

Tunisia

Tonight the British eight Army is chasing Rommel, whose Afrika Korps is on the retreat northward. The British have reached a point only forty miles from the American units that all along have been threatening to cut off the German retreat.

General Montgomery's British forces today captured the important harbor of Gabes and the fortress of El Hamma-with little resistance. They kept right on, their next objective being the seaport of Sfax-up the coast.

A French Algiers radio stated this afternoon that the British Navy has forced a landing at Sfax, and put troops ashore. This fits in with the surprise move of British war ships, which boldly steamed to the Tunisian coast and bombarded the Germans as they fled from Gabes. Now, if naval forces have landed troops, it would mean a new and most dangerous kind of flanking threat against Rommel's retreating army.

However, London doubts the story of a landing at Sfax. A late dispatch from the British capital points out that the harbor there is only twenty - one feet deep and can't handle ships above a thousand tons.

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Rommel, while with drawing before the assault of the eighth army, struck out against the Americans threatening to cut him off. German armored columns drove to the attack in the El Guettar area, where Americans ^{with them} clashed in a storm of battle. The enemy succeeded in winning a hill position, but otherwise the forward American lines held firm--- still maintaining their threat to drive to the coast and trap Rommel. He has got to keep the corridor open for an escape--the corridor along one side of which lie the Americans.

We hear today something of the secret of the sudden defeat and flight for life of the Nazi Afrika Korps. Rommel was able to hold off the frontal drive of the British against the fortifications of the Mareth Line, but he miscalculated the strength of the British column that swept around to the south of those fortifications, and out-flanked the line.

This ^{desert} ~~desert~~ fighting outfit consisted mostly of New ^{Zealanders} ~~Zealanders~~ led by the dashing ^{V.C. The same} ~~that~~ general Freyberg who is New Zealand's prince of soldiers. They flanked the Mareth Line completely. This Rommel knew, but he under-estimated those New Zealanders. He didn't believe they could bring up heavy equipment around through the tremendously difficult country they had to penetrate. He thought they were only

lightly equipped, and he could stop the thrust easily.

When he found that his repeated counter - attacks failed against the outflanking column; his own panzers ^{were} checked by a weight of armor that he never expected, ^{then} ~~that made~~ Rommel realize ^d the kind of trap that was closing in on him, and he got out in a hurry.

Today in the house of commons, Prime minister Winston Churchill stated that Rommel had suffered what he called - "another severe defeat." But Churchill warned against too much optimism. Announcing the capture of Gabes, he spoke of the danger of what he called "under-rating the task which confronts the Allied forces." Churchill indicated that the Germans would probably be able to put ^{up} some mighty formidable resistance northward in Tunisia. "The country is very difficult, and abounds ⁱⁿ ⁱⁿ ^{defensive} ^{positions}," said he.

There is some belief that Rommel may now withdraw all the way to the tip of Tunisia, the Tunis-Bizerti area. And that corner is difficult country indeed - "abounding in defensive positions", as Churchill said.

R. A. F.

~~2nd Sheet Pacific~~

~~a blaze--set on fire by the exploding shells.~~

Last night's Royal Air Force raid on Berlin was one of the most devastating of the war--and one of the most difficult. The weather was exceedingly bad. The London dispatch says--"Some of the foulest weather ever encountered ." It was a case of clouds and Icing condition--bad visibility and jack frost piling ice on planes. The gunner of a sterling bomber tells ^{how} ~~that~~ he saw chunks of ice tearing loose from the wings and flying back past him.

The foul weather was over the English Channel. Further on the clouds broke, the sky was clear, and the bombers had to dodge away from banks of ^{German} searchlights that combed the sky, ~~with their beams.~~

They hit the Nazi capital hard--the second monster raid that Berlin had endured in three nights . The block busting bombs created frightful havoc, and set enormous fires. One R.A.F pilot tells it in these words: " There were big mushrooms of ^{flames} ~~flames~~ says he; and then continues;--"about ten minutes after the attack started there was a great explosion that lit up the buildings--it was much too large even to have been caused by a four ^{-ton} ~~ton~~ bomb" In other words some concentration of high explosive munitions must have been touched off-

and the flames that leaped from Berlin were visible for a hundred and fifty miles.

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The R A F pilots agreed that the Berlin anti-aircraft defense had been greatly strengthened. This since Saturday night, when the last previous raid was staged. New masses of search lights and anti-aircraft batteries were in action last night-and so were the German night fighters. The British bombers had to battle the night fighter all over the place.

The increase of Berlin anti-aircraft defenses is sharply emphasized by the figures for losses. During the previous raid only nine planes were lost. Last night the R A F attack on Berlin cost twenty-one bombers. And at the same time twelve other bombers were lost in a simultaneous raid that hit the industrial Ruhr area-making thirty-three planes altogether. Tonight London states that the figure is-"tolerable." The average loss in the bombings of Germany is five percent of the planes. "Tolerable" is about ten per cent. Figuring on that basis, it would seem that some three hundred and fifty planes were in the bombing attacks on Germany last night. ~~22~~

Russia

The war news from Russia, tonight, describes continued, slow Soviet progress against the great Nazi fortress of Smolensk. Moscow tells of Red army forces achieving a break through on a local scale, an advance resulting in the capture of a dozen villages. The Germans are using masses of air power in their attempt to check the move again Smole^snk which their ground forces are unable to halt.

Enemy Berlin tells of an increasing Russian offensive in the Leningrad area. The Germans tell of savage fighting on an increasing scale in the area of the city that they had under seige for so long.

Roosevelt

President Roosevelt stated this afternoon that negotiations between the United States and Soviet Russia are going to be held in the near future - talks concerning world arrangements after the war .

The president added that he was still hopeful of meeting Stalin- and ^{of} ^{ing} and talk^{ing} over post-war planning with him.

The president was not specific about the forthcoming American-Soviet conferences, or about the prospects of his getting together with Stalin. He merely reverted to the old saying-about hope springing eternal.

Pacific

5-2
A thriller of war is told in today's navy bulletin, which reports actions in the Solomon Islands. It is dangerous work when planes attack a warship at low altitude--^{at}close quarters. So what would you think of a squadron that assailed a Jap destroyer, and swooped down so near that one plane knocked off a wing tip against the destroyer's mast. *A stout effort*
~~Mighty brave~~, you'd say, and it was.

The navy bulletin tells how a squadron of American cannon-shooting fighter planes started out by strafing a Jap sea plane base at Faisi Island. They caught half a dozen of enemy aircraft on the ground, raked them with explosive shells, and set them on fire.

The planes then started home, and on their way spotted a Jap destroyer. They were no bombers for blasting warships, but they did carry cannon -- so why not take a crack at the destroyer? They swooped down over it, almost skimming the deck and raked the destroyer with shell fire. One of the planes miscalculated a bit and swerved too near the ship's mast. The wing hit the mast and three feet were sheared off--as if clipped by a knife. The plane, never the less, was able to fly away with the others. They went winging home leaving the destroyer ablaze-- set afire by the exploding shells.

taxes

Late this afternoon the ^{er}low house of congress defeated the Ruml plan, and then voted to send the whole tax question back to the house of representatives ^{with the}. The committee is instructed to draft something new ^{then} and send it back to the floor of the house.

This climaxed a day of parliamentary drama concerning taxation and the congressmen drove on toward a decision on the Ruml plan. The line-up was almost entirely partisan-with both democrats and republicans ~~and~~ almost solid. Some democrats deserted the administration and were favoring ^aRuml pay-as-you-go. A few republicans were against the skip-a-year idea, and joined the administration forces, but all and all it was mighty close thing between the democrat majority and the strong republican body which is only a few votes in the minority.

The republicans all day appeared to be supremely sure of winning. ~~On the democratic side, there was not so much bubbling enthusiasm but speaker Rayburn stated grimly that the Ruml tax forgiveness would~~ ^e ~~be defeated.~~

~~Support for the Ruml scheme came today from Wendell Willkie the G O P standard bearer in the last presidential election. However, one republican congressman who joined the administration~~

Taxes

against Ruml, stated that Willkie's expression of approval was more a handicap than a help.

All afternoon there was rapid fire action on the formal amendments to the Ruml plan. These were voted down one after another in rapid succession.

The republicans all the while were calling for action. As the amendments came up, they'd shout, "let's get to a vote."

They got action when in a technical parliamentary way congress voted as a committee of the whole ^{A tentative} ~~tentative~~ sort of vote. And this resulted in a victory for the Ruml plan. The lower house as a committee of the whole, voted in favor of tax forgiveness by a majority of a hundred and ninety - nine to a hundred and ninety - eight. And some thought that Ruml pay-as-you-go was in, and would win when the regular formal vote was called.

But This was an illusion, however, because the administration democrats rallied their forces, and ^{when the} ~~pursued able parliamentary tactics. When the~~ decisive roll call came, the administration had a majority, and Ruml-skip-a-year was defeated. The vote was two hundred and fifteen to a hundred and ninety, a majority of twenty - five.

Killing

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A weird Tobacco Road melodrama of the Kentucky mountains ended today when the hill billy killer surrendered - after holding the police at bay all night with the threat to kill his wife and children, if an attempt were made to arrest him.

Frank Hopkins, who lived in a one-room cabin, got into an argument with a wealthy land-owner neighbor; this because the neighbor accused him of stealing some farm stuff. It ended with shooting. The neighbor put a bullet in Hopkins' shoulder, and Hopkins killed him.

He ran to his cabin, where his wife and four children were. There he barricaded himself, and when the sheriff and a party of officers arrived, he shouted he would not surrender-he'd kill his wife and children first.

In the face of that threat, the sheriff and his party surrounded ^{ed} the shack-a kind of siege. The word got around, and a huge crowd gathered. Ten thousand people thronging to witness the playing out of the mountain drama. The state police had to be summoned to keep the crowd in order.

One of the Hopkins children appeared, a thirteen year old girl

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She was on her way to the cabin, and told them that , before the sheriff arrived, her father had sent her to buy a quart of whiskey. She was carrying the quart, and when the police investigated the bottle they found the thirteen year old girl had taken a drink out of it- a big slug of whiskey.

The sheriff repeatedly called out and urged Hopkins to surrender. The man refused, but finally asked that the pastor of his church be sent to him- the Reverend J. Archer Gray. The minister went to the shack, and played his part in the strange , grim affair. He urged Hopkins to yield but the fierce mountaineer, gun in hand , still refused -still threatened to kill his wife and children. They were in the shack with him, and the wife had done what she could for the shoulder wound that Hopkins had incurred in the gunfight with his neighbor. She had extracted the bullet.

The minister emerged reporting failure, and the siege went on into the night. The sheriff brought up search lights , and the beams of these gleamed on the cabin all through the hours of darkness- making that much more of a spectacle for the crowd that watched .

Morning came, and once again the minister went to the shack; and

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by now the hill billy killer had had enough ^{and} said he was ready to
surrender. The Reverend Mr. Gray called in the police -who thereupon
took The Tobacco road character off to jail to stand trial ^{for}
shooting the man who shot him.

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~~Lewell Thomas~~

~~Charlotte Hotel Charlotte, N.C.~~

Puerto Rican.

Today a police alarm was issued for a Puerto Rican in search of New York. That citizen of the West Indies Island is looking for the big town; and he has a habit of mistaking almost any place for New York. The moment he sees a couple of large buildings he exclaims-- "At last, the metropolis of the Americas".

Several weeks ago Andres Soto started out from his native Puerto Rico, on his way to visit a brother-in-law who lives in New York-- the Bronx. He went by ship to Miami, and then started north by bus. Andres --no spika Engleesh. So they pinned on him a tag with his brother-in-law's Bronx address and asked the bus company to look after him.

He travelled from Miami until he got to Raleigh, North Carolina. When Andres got a look at Raleigh, he thought--this must be New York. So he got out and started looking for the Bronx. The bus people got him back and he started north again.

When the bus got to Petersburg, Virginia, Andres thought again-- this must be ^aNew York. How he happened to mistake Petersburg for

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the sky scrapers of Manhattan , is hard to explain--but he did.

He got off the bus, and started out to find the Bronx. The bus driver chased him for several blocks , and got him back .

At Richmond the bus driver carefully indicated to Andres that this was not New York and put him on another bus bound for Washington. Some where between Richmond and Washington Andres disappeared. It isn't clear what town he took for New York this time. You'll have to make your own guess. Some place between Richmond and Washington--which the hopeful Puerto Rican mistook for the skyline of Manhattan.

He's been missing for six days now, and now a police warning has been put out for him. The cops between Richmond and Washington are asked to look around for the wandering Puerto Rican in search of New York, who no spiba Engleesh.

355 PM

And now Hugh who spiba vera good Engleesh and s-l-u-t-m.