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GERMANS CHECKED IS RUSSIAN CLAIM

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

Washington, July 8.—The main point behind recent fighting in Egypt is that both the British and the Axis are having difficulties in maintaining lines of supplies.

Just before the final stage of Rommel's successful drive, Italians waylaid a British convoy on its way from Gibraltar to Alexandria. It was cut up so severely it was never able to reach General Auchinleck, but was stopped at Malta, where the supplies were needed much less than in Egypt.

SINCE the Mediterranean has become a virtually no man's sea, so far as the British are concerned, General Auchinleck's recently advanced reinforcements naturally had to come from other directions, nearby Syria, our own air base in Eritrea, and even India.

The German line is 10 times shorter, but the British have superiority in the air. Their bombers, you may have noticed, have been hitting Benghazi day and night since their trouble started.

Thus, the fighting on both sides has been hindered to a substantial extent by the invisible factors behind the lines. The Germans, however, still hold a substantial advantage in this critical aspect of the campaign, because the British have been pushed back from their advance air bases.

Hope, but not optimism, is consequently being generally felt here.

EMPHATIC interpretations of the news from the Russian front have never been possible. The Nazis and the Reds are engaged there in tactics comparable to American football.

The latest Nazi hammering of the line between Kursk and Kharkov, several hundred miles north of where the real play

(Continued on Page 51x)

LABORERS NEEDED AT CANTONMENT

The U. S. army engineers, through Lewis Ulrich, manager of the United States Employment Service, today issued a call for 40 or 50 laborers to work at Camp White in the closing stages of the big construction job.

The job is non-union, Ulrich said, and pays 95 cents an hour. Laborers interested are asked to get in immediate touch with the employment service, 45 North Fir street.

Department store sales have increased 24 per cent since 1939.

Radio Highlights

(Pacific War Time)
Tonight: CBS, 7:30, drama, "Life of Nellie James." MBS, 5:15, Fight Against Inflation, Jesse Jones.

Thursday: NBC, 3:30 p. m., W. D. Fuller on "Wage Ceilings." MBS, 1:30 p. m., Empire Track Race; 2:30, Quaker City Frivolities.

SIDE GLANCES

BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS
A. Z. "Tubby" Dean having a new answer for the old question upon being greeted, "what's a know", merely replying, "It's a government secret."

INVADERS SUFFER TERRIFIC LOSSES IN VORONEZH AREA

Reds Ignore Nazi Claim That Key City on Moscow-Rostov Railway Has Fallen.

By Roger D. Greene
Associated Press War Editor.
Marshal Semeon Timoshenko's armies, recoiling after the initial shock of an assault by 200,000 German troops, were pictured in Soviet dispatches today as checking the 120-mile Nazi break through on the heights west of Voronezh and inflicting terrific losses on the invaders.

Red army headquarters ignored an official German claim that Voronezh had fallen, declaring that the battle was still raging before that key city on the Moscow-Rostov railway.

"Fierce battles continued to the west of Voronezh," a Soviet war bulletin said.

Dead Litter Field
The communiqué said more than 3,000 German dead littered the battle area and 35 tanks were destroyed.

A bulletin from Adolf Hitler's field headquarters asserted that strong Russian forces had been encircled behind the Voronezh front and that a gap in the Soviet lines had been widened.

Conceding that the Russians were still fighting before Voronezh, the Nazi command declared Red army counter-attacks northwest of the city fall.

Briefly, the German communiqué noted that Soviet attacks in the Orel sector, 210 miles below Moscow, were continuing. The Russians were apparently pressing a counter-offensive around Orel in an attempt to relieve the fierce pressure of the German drive against Voronezh. The latter, if successful, might split Russia's central and southern armies and cut off vital communications to the Caucasus oil fields.

British Smash At Axis
In the 15-day-old battle of Egypt, British imperial headquarters announced that British troops and flying columns smashed at Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's invasion armies all day yesterday, destroying Axis tanks and capturing prisoners.

Overhead, swarms of RAF warplanes bombed and machine-gunned Axis troops grouped in the 35-mile-wide "bottleneck" 70 miles west of Alexandria.

Dispatches from Cairo said there were no major attacks on either side, with both forces saving their heavy punches for a decisive battle expected at any time.

Italian headquarters asserted that a strong British force had been repulsed with heavy losses. The Fascist communiqué described aerial activity in the desert struggle as intense.

While the two armies jockeyed warily, Stockholm dispatches from Berlin indicated uneasiness in the Nazi capital over Rommel's position. One report said the axis chieftain was in difficulty because his troops were exhausted by the 350-mile sweep across the sands from Tobruk, while Gen. Sir Claude J. E. Auchinleck's armies were revitalized by fresh troops drawn from the middle east.

Rush Reinforcements
However, furious new axis raids on Malta, the British Mediterranean island stronghold, indicated that convoys were rushing reinforcements across the sea to Rommel. Evidence of the axis attempt to cripple Malta as a threat to Rommel's trans-Mediterranean supply route was reflected in a report last night that Malta defenders had shot down 24 raiders in 24 hours.

Presumably Rommel was awaiting the arrival of these reinforcements before attempting to lunge on once more in his drive toward the Nile and the Suez canal.

WATCH FOR SABOTEURS IS WARNING TO COAST

Salem, July 8.—(P)—Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, western defense commander, warned Governor Sprague yesterday that vigilant observation should be maintained on the coast to prevent landings of enemy saboteurs.

Major General Gerhardt Arrives To Head 91st Infantry Division

CAMP WHITE SITE AND PROGRESS IN BUILDING PRAISED

Arrival Completes Executive Personnel—Col. Meredith Officer in Charge of Post.

Major-General Charles H. Gerhardt arrived here Tuesday to assume command of the 91st Infantry division at Camp White, and after a quick but thorough inspection of the army camp declared the "site is perfect" and expressed enthusiasm over the progress made thus far by the army engineers, contractors and workers.

General Gerhardt praised the ranges on which the soldiers will receive training with the modern weapons of war, explaining that every type of gun can be fired without the lines of fire crossing. He was pleased by the proximity of Rogue river and grinned when informed of the salmon and steelhead abounding there.

Meredith Heads Post
The assignment and arrival of General Gerhardt to command the 91st Infantry division marked completion of army executive personnel for the operation of Camp White. General Gerhardt will be in charge of all phases of the actual training of the troops, while Colonel Owen R. Meredith, post commander, heads the staff in charge of living and recreational facilities.

Although only 47 years old, General Gerhardt has had a colorful career in the army. Born in Lebanon, Tenn., the son of Brigadier-General Charles Gerhardt, on July 6, 1895, he was graduated from the United States Military academy in 1917 and was immediately appointed a second-lieutenant of cavalry. When his regiment, including troop "C," 3rd cavalry, went overseas, he commanded the troop. His initial assignment in France was with remount troops.

Had German Stay
In June of 1918 he became aide-de-camp to Major General W. M. Wright and in August of the same year was assigned as assistant plans and training officer in the 89th Infantry division. He was with the division through the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives until the armistice. The division stayed in Germany for a time with the American army of occupation, and returned to France in time for the general to quarterback the 89th division football team to the championship of the AEF.

In January, 1920, he took command of troop "A," 14th cavalry, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., after serving as assistant football coach at West Point in 1919 and the fall of 1920.

From 1921 to 1923 General Gerhardt was a student at the cavalry school at Fort Riley, Kan. The latter part of this period he took the advanced equestrian course, and stayed as equestrian instructor from 1923 to 1925. From 1926 to 1931 he was tactical officer at West Point.

Top Notch Athlete
General Gerhardt was a top-notch athlete while attending West Point, playing baseball, basketball, football and polo. From 1924 through 1930, after his graduation, he was a member of the U. S. army polo team which, in 1925, defeated the British army's polo team in London for the army championship. During this period the general carried a national rating of seven goals, only one other army polo player having ever been rated this high.

From 1931 to 1933 he attended command and general staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and in 1933 and 1934 served with the 8th cavalry, Fort Bliss, Tex., as squadron commander and regimental plans and training officer. In



Signal Corps photo. CHARLES H. GERHARDT



Shangle photo. OWEN R. MEREDITH

Rubber Drive In Home Stretch; Stations Will Close Six Hours

Los Angeles, July 8.—(P)—The local chairman of the government's rubber drive announced today that every Pacific coast service station would close for six hours tomorrow while the 30,000 managers and operators went on a last-minute hunt for materials to add to the growing stockpiles.

P. E. Allan, in charge of the drive here, said his instructions came from William F. Humphreys of San Francisco, chairman for five western states.

Allan said attendants would join in a coordinated house-to-house and building-to-building search for the last scrap of non-essential rubber. Friday is the last day of the drive, which government officials have said is short of expectations.

The general was assigned to general headquarters from 1940 to 1941, and in 1941 and 1942 commanded both the 56th cavalry brigade and the 2nd cavalry brigade at Fort Bliss, Tex.

General Gerhardt was promoted to first lieutenant March 30, 1917; to captain March 30, 1920; to major September 1, 1932; to lieutenant colonel July 1, 1940; to brigadier general (temporary) July 10, 1941, and to major general about two weeks ago.

For his world war service General Gerhardt was awarded the Order of Leopold by the Belgian government.

Meredith Nebraska
Colonel Meredith, born and raised in Nebraska, was graduated from West Point in 1908. He served in the infantry until 1920, in the chemical warfare service for the next eight years, and has been in the infantry since.

In World War I Colonel Meredith engaged principally in machinegun work. He organized and conducted the machinegun department at Fort Benning, Ga., and later organized and conducted the chemical warfare department at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. He has served in the Philippine Islands, Panama and France in addition to the United States.

A graduate of the infantry school and of the command and general staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Colonel Meredith's recent service has been as G1 personnel officer and G3 plans and training officer of the 4th army. Immediately prior to his being assigned as post commander of Camp White he was chief of staff of the 9th corps area.

Colonel Meredith was appointed a second-lieutenant February 14, 1908, a first lieutenant in 1913, captain in 1915, major in 1920, lieutenant colonel in 1930 and colonel on January 1, 1937.

Colonel Meredith's decorations include that of the treasury department's silver lifesaving medal.

BUND CHIEF PLEADS NOT GUILTY, HELD

Hartford, Conn., July 8.—(P)—Gerald Wilhelm Kunze, 36-year old chief of the former German-American Bund, pleaded innocent today to a charge of espionage.

He was arraigned in federal court before Judge J. Joseph Smith and held in default of \$50,000 bail.

Rain falls sometimes 300 days a year in the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica.

SECRECY WRAPS TRIAL OF EIGHT NAZI SABOTEURS

Men Landed by U-Boats Go Before Military Court—Heavy Guard at Hearing.

Washington, July 8.—(P)—In a setting of utmost secrecy, guaranteed by heavily armed soldiers, police and secret agents and walled-off corridors, eight German-born men went on trial for their lives today before a military commission sitting in the justice department.

The eight, accused of violating the articles of war by stealing into this country with intent to spread fire and destruction by Nazi sabotage methods, were rounded up by the FBI after they had been landed by U-boats on lonely beaches of Long Island and Florida.

So veiled with secretiveness was the commission proceeding—the first important one of its kind since the civil war—that not even the fact of the starting of the trial was made known officially.

An informed person confirmed it, however, after it became obvious from the arrival of the prisoners, the seven generals who compose the commission, the prosecution and defense counsel and a number of witnesses.

Under Heavy Guard
The prisoners arrived behind a wedge of motorcycle police men in two closed vans guarded by soldiers with machine guns and automatic rifles.

They were brought in thru a heretofore unused gate in the justice department building in an effort to evade curious and photographers who waited at the usual entrance on the opposite side of the building.

Both streets, one on the east, the other on the west side, were patrolled by policemen, while in the basement of the building itself where the vans were unloaded, heavily armed, helmet-wearing soldiers guarded every corner and manned guns set up in some instances on trucks.

From there, the prisoners were taken by guarded and secret elevators to the fifth floor area where the trial is being held in what normally is a federal bureau of investigation class room.

TOWNSFOLK HELP IN BERRY FIELDS

Oregon City, Ore., July 8.—(P)—Oregon City and nearby Greenham and Newberg closed shops this morning to send townspeople into the blackcap and raspberry fields.

They are the first of western Oregon towns expected to shut down during harvest season.

Growers called for 5,000 pickers to save \$950,000 in crops.

Gresham stores will not open until 10 a. m. for the next three days. Oregon City stores will not open until noon the rest of the week, and Newberg will not open until noon for the next two weeks.

Hero of Raid On Nazi Bases Medford Visitor In October

One of the most treasured names in the "guest book" at the Medford airport's canteen is that of Captain Charles C. Kegelman of El Reno, Okla., who, on the Fourth of July, was awarded the distinguished service cross for gallantry in action.

Captain Kegelman was the pilot of a Boston Douglas light bomber which, with 11 others, made the first American raid on German held territory in western Europe. His plane, with only one engine working, returned safely to its base in England after having actually touched Nazi-held soil, only to rebound and make its getaway under the pilot's expert control.

War Bulletins

Washington, July 8.—(P)—The navy announced today that a United States submarine had torpedoed and was believed to have sunk a Japanese destroyer in the vicinity of Kiska Island in the Aleutians.

London, July 8.—(P)—German and British guns along the English channel traded shells for more than an hour early today in firing precipitated by the Germans' first bombardment of the southeast coast in many weeks.

Capetown, South Africa, July 8.—(P)—South African naval authorities announced today that a 5,500-ton United States vessel which went aground off the Cape of Good Hope in a fog yesterday had sunk. The crew was saved. (In Washington, the navy department described the ship only as a merchant vessel.)

CHINESE CIRCLE JAP FORCES IN KIANGSI SECTOR

By The Associated Press
In the far Pacific, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese armies reported they had closed in around Japanese advance forces which penetrated the town of Fengchang and Changshu in a new drive aimed at capture of the Kiangsi-Hunan railway.

With the Chinese still clinging to a 25-mile sector on the Chekiang-Kiangsi, the Japanese were attempting to seize the Kiangsi-Hunan loop for a part of their projected rail trunk linking Shanghai and Singapore.

Fierce battles were reported raging around the two towns.

In the battle of Australia, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters reported that 18 Japanese bombers raided an allied airbase on Horn Island, in the Torres Strait between Australia and New Guinea, inflicting slight damage.

Otherwise, there was only "intermittent air reconnaissance," Gen. MacArthur reported, with allied flyers keeping constant vigil against any new massing of Japanese invasion armadas in the ring of islands above Australia.

Councilman Harold Frye moved that all city-owned lots on Court street, north and south Riverside avenue and north and south Central avenue be withdrawn from sale because of changing conditions. The motion was passed. The license committee reported unfavorably on the request of the Holly theatre to hang a sign on Sixth street. The city superintendent's office reported there were 108 lots with defective sidewalks, and the council ordered that letters be written to the owners calling the fact to their attention.

CAMP WORKER IS LISTED MISSING

A cantonment worker, Kenneth Pittman of Grants Pass, has been missing from his home since last Sunday afternoon, and, according to the time-keeper of the division on which he was employed at Camp White, has failed to return to his job this week.

Pittman, according to the Grants Pass Courier, drew a large pay check Saturday night and left his home Sunday afternoon saying he was going to town. He has not been heard from since.

Canada is the fifth greatest trading nation in the world.

CITY SANITATION, FOOD INSPECTION TO BE INCREASED

Council Moves To Provide Inspector in Cooperation With Government.

Recognizing the wartime need for additional inspection of sanitary conditions and food handling in Medford, the city council last night passed an ordinance authorizing the execution of an agreement with the state department of agriculture for the employment and training by that agency of a field man to act as sanitary inspector for Medford and surrounding country.

The inspector, to be supervised by the state department of agriculture, will be designated as deputy health officer of Medford. The city, as set forth in the agreement, will contribute to the department of agriculture such amounts as collected in license fees from all food-handlers in accordance with a city ordinance. This money will be paid to the inspector as part of his salary.

Partial Service Now

The city, it was explained by City Attorney Frank P. Farrell, has had the occasional services of a department of agriculture inspector, but because of the war emergency it was felt that inspection of local restaurants and firms handling foods should be intensified.

A petition presented by E. L. Childers, and signed by property owners in the vicinity, complained that trucks of Consolidated Freightways, turning around at the intersection of 12th street and Arcadia court, created dust and unfavorable conditions. The complaint was referred to the streets and roads committee.

Councilman Harold Frye moved that all city-owned lots on Court street, north and south Riverside avenue and north and south Central avenue be withdrawn from sale because of changing conditions. The motion was passed. The license committee reported unfavorably on the request of the Holly theatre to hang a sign on Sixth street. The city superintendent's office reported there were 108 lots with defective sidewalks, and the council ordered that letters be written to the owners calling the fact to their attention.

Study Army Request

Referred to the building and light committee for study and to confer with the army, was a request by the army that the city install a prophylactic station in city hall.

The monthly report on work done by the various departments, submitted by Frank Rogers, acting superintendent, was read by Councilman Frank Runtz.

Vice-Mayor Larry Schade presided in the absence of Mayor H. S. Deuel.

BARBARA HUTTON, CARY GRANT WED

Lake Arrowhead, Calif., July 8.—(P)—Handsome Cary Grant of the movies and the one-time "poor little rich girl," heiress Barbara Hutton, were married here today.

The wedding was no great surprise to Hollywood. Film friends months ago had said the ceremony could be expected at any time. For nearly two years, they had been devoted companions at cinema colony affairs.

Grant, 38, was born Archibald Alexander Leach in Bristol, Eng. He ran away from home when he was 15 to go with a troupe of acrobats and comedians.

Popular among his colleagues, Grant only last week became an American citizen. At the time, he said he intended to volunteer for active duty with U. S. armed forces as soon as he could get his affairs in shape.