

## REDS TIGHTEN NOOSE AROUND TRAPPED NAZIS

### Soviets Say Troops Now Within Sight Of Staraya Russia City

### AVENUE OF ESCAPE CUT

### Russian Quote Captured German As Saying Nazi Morale Cracking

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, March 1.—(AP)—Soviet forces drawing an ever tighter noose about the shattered 16th German army now are within sight of Staraya Russia city, keystone of all German communications on the northwestern front below Leningrad, frontline dispatches said tonight.

These accounts said that Red forces could see wrecked houses and the tall spires of the cathedral in the city where 90,000 Germans are trapped.

One captured German said all avenues of escape had been cut by the encircling Red troops and that food was running low in the Nazi garrisons.

Morale Cracks

Soviet officers quoted this prisoner, Kurt Horst, as saying German morale had cracked in the last few days.

Dread and often deadly frostbite is almost universal, he said.

Partly to the north the Russians reported saying 600 Germans in a continuing Red drive to break Leningrad's siege lines while other Soviet columns surged on toward Smolensk on the central front and toward Dnepropetrovsk in the south.

The southern fighting exploded violently with both sides hurling planes, tanks and artillery at each other.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 8)

## NEW TRAFFIC LAW EFFECTIVE TODAY

### Police Spend Sunday Warning Motorists About Changes In Code

Motorists were being "warned" Sunday afternoon with police directing them according to new traffic regulations on Water, Nutt, Fourth and Front streets.

In speaking of the new regulations, Chief C. H. Casteen said "we are warning the motorists today and asking that they cooperate before we begin making arrests."

He added "in the next day or two we will begin making arrests for violations."

"One Way" traffic signs have been posted on Water street from Orange to Grace and on Nutt street from Grace to Red Cross. Chief Casteen said all traffic on these streets would move south with no northbound traffic permitted. He pointed out that "no parking will be allowed on these streets except as indicated and unloading."

Signs have been placed about the traffic lights on Front street indicating where no "U" turns or left turns are permitted at intersections.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWS IN TODAY'S PAPER

for the househunter, the bargain hunter and the job-hunter, can be found in today's STAR-NEWS Want Ads.

Hundreds of opportunities, not available in any other way are offered through the widely read and widely used Want Ads.

The STAR-NEWS prints hundreds of Want Ads each month offering many interesting money-saving offers.

## READ and USE STAR-NEWS WANT ADS REGULARLY

## 'We Will Win', Quezon Tells He Projects

### Victory Of Philippines People To Believe In U. S.

### GUERRILLAS ACTIVE

### Important Position Taken From Japanese In Renewed Action

WASHINGTON, March 1.—(AP)—An American-Philippine guerrilla force, operating from a mountain fastness in northern Luzon, has attacked and driven Japanese out of a river valley, the War department said today.

While Army experts here discounted the military value of the maneuver as of "little consequence," they did emphasize that it was new evidence of the opposition to the invader carried on by natives and troops outside Bataan peninsula where General Douglas MacArthur's main army is making its stand.

Quezon Speaks

The same communique announcing this action carried a proclamation of Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon to his people assuring that "our spirit of resistance" remained undimmed.

This spirit, manifested in the northern Luzon action and in Quezon's proclamation, had been noted in previous Philippine communiques. In one, MacArthur mentioned that civilian resistance to the invaders was "growing in intensity," reported the formation of a secret society of "fighters for freedom" and said that many native informers for the enemy had disappeared in mysterious fashion.

Today's report of the guerrilla operations placed the scene in the Abra valley extending from the towns of Cervantes to Bangued, a distance of more than 40 miles. This is about 150 miles north of the Bataan front and not far from where the Japanese made one of their initial landings on Luzon.

The Bataan front itself continued quiet, so much so that the War department commented that "a period of positional warfare seems indicated." MacArthur's troops held to the advanced positions they attained last week, close to the main Japanese battle lines, and the enemy made no effort to counter attack.

Quezon, in his proclamation issued from an undesignated place, said that "for the last month the enemy has failed to make any advance. Every attack he has launched against us has been repulsed and his losses have been mounting every day. Our men are resolute and confident. Under the leadership of General MacArthur they are valiantly overwhelming odds, despite the initial attack of the enemy."

He urged his people to "trust America and our great and beloved leader—President Roosevelt."

"The United Nations will win this war," Quezon added in the proclamation issued from his present temporary capital somewhere in the Philippines.

"America is too great and too powerful to be vanquished in this conflict. I know she will not fail us!"

## 21 Lost When Ship Torpedoed At Sea

AN EASTERN CANADIAN PORT, March 1.—(AP)—Eighteen crewmen, a British naval officer, a British chemist and a Norwegian airman were lost when a small freighter was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic recently, said survivors reaching here today. Nineteen persons, who have been landed safely, were picked up by an American warship.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—(AP)—The first launching of a combatant vessel on the Gulf of Mexico since the Civil war will take place tomorrow, the Navy announced tonight, when the destroyer Aulick goes down the ways of the Consolidated Steel corporation at Orange, Tex.

The destroyer, first vessel completed at the new yard, is being launched less than 10 months after its keel was laid. Construction of the yard started Oct. 6, 1940, and the Aulick's keel was laid May 14, 1941.

The destroyer will be the second to bear the name Aulick. The original Aulick was transferred to Great Britain and renamed the Burnham and has since seen heavy service.

## New Warships Assigned Greeks By Britishers

LONDON, Mar. 1.—(AP)—Premier Emmanuel Tsouderos of the Greek government in exile disclosed today that the British government had assigned a number of new warships to the Greek navy which will be manned by young Greeks now serving in the merchant marine.

He announced a general conscription plan for all Greeks of military age throughout the world in a speech at memorial services for Greek seamen.

## Evacuations Will Be Military Necessity

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—(AP)—Breaking its silence on the West Coast alien situation, the Army said today it was about ready to announce an evacuation program based entirely on military necessity.

"Military necessity," said Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, western defense commander, "is the sole yardstick by which the Army has selected the military areas from which the exclusion of certain groups will be required."

"Public clamor for evacuation from non-strategic areas and the insistence of local organizations and officials that evacuees not be moved into their communities cannot and will not be heeded, for considerations of national security must come first."

"No one has been authorized to speak for me in connection with my authority under the executive order, and all statements and predictions coming from other sources should be disregarded."

## OFFICER SCHOOL WILL OPEN TODAY

### Present Enrollment At Davis Divided Into Sections Of 50 Men Each

Students in the Coast Artillery Officer Candidate school return to their studies today after a week's respite occasioned by the transfer of the school from Fort Monroe, Virginia, to Camp Davis. Approximately 500 enlisted men are enrolled in the course and an additional 2,700 will be added in the next few weeks to bring the unit to full student strength.

The present enrollment has been divided into sections of 50 men each to facilitate instruction. Numerous barracks have been converted into classrooms since the school was transferred and a full staff of instructors is ready to reopen the classes. When the school reaches its authorized strength, including overhead personnel, school troops and students, it will number about 5,000 men.

Col. H. R. Jackson, commandant of the school, has outlined the 90-day period, pointing out what subject will be stressed each week. The weekly classification includes: Miscellaneous subject; C. A. guns and director material; searchlights and communications; height finder and small arms C. A. guns and gun firing; orientation seacoast artillery theory; automatic weapons theory and firing miscellaneous subjects dealing with administration.

The men who return to school today, however, have already covered several of the above mentioned phases of instruction and will take up the course at the stage reached before the transfer. The first "all-Camp Davis" class, consisting of men enrolled after the transfer was ordered, will open next Monday, March 9, with the arrival of 200 men. Each week thereafter until the school reaches authorized strength additional students will be enrolled.

It won't be long before the school troops are functioning as a unit, under command of Lieut.-Col. Douglas Morrison. These troops will be used to conduct firing practice at Fort Fisher and Sears Landing. Incidentally, it is believed the excellent facilities at the two ocean firing points were to an extent responsible for the transfer of the school to Camp Davis. The budding officers will have an opportunity to put classroom theory into practice by taking command of all or part of the regiment during the training period, that is, temporary command.

## Launching Of Destroyer Aulick Set For Today

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## WALTER H. RUSS, 71, FERRYMAN, KILLED BY TERRIFIC EXPLOSION

### NO OTHERS ABOARD

### Accident Believed To Have Been Caused By Spark Igniting Gas Seepage

A terrific explosion demolished the state-owned gasoline-operated ferry across the Cape Fear river at Elewell's landing, near Kelly, and killed ferryman Walter H. Russ, 71, shortly before 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

Bladen County Sheriff H. Manley Clark said investigating officers believed the explosion was due to the seepage of gasoline into the flat, probably ignited by a spark from the motor.

Investigating the explosion with Sheriff Clark were members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the State Bureau of Investigation and state highway patrolmen.

No Signs of Sabotage

"We have been working on the case all day to see if there were any signs of sabotage," Sheriff Clark said. "We believe the explosion was due to the seepage of gasoline into the flat which probably was ignited by a spark from the motor. So far as we know there were no persons on the ferry at the time of the explosion except Mr. Russ. We dragged the river and couldn't find any trace of an automobile."

"The ferry was approaching the east side of the river when the explosion occurred and it is believed that Mr. Russ had just made a trip across the river—taking some cargo—and was returning as the ferry remains at the east bank."

"We have just pulled the ferry out on the bank," the sheriff said about 7 o'clock Sunday night, "and the flat was completely demolished—the top blown off and the sides out."

Sheriff Clark said pieces of the flat weighing as much as 1,500 pounds were hurled 150 yards by the explosion. He said he had received reports that the explosion had been heard as far as 18 miles distant.

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## Blast Sinks River Ferry At Elewell's

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Felt Far Away

In describing reports about the explosion the sheriff related that "one man, who lived four miles from the ferry, said he was in his room shaking corn and the explosion shook the barn causing the heap of corn to fall on him. Another, who lives about the same distance, said the tremble from the explosion frightened his horses so that hardly was able to keep them in the barnyard."

Sheriff Clark said in conducting the investigation officers made queries to learn if there were possibly any person or persons who might mine the river because of their enmity for the ferryman. He said they found that Mr. Russ, who was reared in Kelly, was highly respected and well liked in the community.

Mr. Russ, who had worked at the ferry for 36 years, relieved the night ferryman at 7 o'clock Sunday morning, hardly two hours before the explosion.

Funerary services for Mr. Russ will be conducted Monday after noon at 3 o'clock from the Kelly Methodist church.

Surviving are his widow; two sons, LeRoy Russ and Cameron Russ, both of Kelly; three daughters, Mrs. Odessa Anderson and Mrs. Lorene Kelly, both of Wilmington; and Mrs. James Moore, of Elizabethtown, and seven grandchildren.

## WEATHER

FORECASTS: NORTH CAROLINA — Rain mixed with snow in west and central portions Monday, beginning extreme west portion early Monday.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Slightly cooler with rain Monday.

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

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)

1:30 a. m. 36; 7:30 a. m. 33; 1:30 p. m. 49; 7:30 p. m. 44; maximum 54; minimum 31; mean 42; normal 50.

Humidity: 1:30 a. m. 74; 7:30 a. m. 73; 1:30 p. m. 35; 7:30 p. m. 55.

Precipitation: Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 0.00 inches; total since the first of the month, 0.00 inches.

Tides For Today: (From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey): Wilmington High 9:25a. 4:25p. Low 9:49p. 4:40p. Masonboro Inlet 7:11a. 1:03p. 7:33p. 1:30p.

Sunrise 6:30a; sunset 6:09p; moonrise 6:02p; moonset 6:22a.

Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville at 8 a. m., March 1, 11 feet. (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

## JAPS DRIVE FORTY MILES INSIDE JAVA AND SEIZE SOEBANG

### British Parachutists Execute Daring Raid

### Striking Swiftly Invaders Menace Dutch Army Headquarters

### MAKE 2 OTHER DRIVES

### Defenders Presumably Cut Main Coastal Railroad To Batavia

By WITT HANCOCK

BANDOENG, Java, Monday, March 2.—(AP)—Striking swiftly through plantations and estates of a broad coastal plain, Japan's invading forces have driven 40 miles to capture the city of Soebang, which lies about the same distance north and slightly east of this headquarters of the Dutch Imperial army, the defenders acknowledged today.

Soebang fell to the troops which landed at Indramaju, the middle of three main points at which the invaders poured out troops during the weekend from 50 transports and 20 warships under a heavy Allied aerial, naval and land fire.

In taking Soebang the Dutch presumably cut the main northern coastal railway linking Batavia and other principal cities to the east.

Counter-Attack

The Japanese also made penetrations, apparently of less distance, from the other two points. The defenders, including American, Dutch, British and Australian forces, meanwhile launched their main striking force into a counter-offensive late last night after pounding the Japanese defensively all day Sunday.

Paced by furiously pedalling cyclists and light armored cars, the Japanese drove three spearheads strongly into this volcano-studded island, prize of the Indies and keystone of the United Nations strategy in the southwest Pacific, from three landing places on the north and west coasts.

One penetration from the vicinity of Rembang, about 90 miles west of Soerabaja, the naval base, had been driven approximately 16 miles in from the coast to Blora where an action against cyclists was said to have taken a huge toll.

Blora is on the main road and railroad connecting the vital naval base with the rest of Java. It was apparently in this vicinity that Japanese had landed in strongest force on a wide beach front.

To the west, in the vicinity of Indramaju, which is about 100 miles east of the capital, Batavia, an official announcement admitted that "a rather great part of the plains of Rawang is now in Japanese hands despite very heavy losses which had been inflicted."

The plain is the center of large productive plantations and estates. The third spearhead at the northwestern Bantam district, southwest

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

## TUG SINKS HERE SUNDAY MORNING

### Cambria Goes Down At Its Berth; Owner Plans To Raise Her

The Cambria, a tug boat owned by Dallas Orrell, sank about 9 o'clock Sunday morning while tied up on the bank of the Cape Fear river on Water street between Chestnut and Grace streets.

Mr. Orrell said approximately \$5,000 had been spent on the boat since it sank last fall and that it was thought to have been in first-class condition. He said water had been pumped out of it since the snow Tuesday night and that no leaks were discovered.

Mr. Orrell said he did not know what caused the boat to sink, but that he expected to raise it.

## Storm Is Brewing Along South Coast

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 1.—(AP)—The weather bureau here issued the following marine advisory tonight:

"Hatteras to Appalachiola; small craft warnings indicated 6 a. m. Monday south of St. Marks, Fla., to Melbourne. Increasing wind becoming fresh early Monday, occasionally strong in Florida straits."

## Four Ships In Allied Convoy Sunk By Subs

AN EAST CANADIAN PORT, March 1.—(AP)—Seamen from four Allied ships sunk by U-boats in the Atlantic arrived at this port today in a rescue ship and reported the possibility that from six to nine ships in their convoy were torpedoed.

A crewman from one of the sunken ships—a tanker—said seven vessels were torpedoed the night his ship was sunk, and two more were hit the next morning. Another man, from a small freighter, said he believed six ships were torpedoed.

The survivor from the freighter said the attack went on for three days. Submarine detection devices indicated that five U-boats took part in the attack, another sailor said.

A total of 111 survivors from the four ships known sunk were brought to port. Some had been picked up by a United States war-

ship, others by a merchant ship. The ships known lost were three tankers and a freighter.

The full crews of two of the ships were among the survivors brought here. From another vessel, 38 were missing and from the fourth, 20 were unaccounted for.