

# ITALIANS FLEEING INTO DEATH TRAP

British Capture Thousands  
More in Egypt; Greeks  
Take Porto Palermo.

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Ship of 4000 tons on the Norwegian Coast. The Admiralty said that the supply ship was "deeply laden and probably was carrying a large cargo of ore to Germany."

## Egyptian Front

In Egypt there was a tacit Italian admission that the whirlwind offensive of Gen. Archibald Wavell was rolling toward Sollum, on the Libyan frontier.

The Rome communiqué reported terrific battles from Sidi Barrani to Sollum. There still was no formal Italian admission of the fall of Sidi Barrani. Of Greek operations the Rome communiqué was noncommittal.

**Stand at Border Possible**  
London said the Italians were fleeing toward a potential death trap at the desert bottle neck at Sollum. Retreating west from Sidi Barrani the Italians have only one good highway as they approach the Libyan frontier. This road is close to the coast where British warships have been bombarding the Italian columns.

Some British military experts suggested that Benito Mussolini might have to call out the Italian fleet to engage the British Mediterranean fleet if he was to avert a possible debacle at the bottle-neck.

However, London suggested that the British advance in Egypt should not be expected to continue indefinitely—possible hint that it may cease at the Libyan frontier where, it was believed, the Italians have substantial fortifications.

It was pointed out that the advance would be handicapped by sand storms and the need for overhauling mechanized equipment.

## Prisoners Major Problem

The task of handling Italian prisoners was becoming a major problem, it was said.

The British also are taking huge quantities of Italy's most modern war equipment.

The retreat is so rapid that even mechanized forces are hard put to keep in contact with the Italians who are abandoning equipment of every sort, it was asserted in Cairo.

Many crack units of Fascist Black Shirt militia, Mussolini's pride, were reported to have been captured almost intact.

News reaching Cairo said that the British attack was made at the breakout point over an arc of some 45 miles.

British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops stormed the Italian fortified camps screening the Sidi Barrani area one by one. As the camps were overwhelmed, the British Empire forces closed in, in an ever-diminishing arc, until the Italians, surrounded on three sides were hemmed in with their backs to the sea, from which the British fleet, in complete control of the Mediterranean, shelled them.

## Make Fierce Stand

The Italians made a fierce last stand, according to reports, and there was savage fighting before the British Empire troops entered the town.

Gen. Wavell visited the British advance headquarters in the desert yesterday and conferred with Gen. Sir Henry Wilson, commander-in-chief of the army in Egypt.

Egyptians are jubilant over the British victory, Gallo reported. They felt that the Italian threat to Egypt had been averted for a long time if not for good.

## Greek-Italian War

Reports circulated in Athens—based apparently on the talk of a captured Italian officer—that the Italian High Command was split on the question whether to ask the Greeks for an armistice or allow Greek troops to penetrate farther into Albania's mountain wilds in hope that eventually an effective counter-attack could be undertaken.

The armistice rumor had no



Field Marshal Rodolfo Graziani—Italian general's spearhead in Egypt snaps off under British pressure.

confirmation in official Greek or Italian quarters. The Fascist officer was quoted as saying that, in any event, Italy planned a great spring offensive to recoup her position in Albania.

**35 Miles From Valona**  
Capture of Porto Palermo brought the Greek spearhead to within 35 miles of Valona, Albania's second port where freighters were reported standing by to evacuate Italian troops, if necessary.

It was believed the Greeks would soon push to Chirana, five miles farther north on the old coastal mule track, now cluttered with fleeing Italians. On the northern front in the vital Mokra mountains which protect the central Italian base of Elbasan Greek successes against Alpine ski troops were reported.

Frontier reports to Jugoslavia said the Greeks had driven to positions about two miles south of Tepelini and that the situation of this Italian base north of Argyrokastron was believed critical.

**Shells Start Fires**  
Fires were started in Tepelini by Greek shells and some reports said the Italians had started to move troops north to the village of Dukas on the road to Valona.

The Italians were described as retreating from village to village, fighting a rear guard action.

Heavy cannonading was heard off the Dalmatian port of Dubrovnik in Jugoslavia and it was believed British ships might be attacking Italian transports en route to Dan Giovanni di Mea, northermost port of Albania.

## Balkans

Turkey believed that danger of an Axis blitzkrieg through the Balkans had been averted until spring by the Greek and British successes against the Italian and apparent Russian opposition to spread of Nazi influence further southward toward the Danube.

The new Hungarian-Jugoslav treaty of friendship, signed yesterday, was cited as evidence of lessening of Balkan tension.

**VESSELS SIDESWIPED**  
NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (U. P.)—Two steamships which sideswiped each other in dense fog outside New York harbor late yesterday docked under their own power to day, neither seriously damaged. The 5486-ton S. Berkshire, was steaming toward New York and the S. S. Charles L. O'Connor, 2351 tons was outward bound lightly loaded at the time.

The armistice rumor had no

## IN INDIANAPOLIS

### Here Is the Traffic Record

	County	City	Total
1939	40	52	92
1940	50	87	137

—Dec. 12—

Injured..... 4 Accidents.... 13

Dead..... 0 Arrests.... 66

**THURSDAY'S TRAFFIC COURT**

Cases Convict-Fines

Violations tried cases paid

Speeding..... 25 22 \$15.00

Reckless driving..... 14 16 15.00

Failure to stop at through street..... 6 6 10

Disobeying traffic signals..... 5 3 0

Drunken driving..... 2 2 95

All others..... 119 117 42

Totals..... 172 164 307

### MEETINGS TODAY

Exchange Club, luncheon, Hotel Severin, noon.

Optimist Club, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Home & Conditioning Council, dinner, Riley Hotel, 6 p. m.

Fri. Delta Theta, luncheon, Canary Cottage, noon.

Kappa Sigma, luncheon, Canary Cottage, noon.

Indiana Importers Dealers' Association, annual convention, Hotel Severin, all day.

Annual Indiana History Conference, Hotel Lincoln, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Indiana State Teachers' Union, meeting, Hotel Severin, 7:30 p. m.

Lithographers' Union, meeting, Hotel Indiana.

Equitable Life Association, Christmas party, Hotel Severin, Co., luncheon and meeting, Hotel Severin, noon.

Waukegan Lions Club, luncheon, Association meeting, Hotel Washington, 8 p. m.

Electric League, luncheon, Claypool Hotel, 11:15 a. m.

Waukegan County Assessors, meeting, Claypool Hotel.

Claypool Variety Club, dinner, Claypool Hotel, 7 p. m.

### MEETINGS TOMORROW

Telephone Co. employees, Hotel Severin, 2 p. m.

Commercial Motor Freight, Hotel Severin, 10:30 a. m.

Indiana Field Blue Goose, dance Hotel Waukegan, 10 a. m. and 1 p. m.

Indiana Federation of Labor, Claypool Hotel.

Professional Engineers Association meeting, Claypool Hotel, 12:30 p. m.

Waukegan Industrial Association, Claypool Hotel, 10 a. m. and 1 p. m.

Principals' Association, Claypool Hotel.

Friends of Pioneers, Claypool, 9:30 p. m.

## POLICE, BENCH PASS THE BUCK ON AUTO TOLL

Privately, Each Blames  
Other for the 87 Deaths  
In City Traffic.

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ed for speeding again on N. Senate Ave.

When he appeared in court Wednesday on the Saturday night violation, he was convicted, but judgment was withheld—he went free without any penalty.

When he again appeared in court yesterday to answer to the Sunday night charge, he was convicted by Judge McNells and fined \$2 and costs, which amounts to \$12.

In some instances, the court tembers justice generously with mercy. Take the case of the woman who pleaded guilty to crashing a traffic signal on West St. When Judge McNells found she could pay only \$2 of her \$3 fine, he suspended the whole thing.

After court was over yesterday, Judge McNells discussed with reporters his point of view toward the traffic situation from the bench.

A judge can't merely look at the violation in passing sentence, he said. He must take the individual—his background, his resources, his previous traffic record—into consideration as well.

### Police Favor Stiff Fines

For most violators, Judge McNells believes, the tribulation and discomfort of sitting several hours in a densely packed, overheated courtroom where the air is stale and fetid is punishment enough.

Courtly, Police officials disagree with this point of view. They favor stiff fines—even days at the State Farm for major violations. This disagreement has persisted for years.

Both sides believe something could be done toward a meeting of the minds if both sat down around one of City Hall's grass-topped conference tables. But neither has yet made the offer.

### 164 Fined \$1.70 Average In 'Fairly Heavy Day'

In the traffic court of Judge John J. McNells yesterday, 164 persons convicted of traffic violations paid average fines of \$1.70 a piece. On the average, 22 speeders were paid while the average fine for reckless driving was 40 cents. Altogether, 172 cases were tried and fines totaled \$307. This was described by Judge McNells as a "fairly heavy day."

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**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**  
THIRTEEN LETTERS

Although accurate figures on the matter were not available, there are many persons in Indianapolis with 13 letters in their names who have birthdays on the 13th, some of whom become 13 years old today and others who don't. Still others are connected in other ways with No. 13, in a great deal more than 13 different ways.

Among those who have 13 letters in their first, second or full names or first or second combined are Bill Schneider, 429 Moreland St., who is 3 today; Molly Margaret Chapman, 115 N. Greely St., who is 1 today and a 13th grandchild; Johnny Vincent Wampier, 410 N. Wallace St., who is 13 months old today; Susanne Decker, 3307 E. Washington St., who is 5, and Bettie J. Willis, 444 S. Collier St., who is 13 today and using the "Bettie" spelling rather than "Betty," which she sometimes uses.

Bettie—or Betty—is in the 7B grade at the Fleming Garden school and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Willis.

Margaret Ellen Hogan, who also has 13 letters in his first two names is 13 today and there may be a party for her at her home, 318 N. Forest Ave.

**JUST QUAKE, NOT BOMBS**  
LONDON, Dec. 13 (U. P.)—An earthquake shook northwestern Wales for 13 seconds last night, rocking the town of Pwllheli. Carnarvon County until inhabitants ran into the street believing there was an air raid.

**OFFICIAL WEATHER**  
U. S. Weather Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS FORECAST—Partly cloudy, with a high of 48 degrees; lowest temperature 16 to 18 degrees; tomorrow partly cloudy and slowly rising temperature, followed by light snow.

SUNSET..... 4:20 Sunrise..... 6:50  
6 a. m..... 34 1 p. m..... 31

BAROMETER..... 30.40  
Precipitation 24 hrs. ending 7 a. m. .... 44  
Total precipitation since Jan. 1..... 10.86

**MIDWEST WEATHER**  
Indiana—Generally fair in north, cloudy in south portion, colder tonight; tomorrow cloudy with slowly rising temperature, followed by snow.

Illinois—Partly cloudy in north, cloudy in south portion, colder tonight; tomorrow cloudy with slowly rising temperature, followed by snow.

Lower Michigan—Partly cloudy and cold, with some snow flurries in east and northern portions tonight; tomorrow cloudy with slowly rising temperature, followed by snow in southwest and extreme south portion.

Ohio—Fair in north and some clouds in south portion, cold tonight; tomorrow cloudy with a cold wave; tomorrow cloudy with cold wave.

Kentucky—Cloudy and much colder with light rain, changing to snow in extreme north and extreme east portion tonight; tomorrow cold and cloudy.

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

Station Weather Bar. Temp.

Amarillo, Tex. Rain 20 20

Atlanta, Ga. Rain 30 30

Chicago, Ill. Rain 30 33

Cincinnati, Ohio Rain 30 34

Denver, Colo. Rain 30 33

Des Moines, Iowa Rain 30 32

Florida, Fla. Rain 30 32

Jacksonville, Fla. Rain 30 32

Kansas City, Mo. Rain 30 30

Las Vegas, Nev. Rain 30 30

Los Angeles, Calif. Rain 30 30

Miami, Fla. Rain 30 33

Mobile, Ala. Rain