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U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
Tucson and vicinity: Little change in temperature today and tonight.
Temperatures

	High	Low
Yesterday	66	42
Year ago	70	40

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VOL. 102 NO. 59 TUCSON, ARIZONA, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1943 TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES PRICE FIVE CENTS

BRITISH HALT NAZI TANK THRUST; U. S. BOMBERS POUND BREST BASE; REDS ADVANCE WEST OF KHARKOV

LIVELY SENATE SESSION HINTS AT BUSY WEEK

Passing of Bill Killing Tax Commission Tops Dramatic Events

NEW ISSUES COMING

Controversial Matters Are Scheduled After Week-End Recess

By BERNICE COSULICH

PHOENIX, Feb. 27 — (Special) — Events tumbled over one another today so rapidly that members of the 16th legislature were left breathless. Friday was dramatic with the overriding of the governor's veto of the bank tax bill, but it paled beside today.

Yet this may be only a foretaste of next week. Monday the senate will conduct contempt proceedings against a Maricopa county official and the house may try to override the veto on the contractors' bill. The water-power authority and Colorado river ratification bills will be added to the turbulent scene and the house will receive three controversial bills passed today by the senate. These are to provide teacher retirement, abolish the tax commission and except out-of-state advertising from two per cent sales tax.

Today the senate rushed to the protection not only of Sen. James E. Babbitt, Coconino, but to its freedom of speech and the dignity of its chambers, which were invaded by a process server. Violation of two constitutional rights was more than the senators could stand. They were indignant.

Consumer Bill

The situation grew out of the bill to correct operations of mutual benefit associations. The work having been chiefly done by Senator Babbitt, and praised Friday by Senator H. H. d'Autremont, Pima. Details of the initiated damage suit are reported elsewhere, but the suit and the appearance in the senate's hall of a process server violated two rights given legislators. These are complete freedom of speech during debate and protection against civil suits 15 days prior to and throughout a legislative session.

Senator Babbitt was informed tonight the suit was being dropped. Apparently the senate will not drop its contempt proceedings, members saying: "They will go through Monday even if the suit is withdrawn. Our ire is roused. An apology is due. The action was a violation of our constitutional rights and an intrusion on the senate's dignity."

The Coconino senator tried to prevent his colleagues becoming involved. This evening he said "My hope is that this situation will not make legislators fearful in future of speaking their minds when hesitry trying to serve the people."

Tax Board Bill

Senate passage of the bill to abolish the tax commission brought up many discussions. Creating a department of revenue and director of revenue doesn't solve the matter, some said, as the governor would have even more power over this governmental division than now and it would continue to be a political football.

Some said the senate would reconsider its action Monday or Tuesday and vote down the bill. Some senators denied this, said it would proceed to the house, but if too much amended, doubted if the senate would concur in the changes. Others said there was no use even discussing the situation because the bill will never pass despite the asserted eagerness of the house to receive it.

The house does contemplate amending the bill, it was revealed in senate debates. Chief item is the revenue director's salary set at $10,000 in Sen. Dan. Anguiar (Cochise) bill. He said he would urge reducing it to $7,500 or $6,500. No state official receives $10,000, the governor's salary being $7,500.

Salary Question

Also discussed was whether the salaries of the present three tax commissioners would have to be paid until their terms expire—Thad M. Moore's January 1, 1945, D. C. O'Neil's in 1947 and Joe Hunt's in 1949. The law does not permit their salaries to be raised or lowered during their terms, but when it comes to abolishing an office a new issue arises.

Legislators found this provision in code books: "A person who is [illegible]

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ILLNESS PRECLUDES FDR MESSAGE FOR RED CROSS DRIVE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 — (AP) — President Roosevelt, though improved, cancelled all engagements for the week-end today to rest up from an intestinal disturbance which has kept him away from his office since Wednesday.

The slight fever which accompanied the disorder has disappeared today and he was said to be "getting along very satisfactory." However, his physician advised continued rest and no appointments were made for him.

A four-minute radio broadcast he was to have made between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m. (eastern war time) tomorrow in starting the $125,000,000 Red Cross war fund drive was called off. Red Cross Chairman Norman H. Davis will read the message for him.

To Pay and Own or Pay and Not Own

There has been a lot of talk about the proposed purchase of the local public utility. Most wisely the city council has decided to hire a firm of engineering experts that has assisted the city in the past, to determine whether the purchase is a wise one.

But in spite of all of the recent hullabaloo, the twisting of figures and debate, one undisputable fact stands out:

The city, the consumers of Tucson, are going to pay for this utility whether they buy it or not. The question, in its final analysis, resolves itself down to whether the people of Tucson want to continue to pay for the utility and not own it, or whether they would rather pay for it and own it. They cannot escape paying for it by any means or refusal. They can decide not to have it but to continue paying for it.

Without paying out one penny of cash, without obligating the credit of the city of Tucson for one dime, the people of Tucson have a chance to take possession of the local utility and pay for it out of earnings over a period not to exceed thirty years, and at the same time enjoy substantial rate reductions and in time make Tucson a tax free city!

The record of earnings in such normal years as 1936-1940 assures this, while if the war boom earnings of 1941-42-43 are taken as a criterion, which would not be wise to do, the city could own this utility within ten years without putting up a penny or borrowing on the credit of the city. It would only need to borrow on the prospective revenue of the utility. Thus, during these three boom years of 1941-42-43, we will have paid for nearly one-third of the offered price, but we will not own a dime's worth of the great industry.

How much longer, therefore, are we going to continue paying for the utility without owning it? Has the city council acted wisely in hiring a competent engineering firm to see whether the above statements are true?

If the above statements are true, should the people of Tucson go on paying for the utility without owning it, or should they take possession, with the consent and help of the owners, and thus own what they will pay for anyway?

Bill to Kill Tax Commission Is Approved By State Senate

PHOENIX, Feb. 27.—(AP)—The senate voted abolishment of the state tax commission today and, in a move more surprising, unanimously adopted a teacher retirement plan to which the counties and teachers will contribute.

Failure of the Anglus abolishment bill to receive a two-thirds majority beclouded the abolishment issue.

The vote on the third reading gave the bill only a bare majority of 10 to 9 until Sen. William F. Kimball of Pima county switched to the majority side. It was sent to the house without the emergency clause.

Some legislators admitted they didn't want the bill without the emergency clause to make it immediately effective. They outlined these possibilities:

The senate might reconsider its action and recall the measure from the house and kill it.

2. The house could amend it to make it more acceptable to the senate, then reinstate the emergency clause.

Revenue Department

To function in place of the tax commission, the bill would create a department of revenue with a director to be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate, at a salary of $10,000 annually.

The secretary of state, treasurer and superintendent of banks would comprise the board of tax equalization, whose duties now are performed by the tax commission.

In addition to duties of the tax commission, the bill also would transfer to the revenue department the motor vehicle fuel tax division of the highway department and the inheritance tax division of the state treasurer's office.

Senator James E. Babbit of Coconino county, who enumerated several objections to the bill but voted for it, said he understood the house planned to make the proper amendments. Babbitt objected to the salary, higher than that of the governor, elective officials on the board of equalization, and the two-year term for the director instead of six years.

Richards Opposes

Sen. V. P. Richards of Graham county voted against the bill, he said, because he felt it could not accomplish its purpose, and Sen. J. Hubert Smith of Mohave county explained that he was voting for it "because it is an step in the right direction."

The roll-call:

For—Angius, Babbit, Baker, Bixby, Fain, Hathaway, Henning, Kimball, Minotto and Smith—11.

Against — Cardif, Cutter, Sowards, Heron, Richards, Stanton, Thalheimer and Keefe—8.

Only Sen. Dan Angius of Cochise County voted against the teacher

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LEND LEASE IS TERMED VITAL

But Repayments in Gold Or Goods Cannot Be Made Says Board

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—The house foreign affairs committee, recalling the international debt problems arising from World War I, cautioned the nation today against expecting repayment in gold or goods when the time arrives for a post-war settlement of lend-lease aid.

In a formal report to Congress on the necessity for extending the lend-lease act for another year, the committee declared that "the method of settlement by payment in gold or in goods has in the past proved self-defeating and destructive."

Warning Given

Moreover, it argued that such a balancing of accounts among nations after this war would seriously interfere with the achievement of the "world economic order on which the prosperity of this country largely depends."

In glowing phrases, the committee reviewed the part which this nation's lend-lease, amounting already to more than $9,000,000,000, has contributed to the cause of the United Nations, first in warding off the Axis thrusts, then in taking the offensive.

Work Lauded

"Lend lease," it said, "aided in sustaining and strengthening the United Nations in days of defeat and retreat. Lend-lease has helped and will continue to help in equipping and supplying the armed forces of the United Nations now beginning a relentless offensive."

But the committee emphasized that lend-lease was a two-way proposition, operating in reverse to bring benefits to American troops and some material to this nation's factories.

"Under lend-lease in reverse," the report said, "the other United Nations are in turn making available a constantly growing amount of aid to the armed forces of the United States. The spirit of cooperation evidenced by the lend-lease act has been reciprocated in full by the countries providing aid to the United States."

Official Communiques

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Sunday, Feb. 28.—(AP)—The text of today's communique:

Northwestern sector—Reconnaissance activity only.

Northeastern sector—New Britain activity only.

New Guinea: Lae: Our medium units bombed and heavily strafed the area along very unfavorable altitude, starting numerous fires and silencing machine gun positions. Anti-aircraft was negligible and there was no attempt at interception.

Wau-Mubo: Our ground patrols threw the enemy's forward elements back, many of his dead being left in our hands.

Papua: A total of 600 Japanese have been killed and 73 taken prisoner in the Buna area during the month of February as an aftermath of the Papuan campaign.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—The navy released the following communique today.

"North Pacific:

"1. On February 25th, U. S. bombers with fighter escort attacked Japanese positions at Kiska.

"South Pacific: (All dates are east longitude)

"2. On Feb. 26 Dauntless dive bombers (Douglas) with Wildcat (Grumman F4F) escort attacked Japanese positions at Munda. Many fires were started and at least one plane was destroyed on the ground."

BOEING PLANT WORK HOLIDAY IS CALLED OFF

24-Hour General Meeting Proposed for Monday Is Cancelled

BYRD URGES ACTION

Progress in Settlement Of Seattle Dispute Reported by WLB

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 — (AP)—Workmen who build the army's Flying Fortresses today cancelled the 24-hour "general meeting" proposed for Monday as the War Labor Board reported progress toward settling their wage dispute.

Before this development, Senator Byrd (D-Va) declared in a statement that the time had come when Congress should enact measures to bring any work stoppages in war industry and that strikes under present conditions are "directly against the government itself."

A spokesman for the AFL Aeronautical Mechanics Union at Seattle, in announcing cancellation of the meeting planned for Monday in case the WLB had not then reached a decision, said that its abandonment was indicated by "developments." Instead the union's executive board will hold a meeting.

Board to Meet

The WLB, which has had the aircraft wage case since January 8, said it would meet tomorrow and Monday to speed a decision. It announced that "progress is being made and the board will continue to make progress until it is decided." The unions seek an increase from 62½ to 95 cents an hour starting wage.

Senator Wallgren D-Wash.), likewise reported assurances from Chairman William H. Davis of the WLB "that the board will remain in continuous session until settlement is reached." Wallgren added that the public should "be informed that the union leaders sought settlement of this question constantly since the first joint union war production board meeting in Hollywood June 16, 1942. The public should be further informed that during the period these discussions carried on continuously, most of the job and the Boeing company accepted the army E award and that the union bond drive received a 94 per cent participation with an average per capita purchase of 12 per cent of wages."

Others Locale Act

Before the proposed 24-hour meeting at the Boeing plant was cancelled, OPL unions at the Consolidated Aircraft factory, San Diego, and Lockheed-Vega, Burbank, Calif., had approved similar 24-hour protest gatherings.

Another labor development was an effort by officials of the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards at Baltimore to break up what they said was a tendency by some employed to leave work before expiration of the period for which they were paid.

Five hundred workers were suspended one day, General Manager J. M. Willis explained that the company had posted a warning that men who punched out within one minute of quitting time would be suspended, on the assumption they had been standing around waiting for the exact quitting time.

Various Shipbuilding business agent for the local CIO shipbuilders' union, said the union was in accord with the company rule but contended it had been applied indiscriminately.

STIMSON BACKS MANPOWER BILL

Compulsory Control Gets Strong Endorsement From Secretary

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Reporting "increasing evidence of the inadequacy of present controls" Secretary of War Stimson wrote the senate military committee today strongly endorsing a bill providing for compulsory control of manpower.

In a letter to Chairman Reynolds (D-N.C.), Stimson said the war department "strongly endorses" a bill introduced by Senator Austin (R-Vt.) and Rep. Wadsworth (R-N.Y.) and "urges its prompt passage by Congress."

This was the first intimation from administration sources of support for the Austin-Wadsworth measure, which would provide primarily for voluntary transfer of workers to essential war jobs, but would provide for compulsion if voluntary controls fail to bring about the desired results.

Stimson reported "present or imminent" shortages of labor in agriculture, mining and industry.

"There is increasing evidence of the inadequacy of present controls to achieve a full utilization of our manpower and to solve the labor shortage problem," Stimson wrote Reynolds.

CHURCHILL BETTER

LONDON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—The condition of Prime Minister Churchill, who is recovering from an attack of pneumonia, "continues to be satisfactory," a bulletin from No. 10 Downing street said today.

CAPTURE NEW TOWNS

Russian Planes Smash 18 German Bombers In Airdrome Raid

THAW IS HANDICAP

German Resistance Is Stubborn, Moscow Report Admits

LONDON, Sunday, Feb. 28 —(AP)—Red Army troops battling forward west of Kharkov captured a number of large populated places in violent fighting yesterday, while Russian airplanes roared ahead to destroy 18 German bombers in the airdrome at Zaparozhe on the Dnieper river bend, the Soviet announced early today.

Russian ground forces last were reported only 50 miles northeast of Zaporozhe.

Soviet units swept into several populated places north of Kursk, also, said the midnight communique recorded by the Soviet monitor, but the bulletin told of stubborn German resistance on all fronts, with the Nazis steadily pouring tanks into the battle, especially in the muddy Donets area.

The communique did not identify any of the populated places claimed in advances west of Kharkov. But said that 150 Germans were killed and six tanks burned or disabled in the fighting for one locality alone.

Thaw Hampers Reds

Thawing weather is hampering the Russians, but Moscow dispatches said the Soviet generals expected more freeze to facilitate their drive before the advent of spring.

Two hundred Germans were reported killed in street fighting at captured Belgorod, northeast of Kursk, where Soviet columns menace Orel, a powerful German defense bastion.

Various German counterattacks were described southwest of Kramatorsk and southwest of Voroshilovgrad in the Donets Basin, and the Soviet declared that 28 Nazi tanks were destroyed and 400 Germans killed in repulse of an at-

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LONE CONTEST FACES VOTERS

Democrats Have One Race In City Primary; GOP Plans Write-ins

With but one contest on the ballot and the total voter registration reduced to almost half that of last year, Tucson will conduct its annual primary election Tuesday.

The polls will be open from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m., during which hours the sale of liquor is prohibited within the city limits, and all voting except, of course, absentee ballots, will be by machine.

Sole contest is that in the Democratic primary between Halbert W. Miller, the incumbent, and Martin Rogers, for city councilman from ward No. 4. Miller, a real estate agent and former member of the board of regents of the University of Arizona, is seeking renomination for his second term, having been elected two years ago to succeed the veteran William E. Gambrell, who retired voluntarily.

Rogers is an attorney, recently admitted to the bar.

Other Candidates

Other candidates on the Democratic ticket are incumbents seeking renomination; Henry O. Jaastad, for mayor; Homer L. Shants Jr., for councilman from ward No. 1, and J. O. Niemann, for councilman from ward No. 2.

Jaastad and Niemann have served for 10 years and seek renomination for their sixth terms. The mayor is an architect, while Niemann is in the signal department of the Southern Pacific Company. Niemann has been a member or chairman of the finance committee of the council since he was first elected.

Shants, an attorney, was appointed in 1941 to complete the unexpired term of James Elliott Dunseath, and in the subsequent election of that year was nominated and elected to his first term as councilman from ward No. 1.

Write-In Drive

Republicans, without any candidates listed on the ballot, have announced a slate to be written in Tuesday for nomination to oppose the Democratic nominees in the general election on April 6.

Grant, chosen on the list as the party's candidate for mayor, is president of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce. In the 1940 general election he was the GOP candidate for councilman from ward No. 3, suffering defeat at the hands of Fred D. Lee, Democrat, a result

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Allies Maintain Aerial Attack Twice Around Clock; Americans Blast Nazi Navy Center While RAF Fliers Smash at Dunkerque

LONDON, Feb. 27—(AP)—American Fortresses and Liberators bomber bashed the German naval base at at Brest on the French coast today while RAF Venturas attacked Dunkerque in continuation of the greatest sustained air assault of the war on enemy installations from the North Sea to the Bay of Biscay. All the big U. S. bombers returned safely from the latest in the series of assaults in which Allied planes have pounded the Nazi war machine twice around the clock and more. The Paris and Calais radio stations suddenly went off the air tonight, indicating the RAF was carrying the offensive through another night.

The daylight operation followed closely a "very heavy" attack by RAF bombers last night on the battered German industrial city of Cologne.

Squadron after squadron of Allied planes shuttled across the channel today as RAF and Allied fighters escorted the four-motored American bombers in their raid on Brest.

U-Boat Base

Their target again was the U-boat base at that west coast port, pointing to a sustained Allied air offensive to weaken the German submarine fleet and help clear the way for the landings on the European mainland.

Wilhelmshaven, which U. S. bombers struck in daylight yesterday, is another U-boat building center and haven. Cologne, left quakeday under last night's avalanche of RAF bombs, also builds submarine engines and parts.

With the Lorient and St. Nazaire U-boat bases largely out of commission from day and night attacks by the Allied bomber fleets stationed in Britain, the Germans now probably are using Brest— the third big base in France—to capacity, one British observer said.

Opening Round

Today's American attack was seen by some as a possible opening round of a series of blows on Brest.

It was the third USAAF raid on Brest and the 116th attack there since the start of the war.

In addition to the Fortresses and Liberators engaged in the Brest attack, the USAAF also sent out fighters to help escort RAF light bombers that pasted Dunkerque docks and shipping.

The RAF daylight attacking force was composed of more than 200 fighters and fighter-bombers, the air ministry news service reported.

Fighters Missing

Four fighters were reported missing from the ship's return from operations, carried out in favorable weather.

The air ministry communique said bursts were seen on the quays and shipping at Dunkerque, where two enemy fighters which challenged the American-built Venturas were destroyed.

RAF Whitwind bombers, with a Spitfire escort, also attacked an enemy air field at Maupertuis, France, as the deadly pattern of Allied aerial might continued to unfold.

ROBERT POST MISSING

LONDON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Robert P. Post of the New York Times was aboard one of the bombers which failed to return from yesterday's American raid on Wilhelmshaven, but American officers held out hope tonight that the 32-year-old war correspondent had parachuted to safety.

Fresh Rebuffs for President Are Anticipated in Congress

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Two fresh rebuffs for President Roosevelt were strongly indicated in the senate today—but the White House was authoritatively represented as not greatly perturbed over the current congressional difficulties.

1. Informal nose counts by administration leaders indicate that a majority of the senate is likely to support a modified version of the bill by Senator McKellar (D-Tenn) to require senate confirmation of federal appointees paid more than $4,500 a year over Roosevelt's strenuous protest that this would be "a tragic mistake."

At the same time, administration canvasses indicate considerable opposition among Democrats to the President's nomination of former Gov. James V. Allred of Texas to the fifth circuit court of appeals. Allred resigned a federal district judgeship to take an unsuccessful campaign for the democratic senatorial nomination.

In the senate and around Roosevelt there is a tendency to view the setbacks already handed the administration as a temporary manifestation which will dissolve with the passing of time.

No Undercover Work

There has been an expectation in some quarters that President Roosevelt would take vigorous steps to fend off prospective reverses; but persons with access to accurate information, who prefer not to be quoted by name, said there is little evidence that administration aides are attempting any undercover work on Capitol Hill, at least on a scale comparable to activities in the past.

The fight against Allred apparently threatens to assume the proportions of that which preceded the withdrawal of Edward J. Flynn's nomination to be minister to Australia. Because of this, there was talk among some senators that the Allred nomination also might be withdrawn.

Several Democrats, including Senators Ellender and Overton of Louisiana, already have expressed opposition to Allred, largely on the ground that a Louisiana man should be appointed.

Wheeler Opposes

But Senator Wheeler (D-Mont), a member of the judiciary committee considering the appointment, said he intends to fight confirmation because he believes the practice of permitting judges to resign to run for office and then reappointing them if unsuccessful "is degrading to the judiciary." There have been indications that Wheeler would be backed in this stand by Senator Byrd (D-Va) and other influential senators.

The McKellar bill will come before the full judiciary committee Monday for a vote with Chairman Van Nuys (D-Ind) predicting its speedy approval. McKellar announced he will seek senate consideration at the earliest opportunity.

METAL MINING IS PUT UNDER 48-HOUR WEEK

Lumber Industry Also Is Included in Order Issued by WMC

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 — (AP)—A 48-hour week for the lumber industry in all its phases and for metal mining other than iron throughout the nation was ordered tonight by the war manpower commission.

At the same time, Chairman Paul V. McNutt issued regulations granting broad discretionary authority to area and regional directors in putting the 48-hour week into effect in other industries in the 32 "labor shortage" areas designated last month.

In general, these regulations are designed to ease the transition to the longer work week by providing that no firm which must release employes to go on a 48-hour basis shall install the longer week until the federal employment service finds "suitable employment" for the workers.

Explanation

As explained by Foster V. Harper, McNutt's chief deputy, this might mean a period of months or even years before some firms in the labor shortage areas will institute the longer work week. He outlined the procedure in this manner:

By April 1, the company must file with the regional manpower official a statement of how many employes it would release by going on the 48-hour week. It should then continue working its current schedule until manpower officials advise that jobs elsewhere are ready for the workers who would be released.

This would apply only to businesses which must release employes.

Two Classes

Other firms, in Harper's explanation, would fall roughly into two classes:

1. Those which can go on a 48-hour week without releasing employes, and which would make a contribution to the war effort by a longer work week. Such businesses, Harper said, should simply change to the 48-hour week and need not notify anyone.

2. Those for whom a longer work week would be impracticable, would not contribute to reduction of labor requirements or the war

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KASSERINE RETAKEN

Town Beyond Disputed Pass Occupied by Allied Troops

ATTACKS REPULSED

Veteran Empire Units Hold Firmly Along 55-Mile Front

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Feb. 27 —(AP)—Veteran British troops stoutly entrenched on the rugged heights near the Bizerte-Tunis bridgehead shattered repeated German armored thrusts along a muddy, 55-mile front today while in central Tunisia American and Allied combat teams captured the town of Kasserine and drove near the Thelepte airport, 15 miles to the southwest.

Throwing about 50 tanks into short, stabbing attacks, supported by probably as much as five battalions of infantry, Col.-Gen. Jurgen Von Arnim tried but failed to break into the strategic network of roads immediately behind the British line.

From the area of Sidi Nsir, 15 miles northeast of Beja, to Jebel Mansour, six miles southeast of Bou Arada, Axis forces stormed forward into devastating fire from British artillery.

Strengthened with new tanks, including the 40-ton Churchill, the British armor quickly counterattacked and Allied war planes provided close ground support.

Prisoners Mounting

With the fighting still continuing, the number of Axis troops taken prisoner, which last night exceeded 400, was mounting steadily.

Six attacks were launched by the enemy early yesterday and although all were temporarily smashed the pressure was renewed at two points, field dispatches said late this afternoon.

Along the Mateur-Beja road, where 30 tanks and one infantry battalion began the assault, the enemy still was trying for a breakthrough in the Sidi Nsir area.

In the area of Bou Arada, which is held by the British, the enemy was attempting to dent the line after the British destroyed seven out of 20 German Panzers for the loss of one Churchill.

The northernmost limit of Von Arnim's operations was the mateur-Tabarka road where a column of 700 men was repulsed. The southernmost limit was Jebel Mansour, whose bleak summit has been a long disputed vantage point.

Other Threats Halted

Other enemy thrusts were driven back from the vicinity of Medjez-El-Bab and southward from Goubellat, this latter attack having been planned to link up with the attack northwest from Bou Arada and pinch off a 10-mile British salient.

The prisoners were taken in the Mateur-Beja valley 15 miles northeast of Beja at a point 37 miles southwest of Bizerte. The Allied communique said the British destroyed seven tanks at the cost of only one.

"The fighting continues," the communique added crisply.

Far to the south, the British eighth army veterans of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery wheeled into positions immediately south of the Mareth line without serious opposition, the Germans continued to pound the French fortifications and German airports.

Parachutists Gathered

The Allied pursuit of Marshal Erwin Rommel's severely mauled columns continued south and east of Kasserine pass. The Germans were reported demolishing installations at the Thelepte airport, 43 miles northwest of Gafsa, preparatory to evacuation.

The air field lies only seven miles northeast of Feriana, one of the towns the Allies lost near the Algerian frontier before Rommel first captured the Kasserine pass, which he could not hold.

Von Arnim apparently believed the British positions had been weakened because some armor and infantry had been rushed south to halt Rommel's thwarted drive to the vicinity of Thala. He guessed wrong, because the British thrust back ever assault by the Germans, who employed several battalions of infantry and tank units at times.

Allied bombers raided not only Von Arnim's rear but attacked Cagliari in Sardinia and Bizerte. Docks, rail yards, an airfield and industrial buildings were hit at Cagliari.

U. S. Flying Fortresses raided shipping north of Sicily and set afire a large merchant vessel. An enemy ship in a convoy headed east into the Mediterranean narrows was attacked by another formation of Fortresses.

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