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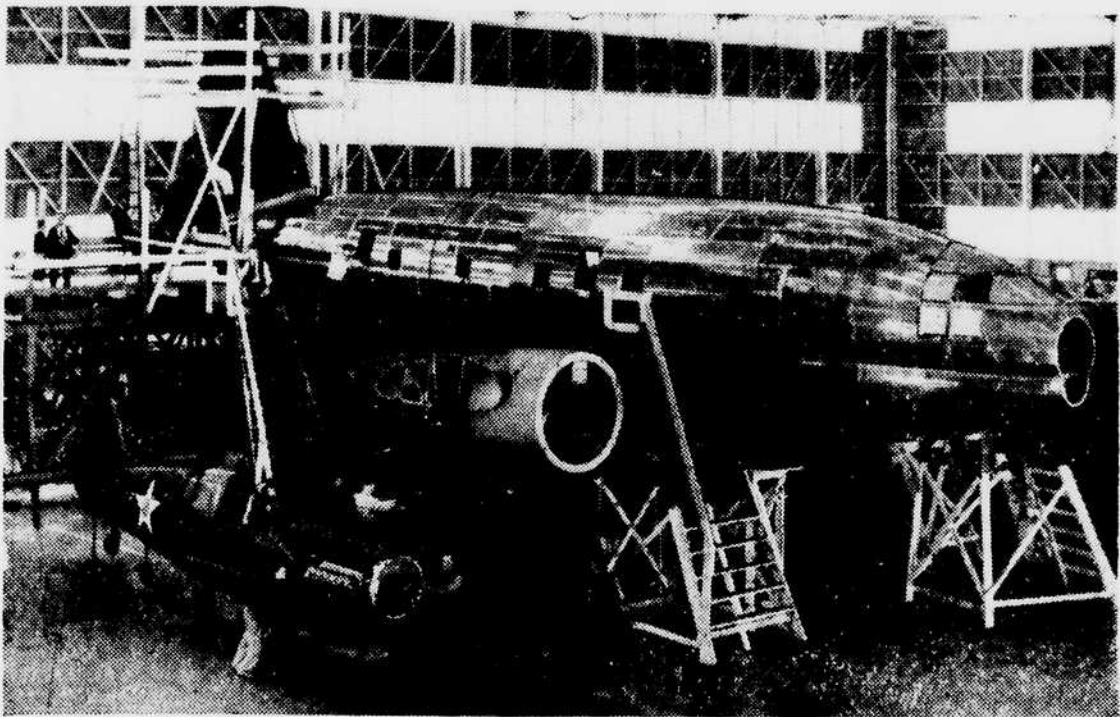
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## Reds Drive Nearer Smolensk

### Allies Cheered By Address

Giant Army Transport Rushed to Completion



A twenty-five ton Curtiss Condor III twin-engined transport is being rushed to completion for the Army. A Curtiss Hawk -40 pursuit plane is dwarfed by the huge transport on an adjacent assembly line. The big plane is designed to carry "thirty-six fully equipped infantrymen," light field artillery, and one or more reconnaissance cars. (Central Press)

### Defenders Of Java Set For Assault

London, Newspaper. Give Enthusiastic Endorsement to President Roosevelt's Speech; Churchill Predicts Final Victory.

(By The Associated Press) President Roosevelt's address that the United States would take the offensive against the Japanese in the Pacific, and that "thousands of American troops are today in that area."

London newspaper gave the President's speech an enthusiastic endorsement, with the Daily Sketch commenting that Mr. Roosevelt "gave the world a tremendous message of confidence and cheer."

Axis reaction was typified by Domei, official Japanese news agency, which asserted that the address was like "a pop talk by an irate football coach" and that "a noteworthy commentary was furnished by the report that a Japanese warship was shelling the American mainland at about the same time he was speaking from the White House."

In London, Prime Minister Winston Churchill acknowledged that the moment Japan holds superiority in the air as well as "winning command of the sea" in the Pacific.

(Continued on Page Two)

### U.S. Navy Nurses Held by Japs



Here are four of the five U. S. Navy nurses who were serving on the Island of Guam in the Pacific when it was captured by the Japs. The Navy Department announced that they are "deemed likely prisoners of the Japanese." Left to right, top, Doris M. Yetter of Philadelphia, Pa.; Marion B. Olds of Chicago, Ill.; bottom, Leon Jackson of Union, O.; and Virginia J. Fogarty of Akron, O. (Central Press)

### Nazi Escape Route Again Endangered

Dorogobuzh, 15 Miles South of Moscow-Smolensk Railroad, is Captured; German Front Line Reports are Vague.

(By The Associated Press) Russia's armies drove a spearhead against the heart of the German "escape corridor" from Moscow today, sharply threatening the main Nazi route of retreat with the capture of Dorogobuzh, only 15 miles south of the Moscow-Smolensk railroad, midway between Vyazma and Smolensk.

Dorogobuzh is 50 miles east of Smolensk, key German base on the Moscow front.

At the same time, the British radio reported that the Red armies had also captured the town of Panna, 11 miles north of the beleaguered Nazi base at Rostov, which in turn is 125 miles northward of Moscow, and guards the north flank of the withdrawing Nazi invaders.

Adolf Hitler's field headquarters again gave a vague account of fighting on the long winter-bound front, asserting that "at various points formations of the army and air force repulsed more enemy attacks."

German night raiders were credited by the high command with setting big fires in the Russians' fortress at Sevastopol in the Crimea.

More than 14,000 Germans were declared to have been killed in recent Russian assaults which yielded numerous points on the approaches to a southwestern city—perhaps Kharkov—and continued fighting was reported about Leningrad.

Indicating Adolf Hitler is uncertain about the power of his spring offensive, Norwegian sources said the Germans were ordering 500,000 pairs of skis in Norway—perhaps for another winter of fighting on the eastern front.

### British Favor Indian Aim

London, Feb. 24.—(AP)—The British government "is in favor of India's political freedom," Lord Cranborne, colonial secretary, stated today in the House of Lords.

Cranborne, who became government leader in the House of Lords in the week-end session of the cabinet, declared that "his majesty's government welcomes the message of Chiang Kai-Shek to the Indian government."

"We are glad that there should be the closest understanding between the Indian and Chinese people," Chiang Kai-Shek urged India "to the cause of liberty and so do we," said Lord Cranborne.

### U. S.-Owned Tanker Sunk

Five Lives Believed Lost; 28 Survivors Landed in Florida; Two Torpedoes Hit.

West Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 24.—(AP)—An American-owned tanker, the 5,287-ton Republic of Houston, Tex., was torpedoed by an enemy submarine off the Atlantic coast with an apparent loss of five lives.

Twenty-eight survivors, two of them slightly injured, were brought ashore, the Navy announced today.

The 232-foot Republic was owned by the Petroleum Navigation Company of Houston. The Navy did not make public the spot at which she was attacked by two torpedoes from the enemy raider.

Captain Alvin H. Anderson, 52, Houston, a veteran of 36 years at sea, said he didn't see the torpedoes but "there were two explosions—just like that," and snapped his fingers sharply.

### Two U. S. Ships Run Aground

#### Planes Hunt Sub Raider

Army and Navy Aircraft Search for Enemy Sub Which Shelled California.

Washington, Feb. 24.—(AP)—The War department announced today that Army and Navy aircraft and surface vessels have started a search for the enemy submarine which shelled the Buellville oil refinery near Ellwood, Cal., last night.

The department's communications said damage from the shelling was slight and no casualties were reported. The submarine, apparently Japanese, fired 25 rounds of five-inch shells at the refinery, the department said.

In the Philippine fighting, the department said, there was no ground activity on either side in the last 24 hours, but enemy aircraft dropped a number of incendiary bombs.

#### GERMANY CLAIMS EIGHT MORE SHIPS

Berlin (From German Broadcasts) Feb. 24.—(AP)—A special German high command communiqué said today that German submarines operating in the Atlantic and off the American coast had sunk eight more ships totaling 63,000 tons.

Five of the ships were said to be tankers.

#### Navy Using Old Shells

Navy Chief Declares 'Mere Age is No Criterion of its Effectiveness.'

Washington, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Rear Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, chief of the Navy's bureau of ordinance, said today that the Navy was using some ammunition made more than a decade ago, but added that "mere age is no criterion of its effectiveness."

He appeared before the House naval committee at an inquiry ordered as a result of a radio report quoting an unidentified naval lieutenant as saying that anti-aircraft ammunition aboard his ship in the Pacific was made in 1930 and was only 30 per cent effective.

Blandy said that, both he and Secretary of the Navy Knox were "very seriously concerned" over the report and added, "I am not going to stop until I get full information."

#### BRITISH WITHDRAW ON SITTANG RIVER

London, Feb. 24.—(AP)—British troops have withdrawn to the west bank of the Sittang river after inflicting heavy casualties on the Japanese troops invading Burma, the all-India radio said today, quoting official accounts.

#### Recognition For Worker

Washington, Feb. 24.—(AP)—War production officials have decided on a promotion campaign to speed America's army output by making workers feel their importance and responsibility in the war.

It was learned that the program awards only the nod from President Roosevelt and that War Production Chief Donald M. Nelson had agreed to accept its leadership.

These are its main features:

1. Special recognition for meritorious performances by individual workers.
2. Awards to plants turning in notable production jobs.
3. Trips for foremen and workers to summer Army maneuvers to permit them to see the actual operation of the tanks, half tracks, guns and trucks.
4. Reports by commanders at the fighting front on exceptional performances of planes, vehicles and weapons in actual combat.

#### Lend-Lease Aid Tripled

Washington, Feb. 24.—(AP)—The rate of lend-lease aid to the other United Nations has tripled since Pearl Harbor, it was disclosed today in an official report.

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., the lend-lease administrator, said in testimony before the Senate appropriations committee that during the first eight and one-half months of the program such aid averaged about \$141,000,000 monthly, compared with \$338,000,000 in December and \$462,000,000 in January.

He also disclosed that the air ferrying service across the Atlantic to the Middle East, created last summer and operated with lend-lease funds, had been extended "so that the bombers for our fighting forces, as well as those of our allies, can be flown by that route to the fighting areas of the southern Pacific."

#### Fatalities To Be Heavy

Destroyer and Cargo Ship Broken to Pieces by Storm on Newfoundland Coast.

Washington, Feb. 24.—(AP)—The Navy announced today that the destroyer Truxtun and the U. S. S. Pollux, cargo ship, had run aground in a storm off the coast of Newfoundland and been lost with a loss of at least 189 officers and men.

The heavy toll of personnel was attributed by the Navy to "the extremely difficult surf" conditions caused by a raging gale in bitter winter weather.

Efforts to put lives ashore from the stricken vessels failed. A breeches buoy finally was rigged to a ledge at sea level, but some survivors were washed ashore before they could be gotten to the top of the cliffs that lined the rocky shore.

The Truxtun, the Navy said, broke up almost immediately after grounding and soon afterward the Pollux also went to pieces under the pounding of a violent sea.

Such as did survive over their rescue in large measure, the Navy declared, to the "tireless, efficient and in many cases heroic action of the people of St. Lawrence, Newfoundland."

The 6,035-ton Pollux, a converted merchantman, had a normal complement as a naval store ship of 18 officers and 160 men.

The 1,190-ton Truxtun was a flush deck four-stacker completed in 1921 and capable of 35 knots. Her complement called for 122 men.

#### Chiang's Trip Foreshadows Air Route

Chungking, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek has returned from his all important visit to India, a government spokesman announced today, after a flying trip foreshadowing the establishment of regular air transport as a new and important addition to China's supply line of war material.

The need for such new routes has been emphasized by the closing of Rangoon as the "feeder" port for the Burma Road. But the spokesman reiterated that China is self-sufficient in food, has enough clothing to get along, can manufacture her light arms, and has a quantity of heavy equipment waiting to be shipped to the front.

#### Electricians On Strike

St. Louis, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Four hundred maintenance workers of the AFL Operating Engineers Union of the Union Electric Company of Missouri began a sit-down strike at three generating plants of the company but there was no immediate lack of power.

The plants affected were Cahokia and Venice, Illinois, number 2 and Bagnell dam, Missouri.

Maintenance men at the St. Louis County Gas Company also joined in the sit-down.

An official of the \$250,000,000 utility said the controversy was over the transfer of an employee from one plant to another.

RETURNS TO CHINA Chungking, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek has returned from his visit to India, it was announced today.

#### Coach Wolf May Enlist

Chapel Hill, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Ray Wolf, head coach at the University of North Carolina, said today he would enter with Navy officials in Charleston, S. C., tomorrow on his acceptance of a naval reserve commission in physical training work.

"My plans as far as the Navy or as to my connection with the University are so indefinite that I would rather not make any statement," Wolf said, "but I will go to Charleston tomorrow for an interview with Navy officials."

Wolf said Chuck Erickson, back field coach, Johnnie Vaughn, line coach and Bo Shepard business manager of athletics, would accompany him to Charleston.

Wolf-coached Tar Heel football teams have won 38 games, lost 17 and tied 3.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Colder tonight with snow continuing in the mountains.

#### Jap Planes Bomb Bataan

Tokyo Reports Widespread Damage in Series of Assaults on MacArthur's Bases.

Tokyo, (From Japanese broadcasts) Feb. 24.—(AP)—Japanese army bombers caused widespread damage in a series of assaults against United States positions in the Samar mountains of Bataan peninsula during the last two days, Domei reported today in a dispatch from a Japanese Philippine base.

The Japanese news agency said the bombers encountered no resistance from ground batteries Monday and said this indicated General Douglas MacArthur's defenders were losing strength.

Authorized naval sources declared today that Japanese aircraft had broken in an attempt to attack Japanese-occupied islands in the south seas by inflicting heavy damage on United States fleet units discovered steaming westward toward the island last Friday.

These sources said the Japanese aerial attack forced the ships to turn around and flee to the east.

#### Argentinos Fight Duel

Buenos Aires, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Raul Dromonte Taborda, 32-year old chairman of Argentina's "Dies conmittee" was wounded twice in a night duel today in a duel with Enrique Botteri, retired army officer whom he had criticized.

Botteri, 31, formerly was acting governor of Buenos Aires province, and Taborda had said in a campaign address that the duel was a disgrace to the army uniform.

The duel demanded satisfaction and despite "the laws of Argentina prohibiting duelling, the men met shortly after dawn today."

#### Longer Hours Bring Strike

San Pedro, Cal., Feb. 24.—(AP)—The day shift, 3,000 members of the IO Shipyard Workers Union of America, walked off the job of building \$80,000,000 worth of destroyers for the U. S. Navy after eight hours yesterday. They said Bethlehem Steel Company demanded that they work ten-hour shifts.

Whether 1,500 to 2,000 employees quit the night shift after eight hours, or worked ten, was not reported.

Union spokesmen were not available.

#### FDR Right, But Wrong, Nazi Says

Berlin (From German Broadcasts) Feb. 24.—(AP)—President Roosevelt was right twice and wrong once in his Washington speech last night, a German radio commentator said today.

He was right when he said Germany, Italy and Japan had staked "their last ounce of energies" to cut Anglo-American supply lines all over the globe, he declared.

He was right when he said axis production was at its peak, the commentator continued, adding that it already exceeded total United Nations production.

But—said the commentator—he was wrong in assuming axis production would not increase.

#### Lease-Lend Settlement Agreed Upon

Washington, Feb. 24.—(AP)—An Anglo-American agreement on broad principles for post-war settlement of lend-lease aid extended Great Britain was announced today by the White House.

It was said that it was too early in the struggle to propose or define detailed terms of settlement, the agreement set forth a "fundamental frame work" which included expansion of trade, elimination of discriminatory treatment in international commerce, a reduction in tariffs, and in general the attainment of the economic objectives of the Atlantic charter.

More specifically, it stated that articles which at the end of the war can be returned to the United States, which this nation wants back, will be returned.

Full account is to be taken of all reciprocal aid.

#### Vichy Reports Big Red Drive

London, Feb. 24.—(AP)—The Vichy radio was heard today broadcasting a statement attributed to the German radio that the Russians had launched their biggest offensive of the war and that the relief of Leningrad was expected at any moment.

"Our troops on the Leningrad front are in great danger," Vichy quoted the Berlin broadcast.

(No such German broadcast was heard by New York listening posts but Vichy's version may be propaganda designed to fool allied troops.)