesterday was a quiet affair, what with the ban on firecrackers and fireworks of all kinds and the lack of any sort of formal celebration.

Citizens who didn't leave town made the turnstiles click merrily at the four theaters, the ice arena and the baseball game, or simply stayed home and took their ease.

State police reported that travel on the highways was "not too heavy," although a considerable number of cars were seen headed toward picnic grounds in the forests, the lakes and Rogue river. Lithia park in Ashland, police said, was a highly popular place for picnickers.

Most of the local stores were closed but construction at Camp White continued unabated as workmen gave up their holiday to patriotically speed work at the army cantonment.

The lessened July 4 highway traffic was reflected in the state police statement that no accidents had been reported up to last night.

Oklahoma Pilot Is Hero Of Raid On Nazi Bases

London, July 4.—(P)—The United States army air forces set off their first fireworks in western Europe on this Fourth-of-July with bombs and strafing raids on German airdromes, planes, installations and enemy airmen in Holland and on Nazi patrol ships offshore.

The initial raids in a fore-shadowed series of American aerial onslaughts aimed at knocking the German luftwaffe off the invasion front produced an outstanding hero-pilot who brought home his battered and tattered plane on one engine after it was all but knocked out by anti-aircraft fire.

The plane actually was down once on Nazi-held soil but it rebounded under the pilot's adroit control and made its getaway, silencing an anti-aircraft tower even as it escaped.

The pilot, Captain Charles C. Kegelman, of El Reno, Okla., promptly was awarded the distinguished service cross for gallantry in action, the first so honored on this front by Maj. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, American commander in the European theater.

The raid was undertaken soon after dawn by twelve Boston Douglas light bombers, six of them manned by all-American crews, the others by seasoned RAF airmen. Because they can develop a top combat speed of 350 miles per hour they swept out on their mission without fighter plane cover.

Two American-manned planes were missing after the operations but one was officially declared to have been still under control when last sighted over its target. The other was shot down by anti-aircraft fire—the first American army air casualty on the continent. One of the six British planes also failed to return.

It was stressed in the first two American communiqués and in the British air ministry communique that the raids were carried out just over the ground—"hedge-hopping." Such expressions as "zero altitude," "very low level," and "minimum altitude were used."

337TH SHIP SUNK BY AXIS U-BOATS

By The Associated Press
The torpedoing of two merchant ships with the loss of 30 seamen aboard one of them was announced today by the navy, raising the unofficial Associated Press tabulation of allied and neutral losses in the Atlantic since Pearl Harbor to 337.

Included among the 30 men lost, all of whom were aboard a small Panamanian ship, was the skipper, Captain Anders Weesgaard. Fourteen men survived the torpedoing which occurred June 16 in the Gulf of Mexico.

The entire regular crew of 37 and 13 navy gunners survived when an axis submarine torpedoed a small American merchantman in the Caribbean sea June 15.

Egyptian Drive Loses Momentum; Russian War Machine Gulps Nazis; Yankee Airmen Join RAF in Raid

STOP GAP PLAN MAY BE AGREED FOR FARM COIN

Would Give Plenty of Funds For July Expense While Senate, House Wrangle.

Washington, July 4.—(P)—Stop-gap legislation which would give the agriculture department really twice as much money during July as it would receive under a disputed regular appropriation bill was recommended unanimously today by a senate appropriations subcommittee.

If the senate and the house should agree to this plan, the two branches could wrangle over the appropriations bill for the rest of this month without causing financial embarrassment to the department, now technically without funds.

Under a simple resolution recommended by the subcommittee, the department would be allowed to spend this month at the rate which prevailed in June, the last month of the previous fiscal year.

The old law provided \$1,127,623,854 for the 1942 fiscal year. The new supply bill sets up about \$680,000,000. Accordingly, the department may have some \$93,300,000 available for July spending, compared with about \$56,000,000 under the disputed bill.

The subcommittee substituted its resolution for a lengthy bill passed by the house last Thursday—a measure which was entirely unacceptable to the senate leadership.

MERCURY STAYS AROUND CENTURY

Medford's temperatures for Thursday and Friday continued well above the 100 mark as weather bureau reports showed mercury at 105 degrees Thursday and 106 degrees Friday. Minimum for Thursday was 64 and Friday dropped only to 67 degrees.

Hot weather first blitzed Medford a week ago when Sunday, June 29, showed 95 degrees. Monday the mercury climbed another five degrees to 100.5 and Tuesday, 105; Wednesday, 108; and rounded out the week with 105 and 106 degrees.

U. S. SOLDIER GIVES LONDONERS THRILL

London, July 4.—(P)—A United States soldier in London celebrated the Fourth of July today in a fashion which left English witnesses a bit breathless. He took a casual dive off London Bridge.

(By Associated Press)
America observed Independence day with its fighting men deployed the world around, struggling as never before to maintain the liberties daringly proclaimed 166 years ago.

There were celebrations wherever the nation's forces had been to be. American fliers chose this significant holiday for their first participation in an attack upon the Hitler-held continent of Europe.

Meanwhile, at home, the day was dedicated, not to the usual firecrackers, picnics, and motor tours, but to whirling factory wheels and busy assembly lines, said President Roosevelt, a single hour be wasted, or a single shot withheld.

"On the desert sands of Africa, along the thousands of miles of battle lines in Russia, in New Zealand and Australia, and the islands of the Pacific, in war-torn China and all over the seven seas, free men are fighting desperately—and dying—to preserve the liberties and democracies of modern civilizations," Mr. Roosevelt said.

"And in the overrun and occupied nations of the world, this day is filled with added significance, coming at a time when freedom and religion have been attacked and trampled upon by tyrannies unequalled in human history."

Interpreting The War News

By Kirke L. Simpson
(Wide World War Analyst)

The allied world drew an easier breath at the end of a week tense with war drama in Egypt and Russia.

For the moment at least British reinforcements appeared to have blocked again the axis drive toward Alexandria. Unquestionably Hitler's promised knock-out summer offensive against Russia is in progress. A German claim to have broken through Russian defenses testified to that. A crisis is brewing in southern Russia that is no less urgent than that for the British in Egypt even though the factors involved, including the time element, are wholly different.

Reports Hard To Follow On Maps
Neither Russian nor German reports afford much map data by which to gauge the ebb or flow of the huge and growing battle.

It appears that the main German attack thus far has developed along a front of probably 200 miles from northeast of Kursk southward to Kupyansk, 80 miles east and slightly south of Kharkov.

That roughly corresponds to the line of the Kursk-Belgorod-Volchansk-Kupyansk railroad. Kupyansk was taken by the Germans more than a week ago. Belgorod, like Kursk, remained in German hands throughout the winter and spring. Volchansk, however, was the northern limit of Marshal Timoshenko's drive at Kharkov as Chugnev was its southern extremity.

If the Germans now hold all of the Kursk-Kupyansk railroad, therefore, it is clear that they have not only regained all of the ground Russia won about Kharkov but definitely moved eastward beyond Timoshenko's jump-off positions.

Men, Equipment Are Main Factors
The territory as yet lost or gained is of small consequence as compared with the losses in men and equipment for either side. The battle in Russia is a battle of attrition, of destruction of armies, not for this or that key point. Its time element can be computed only in weeks or months.

1000 Pretty Girls Visit Fort Lewis

Fort Lewis, July 4.—(P)—One thousand pretty girls, the majority from Seattle, helped this northwest garrison to appropriately celebrate the Fourth of July.

The junior hostesses enjoyed an afternoon's swim with the soldiers in American Lake and then climaxed their visit at a dance in the evening.

Then, too, the accurate British artillery was taking a growing toll of the axis armor, and the allies were showing a more aggressive fighting spirit and a greater willingness to take risks to punish the desert fox, Marshal Rommel.

Forty big axis guns were captured along with hundreds of enemy troops but the very fact that for three tortured days and nights the Germans had been stopped in the El Alamein bottleneck outweighed these tactical gains.

It was far too early to draw conclusions, tempting though the prospects were. The fox had halted before, and even withdrawn in his 350 mile sprint across North Africa, only to rest and strike with great power and surprise which caught the British flat-footed.

Momentum Gone

But for the first time in this sixth desert campaign, the enemy was stopped and his momentum was gone.

All kinds of reinforcements including American tanks, guns and other material were streaming to the front.

There were reports that Rommel was digging in, perhaps to rest and consolidate and await new reinforcements. But there was no disposition by the British to play his game—the imperials were attacking to destroy. The axis claims of victory degenerated into boasts of repelling counterattacks.

Americans Dedicate Independence Day To Speeding Output of War Machines