

Blackout Signal

One 5-minute blast on sirens and whistles is the signal for a blackout in Klamath Falls. Another long blast, during a blackout, is a signal for all-clear. In precautionary periods, watch your street lights.

Herald and News

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IN THE SHASTA-CASCADE WONDERLAND

NEA FEATURES

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Weather News

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NAZIS PUNCHED THROUGH YANK LINE

Soviets Smash Westward

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

WE've taken a nasty jolt in Tunisia.

Rommel, whom we've been trying to cut off from a junction with Von Arnim, gathered his forces for a swift blow and today is threatening to cut us off from making a junction with Montgomery.

HOW did he do it?

There is much mention in the news of the new German Mark VI tanks, monsters weighing somewhere from 50 to 60 tons, with 74-inch armor to resist our anti-tank guns. These behemoths seem to have been used in considerable numbers.

There are strong hints in the dispatches today that we had to meet them largely with light or medium tanks.

THIS doesn't mean necessarily that the Germans are dangerously superior to us as armament builders. It DOES mean that their factories are CLOSER TO THE BATTLE.

Our communication lines are long. The Germans' lines are comparatively short.

They can rush WHAT is needed to WHERE it is needed on relatively short notice. We can't.

That's a handicap that's always involved in fighting far from the home bases against a foe who is fighting close to his home bases.

THERE'S a stern lesson in this Tunisian jolt for those who haven't been reading behind the headlines.

The Germans have been taking a beating in Russia. It's a bad beating. And there's more of it to come. But the Germans aren't licked yet. Their will to fight isn't broken.

Rommel, chased 1500 miles by Montgomery—a retreat practically without parallel in history—is still able to pull himself together and hit us with telling force.

WE'RE still fighting a tough, resourceful enemy who can be beaten only by superior toughness.

That is the cold, hard fact we must face.

WHATEVER you do, don't doubt the fighting courage and the tough fighting qualities of our boys on the battlefronts. They're comparatively untired as yet in Europe and Africa, but in the Pacific they've met every test there is.

They have what it takes. If we have to criticize, let's direct our criticism at OURSELVES here on the home front—where it belongs. If we'll provide our boys with the equipment they need and with enough ships to get it to them WHEN they need it they'll do their part.

Have no doubts as to that.

AND don't let this jolt in Tunisia blind you to the tremendous significance of what we've already accomplished in Africa. Six months ago Africa was one of the black spots on the map of the world.

Now it is a bright spot. The Germans are hemmed into a little corner at the tip of Tunisia, and are there fighting what at best can only amount to a delaying operation.

That didn't just happen. It has been brought about by brains, courage and good leadership on our side.

HERE'S another thought: This is a world war. Every battle front has a bearing on every other battle front. Whatever the enemy's strength we

TWO AMERICAN PLANES LOST IN RAID ON JAPS

Allies Drive Enemy Steadily Back in New Guinea

By The Associated Press

The navy reported today that two American planes failed to return after two bombing raids on Japanese positions in the Shortland Islands area of the Solomons. Enemy positions on Balala Island and an airfield on Bougainville Island were attacked.

Allied troops on the offensive in New Guinea were reported to have driven the Japanese back within two and one-half miles of Mubo, only 12 miles below the big enemy base at Salamaua, while United Nations warplanes again blasted the Japanese over a wide expanse of the South Seas.

Japs Retreat

Details of the new allied land advance, reported by the Australian broadcasting commission, were not given.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced, however, that the main enemy forces were continuing their withdrawal toward Salamaua and said Australian patrols killed 17 Japanese troops.

In the air, allied fliers pounded Japanese forces at Salamaua and Lae, New Guinea, and reached out across the Timor Sea to attack Japanese-occupied Dili, in Portuguese Timor.

Action in Burma

On the Burma front, RAF bombers renewed the assault on the Japanese airdrome at Magwe, dropping 1000-pound bombs on the target, and raided enemy (Continued on Page Two)

War Plant Head Nabbed by FBI In Alien Roundup

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (AP)—E. E. Conroy, special agent in charge of the New York FBI office, announced today that the \$75,000-a-year president of a New York City war plant which operates nearly 100 per cent on contracts for the armed forces, was one of 11 aliens rounded up in spot searches last night.

Conroy said the alien admitted he favored a victory for the axis. His wife, son and his daughter, a student in a fashionable girls' school in New England, also were apprehended, Conroy said.

The 11 persons were removed to Ellis Island for questioning and possible internment. No names were announced.

James Orth Listed as Prisoner of Japanese



James H. Orth

Air Medal Awarded to Lt. Reber

An air medal has been awarded in London to Lieutenant Ehle H. Reber, son of County Commissioner and Mrs. John Reber, an Associated Press dispatch showed today.

Lieutenant Reber's name was in a list receiving the award published by the U. S. army headquarters. He was one of three men in the northwest to receive the honor.

Lieutenant Reber, pilot of a Flying Fortress, was reported a week ago to be missing after an air raid over western Europe. No mention of that fact was given in the overseas dispatch received here Wednesday.

The address of Lieutenant Reber was given as 376 Dusty boulevard, Malin.

AMERICAN SUBS BAG 5 JAP SHIPS

Nip Cruiser Believed Down; Cargo Ship Damaged

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP)—American submarines operating against the enemy in the Pacific have sunk five enemy ships, probably sunk another—a cruiser—and damaged a cargo ship, the navy announced today.

With the exception of a medium sized cargo ship reported damaged, all of the vessels hit in the latest submarine forays could be classed as auxiliaries to the enemy fleet.

Besides the cruiser reported damaged and probably sunk, they included one medium sized tanker and a medium sized cargo ship; one escort vessel sunk; and the medium sized cargo ship damaged.

The text of the communiqué No. 285: "Pacific and Far East: '1. U. S. submarines have re-

(Continued on Page Two)

George Godard Has An Idea for The Duck Season

George Godard, assistant in the Herald and News pressroom, went fishing in upper Klamath lake the other day.

He baited two hooks on his line and cast out. The bait sank to the bottom. Two ducks quite promptly dived for it, and both were hooked. George started reeling in.

One duck got loose, but the other was caught hard and fast and had to be released by the fisherman.

George is eyeing a possible ammunitionless duck season next fall and speculating as to the possibilities involved.

NAZIS ASSERT BATTLE STILL ON IN KHARKOV

Soviets Deliver Powerful Blows in Westward Push

LONDON, Feb. 17 (AP)—Red army columns driving west in the Donets river basin have captured Slaviansk. The Russians announced tonight in a special communiqué, and seizure of the railway junction poised them for a possible encircling drive against Stalino, strong German base 60 miles to the south.

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, Feb. 17 (AP)—The red army captures of Kharkov are delivering powerful blows against desperate German resistance as they push westward from the recaptured industrial metropolis and other soviet troops are smashing along a wide front on the eastern side of the Donets basin and west of Rostov as the Germans pull away from their long-held lines, the Russians said today.

Kharkov, in German hands since October 24, 1941, was entered yesterday after a fierce assault that terminated in bitter street fighting, and the sudden announcement of its fall brought rejoicing through this vast land.

People Prepared

The German high command apparently was unready to admit the loss of Kharkov. Its broadcast communiqué, recorded by the Associated Press, said heavy fighting was continuing "around Kharkov." Earlier broadcasts, evidently preparing the people for bad news, had said preparations for Kharkov's evacuation were in progress.

With mounting faith in the red army that had delivered Stalingrad, Leningrad, almost all the Caucasus, Rostov and Kursk during the winter offensive now on the eve of its 14th week, the people of Russia had expected Kharkov's capture but there had been no hint that it would come as quickly as it did.

Advancing

But there was still fighting in the Kharkov area, an early communiqué said. "Our troops continued offensive engagements," the war bulletin said. "The enemy is putting up desperate resistance. Soviet units broke up enemy defenses by powerful blows and are wiping out the manpower and equipment of the Hitlerites."

"In one sector alone our men in a fierce engagement destroyed 43 German tanks and wiped out a battalion of German infantry. In another sector soviet units captured a number of enemy fortifications and are advancing relentlessly."

Jap Troops Land On South China Coast, Report

LONDON, Feb. 17 (AP)—A Reuters dispatch from Chungking today said Japanese troops landed this morning in the French-leased territory of Kwangchowwan, on the South China coast.

(Kwangchowwan, an area of about 3325 square miles on the coast of China's Kwangtung province about 250 miles southwest of Hongkong, has been administered by the government of French Indo-China. Although the Japanese have made Indo-China a base for their operations in southeastern Asia they had left the leased territory alone up to now. Presumably they want it for operations against China's southernmost provinces.)

News that their son, James H. Orth, 20, is listed officially as a prisoner of the Japanese in The Philippines, was the gratifying word received Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Orth of Fort Klamath.

This is the first information gleaned from the war department since the fall of Corregidor in 1942.

Young Orth, member of a well known Klamath county family, served as gunner's assistant, coast artillery, and saw action during the early campaign. He enlisted in May, 1941, and was in The Philippines at the time war was declared. The family has heard nothing from him since December 7, 1941.



This week's fighting in Tunisia, in which the Americans holding the center of the line have taken a jolt, is shown on this map. The Germans, including probably two divisions of Rommel's Afrika Korps, attacked in a pincer thrust through Faid pass (1) and Sidi Bouzid (2), striking American forces (A) at Sbeitla and fanning out to the mouth to take the American advanced position at Gafsa (3). The American railroad base is at Tebessa. Montgomery's 8th army (B) is moving today against Rommel's rear guard position at the French-occupied Mareth line, shown by the swastikas and triangles. The fighting front, shown by the heavy black line in the center, follows generally the ridge of the Tunisian Atlas mountains running south from Bizerte at the northern tip of the Tunisian peninsula.

Potato Growers Given Plan For Armed Force Purchases

MERRILL, Feb. 17—Klamath basin potato growers, who will provide some 500 carloads of No. 1 potatoes for armed forces, met Tuesday in the Merrill community hall to hear the plan outlined by Major Paul E. Haines of the quartermaster's department, San Francisco, and C. R. Tulley, U.S. department of agriculture, Portland.

It was one of the largest gatherings witnessed in Merrill with more than 300 growers from all parts of the basin represented.

Major Haines answered numerous questions put by the growers, explained the present purchasing set-up, delivery and payment dates, and also discussed the labor and fertilizer problems which loom for potato men in the basin.

Critical Shortage

Major Haines told the growers that there is a "critical shortage of potatoes for the armed forces" and that there

Three Airmen Reach Safety After Crash

McCALL, Ida., Feb. 17 (AP)—Four weary woodsmen who made an all-night trek into the snowy wilderness east of this logging and resort town, reported today they had reached the Lake Fork CCC camp and rescued Staff Sgt. Ralph Pruitt of Kansas City, Kas., one of three army fliers who had been lost since their plane crashed January 29.

The rescue party, headed by Yale Mitchell of the forest service, reached the camp with a toboggan during the night, and hauled Pruitt, whose feet were frozen, to the Lake Fork ranger station. They rested and prepared to start for McColl, 12 miles west of the station, after noon.

They expected to reach the town before nightfall.

McCALL, Idaho, Feb. 17 (AP)—Deep snowdrifts into which they sometimes sank hip deep failed to halt a 31-mile hike of three army airmen who termed the jaunt "a good experience."

"We know we're really tough enough to take it now," said Lt. Adgate B. Schermerhorn of Aulsebrook, N. Y., who with two companions reached safety more than two weeks after their plane crash-landed on frozen

Rommel Gains 18 Miles in Power Drive

By DANIEL De LUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Feb. 17 (AP)—Marshal Erwin Rommel's veteran tank forces have smashed to the outskirts of Sbeitla, 25 miles northwest of Sidi Bouzid, and advanced toward Feriana in a renewal of his powerful offensive in Southern Tunisia, it was announced today.

The American counterattack which had shoved Rommel's armor back six miles on Monday faded yesterday, under heavy losses of men and armored vehicles.

The combined forces of the German 21st and 10th armored divisions, using a number of the Germans' huge new Mark VI tanks as well as old models salvaged from Libya, punched through the American lines for a gain of nearly 18 miles in furious battles which raged from dawn to dusk.

(The German-controlled Paris radio, heard by Reuters in London, reported, however, that the British eighth army of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery was pushing strongly in the south and was attempting to infiltrate through the German-Italian right flank in the Mareth line.

Yanks Isolated

(The Paris radio said the Americans to the south of the Sidi Bouzid sector also were continuing to retreat from the Gafsa area and were withdrawing in the direction of Tozeur on the north bank of the Chott Djerid.)

A number of American contingents were cut off and isolated by the German advance, particularly in the area around Sidi Bouzid, but there was strong

hope at allied headquarters that they would be able to rejoin the main American force, whose casualties were heavy.

8th Moving In

The latest German thrust seriously jeopardized British positions about 15 miles north of Faid pass on the ridge on the east side of the Aouassella valley. The British flank had been opened by the German maneuver.

Meanwhile, a competent officer at allied headquarters observed that the British eighth army was progressing at such a rate from the Tunisian border that it would soon bring heavy pressure to bear on Rommel and might begin to restore the situation.

Not Surprising

One headquarters source summed up the new situation on the Tunisian front with the remark: (Continued on Page Two)

Civilian Boycott Of Illegal Meat Markets Urged

CHICAGO, Feb. 17 (AP)—Civilian boycott of illegal markets in meat is urged by Thomas E. Wilson, one of the packing industry's leaders, who says that black markets in meat are growing into an "extremely serious matter" for the entire industry and public and threatening adequate supplies for the nation's armed forces and allies.

The first step toward stamping out this "terrible practice" is to have every consumer refrain from buying illegally slaughtered and illegally priced meats, says Wilson, who as chairman of Wilson and company, heads one of the world's largest meat packing firms.

"It is difficult at times for the housewife to know when she is dealing in a black market, but she should notice when prices are out of line and refuse to buy." Black market prices usually are 10 to 15 cents a pound above legal ceiling prices, he said.

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Three of the enemy planes were shot down, the communiqué said.