

EIGHTH ARMY ADVANCE ENEMY FIGHTS HARD



Have the Germans got out? These British soldiers mean to find out. For the men of the Desert Army this house to house searching is a comparatively new experience — an experience which will stand a soldier in good stead in Europe.

INVASION?

Present feverish meetings between Axis leaders foreshadow Axis efforts to raise 5,000,000 man army to repel invasion and stage an offensive on Russia.

Antonescu of Rumania and Admiral Horthy of Rumania betray increasing anxiety over lack of public support for their Axis commitments.

The German High Command seriously believes that the United Nations have the manpower and materials to launch a simultaneous offensive on more than one front.

British Prisoners of war passing through Turkey where they were exchanged for Italians say that all captured R.A.F. pilots and crews have been sent from Italy to Germany, to be further away from the Mediterranean.

All French men living within 100 miles of the French coast are to be forcibly enrolled into the Todt organisation which is building anti-invasion fortifications. Meanwhile the great German propaganda drive to boost the western coastal defences goes on. The Norwegian radio described them as a greater project than the pyramids.

R. N. PLEASE NOTE

The Italian fleet has been ordered to go into action when the time comes for evacuating Tunisia, says the Spanish newspaper «Arriba.»

The Turkish radio says this report is confirmed by recent changes in the command of the Italian fleet.

At the same time it is announced that German inspectors have been appointed to the Italian Army and that the whole Fiat factory has been dismantled and transferred to Germany.

DUNKIRK FLEET CALLED

From Spanish sources comes the report that the immediate use of all French merchant ships in Mediterranean ports has been demanded by the Germans.

They are trying to find emergency crews to take the ships to Sicily and Sardinia, where they are to be fully manned «for urgent operations in the next few weeks.»

«THREAT TO ITALY IS SURGING»

Italian newspapers say that «a threat to Italy is surging from the Anglo-Saxons,» but «even if Tunisia is lost the fortress of Sicily will command the Mediterranean narrows.» Germans are reported to be pushing on the defences of Sicily.

Mussolini has taken powers to put all Italians under military law and on army pay, whatever their jobs.

NAPLES, MESSINA BOMBED

Heavy American bombers raided the docks at Naples and Messina on Wednesday night, keeping up the series of Allied attacks on Axis communications to North Africa.

Bombs were seen to land on the Naples docks and the Sicilian ferry terminus at Messina. One bomber is missing but four enemy fighters were brought down.

BARGE TRAGEDY

Eighty-one members of the Forces were drowned when two barges were overwhelmed by rough seas off the Welsh coast. The accident occurred last Saturday and details just disclosed show that the barges made unsuccessful attempts to get to harbour. There were only three or four survivors. Most of the bodies have been recovered. A naval boat which put out to one of the barges sank, and five sailors, part of the crew were drowned.

Eighth Army went in to make a local attack on Wednesday night and in a few hours had secured both its objectives in front of the enemy's main line of resistance, said yesterday's «Tripoli Times» front despatch.

Fierce fighting is still going on along the whole Tunisia front, especially in the Medjez el Bab sector where we captured an enemy position and then were temporarily driven back.

FRONT DESPATCH

Last night we made a successful local attack on Eighth Army's front in which both objectives were taken.

The first was in our hands by 2200 hours. The second was more stubbornly defended but by the early hours of this morning our infantry had cleared it, too.

These objectives lie in front of the enemy's main line of resistance in the coastal sector, along Razor-Back Ridge.

On our French Allies' front Pont du Fahs appears to have been evacuated but the town is reported heavily mined and is covered by shellfire from the North and the West.

North-East of the Sebket el Kourzia there is little change to report. The enemy is strengthening his defences and still holds certain important features in this area.

The fiercest fighting of the day took place at Abdulla, about ten miles due East of Medjez el Bab. We captured the enemy's position early yesterday morning but were driven out in the afternoon by a strong German counterattack supported by tanks. However, latest reports this morning show that the position is once more in our hands.

DESERTED BY GENERAL?

Algiers radio broadcast to German troops in Tunisia: «You have been deserted by your general. Rommel has packed his bag and baton and flown to the mainland. You have no chance left. You will perish in the hell fire of Tunisia unless you lay down your arms.»

The mystery of Rommel's whereabouts grows as conflicting reports come from all parts of Europe.

One says that Rommel has left North Africa. Berlin radio said that Rommel is personally directing operations in Tunisia.

According to Geneva, Rommel has been recalled to Berlin and Hitler is offering him a post on the Russian front or command of the Axis forces in Bulgaria.

Messages reaching Ankara say that he is believed to have gone to Sicily. Stockholm reports that the Italians have agreed to a joint High Command for southern Italy and the Balkans with Rommel as Commander-in-Chief and an Italian as his deputy.

It is said that Rommel has already taken up his new post.

THROUGH STRAITS

Although British convoys go through the Channel with clockwork regularity, jogging along at convoy speed within range of shore-based enemy guns, less than one in 200 has been sunk since the beginning of the war, revealed the Admiralty yesterday. The bold way in which they carry out their South Coast journey is a contrast to the German Channel traffic which consists of an occasional ship making a night-dash from one French port to another.

Mr. Eden saw Mr. Maitsky, Soviet Ambassador, yesterday, following a conference with Gen. Sikorsky and the Polish Ambassador on Wednesday.

ON OTHER FRONTS

RUSSIA.

«No material change» said the Moscow communique yesterday, as it has for the past four weeks. Both sides have had patrols out probing each others' positions. There has been some artillery activity, notably west of Rostov. The Red Air Force brought down more than 50 aircraft in 24 hours. They were particularly active against enemy supply lines across the Kerch Straits to the Kuban.

«This is the lull before the storm which may break any day now» says «Red Star.»

EUROPE.

Allied bombers laid mines on a very large scale in enemy waters, particularly the Baltic, said the Air Ministry yesterday, and in addition bombed Wilhelmshaven. 23 bombers did not get back. The mining operations were on a larger scale than any previously undertaken and will have their effect both on the U-boat war and on the Eastern front. The Baltic is used as a training-ground for U-boats and as a supply line for preparations for operations in Russia.

British light naval forces engaged an armed enemy trawler off the Dutch coast before dawn yesterday morning, announced an Admiralty communique. During a spirited action the trawler was hit repeatedly and then sank. All our craft reached their bases with no casualties and only superficial damage to one of them.

S.W. PACIFIC.

Allied medium-bombers attacked two Japanese cargo-ships in the Pacific, scoring hits on the stern of the larger vessel with 500 lbs bombs, after which they opened up with their machine-guns. Heavy bombers made widespread and successful raids against enemy bases in New Guinea, New Ireland and New Britain. It was learnt yesterday that Air Vice Marshal D.C. Maltby, who was A.O.C. in Java, is a prisoner in Japanese hands.

BURMA.

The Japanese have failed in more attacks on the British positions in the Mayu sector, said yesterday's India communique: «The enemy have been vigorously repulsed at several places.»

Fighters and bombers gave strong support to the land forces, attacking Japanese positions on the Mayu Ridge. Other bombers set a Japanese-occupied village on fire and demolished a number of Japanese-occupied buildings. All our aircraft returned safely to their bases.

CHINA.

The Japanese were not content with killing the American airmen whom they captured after the bombing of Tokio but they also killed every man, woman and child in the Chinese area where the airmen were taken prisoner, Washington announced yesterday. The Americans find a parallel between these murders and the German massacre at Lidice after the killing of Heydrich.

«DON'T MIND RAID» READY FOR ACTION

— SAID THE KING

How on one occasion at the height of the London blitz, the King and Queen were caught out under the terrific anti-aircraft barrage, has been described by Stationmaster Harry Ireland, who has retired from the position at Kings Cross terminal station, London.

The occasion was when their Majesties, en route to the North, arrived at Kings Cross.

As they boarded the train a particularly fierce anti-aircraft barrage opened up against the Nazi bombers immediately over the station.

Their Majesties walked calmly towards the train, the Stationmaster saying to the King: «You know, Sir, what is going on. Hope you don't mind.»

The King answered. «No, I don't mind,» and declined the suggestion that he might take shelter till the danger was past.

Bombs fell over a wide area but luckily neither the station nor the train was hit.

Ireland recalls Britain's Royalty only once having kept the royal train waiting, when one of London's worst pea soup fogs delayed the royal car for forty-five minutes.

A few German raiders crossed the Eastern coast of Britain on Wednesday night. They caused no casualties and little damage and one of them was brought down.

STOP PRESS

Berlin radio said last night the Russians had launched a large-scale attack on the Axis bridgehead in the Kuban. No confirmation from Moscow.

Biz formations of fighters passed over the South Coast yesterday afternoon headed for Europe.

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UNHEALTHY

There is some speculation current in the press concerning the whereabouts of the Field Marshal.

We don't know exactly how the idea first got around that the Field Marshal was not with his command.

Perhaps Goebbels had something to do with it.

For the Field Marshal is a favourite Nazi General and he has been driven across Africa by the Eighth Army. So the story gets around that he is not with his troops.

This rather surprises us. We always heard from the Germans what a front line soldier the Field Marshal was. If there was a German advance in the desert there were stories from Berlin about the Field Marshal dashing all over the place with his front line soldiers.

Now, according to rumour there is some doubt about the Field Marshal's whereabouts. Mind you, Tunisia is certainly no place for an ambitious Axis General who has a reputation he wants to preserve.

ANOTHER FRONT

In an active theatre of war it is very easy to forget what goes on in the rest of the world.

One of the most important things that goes on is the great Allied production war.

It is a war within the war which we must win if we are to win the war as a whole. And win it we will.

It is not easy to come by figures for of a necessity most of them must be secret, but now and then we do get figures which bring home the great United Nations power to conduct this war to a victorious conclusion.

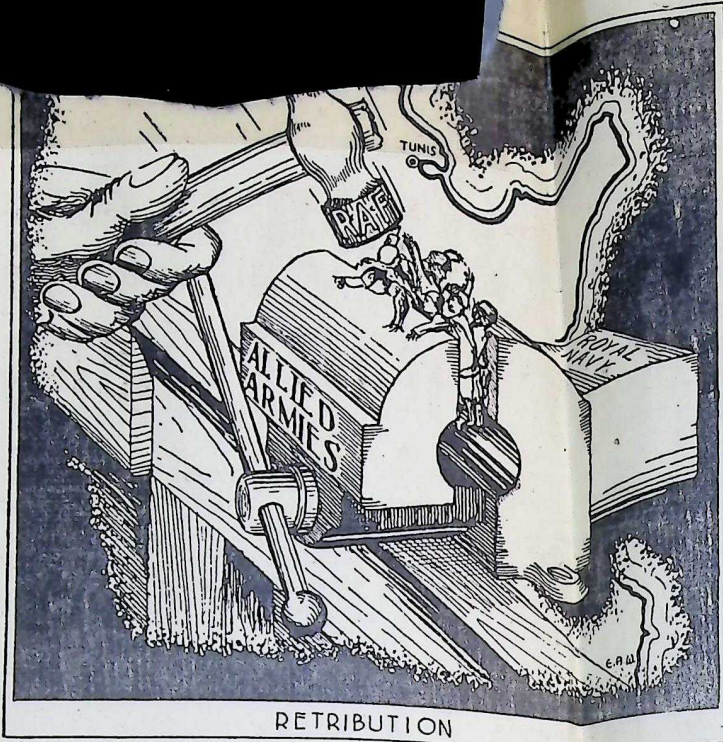
For example we quote some figures just received from Washington. Already this year a total of 475 ships have been launched in America of which 357 are Liberty cargo ships.

Hard facts like these ships are what the enemy fears.

We know that men and women at home are labouring unceasingly on this other front. We know they have the same will to win as the men of victorious Eighth Army.

Their's is as Herculean a task as any that faced the troops—and every bit as vital.

And for the soldier in the field it is good to remember that there are two fronts—in the factory and in the line.



Specially drawn for Tripoli Times by E.A. Wylan, R.E.

ROUND-THE-CLOCK BOMBING

By Group Captain J. P. Douglas

The strategic air offensive in the Mediterranean is slowly increasing in intensity, and is inflicting damage on Italian harbours and shipping comparable to that achieved by the Bomber Command offensive against Germany. This offensive provides an interesting test for the American theory of heavy bombing.

Every bomber built must be to some extent a compromise between the factors of range, bomb-load and armament. Britain has concentrated on heavy bomb-load rather than armament. The result is the Lancaster, which must therefore operate largely at night.

America has concentrated on armament at the expense of weight of bombs. The result is the Flying Fortress, which can therefore operate by day. The Anglo-American bomber offensive against Europe is thus a round-the-clock offensive in which, broadly speaking, the R.A.F. attacks by night and the U.S.A.A.F. by day.

Block Buster

The night offensive is largely area bombing, designed to devastate wide areas with heavy «block-busting» bombs. The daylight offensive is largely precision-bombing, designed to knock out smaller targets with lighter bombs very accurately aimed.

In the present Mediterranean offensive, though Liberators are attacking frequently by night, the most effective weight of air bombardment is that of the Fortresses, in daylight. Their recent successes have been striking. In a raid on Naples Harbour they destroyed more than 20 ships. In a raid on Ferryville, in Tunisia, they put the docks completely out of commission. In a raid on two Sicilian landing-grounds they destroyed one-third of the aircraft on the ground. In a raid on the Sardinian naval base they accounted for Italy's only two effective heavy cruisers, thus considerably prejudicing any evacuation which the Axis may decide to attempt from Bizerta.

The secret of these Fortress successes is twofold. When Germany attempted to invade Britain she failed for two main reasons—her bombs were not heavy enough and her day bombers were insufficiently armed to withstand our screen of fighters. The moral drawn from

this by the British was to make bigger bombs and bigger bombers to carry them. The moral drawn by the Americans was to develop the «flying battleship», a bomber well enough armed to drive the fighter out of the sky.

13 Guns

At present the Fortress carries thirteen half-inch machine-guns. In future it may even carry 37 mm. cannon.

The situation of the fighter which encounters a formation of Fortresses is thus like that of the destroyer at sea obliged to attack a group of modern battleships. Before it can get within range it will probably be blown out of the water by heavy shells from the battleship. Just so are Focke-Wulf 190's and Messerschmitt 109's blown out of the sky by the Fortresses attacking Italy's ports. The Americans claim that in future all bombers must be dual purpose planes, designed to fight as well as bomb. Air strategy, based on the fighter may be obsolete. In future it may be based on the aerial battleship.

Wonder Bombing

The second and main secret of the Fortress's success is the remarkable Norden bomb-sight. This enables accurate bombing to be done from as high as 25,000 ft., even against a moving target. It is proving to be the Allies' most effective secret weapon of the air.

The Allies now prepare to invade Europe as the Axis, before Dunkirk, planned to invade Britain. Our successful evacuation from Dunkirk was made possible by our sea power and local air power.

Rommel has no such sea power behind him, and our air power above his is supreme. His chances of successful evacuation are thus remote. He is likely to fight to a finish in Tunisia. Then we shall proceed to invade the under-belly of Europe with an air force vastly superior not only in numbers but in types and tactics.



Major R.M. Henning, R.E.M.E. Mr. Van Paasen in his article «The Germans—Not All Guilty» writes, «If a true brotherhood of nations is to emerge from this war against Fascism and Nazism....». It is most perturbing to have brought to light the unpleasant fact that after three years of horrible war there are still presumably intelligent people who either cannot or will not face up to it that we are fighting the German and Italian peoples, races that have come to be despised by a great majority of all the nations in this world. It is safe to say that there is little doubt in the minds of the German people as to whom they are fighting, it is the British, whom they have hated and near to feared for many years—the same British who since the days of the Spanish Inquisition have proved themselves to be the stumbling block of all would be world conquerors.

It is submitted in all seriousness that the only people who should be privileged to discuss this all important subject, should be those who have had the misfortune to actually see and experience the handwork of these nations Mr. Van Paasen proposes should become our brothers.

Cpl. R. Jenkins—I thought you might be interested to know that I got a copy of the Tripoli Times in Enfidaville on the same day on which it was printed. My copy actually reached me at six o'clock in the evening. I hope you keep it up.

Does the Tripoli Times now take place of the Egyptian Mail?

We're very pleased to hear you are getting your paper on time Cpl. That means your formation is wide awake on its distribution job. We take the papers to the Air Mail Centres and then it is up to formations.

Yes. We have taken the place of the Egyptian Mail.

Gnr. Payne—Permit me a small place in your paper and let the boys know something about Ulster («Old Ireland»). I belong to the first Regiment that landed in the M.E. after war was declared and the boys and myself are tired listening to messages from England, Scotland, Wales, N. York, New Zealand and Aussie Land, but none a one from Ireland. I am not a regular soldier, just a volunteer. We landed in Egypt in Nov. '39, and boy, d'd we see some Desert, Sudan, up and down Egypt, Aden, Palestine and now Tripoli. I enclose some cuttings, taken from «the Impartial Reporter», Inniskillen, which should prove once for all the Irish in our military leaders. I want the cuttings returned, as it saves a bit of an argument at times.

O.K., Paddy, we accept «Reporter's» credentials as to Co. Antrim Dill, Fermanagh Brooke, Donegal Montgomery and Armagh Alexander. We'll have to wait corroboration from Uncle Joe before we pass sentence on Tim O'Shenko of Ballyglarron. Cuttings on the way up.

Sgt. E.J. Gravett—Who is the oldest volunteer serving with the Eighth Army. To start with I am neither Regular Army nor T.A. My age is nearly 46 and I have served in the three campaigns.

Well, come on, who is the oldest volunteer?

Barrister's Clerk (R.A.): Your interesting heading «Damnable Inheritance» indicates expression in English law derived from the old Roman legal phrase «Damnosa hereditas»—meaning an inheritance involving loss not gain. That's what we thought.

As a newspaperman I would like to congratulate you folks who produce the «Tripoli Times» L/Cpl. R.E.

SA YING SOMETHING

The following poem was sent to me by an officer who (quite understandably) wishes to remain anonymous.

He calls it «Advice to young officers setting out on an Army Career» although as far as I can see it applies most admirably to all ranks.

Anyway, here we go.

«The officer who means to do his bit

To win the war, when making up his kit

Should never from the final list omit

The homely umbrella.

«In his innocence, he may likely say,

'In Egypt where it only rains a day

Or two each year, I surely needn't pay

For blasted umbrella.

«Oh, stay young sir, your pardon I implore

I do not mean that thing you knew of yore

I did but speak in airy metaphor

A GHOSTLY umbrella.

«It is not meant to guard from rain or snow

Or carried sloped when on parade you go

But to deflect contumely, don't you know

Oh, useful umbrella!

«When by its use in time you come to learn

Outrageous fortune's darts to safely turn

The Razzberries from higher up you'll spurn

With timely umbrella.

«As up the ladder rungs you safely go

Just give a little thought to those below

And show them how the fight the common foe

With trusty umbrella.

And show them how to fight Honours List you scan

You'll see your name and blush heneath your tan

As brother colonels whisper 'What a man

At raising umbrellas!»

So that's that. And, when you come to think of it, is there ANY rung on the ladder so high that no razzberry can ever fall from above?

...

Ref. the complaint I am trying to investigate for an N.C.O. now in Tripoli.

This has nothing to do with the Union Club where first-class work is being done to entertain the troops, work which I shortly hope to describe in detail.

Cyril James

DOOLITTLE DOES IT

«If we knock out troops and transports before they get over to this side, we have saved the ground forces from a lot of enemy strength.»

That is the theory that motivates Major General James H. Doolittle as he commands the Allied Strategical Air Force in Northwest Africa.

«Jimmy» Doolittle asserts, «Our job is to hit the enemy's industrial plants, dumps, and supply lines. The industrial targets are largely handled from England. We are taking care of the supply lines.»

General Doolittle is the American flying commander, whom Germany, Italy, and Japan have cause to fear.

Speed and danger have dominated his career, and the year just ending has been by all odds the most reckless and thrill packed of over twenty-five years flying.

BOMBED TOKYO

Last April he led a group of flyers on a surprise raid over Tokyo and other Japanese cities. The enemy did not know where the Doolittle raiders came from or where they went.

Since then the 46 year old commander has participated in many other dangerous flights. He helped to organize and lead the fighting Air Force that is doing than its share in North Africa.

He was close to disaster several times last year, but like Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, he has been living on borrowed time so long that he looks upon it as a permanent condition.

General Doolittle's Allied Strategical Air Force in Northwest Africa is a streamlined air unit, composed of American, British and French bombers and their escorts. This force has been shooting up Tunisian ports and airdromes, and crippling Axis lifelines from Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia.

When the Tunisian campaign is over, he may be expected to play an important role in the air battles over the European continent.

SILVER STAR

Doolittle can be found the majority of his time at advanced airdromes or on operational flights. Recently Congress voted him the Silver Star for gallantry and inspiring leadership and for participating in five dangerous raids in the North African theatre.

He is known to have flown over both Sicily and Sardinia.

He likes to pilot the planes himself. There is no type that he has not mastered. Once the pilot of a Flying Fortress, in which he was, riding, was wounded. Gen. Doolittle slipped into the pilot's seat and brought the big bomber back.

After the raid on Japan, Doolittle returned to Washington to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Soon after that, he was assigned to organize a Bomber Wing for duty overseas, and it was agreed that he would command the American.

CHAPATTIES— BUT NO COMPLAINTS

British troops are eating Indian food—and liking it. When a Subedar Major of an Indian Infantry battalion, with his N. C. Os. and men, entertained a troop of British field gunners to supper, there, was rice and chapatties—but no complaints.

The simply worded invitation, written by a Jemadar, read: «We like your battery, and we want you all to come and eat some Indian food with us.»

This is what one of the English bombardiers said of the evening afterwards:

«We had fried rice, two different kinds of chapatties, lovely rice pudding with loads of sugar, biscuits, jam, and bags of cigarettes—everything in fact that makes a B. O. R. happy.»

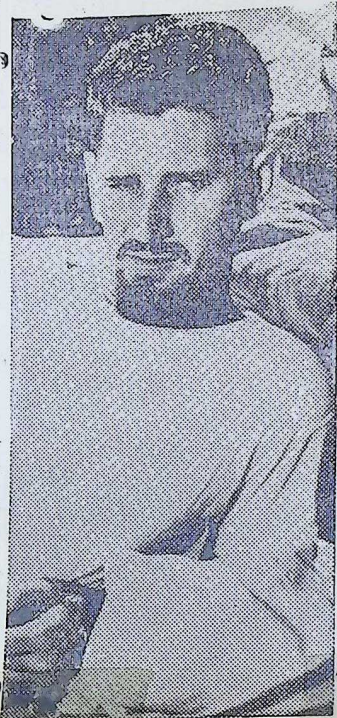
«There was a gramophone and Indian records, which we couldn't understand, but which we all liked. They sang us songs and we sang 'There'll always be an England.' We swapped stories, and made speeches of thanks, and everybody said how successful it was.»

rican Air Forces in Northwest Africa.

He flew to England and helped Maj. Gen. Carl A. Spatz organize the Twelfth United States Army Air Force. He went on several Flying Fortress raids over enemy territory just to have a look for himself.

He flew to the first aerodrome occupied in Algeria by the Allies after the November landings. He directed airfield defences and Spitfire attacks against tank columns. Within 60 hours his bombers were attacking Tunis.

BAGS 26 PLANES



Capt. Joe Foss of the U.S. Marines takes a rest on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons shortly after bagging three Japanese planes to bring his score to 26, topping all American records for enemy planes shot down. Capt. Foss flew a Wildcat fighter plane from Henderson Field, which the Marines captured from the Japs

"I KILLED FOR REVENGE"

A Chinese who was said to have declared that he had followed his victim for four years, was charged with murder at Manchester.

It is alleged that Hung Leung, 24, ship's steward, lodging in Liverpool, stabbed and killed Chang Ling For, warden of the Chinese Centre Liverpool.

Mr. A.E. Jalland, prosecuting, said Leung had told a detective: «I did it for revenge because he killed my father in China four years ago. I followed him ever since to kill him.»

When charged Leung said Fok had poisoned his father and had stolen 50,000 dollars, a gold watch and a diamond watch.

Leung said in evidence that when he had found Fok and asked him if he had murdered his father, Fok replied: «Forgive me. I was starving and destitute.»

Leung said that he became «very hot and very mad.» He stabbed Fok.

Miss Hellbirt, defending: «What would have happened if Fok had denied that he had killed your father?»—«I don't think that I should have attempted to do anything.»

The hearing was adjourned.

Because of labour shortage, the Rev. E. Roland Wilkinson, vicar of Shaley, Northumberland, has to be his own grave-digger.

TIPPERARY RIGHT THERE

It's a long way from Tipperary to Tunisia, but Pte. M.S. Sweeney, formerly a policeman of Tipperary, now a Traffic Control policeman in the forward areas of Tunisia thinks the journey well worth while if only for the exciting few minutes which a Spitfire pilot gave him recently.

«I was on point duty at a cross-roads,» he explained, «when I saw a German aircraft trying to escape from a Spitfire which was on its tail. It went very low down. I heard the machine-guns rattling and the next thing I saw was the aircraft on Me. 109 crash-landing in a field a few hundred yards away. I grabbed my rifle, left the road traffic to look after itself, and dashed towards the Messerschmitt. When I got there, I found it badly shot-up and empty. Then I saw a belt lying nearby and a man running towards an Arab village.»

For a few minutes Sweeney lost sight of the German pilot when he disappeared behind a hill. But he seen caught up with him and the German raised his hands in surrender. Sweeney took his prisoner to the nearest Traffic Control point, organised a cup of tea for him, and half an hour later was back on point duty.

CAT-CALLS FOR GOEBBELS

A report that Goebbels was received with stones and catcalls when he recently visited bomb-shattered Essen to attend a conference has leaked out of Germany.

Goebbels has become increasingly unpopular in recent weeks for his handling of the so-called civilian mobilisation.

The people of Berlin are experiencing a reduction in their meat ration, according to a message reaching Stockholm. The present ration allowance is from 300 to 350 grams a week, or sometimes even less.

Butchers and grocers have been told that henceforth they must not dress their shop windows with edibles, because of the risk of destruction by bombing.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

CAESAR'S M.A. MONEY?

A ploughman at Bale, Norfolk has turned up an urn containing 1300 Roman coins. Experts believe the coins were buried for safety prior to the invasion by the Angles and Saxons. The coins date from the reigns of Probus and Gallienus.

While Easter holiday makers crowded into London, and packed Blackpool, Bournemouth Brighton, Scarborough and other resorts the Scarborough decided to «stay put» and majority decided with gardening. There was no holiday rush on the trains.

In the country the weather favoured cycling and hiking.

On the first day of the lifting of the ban to ring church bells, G.R. Jones collapsed and died while pealing the chiming of Saint Mary's Abergavenny.

Equality of sexes has broken down the barrier of bowls Club where women are being admitted as full playing members.

Dublin shops are still heavily stocked with oranges recently imported from Cadiz, for which housewives refuse to pay the fixed prices of four to five pence each.

Twenty American soldiers from Bristol in the United States, who are public guests of England's Blitz are Bristol gave American regimental colours to the city.

Many London single decker buses are being reconverted to straight end-to-end seats to give six additional seats as well as more standing room.

LONGER I STAY LESS I PAY

Introducing Harry Woodford Mellor, the man who is saving L. 43 a day by being in prison—with maintenance thrown in

Mr. Evelyn Walkden, M.P., thinks Mellor is doing a little too well out of his prison term. He has raised the matter with the Treasury and with Mr. Herbert Morrison, the Home Secretary.

This is the background to the story of the man who makes prison pay. On November 12 Mellor was fined L. 13,000 at Bow-street, London, for failing to offer 35,821 United States dollars to the Treasury.

In default of paying the fine, he was to go to prison for ten months. Mellor, described as a farmer of Glossop, Derbyshire, elected to go to prison.

L. 13,000 GAIN

He is there now, and wiping out his fine at the rate of L. 43 per day.

«It is a scandalous situation,» Mr. Walkden said. «Here is a man found guilty of a serious

DICKENS KNEW IT

Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe, in Portsmouth St., Lincolns Inn Fields, has been reopened by Mrs. Bernard Lewis, wife of L. Cpl. Lewis, R.A.O.C.

Between them they have collected a stock of Dickens souvenirs in which Canadian and American troops show special interest.

Whether this shop is the original of Little Nell's grandfather, is debatable but Dickens almost certainly knew it as a bookbinder's premises, patronised by Thackeray. It is believed to date from 1567 and its overhanging structure is at present strongly supported by baulkings. A bomb severely shook the old place sometime ago but did no serious damage.

CARDEN OF ENGLAND

Present prospects are that matchless orchards of Kent will be yielding their crops during May, as a result of an early and prodigious season. Last time crop was picked so early was forty-five years ago.

offence; by serving a short term if imprisonment he escapes any financial penalty.

«It is quite common for Magistrates to impose an alternative sentence of one month's imprisonment in default of payment of a L. 10 fine. If this had been applied to Mellor, he would have been in gaol for life!

«As it is, at the end of ten months, or even less, he will come out, in effect, L. 13,000 to the good. «This is all wrong.»

NAZI NEST-EGG UNEARTHED

British secret agents have discovered one of the hiding-places of the Nazi leaders' «exported» fortunes. It is a bank in Brazil which has been found to be an agent for a leading Italian bank.

The fact that enormous sums have been deposited in the neutral countries was first disclosed by M.R.H.F. Knickerbocker, the American journalist, at the beginning of the war.

He named Goering, Goebbels, Hess, Ribbentrop, Ley and Himmler as the chief depositors.

The hiding-place at last unearthed is mentioned among the 561 additions to the Board of Trade's black list of enemy traders just issued.

It is a subsidiary of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, which has throughout the war been doing underhand business against Great Britain and her Allies, in Brazil.

BANKS CLOSED

It, and two other banks, both German-owned, have just been forced to close down.

An official who is in contact with the world-wide detective system which has already unmasked more than 11,000 trading concerns in league with the enemy, said:

«There is good evidence that a large part of the funds handled by the Italian branch bank in Brazil belonged to the Nazi leaders.

«It has long been suspected that the bank was one of the principal pay-offices for Axis spies and saboteurs in South America. Investigations have already shown that large sums had been received and paid away to mysterious persons.»

In his disclosure Mr. Knickerbocker stated that all the Nazi leaders, with the exception of Hitler, had fortunes in foreign bonds and currency in banks in South America.

A Ministry of Economic Warfare official said: «We have many ways of tracking down the persons and concerns that appear on the «Trading with the Enemy» black list. This country's commercial tentacles stretch so widely that very few transactions can be made without full knowledge of them reaching us through one channel or another.

«Not all of the concerns black-listed have had direct dealings with the enemy; many have acted as intermediaries, or they employ enemy persons, or have Axis sympathies.»

BEAUTY & BRAINS

After members of a brains trust at Spaxton, near Bridgwater, Somerset, had advocated lessons on «make-up» for girls at school, one member, the Rector, the Rev. F. Guy Graham, said:

«Let people learn to do it properly, like a real art, so that you appreciate it without having it thrown at you.»

Mr. Vernon Bartlett, M.P., said there was a danger in teaching people to «make-up.» He had seen beautiful girls all made up and found them «most infernally dull.»

GENEROUS ULSTER

Belfast pays up, and willingly, for charity. Just imagine making a profit of L.850 on one evening's cinema show. This is the result from a recent midnight show at the Ritz; the amount has been given to the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Families Association.

By darning old flour bags as carefully as if they were silk stockings the flour trade in Great Britain is not only saving on the importation of fresh supplies, but has sufficient on hand to see the war through.

Two thousand Aberdeen schoolboys over twelve will work on this year's potato harvest and a thousand secondary schoolboys will help with the crops.

WORLD

TRIPOLI TIMES

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1943.

PICTURES

ROAD TO TRIPOLI

BY PAUL CHADBURN

For two shillings and sixpence you can buy in the foyer of the Albergo Grande, Tripoli, a set of hotel labels representing one-time houses of call for the Italian tourist all along the road from Tripoli to Tobruk.

They have a certain memento value for men of the Light Army who have used the hotels, in one way and another, in their long trek westwards from the Nile Delta. Gypsies in khaki, the Eighth Army men on the move have usually made down their beds under the stars. Still, as a footnote to the history they have made, someone might make mention of these pubs together with the transit camps on the long, long trail awinding from Shepherds to the Albergo Mehari.

My own memories are chiefly of the transit camp at Matruh and the hotels at Derna and Barce. Also of the Mehari, Tripoli. As an O.R. I frequented an underground boozier at the Matruh camp, but there used to be also a famous officers' mess there, adorned with life-size paintings of

GUSHING VINO

It was under the ground by the Germans during their final occupation. There were arm chairs, a great fire in winter and a long bar to compare with the one at Shepherds.

It used to be reckoned as a sort of suburb of Cairo by officers leave-bound from the successive fronts at Agheila, Buq-Buq, Gazala. Then overnight, almost, the atmosphere changed completely. Tobruk fell and Matruh became a front line town again. Into that transit camp came the remnants of the Tobruk garrison, bearded and bandaged. Coldstream Guards, Highlanders, R.H.A. I remember listening to their tales of the fall of Tobruk as they lay exhausted on the ground. It was Eighth Army's zero point. There was an atmosphere of bewilderment in the camp but not of despair. The next day we moved back to El Alamein. There is a German cemetery now close to where the old officers' mess used to be.

Recollections of the Derna hotel go back to Wavell's campaign. There was no service there, but we made our beds down in it one night. There was a certain hilarity about that occupation, lacking in subsequent ones. A small incident that happened at the hotel typifies it. Someone from somewhere, with prodigious labour had hoisted onto the back of the truck and brought

to us at the hotel a huge barrel of wine. The vino gushed from the bung into our mugs.

The next morning came the problem of getting rid of that great barrel. We had no room to take it with us and no strength to lift it to the ground. The truck stood on top of an incline that led into a street where Libyan children were playing a queer sort of cricket. A blasphemous deed was done, for someone pushed the barrel over the tailboard. The bung flew out and the barrel started to roll downhill, bleeding as it went. At the bottom, among the Libyan cricketers, it burst open, splashing them crimson.

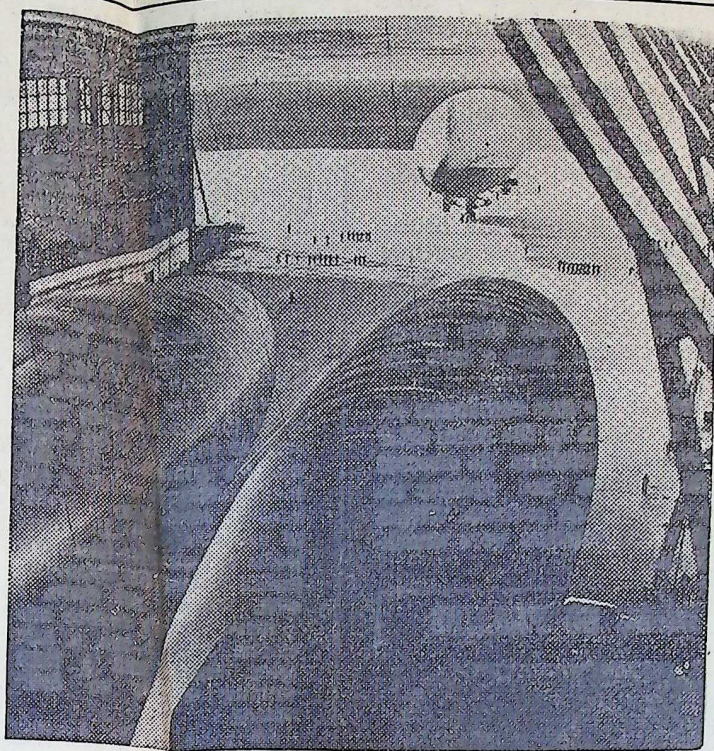
Another good hotel was the one at Barce. It has been taken over by the N.A.A.F.I., cleaned and rationalised! But before that, when it was run by a Libyan and his merry staff of men and bints singing songs of woggery up and down the corridors it had a certain charm.

The fare consisted mostly of wine and parmesan cheese. There was also one large teapot, the size of a man's head. But the manager had to go, taking his teapot with him, rolling his barrel and bowling his cheeses, a sort of «Flying Inn». And indeed I heard he wanted to set up near Barce hospital to provide for up-patients and nurses, but the permit was not granted him and Allah knows what has become of the admirable man.

ENSA GIRLS

The Mehari, Tripoli, is the finest piece of colonial architecture I have seen in North Africa. The rooms, with a bathroom between every two, look out over cloisters bright with bougainvillea; fountains splash into pools inhabited each one with a huge goldfish, big to bursting, full of its former friends.

Officers on leave stay in the Mehari. You go through an air raid shelter under the road to the restaurant which juts out over the harbour. We were dining there one night when the barrage started up and the Tripoli barrage is no mean one. Bofors seemed to be going off inside the room. Our instinct was to make for the shelter. It was four E.N.S.A. girls, sitting at a table in the middle of the room, taking not the slightest notice of the horrible racket who kept us and a good many others, too, I warrant on our chairs, waiting for a bomb to come through the ceiling.



Blimps are used extensively by the U.S. Navy for U. boat spotting. Their ability to hover makes them even more suitable for patrols than heavier-than-air craft — provided they are out of range of enemy fighters. These two blimps are being prepared for a Western Atlantic patrol.



Down she goes! Japanese aircraft attacks U.S. shipping in S.W. Pacific and receives a direct hit. Long trail of dense smoke streams out behind as blazing wreckage streaks seawards.

MUGGERS NOW N.Y. TERROR

An «anti-mugging squad» has been formed by New York police to fight against gangs of zoot-suited negroes who are terrorising the thinned out streets of the city.

The squad consists of sixty-four motor-cycle policemen who will roar through the city at night and halt suspicious youths in «zoot» suits. Many of the motor-cycles are equipped with short-wave radio.

«Muggers» attack their victims with knives and usually leave them robbed and badly beaten, especially in the face—hence the name «mugging.»

Fred Telchman, 15, a clergyman's son, was attacked by ten «muggers» as he was escorting two girls of fifteen from church.

He fought them with bare fists and the girls escaped. He was later found unconscious on the sidewalk with a knife wound near his heart. He is in a serious condition.

Another youth was forced by the «muggers» into a doorway and tortured by knives until he gave up all his money. In Detroit a twenty-man committee has been appointed to discover why «zoot» suits are responsible for the gang spirit.

OHIO SERGEANT WINS D.S.C.

On a wind-swept Tunisian aerodrome that has frequently been under enemy bombing, more than 800 enlisted men put on a review to honor 24-year-old T/Sgt. Donald L. Snyder of R.F.D. 4, Warren, Ohio, who received the Distinguished Service Cross.

«For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in North Africa. On 11 January 1943, during an attack by enemy aircraft, flares were ignited aboard a friendly airplane that was fully serviced with gasoline and bombs.

Sergeant Snyder, from a position of comparative safety, took a fire extinguisher and ran one hundred yards or more to the burning airplane. With complete disregard for the danger from the attacking planes and the possibility that the aircraft would explode at any moment, he climbed into the cockpit, opened the bomb bay doors, jumped to the ground, rushed to the rear bomb bay and succeeded in extinguishing the rapidly spreading fire in the bomb bay and flare compartment. The probable injury or death to the personnel nearby and complete destruction of the airplane were avoided by the heroic action of Sergeant Snyder. Such courage and coolness at great personal risk and danger reflect great credit upon himself and the Military Service of the United States.»

AMERICAN SPORT

The Giants have traded Connie Ryan and Poland for Ernie Lombardi.

In boxing Constantino won the decision over Morales of Havana.

Ocean Wave won the Kentucky Derby trials in 1m. 38 sec.

Tuesday's baseball league leaders were:

American League, tie for first place between New York Yankees and Cleveland Indians.

National League, Brooklyn Dodgers half a game ahead of St. Louis. International League, first place held by Newark.

Tuesday scores:

Cleveland 4 Chicago 2
Boston 5 New York 1
Philadelphia 2 Washington 1 (16 innings)
Brooklyn 4 Philadelphia 2
St. Louis 7 Chicago 0
Pittsburg 4 Cincinnati 1
New York 11 Boston 3

American Association scores:
Montreal 2, Baltimore 1
Toronto 3, Syracuse 0
Jersey City 10, Rochester 8

Wee Willy Pep won a 12-round decision over Pittsburg Jack Wilson.

There are 13 entries for the Derby trials in Kentucky, with Ocean-Wave favorite to win.

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SPORT NEWS

GORDON RICHARDS DOES IT

Gordon Richards has beaten Fred Archer's record of 2749 winning rides.

When the present-day turf champion rode Mr. James Rank's two-year-old, Scotch Mist, to victory over the five furlong Canon Yard Stakes test at the Bank Holiday meeting, he was on his 2750th winner.

Scotch Mist started a 4/9 favourite in a field of 16.

Crisis faces Lambourn trainer Reg Hobbs. He has nine horses in his stables these days, eight of them two-year-olds.... and only two stable lads and a girl who can ride at exercise.

«Unless I can get an experienced light lad to take occasional public rides, I'll have to close down» says Hobbs.

New training quarters of ex-jockey Dick Perryman, licenced to train after his recent discharge from the Army, are Sackville House, Newmarket. Here Perryman controls a string belonging to Squadron Leader Stanhope Joel.

Notts County Cricket Club have five Trent Bridge dates. Twice they will meet the National Fire Service and once each Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Northern Command. Away games are against Leicester and Derby.

Army athletics secretary, Major H.M. Morris, says there will be no championship meeting for home-based units this summer.

At the Blackpool soccer ground these days there is a section of the stand reserved for war-blinded soldiers. They are undergoing St. Dunstan's training at a hospital near Blackpool and doctors arranged their visit to convince them they can enjoy soccer as much now, by the «feel» of the game, as ever they could. Accompanying each party is a volunteer Press commentator.

Tottenham Hotspurs' talented amateur, Captain R. White, temporarily lost his sight after Dunkirk. Doctors were not hopeful of him making a recovery at one time but these days, completely recovered, he plays at White Hart Lane again.

Recently awarded the A.F.C. and a bar to his D.F.C. was Group Captain Basil Robinson, the Bath, Durham, Somerset and Wiltshire rugby three-quarter.

Northampton soccer club applied for admission to the Football League South next season. They were refused. And the reason... war-time travel difficulties and dislocation of present-style fixtures.

Former Arsenal amateur left-winger, Sergeant-Pilot Leslie Lack, who was attached to the Tufnell Park club, is missing after air ops. Earlier this year Lack was at Highbury, where team mates learned he had shot down his first Hun over Holland.

Tripoli Football Competition
Round 1
Huddersfield Town 4
Triphase 2
Ful-Sudani 1
Rickerbites 4

UNION CLUB

«49th PARALLEL»

The war has produced a few really outstanding films and «49th Parallel» is one of them.

It tells the story of six members of a U-boat crew who are left stranded on the shores of Northern Canada when their craft is bombed and sunk. Killing ruthlessly and stealing as they go, they attempt to reach the 49th Parallel—the frontier of the still-neutral United States. One by one they are killed or captured.

It paints a lurid picture of blind fanaticism, of men who no longer understand what freedom is. But it illustrates, too, the hidden longing for things as they were before Hitler in a young German sailor who finds himself again in the bakehouse of a Hutterite settlement.

MIRAMARE

«SOUTH AMERICAN GEORGE»

In spite of its title, «South American George» does not put George Formby into the Carmen Miranda lands but stays put in London town and has a sequence in a typical British pub which is enough to make your mouth water.

It is unlike most Formby films in that it doesn't build up a lot of fast climaxes. Instead, it keeps jogging cheerily along with a ration of laughs every few minutes.

George impersonates a famous opera star and a highlight of the film is the sequence in which he goes on a stage and, with the aid of a gramophone record, maintains his impersonation in front of an audience.

Linden Travers is the feminine interest and a British supporting cast is headed by Felix Aylmer.

R.L.E.

UNION CLUB CINEMA

Performances daily at 1100, 1400 & 1700 hrs. Sundays at 1400 and 1700 hrs.

Thursday, 29th April for 3 Days:
Leslie Howard, Laurence Olivier, Raymond Massey
«49th. PARALLEL.»
War Pictorial News

Sunday Next:
Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire
«HOLIDAY INN»

MIRAMARE THEATRE

Thursday, 29th April for 3 days:
George Formby
«SOUTH AMERICAN GEORGE.»
Daily at 1130 hours.

Sunday Next: at 1130:
«R.A.F. VAUDEVILLE»

Monday 3rd May for 3 days:
Johnny Weismuller in
«TARZAN'S NEW YORK ADVENTURE»