

YANKS ATTACK MAIN AXIS LINE

Tanks and Infantry Seek Breakthrough to Coastal Area.

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Wadi Akarit at the northern entrance to the Gabes gap 20 miles above Gabes.

(The Algiers radio reported at 8 a. m. Algiers time that fighting has broken out anew between 8th army vanguards and Rommel's rear guards 24.8 miles north of Gabes, a suggestion that advance British forces have swept across the Wadi. The main body of the Afrika Korps was said to be continuing its rapid retreat.)

(The allied-controlled Morocco radio quoted unconfirmed reports that Rommel's headquarters were "no longer in Tunisia" and Radio London relayed a Swiss report that Rommel would become liaison officer and military adviser to the Italian high command when he leaves Tunisia.)

French Also Advance

The length of the German stand at Wadi Akarit is expected to depend as much on the progress of twin American thrusts from the northeast against his rear as much as on the impending frontal attack by Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's 8th army.

The northernmost of the two American columns already is east of Maknassy and within 30 miles of Wadi Akarit. In its latest advance, reported today, the column drove six miles north from Maknassy to the outskirts of Mebri Zebeus.

In Central Tunisia, French forces pushed farther across the Ousselata plain without "notable" opposition. A communiqué said the garrison of one enemy position in Oueb Kebir valley was completely destroyed.

Planes Join Fury

The German tank attack east of El Guettar was launched yesterday morning in the face of fierce artillery fire, the same kind of shelling that smashed a similar attack only a week ago. Planes from the western desert air force joined in the fray and raked the German forces with bombs and bullets.

After the smoke of battle had lifted from the Bir Rabat pass, three of the enemy tanks were smoking ruins and the other 29 were seen high-tailing it for safety.

Meantime, the Americans reoccupied hill 772, an observation post given up to the enemy earlier this week, and began laying down a heavy artillery barrage on axis positions beyond.

KENNEDY REPORTED TO HAVE QUIT WLB

WASHINGTON, April 3 (U. P.)—Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, was reported today to have resigned from the war labor board in protest against WLB wage policies.

White House Secretary Stephen T. Early said "a letter from Mr. Kennedy has been received and is in the president's hands." Early refused, however, to say what was in the letter.

Kennedy, chief aid to U. M. W. President John L. Lewis, has been in New York where the union is conducting wage-hour negotiations with hard and soft coal operators. U. M. W. headquarters here refused to comment on his reported resignation.

Kennedy's colleagues on the war labor board professed not to know whether he had resigned but recalled that he has not attended any board hearing since last January.

Nazis' Next Blow May Be Directed at British Isles

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, April 3—Hitler's next, and probably last, major offensive, according to some of the best-posted military attachés here, may be against England.

Information continues to reach Washington that the general situation in Germany and among her allies increasingly resembles what it was in the spring of 1918.

Then the men about the kaiser realized that time was running short for the central powers. They could count on one more summer at best. After that, all chance of victory would be gone.

But in that summer, Marshal von Hindenburg and his staff figured, Germany might be able to win. They would scrape the bottom of the military barrel. They would get together every available man and gun and throw the whole thing at the allies in one final, all-out, bloody fling.

They did. And they came within an act of winning. Through March, April, May, June and July things looked black for the allies. But by August the tide had turned. One by one Germany's allies fell out, and at last Germany herself collapsed.

Today, military observers say, Hitler seems to be facing a similar summer. He probably has one terrific punch left, with everything depending on the punch.

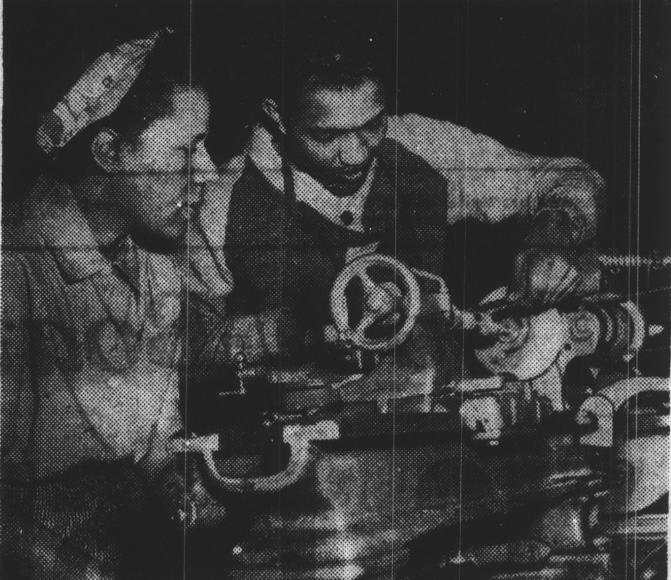
Africa is too far away. Besides, Africa is mostly a delaying proposition to prevent the allies from getting set for an invasion of the Balkans or southern Europe.

Russia is too vast and too elastic. The tough Red armies sway and bend, but never break.

There remains, therefore, plan No. 3—namely, the invasion of Great Britain, accompanied, of course, by an intensified battle of the Atlantic to cut off supplies and reinforcements from the United States.

Britain, of course, is our No. 1 base

Training Under the NYA



Miss Margaret Dike of Atlanta, Ga., and Macklin Martin of Indianapolis are among the Negroes in training at the NYA center on Keystone ave.

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

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000,000,000 of this for whatever goods and services are available. And they'll pay between 14 and 15 billion dollars in taxes if rates stay the same. That leaves them 40 billion dollars in savings and spare pocket money.

Shortages in refrigerator cars will add to consumer woes this summer. Increased demand for fresh fruits and vegetables causes it.

Draft quota for April is off about 50,000.

Comptroller General Lindsay Warren is using a heavy blue pencil on cost-plus contracts, ruling out such expenditures as entertainment, expensive dinners, gifts, etc. Warren's displeasure at the size and number of such items included in "costs" of war contracts may result in congressional action.

Dewey to the Fore Again

POLITICS: There's some talk among congressional Republicans of Tom Dewey for '44, despite his disastrous defeat. His record as N. Y. governor hasn't been missed here, and some see him as the natural answer to possible Bricker-Willkie stalemate.

(Willkie people are reported busy in parts of South getting delegates. Bricker's friends worry lest their man is doing too little in this direction.)

Ammunition for coming fight in congress over OWI funds is being readied both by critical congressmen and OWI officials. Latter, admitting part of criticism is justified, are making some new personnel savings. (Elaborate setup for polling public opinion was junked.)

There is real friction between Japan and Germany. Recent Soviet-Jap deal on Pacific fisheries calls for payment in gold, but Berlin is convinced the Japs are really paying off in rubber—more precious than gold.

Also: While Nazis fight for lives in Russia, Japan allows lend-lease shipments from U. S. to pass freely between her islands for delivery to Russians at Vladivostok.

Furthermore: While German-controlled radio stations warn Europe against "Red menace," same stations warn Australians and others against "yellow peril."

Communists are reported to be coming back into circulation in Germany, spurred by Russian victories.

U. S. in Oil Business

GOVERNMENT'S in the oil business in a big way—and oil men want to get it out.

Through RFC subsidiaries, government is buying the thousands of barrels of oil that go into the "big inch" crude pipeline at Longview, Tex., and selling it at the Norris City (Ill.) terminal. Oil for the line comes from various sections, through feeder lines of varying length. Government pays these costs, and averages them out when selling to consumers at end of line.

Oil men want the industry to handle these transactions. They've appealed to Deputy Administrator Davies of PWA.

If Wickard gets an assignment abroad, watch for Milo Perkins, executive director of board of economic warfare, to take over agriculture post in cabinet.

Fuel-oil problems of laundries will ease during the summer, grow acute again next fall. Look for many to take flat business only, refuse to do up shirts. Some plan to refuse non-essential cleaning jobs, like evening clothes.

TROOP CARRIER OFFICERS HOME

There's No Place Like U. S. They Say, After Turmoil In Africa.

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Africa, but he did start out to fly a plane-load of mechanics from Britain to the North African theater.

He ran out of gas and was forced down in the Mediterranean. The sea was not rough and the plane floated so well that everyone got out safely. All were picked up by a British destroyer after about an hour in the water.

Bring Back Wounded

All three made many flights carrying troops and supplies to the front in Tunisia and bringing back wounded on their return.

Capt. Evans said he dumped paratroopers over the enemy zone several times, one time carrying them 120 miles behind the enemy's forward positions.

Capt. Hansen said he knew that many people in Indianapolis had sons and relatives in North Africa and that he thought they would be interested in knowing that the morale high, food very good and that the mail service "couldn't have been better."

"As for the enemy pilots, we never underestimate them. They're damned good, but we're better," he remarked. "We get two, three or four of them for every one of us that they get."

Major Couch interrupted. "You Major," he said, "it's a funny thing but no one over there even gives a thought to the possibility that we might lose."

See Climax Soon

All three said that the consensus of opinion in North Africa was that the fighting in Tunisia would be over in short order.

Capt. Evans told of flying a small tractor, roller and grader to the front and of having an airport ready for use of B-17 bombers within 24 hours.

The troop carrier command officers are back here to help in training of the new units.

"We're very glad to be back," said Capt. Hansen. "That's everyone's dream that is over there."

"Yes," said Capt. Evans, "there's no place on earth like the good old U. S. A., and I mean it."

Leave for Coast

The three men left for the west coast by plane last night on a short leave. Maj. Couch, who is 28 and lives in Sacramento, Cal., will see his 7 1/2-months-old daughter for the first time. Capt. Evans will see his wife for the first time in a year, and Capt. Hansen expects to be married.

Capt. Evans is taking a Scottie pup home with him which he picked up in Scotland and which has flown over 10,000 miles with him.

As the newsmen were leaving, Capt. Hansen said that he believed that they might be interested in one record he believed they had set—the longest craps game on record.

They rolled dice practically throughout their 10,000-mile trip home.

YANK PLANES MADE 1399 SORTIES IN DAY

WASHINGTON, April 3 (U. P.)—American fighter and bomber planes flew 1399 sorties in one day—last Tuesday—against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's fleeing troops in southern Tunisia, the war department revealed today.

The day-long aerial assault—the greatest single American air effort reported during the war—resulted in incalculable damage to German war machines and supplies and untold death to German troops.

Some of the planes operated on a shuttle schedule, many of them flying several sorties.

The war department explained a sortie as an operation flight of one plane. Each time it returns to base for gasoline, bombs and ammunition and takes off again counts as another sortie.

The war department issued another report revealing that American planes in the Pacific war theater shot down 384 Japanese planes in aerial combat during January, February and March with a loss of only 54 American planes—a ratio of better than seven to one.

The two reports were spectacular evidence of the growing American might in the air on both sides of the world.

Communiques

NAVY COMMUNIQUE 333
(Issued April 3, 1943)

1. On April 2, a force of army Liberators (Consolidated B-24) and Mitchells (North American B-25) bombers, escorted by Lockheed (L-5) P-38 fighters, made four attacks against Japanese installations at Kiska. Hits were scored on the enemy main camp area.

2. On April 2, Lightning and Corsair (Vought F4U) fighters attacked and set afire a small Japanese cargo vessel at Vella Lavella Island, New Georgia group.

BOY, 14, LEAVES ARMY

COLUMBUS, O., April 3 (U. P.)—Ellis Owens, 14-year-old Beaver, O., youth who served as stand-in in the army for his older brother, received an honorable discharge from the army today.

Experts who think along these lines believe the shortening of the Eastern front may have had something to do with this plan. Also Germany's poor showing in the air for the last five months. Doubtless allied bombings have cut down Nazi production, but even so, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Italy, France and Belgium combined should be producing from 3000 to 4000 planes a month.

If this is true, Germany must have thousands of new planes in reserve—planes which she is conserving for some particular purpose—probably an offensive. Wars are not won by going on the defensive.

If Hitler is without some such final, desperate plan, it is reasoned, Germany is even worse off than most authorities now believe. The prevailing opinion is that today, as in 1918, Germany still has one more terrible wallop left.

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