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ALLIES RETIRE FROM 2 TUNISIA TOWNS

News Behind The News by Paul Mallon



Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 5—A gigantic battle for control of the air over the Mediterranean is now in its first phase. This battle will determine the fortune of our invasion of Africa, and may require weeks. No wise general tries to go very far these days without air power. To do so would waste troops.

Hitler met our first landings by moving great quantities of planes into northern Tunisia, Sicily and Sardinia. He drew them from Stalingrad, central Germany and every point, but particularly from Bulgaria (where it now appears they had been placed in preparation for invasion of Turkey), and from southern France (for a contemplated invasion of Spain).

It was obviously necessary then for us to establish air bases, to ship fighter planes in from Britain and the U. S. (You cannot fly fighters that distance), to establish gasoline supplies in great quantity—in short, to get an air screen overhead before moving our land troops further. We are getting that now.

When German planes are driven from North African skies, the next step will be to pulverize their bases in Sicily with our bombers, chase them from the Straits and open the way for invasion of Italy.

A COMPLETE re-making of America would result, if Mr. Roosevelt goes through with the idea of limiting all personal profits to \$25,000 net after taxes. It is a new idea and no one seems to be thinking about the effect it would have on the average taxpayer, worker or business man, but someone had better start.

No one cares about the rich. They will get along on their \$25,000, but the question is what the limitation will do to the average man and the country as a whole.

All the progress that has been made in America has depended

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BLIND SLAYER TO BE FREE IN JUNE

San Quentin, Cal., Dec. 5—(U.P.) Parole of blind Capt. John M. Holmes, Jr., former U. S. army air corps flier, convicted of manslaughter in the slaying of William McNary in 1941, was announced tonight by the state board of prison terms and paroles.

Holmes, blinded in a suicide attempt after shooting McNary—cousin of Oregon's U. S. Senator Charles McNary—in a quarrel over a wealthy San Mateo, Cal., matron, will be released June 25, 1943, 22 months after he started serving a sentence of one to 10 years imprisonment.

2 BIDS FILED TO SCRAP WAR RELIC

Portland, Ore., Dec. 5—(U.P.) Only two bids were received today for the scrapping of the battleship Oregon when bids were opened aboard the venerable war vessel, Lieut. J. G. Dean of the U. S. navy announced tonight.

The Dulien Steel Products company of Seattle offered to scrap the ship in four months. Both bids, which were taken under advisement, approximated \$80,000, Dean said.

The Oregon reportedly is the navy's largest source of metal which can be immediately converted into armament.

AIR STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA TO BE REORGANIZED

Issue Still Unsettled—Intense Fighting Underway—Axis Takes Key Towns.

London, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Maj. Gen. Carl Spaatz, commander of United States army air forces in the European theater, has gone to Africa to reorganize Allied air strength in Tunisia, where British and American troops had retired from two key towns under battering blows of German planes, it was disclosed today.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Axis infantry and mechanized units streamed tonight into Tebourba and Djedeida, key towns west of Tunis from which British and American forces had withdrawn under pressure.

Allied units had withdrawn to a height dominating Tebourba from the rear and were being pounded by German tanks, infantry and dive-bombers.

German troops earlier had entered Djedeida, 12 miles west of Tunis, and apparently had completed their occupation of that town.

The situation at Tebourba, 20 miles west of Tunis, was far from settled, however. A communique from Allied general headquarters said:

"Some enemy mechanized units and infantry have entered Tebourba. Heavy fighting is continuing in the region of Tebourba. The enemy is attacking with tanks and dive-bombers."

"Our forces have been regrouped on the heights dominating Tebourba."

(This communique also was issued simultaneously in Washington as the war department's 259th of the war.)

Intense fighting was proceeding in widely separated parts of Tunisia. In the northern sector, presumably around the Djedeida-Tebourba-Mateur region, Axis forces were known to have lost 33 tanks in operations from Tuesday to Thursday, communique said.

Tank losses also were running high for the enemy farther south, where the communique disclosed that Allied aircraft had inflicted casualties on a number of Axis machines yesterday.

Air activity was increasing for both sides, with Allied planes hitting Bizerte three times within 12 hours yesterday.

On one sweep, they engaged an equal force of Messerschmitt-109s and two Focke-Wulf-190s. One Me-109 was destroyed and two were damaged against a loss of one P-38.

Front reports said American and French troops, including United States paratroops, had scored an important victory in the Tunisian east coast area. Crack American paratroops under Col. Edson D. Raff of New York, operating as ground forces, cooperated with regular infantry and French paratroops and artillery, storming Sidi Bou Zis, 75 miles inland on the important highway from the port of Sfax. They captured 100 Germans, killed 40 and wounded 60. Their own losses were slight.

Additional towns were said to have been recaptured in the southern Tunisia area, and front reports gave great praise to the French artillery. One report said the operation of the French 75—the gun made famous in the last war—was the decisive feature of the action.

These successes, dispatches said, left the American-French units in position to strike eastward toward the coast and constituted a threat toward Tripoli.

NEW TRAINING SCHOOL
San Francisco, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Two big new U. S. navy pre-flight training schools will be established at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal., and at the nationally-known Hotel Del Monte resort near Monterey, Cal., it was announced tonight.



Here's another sight to make you remember Dec. 7. One of the main reasons the Japs were able to escape after the stab-in-the-back Pearl Harbor raid without heavier losses was the great amount of damage to U. S. planes which were surprised on the ground. Here is one of America's fighting Flying Fortresses blasted in half by a Jap bomb just a year ago. The U. S. Signal Corps photo has just been released for publication.

RUSSIANS CRUSH NAZI OPPOSITION ON THREE FRONTS

Moscow, Dec. 6—(Sunday)—(U.P.)—The Red army drove forward on three fronts today, the anniversary of the start of its crushing offensive against the Axis last year, crushing German opposition to its new attack southwest of Stalingrad as well as within the steel city and on the central front.

Front dispatches reported Soviet spearheads 10 miles beyond the west bank of the Don river in a new surprise offensive that carried through the lower half of the river's big bend, southwest of Stalingrad.

Three bridgeheads had been thrown across the Don, dispatches said, and the Germans were thrown into a panicky retreat despite Nazi high command orders to hold the Don's west banks at all costs. The Germans had rallied somewhat, it was indicated, but were unsuccessful in attempting to regain their lost territory.

Just one year after they had stopped Adolf Hitler's Legions only 18 miles from Moscow and started on a winter of annihilation that saw thousands of enemy troops succumb to Soviet guns and bayonets and the great Russian ally—winter—the Red army was on the march again.

Northwest of Moscow, a new advance was reported on the Rzhevsk-Luki salient. Front dispatches said the fighting had carried to the region of Smolensk, the key city of the entire German defense system in the north.

ROYALTY COIN TO GERMANY HALTED

Washington, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Attorney General Francis Biddle disclosed tonight that the justice department's anti-trust division recently discovered \$15,000,000 in royalties on a certain type of anti-aircraft gun were being funneled to Germany.

The flow of this money through devious corporate channels in neutral countries into Germany was stopped, Biddle said in a review of the justice department's internal security program during the first year of American participation in World War II. He did not reveal how the money flow was stopped, however.

GRATUITY CHECKS

Washington, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—The war department announced today that dependents or relatives will receive gratuity benefits after officers or enlisted men are reported missing for one year.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—A growing coal shortage to night threatened the already critical fuel supply situation in the western states.

TOKYO PREDICTS MORE AIR RAIDS, CLAIM VICTORIES

By United Press
(Undated)—Japanese radio and press, summarizing results of the first year of war in the Pacific, warned today against complacency and the possibility of further American air raids on Japan during the coming year.

A Tokyo broadcast recorded by the FCC said that "it is most disastrous for us to become too tranquil."

"We must increase production and furnish the required armaments to those at the front," the Japanese radio commentator said. "Just how fervently America is attempting to plan some method by which to bomb and raid us need not be mentioned here as you know all too well."

Tokyo broadcasts, recorded by the United Press, boasted that the "greater part" of the U. S. naval force and practically all of the British force in the Pacific had been destroyed.

Referring to the battle of Guadalcanal, the enemy radio said:

"Ever since the American marines were trapped, Guadalcanal island has been serving as a precious bait to lure the U. S. naval forces for the Japanese navy, ever anxious to encounter the enemy, to send to the bottom of the sea."

The broadcast admitted activity by Allied submarines and aircraft but said they were "feeble efforts."

The Japan Times-Advertiser, referring to Benito Mussolini's speech last week, said that the Italian premier "may be assured that our country certainly will not disappoint" his expectations of Japan.

MORGENTHAU SEES INCREASED TAXES

Washington, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., tonight warned Americans that they must prepare themselves for heavier taxes and greater savings out of current income in order to finance their global war.

In a Pearl Harbor anniversary statement, Morgenthau declared the United States is fighting on both a military and an economic front—"the war against the Axis and the war against post-war chaos." And, he added, experience has taught that "a military victory alone may turn to ashes."

WAGE BOOST OKAYED

Washington, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—The War Labor Board today granted the request of Remington Arms Co., Inc., for permission to give a general 5-cent-an-hour wage increase to 30,000 employees.

WILLKIE ASSAILS 'FALSE FINAGLING' OF DARLAN DEAL

Chicago, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Wendell L. Willkie, Republican party leader, tonight denounced American collaboration with Admiral Jean Darlan as "false finagling with expediency," and warned that through loss of moral force the United Nations may win the war and lose the peace.

"Under the lame excuse of 'expediency' to save American lives and win an easy victory, we are collaborating with Vichy's Darlan," Willkie said in an interview published in this week's issue of the Christian Advocate, official Methodist church newspaper.

"After promising freedom to the French, we put into control over them the very man who has helped enslave them. And then, when the world's astonishment sweeps down upon us, we endeavor to explain that the deal with this arch-betrayer is only temporary, and that we shall ditch him fast when we have got all we can from him."

"With all my soul I hate this false finagling with expediency, temporary or permanent."

Willkie called for an America that would be an arsenal of ideals as well as munitions. He urged churches to take the lead in promoting these ideals.

JAP BURMA POST BOMBERS' TARGET

New Delhi, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Heavy bombers of the U. S. army air force in India attacked Japanese troop and truck concentrations near Mandalay yesterday, dropping nearly 100 bombs "with telling effect," an official air force communique said today.

The attack was directed at Pyawbwe, about 75 miles south of the Burma capital, the communique said. The enemy transport depot was estimated to contain about 300 trucks. All crew members returned safely.

ARMY SILENT ON RIVER DROWNINGS

Two soldiers are believed to have lost their lives at Camp White Friday morning while crossing the Rogue river, it was revealed Saturday by the Public Relations Office at the camp. The bodies have not been recovered but next of kin have been notified of the accident. Names of the men were not made public.

Search for the missing men is continuing in the river and a board of inquiry will be summoned to investigate the circumstances, the public relations office said.

JAP NAVAL FORCE AT GUADALCANAL RAKED BY PLANES

Aussies Roll Up Enemy Flank On Gona Beach—Air Raid Hits Kavieng.

Washington, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Alert and hard-hitting dive bombers and torpedo planes have intercepted and attacked an enemy naval force which may have been attempting to relieve gradually-weakening Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, the navy disclosed tonight.

Ranging 150 miles northwestward from their base on the island, the death-dealing planes on Thursday (island time) found a small force of enemy light surface vessels between Santa Isabel and New Georgia islands.

They let go with bombs and torpedoes but thus far, the navy said, results of the attack are not known. It was assumed the Japanese force consisted of cruisers and destroyers, possibly bent upon landing supplies for enemy troops on Guadalcanal which have received no appreciable relief in several weeks.

Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters, Australia, Dec. 6—(Sunday)—(U.P.)—Australian patrols fanning out along Gona beach continued today to roll up the Japanese right flank toward Sanananda point, one of the main centers of enemy resistance, after 105 mm. howitzers had been flown from Australia to centers of heavy fighting on the North Guinea shore.

In the New Ireland theater, Consolidated Liberator bombers struck at Kavieng early Saturday in one of their heaviest raids, dropping about 50 tons of bombs on an airfield, supply dumps, installations and dispersal areas, the communique reported without mentioning specific damage.

In the Buna-Gona area, the communique said, activity "in all sectors is limited to patrol clashes and sporadic fighting." In extending control of the beach east and west of Gona, the announcement said, the Allied forces sent medium bombers against enemy defensive installations in the Buna area.

It was the first American air attack on Italy and it achieved "excellent results," a United States communique reported.

The huge bombers were able to sweep across the Mediterranean from African bases and reach Naples undetected by trailing a formation of Italian planes, the Italian high command reported.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 5—(U.P.)—With the warning that Oregon faces a winter in which it will be unable to obtain its normal supply of fuel, Governor Charles Sprague today proclaimed December "war on fuel waste" month.

Asking Oregonians to reduce fuel consumption as a safeguard against a more acute shortage in the future, the governor said newspapers, radio stations, civic organizations and schools would cooperate in a public enlightenment campaign.

"I urge the people of Oregon to study the material which will be presented to them and to take the simple precautions necessary to reduce fuel waste," the proclamation said. "I particularly urge school children to become fuel warden in their homes and to check constantly against the fuel conservation instructions."

GERMANS ROILED BY FLEET'S LOSS

London, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—An anti-French tirade by Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels indicated tonight that the Germans were so enraged over the scuttling of the French fleet at Toulon they will not seek an alliance with the puppet Vichy government.

The Nazi propaganda minister in an article in his weekly publication, Das Reich, which was broadcast by the German DNB agency and recorded here, declared France was dead.

BULLETIN

Beverly Hills, Cal., Dec. 5—(U.P.)—A mild earthquake was felt here at 6:35 p. m. today. It was described as a single, short, sharp jolt.

Tucson, Ariz., Dec. 5—(U.P.)—The public relations office at Davis-Monthan field here late today announced it was a heavy bomber from the field which crashed and burned on the desert near Florence late Friday, killing all members of the eight-man crew.

AMERICAN PLANES BOMBARD NAPLES, DAMAGE CRUISERS

First Yankee Attack Upon Italians Wrecks Docks At Main Port.

Cairo, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Reconnaissance reports tonight revealed that the American four-motored Liberator bombers which blasted the important Italian port city of Naples in a daylight raid yesterday definitely sank one of two cruisers on which direct hits were scored.

Allied reconnaissance planes found that in addition to the heavy damage previously reported inflicted on Italy's third largest city, which included a direct hit on a battleship and an undetermined number of merchant ships, sticks of high explosive bombs had burst across the Masanella and Cesario Console moles.

The heavy damage to dock installations was highly important because Naples had become the Axis' main port for sending supplies and reinforcements to Africa since British bombers had virtually knocked out Genoa.

The Liberator, attached to the 9th U. S. air force in Egypt and Libya, late yesterday brought home to Italians that Prime Minister Winston Churchill was in deadly earnest when he warned last Sunday that southern Italy as well as the northern part would feel the might of Allied air power.

It was the first American air attack on Italy and it achieved "excellent results," a United States communique reported.

The huge bombers were able to sweep across the Mediterranean from African bases and reach Naples undetected by trailing a formation of Italian planes, the Italian high command reported.

BRICKER BOOSTED AS G. O. P. CHOICE

St. Louis, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Republican national committee members, enthusiastically gathering to choose a harmony chairman, heard the first gun of the G. O. P. presidential campaign sound from Ohio tonight with the informal but emphatic launching of Gov. John W. Bricker's 1944 favorite son candidacy.

Coincidentally John B. Hollister, Cincinnati, O., lawyer, was most prominently discussed as a compromise choice for national committee chairman to avoid a political ruckus between the friends and enemies of Wendell Willkie.

PARITY BILL TO BOOST FOOD COST

Washington, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—The Senate Agriculture committee today unanimously approved a revision in the farm parity formula which its sponsors conceded would ultimately raise the price of food to consumers.

Supporters of the measure said they would make every effort to drive the bill through the senate at an early date.

NAVY DISCLOSES AMERICAN LOSSES AT PEARL HARBOR

8 Battleships Crippled In Sneak Attack, 177 Planes Lost—Casualties 4,575.

Washington, Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Eight U. S. battleships and 11 other naval vessels were crippled and 177 of our planes were destroyed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor a year ago Monday, the navy department disclosed tonight.

In 110 flaming minutes the Japanese hit every American battleship that was in the harbor. They thus laid up nearly half the number of battleships in the entire U. S. navy at the time.

They destroyed or disabled "most of the aircraft in the Hawaiian area," the navy said.

A high naval officer said it was fair speculation that the balance of the Pacific fleet remaining seaworthy after the attack could have been annihilated if the main Japanese battle force had followed up the initial blow.

All told, the navy revealed in its anniversary statement, 86 ships of the Pacific fleet—exclusive of small craft—were moored at Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7.

The Japs struck at 7:55 a. m. At 8:45 a. m., when the last of the raiders had retired, the U. S. Pacific fleet had been crippled to this extent:

Put out of action: Battleships (5)—Arizona (sunk), Oklahoma (capsized), California, Nevada, and West Virginia; destroyers (3)—Shaw, Cassin and Downes; the minelayer Oglala, the target ship Utah and a large floating drydock. Total 11 ships.

Damaged: Battleships (3)—Pennsylvania, Maryland and Tennessee; cruisers (3)—Helena, Honolulu and Raleigh; the seaplane tender Curtiss and the repair ship Vestal. Total, eight ships.

Other losses: Planes destroyed (177)—navy 80; army 97. In addition, 70 navy planes and a still undisclosed number of army planes were disabled.

Personnel killed, wounded or missing (4575)—navy, 2177 killed, 960 missing and 874 wounded; army 228 killed and 396 wounded.

On the morning of December 7, the report relates, the Pacific fleet was divided up into four task forces—two at sea and two at Pearl Harbor following extensive operations in the Pacific.

There were two phases to the Jap attack. The first was when dive bombers struck at Hickam Field and the naval air station on Ford Island and Kaneohe Bay. A few seconds later, torpedo planes and dive bombers swarmed in from all directions to concentrate on the heavy ships at Pearl Harbor.

"The enemy attack was based on exact information," the navy said.

The Japanese, he said, were poised to hit well in advance and probably weeks were consumed getting into position. He estimated that three and possibly four aircraft carriers were used in the attack.

So perfectly executed was the assault, he added, that it was probable the enemy rehearsed the attack "like a Hollywood movie." He said it was not improbable that the enemy may have set up a replica of Pearl Harbor in a restricted area of the inland sea off Japan to practice.

Naval experts assumed, he said, that most of the Jap fliers failed to get back to their carriers because they could not have carried sufficient fuel and large bomb or torpedo loads to have completed the round trip. In that respect, he added, they had engaged in a suicidal mission.

SHIPYARDS INSPECTED

Portland, Ore., Dec. 5—(U.P.)—Rep. John Z. Anderson, member of the House Naval Affairs committee, declined tonight to discuss his inspection trip today through Portland shipyards engaged in navy construction.