

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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NEA FEATURES

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Number 9749

Weather News

March 18—High 48, Low 21. Precipitation as of March 12, 1943. Stream year to date 15.48. Last Year 10.00 Normal 8.82

AMERICANS PUSH TO EL GUETAR

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS. OUR Americans, who yesterday took Gafsa, roll on today to El Guetar, 12 miles to the south-east.

Your map will suggest to you that their purpose is to roll on, if possible, to the coast of the Mediterranean BEHIND ROMMEL, thus cutting him off from Von Arnim in the north, at Tunis and Bizerte.

WE tried that once before and got as far as Maknassy (see map), but Rommel was too smart for us and hit us when we weren't looking.

We now have a new general in that area—the colorful Patton. We'll see what he can do against Rommel.

KEEP your eye on Tunisia. In the dispatches of the past day or so one seems to hear the rumbling of big events in the making.

THE weather, incidentally, is still bad. Our boys, pushing on from Gafsa to El Guetar, waded to their waists in gullies running full from the heavy rains.

IN Russia, the fighting today is said to equal any that took place in the Stalingrad campaign.

The Russians are holding the line of the Donets river, about 15 miles east of Kharkov. Into the battle here the Germans are throwing new air units, motorized infantry and tank detachments. German infantry crossed the Donets, but are said to have been thrown back by the reds.

The Russians mined the river ice, and when German tanks undertook to cross nine of them were destroyed when the mines were exploded. German tanks attempting to cross at another point ran into thinning ice and two of them broke through, drowning their drivers.

The tanks then turned back. THE attacking Germans appear to be widening their front. They report today the recapture of Belgorod, 50 miles north of Kharkov.

It is just as well to remember that there is more hard fighting in Russia than in all the rest of the world put together. From the standpoint of men and weapons engaged, our operations in Tunisia are mere skirmishes.

MACARTHUR today throws against the Jap concentrations north of Australia his farthest-flung air operation of the war to date.

His heavy bombers, aided by long range fighters pound the enemy from Timor, northwest of Darwin, clear around to New Britain, dropping 38 tons of bombs on Madang (New Guinea) alone.

The dispatches are still hazy about it, but heavier fighting is going on in Burma.

A SPOKESMAN at MacArthur's headquarters offers some interesting comment today on recent reports placing Japan's wartime commercial shipping losses at 1,800,000 tons.

He points out that in connection with these reports of enemy losses we must consider the fact that the Japs have captured or otherwise acquired from neutrals and non-belligerents some 475,000 tons of merchant shipping and have probably built some 450,000 tons more.

So their NET losses are around 900,000 tons instead of 1,800,000.

THIS comment teaches us that we must constantly discount the favorable reports we are getting from the Pacific. The Jap isn't as near licked as the day-to-day, run-of-the-mill news we are getting seems to indicate.

ON the home front (where the news is never too encouraging) Kaiser is accused by the war (Continued on Page Five)

SOVIETS YIELD TO NEW NAZI AIR STRENGTH

Axis Claims Attack, Seizure of Red's Belgorod

LONDON, March 19 (AP) The German high command in a communique broadcast today by the Berlin radio and recorded by the Associated Press reported the capture of Belgorod, 50 miles northeast of Kharkov, and said further successful attacks had been made northwest of Kursk.

By EDDY GILMORE. MOSCOW, March 19 (AP)—Dispatches from the front today said the Germans had thrown new air units, motorized infantry outfits and tank detachments into the battle for mastery of the upper Donets river 15 miles east of Kharkov, and that the tremendous pressure of the new forces in the last few hours had caused the Russian line to yield slightly in the Chuguev sector.

The nazis succeeded in throwing infantrymen across the river in some sectors, but ultimately they were hurled back, while tanks attempting (Continued on Page Two)

U. S. BOMBERS DROP LOAD ON SUB BASE

Vege sack Raid Makes Many "Firsts" for Americans

LONDON, March 19 (AP) — United States bombers dropped their heaviest tonnage of bombs to date on Germany in yesterday's raid on Vegesack, 15 miles northwest of Bremen, which also established a number of "firsts" in the 1943 American air offensive from this theater against the enemy's submarine warfare, it was announced today.

A report from the European theater of operations of the United States army said photographs showed the daylight precision bombing was "particularly effective" and that American "firsts" established were:

1. The deepest penetration into Germany proper.

2. The largest force of American bombers employed to date in the attack on Germany.

Largest Bag. It said that preliminary reports of enemy fighter aircraft destroyed by Flying Fortresses and Liberators in a running fight that lasted for upwards of two hours "indicate the largest bag of the year."

Official figures, it added, would not be available until (Continued on Page Two)

Roosevelt Aims to Avoid Labor Draft for War Work

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP) President Roosevelt told a press conference today he wanted to avoid national service legislation just as long as he possibly could.

No decision has been reached on the question of drafting of workers for war industries, Mr. Roosevelt said, and he added that it might be unnecessary to have it, or that eventually it would have to be put into effect.

Senator Austin (R-Vt.), co-author of the Austin-Wadsworth bill for a national service act, was told of Mr. Roosevelt's remarks and he commented, "To me, he is assuming that it may be necessary."

Point of Difference. "That's the whole point of difference—whether it's necessary now or not," said Austin. "If we wait until the crisis it may be too late. Also the lives of many

Wins Film Contract



Vi Athens, Greek film actress and daughter of Myrta Gatos, Greek stage star, who escaped from their native land before it was occupied by the Germans, was signed by Columbia for a screen career. Here she shows how she hopes to climb the stairway to fame in Hollywood.

GIANT AERIAL SWEEP BATTERS MASSES JAPS

South Pacific Enemy Concentrations Damaged

By MURLIN SPENCER. ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, March 19 (AP) In the most widespread aerial sweep against Japanese concentrations ever launched in the southwest Pacific area, Gen. Douglas MacArthur sent his bombers on damaging raids yesterday against more than a dozen points where the Japanese are building up concentrations, an allied communique said today.

Big allied bombers ranged from Timor to Salamaua, New Guinea, and Gasmata, New Britain, hitting everything they could find, but they concentrated on the Japanese stronghold of Madang in New Guinea.

Separate Sweeps. Three separate sweeps were made at Madang between Finschhafen and Salamaua and more than 38 tons of bombs were poured on the Japanese stronghold, the communique said. Long-range fighters "thoroughly strafed the whole area," it added.

They left the little village in (Continued on Page Two)

FIGHTING FLARES IN WESTERN BURMA

Enemy Pressure Eases East of Mayu River

NEW DELHI, March 19 (AP) Fighting flared up again yesterday in the Mayu peninsula in western Burma where a British army has been threatening Akayab, but east of the Mayu river Japanese pressure has slackened, a British communique said today.

Sixteen miles north of Rathedaung, in the region of Taungma, where the Japanese have dug themselves into hill positions, fighting continued, it was announced, but there was no indication of the scope of the battle. Rathedaung is about 25 miles northwest of Akayab.

It was the Japanese pressure east of the Mayu river which made it necessary for the British to readjust their positions and prevent isolation of the units north of Rathedaung. Presumably this threat had diminished somewhat.

RAF Planes Hit. The RAF continued to range over the battle area, attacking many targets, including Japanese headquarters in the Donbalk sector, the communique said.

Raiding United States airmen ranged far and wide over Japanese targets in Burma Wednesday and Thursday, the American army air communique reported, damaging bridges and railways and returning without the loss of a man or a plane.

Heavy bombers damaged a bridge over the Pazundaung river six miles north of Rangoon and railway tracks to the north and the south. Returning from this raid, the American planes were engaged by enemy fighters in an hour's combat. One Zero was downed and a twin-engine fighter damaged.

LaGuardia Seeks Job as Head of Conquered Land

LONDON, March 19 (AP)—Foreign diplomatic quarters said today that Washington was seeking British approval of Mayor F. H. La Guardia of New York as wartime civil administrator of occupied Italian territory in Africa.

There was no comment from official sources.

Allies Capture El Guetar



Today allied headquarters in North Africa reported that the Americans had captured El Guetar on the road from Gafsa to Gabes. Yesterday the Americans under General Patton seized Gafsa (1), central Tunisian airbase. U. S. troops have been moving in from Feriana, while the French were advancing from Meisoul. The German radio said that in addition to the four division assault on the northern sector of the Mareth line, General Montgomery was sending strong reinforcements against the Nazis' first flank (2). Broken line indicates approximate battle-front.

Conferences on Post-War Problems Viewed by Allies

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP) President Roosevelt disclosed today that perhaps half a dozen United Nations conferences might be called to consider various phases of post-war problems. Plans are already underway for a conference on food production and distribution for all the populations of the world in the period following the close of the conflict.

In addition, the chief executive told a press conference, probably there would be a meeting on post-war relief.

Meetings in Economics. Beyond that, he said, there might be two or three or four other conferences, mainly in the fields of economics and finance.

Meanwhile, a plea by Anthony Eden that the United States, England, Russia and China mould their war-time unity into the framework for a lasting peace encouraged congressional advocates of collective security to new efforts.

Mr. Roosevelt gave no indication as to when or where the conferences might be held, but he indicated that invitations already, have gone to the United Nations for a food parley.

Smaller Spots Viewed. He said he hoped it would not be held in Washington and that

Soft Coal Mine Operators Ask For More Time

NEW YORK, March 19 (AP)—Northern Appalachian soft coal mine operators urged today that negotiations for a contract for 450,000 miners to supplant one expiring March 31 be extended beyond that time, but the United Mine Workers declared the proposal was "an attempt to prolong the negotiations under conditions most profitable to the operators."

In a statement released after a 90-minute meeting of heads of the northern operators and the UMW, the operators urged also that the present agreement be kept in effect until April 30.

"We point out again," the union declared in a statement replying to the proposal, "that the mine workers of the country are hungry. They are petitioning for relief, and they will deeply resent the absence of good faith and evasion of responsibilities in these negotiations on the part of the operators, and their confidence will be increasingly destroyed by the filibustering tactics..."

Sisemore to Aid In Folkes Trial

District Attorney L. Orth Sisemore of Klamath county will assist Harlow Weinrich, Linn county district attorney, in the trial of Robert Folkes on charges of the murder of Martha Brinson James, it was learned today.

Patton Jams Tanks Into Wedge In Crack Nazi Troops

By ROGER GREENE. Associated Press War Editor. Allied headquarters announced today that American armored troops pushing toward the sea from newly recaptured Gafsa had seized the town of El Guetar after a 12-mile advance, while other allied columns rolled across the Central Tunisian hills in a drive aimed at cutting the 300-mile axis coastal corridor.

Led by dynamic Lieut.-Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., who once challenged Field Marshal Erwin Rommel to single tank combat, the Americans were reported making rapid progress despite treacherous mine fields planted by the nazis.

Gafsa fell to U. S. troops Wednesday without the loss of a single soldier. British Battle Von Arnim. In another Tunisia, an allied communique said, Lieut.-Gen. K. A. N. Anderson's British 1st army withdrew slightly in the zig-zag struggle with Col.-Gen. Jurgen von Arnim's axis forces, falling back in the Tamera sector some 42 miles west of Bizerte.

Frontline dispatches said British 1st army troops withdrew Wednesday night from Tamera to new positions three miles to the southwest. The German high command said "an axis local offensive enterprise is progressing favorably" in the northern sector.

Heavy rains and floods hampered operations on the central Tunisian front, dispatches said.

Local Adjustments. In the south, the British 8th army executed "slight local adjustments"—whose nature was not specified—"with little interference by the enemy" in the Mareth line zone.

"Normal patrol activity has continued during the past 24 hours," the communique said. In addition to the U. S. armored thrust to El Guetar, 73 miles from the port of Gabes, other American forces were reported moving northeast along (Continued on Page Two)

Enemy Launches Vigorous Attack In Chinese Area

CHUNGKING, March 19 (AP) A vigorous counter attack covered by planes was launched by reinforced Japanese forces yesterday in the Hupeh area south of the Yangtze river, a Chinese high command communique announced today.

The reinforcements, the communique said, poured across the river to join enemy troops which had been pushed back northward about 30 miles after reaching a point 60 miles south of the river in an eight-column drive in central China.

The communique did not say whether the Japanese had gained ground in the counterattack. It also announced fighting in Suiyuan, Shantung and Yunnan provinces.

Plenty of Manpower Says Rickenbacker to Senate

By JOHN H. WIGGINS. WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP) — Declaring that many American industries still are operating on a "share-the-work depression" basis, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker said today the nation has more manpower than it needs "if properly utilized."

Testifying before the senate military committee inquiring into the Austin-Wadsworth bill to draft men and women civilians into war production jobs, the flying ace of World War I declared that "it's not a case of manpower problems but of production problems."

Reads From Notes. Reading from a page of notes, Rickenbacker said that from many discussions with able production men he is convinced that about 5,500,000 men could be salvaged from present war industries by adoption in all war plants of the incentive or piece work plan.

Under the incentive plan as opposed to the 40-hour work week-end hourly pay rates, he said it would be "ultra conservative" to figure a 33 1/3 per cent increase in production.

(The wage-hour law requires payment of time and a half for work over 40 hours.) Save Men. "That would save about 5,500,000 men and would give us the additional men needed for agriculture and for other war industries," Rickenbacker added. The flier expressed a belief that former farm workers now in industry should be instructed to "go back to the farms" or be drafted. "They certainly should be in uniform," he added, "prior to those babies of 17 to 18. Their places in industry could be taken by plenty of persons over 18 to 38 age group who are willing and anxious to get into war work." Of course, he remarked, you can't win a war without regimentation.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO HELD AS PLAN FOR RICH MEN

Income Tax Collection Measure Described On Floor

By FRANCIS M. Le MAY. WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP) The income tax collection bill submitted to the house by the ways and means committee, which makes pay-as-you-go optional for each taxpayer, was described on the floor today by Rep. Allen (R-Ill.) as "a rich man's bill."

"It provides no abatement or concessions on taxes for 1942," he said. "It provides that if a taxpayer desires to get on a current basis by paying both 1942 and 1943 taxes during 1943 he is rewarded by being given a varying per cent discount depending upon the time of payment."

Skip Entire Year. Allen contended the Ruml pay-as-you-go plan, which would skip an entire tax year, would not be of principal benefit to the wealthy.

The committee bill provides no tax abatement, but creates a system of discounts up to six per cent on 1943 taxes paid within (Continued on Page Two)

ODT Promises Gas For All Trucking Uses in Farming

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP)—Joseph B. Eastman, director of defense transportation, advised all farmers to plan their 1943 crops "with the assurance that they will be able to obtain enough gasoline for all necessary truck operations, local fuel supplies permitting."

He reviewed the procedure by which farmers get gasoline for farm operation purposes, pointing out that county war boards make initial ration allotments which, if sufficient, can be appealed to the ODT.

FOREMAN'S UNIONS EYED BY CONGRESS

General Motors Asks Congress to Halt Organization

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP) A broad measure to bar war contractors' administrative and supervisory employees from labor organizations was placed before congress today in the wake of a plea by General Motors corporation for action to halt formation of foremen's unions.

The measure was introduced yesterday by Rep. Smith (D-Va.), chairman of a recently created special house committee on administrative practices, shortly after receiving a protest from G. E. Wilson, General Motors' president, that their creation would interfere with war production.

New Measure. Smith's new measure, which was sent to the house military committee for consideration, (Continued on Page Two)