

The Texts of the Day's Communiques on the Fighting in Various War Zones

United Nations

AT ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Dec. 11 (AP)—A communiqué:

1. Attacks in the direction of Medjez-el-Bab were launched yesterday afternoon by two columns of enemy tanks supported by infantry.
2. One column came down from the north along the west bank of the Medjerda. Our forces counter-attacked immediately and destroyed a number of enemy tanks.
3. The other column advancing from the east came within 2,000 yards of Medjez-el-Bab, but when engaged by our artillery and fighter aircraft, withdrew. Several tanks were destroyed in the battle.
4. French forces including infantry and artillery participated in this action. We lost a few tanks. Enemy losses were considerably higher.
5. In other forward areas our forces carried out offensive patrols.

AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Dec. 11 (AP)—The noon communiqué:

NORTHWESTERN SECTOR

Activity limited to reconnaissance.

NORTHEASTERN SECTOR

New Guinea:
The Gona area has been completely occupied by our forces. A night counter-attack by the enemy in the Buna area collapsed under our fire. Bitter hand-to-hand fighting ensued throughout the position in a struggle for pillbox-type enemy machine-gun emplacements. Our air force continued in direct support of the action.

United States

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11—Navy communiqué 216:

SOUTH PACIFIC

1. An Army Flying Fortress on a reconnaissance flight over the island of New Georgia was attacked recently by fifteen Zero fighters. The Fortress returned to its base after shooting down five of the enemy fighters.
2. The U. S. S. Alchiba, an auxiliary cargo ship, was lost recently as the result of enemy action. Reports indicate that total casualties amounted to three missing.

British

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 11 (AP)—A British communiqué:

Yesterday afternoon a force of Japanese bombers, escorted by fighters, made a short attack on Chittagong.

The civil population calmly took shelter, and although several bombs were dropped only a small amount of damage was caused. Casualties were reported to have been extremely light. The enemy was intercepted by R. A. F. Hurricanes and many combats took place.

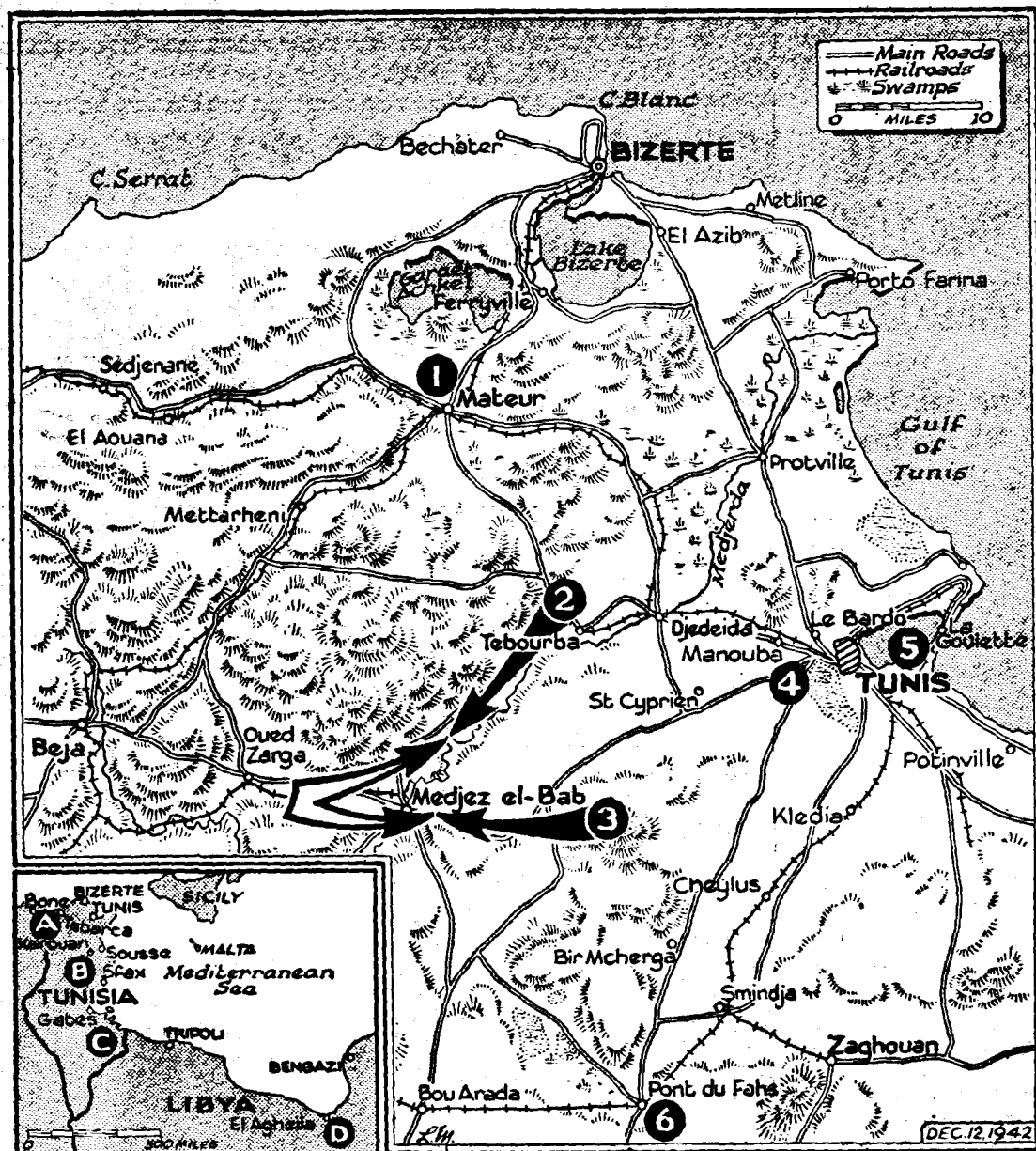
Three of the raiders were confirmed as having been destroyed by our fighters and aircraft defenses, but full reports are not yet available. Two of our fighters were shot down, but the pilots are safe.

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 11 (AP)—A joint British Headquarters and R. A. F. communiqué:

Although no major engagement has taken place, enemy reaction to constant activity of our patrols indicates his forward troops are in a state of some nervousness.

Our fighters and fighter-bombardment area yesterday, targets be-

THE AXIS STRIKES OUT IN TUNISIA BUT IS BEATEN BACK



After Allied withdrawals had converted the front between Mateur (1) and Tebourba (2) from an arc into a virtually straight line, one German tank column supported by infantry drove south along the west bank of the Medjerda River toward Medjez-el-Bab and another approached to within 2,000 yards of that village from the east (3), but each was driven back. Below the Mateur-Tebourba-Djedeida sector it now holds, the Axis has a curved line of scattered strong points extending to Pont du Fahs (6). Allied

parachutists were reported operating only four miles from Tunis (4), as its airdrome and the docks at La Goulette (5) were heavily bombed. The German claim to the capture of Tabarca (A on inset) went unconfirmed. Axis forces pushed inland from Sousse and Sfax (B) and Gabes (C) to meet American tanks and parachutists. Enlarged British patrol activity at El Ageila (D) disclosed increasing nervousness on the part of Marshal Rommel's men.

ers were active over the Libyan ing the Marble Arch landing ground, vehicles, gun emplacements and encampments.

In encounters with the enemy at least four Axis fighters were destroyed. Docks at La Goulette and the Tunis airfield were successfully attacked during the night of Dec. 9-10.

Yesterday our long-range fighters shot down one and severely damaged the other planes in a formation of three six-engined enemy aircraft which were encountered over the sea north of Tripolitania.

In addition a four-engined aircraft was also severely damaged. At Sousse, Tunisia, a bombing attack resulted in a large fire among cargo which was being unloaded from a merchant vessel at the quayside and a direct hit was scored on a warehouse.

From the above operations four of our aircraft failed to return.

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AP)—An Air and Home Security Ministries communiqué:

Early last night there was some

slight enemy activity over the northeast coast of England. No bombs were dropped. One enemy aircraft was destroyed.

A later Air and Home Security Ministries communiqué:

Slight damage and a small number of casualties were caused at places near the southeast coast of England today by gunfire from enemy fighters. One enemy fighter was destroyed by our fighters.

An Admiralty communiqué:

The Board of Admiralty regrets to announce that the minesweeper H. M. S. Cromer (Commander R. H. Stevenson, D. S. Q., R. N.) has been lost. The next of kin of casualties have been notified.

French

ALGIERS, Algeria, Dec. 11 (AP)—A French Headquarters communiqué:

In the region west of Kairouan

our offensive reconnaissances progressed as planned. On the rest of the front there is nothing to report.

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AP)—The Morocco radio broadcast the following tonight as a communiqué from French General Headquarters in North Africa:

French forces established at Medjez-el-Bab in liaison with Allied forces were attacked by an enemy column coming from the southeast and consisting of about fifteen tanks and infantry.

The enemy retired after suffering heavy losses in infantry and half their tanks damaged.

Greek

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AP)—A Greek Naval Headquarters communiqué:

The commander in chief of the Royal Hellenic Navy regrets to announce that the submarine Triton (Lt. Kontoyannis, R. H. N.) has been sunk. The next of kin of casualties will be informed as soon as possible.

Russian

MOSCOW, Dec. 11 (AP)—The Soviet Information Bureau's noon communiqué:

During the night of Dec. 10-11

our troops in the Stalingrad area and on the central front continued offensive engagements in the same directions as before.

In the Stalingrad factory area a Soviet unit operating in small groups destroyed blockhouses and silenced enemy firing points. About a dozen enemy fortifications, together with their garrisons, were destroyed.

On the southern outskirts of the city our units advanced despite fierce enemy resistance. About a company of enemy officers and men was wiped out and four guns, nine machine guns and three mortars were destroyed.

Northwest of Stalingrad our units conducted offensive engagements and repulsed enemy counter-attacks. One detachment penetrated into enemy dugouts. In hand-to-hand fighting, the Red Army dislodged the enemy and occupied their positions. Many enemy dead were left in the dugouts.

In another sector Red Army men repulsed several enemy counter-attacks and destroyed seven tanks and more than a battalion of enemy infantry.

Southwest of Stalingrad, a Soviet unit repulsed an enemy counter-attack. The enemy, forced to retreat, left 160 officers and men killed on the battlefield.

In another sector six Red Army men, commanded by a guards lieutenant, defended a height. A company of enemy infantry was thrown into the attack several times but on each occasion they were driven back. The seven guardsmen killed about eighty Hitlerites and held their positions.

On the central front Red Army men fortified themselves in occupied positions and conducted offensive engagements. In the area west of Rzhev Soviet units destroyed an enemy center of resistance and wiped out about two companies of enemy infantry.

They captured six guns, twenty-seven machine guns, a wireless transmitter, four trucks and other trophies.

In the area of Velikiye Luki the enemy three times attacked one Soviet unit but all enemy attacks were beaten off with heavy losses for him.

MOSCOW, Saturday, Dec. 12 (AP)—The midnight communiqué:

During Dec. 11 our troops in the Stalingrad area and on the central front continued offensive operations in the same directions as before.

During Dec. 10 in the Stalingrad area sixty enemy transport planes were destroyed.

In the factory district of Stalingrad our units engaged in shelling and demolishing enemy blockhouses and dugouts. On the southern outskirts of the city one of our detachments encircled six enemy blockhouses, annihilating a Hitlerite garrison that displayed resistance.

During the day in various sectors two German tanks were disabled, thirty-four blockhouses and dugouts were destroyed and about 400 enemy officers and men were killed.

Northwest of Stalingrad on the left bank of the Don our units repulsed enemy counter-attacks and engaged in reconnoitering enemy positions. The men of one of our units repulsed five enemy counter-attacks and hurled the Germans back to their initial positions. The enemy in this engagement lost about two companies of infantry and left three disabled and two burned-out tanks on the battlefield.

In another sector the Hitlerites attacked our positions with the support of seven tanks and ten armored cars. Our artillery destroyed one armored car and all seven tanks of the Germans.

Southwest of Stalingrad part of our forces engaged in active operations while in other sectors enemy reconnaissance sorties were repulsed.

The artillerymen of "X" unit

silenced several artillery batteries and dispersed and partially annihilated an enemy infantry concentration.

Men of one of our units broke into dispositions of the Germans and in a violent engagement exterminated 180 enemy officers and men. We captured two guns, nine machine-guns, seven mortars, thirteen trucks and an ammunition dump.

On the central front our men consolidated positions captured by them and with part of their forces engaged in combat against enemy infantry and tanks.

In the area of Rzhev one of our units repulsed several German counter-attacks. Having worn down the enemy our men attacked and occupied a number of his strong points.

In this engagement the Germans lost several hundred officers and men killed. We destroyed twenty-one enemy tanks.

In the area of Velikiye Luki our units as a result of violent engagements occupied heights of considerable tactical importance. Repeated German counter-attacks were unsuccessful, ending in the enemy sustaining heavy losses in manpower and equipment.

On the Leningrad front in three days our detachments annihilated about 500 enemy officers and men.

Our artillery demolished blockhouses and dugouts, destroyed two guns and eight machine-guns and one enemy ammunition dump.

German

A High Command communiqué broadcast from Berlin and recorded here by The Associated Press:

In the south of the eastern front lively fighting continued. In the course of it, weaker enemy forces were annihilated north of the Terek River and north of Stalingrad, and a dominating hill position was taken in the Don Bend in a fierce engagement. All counter-attacks by the enemy failed.

Italian troops, in an aggressive reconnaissance engagement, broke into enemy positions and brought back prisoners and booty. Enemy reconnaissance thrusts were repulsed by Hungarian troops.

Strong German and Rumanian air force formations intervened in fighting in the Volga-Don area. Fighters shot down twenty-four aircraft. Bomber and battle planes continued fighting enemy lining-up operations on the middle Don.

An energetic attack by German infantry and tank divisions in the central sector of the front led to the encirclement of an enemy

shock group. All Russian attacks and attempts at breaking out were repelled with the support of the air force.

Southwest of Kalinin and at Lake Ilmen, ever again attacking, the Soviets could score no successes.

From Dec. 1 to Dec. 10, 1,262 enemy tanks were destroyed, captured or rendered immobile by gun fire on the Eastern Front.

In Cyrenaica German fighters shot down eight enemy aircraft, losing only one.

German and Italian fighter groups in Tunisia penetrated enemy positions and destroyed or captured thirty-seven tanks and numerous other weapons. Bone Harbor was bombed during the night.

In the fight against the British-American air force 191 enemy planes were shot down during the period from Dec. 1 to Dec. 10 and 112 of these were shot down in the Mediterranean area. During the same period forty-five of our own planes were lost.

During offensive operations in recent days in the central sector of the Eastern Front the Nineteenth Tank Division particularly distinguished itself by the energetic and superior leadership of its commander and by the fighting spirit, tenacity and hardness of the troops.

Italian

A High Command communiqué broadcast from Rome and recorded here by The Associated Press:

In Cyrenaica, there were patrol actions and more intense air activity. During a lively air engagement German fighters shot down eight planes. One more was brought down by anti-aircraft defenses.

In the Tunisian region, in local engagements, Axis units occupied some positions, causing the enemy loss of thirty-nine tanks, some armored cars, anti-tank guns and some motor transport. Axis aviation intervened in the fight and destroyed large numbers of armored cars and bombed, with good results, road and rail junctions in the enemy rear.

During a raid over one of our naval bases in Tunisia anti-aircraft guns of a German ship shot down two planes. A third crashed in the sea near Lampedusa, hit by escorting fighters of one of our convoys.

Victims during the last raid over Turin among the civilian population were fifty-seven dead and sixty wounded.

Japanese

No broadcast of a Japanese communiqué was recorded yesterday by the principal radio listening posts in the United States.