

ALLIED OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED IN EGYPT

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

(Continued from Page One)

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 proved 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 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 effort 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 Hachem, 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, ill. Other reports said he had returned to the front.

Axis forces 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 Rommel 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 had 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.

22 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 Italy 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 communiques 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 to 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, 2351 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 WPEM in observance of national hearing week. Dr. Kenneth L. Craft, Indiana school of medicine, department of otorhinolaryngology, will speak.

BRADFORD WINS AUDITOR'S POST

Named by Commissioners After Tyndall Faction Yields to Pressure.

(Continued from Page One)

Interest of all party candidates in the election," Mr. Bosson said.

Control of the auditor's office was not the crux of the fight. It was a hard-bitten maneuver on the part of Bradford's old organization henchmen to reassert their power in the party.

Some of the Bradford ward chairmen admitted today that they were prepared to "lay down" on the eve of the election if the Tyndall-Jewett crowd "got too stubborn."

Faced with the possibility that Gen. Tyndall's campaign for mayor might be scuttled out from under him at the last minute, he and his aids capitulated.

Bradford Takes the Ball

"My boys tossed me the ball and I had to run with it—that's all there was to it," declared Mr. Bradford as he shook hands with scores of friends who crowded into the auditor's office at 8 a. m. today.

Word of Mr. Bradford's appointment apparently spread all over the city during the night and a large crowd of party henchmen jammed into the courthouse early today to attend the swearing-in ceremonies.

He was sworn in at 9 o'clock by Prosecutor Sherwood Blue, Republican, amid cheers from the crowd.

Mr. Bradford said:

"I am accepting the appointment to fill the unexpired term of the late Glenn B. Ralston with the full consciousness of the public trust that has been placed in me.

No Personnel Changes

"I want to make clear that no changes will be made in the personnel in the auditor's office until after the November election.

"The auditor's office is an important post in our county government and it is my only desire to fill the position in a manner that will reflect credit on those who have placed this trust in me.

"The Republican party has always stood for efficiency and honesty in government and I am well aware that the manner in which I conduct this office will serve as a standard of what the public can expect if the Republican ticket is elected Nov. 3."

Democratic Signs Come Down

The first thing Mr. Bradford did when he went into Mr. Ralston's office was to remove Democratic campaign signs and pictures of prominent Democrats. They were put in a drawer to be turned over to the executor of Mr. Ralston's estate.

Regarding the present Democratic personnel of the office, Mr. Bradford said that after the election he would "leave it up to the successful candidate" about any changes.

In other words should Mr. Moore be elected most of the Democratic personnel probably will be "liquidated" in a few days after the election.

If Sheriff Al Feeney is elected it is expected that most of the personnel will remain intact.

In Connection with the Legal Question

Concerning the length of time a substitute auditor can serve, Mr. Bradford said it has been agreed by nearly all attorneys that the new auditor can take office next Jan. 1.

Ostrom Stays Neutral

Chairman Ostrom was "on the fence" most of the time during the feuding and attempted to act as an arbiter. He is said to have started out to squelch the Bradford movement but later withdrew from that position to one as a neutral referee.

"I was holding out all the time for appointment of a Democrat at least until after the election," Mr. Ostrom said.

"I think that would have been the best way out of the controversy and let the election decide who should be in the office."

The conference at which the appointment was made was described by party leaders today as "a strange spectacle."

Old Foes Meet

"Party leaders who have hated each other for many years were sitting in a circle glaring daggers at each other for five hours," one party leader said.

In this picture sat Remy, Mr. Jewett, Mr. Bosson, Mr. Ayres, Mr. Bradford and Arch N. Bobbitt.

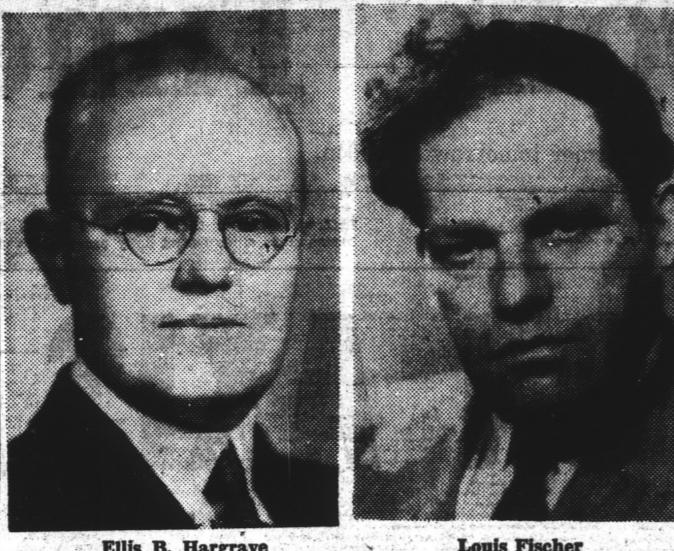
Over in the corner of the conference room, Chairman Ostrom was lying on a couch, feigning sleep.

Mr. Ostrom came into the auditor's office this morning and decisively admonished Mr. Bradford to "be sure and make all of your appointments through the regular organization channels."

The crowd laughed.

NAZI FAILURES IRK FINNS
STOCKHOLM, Oct. 24 (U. P.)—German setbacks at Stalingrad and their failure to take Leningrad before winter have aroused widespread disappointment and grumbling in Finland, reports from Helsinki said today.

Teachers Close Convention



Ellis B. Hargrave Louis Fischer

Hear Fischer Talk on India; Elect Hargrave Treasurer

(Continued from Page One)

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 Cadet tabernacle 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 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 independence at this time as a symbol to the world that this is a war for democracy," Mr. Fischer said.

"Your present 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 of the Republican ticket to elected officials.

TYNDALL FORESEES HEAVY BALLOTTING

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.

Leading banqueters at the same time will be the women's auxiliary, headed by Mrs. D. Walhall 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 Hatt 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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THINGS SCRATCHES STINGS CUTICURA SOAP AND OINTMENT

TRAINING OF 18S SLOWS DRAFT

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

(Continued from Page One)

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 like 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.

Three such proposals have been offered, and the first will come on an amendment by Senator W. Lee O'Daniel (D. Tex.), providing that "No person under 20 years induced 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.) said "ridiculous" proposals advanced yesterday to reduce the required training period to six months. He said he would fight against any restriction.

Security measures prevented disclosure of the full program planned by Mrs. Roosevelt, but it was revealed that she intended to send 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 be unwinded. She uses no lipstick. She is built generously and dresses without pretense.

"Watching her as she chatted and shook hands endlessly, the most important impression she gave me was one of real genuine.

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

"One thing she will find whenever 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."

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH said:

"The person whom der Fuehrer denounced as mainly responsible for influencing the respect and affection of the German people must command the respect and affection of the rest of the world. We are grateful to President Roosevelt, since he cannot visit us himself, for sending his better half."

"Mrs. Roosevelt is an unofficial ambassador to two nations."

"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.</