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## GUADALCANAL EVACUATED BY JAPANESE

### Whole German Line Below Rostov Is Imperiled

#### Kursk Falls To Russian Offensive

Red Army Siege Guns Thunder Destruction On Rostov; In Africa, Offensive Is Hinted

(By The Associated Press)

A sudden and spectacular Russian coup which netted the capture of Kursk, one of the "big six" bastions of the German defense system, imperiled the whole Nazi line below Moscow today even as Red army siege guns thundered destruction upon the axis citadel of Rostov.

Kursk which lies about midway between Moscow and Rostov, formed a major link in the German defense wall along with Smolensk, Bryansk, Orel, Kharkov and Rostov.

The city had been in Nazi hands since November 11, 1941, and a half month after the German invasion armies stormed into Russia.

Battle dispatches said the Red flag was raised over Kursk at 3 p. m. yesterday and described the city as "an enormous cemetery."

The city itself was reported virtually destroyed by shelling and fire.

On the Rostov front, German troops were stubbornly counter-attacking in an attempt to drive off the Russians, who declared they had captured at least a dozen more towns and railway stations below the city.

Latest Soviet dispatches said Red army troops pushing up through Bataisk, ten miles south of Rostov, had moved their heavy artillery into range along the south bank of the Don river to bombard that German-held key-stone.

Soviet advances declared approximately 200,000 German troops were entrenched at Rostov, apparently determined to risk another Stalingrad, with another 200,000 axis soldiers set off in the western Caucasus below the city.

Simultaneously, the German-controlled Vichy radio indicated the bid was about to blow off the north African battle scene, declaring that large scale movements by British motorized forces were in progress along the Libyan-Tunisian frontier.

"Something big is brewing," the broadcast said.

For reasons of military secrecy, British headquarters withheld mention of any offensive, but noted significantly that General Sir B. L. Montgomery's eighth army had now brought up its artillery and was now engaged in hammering at Nazi Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's defenses in the northern desert.

Meanwhile, allied bombers of the Middle East command delivered a heavy assault on the important Sicilian city of Messina, port of entry for supplies shipped to the key Mediterranean island from Italy.

Sicily is a potential stepping stone for an allied invasion of southern Italy.

Washington, Feb. 9.—(AP)—In an effort to avert further increases in retail milk prices, the office of price administration today will establish a temporary ceiling on the prices farmers receive for fluid milk.

An initial temporary order, which generally will peg prices at the highest level, distributors said to producers last month, will be replaced in 60 days by a permanent regulation.

#### REDS ROUNDUP NAZI PRISONERS ON CENTRAL FRONT



SOLDIERS OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY take over German prisoners who emerge from dugouts after the Reds had captured a fortified position on the Central Front. Prisoners taken in the Winter drive of the Red Army along the far-flung front now run into the hundreds of thousands. The Russians have arrived within five miles of Rostov, south of the city. Reds captured a number of towns in spreading offensive in Donets basin.

#### Leaf Price Rule Fought

Tobaccoists to Send Delegation to Oppose Preservation of Auction System

Raleigh, Feb. 9.—(AP)—Tobaccoists from the Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia overwhelmingly endorsed today the preservation of the warehouse auction system, and expressed unalterable opposition to action of federal graders in placing ceilings on individual lots.

Their action was in line with resolutions passed last night by the legislature, in which federal authorities were asked to retain the same system of OPA price ceilings on buyers' averages which was effective on 1942 blue cured sales.

The legislative resolution said the lot ceiling system would destroy the auction system, which was described as "essential and necessary to preserve a free market." The assembly was told that similar resolutions had been passed by the legislatures of South Carolina and Georgia.

The resolutions, adopted here were addressed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the OPA, and to every member of the North Carolina congressional delegation.

Leading the tobaccoists were E. R. Piddock, Jr., of Monticello, Ga., W. H. Daniels, of Millon, S. C., A. E. Garrett of Danville, Va., and State Senator J. C. Lanier of Pitt county.

The group voted to send to Washington six representatives of the Grange in the four states, six from the Farm Bureaus, one from each warehousemen's association in each belt, one from each state agriculture department, two from exporters and dealers, two from the U. S. Warehousemen's Association and the growers.

Senator J. C. Eagles of Wilson will act as chairman of the committee.

#### Potato Trial Is Resumed

Wilson, Feb. 9.—(AP)—Judge C. S. Wyrch convened U. S. district court here today for resumption of the government's case against 13 corporations and 16 individuals charged with violating the Sherman anti-trust law in the operations of the potato industry.

The trial was recessed last Thursday to give the defense time to study documentary evidence and to prepare for the cross examination of H. R. Mohat, economist and business analyst for the U. S. Department of Justice, who was the last government witness presented.

#### Downey Urges Halt To Army Inductions

Churchill In Commons

London, Feb. 9.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill told the house of commons today that he would soon make a statement on the war situation, including a reference to the creation of a United Nations war council. He spoke in answer to a question.

The prime minister, who returned Sunday from his trip to north Africa and the Middle East, stopped the show in commons.

He entered during the questions period and started toward his seat on the treasury benches.

An explosion of cheering and applause burst on all sides and continued until the prime minister was seated. He was smiling broadly.

#### No Accord With Giraud

DeGaulle Declares He Is as Far as Ever From Agreement on Basic Principles

London, Feb. 9.—(AP)—General Charles de Gaulle today characterized the new French government in north Africa as "baseless and artificial" and indicated that he is as far as ever from accord with General Henri Giraud on fundamental issues.

At one of his few press conferences, de Gaulle conceded that "some steps have been taken toward freedom in that unfortunate country." This referred to the announcement by the new regime set up by Giraud that it would abolish anti-Jewish legislation and review the cases of persons imprisoned on political charges.

De Gaulle reiterated, however, that the only basis on which complete fusion of French interest would be possible would be complete restoration of the laws of the French republic in north Africa.

#### California Senator Urge Step to Put Men on Farms; Other Washington News

Washington, Feb. 9.—(AP)—A demand for an immediate halt to military inductions was raised in the Senate today as the House took up the Dies committee's plea for a two-year extension of its investigation of un-American activities.

Senator Downey, California Democrat, urged stopping inductions in order to get more men on farms. He declared there already are more men in the armed services than the nation can transport and maintain abroad.

Downey is a member of the Senate military committee, which yesterday heard Agriculture Secretary Wickard testify that he could not guarantee 1943 food production quotas on the basis of available manpower.

Chairman Martin Dies, Texas Democrat, predicted there would be fewer than 50 sales in the House against a resolution to continue his committee until May, 1945, despite opposition from Representative McCanton, Laborer of New York, and Representative Folger, Democrat of North Carolina.

Folger spent his much time investigating communism, the philosophy of Soviet Russia, the nation's war ally.

Meanwhile, former President Hoover's proposal that the nation try for a knockout blow against Germany in 1944 instead of attempting "too much too fast" in 1943, despite quick criticism from Senator Pepper, Florida Democrat.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones reported yesterday that the income of individuals last year totaled \$113,271,000,000, a 23 per cent increase over 1941 and the biggest total since the department began keeping records of income payments.

Four-fifths of the increase, Jones said, was represented by manufacturing wages and salaries, federal government payrolls and net income of farmers.

Wilson Taximan Held on Charge of OPA Violation

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Slightly warmer in south and west portion today.

#### Two Billion Dollar Resistance Appropriation Bill Apparently Is Sent To House

Measure Carries More Than Billion To Speed Building Of Merchant Marine

Washington, Feb. 9.—(AP)—Carrying more than a billion dollars to speed the maritime commission to its goal of five merchant ships a day by next May, a \$2,621,104,379 independent offices supply bill was sent to the House today by its appropriations committee. House consideration tentatively was scheduled for next Monday.

Almost 90 percent of the total was for what the committee described as strictly war purposes, including \$887,017,000 for the veterans administration, \$1,289,780,000 for the maritime commission, \$88,000,000 for the public roads administration, and \$19,151,300 for the national advisory committee on aeronautics.

The total was \$6,448,206,192 below budget estimates and \$212,906,192 under appropriations for the same purposes for the current fiscal year.

However, the committee said, "it is fair to state that when the 1944 totals are finally compiled, they may well show an increase over the 1943 appropriations on war items," since the 1943 totals included \$615,000,000 for war housing and \$150,000,000 for emergency funds for the President which were granted in supplemental acts last year and were not contained in the regular comparable bill.

The 1944 budget continued to recommendation for these emergency items, which usually are handled in separate legislation.

Without comment the committee omitted a budget recommendation for \$1,100,000 for the national resources planning board, headed by President Roosevelt's uncle, Frederick A. Delano.

#### Sales Tax Collection Fee Is Proposed

Raleigh, Feb. 9.—(AP)—A measure to give merchants 5 per cent commissions for collection of the state's 3 per cent sales tax was introduced today by Senator Weathers of Cleveland.

The Shelby newspaper publisher said adoption of the bill would place an additional \$700,000 annually in the hands of merchants to compensate them for the time and loss they incurred in collecting the levy for the State.

He referred to arguments by anti-sales tax leaders who said that merchants lost money in collecting the tax, and who described it as a "nuisance."

The senate, after debate, passed measures providing that the legislature visit the naval pre-flight school at Chapel Hill, and changing the maximum weekly hours for male employees from 35 to 36 hours a week.

Senator Carlyle of Forsyth, O'Neary of Wayne and Baldentine of Wake opposed being the trip to Chapel Hill because of the fire and gasoline shortage. But the measure passed with the support of Senators John of Duplin and Lanier of Jones and a committee was asked to set the date and make transportation arrangements.

New York, Feb. 9.—(AP)—Cheating news from Guadalcanal spurred recovery in the stock market today. Bonds were steady, commodities mixed.

#### Posed as Aviatrice



THIS IS AN FBI PHOTO of Agnetta Louise Wilfred of Nyack, N. Y., whose desire to pose as a romantic Navy aviatrice got her into trouble with the law. She pleaded guilty to a charge of impersonating a naval officer. She wore the female version of a lieutenant's uniform.

#### Knox Urges Sea Bases

Secretary of Navy Says Network Across Pacific Essential To Safety of U. S.

Washington, Feb. 9.—(AP)—United States possession and maintenance of a network of naval and aerial bases across the Pacific to keep Japan disarmed on the sea after the war was advocated today by Secretary of the Navy Knox.

The secretary told the House foreign affairs committee that "one of the measures which we must take to acquire a series of air and naval bases throughout the Pacific."

"We must disengage Japan on the sea after the war," Knox said. "And to keep her disarmed for a long time afterwards, we must have the bases from which to operate."

Knox was testifying in favor of continuance of lend-lease aid for another year, and said he believed that the lend-lease, mutual aid agreements between this nation and its allies, would help to create "a friendly atmosphere" in the post-war negotiations and "a willingness on the part of those associated with us to be generous."

He concluded that it would take a long time to build up the navy.

Evansville, Ind., Feb. 9.—(AP)—Fire destroyed the Evansville state hospital for the insane here today. Most of the approximately 1,200 inmates escaped and were herded into an outdoor stadium with several hundred police, home guards and American Legion members guarding them. There was no known loss of life.

Few of the patients were fully clothed. Most of them, both men and women, were barefooted and in their night shirts. Many were in straight jackets.

Origin of the fire had not been determined. It was brought under control shortly before dawn and firemen said the damage might total several hundred thousand dollars.

#### German Radio Reports Withdrawal; Knox Says 'Some Information' Indicates Evacuation

(By The Associated Press) A Tokyo dispatch broadcast by the German radio reported today that Japan's armies had been evacuated from Guadalcanal island in the Solomons, after a six-month battle against U. S. forces landed on the island in the first allied counter offensive in the South seas.

In Washington, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said there was no doubt in his mind that the Japanese were evacuating Guadalcanal.

Knox said his opinion was based on "some information" received by the Navy.

"All enemy resistance on the island has apparently ceased," he said, "except that there may be a few little groups left."

Berlin quoted imperial Tokyo headquarters as saying the mikado's forces withdrew from Guadalcanal, "after their missions had been fulfilled."

Japanese bases in Guadalcanal and New Guinea theatres were listed at 16,734 dead.

A correspondent of Domei, official Japanese news agency, yesterday described the battle in the Solomons and New Guinea as marked by "most pathetic and tragic incidents" and said Japanese troops had gone for 20 days "without even a grain of rice."

The Buna campaign ended less than three weeks ago with the annihilation of a 15,000-man Japanese army systematically tracked down in the Papuan peninsula jungles by American and Australian troops under General Douglas MacArthur.

Approximately 15,000 other Japanese troops withdrew down to fewer than 4,000 in the final stages, were involved in the Guadalcanal campaign, which began last August 7 when U. S. Marines stormed the strategic island and captured Japanese-built Henderson Airfield. Regular U. S. Army troops subsequently retook the hard-fighting Marines.

While the German broadcast lacked corroboration, a U. S. Navy communiqué Sunday hinted that American was near, reporting that American troops had completed a 40-to-50-mile flanking thrust which put them within five miles of the Japanese headquarters at Cape Esperance, where enemy resistance centered.

For the past week, both Tokyo and (Continued on Page Five)

#### Leaf Auction System Urged In Resolution

Raleigh, Feb. 9.—(AP)—Armed with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly, state farm leaders planned today to submit to federal authorities a petition urging that price ceilings on the 1943 crop of flue cured tobacco be applied by a method which will not abolish the auction sales system.

The measure was rushed through both houses after being introduced by Senator J. C. Lanier of Pitt.