

ITALIAN NAVAL SQUADRON SMASHED IN 20 MINUTES

By J. H. YINDRICH
United Press Staff Correspondent

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, Dec. 13 (Delayed).—Four Allied destroyers, churning a foaming wake in a sea, steamed at more than 40 miles an hour into a dimly outlined battle fleet under a moonless blue sky at 2:30 a.m. today.

Twenty minutes later, their speed unslackened, they steamed away, without a scratch, leaving one 5000-ton Italian cruiser blazing, another sinking, its back broken; a torpedo boat crippled and a motor torpedo boat blown to pieces.

Aboard this Netherlands destroyer of the Allied Mediterranean fleet, named for one of the Dutch Navy men who were the terror of the English fleet of King Charles II in the 17th century, I saw the fight, if fight it can be called, perhaps the swiftest, and the deadliest considering the elapsed time, of the naval phase of the war.

GERMAN FLIGHT JAMS HIGHWAYS

Tens of Thousands Facing Trap in 'Napoleon Sector' West of Moscow.

MOSCOW, Dec. 20 (U.P.)—The entire German Central Army is rolling back on the front west of Moscow, leaving picked sub-machine gunners to fight rear guard actions in a desperate attempt to impede the Russians who now threaten to trap tens of thousands with tank and cavalry flank attacks, dispatches say today.

Red Army men and transports are advancing through hundreds of liberated villages over the entire Moscow front and Russian reconnaissance planes report that highways and secondary roads in the Mozhaisk sector, along Napoleon's tragic Warsaw road, are congested with fleeing German tanks, armored cars, trucks and infantry columns.

Russian armies on the northern and southern flanks had forced the Germans back until their entire center was in peril.

Ruza Stormed

It was evident, dispatches said, that as the northern German flank, retreating from Kalinin west of Moscow, had come into line with the Central Army in a general northwest-southeast direction, the German High Command had finally given the order for a general retreat.

Russian troops had stormed Ruza, 54 miles west of Moscow, and it was believed here that the thousands of Germans in the Ruza garrison had been trapped.

To the north, between Mozhaisk and Volokolamsk, big Russian cavalry units had charged through the German lines and were reported turning a retreat into a rout.

Free Into Woods

Remnants of the broken German 126th Infantry Division were reported to have fled into the woods in this sector, where those who lived to surrender would be the lucky ones.

To the north, toward Kalinin, one division of the German 29th Army Corps was reported fleeing in scattered knots.

The Soviet Information Bureau reported that remnants of the German Army in the Tula area, south of Moscow, were throwing in even their engineers, signalmen and motor repairmen in a vain attempt to stem the Russian advance.

A correspondent of Pravda said that many officers and soldiers now believed that the war would end unfavorably for Germany.

"An officer named Klicius Elies deserted to the Russian lines near Dubna and said that the Germans had suffered a devastating blow on the Moscow front," Pravda reported.

Many Nazis Fear Death

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A German radio broadcast, heard by National Broadcasting Co., said that the retirement "along the entire Eastern Front" is to establish efficient new battlefields. A Finnish communiqué said that the Russians were attacking in the north but had been "thrown back."

A Red communiqué said that in the one week up to Wednesday the Russians in their offensive had captured eight undamaged German guns, 48 armored trucks, 48 field guns, 231 mine throwers, 650 heavy machine guns, 1093 automatic rifles, 3729 trucks and 440 motorcycles.

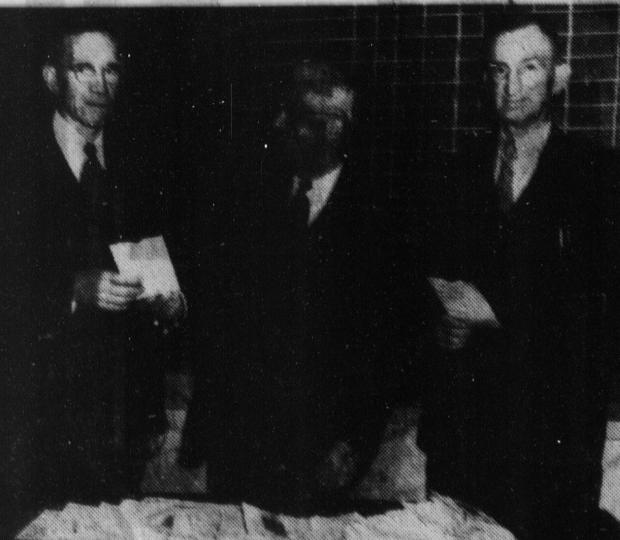
CALL TOWNSENDITES TO AID IN DEFENSE

Indiana Townsend Club members will be registered next week, in the national effort, it was announced today by B. J. Brown, national representative here of the pension movement.

A 14-member committee, headed by Walter Bossert of Liberty, is working on the plan which will make an estimated 150,000 members available for whatever work the Government desires.

"No person is too old to serve in some capacity," Mr. Bossert said. "We will register and classify all over 44 years of age. Should a shortage of farm labor, mechanics, nurses or any other service arise, we will be able to supply thousands who have retired but are anxious to do their part, releasing younger men for service."

Bonds Given as Bonuses



C. H. Wallerich (center) presents a bonus to H. L. Ware (left) and G. C. Hamilton, the two oldest employees of the Wallerich Co.

Defense bonds were plentiful at a party last night at the C. H. Wallerich Co., 950 N. Meridian St., when the 81 employees shared \$14,000 worth of the bonds, given to them as a Christmas bonus.

C. H. Wallerich, president of the Chrysler and Plymouth distributing firm, made the presentation following a talk by Russell W. Mc-

WASHINGTON CALLING

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mechanical refrigerators, plus automobiles.

TOUGH TIMES ahead for automobile dealers (\$100,000 employees) installment finance companies. Few automobiles, tire very little gasoline. East coast tankers will have to be used in Pacific areas as soon as convoy systems can be organized. Rationing on East coast likely.

WATCH THE CHINESE. Up to now they've had to fight with pop-guns. Real weapons are beginning to reach them. Some say they'll make the Japs look like sissies when it comes to taking chances.

NEWS OF NAZI "ROUT" is heady wine; beware morning-after body with Hitler get the French fleet, say those here who know the aged marshal.

Broader Sales Tax?

DON'T EXPECT lower state taxes to offset rising Federal taxes. White House is encouraging states to retire debts or accumulate reserves to meet postwar problems.

Sales tax revenues (state and city) will dip as goods get hard to buy. Sales taxes may be broadened to make up for this.

NO SOFT-DRINK drought in sight. Manufacturers have put away 2- to 3-year supplies of sugar. (But look for seizure of these stocks if sugar gets really scarce.)

LOOK FOR sabotage attempts over holidays. Officials believe

they'll be made to come to Washington.

Call Townsendites to aid in defense

BURIAL TODAY FOR MRS. DEEMA E. LEE

Deema E. Lee, wife of John W. Lee, 255 S. Sherman Drive, will be buried in Memorial Park today following services at 2:30 p.m. at the Moore and Kirk funeral home on E. Washington St.

Mrs. Lee, who died yesterday at the age of 56, is survived by her husband and two sisters, Mrs. Harry Perkins of Lorain, O., and Mrs. Minnie Mundora of Fostoria, O.

ROSEMARY LANE MAY WED

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (U.P.)—Hamilton (Bush) Westmeyer, Hollywood make-up man, said today that he will know "definitely Sunday or Monday" whether or not he will propose to Rosemary Lane, motion picture star.

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