

Montgomery Waits Until Full Strength Is Massed

By NED RUSSELL

United Press Staff Correspondent
WITH THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY IN SOUTHERN TUNISIA, Feb. 28 (Delayed).—The eighth army will burst through the Mareth line and axis' defenses at the Gabes bottleneck the moment Lieut. Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery is confident he has enough tanks, guns, men and planes for an overwhelming attack.

Montgomery, commanding the eighth army, will not budge until that moment has arrived.

That has been the secret of his success over 1400 miles of desert battleground, from El Alamein to Tripoli.

He and every man in his army knows that the Afrika Korps cannot be finally beaten without the proper preparation.

I flew from El Alamein to Tripoli, and drove from Tripoli to the present front, and I know what Montgomery considers preparation. His transport, thousands of vehicles, flows across dusty roads, paved roads and rough sand tracks in endless streams.

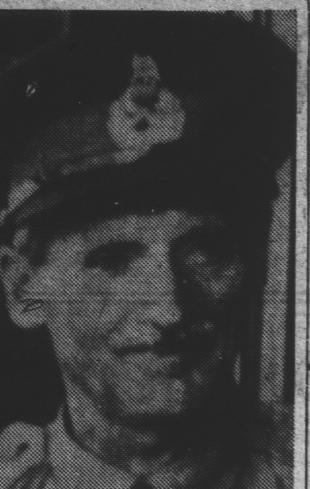
Retains Air Superiority

Descriptive superiority in the air has enabled Montgomery to move guns, men and supplies forward over great distances in daylight.

Upon this vast preparation depends Montgomery's next blow to help the first army and the American fifth army smash the axis out of Africa.

Advanced elements of the eighth army so far have been only stabbing and probing the Mareth line's defenses.

It now is doubted that Rommel will try to hold the Mareth line against a full-scale assault, and it is expected that he will fall back to the Gabes bottleneck (30 miles to



Gen. B. L. Montgomery
(the north), which is narrower and not so vulnerable to a flanking movement.

Superior in Tanks.

Montgomery's planes now are sweeping constantly over Rommel's forward positions, lines, communications and airfields, but apparently not in full-scale and mainly to prevent the German planes from harassing the eighth army's preparations.

Tough, dusty British veterans of three years of desert warfare agree that the American Gen. Sherman tank has proved the most decisive weapon in driving the axis from Egypt to Tunisia.

The most powerful tank is the new 55-ton Mark VI, mounting the deadly 88 mm. gun, but its maneuverability is no match for that of the agile American tanks.

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COMMUNIQUES

COMMUNIQUE NO. 297

(Issued Tuesday, March 2)

PACIFIC AND FAR EAST: U. S. naval forces have reported the following results of operations against the enemy in the waters of these areas:

(a) Three medium-sized cargo ships sunk.

(b) One medium-sized tanker sunk.

(c) One small schooner sunk.

(d) One medium-sized transport damaged.

These actions have not been announced in any previous navy departmental communiqué.

EISENHOWER, COMMUNIQUE

(Issued Wednesday, March 3)

FIRST ARMY: Leading elements of the allied forces yesterday pressed on to the south and southwest of Sbeitla.

In the central sector there was little activity.

In northern Tunisia allied forces continued their advance on the eastern and western sectors of the area north of Béja and east of Sidi Bouzid.

On March 2, a Hudson patrol bomber (Lockheed A-20) on a mission, dropped bombs on Japanese positions at Munda, on New Georgia Island.

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SEES U. S. ARMY BEST EDUCATED

Hull Says Criticism of Schools in Training Technicians Unjust.

The United States army has the highest educational level for the greatest number of men of any army ever assembled in the world's history, J. Dan Hull, principal of Shortridge high school, pointed out in his address before the Kiwanis club at a luncheon today in the Kiwanis club.

He termed unjust the criticism directed at schools for "failure to train in advance a sufficiently large number of technicians to meet the demands of the armed forces."

"Dr. Ralph Taylor, head of the testing service of the army's educational service has illustrated that the armed forces have five times as many auto mechanics and 125 times as many radio technicians as can be absorbed in peacetime economy," Dr. Hull said.

Curriculum Accelerated

He explained the changes being made in the curriculum to put Shortridge on wartime basis. He cited instances where the curriculum was being accelerated to allow students to enter college at an earlier age.

In discussing guidance facilities, he said that 44 per cent of the Shortridge junior boys and one-half of the senior boys and girls have jobs outside of school.

He pointed to a survey at the school which revealed that many upper-class pupils were working 20 or more hours a week and drawing wages from \$5 to \$30.

Display Courage

"Criticism directed at schools for failure to stress fundamentals, neglects consideration of the fact that most boys and girls complete high school today, whereas in our time, only a few selective pupils received diplomas," he told the Kiwanians.

"I seldom see them (today's students) make mistakes which are not reflections of mistakes made by their elders, and I often see them display courage and forthrightness which their elders do not."

State Deaths

BICKNELL—William Medley, 75. Survived: Wife, Grace.

BLOOMFIELD—James Henry, 72. Survived: Two sons, three brothers, three brothers and four sisters.

EVANSVILLE—James M. Dassett, 93. Survived: Son, W. S.; daughters, Mrs. C. Son and Mrs. T. O. Shackett, and a son, R. D. Dassett.

Walter G. Schlaenge, 64. Survivors: Wilda Riley, Slatonberry.

Donald E. McDaniel, and Mrs. Holmes and Lawrence, sons, John Dewey, Homer, and half-sister, Mrs. Laura A. Haines and Mrs. Catherine Fine.

FRANKLIN—Mrs. Dorothy Louise Ferguson, 22. Survivors: Husband.

INGALLS—Mrs. Grace Bell Hogan. Survived: Son, R. E. Hogan and Mrs. Elizabeth Hogan and Mrs. Jeanne Hogan.

LEBANON—Mrs. Nancy Olave Paddock, 65. Survivors: Husband; Charles; daughter, Mrs. Barbara; sons, Fred, Harry, Earl and Vernon; a brother, Ora E. Haines; a sister, Mrs. Claude Burch; half-sisters, Mrs. J. A. Wheeler and half-sister, Mrs. Laura A. Haines and Mrs. Catherine Fine.

LOGANSPORE—Raymond Simms, 33. PLAINFIELD—Mrs. America Woods, 83. Survived: Sons, Otto and William Woods.

PETERSBURG—Mrs. Mary K. Black, 79. Survivors: Daughters, Sons, Perry and Florence and a daughter, a son, and a brother, Thomas.

MUNCIE—Mrs. Edith Murphy Williams, 67. Survivors: Husband, Charles; daughter, Mrs. Barbara; sons, Fred, Harry, Earl and Vernon; a brother, Ora E. Haines; a sister, Mrs. Claude Burch; half-sisters, Mrs. J. A. Wheeler and half-sister, Mrs. Laura A. Haines and Mrs. Catherine Fine.

ROCKFORD—George W. Zollman, 85. Survivors: Daughters, Mrs. V. L. Lander and Mrs. J. M. Hinderliter, and a brother, Thomas.

RICHMOND—Myron J. Klute, 48. Survivors: Wife, a daughter and a son.

SOUTHERN BEND—Richard H. Ryan, 31. Survivors: Mother, a brother, a son.

TELL CITY—George C. Cunningham, 73. Survivors: Mother, a sister, Missess Cunningham and brothers, Charles and Harry.

UNION CITY—Charles E. Riesner, 69. Survivors: Wife, two daughters, a sister and a brother.

Mrs. Myrtle Caron, 70. Survivors: One son, two daughters, a sister and a brother.

VINCENNES—Mrs. Flossie Woods, 47. Survivors: Husband, George, and adopted son, Mr. Esther Litherland Fox, 27. Survivors: Husband and four children.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Today's War Moves

By LOUIS F. KEEMLE

United Press War Analyst

The slowing of the Russian drive in the South, which may be only temporary, has been offset by a smashing offensive in the North, whose scope is emphasized by the capture of Rzhev, west of Moscow.

The Russians have broadened their winter offensive so that it now is in full swing along the entire front from the Baltic to the Sea of Azov.

Russian strategy, it now is apparent, was not concentrated on the southern drive, which embraced the Caucasus, the Donets basin and the Ukraine. This drive has been slowed partly by seasonal thaws but more

probably were drawn from the northern or north-central fronts. Despite the huge forces which was required to save Stalingrad and push the enemy back across the Donets towards the Dnieper, the Russians evidently by no means exhausted their resources.

They had large reserves waiting in the Leningrad region, below Lake Ilmen and west of Moscow. This amazing reservoir of manpower has been cut loose while the Germans still are strained to the utmost to stem the advance in the South could do.

The Germans will have to find fresh reserves to meet the triple threat from Leningrad, the Rzhev section and the South, and Germany already is having manpower difficulty. In view of that, the withdrawal of 12 Italian divisions from the eastern front at this time is somewhat mystifying.

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The coming of spring may help the Germans halt their retreat in the extreme South, but there still are many weeks of solid winter weather ahead in the North. The Russians apparently are driving for the Baltic states, which brings them closer to Germany than anything but an overwhelming defeat of the Germans in the South could do.

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