

...in a week. The unit bombed the town of Saumlaki, while long-range fighters attacked the airdrome at Fuiloro on the Island of Timor shortly after dawn, destroying enemy aircraft on the ground and strafing enemy personnel.

...Senate of a bill to prohibit sale of horsemeat for human consumption. "Your dog can also scratch his ear with his hind leg, and that's more than you can do," retorted Curtis P. Ritchie, Pueblo Democrat and a sponsor of the bill.

...for distributing in violation of the city ordinance handbills advertising a meeting of this cult at which an address was to be delivered by one of its leaders. She was con- See HANDBILLS on Page 10.

Single U.S. Platoon Captures 84 Italians; Dallasite Commands Daring Action in Africa

WITH UNITED STATES FORCES ON TUNISIAN FRONT, March 7 (Delayed) (AP).—A brazen charge by one platoon of a United States reconnaissance patrol against a fortified Italian position manned by a full company of Black Shirts netted the Americans eighty-four prisoners and resulted in the destruction or capture of the enemy's vehicles and guns. In the action a mountain pass also was taken by the Americans.

The platoon, commanded by Lieut. John P. Souther of Gainesville, Ga., spotted the Italians who were guarding the pass twelve miles west of Gafsa late Saturday and immediately opened fire with a 75-millimeter assault gun.

The guns of two other reconnaissance platoons led by Lieut. Robert Howard of Muskogee, Okla., and LIEUT. C. B. WILLIAMS of AMARILLO, TEXAS, rushed to join the action.

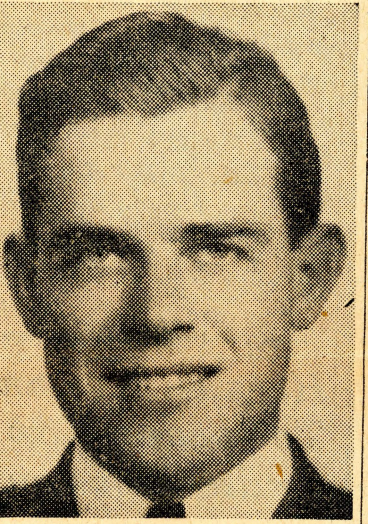
Then Lieutenant Souther's platoon charged with scout cars blazing away with 50-caliber machine guns and the Italians fled.

Over half of the Italian company was captured and others continued to flee eastward through the pass, leaving nine dead behind.

Tanks commanded by Lieut. Wendell C. Sharp of New York were brought up and charged through the pass. They destroyed a dozen Italian trucks and captured two new 47-millimeter German guns, one field piece and a motorcycle. None of the United States troops was lost in the quick action.

After seizing the equipment, the reconnaissance troops withdrew to the west side of the pass for the night and were well out of danger when the Italians early Sunday sent out tanks in addition to armored cars. However, in a brief clash they knocked out an armored car with one of the captured 47-millimeter guns.

Sunday, the Italians were report-



CAPT. A. H. McCUTCHEON.

ed officially to have withdrawn the tanks and also were pulling back other forces toward Gafsa. The troops who were captured were found to have been members of a military police company.

The reconnaissance platoons in the engagement comprised the company commanded by CAPT. ALFRED McCUTCHEON of DALLAS.

The account of Capt. Alfred H. McCutcheon's participation in the reconnaissance patrol was the first word his wife, the former Miss Dorothelee Knighton, 724 South Marlborough, had received of him in a month.

In his last letter, written Feb. 7, he told of recent action he and his men had seen and said they had been through three battles without losing a single man in the company. But since then, Marshal Erwin Rommel had made his breakthrough in the sector in which the captain and his men were located, and she feared that he may have

been among a number of reconnaissance units cut off from the main forces by the German's speedy advance.

Overseas for the last ten months Captain McCutcheon has a 5-month-old son, Alfred Jr., he hasn't seen. He has pictures, though, his wife said, and he swears in his letters that everyone in North Africa—even the Arabs—have seen them.

Captain McCutcheon is a 1938 graduate of Texas A. & M. College. He was married in 1939, called to active duty in 1941, and was in training at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Dix, N. J., before going overseas. He is a native of Fort Davis, and attended Andover Academy, Andover, Mass., and San Marcos Military Academy.

While in training in this country before embarking for England last May and in December for Africa, Captain McCutcheon was awarded a cup as the most outstanding junior officer of the reconnaissance battalion. He was promoted to captain last October.

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3/9/43

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