

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.

Gerald and News

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Weather News

March 21—High 55, Low 30
Precipitation as of March 13, 1943
Stream year to date 18.61
Last Year 10.08 Normal 9.73

ALLIES BATTER MARETH LINE

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

ON Saturday in Tunisia, the rains stopped, the skies cleared and the dust storms settled. As these words are written today, it looks very much as if the big battle to throw the Germans (the Italians no longer count) out of Africa is beginning.

MONTGOMERY, as announced dramatically by Churchill in his Sunday speech, is on the move.

He seems to be hitting Rommel at the STRONGEST point of the Mareth line, where its fixed fortifications command the narrow coastal road along the Mediterranean. He may be driving toward Gabes by the shortest route.

OR he may be fooling Rommel, hitting hard at the strongest point as a diversion, with the idea of shifting his main attack suddenly to some other point—or outflanking the Chott Djerid salt marsh.

WAR is like that.

Fooling the other fellow and hitting him hard where he isn't looking for it is one of its most effective techniques.

YOU never can tell about this fellow Montgomery. At El Alamein, where the present battle of Africa started, he hit Rommel at his strongest point and kept on hitting until he had the desert fox broken and running.

AT the same time our General Patton (Old Blood and Guts) strikes hard from El Guetar toward the coast, retaking Sened and getting within sight of Maknassy, which was reached once before by our Americans.

Note the references today to the hills around Maknassy that are still held by the Germans. We'll have to blast them off these high points before we can move on toward the coast and our objective of getting BEHIND Rommel and surrounding him.

When your enemy is SHOOTING DOWN at you from a hill your style is pretty sure to be cramped.

IT'S too early to guess how the battle is going. About all we know is that it has started. Rommel is a shrewd enemy. The news of the next few days (or weeks) is certain to be interesting.

HITLER breaks his 133-day silence and makes another speech. Its tone is markedly different from his usual style. He rants little. He brags hardly at all.

He says the worst is past in Russia. By means of total mobilization, he asserts, the German army is being rapidly strengthened.

He gives the impression of a changed Hitler (possibly a more dangerous one).

HIS speech is followed (rather startlingly) by a statement from "authoritative British circles" whose names can't be quoted.

These anonymous British authorities (often such statements are nearer the truth) BECAUSE they are anonymous) assert that Germany is in no present danger of cracking. They point out that while five million Germans have been killed, captured or wholly disabled since the war began (as opposed to Hitler's admission of only 542,000 German war dead since the Russian campaign began) some 500,000 Germans come of military age every year. They say that even if the great Krupp works were totally shattered it would be ten months before the German army would feel a shortage of munitions.

IN his Sunday speech, Churchill, while discussing post-war problems, gave no indication of any belief that the war is near its end. Instead, he carefully indicated (Continued on Page Two)

Claim Belgorod



The German high command claimed capture of Belgorod, northeast of Kharkov, and Nazi forces continued their pressure in the Chuguev sector, to the south. Broken line indicates front along which Russians and Germans have been battling in the Kharkov area.

REDS BATTLE FEROCIOUSLY FOR DONETS

Soviets Capture Rail Town on Main Line To Moscow

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW, March 22 (AP)—The red army has captured the railway town of Durovo, 57 miles east of Smolensk on the main line from Moscow, and the Russian column driving southward toward the rail line from Bely has made new progress, the Russians announced today as the battle for the Donets river line southeast of Kharkov grew in ferocity.

Durovo was occupied by the same Russian force which broke through the German defenses at Vyazma to crack the Nazi salient so long pointed threateningly at Moscow. The advance was made in the face of repeated German counterattacks that cost the Germans heavily in men and material, the mid-day communique said.

Steel Ring Broken
(The Berlin radio, in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, admitted today for the first time that its steel ring (Continued on Page Two)

Nazis Threaten To Execute Norwegians If Allies invade

PORTLAND, March 22 (AP)—Haakon Lee, secretary of the Norwegian Federation of Labor, said today the Nazis threaten to execute 10,000 of his country's imprisoned leaders if the United Nations invade Norway.

Government Butter Freeze Jolts Local Housewives Into Frenzied Buying Rush

Klamath housewives were jolted out of their Sunday complacency when the OPA announced at 3 p. m. that butter, lard, fats and oils were to be frozen at midnight.

Before pop could be awakened from under a mound of Sunday papers, the family car was buzzing and hundreds stormed neighborhood stores, creameries, and later the larger chain stores which opened their doors to customers. In some stores there was a half-pound allotment, in others the sky was the limit and housewives got what they wanted. Shelves were quickly cleaned.

Surprise Move
The surprise move came after Saturday shoppers were expected to put in their usual week's supply. Some did and some didn't. Retail sales, halted by the government last mid-

night, will not be resumed until rationing starts next Monday. This was the date originally set for the butter freeze. Restaurants are not affected by the order. Mayonnaise and other salad dressings are not included in the sales freeze. Washington OPA said the retail sales freeze of one week will allow storekeepers to obtain supplies so as to be in a position to make ration sales against red stamps from war ration book two on Monday, March 29.

Points To Be Announced
On Wednesday, OPA will announce the point values for the articles in the new ration list—meat, cheese, canned fish, fats and oils.
Sales were upped considerably in the fats and lards sections Sunday, grocers said. Housewives who like to do their own baking were especially

AUSTRALIANS SAY NIPPONS SURE TO HIT

Allied Victories Seen As Evidence of Big Enemy Power

By The Associated Press
Australian Army Minister Francis Forde declared today that Japan was more determined to attack Australia than ever before as the range of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's bombing attacks emphasized the growing concentration of enemy power in the islands on the fringe of the continent.

"The allied victories in the Solomons, New Guinea and Bismarck sea merely intensified Japan's determination to invade Australia," Forde said.

Fierce Attack Expected
"It can only be assumed that when they are ready, the Japanese will launch an attack on Australia more ferocious than any yet experienced in the Pacific."

MacArthur's bombing attacks, growing more numerous northwest of Australia, centered on Cape Vandenbosch off Dutch New Guinea where bombs were dropped around two cargo vessels and a destroyer. In convoy, off Cape Namatipi, Dutch New Guinea, where three small merchant ships and some barges were bombed and strafed. At Langoer in the Kai Islands machinegun posts were silenced and two luggers damaged. Jap Storm False
In the area northeast of Australia a Japanese destroyer was (Continued on Page Two)

COAL CONTRACT HUNG ON RETROACTIVITY

Conference Deadlocked as Agreement Nears End

NEW YORK, March 22 (AP)—Charles O'Neill, spokesman for the Northern Appalachian soft coal mine operators, declared today that the wage conference with the United Mine workers was deadlocked because neither party could reach a decision on the matter of retroactivity in a new contract.

Telegrams were sent by the operators Saturday to President Roosevelt and various government officials which were understood to carry an implied request for federal intervention, but Dr. John R. Steelman, head of the federal conciliation service, said in Washington today that he had "no immediate plans for entering the situation."
Offer to Continue
The present contract for 450,000 miners expires March 31 (Continued on Page Two)

Wallan Trial Case Postponed Two Days

The trial of Kenneth Wallan, charged with second degree murder, has been postponed from March 29 to March 31.

Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg changed the dates of the case Monday. Wallan is accused of the death of James Bowman in a fight on a suburban street December 24.

Nazis Say This Is Hitler on the Russian Front



Berlin newspapers on March 17 published this picture purporting to show Adolf Hitler near the Russian front lines. DNB said that Hitler flew to the front and had discussions with his officers. The German caption identified the men as (left to right): Field Marshal Frits Erich von Manstein, Col. Gen. Ruoff, Hitler, Gen. Kurt von Zeitzler and Field Marshal Ewald von Kleist. Picture radioed from Stockholm to New York.

ADOLF HITLER EMERGES FROM LONG SILENCE

Illness, Death Rumor Stilled by War Speech

LONDON, March 22 (AP)—Adolf Hitler emerged yesterday from a 133-day silence which had given rise to rumors of his illness or death to tell the German people in a radio broadcast the crisis on the Russian front had been surmounted, assure them their losses in war dead were relatively small, and yet admit that many parts of Germany had become "War zones" as a result of incessant allied bombing.

Veteran broadcast listeners, who have heard many of Hitler's speeches before, listened particularly intently to be sure it was the fuhrer speaking and said they were convinced it was his voice they heard.

Subdued Speech
In one of the shortest and most subdued speeches he has ever delivered the fuhrer told (Continued on Page Two)

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Churchill Sketches Dream Of Post-War Order, Peace

LONDON, March 22 (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill sketched for the world in a radio broadcast last night his vision of a post-war order where peace might eventually be kept by a European and an Asiatic council of free nations, but warned the British people of the necessity of "keeping their eye on the ball" to win a struggle which might go on two years or more before Adolph Hitler is crushed into "death, dust and ashes."

The speech, which was devoted chiefly to the problems of cre-

DEMOCRATS BEGIN CANVASS ON TAXES

Leaders Attempt to Halt Passage of Ruml Plan

By FRANCIS M. Le MAY
WASHINGTON, March 22 (AP)—Democratic leaders began today a formal canvass of the party's house membership designed to head off a potential coalition of a segment of democrats with republicans that might spell passage of the Ruml plan to skip an entire tax year in putting income taxpayers on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Rep. Ramspeck of Georgia, the democratic whip, said many democrats still have "an open mind" on the tax issue and some are confused by the controversy over the Ruml plan and the administration tax collection bill, drawn by a majority of the house ways and means committee.

The tax debate begins Thursday.

Predicts Passage
Rep. Knutson (R-Minn.) predicted 30 democrats would join the republicans to pass the skip (Continued on Page Two)

Kay Kyser Draft Appeal Declined

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., March 22 (AP)—The Rocky Mount Evening Telegram said today Kay Kyser, the band leader, told it by telephone from Los Angeles that his appeal for deferred draft status had been declined and that he would report for examination when ordered by his local board here to do so.

Dr. Noble Appoints Commission to Hear Boeing Grievances

SEATTLE, March 22 (AP)—Dr. Bernard Noble, regional war labor board chairman, said today appointment of a three-man commission to administer the Boeing wage award will be one of the first orders of business tomorrow.

American Tanks Drive Wedge Into German Defenses

By DANIEL DE LUCE
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 22 (AP)—The British eighth army was reported tonight to have captured its initial objectives in an attack on a six-mile front between the sea and the Mareth road despite strong axis opposition and deep mine fields.

This thrust at the upper end of the Mareth line developed as American armor drove a wedge into Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's last defense barring the way to the Gulf of Gabes with the capture of about 1400 prisoners.

HERSHEY HITS OCCUPATIONAL DEFERMENTS

Director Blames Some Governmental Agencies

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST
WASHINGTON, March 22 (AP)—Major Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, told house members today he does not think some government agencies are setting the proper example in the matter of occupational draft deferments for their employees.

Testifying on the general subject of deferments which a military subcommittee is investigating, Hershey flatly replied "no" when Rep. Harnett (R-Ind.) asked with respect to furnishing all available men to the armed services:

Bad Example
"Do you think some of these agencies are setting the example?"

On the ground that he did not desire to enter into a public discussion of individual deferment cases he handled, Hershey (Continued on Page Two)

Additional Names Drawn for Jury in Folkes' Trial

ALBANY, March 22 (AP)—The names of 31 prospective jurors for the trial of Robert E. Lee Folkes, charged with first degree murder in the "Lower 13" slaying of Mrs. Martha Virginia James, were added to the circuit court list today.

Fearing the present list might be exhausted in the selection of the jury, Sheriff Herbert Shelton and County Clerk R. M. Russell drew the additional names in the presence of Circuit Judge L. G. Lewelling.

Folkes' trial is scheduled to open here April 7. The negro dining car cook is accused of knifing to death the attractive wife of a navy officer as she lay in her berth aboard a south-bound train in Linn county last January 23.

Floods Force Hundreds to Leave Homes in River Area

By The Associated Press
Rain-gorged rivers slowly crept toward dangerous crests today in several southeastern states, forced hundreds to evacuate their homes in low-lying areas, and threatened heavy property damage.

The wide-spread flood threats in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi came as a downward revision of expected crests eased fears along the Ohio river.

Hundreds of residents of lowlands north of Hattiesburg, Miss., were evacuated from their homes under Red Cross supervision last night as the Boule swept from its banks.

Red Cross Organizes
Miss Pearl English, Red Cross official at Hattiesburg, said the organization was planning to house many hundreds of evacuees in public buildings there.

Seven hundred negroes and about 50 white residents evacuated from the low north section of Hattiesburg where the Leaf and Boule rivers join were housed in schools and other buildings over night.

Sight Maknassy

Field reports said an American column was within sight of Maknassy, a strong German position on the Gafsa-Mahares railway some 50 miles west of the port of Mahares.

(A French headquarters communique broadcast tonight by the Algiers radio reported an advance of several miles by French forces in the region south of Gafsa "in spite of serious resistance by the enemy." The day was calm in the central sector, it said.)

British Attack

The British eighth army was reported to have attacked axis forces on a six-mile line at the north end of the Mareth front, between the sea and the Medenine-Mareth road, against strong opposition.

(This would indicate that General Montgomery was seeking the most direct route for a push from his Medenine base to the Port of Gabes, 40 miles to the northwest, although there is a possibility that this assault is but a screen for a blow at the center or an outflanking maneuver. The village of Mareth lies midway between Medenine and Gabes and about five miles from the coast.)

The battle of Tunisia, which Prime Minister Churchill announced last night was underway and going well, found Rommel's southern forces squeezed into a coastal strip of barely 70 miles separating the correlated drives of Montgomery and U. S. Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. from the south and west respectively.

Dominates Heights

In the north, Col. Gen. Jürgen von Arnim's troops drove a British first army detachment from Nefza station, which lies 47 miles southwest of Bizerte and about two miles northwest of the Djebel Abiad, but the dominating heights of the Djebel Abiad were covered by a new British line.

This was a mere sideshow to (Continued on Page Two)

Oregon Liquor Ration Halved

PORTLAND, Ore., March 22 (AP)—A drastically reduced liquor ration went into effect in Oregon today.

The state liquor commission cut in half a two-week-old ration order, thus limiting consumers to a quart of whiskey a week and a fifth of gin a month.

The previous ration order did not cut consumption enough, Administrator L. F. Allen said.

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The Leaf river which rose to 12 feet above flood stage at Hattiesburg was reported to have dropped ten inches at Cranford bridge, 15 miles north of Hattiesburg, at 7 a. m. (CWT) and the crest was expected to be reached at Hattiesburg during the day.

Bus Upset
A bus upset on Highway No. 49 north of Hattiesburg and its passengers were soaked in floodwaters.

Soldiers and Mississippi highway department workers lost a (Continued on Page Two)