

TUNISIA

L.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, May 11, 1943.

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Tonight only one area of enemy resistance is left in Tunisia. This is at the southern end of what ~~has been~~ ^{was} the Nazi Tunisian fortress. But not the Cape Bon Peninsula - where remnants of German troops were expected to put up a formidable fight.

Organized resistance in the Cape Bon district ended today, when British troops cut completely across the peninsula, ~~and~~ thereby isolating tens of thousands of enemy troops left out on that neck of land. A British armored force, crossing the peninsula, sealed the issue when tanks captured the town of Hammamet, and then proceeded to sweep up along the coast. ^{TP} The key operation there was a sort of aquatic maneuver by tanks, the armored fortresses sweeping out into the water and churning along like amphibians. In the news reels we have often seen tanks go ^{up} ~~g~~lashing along, half submerged - a spectacular sort of maneuver.

And now this amphibian procedure was put to actual use in battle by a British tank-unit that flanked ^a~~the~~ Nazi position on the Cape Bon Peninsula. The tanks couldn't go forward along the beach, and so out into the water they went. They roared through the shallows in a cloud of spray, and attacked the Germans from the rear.

On the Cape Bon Peninsula, the enemy appears to have given up - with wholesale surrenders. ~~from all help, they were discouraged and demoralized,~~ ^{Cut off} and Today an Allied spokesman said: "The Germans just lost their nerve and are inclined to surrender without a last gallant fight."

All of which provides another surprise in the astonishing end of the Tunisian campaign. Bizerte was supposed to be a mighty tough nut to crack, but it was easy. On the Cape Bon Peninsula the Germans were expected to produce another Batan, but they are yielding

in such fashion that the Cape Bon fighting may be regarded as at an end. Some few enemy troops have been trying to get away by small boats, but they have little chance. There is no semblance of a Tunisian Dunkirk - British sea power takes care of that.

To the south of ~~the~~ the Cape Bon Peninsula, a surrounded German force in the Zaghuan sector, asked for an armistice today. They appealed to the French, and were given a prompt reply - unconditional surrender. So there is the end of another enemy pocket.

Further to the south, the country is rugged and difficult, where the British Eighth Army has been held up for weeks by steep hills and towering cliffs. There the last German fight in Tunisia is being made. ~~The~~ latest news tells of surrounded Nazi units battling fiercely ~~from~~ ⁱⁿ their strong positions. They ~~are~~ ^{se} are Rommel's veterans, ~~that~~ ^{the} same North Afrika Korps which

for a couple of years campaigned, with advances and retreats, in the battles of the desert. Rommel's Afrika Korps is at bay now, fighting its last fight - and in a hopeless position. The veterans of the desert war, now in the rugged hills, will have to surrender soon.

All of which adds an increased interest to a note about Rommel today. ^{That} He has been out of North Africa ever since March Eleventh, two months ago. This word comes from enemy Berlin, the German Radio giving an account of Rommel's movements during recent months. He was in Germany for medical treatment at the time the storm of disaster broke upon his army, when it was in Egypt and Montgomery's Eighth Army smashed the El Alamein line. Rommel insisted on returning to his army at once - although the doctors advised him not to do so. He commanded the retreat all the way from Egypt

to Tunisia, and then left North Africa during the Tunisian campaign - ^{two} ~~a~~ month^s ago.

The immediate effect of the conquest of Tunisia will concern the question of Allied shipping - the Mediterranean route. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox today stated that the ships of the United Nations will have the use of the Mediterranean, but he did not specify exactly when - "eventually," he said. He declared that Nazi air power, based on Sicily, would not be able to close the narrow waters, and added that the use of the Mediterranean, by cutting down ^{thousands of} ~~down~~ miles of travel, would double the tonnage that we are able to send to the Near ~~and~~ Middle East.

What about the expected invasion of Europe? It's futile to speculate; but, it's interesting to note Axis reports that American troops are now stationed on the Island of Cyprus, in the eastern Mediterranean.

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They actually started to arrive at Cyprus two months ago, and have been growing in force.

CHURCHILL

Congratulations on the Tunisian victory are in order, with messages of good cheer flying between the United Nations capitals. Today Prime Minister Winston Churchill wired his felicitations to General Eisenhower. Churchill expressed himself in his usual fluency of phrase. Speaking of ^{the} American and British armies, he said:- "Long may they march together - striking down tyrants and oppressors of mankind."

Along with this came London speculations of another meeting between Churchill and President Roosevelt - a fifth conference of the war leaders of Britain and America.

What will Roosevelt and Churchill have to talk about this time? It is easy to answer - the plans for invading Europe, now that the Tunisian campaign is over. Everybody is talking about it, with none of us able to propound anything nearly as much to the point as

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Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. We try to guess what we're going to do. They don't have to predict or speculate on that point - they decide what we're going to do.

HOLLAND

The conquered country of Holland is described as in a state of suppressed explosion tonight. London reports that a wave of sabotage has swept the country and Dutch workers tried to stage a general strike. The Nazis have responded with their usual ferocity and at least thirty victims have been executed during the past three days.

HESS

It was officially stated in London today that the family of Rudolph Hess ~~was~~ not in England. We had heard previously that there was no truth in the rumors that the former Nazi number two man had been joined by his wife. And now the denial is official -- ~~was~~ made by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in the House of Commons today.

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The Foreign Secretary also stated that when Hess made his fantastic airplane flight to Scotland, he did not bring any British securities with him. There have been reports that Hess landed with sixty thousand dollars worth in his possession -- the assumption being that he had feathered his nest with British securities before he left Germany. Anthony Eden stated today that Hess had only a few German marks when he became the world's most mysterious ~~person~~ *prisoner*

SEADROMES

Tonight we have another of those stories telling of a dream that may be about to come true - this time the often discussed vision of floating airfields on the ocean. Today, the Pennsylvania Central Airlines filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board an application which proposes the establishment of aviation seadromes ~~in~~ between the United States and Europe.

these to be built by The Sun Shipbuilding Co.
TP They would be spacious airports, ^{with} flying fields,

buildings and all. ~~They would~~ Cost? Ten million dollars

weight?
each, ~~and each floating airdrome would weigh~~ Sixty-four thousand tons, ^{each. Each} a steel structure extending a hundred

and sixty feet ~~down~~ below the water and standing seventy feet above the surface. ^{To} It would have motor power, ^{two.} ~~and~~

capable of being
~~could be~~ navigated at eight knots - thereby enabling

the airdrome to be taken out of areas of fog and storm, where the oceanic airport would stay in good weather, with favorable flying conditions.

The proposal filed today provides for three, between the United States and England - three seadromes, eight hundred miles apart.

The airport on the ocean has been talked of in aviation circles for years. Now, it takes the form of a practical application with the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

ROOSEVELT

Today President Roosevelt gave some figures that express the enormous magnitude of American aircraft production. One novelty is that the presidential figures are in terms of -- pounds. No, not the number of planes built, but so many pounds. This he said gives a truer picture, because war planes differ in sizes so much. In other words, so many small fighters mean a lot less than an equal number of giant bombers.

So how many pounds? The President stated that United States war production in Nineteen Forty-Four, next year, will ~~amount~~ amount to one billion and four hundred and seventeen million pounds. ^{Putting} ~~which puts~~ aircraft production up in the billion class, which astronomical realm has hitherto been reserved for government finance and its billions of dollars.

In Nineteen Forty-One we turned out eighty-seven million pounds of planes. In Nineteen Forty-Two the figure jumped to two hundred and ninety-one million.

Multiply that by five and you have the staggering total for next year -- nearly one and a half billion ^u _h ponds of planes.

This is mathematical background for a statement the President made today -- that American aircraft production now surpasses that of all the other nations of the world combined.

COAL

I don't know how much illumination we had today concerning the coal mine labor situation, but we did have a good quotation from Thomas Jefferson .

TP The Chairman of the War Labor Board panel that is considering the question of miners' wages declared that the decision of the labor board ~~is to be made~~ will be affected by the cost of living in the mining areas. The price of food in each section will be considered. Whereupon Chairman Morris L. Cooke ^{told of the} ~~stated~~ *boards* ~~that~~ ^{— told it by quoting} ~~attitude that is being maintained in the matter, and that was when he quoted~~ Thomas Jefferson who said:
A
Public official ought to try to act as the public would act."

ADVISOR

Deep in the Australian ~~xxxx~~ bush country, there is an American Sargeant who has become a sort of witch doctor and medicine man to the primitive people of the aboriginal tribes. Sargeant J.P. McNair of San Francisco is of the sociable kind, and he proceeded to strike up friendly acquaintance with the stone-age natives.

They entertained him at their corroborees - a corroboree being a cross between a feast, a pow wow, and a war dance. And the Sarg became such a pal of the Number One tribal chief that he was permitted to call this ~~aboriginal~~ potentate by the familiar name of "Tommy."

Today's news from somewhere in Australia tells us that the Sarg has become an advisor to the tribes. They consult him on the most effective ways of producing rain. ~~Hxxxxigmm~~ He gives them the dope on the right kind of magic. Or, if there is a bad dust storm, they confabulate with him on what to do about that - how to

persuade the spirits to make the dust stay down.

Today's account informs us that the Sargeant from San Francisco was recently consulted on the subject of pythons. He gave the tribesmen ^{the} right advise, and they caught a particularly ~~good one~~ ^{Then} huge python. They rewarded the Sarg for that - by inviting him to the ~~corroboree~~ ^{corroboree} at which they ~~ate~~ ^{feasted on} the python. The Sarg ~~was given~~ ~~generous helpings,~~ and says he never ate anything quite like it - not even on Fishermen's ~~Wharf~~ ^{Wharf} in San Francisco.

The climax of his career as a tribal oracle and soothsayer came when his friend the chief ~~came to~~ ^{approached} him with a personal problem - a romantic problem. Tommy, the dusky potentate, confided to the Sarg that he had sentimental inclinations toward the wife of the chief of a neighboring tribe. What should he do about ~~getting the~~ ^{it?} wife? And what should he do about her husband, the chief of the other tribe? The Sarg gave the advice. What was it?

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The Sarge gave the advice but

~~He won't tell~~ he keeps that a secret. -- and it's a

~~Number One question in the Australian bush country~~

~~right now~~ However, if a tribal war should happen to

break out in ^{the Never Never Land,} ~~those parts~~ one of those Helen of Troy

affairs, it might be blamed on the Sarg. *from Frisco.*

CONGRESSMAN

The case of the son of Congressman Lambertson of Kansas was discussed by the Congressman himself today. Lambertson of Kansas has at one time or another criticized the war record of the four sons of President Roosevelt. That put a sharp focus of interest on the disclosure some days ago that the Congressman's own twenty year old son had registered as a conscientious objector. He appealed from One-A classification in the draft on the grounds that he had personal religious convictions against war. Today Congressman Lambertson confirmed this, ^{but} ~~but~~ added that Lambertson Junior ~~was~~ not a conscientious objector any longer. "He changed his mind after I had a short talk with him," said the father.

So now the son , in the father's words -
"will take the army straight."

ESCAPE

Today, Army air posts in southern California were on the lookout for reports of an unidentified plane. This - following the escape last night of two soldiers who broke out of a guardhouse, swiped a training plane, and flew off. All of which is something new in the old Army story of escape from the guardhouse.

At Winter Field
Private Donald Boyle, a flying cadet, and Private

Thomas MacDonald ~~at Winter Field~~, member of a ground crew, ~~at Winter Field~~, did something or other and were locked up. They got out of the military hoosgow, and then with plenty of gall and cheek they strolled down along a line of trainers, got into one, taxied and took off - as if that were exactly what they were supposed to do. *R* Since then nothing has been seen of them or the

1/2
~~plane~~ swiped aircraft. During the day, various reports about an unidentified plane had come in, but ~~none~~ *all*

unconfirmed.
~~concerned in~~ The best of these tells of a plane

sighted over Santa Ana, near the Mexican border, and

this raises the supposition that the two fugitives *from*
the guard house
may have flown down to Mexico.

^
~~And now, while the seconds~~
~~are fleeing heres Hugh.~~

CHURCHILL

And here's a late flash from Washington:-

Prime Minister Churchill has arrived for another conference with President Roosevelt. This has just been announced by the White House.

And now, Hugh.