

BIG RED CROSSES SERVE AS TARGET FOR NAZI STUKAS

Allied Ambulance Attacked
By Germans In North Africa
Becomes Pyre.

By Henry T. Gorrell
United Press Correspondent.
With the British Eighth Army
at the Wadi Bel El Chebir, Dec.
31—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—An ambulance with big Red Crosses painted on its sides crawled slowly down the steep bank of this dried river bed this afternoon, lurched, and came to a stop, its wheels churning the soft sand.

I had been watching two supply trucks burning up ahead of us along the desert track. They told their own story. The Stuka bombers were out.

We could hear planes approaching as we went out and started heaving at the ambulance, as everybody does in the desert when a vehicle is stalled. When the ambulance was clear I asked the London cockney driver what was happening up front.

A Little News
"News, sir?" he asked, pushing his steel helmet on the back of his head. "They say we've booted a couple of hundred Eyeties (Italians) out of Fort Bungun."

He meant the Fort Bu Gnem, 80 miles inland.

"They set the place afire and ran like hell, they did, sir," the driver continued.

"There's nothing much here. We're having a bit of a shoofoo. We knocked out four Jerry tanks today. We smartened him up a bit, sir; so he's been giving us a spot of bother with the Stukas and Mes. (Messerschmitt fighters.)"

"I've got a fellow in here with a busted jaw. Shrapnel. I've got to get him to the MO. (medical officer)."

"Happy New Year to you, sir," and with a jaunty wave of his hand he was off.

He never saw the new year.

As he drove off, the distant drone of airplane engines deepened to a full throated roar. There followed a whine which with the big bowl of the Wadi for a sounding board was magnified a hundred fold.

Stukas Strike

Sixteen Stukas leveled out for a bomb run. There was a high pitched moan as bombs hit

Congratulations to Bomber Leader



Brig. Gen. Howard K. Ramey, left, of Waynesboro, Miss., leader of bomber units in the Mid-Pacific, congratulates flight leader Col. William A. Matheny, right, of Spokane, Wash., on the successful Christmas Eve bombing raid on Jap-held Wake Island, on which 76,000 pounds of bombs were dropped. Not a plane was lost in the attack.

all round us. The bottom of my stomach seemed to sock my chin and I was coughing from the stench of cordite, mixed with the churned up clouds of sand.

The Stukas were getting away when the antiaircraft guns in the Wadis started up. Then the fighter planes came. Not 50 feet above us they criss-crossed the Wadi bowl, shooting like mad. I suppose we all prayed as the bullets hit around us in the sand in which we had buried our noses.

When it was over I looked around. The ambulance we had helped to push out was a blazing funeral pyre.

The cockney driver was mortally wounded, twisted up with his steering wheel. They got him out somehow but they couldn't get out the fellow with the busted jaw. He did not need a doctor any more.

Later in the strange serene silence of the desert I stood bareheaded as American field service ambulance men and a couple of British truck drivers lowered the cockney driver into his grave.

Revenge
We got a measure of revenge for the cockney. Not half an

hour after he had been buried in the awful bleakness of the desert another wave of Stukas and Mes. came over.

Royal air force fighters were waiting for them. They never had a chance to do more than jettison their bombs and run. There was a rattle of machine gun fire as a Spitfire went for a Messerschmitt and a Kitty Hawk went for a Stuka. I saw two enemy planes burst into flame in the sky as the sun set over the grave of Private X. Both planes hurtled to the sand and exploded. A big column of black smoke mushroomed from where they crashed.

Gold Hill

Gold Hill, Jan. 5—(Spl.)—Mr. and Mrs. Creighton Thompson, Virginia Centers and Kelly Clement visited friends and relatives in San Francisco last week and attended the East-West game there on New Year's Day.

Edmund Meunier, father of Mrs. Joe Blair and Aurelle Meunier of this city, passed away December 26 at his home in St. Paul, Alberta, Canada, following an attack of apoplexy. He had visited his son and daughter here a couple of times.

O. C. Monson of Oakridge, Oregon, is acting as Southern Pacific agent at the local depot during the absence of L. R. Welsh.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McGuire and daughter Joanne returned home New Year's Day from Tigard and Newberg, Oregon, where they were guests of their parents during the vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Martin and family are moving into the Millie Walker tenant house from their orchard home which they sold recently.

Miss Dorothy Frost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Frost of Sams Valley, was guest of Mrs. Minnie Byerly for several days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Cummings of Portland are parents of a seven and half pound baby boy, born December 27. Mrs. Cummings is the former Edith Howes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howes of Glendora Gardens.

Mrs. Lucy Snyder returned to her home at the Ace of Spades on Thursday from San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Larry and Donald Kell, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kell of Oakland, Cal., came Sunday to visit their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kell and family. They had spent the past several months here with their grandparents and spent the Christmas holiday with their parents at Oakland, returning Sunday.

According to word received here by relatives, Roy Kilgore, of the U. S. army, is now in Africa. He was among the first volunteers from Gold Hill to join the army.

MEASLES LEAD IN LAST YEAR'S ILLS

Measles were the most prevalent disease in Jackson county last year, with 622 cases, according to the report of the Jackson county health office. Other ills of childhood listed included 346 cases of mumps, 323 cases of chickenpox, and 100 cases of scarlet fever.

There were 10 cases of tuberculosis; typhoid fever, three; diphtheria, one; scarlet fever, 23, and infantile paralysis, two.

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The Grange

Roxy Ann Grange members and guests gathered for a bountiful New Year's dinner at the hall Friday evening.

A short session of grange was called and a class of candidates obligated in first and second degrees.

Installation of officers was also a part of the evening's program.

Monday the ladies of the Home Economics club met at the hall to prepare the floors for waxing. The master is calling a special meeting of officers for Monday, Jan. 11, at 8 p. m., at the hall and is anxious for all to attend.

BILLIONS SAVED THROUGH OPA IS SHOWN BY PRICE

Secretary Of Local Board
Cites Research Division
—\$24 Billion Total.

The United States government and its civilians have been saved approximately 24 billion dollars through the nationwide price control and rationing program of the Office of Price Administration, according to an announcement made today by Herbert Price, executive secretary of OPA's Medford war price and rationing board. This huge saving was revealed by the research division of the OPA at Washington, according to Mr. Price.

The analysis shows that 20 billion dollars have been saved by the United States government for the period from May, 1942, to October 31, 1942, in purchases for the armed forces, war agencies, lend-lease program and other government functions.

Savings to civilians, Mr. Price stated, amounted to four billion dollars for the same period, partially allocated as follows: clothing, 318 million; beef and veal, 68 million; pork, 121 million; canned fruits and vegetables, 50 million; beverages, 21 million; cereal and bakery products, 18 million; and other items for a total of four billion dollars.

"This is concrete evidence of the value of the vast price control and rationing program of the OPA," commented Mr. Price. "It shows in a graphic manner that our cheerful compliance with the requirements of the OPA not only aids our government substantially, but each and every one of us as consumers."

JUDGE RATIONS TOO

Cleveland (U.P.)—Traffic law violators face a double menace in police court here. Judge Perry Frey is also chairman of a rationing board.

LIEUT. LUTHER IN FLYING FORTRESS ATTACK ON TUNISIA

Lt. Martin Luther of Medford, now stationed in northern Africa with the army air corps, participated in a recent air attack on Tunisia, press dispatches report.



Lt. Martin Luther

Lt. Luther, co-pilot of one of the famous Boeing Flying Fortresses, was one of seven Oregon men who participated in the attack, described by the dispatch as a heavy foray taking place January 3.

Lt. Luther's wife resides at Central Point and reports that her husband's letters have been coming through regularly since his departure last September from Presque Isle, Me., for Africa. Lt. Luther has been in the air force for more than a year and graduated from Williams Field, Arizona.

Lt. Luther's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Luther, Sr., reside near Talent.

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SOUTH TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON WARTIME LABOR

AFL Chiefs, Federal Officials
and Industrial Leaders to
Meet January 16-18.

Atlanta, Ga.—(U.P.)—Plans for a conference of American Federation of Labor chiefs, high federal officials and industrial leaders to be held here Jan. 16-18 on the war labor problems of the south neared completion today.

George L. Googe, southern representative of the AFL, said the conference had been arranged because of "the south's importance in the war effort." He said it would be the largest conference of its kind ever held in this region.

"The shortest route to Tokyo and Berlin" is to be the theme of the meeting, which will be attended by AFL President William Green, the south's leading industrialists, as well as more than 5,000 official delegates from the federation's organizations in 11 southern states.

To Speed Production

"The south's importance in the war effort, the big shipbuilding program on the South Atlantic and the Gulf, and other industries vital to the war program, make it imperative that labor in the south be kept fully informed on the huge task facing America and the extent to which this nation and her allies depend upon the army of production to support the armed forces," Googe said.

He said it was believed that a program to speed war production, through closer labor-management co-operation, would be worked out during the three-day conference.

Googe said the problems of federal and state legislation probably would be discussed and that the program would include study of the war labor board's functions, war manpower com-

mission operations, price control, rationing and civilian defense, in addition to the main theme of labor's part in the war.

To Get All Viewpoints
He pointed out that the industrialists, bankers, journalists and educators invited to the conference would provide a cross-section of thought based on experience essential to a program of co-operation.

"If we can find a way through this conference of hastening the victory by one day, it will be a great achievement," Googe said. "If we can reduce industrial accidents through careful study and proper recommendations, we will have contributed to the production program. Nearly 50,000 men have been killed in war industry, on the job, or in connection with the job, since Pearl Harbor. This is a terrible drain on manpower, and a big detriment to production."

He said the solution of housing problems and the reduction of worker absences from the job also will add much to war production.

VETERANS GROUPS FEAST AND DANCE

Veteran organizations of Medford entertained some of their Camp White friends at a pot luck dinner in the armory last night.

The V.F.W., the D.A.V., the American Legion and Spanish War Veterans were all represented. Fritz Nissen, commander of Medford American Legion post, was master of ceremonies and introduced heads of the other organizations. Mrs. Hitt, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Jarmin and Mrs. Goldsmith headed a group of ladies serving dinner which the men from Camp White declared they relished and will remember for some time.

After the dinner a Camp White band of four pieces played for a dance at the Lincoln school. Corpl. Norman Vogelpole called some of the numbers. They played the music the boys and girls heard as far back as "Old Grey Bonnet" and "Red Wing."

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