

# ALLIED OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED IN EGYPT

American Planes Participate in Attack on Rommel's Force at Alamein; Driving Axis From Africa May Be Objective.

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terday continued their pressure on enemy landing grounds in the forward area. In combat yesterday we destroyed eight enemy fighters and damaged many others."

The offensive, which observers believed would develop into the battle to decide the fate of North Africa once and for all, appeared to be following the approved desert pattern.

The air attacks, as in the past, were directed against areas just behind the front where axis fighters are based and the forward munition dumps are accumulated.

For several weeks, there had been increasing indications that a new offensive—either allied or axis—was impending in the desert.

The eighth army, it had been disclosed, had received strong reinforcements, including quantities of American-made tanks, planes and materials, and the royal air force held an air superiority it had never enjoyed outside of England.

It also was apparent that the axis was seeking to reinforce Rommel's forces. For two weeks, they had been sending swarms of planes against Malta, the British Mediterranean fortress dominating the supply routes to Africa.

## Breaks Long Lull

The eighth army's attack broke a seven-week lull which began after Rommel's attempt to smash through the Alamein line and wheel northward to the coast had been frustrated. Rommel had hoped to repeat the classic maneuver he achieved at Bir Hacheim, which led to the British expulsion from Libya in June.

The effort cost Rommel an estimated 100 tanks and thousands of motorized vehicles. He attacked the Alamein line Aug. 31, penetrating more than 10 miles of British mine fields in the forward positions, then pivoting to the northeast. Then he was stopped by direct artillery fire from a massed 25-pounders and an incessant air attack.

It was uncertain whether Rommel was in Egypt now. He recently visited Adolf Hitler in Berlin and there were reports that he was remaining there. Other reports said he had returned to the front.

Axis fears have been rising to notable heights in recent days, particularly concerning the possibility of allied moves in West Africa directed against the Vichy French bases of Dakar and North Africa.

## Malta Attacks Recalled

Any campaign in West Africa presumably would be timed to coincide with the assault on Rome in the east which presumably is planning down the German general's main forces, preventing him from diverting troops to the west to meet any threat which might develop in his rear.

The opening of the desert campaign followed the traditional pattern of North African warfare. It was preceded, however, by an unusually heavy air bombardment which has been in progress for more than a week. During this period allied planes have struck on almost a 24-hour basis against axis desert bases and supply lines across the Mediterranean.

At the same time the axis has been making desperate efforts to knock out Malta in order to clear the way for safer transport of supplies and men from the Italian mainland to Africa.

## 29 Killed, Rome Says

The RAF attack on northern Italy picked for its targets the cities of Genoa, Turin and Savona. Genoa is the most important northern Italian port. The other cities are sites of big Italian industrial plants which have been integrated in the German war effort.

Both the Italian and German communications noted the heavy air battles in Africa and reported land fighting on an increasing scale. Rome reported that 29 persons were killed and 121 wounded in the Thursday night attack on Genoa in which it was admitted that serious damage was inflicted. Last night's attack brought 14 fatal casualties at Savona, Rome said.

It was the first time in two years that the RAF had blasted at northern Italy for two successive nights and never before had so heavy a concentration of planes been sent against the region.

## HARVEY BENHAM, 75, DIES AT HOME HERE

Harvey Benham, retired Illinois Central railroad employee, died today in his home, 2851 Kenwood ave. He was 75.

Mr. Benham had been a resident of Indianapolis 19 years. He was a member of the Christian church and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Born in Green City, Ind., Mr. Benham is survived by his wife, Mollie E.; a son, Dr. Raleigh Benham; a daughter, Mrs. N. V. Delvin; a sister, Mrs. Charles Jordan, and two granddaughters.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Monday in Prairie Chapel near Lyons, Ind. Burial will be at Bloomfield.

## OBSERVE HEARING WEEK

The Indianapolis Society for the Hard of Hearing will sponsor a broadcast at 10:45 a. m. tomorrow at WFPM in observance of national hearing week. Dr. Kenneth L. Craft, Indiana school of medicine, department of otolaryngology, will speak.

## Teachers Close Convention



Ellis B. Hargrave



Louis Fischer

## Hear Fischer Talk on India; Elect Hargrave Treasurer

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1936, was elected president of the association by acclamation, as was Mrs. Eugenia Hayden, grade school teacher at Dale, who was named vice president.

The new officers will take over their posts Jan. 1, 1943.

Speaking to the teachers in Cadel's lecture last night, both Mr. Fischer and Mr. Cooper urged that complete freedom be given to India by Great Britain but they added that it should not become fully effective until the end of the war. "Gandhi is still willing to compromise on the present situation in India," Mr. Fischer said, "and is still looking to America to help keep the situation there from developing into a crisis which can only mean an open invitation to Japanese aggression."

Mr. Fischer, who recently returned to America by clipper from India where he spent two months—one week as a house guest of Gandhi before the Indian leader's arrest by the British—said that the Indian leader is willing for Britain and the United Nations to remain in complete military control of India for the duration of the war. "He does want, however, the Indian people to be given at least nominal political independence at this time as a symbol to the world that this is a war for democracy," Mr. Fischer said.

"Your president says this war is for the four freedoms," Mr. Fischer quoted Gandhi as saying. "How can India be expected to fight for them when she herself does not enjoy them?"

Mr. Cooper, who spoke to the teachers yesterday afternoon, spoke differently of Gandhi, but said that "independence for India is inevitable."

He said that "Gandhi is a great man but he is a dreamer who fails to face realities. He is an inconsistent politician who blames Hitler for starting the war but who negotiates with Japan. I wonder if Gandhi has not lived five years too long."

An important part of yesterday's session was the adoption of resolutions concerning the responsibility

## State Spotlights 'No Politics' Rule

THE STATE PERSONNEL board today sent letters to all officials and employees in institutions and state departments under their jurisdiction reminding them of the personnel board's "no politics" rule.

Any employee or official found to be campaigning or raising funds for any candidate is subject to dismissal.

## STATE LEGION HEADS TO OPEN CONFERENCE

Leaders of the Indiana department of the American Legion will open their annual fall conference tonight at the Antlers hotel, continuing through tomorrow.

Clarence U. Gramelspacher, state commander, of Jasper, said commanders and adjutants from every post in the state have been invited.

The sessions will open with an executive committee meeting following a banquet.

Holding conferences at the same time will be the women's auxiliary, headed by Mrs. D. Walthall of Clinton, president.

Heading the speakers at tomorrow's session will be Roane Waring, national Legion commander, and other national officers.

## GROUP TO OBSERVE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Fidelity review 140, Women's Benefit association, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a rally at 8 p. m. Wednesday in Castle hall. Candidates will be initiated.

Guests will include Mrs. Minnie Olds, Elkhart, supreme auditor; Mrs. Grace Meredith, Wabash, state field director; Mrs. Alta Goodwin, Angola, state girls' and juniors' supervisor; and Mrs. Ella Butcher, Peru, state management department.

Mrs. Alice Wilshire is chairman of arrangements. Mrs. Hannah Hlatt will preside.

## SOUTH AFRICA HAS ALERT

DURBAN, South Africa, Oct. 24 (U. P.).—Explosions were heard at sea and an air raid alert sounded here for more than two hours last night. No official explanation was given.

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## TRAINING OF 18S SLOWS DRAFT

Senate Debates Whether 12 Months Is Needed for Combat Duty.

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that it takes at least 12 months to train an army division, but has pointed out that there is a "marked difference" between that and the training of the individual soldier.

Senate leaders said privately, as debate resumed, that adoption of a training restriction in connection with the bill appeared likely, despite President Roosevelt's opposition.

Three such proposals have been offered, and the first vote will come on an amendment by Senator W. Lee O'Daniel (D. Tex.), providing that "No person under 20 years inducted under this act shall be placed in actual combat duty beyond the territorial boundaries of the continental United States until after he has had at least one year's military training following his induction."

Senator George W. Norris (Ind. Neb.), author of a similar proposal, said he knew of no effort to compromise the fight through a change in the language of any of the amendments. Senator Warren R. Austin (R. Vt.) described as "ridiculous" proposals advanced yesterday to reduce the required training period to six months. He said he would fight against any restriction.

**Cites Marshall's Caution**

Senator Hill said not a member of the senate would insist on sending soldiers to face enemy bullets without proper training, and that Gen. Marshall knows that if he used improperly trained soldiers in combat he could "expect only disaster and defeat."

"If the senator is right," interposed Senator Norris, "why can't we write this amendment into the law?"

"The difference," said Senator Hill, "is that there is a misunderstanding of what is proper training."

Mr. Roosevelt, in a letter to Senator Chan Gurney (R. S. D.) author of the legislation, opposed any limitations other than those already provided. He said the "complicated administration" necessarily involved in handling large numbers of men, as well as the urgent necessity for correcting the army's present age "deficiencies" make it important to leave the bill as it is.

Democratic leader Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky hoped to complete final action tonight if the one-year training amendment is disposed of early enough.

"But you never can tell what is going to happen on a bill of this kind," he added.

Sen. John Thomas (R. Ida.) has in reserve an amendment providing that "no man under 20 years of age who is inducted into the land or naval forces under the provisions of this act shall be ordered into actual combat service until after he has been given at least 12 months of military training."

Senator David I. Walsh (D. Mass.) said he favored the amendment "because so far nobody in his chamber has had any assurance for anybody else here or for the people in this country that we have exhausted our manpower above 20 years of age."

## Mrs. Roosevelt Tells London U. S. May Conscript Women

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has been a very active group working toward that end. Since the suggestion of taking boys of 18 and 19 into the services, the group has become even more active."

A correspondent asked if President Roosevelt would "come to England."

"I think he would have liked to have come with me," she said, "but I'm afraid this is not just the moment."

Mrs. Roosevelt met the leaders of the British Women's war organizations at a luncheon given in her honor by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham palace.

Interrupting her plans for a quiet week-end after her unannounced flight across the Atlantic, the president's wife conferred with Rear Admiral Mrs. Laughton Matthews, chief of the WRENS, British naval auxiliary; Maj. Gen. Mrs. Jean Knox, head of the auxiliary territorial service, and Air Commodore Mrs. Trefusis Forbes, commander of the women's auxiliary air force.

**MRS. OVETA CULP HOBBY**, director of the American women's auxiliary army corps, also was present at the conferences. Mrs. Culp crossed the Atlantic in the same plane as Mrs. Roosevelt, who was accompanied by her secretary, Malvina Thompson.

Security measures prevented disclosure of the full program planned by Mrs. Roosevelt, but it was revealed that she intended to spend most of today quietly with King George and Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham palace. She will attend church services with them tomorrow.

For at least a week, Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Thompson will reside in a recently renovated bomb-proof suite in Buckingham palace.

Next week, Mrs. Roosevelt is expected to make a series of trips, returning to the palace each evening. The queen will accompany her on some official visits.

## Dinner at the Palace

THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE announcement of Mrs. Roosevelt's arrival said she had come to "gain first-hand knowledge of the British women's war activity and to visit the United States forces in Great Britain."

Mrs. Roosevelt, seated on the king's right, was guest of honor at a dinner party at the palace last night. The guests included Lieut. Col. Elliott Roosevelt, the president and Mrs. Roosevelt's son; Prime Minister and Lady Winston Churchill, Lord and Lady Mountbatten, South African Prime Minister Jan C. Smuts and his son, Capt. Jacobus Smuts, Ambassador John G. Winant and Miss Thompson.

London newspapers welcomed her enthusiastically.

"One thing she will find wherever she goes," the Daily Mail said, "is the impetus given by a new spirit of attack which has become vibrant in the nation. It is a spirit fully shared with the American forces and fortified by their presence."

"But its sense of values goes deeper in the belief that the long days of preparation are about to be put to the test of offensive action against the common enemy on a greater scale than any hitherto attempted."

## U. S. SHAKES UP HIGH COMMAND

Adm. Ghormley, in Charge in Solomons, Replaced By Admiral Halsey.

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ports in the Solomons under Ghormley's command.

Meanwhile, fear has been expressed in congress that the army and navy high commands still are not working in the co-operative manner they should.

There also have been reports in congress that the full story of American losses in the Solomons still is untold.

The enemy is believed maneuvering into position to choke off one of the sea supply routes to the embattled American soldiers and marines on the northern side of Guadalcanal, key island of the hard-won American positions in that southwest Pacific area.

That belief arose from three new developments:

First, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Australia headquarters revealed that army flying fortresses sank a cruiser, a destroyer and two other ships and "badly damaged" six others at Rabaul, some 640 miles to the northwest. The devastating raid possibly shattered an enemy invasion armada assembling to join the Solomons battle.

Second, the navy disclosed that the Japanese have occupied Russell island, about 30 miles northwest of Guadalcanal.

And third, the shelling of the U. S. base on Espiritu Santo island in the New Hebrides—the second attack in a week—by an enemy ship believed to be a submarine.

"She's plain. Her tanned face was unpowdered. She uses no lipstick. She is built generously and dresses without pretense."

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