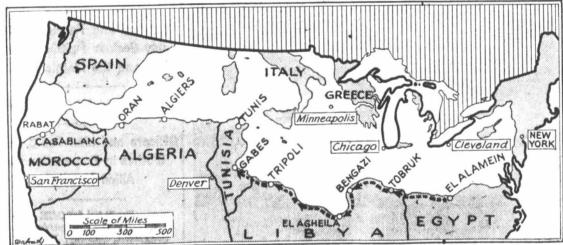


A six-mile advance by the Americans southeast of El Guettar (1) carried them closer to a junction with the British Eighth Army (2), which was feeling out Marshal Rommel's defense positions stretching from Djebel Haidoudi to the sea at Oued el Akarit. The Axis leader increased his pressure to the north in the Maknassy sector (3) and around Pichon (4), where the French repelled two attacks. At the upper end of the line the British and French progressed east of Sedjenane (5) and French Moroccan troops occupied Cap Serrat (6), thirty-five miles from Bizerte.

Rommel's 1,430-Mile, 158-Day Retreat Unparalleled; No Defeat in History Approaches It in Speed of Flight



March 31, 1943

Marshal Rommel's route of retreat from El Alamein to Gabès is shown by the broken line on the map of Northern Africa (shaded). The outline of the northern part of the United States is drawn to the same scale to afford a compari-

son of distances. The airline distance from El Alamein to Gabès is about the same as that from Cleveland to Denver—1,230 miles—but the coastal road followed by the Africa Corps in falling back added about 200 miles to this.

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