

BERLIN IN FLAMES AFTER WORST BOMBING

FDR Urges Veterans' Pay Plan

Enaction at Once of Mustering Out Pay Measure Requested

Washington, Nov. 23—(AP)—President Roosevelt sent Congress a formal request today that it do something now about providing mustering out pay, unemployment allowances and social security credit for men and women in uniform.

In addition, he urged the legislators in a message to "enact without delay" a measure setting up an unemployment insurance system for the merchant marine.

"The Congress will agree, I am sure," Mr. Roosevelt said, "that, this time, we must have plans and legislation ready for our returning veterans instead of waiting until the last moment. It will give notice to our armed forces that the people back home do not propose to let them down."

The steps which he specifically requested Congress today were part of a program of minimum assistance for those serving their country which the President outlined in a radio address to the nation last July.

This time he omitted, however, a proposal he made then that persons in the merchant marine be given mustering out pay.

For those in the armed forces, he said, the mustering out pay should be uniform and reasonable and should be paid in monthly installments, rather than in a lump sum, at the time of honorable discharge or return to inactive duty.

The chief executive mentioned no definite amount, leaving that for Congress to determine.

For service personnel unable to get jobs within a reasonable time after they become civilians again, Mr. Roosevelt said, "unemployment allowances should be provided until they can reasonably be absorbed by private industry."

Mess Sergeant Bags Two Jap Dive Bombers

Somewhere in the South Pacific (Delayed), Nov. 23—(AP)—"I have one hand on a cook pot and the other on a machine gun."

This the recipe given by Marine Sgt. J. Carter, of Pink Hill, N. C., who is credited with shooting down two Japanese dive bombers and serving up a batch of hot corn bread all within an hour's time.

Carter literally "doubles in brass" by taking charge of a galley and by serving as a gunner on the machine gun which is placed just a few steps from his kitchen door.

"I was just baking a batch of corn bread when the signal for the raid came," the slightly built, 26-year-old Marine explained. "I quickly shut off the stove and ran to the gun. There were five Jap planes diving down on us. I just opened up and asked what he did then, Mess Sgt. Carter replied:

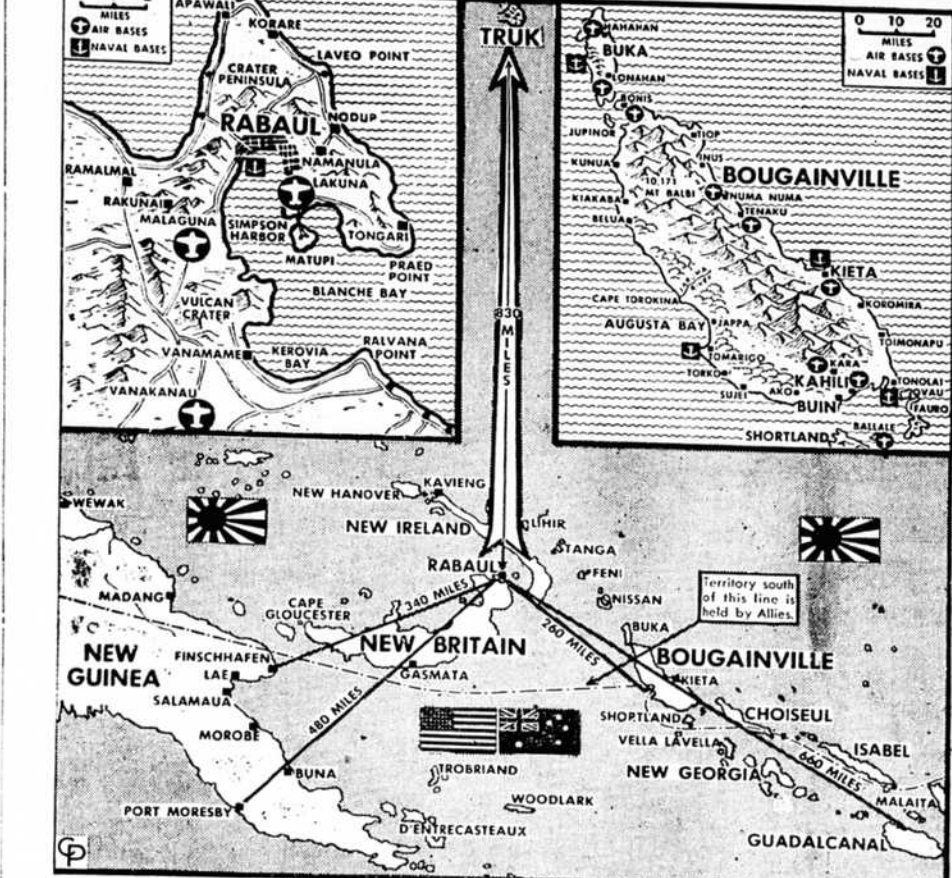
"I went back into the galley, lit the stove again, and finished making my corn bread."

Mess Sgt. Carter would be willing to overlook the whole incident, except for one thing. He feels that it is an unforgivable error to interrupt a North Carolina man while he's baking corn bread.

Death Of 3rd Congressman In 24 Hours

Washington, Nov. 23—(AP)—The Senate today mourned the death of W. Warren Harbour, New Jersey Republican, opponent of Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City, millionaire thread manufacturer and one-time amateur heavyweight boxing champion.

CAPTURE OF TRUK THREAT TO JAP MAINLAND



AS ACTION IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC moves strategically from one point to another, the Japs give indication of tightening up for a bitter-end "delaying campaign" while Admiral Halsey and Gen. MacArthur continue their two-pronged offensive efforts.

General Patton Apologizes Rumor That Chiang May Participate In Three Power Parley

London, Nov. 23—(AP)—The long-awaited conference between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin, which reports from abroad indicate is imminent, assumed greater potential proportions today as rumors circulated in London that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek might participate.

McNutt May Resign If FDR Signs Draft Bill

Washington, Nov. 23—(AP)—Paul V. McNutt was described today as "so-steamed up" that he will quit as manpower commissioner unless President Roosevelt vetoes the new father draft act.

Charles Ray, Star Of Silent Screen, Dies Of Infection

Hollywood, Nov. 23—(AP)—Charles Ray, 52, who gained national fame for his portrayal of country bumpkin roles on the silent screen, died today after a long illness.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Fair and continued rather cold tonight and Wednesday.

Gilberts Offensive Grows As Marines Land On Abemama

Jap Defenders Put Up Fierce Fight at Makin and Tarawa

Pearl Harbor, Nov. 23—(AP)—United States Marines have swiftly expanded the four-day-old offensive in the Gilberts by landing on a third atoll even as Japanese defenders continued to put up a fierce fight while falling back from the beaches on the other two.

The new amphibious operation on Abemama atoll was announced by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz yesterday, a day after he disclosed Saturday's initial landing on Makin and Tarawa, indicating powerful supporting naval forces remained in the sector—one nearer to Japan's "Pearl Harbor" of Truk than it is to America's own.

The broadening of the wedge being driven into Japan's mid-Pacific outpost defenses was described in six words which supplied no details as to time or opposition—"We have landed on Abemama Atoll"—but there was sufficient implication in reports on Makin and Tarawa to make clear the battle there is a bloody one.

On Tarawa, which is 80 miles northwest of Abemama, and on Makin, still farther north, both pounded from the air and the sea prior to the invasion, "our troops have improved their positions, but are still encountering considerable resistance."

Such resistance is being met under conditions which afford little natural protection for either side. It is a matter of conquer or die. (These operations were integrated with others to the southwest. In the Solomons the opposing air forces exchanged blows around the American beachhead on Bougainville on the Huon peninsula of New Guinea, Australia and tanks bored to within half a mile of Japanese plateau defenses in the jungle, which are strategic because they overlook the Allied positions.)

Campaign On Gilberts To Shorten Route

Washington, Nov. 23—(AP)—Landings by American Marines on three islands in the Gilbert group were described by Secretary of the Navy Knox today as the "beginning of a new campaign against Japan from the central Pacific on a much more direct route toward Japan."

He said two principal strategic objectives were ahead in the campaign, first to drive the Japanese out of the mandated islands and second to shorten by hundreds of miles American supply lines to the southwest Pacific.

When the Marines gain control after battling the Japs in Tarawa, Makin, Abama, the supply lines, Knox said, can be drawn on a much shorter new direct route.

The effect of the shortened supply route, he said, will be the same as adding many ships to the job of carrying men and supplies to the southwest Pacific. It will enable the ships to make a quicker "turn around," thus increasing the number of trips each can make.

Eighth Army Repulses German Counterattack

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Nov. 23—(AP)—A strong German force has launched a sharp counterattack on the British Eighth Army lines northwest of Agnone, but was beaten back after two hours of fighting, official reports from the front disclosed today.

Agnone, in the inland sector of the Eighth Army front, was captured Sunday by General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's troops.

RAF Attack Mightiest During War

Wreck Heart of City, 10,000 Are Estimated Killed and Injured

London, Nov. 23—(AP)—In the heaviest aerial bombardment in history, the RAF engulfed Berlin last night with fire and devastating explosives thundered down from 1,000 bombers.

First-hand accounts from Berlin correspondents of Stockholm newspapers told graphically how destruction ran through the heart of the city, wrecking government buildings and foreign legations.

"Berlin can never recover from this blow," the Anti-Nazi newspaper quoted its sources as saying.

Industrial areas still burning from the heavy raid last Thursday night were smashed again, strong formations of daylight bombers roared across the English channel to add further weight to the growing Allied effort to wreck the Reich by aerial assault.

The Anti-Nazi newspaper gave a preliminary estimate of 10,000 persons dead and injured. Berlin officials admitted "a very large number" killed and injured.

There were two attacks, said another Stockholm correspondent. The first came early and when the all-clear was given people swarmed from shelters.

They hardly had reached the streets when the sirens, called a second time. Thus many were trapped outside shelters and the casualty toll mounted.

The RAF forces consisted almost entirely of four-engine bombers. Taking off from Britain in the late afternoon for their 600-mile journey, they delivered their first attack around 3 p. m.

Reports reaching Stockholm said the mighty blasting of Berlin was heavier than even the greatest raid ever launched on demolished Hamburg.

The great avalanche of bombs landed on a city part of which still was smoldering from the big raid of last Thursday.

All the districts of the city of 5,000,000 as well as the suburbs were damaged and particularly heavy devastation occurred in the center of the capital near Unter den Eichen, Alexander Platz and Friedrichstrasse, said a Zurich dispatch to Stockholm.

Twenty-six bombers were lost in the great Berlin raid and 250 military operations which included Mosquito bomber attacks on western Germany and mine laying in enemy waters.

Returning pilots said despite a solid cloud overhead they could see the city as the "great sea of flames and explosions" in Berlin.

Berlin today is covered by a huge black cloud of smoke, Swedish correspondents reported.

"We have had horrible bombs," messaged one Stockholm correspondent from Berlin. "Berlin burned throughout the night. Great sections of dwelling quarters, including workmen's, are a flaming sea of fire. A great number of government buildings were hit."

27 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT Sewing kit for that Marine Buy Christmas Seals

Absentee Vote Bill Juggled By Senators

Washington, Nov. 23—(AP)—The Senate juggled the service men's vote bill as though it was loaded with political booby traps today and there were some indications that it might be tossed back to the Education Committee for extensive revision.

Democrats and Republicans striving to present themselves in the role of the soldiers' best friend tried many changes at each other's expense as they wrangled over the form of a measure designed to make absentee balloting possible next year for the 10,000,000 members of the uniformed forces.

Senator Lister (D., Ill.) told a reporter he is concerned Republicans are trying to defeat the measure without attacking it frontally.

To this Senator Brooks (R., Ill.) replied that, naturally, Republicans want the service men and women to vote because the GOP is confident of the result.