

Captives Capture Landing Field On Singapore

Communicate Also Claims British Fleeing Toward Suburbs Of City

NAVAL BASE ATTACKED

Full Dress Offensive For Fortress Started Late Sunday Night

TOKYO, (From Japanese broadcast), Feb. 9.—(AP)—Japanese forces commanded by Lieut. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita in a full scale assault on Singapore island were reported tonight to have captured the Tengah airport, one of their first objectives, 10 miles northwest of Singapore city.

British forces are fleeing along the island roads toward Singa-

Guards Carried Out Orders In Shooting At Private Plane

GRANITE CITY, Ill., Feb. 9. (AP)—In a sharp warning that "this country is at war and the public must realize it," the Army today declared guards were "merely carrying out their orders" in firing on a low-flying airplane over a restricted defense zone at nearby Alton Sunday afternoon.

The terse rebuke was issued by the Seventh Corps Area Army headquarters at Omaha, which declared the plane piloted by Delbert Richardson of Collinsville, and carrying two passengers, committed an act "strictly in violation of a restricted area."

One passenger, Delbert Henson, 21, was critically wounded by a .30-caliber steel jacketed bullet which pierced his abdomen. He was given three blood transfusions. His condition was slightly improved tonight.

Nazis Beaten Back By British On Front Lines

Soviet Forces Push Ahead As German Flounder Westward In Disorder

MANY TOWNS SEIZED

American-Made Planes Aid Russians In Carrying Out Offensives

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, Feb. 9.—(AP)—Aided by American-made planes, the Russians hurled the Germans back on both ends of the 1,500 mile front today and Soviet authorities announced the capture of "one village after another" from German forces floundering westward in disordered retreat.

Slashing through vast, hastily laid German mines, Red forces made their most important gains in the Donets basin where the German withdrawal appeared to be taking on the appearance of a rout.

The drive in this area was all the more impressive because Marshal Semeon Timoshenko's men were battling the Nazis through heavy snowstorms whipped by gale-like winds.

Farther to the south, Soviet commanders announced massive blows against the Nazi besiegers of the big Crimean naval base of Sevastopol. In the battle for that vital port alone Soviet commanders declared the Germans have lost upwards of 40,000 men killed and wounded.

In the north, the Russians announced that in the past few days the Red Army surge had liberated more than 30 villages, annihilated two battalions of German infantry, wiped out a big headquarters and captured important enemy staff documents.

In this area the Germans were falling back rapidly, fighting stubborn rear-guard actions. The heaviest fighting raged in the Kalinin sector, where large German forces above and below the city.

Central Front Gains

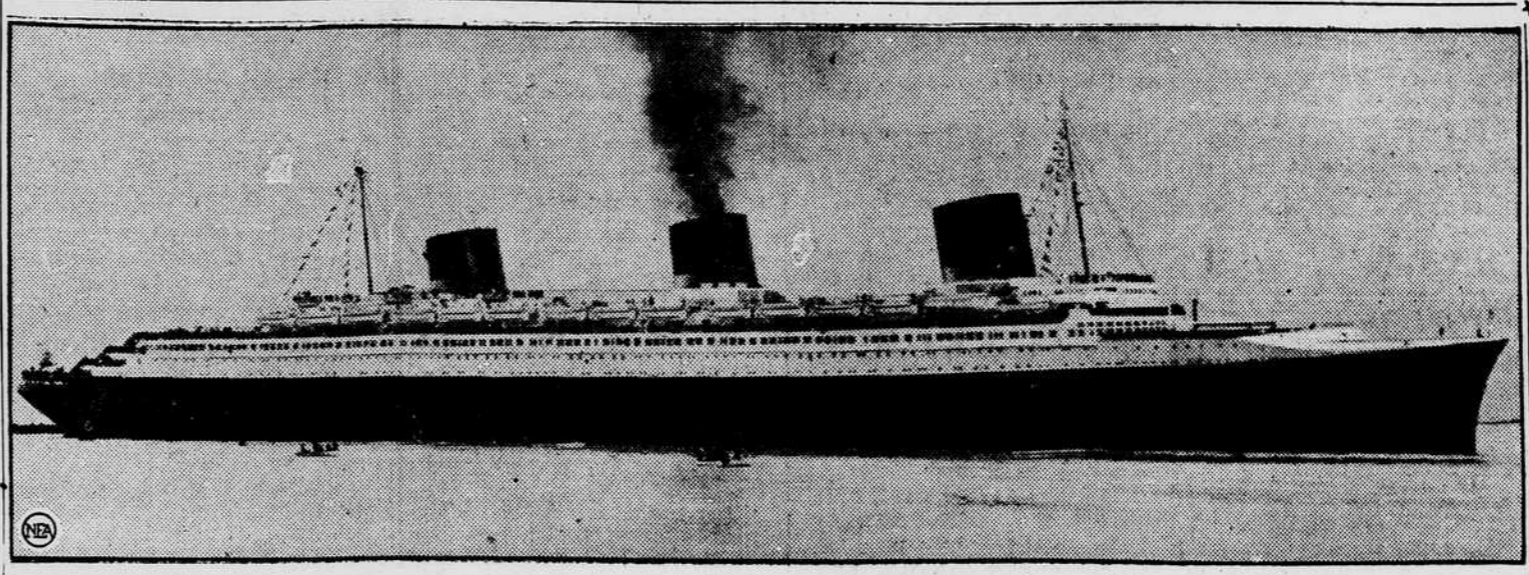
Additional gains were registered on the central front where the uninterrupted drive toward Smolensk blasted the Germans from 18 more localities between that Nazi-held strong point and Moscow.

In still another smashing Soviet success, Stockholm reported Red forces had occupied the Eastern suburbs of Rzhnev, northern anchor of the Germans' shattered Moscow front. Rzhnev, 80 miles southwest of Kalinin and 130 miles northwest of Moscow, has been virtually encircled for days. Nazis remaining there were described as "putting up a hopeless resistance."

The night Soviet communique, however, to the official policy of giving Hitler no clues as to the exact location of Soviet gains, said merely to advance and capture a number of populated places. This policy has been followed since disintegration of Nazi communications.

Russian sappers paved the way for the Donets basin advance, (Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

LINER NORMANDIE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY FIRE AT HER HUDSON RIVER PIER; OFFICIALS THINK SHIP CAN BE SAVED



RAVAGED BY FLAMES

The great liner Normandie, former pride of the French merchant marine, which was damaged by fire yesterday in New York. The Navy says she can be repaired.

Devastating Inferno Touch-off By Sparks From Welder's Torch

110 ABOARD INJURED

Vessel, Listing 10 Degrees; Settles And Scuttling Is Averted

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—(AP) Sparks from a welding touch, landing on life preservers, touched off a fire today which roared through the three upper decks of the former French liner Normandie, once the pride of the French merchant marine.

As the crackling flames were brought under control at about 6 p. m. (EWT) after three and one-half hours battle by firemen, the \$60,000,000 vessel, now the U. S. Naval auxiliary Lafayette, listed 10 degrees to port in her berth.

To counter balance the weight of the tons of water pressing her to port, Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews, commandant of the Third Naval District, ordered a hole chopped into her starboard side and water was pumped into the ship's starboard tank.

Can Be Repaired

"I know the damage has been confined principally to upper decks—the skydeck, a deck and some of the B deck," Andrews said, adding that the ship "definitely will be able to be repaired."

He would make no estimate of damage.

The admiral said the hole was hacked into the Normandie's side after "we thought first that it would be best to sink the ship by scuttling her." A plan to open the sea cocks was abandoned in preference for the other method.

Although approximately 2,200 workmen and Navy personnel were on board, it was known to have been killed. He was Frank Trentacosta, 36, who died in Roosevelt hospital of a fractured skull and internal injuries suffered when he jumped from a deck to the pier.

At least 110 persons were hospitalized and about the same number treated for less serious burns and injuries. Six of the injured were of the Navy. They were taken to the Navy hospital.

Fear was expressed in first reports of the fire that 200 men were trapped deep in the vessel but Andrews said after an inspection trip of the smoked scarred interior that no bodies were found.

Following a survey of the vessel, the admiral said "there is nothing to indicate sabotage."

An Accident

The fire spread from the burlap wrappings of life preservers, he said, to passageways and into mattress-filled bunks. With the first sign of flames, he said, a hose was pulled out on deck and extinguishers brought into use, but when they proved ineffective, the ship's fire alarm was sounded and a call was sent in for the city fire department.

The admiral's version of the fire was upheld by Fire Marshal Thomas P. Brophy who was aided in his investigation by members of the detective bureau of the police department, the staff of District Attorney Hogan of New York county and the intelligence services of the Navy and Coast Guard.

It was "an accident," Brophy said.

Tons of water from every available piece of land and sea-going Manhattan fire equipment were thrown into the grey-clad monster, from which huge billows of mid-

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NO ACTION TAKEN ON HOLDING FAIR

Association Seeks To Stage It To Clear Up Outstanding Indebtedness

No action was taken on a request for permission to hold a fair here next fall, presented by Emmett H. Bellamy for officers and directors of Coastal Fair, Inc., by the county commissioners at the Monday afternoon session.

Some of the members of commission said they would not oppose a fair consisting of an agricultural exhibit and various riding devices for amusement, but they would not agree to the bringing in of a company which carries side shows of vice.

In making the request for the fair organization, Mr. Bellamy said the reason for appearing before the commission now was to obtain a contract with a high grade show which must be done far in advance. He said the organization tentatively planned to open the fair the week beginning October 19 if granted permission by the commission. He said officials of the Coastal Fair already were in contact with the John Marx company

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

BRITISH EXPECT DRIVE FOR SUEZ

Great Spring Offensive By Axis Expected By Informed Quarters

LONDON, Feb. 9.—(AP)—A great spring offensive by the Axis to capture Suez and Gibraltar was predicted today by informed military experts.

The object would be to deprive the United Nations of two of the major bases on which Allied strategy rests.

Attacks by the German armies would be timed to coincide with the maximum Japanese effort against Singapore and Burma, in a vast pincer operation to hem considerable British forces in treasure-laden India.

To combat these Axis schemes, the British would be forced to fight Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's African corps with forces now stationed in the Arabian regions.

Reinforcements either from Britain or the United States would be difficult because of the dearth of shipping forced by the spread of the war.

Nevertheless if the Germans aim another drive through Turkey or around the northern shore of the Black sea through the oil-rich Caucasus, military experts said reinforcements of American, British or Russian troops must be found.

They pointed out that Axis success against Gibraltar, Suez and Singapore would leave the Panama canal, Pearl Harbor and the British Isles as the next objectives of the German war plan, rewritten in view of the successful Russian resistance.

STANDLEY NAMED LEGATE TO RUSSIA

Retired Admiral To Handle U. S. Interests In Moscow

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—(AP)—President Roosevelt named Admiral William Harrison Standley, retired, as ambassador to Moscow today, choosing a high naval officer to handle this country's interests in the European capital.

About a year and a half ago Admiral William D. Leahy was sent as ambassador to Vichy, in a move to keep France from full collaboration with the Axis.

Nominations of Standley, former chief of naval operations, to fill vacant Moscow post was submitted to the Senate for confirmation, and indications were that it would meet with little, if any, opposition in view of the admiral's service in the Navy and his long experience in diplomatic assignments, last held by Laurence A. Steinhardt.

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New Hanover Birth Rate Soars During January

Of the total number of deaths in the city last month 11 were white males, 16 white females, 23 colored males and 17 colored females. Deaths in the county were three white males, three white females and one colored female.

Organic heart disease from which 11 persons died was listed as the cause of the greatest number of deaths in the city in January. Included in other causes and the number caused by each are: prematurity, 7; hepatitis, 6; cirrhosis of liver, 6; cerebral hemorrhage, 5; cancer, 2; automobile accidents, 1, and other accidents, 2.

Of the deaths in the county three were caused by organic heart disease and one by whooping cough.

Southport To Open Bids February 17 On Power Plant Work

SOUTHPORT, Feb. 9.—Bids for the construction of additions to the Southport municipal power plant, which will include generators and transmission lines to the Navy section base near Fort Caswell, will be opened here at 8 p. m. Feb. 17.

The cost of the project, estimated at \$91,142, will be defrayed by a FWA Defense Public Works grant of \$46,142 and a loan of \$45,000.

Philippine Forces Repulse Japanese

Manila Bay's Big Guns And MacArthur's Men Deal Jolting Blows

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—(AP)—The big guns of Manila Bay's forts and General Douglas MacArthur's land forces jolted a renewed Japanese effort to crush the stubborn defense of the Philippines, the War Department reported today.

Heavy artillery of Corregidor and other offshore island fortifications put out of action several hidden batteries of enemy siege guns, while MacArthur's men repulsed in heavy fighting a series of Japanese assaults on the Bataan peninsula.

The forts scored direct hits, a communique reported, on several of the concealed and scattered batteries which from the south shore of the bay had been pounding at Corregidor and other harbor defenses for three days.

On the peninsula fighting front, where Japanese attacks have been frustrated repeatedly for the last month, the little American-Filipino army beat off several attempts at penetration and infiltration such as have often preceded mass assaults.

Hostile dive bombers were active over the defense lines, the mentioning the guerrilla force of American fighter planes which several times have scored aerial victories.

Destruction of the enemy siege batteries appeared a substantial triumph in the duel which has been developing since enemy guns on the shore of Cavite province loosed their initial heavy bombardment on Saturday.

For three hours that day the Japanese artillery concentrated its fire on Fort Drum, the battleship-like concrete fortification on El Fraile islet a scant two miles off shore. Some shots were directed against Fort Mills, on Corregidor island, and against nearby Fort Hughes.

In a two-hour bombardment yesterday, shells were hurled almost against Fort Frank at four-minute intervals. Fort Frank is the southernmost of the string of offshore fortifications.

In each instance, the War Department reported, the resultant damage was not serious, but the new Japanese tactics raised the question how long the forts could withstand a siege battering.

Before the siege firing started, the fortifications scored an early success by destroying gun emplacements on the Cavite shore.

GENERAL CHIANG REACHES INDIA

Meeting Is Termed Affair That Bodes The Enemy No Good

NEW DELHI, India, Tuesday, Feb. 10.—(AP)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek has arrived in India with his staff officers for consultations, and his meetings with the British and Indian officials was hailed by the viceroy as one "which bodes our enemy no good and this they will soon learn to their cost."

"This meeting sets the seal upon the comradeship-in-arms of two great nations which between them number 800,000,000 souls, one-third of the world's population," Viceroy Lord Linlithgow told Chiang at a reception.

"It is a meeting which bodes our enemy no good and this they will learn to their cost," he emphasized.

In reply, the generalissimo referred to the movement of Chinese troops to the defense of Burma and India and added:

"We pledge to our valued ally, who occupied an important and unique position, our friendship and cooperation in defeating the common foe, prepared to defeat aggression and insure victory for the democratic front."

The announcement today of Chiang's arrival said he had come for talks with the government and especially the commander-in-chief. Chiang is the United Nation's supreme commander of all land and air forces in the Chinese theater of war.

WEATHER

FORECAST

North Carolina: Warmer Tuesday, occasional rain in the mountains.

South Carolina: Warmer Tuesday, occasional light rain extreme west portion.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WEATHER BUREAU

(Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., yesterday.)

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)

1:30 a. m. 38, maximum 50; 7:30 a. m. 30, minimum 29; 1:30 p. m. 45, mean 40; 7:30 p. m. 42, normal 47.

Humidity

1:30 a. m. 67; 7:30 a. m. 55; 1:30 p. m. 44; 7:30 p. m. 39.

Temperature

Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00 inches.

Total since the first of the month 0.94 inches.

Tides For Today

(From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.)

High Low

Wilmington 5:11a 12:29p

Masonboro Inlet 5:30p 12:25p

South 3:02a 9:25a

3:17p 9:38p

Sunrise: 7:02a. Sunset: 5:51p.

Moonrise: 2:33a. Moonset: 1:18p.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

BOARD ASKS BIDS ON NEW SCHOOLS

Proposals Also Invited For Addition To Local Institution

Call for bids on general contracts and heating and plumbing contracts for construction of new school buildings at Lake Forest and Sunset Park and addition of a second story and cafeteria to the Forest Hills building has issued Monday by Dr. John T. Hogard, chairman of the Board of Education of New Hanover county.

Sealed proposals will be received by the board until 12 o'clock on February 26, Doctor Hogard said.

In announcing the call for proposals on the three projects, Doctor Hogard said that this was the second section of a nine project program. While construction of three annexes to buildings already is underway, Doctor Hogard said the board hoped to ask for bids on the last three projects within the next ten days.

The new Lake Forest building, to be located on South Thirteenth street, will consist of twenty classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria space. The Sunset Park building, to be erected at Summer Hill, will have twelve classrooms. The project at the Forest Hills school calls for a second story to the building and a cafeteria.

Preparation for beginning of work on the three new projects is only a step in expansion of the New Hanover county school system to take care of the rapid increase in enrollment.

The entire nine-project program is being built at a total cost of \$867,000 with \$614,000 being furnished by the federal government and \$253,000 by the county. Federal aid for current expenses amounts to \$25,000.

Annexes already are under construction at the Williston primary, Carolina Beach and Winter Park schools at a total cost of \$85,000 for general and heating and plumbing contracts.

The projects for which bids are to be asked shortly are a new building on Chestnut street, a second story annex at Bradley's Creek school and an annex to Peabody school building.

School enrollment shows an increase of more than 2,000 students, of which 1,600 are defense family children, over the 9,500 registration during the last school session.

In addition to the large increase in school children, 1,800 adults are now receiving instruction at night at the Vocational building, Thirteenth and Market streets, under the direction of George West. Men being taught at the night school are receiving training in all types of trade skills.

The Vocational building was erected by the board of education and equipped by the federal government. During the past several months \$250,000 has been spent on general repair and reconstruction of the 28 present school buildings.

LAND IS OFFERED COUNTY FOR PARK

MacRae Will Donate Strip On Smith Creek If Board Gives Similar Tract

An offer to give a strip of land on the south side of Smith creek for a park on condition that the county would contribute a similar piece of land on the other side of the creek was made by Hugh MacRae to the county commissioners at the Monday afternoon meeting.

Mr. MacRae said he was making the offer for the purpose of perpetuating the beauty of the flowers and other wild growth along the stream.

After hearing Mr. MacRae the commissioners agreed for a committee from the board to go out and see the place and report to the board.

The commissioners voted to hold R. A. Cromwell responsible for all the back tax, without a penalty for interest charge, on a piece of property, owned by Mr. Cromwell, on which taxes had not been paid since 1915.

It was explained that a plot of property located in the block surrounded by Meares, Marsteller, Ninth and Tenth streets, was sold to Mr. Cromwell by E. F. Bass on January 15, 1912. On the tax book part of the property was charged to Mr. Cromwell and part of it remained in the name of Mr. Bass.

Chairman Addison Hewlett explained that Mr. Cromwell said he had paid taxes on a piece of property in that block every year, but did not realize that he had not been paying on all of the property he owned in that block.

The board relieved G. T. Sullivan of a 1941 tax charge on \$65 of personal property and \$2 poll tax in Hannett township, but held that it must be paid in Wilmington township. He was listed as being delinquent in Hannett, but it was learned that he had listed the property in Wilmington township.

Chairman Hewlett appointed a

22 Billion More Asked For Army By Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—(AP)—A request from President Roosevelt for \$22,888,901,900 for immediate emergency needs of the Army sent to a staggering total of over 50 billions today the amount congress has been asked to provide this session for defense purposes.

Chairman Cannon (D-Mo.) promised the House Appropriation committee would handle the new request with the same speed given other measures appropriating approximately \$39,000,000,000 for prosecution of the war.

The terse presidential letter to Speaker Rayburn told only in general terms of how the Army appropriation would be spent.

Topping the items making up the

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