# ROMMEL'S RETEETTERS ARE AT IT AGAIN 

\$15,702.86 Was Auction Total Tuesday; Prices Paid Were Satisfactory




NAVY CHIEF LOOKS 'EM OVER-Here's Navy Secretary Frank Knox, right, studying


PLENTY OF AIR-There's quite a draft through this Jap truck from all those holes made
by shellfire in final defeat of Nips at Giropa Point, Papua. Truck is based on American


AMERCCAMBRTISH TROOPS ANO PIANES STOP THE IANTYY MAZI AFER NTIENSE, 3-DAY FIGHT

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, North Åica, Feb. 24.-Marshal Erwin Rommel's armored units are being driven in retreat today toward the Kasserine Pass, harassed by Allied planes and by American and British troops which stopped the enemy dead in his tracks in a three-day battle.

The crack 21st German armored unit, which rolled out of the Kasserine Gap three days ago and fought its way to within four miles of the strategic town of Thala, has been pushed back to an area within three miles of the Pass.

The Germans, over-reaching themselves in the dash for Thala, found their position there untenable and began to retire early yesterday As they fell back the Allied air force-apparently dominant in the skies over the battle area -gave the retreating Germans the worst pasting they have yet experienced in Tunisia.

It was similar in intensity and volume to the air attack launched by the Allies at El Alamein when Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British Eighth Army started the offensive that has carried it to the Mareth Line
Thus the tide of battle in Tunisia swung sharply in favor of the Allies with the German push exhausted and with the Eighth Army, about 100 miles away from other Allied forces in Tunisia, threatening Rommel's flank from the south.

Large numbers of prisoners were taken by the Americans and the British. On the plain in front of Djebel Hamra alone the Americans captured 300 Italians and enough small arms and other weapons to equip a battalion.

The Germans made a desperate attempt to disengage their armor and infantry from the British in the Thala area. But the British
racked them every step of the way in the re
treat, while American artillery blasted away at the German columns that were winding
back along roads over which they advanced three days ago

Then the Americans, timing their action with the British, struck out from the Djebel Hamra area and forced the Axis troops back to within three miles of the Kasserine Gap. The full extent of the German losses still are unknown, but it can be definitely said they are
One factor in the German defeat was that the bad weather broke after 10 days, allowing the Allied air force to get into action on a big



BRIEFLY TOLD


NOTE THE SABOTS-French sailor polishing crest of cruise Montcalm now in Philadelphia, wears wooden shoes topped
with leather, while on fatigue. French cruiser recently ar-

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