



## War Moves Today

By J. W. T. MASON  
United Press War Expert

Offensive operations which the British have started against Italian forces in North Africa seem primarily for the purpose of disrupting the new enemy advanced base at Sidi Barrani and the newly constructed line of communications running back to the Libyan border. Associated with this movement is an effort to cut off the Italian forces at Sidi Barrani and vicinity.

The Italians occupied Sidi Barrani Sept. 16. Since then they have dug wells and made more effective the desert road connections with Libya, about 60 miles westward, where the main Italian Army is centered.

Sidi Barrani has been transformed into a fairly strong base for any eventual Italian drive eastward through the Egyptian desert to Alexandria, Cairo and Suez. If the enemy position there can be disrupted, it will be necessary for Marshal Graziani to reorganize all his plans for an offensive.

The Italians have moved most of their Sidi Barrani forces slightly southward from the Mediterranean Coast line. The coast is open to bombardment by the British Mediterranean fleet and Graziani has tried to overcome this handicap by getting as far as possible out of range of the naval guns.

The British drive is aimed against the southern extension of the Italian front, which apparently extends some 35 miles away from the coast. The British strategy is to fold up the Italian right wing in an effort to force it back to the coast as targets for the British fleet.

Were that to happen, the Italians

would have to abandon Sidi Barrani and begin a retirement toward Libya. Between Sidi Barrani and the Libyan border there is no first-class intermediate base. Once the Italians were dislodged from Sidi Barrani, it would be unsafe for them to try to make a permanent base elsewhere than along the Libyan frontier.

As an alternative to being driven back to the coast, the Italians might move their entire force westward toward Libya, retreating by a straight line along the 35-mile front which runs south from Sidi Barrani. Such an operation, however, would require complete abandonment of Sidi Barrani without determined resistance.

The importance of Sidi Barrani to the Italian plans, however, makes it certain that Marshal Graziani will have to resist the British advance to the uttermost.

## 30,000 Italians in Egypt Reported in British Trap

Greeks Roll Forward in  
Albania, R. A. F. Bombs  
Port of Valona.

(Continued from Page One)

increased the Government was confident the Nazi threat could be overcome.

In Moscow, it was disclosed that Soviet Union defense preparations are being pushed with greatest vigor. This followed persistent reports that Russia has refused to agree to German thrusts into the Balkans.

Soviet Russia is "encircled" by capitalistic foes, according to a speech by Gen. G. K. Zhukov, commander of the important Kiev military district, and the Red Army "must be trained to feel the bitterest hatred and contempt for our enemies," regardless of who those enemies may be.

### Balkans Nearby

The foreign area most directly "encircled" the Kiev district is the Balkans, especially Rumania, where the Nazis recently have tightened their grip.

Referring to military developments, the Fascist newspaper spokesman, Virgilio Gayda, said that Italy was confident of eventual victory, but realized that the war involved great sacrifices.

### African War Front

The British version of the desert operations in Egypt was that the Italian lines had been sliced through to the coast and that an effort was being made to drive the Italians back from advance bases at Maktala and Nebewa so that the British naval and air force could bombard them.

London admitted, however, that the Italians had superior numbers and possibly superior equipment and the outcome of the battle may depend upon speed of maneuver.

From the Italian viewpoint, a Rome communiqué said that the British obviously were attempting to force the Italians to fight on two fronts—Greece and Africa—both of which presented difficult supply problems and it was suggested in Fascist sources that the British would concentrate all of their power against Italy because of in-

ability to strike at Germany at present.

The Rome communiqué admitted that Libyan troops on the advance lines had been forced to fall back on Sidi Barrani after fierce fighting but said that the famous Blackshirt Division and the first Libyan Division withstood attack "of exceptional violence" on Monday and yesterday. The fighting continued severe, it added.

### Greek-Italian War

Dispatches to Jugoslavia said Greek artillery shells were crashing into Telepin, setting fires and causing heavy casualties. The shelling came from the village of Bence, which they occupied early today after a fierce battle. They also were attempting to outflank Port Palermo, into which Italians who formerly held Porto Edda had been driven.

It was reported that fierce fighting also raged on the Central Front where Italians were said to have repulsed in stubborn fighting a Greek attempt to enter the village of Gramsi.

The Greeks were reported to encircled Gramsi and to have pushed troops to within a mile of the town.

An Athens communiqué said that British and Greek planes attacking Valona, hit a number of harbor establishments and buildings in an effort to break the line over which Italian supplies and reinforcements have been moving from Italy.

The Italian communiqué reported no developments worthy of mention on the Albanian front.

### Reaction to Hitler Talk

While British sources viewed Adolf Hitler's speech in a Berlin arms factory yesterday as a sign of weakness, dispatches from Turkey indicated belief—or hope—that the Balkans would escape a new war thrust at least until spring.

Turkish sources indicated more strongly than ever that Soviet Russia had failed to fall into line with German plans in the Balkans and that no immediate Nazi move in that direction (to aid Italy or to attack Britain in the Near East) was to be expected.

## IN INDIANAPOLIS

### Here Is the Traffic Record

	County	City	Total
1939	40	52	92
1940	50	87	137
Dec. 10			
Injured	5	Accidents	14
Dead	1	Arrests	122
<b>TUESDAY'S TRAFFIC COURT</b>			
Cases Convic- Fines			
Violations tried tions paid			
Speeding 45 44 \$230			
Reckless driving 12 11 9			
Failure to stop at 18 14 14			
through street			
Disobeying traffic signals 16 12 16			
Drunken driving 0 0 0			
All others 115 111 37			
<b>Totals</b> 206 192 \$306			

### MEETINGS TOMORROW

Indianapolis Real Estate Board, luncheon; Hotel Washington, noon. Advertisers Club, luncheon; Indianapolis Athletic Club, noon. Caravan Club, luncheon; Muslim Association, noon. Oil Club, luncheon; Hotel Seville, noon. Legion of Leagues of Indianapolis, luncheon. Spin-Arms Hotel, noon. Curtis, 8th Street Club, meeting, 110 E. Ninth St., 8 p.m. luncheon. Canary Club, 8th Street Club, meeting. Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association, luncheon. Russel, 10th Street Club, luncheon. Motor Transportation Club, Inc., luncheon. Fox's Steak House, noon meeting. Hotel Seville, all day. Sigma Chi, 75th anniversary dinner. Indianapolis Club, 8:30 p.m. Pennzoil Co., luncheon and meeting. County Assessors, all-day meeting. Claypool Hotel, administration, dinner. Claypool Hotel, 6:30 p.m. Title Foundation, dinner. Claypool Hotel, 8:30 p.m. Bookbinders' Union, 53, meeting. Hotel Seville, 8:30 a.m. breakfast and dinner. Hotel Seville, 8:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. Parks and Recreation Administration, school. Hotel Seville, all day.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

(These lists are from official records in the County Court House. The Times therefore, is not responsible for errors in names and addresses.)

Charles Albright, 28, of 823 N. Beville; Carlene, 21, of 414 N. Beville; Willard E. Johnston, 19, of 4911 Clinton; LaVerne Gardner, 22, of 1424 N. Linwood Place; Elmer C. Brock, 16, of 1226 N. Senate; Jackson, 28, of 22 W. Arizona; Jeanne White, 19, of 1532 E. Ohio; Kenneth B. McCollum, 21, of 100 N. Y.; Martha Stanford, 19, of 5309 Julian.

### BIRTHS

Girls  
Walter, Louise Lorraine, at St. Vincent's Hospital, Indianapolis; Pauline Armstrong, at St. Francis Hospital, Virginia Armstrong, at St. Francis Hospital; Forrest, Martha Gildewell, at Coleman Thompson, Emily Kuri, at Coleman Hospital; Ruth, Ruth Gildewell, at Coleman Hospital; George, Mary Scrusham, at 1510 Sycamore.

Boys  
Walter, Marcia McDaniels, at St. Vincent's Hospital.

### OFFICIAL WEATHER

U. S. Weather Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS FORECAST: Cloudy with occasional rain tonight and tomorrow; slightly warmer tonight—with lowest temperature about 38.

Sunrise ..... 6:37 Sunset ..... 4:20  
TEMPERATURE  
Dec. 11, 1940  
6 a.m. 38 1 p.m. 48

BAROMETER  
6:30 a.m. 30.34

Precipitation 24 hrs ending 7 a.m. 0  
0.00 in. Deficiency since Jan. 1 ..... 11.72

MIDWEST WEATHER

Indiana—Cloudy, occasional rain in south and rain or snow in north portion of state and tomorrow; slightly warmer tonight.

WEATHER IN OTHER CITIES, 6:30 A. M.

Stations Weather Bar. Temp.

Amarillo, Tex. ..... Cloudy 30.07 28

Boston, N. E. ..... Partly 30.28 25

Chicago ..... Cloudy 30.35 29

Cleveland ..... Cloudy 30.35 35

Dodge City, Kan. ..... Cloudy 30.04 24

Jacksonville, Fla. ..... Foggy 30.30 49

Little Rock, Ark. ..... Partly 30.28 30

Los Angeles ..... Cloudy 29.85 55

Mobile, Ala. ..... Foggy 30.23 48

New Orleans ..... Partly 30.37 37

Okla. City, Okla. ..... Cloudy 30.12 37

Portland, Ore. ..... Partly 30.25 32

Pittsburgh ..... Cloudy 30.38 34

Portland, Ore. ..... Clear 30.27 40

San Antonio, Tex. ..... Partly 30.25 40

San Francisco ..... Clear 29.88 44

Tampa, Fla. ..... Clear 30.32 48

Washington, D. C. ..... Cloudy 30.38 48

Strauss  
says:

Next  
SATURDAY NIGHT  
and next  
MONDAY NIGHT  
the store will be  
open till NINE.

ability to strike at Germany at present.

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We have ties

for 7.50—made with

22-carat gold thread

We have ties at \$6 from

the celebrated Countess

Mara.

We have ties at \$5, 3.50,

2.50 and 1.50—

the choicest from Uncle

Samuel, Jonathan Bull

—and other sources

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