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MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN,

RED ARMY IS NEAR ROSTOV

Key to Caucasus Campaign in Danger as Nazis Continue Flight

TOWNS ARE RECAPTURED

BY HENRY C. CASSIDY

Moscow.—(P)—The Red Army of the lower Don has broken through German lines on a 20 mile front on both sides of the river and has driven within 75 miles of Rostov, key to the whole Nazi salient into the Caucasus, the Russians announced today.

Dispatches from the front said the Russian forces, commanded by Lt. Gen. Constantin Rokossovsky, veteran of last winter's battle of Moscow, had pushed forward 50 miles since capturing the Don River bridgehead of Tsimlyansk two days ago.

The advanced point which the Russian thrust was said to have reached yesterday was Bolshaya Orlovka on the Sal River just southeast of its confluence with the Don midway between Tsimlyansk and Rostov.

Rostov Thrice Taken

Recaptured in the sweep down the Don were the towns of Marshinsk on the Don 25 miles downstream from Tsimlyansk; and the villages of Kargalski-Bellansky, Kamishevskaya, Yasirev and Khodny, scattered along both banks of the river.

There the Russian offensive was rolling into the flat, low lying region which stretches past Rostov to the Don mouth on the Sea of Azov—a sector which previously proved to be one of the most difficult of the entire front to defend.

Rostov, whose fall would cut off the whole German army in the Caucasus, already has changed hands three times. It was taken by the Germans late in 1941, won back quickly by the Russians, and then captured again by the Germans last summer.

Advance 25 Miles

Deep in the Caucasus the Germans were still in retreat from the Mozdok-Nalchik-Prokhladnenski triangle, but battlefield dispatches said there was no indication that they were attempting a general withdrawal to escape being cut off.

Russian forces were said to be meeting resistance after a swift sweep 25 miles northwest of Prokhladnenski to the railway station of Apolonskaya, almost halfway to Mineralnye Vody.

(This 25 mile advance indicated a Russian gain of 25 miles since the fall of Nalchik Monday night



Pfc. Arnold G. Rottscheit

Local Youth Missing In Battle Zone

Pfc. Arnold G. Rottscheit, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rottscheit, 905 St. Joseph street, has been missing in action in the southwest Pacific area since Dec. 5, his parents were informed, shortly before noon today in a telegram from the War Department.

The local soldier, who enlisted in a local National Guard unit immediately prior to the time the company was placed in active service in October, 1940, was known to have been in New Guinea. The last letter received from him by his parents was dated Nov. 28.

The soldier, who attended St. John's Catholic School, was born in Marshfield on July 2, 1922. He had worked with his father at carpentry and other types of employment before he enlisted in the National Guard.

Arriving in Australia last May, Pfc. Rottscheit volunteered for "commando" training and was later transferred to a cannon unit, according to information available here. Today's message from the War Department brings the total Marshfield casualties in the fighting on the New Guinea front to five killed and one missing, in addition to numerous depots of wounded men.

Pfc. Rottscheit has one brother, Edward, of Marshfield, and six sisters, Mrs. Leland (Ann) Peart, La-Crosse, Mrs. Emery (Marcella) Peterson, Wagonville, and Sylvia, Alice, Lorraine and Jean, at home.

ALLIES REGROUP TO STRIKE CANANANDA

NAZIS RETAKE JEBEL AZZAG

British Relinquish Ground Conquered Tuesday in Mateur Area

U. S. BOMBERS ACTIVE

BY WES GALLAGHER

Allied Headquarters in North Africa.—(P)—The Germans have recaptured Jebel Azzag and all the ground previously taken by the British in the hills 15 miles west of Mateur, an Allied headquarters spokesman announced today.

Thus, within two days the vital positions on the front before Bizerte have changed hands twice. The British captured them in a dawn attack day before yesterday and, the spokesman said, were dislodged when the Nazis counter-attacked yesterday.

Bombs Hit Kairouan

United States bombers made three raids on Kairouan, about 75 miles south of Tunis, yesterday, the fourth successive day they have struck at that enemy-held center, the spokesman said.

The French Army in Algeria disclosed, meanwhile, that Nazi parachutists had been dropped along with a native guide in the Saint Arnano region of Algeria.

The announcement said the guide was tried by a court martial and shot.

Three Nazis Downed

Algiers had three air alarms last night. Ground batteries went into action on the first but there was no report that bombs had been dropped.

The RAF shot down three German planes over the Tunisian battle area.

Reuters quoted the German radio as reporting that 30 United States parachutists were dropped behind the Germans' North African lines last Sunday night with orders to blow up a large bridge. The broadcast, Reuters said, declared that 20 of the parachutists were killed, the rest were captured and "a great quantity" of explosives was seized.

Rome (from Italian Broadcasts)

—(P)—Allied forces attacked Tunisian positions of the Axis and were driven back everywhere yesterday to their starting point, the Italian high command declared today.

"In the Sirte region (of Libya) there was increased scouting activity," the high command said. "Superior forces continued their pressure on our garrisons (beset by the Fighting French of Brig. Gen. Jacques Le Clerc) in the Li-

Nation Roose

U. S. NAVY HITS JAP AIRFIELDS

Kahili and Munda Attacked Japanese Ships Are Also Bombed

ACTION IN ALEUTIAN

Washington.—(P)—The Navy reported today that two new raids had been carried out on Japanese airfields in the Solomons and that a "possible hit" had been scored on a Japanese transport.

The text of the communiqué number 243, follows:

"South Pacific: (all dates east longitude)

"1. On January 6: (A) Flying Fortress (Boeing B-17) with Lightning (Lockheed P-38) and Warhawk (Curtiss) 40) escort, attacked a Japanese transport in the Shortland Island area. A possible hit on the ste of the ship was reported.

"Bomb Jap Airfield (B) U. S. Aircraft bombed airfield at Kahili near Buin, Bougainville Island. Haze prevented observation of results.

"(C) At noon U. S. aircraft bombed the air field at Munda, New Georgia Island. Results were not reported."

American bombers, at work make the Japanese occupation of Kiska as expensive to the enemy as possible, bombed two Japanese vessels in Aleutian waters, sinking one and scoring a direct hit on the other.

Sink Cargo Ship

The Navy's 242nd communiqué of the war said that Mitch medium bombers (North American P-25s) attacked an enemy cargo ship 110 miles northeast of Kiska Tuesday, to set it afire. It added that the ship "was" last seen to sink."

The presence of a Japanese ship 110 miles northeast of Kiska far off the normal route between Japan and the outpost, was explained by the Navy. This stirred speculation that the Japanese might be attempting to establish a new base in that area; that bad weather or a desire to attempt escape detection by the United States planes led to the ship ma-