

Torpedo Boats Protect Vital Panama Base



Keystone Photo

Speedy American torpedo boats churn the waters protecting the vital Panama Canal. These boats are dynamite to U-boats because they carry enough of it to sink a whole fleet of them.

French Rebels Defy SS Troops in Alps; Ranks Swell to 5,000

Vichy, Italian Units Reported Refusing To Fight Them

Revolted Frenchmen, entrenched in the mountains of the Haute Savoie district near the Swiss frontier, held out last night in the face of crack German SS outfits being moved in for an all-out assault.

Their number swelled to an estimated five to six thousand, the rebellious French youths are led by former officers and non-coms of the French Army and are well supplied with arms and ammunition. Food was their greatest difficulty.

Sympathetic peasants of the Alpine country have been supplying them with whatever they could spare, but an attempt was being made yesterday to draw a cordon around the guerrilla-controlled zone which would starve the rebels out.

Guards Won't Fight Them

Vichy authorities ordered the Garde Mobile to crush the revolt, but the guards, along with Italian troops in the neighborhood, were reported to have refused to open fire—leaving the job of wiping out the rebels to German troops.

A Fighting French spokesman said in London last night that Vichy authorities, the Germans and the Italians were pouring in reinforcements to the Haute Savoie and a battle seemed imminent.

Recruiting was going on throughout all of France, and Frenchmen who had decided they would rather fight it out than accept German labor draft orders were hurrying into the area.

A German radio report, not confirmed by any Allied source, said that British officers, experienced in guerrilla and commando fighting, had been dropped from RAF bombers to aid the French.

If that report is true—and British authorities said they knew nothing about it—it means that the revolt is being regarded in Allied military circles as of major importance.

200 Forced to Surrender

The desperate situation of the revolters was indicated by the fact that one group of 200, surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered, accepted German surrender offers yesterday and laid down their arms. Instead of being given the freedom they had been promised the men were loaded into trucks, under armed guards, and driven away. No word of their fate has leaked out.

A German ultimatum to surrender or die expired Monday afternoon. Within a few minutes, German bombing planes appeared over the rugged peaks and dense forests where the French have taken refuge. Reports to Algiers, broadcast by the Fighting French radio station there, said the rebels had opened fire with stolen German anti-aircraft guns and had shot down three of the Nazi planes.

Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the whole district, but despite that Frenchmen from as far away as Paris, Lyons and Marseilles are reported to be reaching the mountain hide-outs.

The German columns, blundering through the narrow mountain roads, are increasing their danger with every yard that they advance. Already, one report stated, the defenders have resorted to a device first used by the Swiss against Napoleon's troops.

A report from Zurich said that guerrilla demolition squads had dynamited Alpine cliffs overhanging the town of Clusaz, and that a landslide had filled the valley and half buried the town.

Gen. Armand Cartier, reported in command several days ago, is still leading the guerrillas as far as was known in London last night.

An experienced mountain fighter, for-
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Allies Map Campaign To Defeat U-Boats

WASHINGTON, Mar. 16 (AP)—Members of the British, American and Canadian high command have reached "complete agreement" on the best methods of defeating the Axis submarine menace in the Atlantic, the Navy Department announced today.

Only a few days ago Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said there was no evidence of extraordinary concentrations of German submarines in the Atlantic. On the other hand, well-informed authorities have expressed the opinion privately that the German naval command is gathering its forces for an undersea campaign of unprecedented ferocity.

Senate Weighs 'World Police' For After War

Isolationists Will Battle U.S. Participation in Enforcing Peace

WASHINGTON, Mar. 16—The question of American collaboration in international affairs after the war was placed squarely before the Senate today. A resolution was introduced by two Democratic and two Republican Senators, which would commit the United States to a policy of international collaboration after the war. The isolationist group intends to make a major fight against its acceptance.

The resolution supports the idea of an international police force to maintain the peace.

It also said that something stronger and more effective than the League of Nations was required but that until the senate indicated its position regarding post-war collaboration the United States could not effectively ask the Allies to join in any post-war collective effort.

Wheeler for Isolationism

Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, Montana Democrat, raised the tattered isolationist flag today with a statement of his "unalterable opposition" to the creation of a post-war United Nations police force.

Sen. Tom Connally (Dem., Tex.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he could not go along with the proposal exactly as written, but that he did favor a United Nations force to curb any future aggression. Vice-President Wallace, who has favored such a program in several speeches, gave the resolution whole-hearted support.

Wheeler's opposition forecast a regrouping of isolationist Senators reminiscent of the "little group of willful men" who led the successful fight against American participation in the League of Nations after the last war.

Saying he would oppose the resolution "to the limit," Wheeler predicted that
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Russians Quit Kharkov, Push Ahead Elsewhere

The Russians have evacuated Kharkov, principal city in the Ukraine, in the face of furious German ground attacks heavily supported by the Luftwaffe, and have established a new line east of the city, it was admitted in Moscow yesterday.

The city, recaptured from the Germans on Feb. 16, was abandoned Monday on orders of the Russian High Command, evading the German attempt to encircle and crush the Soviet forces defending the city. The spring thaw and the badly damaged communications in the Kharkov area contributed to the defeat.

On other fronts, however, Red armies continued to penetrate the Nazi lines.

A big German defense belt south of Lake Ilmen has been smashed by Marshal Timoshenko's units in renewed attacks on the German positions on the northern front, where the frost still holds, and are surging closer to Staraya Russa, the Nazi bastion guarding the gates to the Baltic.

Smolensk Threatened

On the central front, where the Red armies are advancing knee-deep in water and melting snow, the threat to Smolensk is developing from three directions.

From the bases at Rzhev and Vyazma, Gen. Sokolovsky is pushing out columns northwest, west and southwest, and each has made considerable advances in the last 24 hours.

The column on the northwest has reached Baturino, 30 miles northeast of Smolensk, a town which it captured after an advance across half-frozen marshes, which the Germans had believed impassable.

The Russian commander chose the more difficult route of approach, surprised the German defenders who had been expecting an attack from a totally different direction, and broke into the town after a short but stiff fight.

A second column, moving due west along the Smolensk-Vyazma railway is now nearing Yartsevo, only 30 miles from Smolensk and one of the strongest Nazi bases east of it. The third column, moving southwest, has captured a town north of the Suchinichi-Smolensk railway line. These Russian columns are believed to be moving through great forests filled with Russian guerrillas, who have been waiting their chance for nearly two years; the
(Continued on page 4)

1st Army Units Capture Ridge Near Tamera

British Move Up Without Fight After Shellfire Drives Enemy Out

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Mar. 16 (AP)—The Allies occupied a strategic wooded ridge in northern Tunisia and routed enemy patrols with artillery fire near Gafsa today, while American bombers blanketed the Luftwaffe base at Mezzouna with tons of fragmentation bombs.

The struggle for air supremacy in Tunisia broke out with new fury, while ground activity still had the character of the "lull before the storm."

British infantry, which previously failed to clear out the German elite troops from the forested ground four miles south of Tamera, in the Sedjenane sector, struck forward again and found the enemy had withdrawn again and found the enemy had withdrawn meanwhile to new positions protecting the Sedjenane road.

French Repulse Patrol

French forces supplies with American guns turned back a patrol of enemy armor advancing along the road between Gafsa and Metlaoui, where the French have been consolidating recently won positions.

Mezzouna airfield, 50 miles southwest of Sfax, was hit by two heavy American air raids inside of five minutes. Marauders with a Lightning and Spitfire escort rained many fragmentation bombs from one end of the field to the other and bursts were seen among 12 single and twin-engined Axis aircraft.

Mitchells and Warhawks immediately followed with another attack and reported hits among grounded Axis aircraft believed to be Ju88s.

Large clouds of smoke arose from the target. Four enemy fighters trying to intercept the American raiders were shot down.

American Flying Fortresses, with
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Night Raids Fire Nazi Munitions

The RAF's concentrated night raids on Nazi war industry in the Ruhr and southwestern Germany have smashed vital production centers, left fires burning in some cases for three or four days and brought about martial law in some of the bombed areas, it was learned in London yesterday.

RAF reconnaissance planes brought back pictures from Nuremberg which showed that the big MAN Diesel engine works and the Siemens electric works there were damaged severely Mar. 8. Fires were reported burning in Nuremberg for two days after the raid.

From Stockholm came reports that martial law was imposed on Essen after the raid of Mar. 6, and evacuees were said to be pouring out of the ruined city.

A traveler from Munich told newsmen in Stockholm that Munich had declared of the raid there last week: "It is the beginning of the end; the sooner the war is over the better for us, even if we are defeated."

Four German bombers of a force estimated at 20 were shot down over England Monday night, the Air Ministry reported. The Nazis said Grimsby, in the northeast, had been raided.

A PRO's Job Covers Just About Anything

BERMONDSEY, Mar. 16—1/Lt. Ian Fraser, of the Eighth Air Force public relations staff, led a party of American airmen and two actresses—Bebe Daniels and Ellen Drew—through a munitions factory here in part of the local Wings for Victory week program. A girl working on the production line halted the lieutenant and asked:

"Are you selling kisses for War Savings Stamps?"

Without a blush, Lt. Fraser took the proffered half-crown for a war savings stamp and kissed the gal.

In civilian life Lt. Fraser is a professor at Columbia University in New York.

Yanks Observe St. Patrick's Day

A fine St. Paddy's day to yez. From wan ind of th' isles to th' ither this day, the sojers from America (where an' didn't me own sister, Molly, write 'twas so?—the streets are pure gold for the pickin') will be after hilpin' us to celebrate the birth of a grand man, Sint Padrick.

Though the shamrock's hard to find, there'll be a few av thim scattered about the land, and the Rid Cross is just before distributin' thim to the soldiers while they last.

In Belfast and Londinderry, they'll be dancin' the Irish jigs o' the night, the while in London they're plannin' parties with green paper an' all at the Washington an' the Rainbow clubs. The Mostyn club won't be havin' its shindig in honor o' the Saint until tomorrow night. Huntingdon and Southport, and a few of the ither, also will be wearin' o' the green this night.

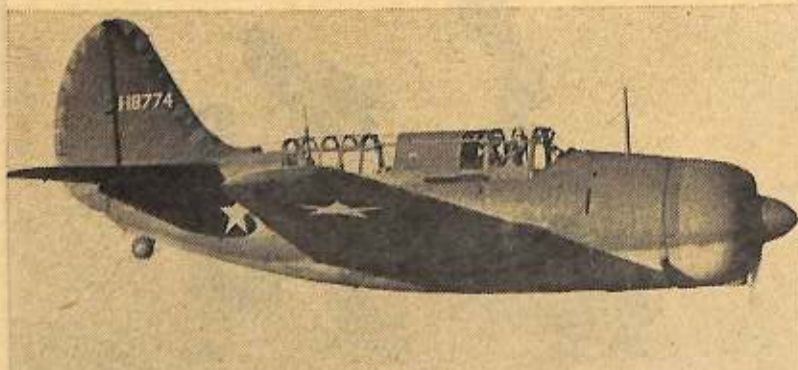
This afternoon, they're makin' a pilgrimage Downpatrick way where it's said the Saint was buried. The Yanks'll be welcome, O'Callaghans, Reillys wance removed from Drogheda, Caseys, Giovannellis an' all.

11 More Cargo Vessels Bring U.S. Total to 1,114

WASHINGTON, Mar. 16—The Maritime Commission announced the launching of 11 more merchant ships today, bringing the total completed since Dec. 7, 1941, to 1,114.

Since the first of this year, the announcement said, 211 Liberty ships, 45 long-range cargo vessels, eight tankers and eight special ships for the Navy have been launched.

A Hell-Diver for the Army



Associated Press Photo

Delivery of a new deadly dive-bomber to the U.S. Army, with a greater speed, range and striking power than any other plane of its type now being used in the war, has been announced by Curtiss-Wright. Called the A-25, the new plane is the Army's version of the Navy's SB2C-1 Hell-Diver. It is a two-place, midwing plane with a 1,700 horsepower engine. Details of its speed, armament, range and bomb capacity are military secrets.

Fire Training Ordered For All Units in ETO

Every unit of the U.S. Army in Great Britain is going to get special training to fight fires, including those caused by enemy action, it was announced yesterday by Headquarters, ETO.

Units are to set up fire-fighting organizations, the order declared, with special platoons, trained in the use of major fire-fighting equipment, stationed at important installations and working with the British National Fire Service.

Special training in the handling of incendiaries and in fire-prevention technique will be given under the plan.

