

### 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

ASSOCIATED PRESS IN THE SHASTA-CASCADE WONDERLAND NEA FEATURES  
PRICE FIVE CENTS KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1943 Number 9757

### Weather News

March 28—High 64, Low 34  
Precipitation as of March 22, 1943  
Stream year to date 13.61  
Last year 10.06 Normal 9.00

# ALLIES PUNCTURE MARETH LINE

## In The Day's News

**By FRANK JENKINS**  
THERE was thrilling news this morning. The Mareth line in southern Tunisia is crumbling. Everyone of its strong points, early dispatches report, is now in our possession.

Rommel, maybe too late, is beginning to retreat. Official reports from Cairo tell us that axis air fields at Gabes are being plowed up. That means that Rommel knows he'll retreat farther than Gabes, and wants to prevent us from using his own air fields against him when he abandons them.

THE break comes, as at El Alamein, on the ninth day. Nine seems to be Montgomery's lucky number.

But Rommel now faces a different and more menacing situation. At El Alamein, he had all of Africa behind him, with all his enemies in his rear. In his retreat from the Mareth positions, he will have powerful enemies hovering on his flank. His escape corridor at Gabes has been narrowed to only 15 miles by Montgomery's flanking column which reached El Hamma. If he fights his way through the Gabes bottleneck, Patton's Americans, holding the high ground along 100 miles or more of the coastal highway, will swoop down on him.

All the way, our air forces will be pounding him from above.

Anderson's first army is driving hard at Von Arnim, seeking to keep him too busy to send help to his battered colleague in the south.

**ROMMEL** is an able general—probably the ablest the war has produced.

His 1500-mile retreat across Africa without demoralization is one of the great military feats of history. But he's finally getting into a tight spot and in smart Montgomery he has an able foe.

WE hear today of the first surface naval fight for Kiska. Two Jap heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and four destroyers, conveying two Jap cargo vessels, are encountered by an American naval task force (probably there for just that purpose) and a long range gun fight—supposed to have been at five to seven miles—ensues.

The Japs are turned back. Their need at Kiska must be getting rather desperate to justify such heavy conveying of only two cargo ships.

Only two are mentioned. Others may have been hidden in the fog.

IN Russia, the fierce German counter-attack at Kharkov seems to have been stopped at the Donets.

The Russians, wading through the deep mud of the spring thaw, inch nearer to Smolensk.

THE interesting point of the Russian fighting is that the Red army seems to have enough strength to stop the Germans. Everything hinges on Russian reserve strength.

### Floods Sweep Away Logs at Pendleton

PENDLETON, March 29 (P)—Flood waters in Camas creek near Ukiah swept away 185,000 board feet of logs from the Brown-Hoxie Lumber company's mill pond and washed out the supporting structure of the 70-foot county bridge near there between 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon and midnight.

### Japanese Declare Thailand Emergency

LONDON, March 29 (P)—The Paris radio reported today a dispatch from Bangkok that a state of emergency had been declared throughout Japanese-occupied Thailand.

The broadcast, recorded by The Associated Press, gave no explanation.

### Block Leader Chief



Mrs. Jean Puckett above has been named chief of "block leader" in the newly organized "block" unit under the local Civilian Defense plan. It was announced Monday by the Klamath County Defense Council.

### Defense Group Appoints Women "Block Leaders"

A Block Leader Council to assist in civilian defense work here was organized last week, when Lynn Roycroft, newly appointed director of U. S. Citizens Service corps, and Earl Reynolds, coordinator of the local Defense Council, called together a group of local women to become block leaders.

The block leader's job is to explain to the persons in his locality the principles of rationing, salvage and other wartime programs, and to see that these wartime services are fully understood by Mr. and Mrs. Public.

Mrs. Jean Puckett was selected chairman of the group, and the following block leaders will assist her:

Mrs. Olive Cornett, precincts 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28; Mrs. Isabelle Brixner, precincts 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12; Mrs. Harvey Park, precincts 13, 21, 22 and 23; Mrs. Flo Ann Eaton, precincts 30, 31, 32 and Pelican City; Mrs. Martha (Continued on Page Three)

### "Black Snow" Talk Set for Council Meeting Tonight

Discussion of the heating plant ordinance, to be brought up for third and final reading tonight at 7:30 o'clock at a meeting of the city council, is the only major problem which the dads will attempt to iron out. The session is called an adjourned meeting, mainly to bring up the proposed ordinance.

Mayor John H. Houston said that he expected lengthy discussion on the ordinance. The city attorney last Monday filed a complaint against the heating company, naming traffic hazards as well as the "black snow" question, with the public utilities commissioner. In turn, the heating company filed an answer with the commissioner in Salem.

### Major Fensler, Tulalake Flyer, Reported Missing

TULELAKE — Major Robert W. Fensler, U. S. army air corps, is reported missing according to word received here by the young flyer's wife, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Fensler, prominent ranching family.

Word reached the family through Ralph A. Ganger of the local American Legion post, who received the message from the war department. Only the official notification with the word that information would follow, has been received.

Maj. Fensler advised his wife of his safe arrival in India just one week ago. The young flyer was graduated from Tulalake high school in 1936, attended Oregon State college the year of 1936-37, and the University of California the following year. He then took his early training at Mather field, Sacramento, and later was stationed in Phoenix, Ariz., Los Angeles and Florida where he served as an instructor. When he last wrote his family he was piloting a B-24. Maj. Fensler was married a year and one-half

## Reds Block Nazis

### U. S. Patrol Ships Turn Jap Force in Aleutians

WASHINGTON, March 29 (P)—American patrol ships have turned back a Japanese naval force headed for the Aleutians in the first surface battle off the mist-shrouded islands since the enemy set up a base on Kiska last summer.

When the long-range engagement Friday was broken off, the navy said in a communique yesterday, the Japanese detachment of two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, four destroyers and two cargo vessels was seen heading westward.

**Distant Battle**  
The battle—fought at a distance of five to seven miles—began after a light force of U. S. patrol craft located the enemy west of Attu, 200 miles west of Kiska. There was a possibility that the Japanese turned about to avoid close-range shelling in which the cargo vessels, apparently carrying desperately-needed supplies for the Kiska base, might have been damaged or sunk.

Details of the action were not announced. The navy told in an earlier communique of a series of far-flung air raids in the Pacific from March 25 to 27.

**Kiska Bombed**  
American planes attacked Kiska, scoring hits on a hangar, while other U. S. planes strafed and bombed the Japanese in two

### RAF Resumes Battering of U-Boat Base

LONDON, March 29 (P)—RAF bombers resumed their assaults on German submarine bases last night, after the greatest raid of the war on Berlin Saturday night, by blasting the base at St. Nazaire with a "concentrated attack," the air ministry announced today.

Two bombers did not return from the St. Nazaire raid, which was carried out in considerable strength and added new damage to a U-boat haven which has been attacked often and heavily in the past.

Squadrons of bombs, escorted by fighters, crossed and recrossed the southeast coast this morning, hinting at a continuation of the intensive blows directed at Germany and her satellites on the continent during the week-end.

The German radio meanwhile announced that German bombers, retaliating for the Saturday night RAF raid on Berlin and a daylight raid yesterday by American Fortresses and Liberators on the railroad yards at Rouen, France, smashed at Norwich, England, during the night.

raids at Munda on New Georgia island in the Solomons; raided Japanese positions at Vila in the Solomons and bombed and shot up Japanese positions in Ugali on Rendova island in the New Georgia group.

Two Japanese planes struck at Canton island in the Phoenix island group and seven enemy raiders bombed Guadalcanal, killing one man and injuring 13.

LONDON, March 29 (P)—A Japanese communique broadcast (Continued on Page Three)

### REPUBLICANS GET BEHIND RUMML PLAN

### Committee Sure Skip-Year Tax Will Pass

WASHINGTON, March 29 (P)—The house republican steering committee met today to tighten party lines behind the Ruml tax plan, and Rep. Martin of Massachusetts, the minority leader, reported "I now feel certain" the proposal to skip an income tax year will pass the house.

The committee meeting was held in Martin's office with a view to planning strategy when voting begins, probably tomorrow, on various pay-as-you-go income tax proposals.

**Confident**  
"We can't discuss our strategy," Martin told newspapermen, "but we are confident."

Meanwhile, the democratic leaders continued their running battle against the plan originally advanced by Beardsley Ruml of the New York Federal Reserve bank and embraced in modified form by Rep. Carlson (R-Kas.), and various plans for a compromise that would abate a (Continued on Page Three)

### Hits Scored on Jap Air Fields At Buin, Kahili

WASHINGTON, March 29 (P)—American bombers attacking Japanese air fields at Buin and Kahili scored hits on a runway and protected dispersal areas, the navy said today, then returned safely to their base.

The text of the navy's communique, No. 328, telling of raids against the two enemy positions on Bougainville island, 300 miles northwest of Guadalcanal, follows:

"South Pacific: (All dates are east longitude)

"1. On March 28th:

"(A) During the morning, army Flying Fortresses (Boeing B-17) attacked Japanese positions at Buin and Kahili in the Shortland island area. Hits were scored on runways and a runway.

"(B) All United States planes returned."

### HOLC Abolishment Held Treasury Raid

WASHINGTON, March 29 (P)—John H. Fahey, commissioner of the Federal Home Loan Bank administration, described pending legislation to abolish the Home Owners Loan corporation today as "nothing but a raid on the treasury in the midst of war."

"The forced liquidation of the HOLC within one year, as proposed by an amendment to the pending independent offices appropriations bill," he declared, "would cost the government at least \$440,000,000—some \$373,000,000 more than the corporation's present net deficit—and put a wholly unnecessary burden on the U. S. treasury and taxpayers."

### SOVIETS STOP MUDDY GERMAN LINE ATTACK

### Two Nazi Cracks at Upper Donets Blasted

By EDDY GILMORE  
MOSCOW, March 23 (P)—The red army fought on in the mud during the night, breaking up two German efforts to crack its line along the upper Donets river and capturing four more villages in the slow drive toward Smolensk, the Russians said today, but the once flaming battle line apparently had subsided temporarily to a series of local and inconclusive engagements.

The mid-day communique reported that there were "no material changes on the fronts" and was devoted almost exclusively to isolated engagements involving relatively small forces.

**Local Engagement**  
(The German communique, recorded by The Associated Press, said that only local engagements were fought in the central and southern sectors of the Russian front yesterday, but that the Russians renewed their attacks south of Lake Ilmen and near Lake Ladoga. The fighting lasted all day, the communique said, and the Russians were repulsed with heavy losses.)

In the push toward Smolensk, which had carried to within 32 miles of the great German base, the Russians reported one village was taken by the column which has been driving westward from Vyazma and three more by the column which for weeks has been moving southward from Bely, about 85 miles to the northeast of Smolensk.

**Village Captured**  
The single village captured was taken during a night attack and success came after the Germans had mixed it with the Russians, using bayonets and hand grenades, the communique said. More than 100 Germans were reported killed and a small quantity of equipment was seized.

In a neighboring sector a Russian scouting party slipped behind the German lines and attacked a German infantry column moving up to the front, killing 70 Germans with machine (Continued on Page Three)

### Trash Fire Calls Sign of Spring

Surest sign of spring is the number of calls received by the city fire department from property owners who feel the urge to clean up after winter's onslaught.

A great many trash fires were burning in Klamath Falls over the weekend as yards were given good rakings. The Great Northern railway was given a burning permit Monday as they cleared up at their South Sixth street docks.

Sunday's temperature rose to 64 degrees during the afternoon.

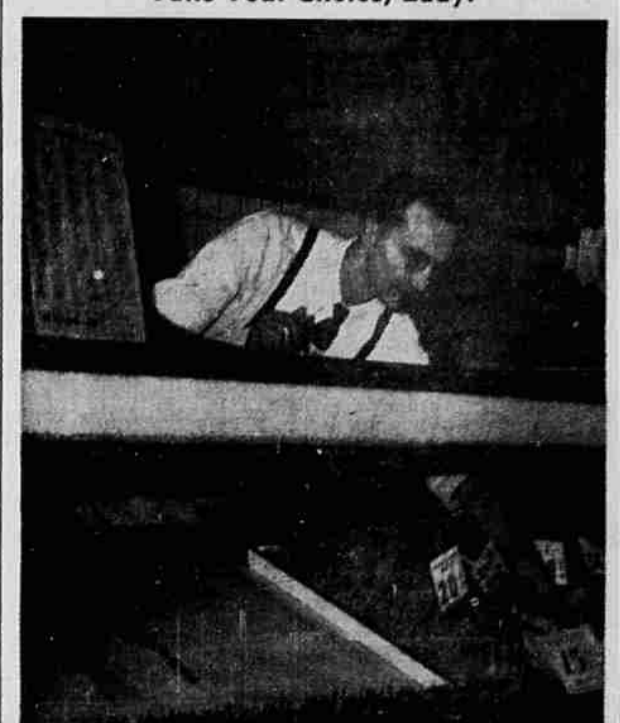
### Oregon Collects Over Five Million In Income Taxes

SALEM, March 29 (P)—The state tax commission said today it has collected \$5,500,000 in income taxes so far this year, about \$850,000 more than was collected in the corresponding period last year.

The returns indicate that another record will be set, and that the reduction applying to payments made next year, under the formula approved by the recent legislature, will be at least 30 per cent and possibly much more.

State income taxes are due April 15 this year.

### "Take Your Choice, Lady!"



A pan of hamburger in a local butcher shop Monday gave the shopper her choice of hamburger or hamburger! Meat eating families fairly cleaned Klamath shops of steaks, roasts, stews and chops, and by Monday morning there was little variety to be found in town. "Si" Baker, butcher, handles the situation as best he can.

### Local Meat Rationing Sees Shortage of Favored Cuts

Additional meat rationing story on page eight, chart of processed food values on page four.

Elk meat augmented many a Sunday dinner as Klamath housewives entered the nationwide experience of meat rationing and found their favorite cuts of lamb, beef and pork practically non-existent.

Some beef, a little lunch meat and a few chickens, along with rationed cheese, were left in Monday's cases. Several shops were closed for at least two days, waiting for the small amount of beef on hand to age

### Miners Agree to Continue Talks On New Contract

NEW YORK, March 29 (P)—Southern Appalachian soft coal mine operators and the United Mine Workers of America agreed today to continue negotiations for a new contract for 30 days after March 31 when the present one expires, thus assuring continuation of work in the mines.

The northern operators had previously agreed to such a plan. Under the agreement, similar to one signed by the northern operators and the union, any pay increases granted would be retroactive to April 1.

The agreement, announced by Dr. John R. Steelman, director of the U. S. conciliation service, who entered the negotiations today, said:

"It is agreed that the mines represented in this conference shall continue in operation under all existing agreements for 30 days after April 1, 1943, in accordance with the request of the president of the United States as affecting a continuation of work on a retroactive basis.

### U. S. Supreme Court Asked for Decision On Jap Exclusion

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29 (P)—The U. S. circuit court of appeals, seeking to determine whether the order excluding Japanese from the west coast was constitutional, has asked the United States supreme court for certain definitions upon which to base a final decision.

Involved in the case are two American citizens of Japanese ancestry, Gordon Kiyoshi Hirabayashi of Seattle and Minoru Yasui of Hood River, Ore., who appealed from district court convictions of violating sections of the military order providing for exclusion and control of both alien and American Japanese.

## NAVAL FORCES BATTER NAZI GABES AREA

### Rommel's Retreating Lines Struck Heavily

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 29 (P)—The Gabes area, toward which Field Marshal Erwin Rommel is retreating, has been subjected to a heavy naval bombardment, it was announced today.

Allied naval forces were announced to have subjected the Gabes area, through which the axis columns must pass to escape encirclement, to a heavy bombardment.

Supplementary Force (This dispatch did not bring out immediately the makeup of the naval task force or the time it struck. Such a foray might have been executed from Algerian, Libyan or Egyptian bases to supplement the air and ground attacks upon Rommel's troops fleeing from the Mareth line).

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Mareth line defenses have collapsed under the pounding of the British eighth army and his forces are retreating northward with heavy losses, it was announced today.

**Scattered Resistance**  
Scattered pockets of resistance were left behind, but Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's infantrymen were reported mopping them up, one by one, as allied aerial squadrons joined ground forces in powerful attacks along the axis escape corridor.

The Mareth line broke on a 25-mile front at three points, ranging from 20 to 30 miles from the axis supply port of Gabes.

Beset by powerful forces for (Continued on Page Three)

### Harry French Gets Future Date Parole

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., March 29 (P)—Eighteen convicted murderers have been denied paroles by the state board of prison terms and paroles.

The board heard 256 cases at its meeting at San Quentin prison, denying 160 and granting future date paroles to 95.

Harry A. French of Alturas, convicted of killing Claude McCracken, newspaper editor in that Modoc county community, was granted a future date parole, to become effective after serving half of his 25-year sentence.

French shot McCracken on March 25, 1937, and was sentenced to death. This was commuted to life imprisonment in 1939, and was further commuted to the 25-year term in 1942 by Governor Culbert Olson.

### Jury List Drawn For Wallan Trial

A jury list has been drawn for the trial of Kenneth Wallan, charged with second degree murder in the Christmas eve killing of James Bowman during a fight.

Trial has been set for Wednesday, March 31, beginning at 10 a. m. in circuit court. J. C. O'Neill is attorney for the defendant.

### Okies Head West Again-- This Time on Plush Seats

POTEAU, Okla., March 29 (P)—The Okies are heading west again.

But this time they have been invited and they are traveling on the plush cushions of railroad day coaches instead of in the battered patched and weary jalopies of the depression days.

One hundred and thirteen families, totaling 442 persons, left by special train yesterday for Washington and Oregon, traveling as the guests of the government. They will work on the dairy and truck farms of Washington and Oregon.

Owners of the farms, facing a labor shortage, asked for Oklahomans. The farm security administration, sponsor of the move, is guaranteeing each family head \$80 a month wages for 10 months of the year.

This, the FSA says, is twice the cash income of each of the families in their native hills. In addition each family will have