

# Germans Take 100 Yard Road

## Was Thin Life-Line Of 8th Army Troops Pushing Through Mareth Line.

By DON WHITEHEAD  
Associated Press Staff Writer

WITH THE BRITISH 8TH ARMY AT THE MARETH LINE, March 26—(Delayed)—(AP)—The Germans, attacking a 100-yard road across the Wadi, seized the lifeline of the British bridgehead through the Mareth Line, poured tanks and infantry into battle yesterday in such numbers that they closed this breach today after 24 hours of fierce fighting.

Thus the British troops who had penetrated the Axis line came back across the "highway to hell" to dig in on the east side of the Wadi—the first time they had fallen back in their 1,700-mile advance across Africa from Egypt.

The "highway to hell" was a crude strip of rocks and brushwood flung into the marshy land of the Wadi—the almost dry river bed—by British engineers under artillery cover in their week-end attack against the thin line of communication and supply across the Wadi for the British forces, fighting grimly to maintain their gain.

Raked by fire for three days and nights the road was raked by machine gun and shellfire and was thus at point blank range of the German guns during the night the 8th army tackled the Mareth Line. Everything that moved across it ran the gauntlet of flying steel.

Every time a shell ripped out a chunk of the road, men rushed out braving death to repair the damage.

During those three days the Mareth Line was first cracked and then broken, with the 100-yard road the only tenuous line over which men, tanks and supplies could move.

Then the Germans attacked in force yesterday and closed the breach.

The British forces managed to send some tanks across the shell-swept road to support the infantry holding the bridgehead on the west bank of the Wadi, but there were not enough anti-tank guns in position to hold the waves of 30 which the Germans sent in to support the Nazi infantry in the counter-attack.

A Bottleneck The "highway to hell" was a bottleneck for tanks and guns.

There were some stirring tales of courage in that furious battle inside the Mareth Line: of one who stormed a concrete stronghold in a red hall of machine gun fire, of engineers who built the road and of the troops who held out, as long as they could against odds.

During the first two days and nights of fighting the 8th army took some 800 German and Italian prisoners.

Hundreds of Italians cracked under the strain of the bombardment and machinegun fire and surrendered or deserted. In some cases it was reported the men in the ranks forced officers to surrender with them.

One young Fascist officer wept in humiliation because his men laid down their arms and marched out of their concrete pillboxes.

# 4,483 Illicit Gallons Seized During Last Year

Seizures under the Excise Act in Prince Edward Island last year included 3,502 gallons of wash, 116 gallons of illicit spirits, 846 gallons of beer and thirty-seven gallons of whisky.

There were 466 investigations under the Excise Act, resulting in 96 convictions.

483 investigations were conducted under the Prohibition Act, resulting in 169 seizures.

Inspector Wright reports "no investigation of contraband liquor having been landed in the Province of Prince Edward Island during the year 1942." Inspector Wright reports.

War Regulations 313 investigations under war measure regulations were conducted.

Under the Criminal Code there were 378 investigations during the year, and 1,716 under provincial statutes.

Forty-four sudden or accidental deaths were investigated.

Under the Highway Act there were 102 investigations resulting in 90 convictions.

There were 22 cases of drunken driving resulting in eighteen convictions.

Forty-four car operators' licenses were cancelled.

There were no patrol boats operated in the Division, and the wireless station remained closed during the year.

Inspector Wright reports that with the exception of certain cases within Charlottetown and Summerside, there was no serious crime.

Much time and energy was put forth and unlimited time spent developing liquor conspiracy cases involving the manufacture of illicit spirits by organized groups.

Charges were preferred against five persons. Two (Frank & Harry Gallant) were committed to trial at the Summerside court on Saturday.

The jury disagreed and new trials have been ordered. The cases against the other subjects are still pending.

At 5:14 o'clock in the forenoon June 21 a woman was found lying dead alongside of the highway near the intersection of the highway and another road.

The report said it was not in the interest of the men to give their names.

They were members of the 53th Field Company Royal Canadian Engineers, 275 of whom were working on the construction of an internment camp.

The men were to report at nine a.m. but 24 failed to report and 21 others were reported in battle dress instead of fatigue (working) clothes.

The 24 were charged with absenting themselves from parade and the 21 with disobeying an order.

One man was reverted from lance-corporal to sapper and 44 forfeited 28 days' pay.

Erwin Edward Kucher, a German born naturalized British subject, was apprehended on September 20 on a Detention Order from the Minister of Justice.

Appeal from the said Detention Order was entered. This was heard at Charlottetown on October 12 to 14 by an Advisory Committee consisting of His Honour Mr. Justice Roland Miller of Ottawa, Professor J. S. Cochran of Toronto, and Mr. A. S. Simpson of Winnipeg.

# Watch the '43 Fords go by!

THERE THEY GO... splitting the air with the roar of their powerful, driving engines! Not the streamlined automobiles of yesterday, nor yet the exciting new cars of tomorrow. These are the snub-nosed battle horses in the hands of Ford Test Drivers, they thunder down this "last mile" of a gruelling "Commando Course" for battle vehicles. Special tests under winter conditions prove their ability to plough through sub-zero snow-fields. Rocky rides through roadless terrain and hub-deep sand prove they can take it in the scorching heat of desert fighting. Test after test proves these husky Canadian war machines are fighting-fit—before they roll away to add speed and striking power to a United Nations attack half way around the world.

Ford of Canada, the largest producer of military vehicles in the British Empire, is proud of the fact that these well-built, thoroughly-tested Canadian products are winning the "thumbs-up" approval of seasoned fighting men on all fronts.

"Our one big job today is producing, at top speed, the best war equipment we can make. When we have earned and won absolute victory, we shall be free to apply war's amazing lessons and discoveries to peacetime production."

A statement by Ford of Canada's president Wallace R. Campbell.



MAKERS OF FORD V-8 AND MERCURY CARS, FORD TRUCKS



# Consolidate Orders Affecting Rubber

OTTAWA, March 26—(CP)—All orders affecting the processing of natural, synthetic, and reclaim rubber have been consolidated into a single new rubber control order.

The new order, issued by rubber controller Alan H. Williamson, lists those articles for which no rubber has been released since early in 1942.

It also lists rubber items which may still be manufactured in accordance with rubber control specifications, and those which may be made only from reclaim.

No passenger tires are manufactured other than a limited few now being made from reclaim.

Usable tires, tubes and retreading services are rationed, with 120 rationing tickets available throughout Canada.

Only the most essential civilian rubber articles, like truck and bus tires, surgeons' gloves, belting and industrial hoses may be manufactured, under rigid specifications.

Rubber reclaimed from scrap is under the same control and is being used to as large an extent as possible for making essential war supplies.

Some reclaim is being released for civilian use but only for a restricted list of items, including a limited quantity of staple black lines of waterproof footwear.

# Suspend Postage Surcharge On Papers

OTTAWA, March 26—(CP)—A postage surcharge of four cents a pound on the advertising portion of newspapers and periodicals which have more than 50 per cent of their space devoted to advertising is suspended under an order-in-council published today in Canadian war orders and regulations.

The order was passed on the recommendation of the post office department and the prices board.

Economies in the use of newspaper would be possible if publishers were allowed to adjust editorial and reading matter and advertising content at their discretion without penalty in increased postal rates, the order said.

# Notice Re Motor Vehicle Licenses

Applicants for motor vehicle licenses and gasoline ration books for 1943 will be required to produce their National Registration certificates at the time of application.

A person applying by mail need not send in his National Registration certificate, but should specify the number of the Electoral District and Polling Division in which his National Registration certificate has been issued.

Applicants complying with these regulations will avoid delays in the issuing of motor vehicle licenses and gasoline ration books.

DATED this 15th day of March, A.D., 1943.

THANE A. CAMPBELL, Provincial Secretary

# The WEEK at S. D. U.

The Vice-Rector, Rev. R. V. MacKenzie, and Rev. O. P. Wood, who are patients in the Charlottetown Hospital, are making favourable progress towards recovery, and are expected to return to the College soon.

F. A. Brennan has been chosen Valedictorian for this year's graduating class.

The students attended the ordination ceremonies in St. Dunstan's Basilica on Sunday, March 21st, when Rev. Kenneth MacMillan, 38, Rev. Lawrence Landrigan, 39, Rev. Francois Boudreau, 39, and Rev. Wilfred Pineau, 39, were ordained to the Holy Priesthood.

Fathers MacMillan and Landrigan were visitors to the College on Monday.

Lieut. J. H. O'Hanley, 41, of the P. E. Highlanders, and George MacDonald, 41, David Gorman ex'43, and Charles Sexton, ex'42, all of the R. C. N. V. R., were visitors to the College on Sunday, March 14th.

Twelve members of the C. O. T. C. wrote examinations for promotion to lieutenants on Saturday night and Sunday morning, March 20th and 21st, at the Armouries.

After completion of the examinations on Sunday they were guests at a dinner at the Charlottetown Hotel.

Lieuts. James Coyle and Ivan MacArthur visited the College during the week. Lieut. MacArthur is a graduate of P. W. C. and a former member of St. Dunstan's C. O. T. C. He has just returned from Camp Borden where he has qualified for his commission.

Rev. Patrick Walsh, P. P. Palmer Road, was a visitor to the College on Tuesday.

On Saturday the Saint's basketball team defeated the Navy 23-22 in the first game of the season. The Saint's lineup was as follows: O. W. O'Neill (Cap), Jack Murray, Everett Cameron, Pat Sharkey, Fred MacTague, A. J. MacAdams, Henry O'Shea, and Alban Callaghan.

Inter-mural hockey is about over for the season. Grade XI Flyers defeated First and Second Daltons 4-3 in a sudden death game to win the semi-finals. The finals will be played next week.

# Registered Mail Case

"On Dec. 29, 1941, the Department of Public Health, Province of Quebec, forwarded by registered mail to Dr. Reginald Bergault, Grindstone, Magdalen Islands, P. Q., a registered letter containing cheques disappeared from the mail at Bear River, P. E. I., which with some other registered articles.

"On July 11, 1942, one of the cheques contained in the registered letter disappeared from the mail at Bear River, P. E. I. The cheque was forwarded from New Zealand, P. E. I. to the Royal Bank of Canada, Quebec, P. Q., directing that the amount of the cheque be forwarded to Dr. Reginald Bergault, New Zealand, P. E. I., the cheque having obviously been forged by the writer of the accompanying letter containing the cheques disappeared, has been charged, committed for trial and released on bail. The trial has now been set to the Supreme Court commencing on July 29th next at Georgetown, P. E. I."

"Out of an investigation and trial concerning liquor conspiracies at Summerside evidence was obtained to establish what appeared to be a good prima facie case of Perjury against one William Moses Arsenault. The trial of this subject by Judge and Jury in the Supreme

# 45 Soldiers Were Punished

OTTAWA, March 26—(CP)—The defence department today reported in a return tabled in the House of Commons that 45 soldiers were punished for absenting themselves from work at Medicine Hat, Alta., on a Sunday morning on the ground that they went to church.

The report said it was not in the interest of the men to give their names.

They were members of the 53th Field Company Royal Canadian Engineers, 275 of whom were working on the construction of an internment camp.

The men were to report at nine a.m. but 24 failed to report and 21 others were reported in battle dress instead of fatigue (working) clothes.

The 24 were charged with absenting themselves from parade and the 21 with disobeying an order.

One man was reverted from lance-corporal to sapper and 44 forfeited 28 days' pay.

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# Urges Housewives To Arrange For Canning Sugar

The importance of housewives attending to their sugar canning requirements at once, was emphasized in a statement today by Mr. G. H. Barbour, regional superintendent of rationing for this province.

Only three weeks remain for sending applications in to the Local Ration Board.

"April 15 is the deadline for sending in requests for extra sugar to be used in canning," Mr. Barbour stated, "and every person in this province planning to put up fruit jars is urged to get busy at once and arrive at an estimate for their needs."

Citrus and wild fruits are also included in this special sugar ration for canning but marrow, tomatoes and pumpkins are considered as vegetables and no canning sugar will be allowed for them.

To figure out the amount needed, housewives should estimate the total number of quart sealers they will put up and then allow one-half pound of sugar for each sealer.

In making apple and jelly, select the number of jars usually used; then see how many cups of water these hold. Four cups make a quart. In this way it is possible to estimate the number of jars and jelly the jars will hold. Allow one and one-half pounds of sugar for each quart.

After this figure is arrived at the housewife fills out the special card in her ration book and forwards it to the Local Ration Board before April 15.

# Health Of Pope Is Improving

NEW YORK, March 26—(AP)—The Rome radio tonight quoted the Vatican City newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, as announcing that the health of Pope Pius is improving.

The Pontiff, stricken with influenza several days ago, despite his illness continued to look after his affairs this morning, and received Cardinal Maglione, the Papal Secretary of State, said the broadcast, recorded by the Associated Press.

"All other audiences have been postponed until the Pope has completely recovered," the radio said.

# Battle Opens On Ruml Plan

WASHINGTON, March 25—(AP)—The battle on the Ruml plan opened on the floor of the House of Representatives today in a storm of adjectives and invective with the skip-a-tax-year proposal alternately praised as the only "fair and practicable" pay-as-you-go plan and condemned as an immoral "tax heresy."

Rep. Robert Doughton (Dem.-N. C.) chairman of the ways and means committee, lambasted the Ruml proposal for two hours at one time calling it a "super-super monstrous monstrosity." It bears the same relation to sound tax policy, he said, as "infriditely does to true bible religion."

Representative Harold Knutson (Rep.-Minn.), leading the Republican fight for the plan countered by describing the "no abatement"

# Capture Nazi Strongpoint Before Smolensk

LONDON, March 25—(CP)—Russian troops have overpowered another German strongpoint and captured additional villages in the central-front drive toward Smolensk while repulsing Axis efforts to crack their defensive line east of Kharkov in the Ukraine, Moscow announced tonight.

One Soviet column pushing on Smolensk was near Dukhovshchina 32 miles northwest of the central-front anchor, and another was operating near Dorogobuzh, 50 miles east of the big base, but the mid-night communiqué did not locate the areas in which the villages were seized.

The bulletin, recorded by the Soviet Monitor, said one Soviet unit, knocking out its garrison in a short skirmish which ended in a number of prisoners, an ammunition dump, three guns, and a quantity of rifles and hand grenades.

In the Belgorod-Chuguev sector north and south of Smolensk, the Russians said German attacks had collapsed.

Around Belgorod, 50 miles north of Kharkov, the communiqué said, more than 100 German automatic rifle men were killed when a Nazi company of them attempted to cross a water barrier. Soviet artillery also disabled five tanks, five heavy anti-tank guns and dispersed and annihilated part of an enemy infantry battalion.

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# Mine Subsidence Causes Damage

BITTSTON, Pa., March 26—(AP)—A four-block mine subsidence—most disturbance of its kind in years in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields—stopped today after causing total loss of a \$400,000 high school building, damaging 80 to 90 homes and bucking street pavements and sidewalks.

With the four-block area bounded by Broad, Fulton, Carroll and Daise Streets roped off by police and with several deep cave-ins grim evidence of the mine "squeeze" that started at 7:30 p.m. last night, Mayor John Reilly and the school board started an investigation "so that the true conditions may be brought to light."

Britain-Churchill tells Commons United Nations fleets larger than before onset of submarine warfare.

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