

Reds Advance And Wipe Out 15,000 Nazis

...Central Front ... Reported Captured ... After 2-Day Battle

POLES DESERT NAZIS

...Throwing Reserves Recklessly Into Fight, Russians Say

MOSCOW, Mar. 8.—(AP)—The Red Army has captured Sychyva, central town on the Rzhev-Vyazma railroad following a fierce two-day battle in which virtually all of the 15,000 men of the German 48th division were wiped out, frontline dispatches said tonight.

Sychyva is midway between Rzhev and Vyazma on the 70-mile long rail line connecting these two German-held pockets and the capture leaves a gap of only 35 miles to be closed on the heavily garrisoned Nazi strongpoints.

The Soviet command said Hitler had drawn heavily upon reserves from the "Deep Rear" of his lines and was throwing them recklessly into the fighting west of Moscow in a vain effort to halt the Soviet advance.

Many Polish soldiers hastily drafted into the now destroyed 48th division were declared to have deserted their arms and joined the Russians.

Premier Joseph Stalin who recently has devoted considerable attention to the central front, was believed now to be personally planning wider counter-measures along the entire length of the front to meet Hitler's anticipated spring drive.

To the front below Leningrad, the Soviet command said, the Red Army is tightening a ring of steel about the trapped 16th German Army at Staraya Russa which has captured two more villages. It said the Germans left 470 dead on the field after a futile attempt to break out of the town.

Liberate Nine Towns

Nine other places were liberated, the official announcement said, on the Kalinin front northwest of Moscow where German losses were placed at hundreds of dead and huge quantities of war material.

The Leningrad radio itself said that in recent weeks 6,000 Germans were killed and 118 fortified German points destroyed.

Behind the front, the Red Army is raged during the night on several sectors of the front, the Russians said in their morning communiqué.

West of Moscow the German reinforcements were brought up for two days, the bulletin related, in an attempt to recapture a populated place designated "S".

"The enemy's desperate counterattacks ended in failure," the communiqué said. "Our artillery and machinegun fire felled hundreds of dead on the battlefield."

On the third day the Russians took the offensive and, throwing the Germans back, occupied two populated places. The Germans left more than 650 men and officers killed.

Bring up Reserves

The bringing up of German reinforcements from far back may have figured in the German high command communiqué for Sunday, (Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

Japanese Commander At Manila Reported To Have Ended Life

WASHINGTON, March 8.—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur has received persistent reports, the War Department announced today, that the Japanese army commander in the Philippines has committed suicide because of the invaders' failure to overcome the American - Filipino defenders.

The reports "from various sources hitherto regarded as reliable, were detailed in a communiqué which said MacArthur's artillery on the Bataan fighting front had inflicted heavy losses on an enemy regiment in another surprise attack.

Guns firing from hidden positions destroyed 29 of 90 motor trucks which were moving an estimated 2,500 enemy troops to the front line north of Abuca.

EIGHT MEN LOST ON ARMY PLANE

Ship Missing From Langley Field Base Since Thursday

LANGLEY FIELD, Va., March 8.—(AP)—Large Army plane from Langley Field has been missing on a routine training flight over North Carolina since Thursday, and the Army Public Relations office said today its crew of eight was feared lost.

Colonel Edgar O. Hobbs, Langley Field Public Relations officer, said that search for the plane was continuing and that there was a possibility that it had been forced down in an isolated section along North Carolina coast or at sea where its crew might have been picked up by a ship.

Crew members and their next of kin were listed as follows by Colonel Hobbs:

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Flanick, pilot, next of kin, his wife, Mrs. Helen Flanick, of Hampton, Va.

Second Lieutenant James H. Miller, co-pilot, wife, Mrs. Sylvia Miller of Langley Field.

Second Lieutenant Robert L. Garrison navigator, mother, Mrs. Jennie Barber, 2809 East Nineteenth street, Spokane, Wash.

Sergeant Steve J. Chohrach, father Adam Chohrach, Lewis Run, Penna.

Sergeant Arthur L. Becker, sister, Mrs. Charles Newman, 12 Concord St., Gloucester, Mass.

Sergeant Ellsworth W. Aiken, wife, Doris P. Aiken, 37 Oneida St., Lynn, Mass.

Corporal Draper Hoyt, mother, Mrs. Edna L. Hoyt, 911 Oxford St., Houston, Mass.

Private Robert R. McIntyre, sister Mrs. L. Mark Young, Boscawen, N. H.

Hobbs did not disclose the type of the missing plane other than to say it was a "large" one.

Langley Field has had no word from the plane since it left here at 11:08 a. m. (Eastern War Time) Thursday.

The next of kin of crew members have been notified that the plane is missing.

\$60,000 Fire Sweeps Charlotte Building

CHARLOTTE, N. C., March 8.—(AP)—A \$60,000 fire swept through a brick building occupied by the Morgan Heater company and the Sutphin Waste Paper company of 601 South Cedar street here early today.

Red flames leaping high in the sky attracted more than 1,000 spectators in the early morning. No one seemed to know how the fire started.

German Call To Map Plans

Are Believed Preparing For Spring Drive Against Turkey

SITE BOMB INCIDENT

It May Be Used As Basis Of New Wave Of Propaganda

LONDON, March 8.—(AP)—The explosion of a bomb near German ambassador Franz von Papen in Ankara Feb. 24 and subsequent developments have brought into sharp focus an intense and cunning German propaganda campaign to cloud Turkish-Russian relations, informed sources here said today.

With motives and methods still somewhat obscured in the flood of rumors and counter-rumors, it was fairly certain that the usual prepping German propaganda and diplomatic drive was under full blast, with Turkey as its objective.

Topping off the preliminary moves, there came today the report that Von Papen would leave Ankara for Berlin March 15. No reason was given for the journey, but it could be taken as a subtle suggestion that something was expected of Turkey and that Von Papen was going to discuss it with Adolf Hitler.

Where Turkey is concerned, the British prefer to maintain a discreet but hopeful silence. Sources authorized to discuss the subject rest on their reiterated faith in Turkish friendship and assumptions that Turkey would resist if attacked.

Wasted Effort

Representatives of the governments in exile here, having close contacts with the middle east and the Balkans, believe that much of the Axis propaganda in Turkey is wasted effort. But, they say, in the event of a German smash toward the oil of the Caucasus, Turkey could do little to stop it.

Ankara and Istanbul reports show clearly that the Germans are trying to build up a cause celebre against Russia—this cord was filtering through that at least two Russians are suspected.

The Turks admitted that a police cord was thrown about the Soviet consulate in Istanbul, because police thought two suspects had taken refuge there. This cord was reported here Saturday, according to reports here, and it is not known whether the suspects were taken into custody.

May Expel Aliens

Foreign Minister Sukru Saragolu of Turkey talked to both the Russian and the British ambassadors Saturday and it is believed that as a result of these conversations many aliens will be expelled from Turkey.

The fearful brew being stirred by Axis operatives includes the report that foreign Ministers Joachim Von Ribbentrop of Germany and Hiroshi Oshima, the Japanese ambassador to Berlin. Reports that Saragolu might attend were ridiculed by sources close to the Turkish foreign ministry.

The German radio has been busy with rumors of growing tension (Continued on Page Two; Col. 8)

Destroyer Carmick Is Launched Sunday

SEATTLE, March 8.—(AP)—The U. S. S. Carmick, first of a fleet of 25 destroyers to be built in Seattle, was launched at the Harbor Island yard of the Seattle Tacoma shipbuilding company today.

Japs Fear Of U. S. Fleet May Decide Their War Strategy

NEW YORK, March 8.—(AP)—Japan's future strategy—whether to attack India to the west or Australia to the east—a question which the Japanese may be debating even now in Tokyo, may be dictated by fear of the United States fleet, a broadcast from Berlin suggested today.

Quoting the London correspondent of the Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter, the broadcast said "United States attacks against the Marshall and Gilbert islands and the bombing attacks on the Bonin islands reveal the general direction of United States strategy."

"The moment that the bulk of the Japanese fleet would sail into the Indian ocean to make large-scale operations against India, the United States fleet would be given the opportunity to attack the Japanese islands themselves."

SEVEN ARE KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK

Four Soldiers Among Dead In Collision On Frisco Line

GRANBY, Mo., March 8.—(AP)—Seven persons, including four soldiers, lost their lives and at least 28 others were hurt last yesterday as two Frisco passenger trains collided head-on near this southwest Missouri town.

The steel-rending crash of the eastbound Will Rogers and a special, carrying 230 recruits from Camp Grant, Ill., occurred on a trestle about 200 yards west of the depot.

Twenty-two persons, 18 soldiers and four trainmen, suffered injuries requiring hospitalization. A number of others were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

The locomotives remained upright, lopped together in a mass of wreckage on the trestle. Most of the soldiers were victims in a wooden coach, the first of six on the special.

At the impact it telescoped the overturned baggage car ahead, crumpled and splintered, pinning the passengers inside. Rescue crews, some working with acetylene torches, labored for about five hours to extricate the dead and injured.

Of the Will Rogers, one baggage car toppled off into a dry creek bed, a passenger coach overturned and another left the rails, but did not turn over.

While some Frisco officials said it appeared that a mix-up in signals caused the collision, James Hilton, assistant to the general manager of the road, declined to comment, pending an investigation.

In a hospital at Neosho, Luther Arv, engineer of the special, told newsmen that he had brought the train to a stop before the collision and that the other train was coming toward him at about 60 miles an hour. He declared he began slowing down some distance from the scene because he received a caution light as he entered the Granby block.

Frank Reed, engineer of the Will Rogers, however, told newsmen last night that he had brought his train almost to a stop at the time of the crash.

Physicians, nurses and ambulances from surrounding towns were rushed to the scene. A special train was used to carry the injured soldiers to hospitals at Neosho, Mo., and Camp Crowder. A military police guard was established at the scene.

The dead: Pvt. William A. Pearson, Route 1, Johnsonburg Road, McHenry, Ill. Pvt. Albert Gordon, 2649 Spaulding Ave., Chicago. Pvt. Frederick C. Carlson, 2625 N. Whipple St., Chicago. Pvt. Edmund L. Koster, 6431 Sinclair Ave., Berwyn, Ill. Wallace J. Ferguson, 24, Oklahoma City, mail clerk.

Herschel H. Napier, Springfield, Mo. William A. Walden, Chicago, porter. The injured soldiers, all privates: (Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

Japs Prepare For Invasion Of Australia

Landing Is Made In New Guinea, 400 Miles From Australian Coast

SEIZE AN AIR BASE

Maneuver Presumably Is Made To Secure Jump Off Point For Raiders

MELBOURNE, Australia, March 8.—(AP)—Japanese landing forces invaded Australian-occupied New Guinea today, only 400 miles from the nearest point on the northern Australian coast, and occupied the island city of Salamaua, the government announced today.

The brief statement gave no details of the Japanese landing. Roundabout Axis reports meanwhile broadcast reports that United Nations' defenders of Java had surrendered and that The Netherlands East Indies command had asked for cessation of hostilities, but there was no official confirmation from Tokyo or from London.

The Japanese apparently struck in northeastern New Guinea to gain control of the airfield at Salamaua as a base for possibly extended air attacks against Australia.

Japanese bombers repeatedly have attacked Port Moresby, 150 miles southwest of Salamaua, and the southern coastal city which the Australians consider the best defensive base in New Guinea against the Japanese.

Small Settlement

Salamaua is a small island settlement separated from the New Guinea mainland by a narrow channel. Its airfield in peacetime is used principally by commercial companies flying in and out of the gold mining regions of New Guinea. Salamaua has a small harbor but is not considered a port except for coastwise shipping.

The town is confined to one main street. The population is small and the entire district of Morobe in northeastern New Guinea has only 2,400 persons.

Australia braced for eventual attack with hurried military preparations designed to take the offensive against Japanese thrusts.

Maj. Gen. Gordon Bennett, former commander of Australian forces in Malaya who escaped after the fall of Singapore, told his countrymen in a broadcast "we must adopt the offensive not only with the forces but with the whole people."

"The Australian Imperial force beat the Japanese in Malaya every time when the Australians took the offensive and we could do the same here," he said.

No Stores Left

Bennett predicted the Japanese would first try to capture air bases in northern and northwestern Australia and then drive southward from airfield to airfield. But, he added, the Japanese would not find stores of food and sufficient water in Northern Australia like they had in Malaya.

In a similar appeal for action, former Prime Minister Robert Gordon (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

HART AND WINANT REACH NEW YORK

Arrival Of Former Chief Of Asiatic Fleet Is A Surprise

NEW YORK, March 8.—(AP)—Admiral Thomas C. Hart, who resigned recently as Allied naval chief of the Southwest Pacific, arrived today aboard a Pan American clipper which also brought home John G. Winant, U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, for his first visit since the American entrance into the war.

Winant's arrival had been expected for several days, but the appearance of Admiral Hart, Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Asiatic fleet, was unexpected.

Neither the Ambassador nor Admiral Hart, who gave ill health as his reason for resigning his joint Allied command, was listed among the clipper's 17 passengers from Europe and the Orient.

SURRENDER OF JAVA CLAIMED BY BERLIN, IS DENIED BY DUTCH

British Again Bomb Factories At Paris

(By The Associated Press) LONDON, March 8.—Smashing in the Paris region for the second time in six days, the RAF bombed a motor truck factory at Poissy today, and heavily attacked other industrial targets in occupied Northern France.

The Air Ministry announced that bombs fell squarely on the Matford plant at Poissy, eight miles west of Paris, where the British said 20 trucks had been turned out daily for the Nazi war machine. Hits also were scored on an adjoining truck yard.

Participating pilots said that Frenchmen waved cheery greetings from many villages they passed over en route to Poissy. They found the plant easily in the bright sunlight and one rear gunner related that flames and dust from explosions shot higher than the altitude of his plane. Not a German fighter rose to the challenge, the pilots said, until the British had unloaded their bombs and were on their way home. And then only three Messerschmitts took out after them.

This daylight attack followed the destructive, two-hour attack upon factories along the Seine in the Paris industrial belt last Tuesday night when, the French at Vichy said, 325 persons were killed.

It fulfilled the promise by "Colonel Britton," the mystery voice of the "V-For-Victory Campaign," who warned Frenchmen last Friday that "the Royal Airforce is coming again more and more often."

The Colonel coupled that warning with the exhortation to French workers to "keep away from any work that is helping the Germans."

While the RAF raiders were winging toward Poissy other fighter-escorted formations attacked a power station at Comines, near Lille, and railroad yards at Abbeville. The British destroyed two Nazi fighters in the day's operations and lost three of their own craft, a bomber and two fighters.

In an attack Saturday night, Canadian airmen blasted the German submarine base at St. Nazaire, where huge fires were left burning in the dock area. One plane was lost in this attack.

Fifth 'Liberty' Ship Is Launched Here

Daniel Morgan Christened By Miss Evelyn Williams Rogers, Syosset, L. I.

With the launching of the Daniel Morgan Sunday afternoon, the North Carolina Shipbuilding company sent its fifth Liberty freighter to the finishing ways since its establishment here about a year ago.

The Daniel Morgan, named for a Revolutionary war hero, was christened by Miss Evelyn Williams Rogers, granddaughter of President Roger Williams of the N. C. Shipbuilding company. She is the daughter of Mrs. William Chamler, of Syosset, L. I., whose husband is a corporation lawyer of New York City.

A native of New Jersey, Daniel Morgan, for whom the ship is named, joined Gates at Hillsborough, N. C., after the battle of Camden and took command of a corps and made brigadier general. Although Cornwallis and Tarleton attempted to trap him in January, 1781, Morgan defeated Tarleton at Cowpens (January 17) and then escaped from Cornwallis to North Carolina. Before coming to North Carolina he campaigned in Canada and had taken part in both battles of Saratoga.

Simplicity marked the launching ceremony. Just as the props were taken from under the Daniel Morgan and she started down the ways Miss Rogers, who availed uneasily for the moment, crashed a bottle of champagne against her bow.

The fifth Liberty freighter slid serenely down the ways into the waters of the Cape Fear ready for the finishing ways.

PLANES SAFE

TUCSON, Ariz., March 8.—(AP)—Eight Navy planes reported missing while en route to San Diego, Calif., have been accounted for, the Davis-Monthan Army air base reported today.

A spokesman said the planes ran out of gasoline, but that their pilots landed them safely.

Beleaguered Island, However, Remains Cut Off From Outside World

SITUATION CONFUSED

Governments Without Any Information Concerning Plight Of Defenders

By The Associated Press LONDON, Mar. 8.—Admittedly hard-pressed and beleaguered, the defenders of Java were cut off from contact with the world for the second day today while Axis agencies broadcast a bewildering assortment of elusive unofficial reports of their surrender which the Netherlands government here emphatically denied.

The statement of the Netherlands government admitted, however that it was without direct word from its forces in the Netherlands East Indies.

"The Royal Netherlands government emphatically denies stories emanating from enemy sources to the effect that Japan has been asked for armistice terms," said the statement issues here through the Netherlands government information bureau.

"As the Japanese have at present full control of all channels of communication with the Netherlands East Indies, it is to be expected that similar stories will be put out by various enemy quarters for the purpose of creating confusion. No credence should be attached to any of them."

The British war office, too, was without word from British troops fighting in Java since 12:55 p. m. (7:55 a. m. Eastern War Time) Saturday, when the official Java radio broadcast signed off with a fare well message: "Goodbye 'til better times. Long live the queen."

Anxious Dutch, however, relied upon some of the hidden low power radio stations—long prepared in the mountain defenses of the island for just such a contingency as the present—eventually being heard in Australia with news of any decision to surrender.

Roundabout Reports

The Axis reports were roundabout and without any express official sanction from Tokyo, and apparently were a copy of the German technical que of planting "news" with agencies abroad and then picking it up for rebroadcast on the home facilities.

They said that the Dutch, back bone of the United Nations resistance in the N. E. I., had capitulated in Java, the last main bulwark of the defense, and had asked for terms and cessation of hostilities on all fronts, as one report had it.

The Japanese answer was said not yet to have been made known.

The British war office said it had received no confirmation of the sweeping Axis claims but a commentator acknowledged that the Allied position in the N. E. I. was "very serious."

There had been no direct word from Bandungs, military headquarters and focus of defense on Java since the official radio went off the air Saturday morning with: goodbye 'til better times. Long live the queen."

Queen Resolute

The 61-year-old queen of the Netherlands government-in-exile, is maintained resolute today in a conviction that both the homeland, how it German occupation, as well as the rich islands of the southwest Pacific invaded by the Japanese, would eventually be restored to the Netherlands red white and blue-beret banner.

Reuters heard the Tokyo radio quoting a Domei dispatch datelined Lisbon telling of an "unconfirmed but reliable" report from the Java front which said the N. E. I. command yesterday formally requested cessation of the battle, one week old in Java.

Reuters noted that the report should be considered "with all reserve."

This dispatch reported that a staff officer representing the N. E. I. command bore a white flag to field headquarters at 11:30 p. m. yesterday, (presumably Java time) and presented the request.

"The Japanese reply is not yet revealed," it said.

The Berlin radio later sent out a similar account, leaving out some of the intervening qualifications. And the Paris radio later contributed the statement that official word from Tokyo said that the Dutch government had asked for cessation of hostilities on all fronts.

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WEATHER FORECASTS: NORTH CAROLINA - Considerably colder and windy Monday preceded by rain mixed with snow flurries in mountains in early morning.

Women 'Chutists Aid Russian War Effort