

Army Is In Control Of Railroads

Steel Strike Ended By Retroactive Pay Guarantee

Nazis Using Flame Throwers In Grim Battle Of Ortona

Fifth Army Tightens Hold on Heights of Samucro Mountain

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 28—(AP)—The Germans were reported today to have turned flame throwers on Canadian Eighth Army troops...

(The German Trans-Ocean news agency announced the Germans had evacuated the Adriatic port.)

(Quoting "competent German quarters," the Berlin broadcast said Nazi forces, opposed by "greatly superior enemy forces," had withdrawn to well prepared positions immediately to the north of the city.)

The Germans turning Ortona into a "miniature Stalingrad" had been fighting the Canadians there for a week.

Both Canadian and Indian troops of the Eighth Army took numerous prisoners in the bitter fighting for the next, a city of 9,000.

Meanwhile, American troops of the Fifth Army, with the capture of two more heights, tightened their hold on the important Samucro mountain range overlooking the Germans' strongly-held San Vittore, back door to Cassino and Rome.

On both the Fifth and Eighth army fronts intensive Allied patrol activity was reported. American patrols, completing the consolidation of their positions, a mile and a half east of San Vittore, were sent down the southwest slopes to find the village strongly held by the Germans.

Southwest of Castel in the center of the Italian front, fierce hand-to-hand fighting was reported for a ridge, while other Allied forces captured a high point in the Monte Marrone range.

Dr. Ben Kilgore, State Chemist, Dies in Raleigh

Raleigh, Dec. 28—(AP)—Dr. Ben Wesley Kilgore, 76, North Carolina state chemist and leader in the agricultural life of the state since the turn of the century, died last night at his home here.

Dr. Kilgore, a native of Lafayette, county, Miss., came here in 1889 as assistant chemist of the State Agricultural Experiment Station. During his career, he pioneered a movement for state test farms, and supervised the buying and development of these farms.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed.

Smuts Urges Big Four To Lead In Peace

Pretoria, Union of South Africa, Dec. 28—(AP)—Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, urging an even tighter covenant against aggressors than was adopted by the League of Nations, proposed today that the United Nations led by the "Big Four" should be the temporary framework of a postwar international organization for maintenance of peace and security.

The vigorous 73-year-old premier of the Union of South Africa said that neutrals should be entitled to join the group but that dedicated enemy powers should not join until "under" the proper guardianship they have been cured of their dangerous obsessions and distorted outlook on the world.

In a broadcast accepting the Woodrow Wilson Foundation medal for distinguished service, awarded at a New York ceremony, Smuts assailed critics who declared that the covenant of the League of Nations went too far, demanded too much, and imposed obligations on its members which might possibly mean "dangerous entanglements."

Workers Go Back After WLB Vote

Crisis in Nation's War Production Is Averted by Action

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 28—(AP)—Striking workers began returning to the mills today, signalling an end to the big steel strike that threatened a crisis in the nation's war production.

A back-to-work movement was set in motion quickly by officials of the United Steel Workers Union (USW) after the War Labor Board in Washington voted a guarantee of pay retroactivity to the union in expiring contracts affecting 500,000 workers in 500 companies.

From all sections of the great steel producing areas came reports showing workers were preparing to resume production. Many hundreds worked on midnight shifts this morning, entering the mills less than two hours after the sudden termination of the deadlock.

After hearing of the labor board's action, President Philip Murray issued directions to the union to continue uninterrupted the production of steel, calling off, in effect, the walk-out which had spread to more than 170,000 workers in nine states.

The break in the crisis came just as steel production dropped to its lowest rate since 1940 when America's defense program began its full out production campaign to win the war.

The labor board, in agreeing to retroactivity by an eight to four vote, reversed the stand labor members of the board took last Wednesday, when they voted down a virtually identical proposition made by the public members.

It was this refusal by the board which on Christmas Eve used Murray to announce the board's action created "a grave situation" quickly reflected in walkouts the next day at major steel mills in Ohio.

Murray, in his announcement to terminate the walk-out, declared "this action upon the part of the national labor board at the direction of the President of the United States will correct the grave situation created by the 'National War Labor Board.'"

I. C. C. Opens Rail Hearing

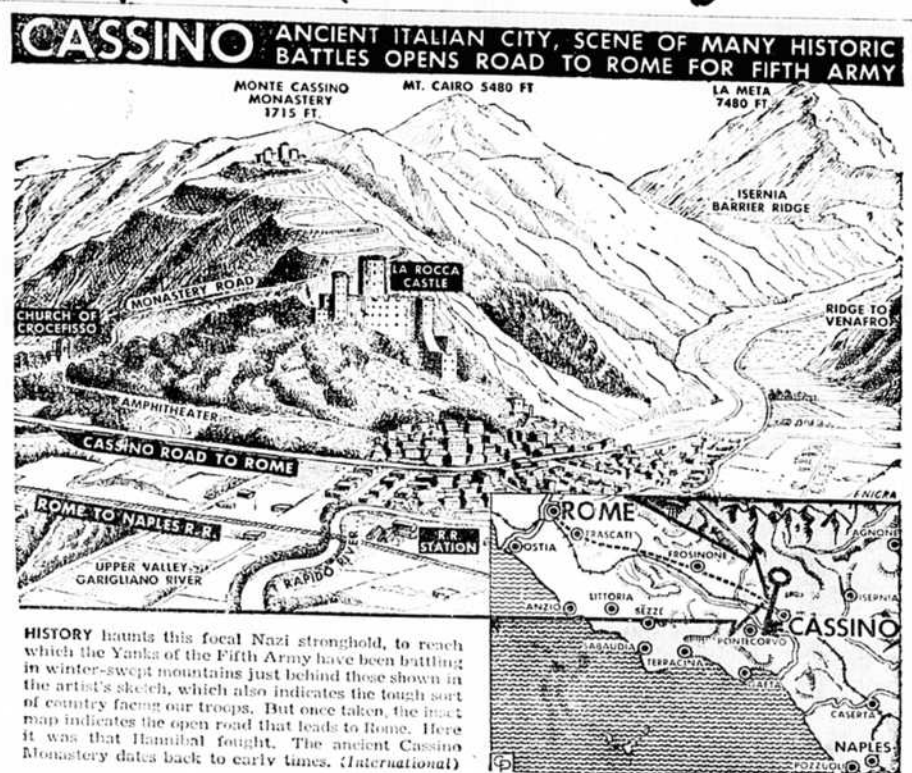
Raleigh, Dec. 28—(AP)—Examiner John P. McGrath of the Interstate Commerce Commission began a hearing today on the petition of railroads operating in North Carolina that they be allowed to increase their rates from 1.65 cents a mile to 2.2.

The State Utilities Commission declined some time ago to authorize the increase and the roads took their case before the I. C. C. on the grounds that the differential constituted a burden, that it eliminated would simplify operations.

The hearing was expected to continue through tomorrow.

Babson's 1944 Forecast In Tomorrow's Dispatch

Dr. W. Babson's business and financial outlook for 1944 will appear in the Daily Dispatch tomorrow. The forecasts on the war and the economy are described in the most startling statements he has made since he predicted the 1939 stock market crash.



HISTORY haunts this focal Nazi stronghold, to reach which the Yanks of the Fifth Army have been battling in winter-swept mountains just behind those shown in the artist's sketch, which also indicates the tough sort of country facing our troops. But once taken, the next map indicates the open road that leads to Rome. Here it was that Hannibal fought. The ancient Cassino Monastery dates back to early times. (International)

Reds Cut Two Nazi Railroads

Churchill To Speak Soon

Enemy Along Lower Dnieper Threatened By New Red Plunge

New Weapons Used By Navy

Mackall Maneuvers Of Airborne Troops

British Air Chief Made Deputy To Eisenhower

Workers Go Back After WLB Vote

Nazis Using Flame Throwers In Grim Battle Of Ortona

Smuts Urges Big Four To Lead In Peace

Dr. Ben Kilgore, State Chemist, Dies in Raleigh

I. C. C. Opens Rail Hearing

Babson's 1944 Forecast In Tomorrow's Dispatch

British Air Chief Made Deputy To Eisenhower

Use Troops If Needed To Run Trains

Rail System Taken Over by President To Insure Operation

Washington, Dec. 28—(AP)—The army was in full control of the nation's railroads today, prepared to use troops if necessary to keep the trains moving.

In a special press conference, Secretary of War Stimson and Lt. Gen. Somervell, chief of army service forces, made these points about operation of the railroads committed to army direction last night by President Roosevelt:

- 1. The railroads will be kept operating. 2. Troops with railroad experience are being concentrated and will fill any manpower shortages, working in their uniforms at every post. 3. War and labor conditions as of 7 o'clock last night will be frozen until the railroads return to civilian management. 4. Seven railroad presidents have been sworn into the army as colonels and will operate as many divisions of the national rail network. 5. Several laws, including conspiracy statutes and the Smith-Connally act to prevent strikes by railroad employees, will be enforced. America's entire railroad system was taken over by order of President Roosevelt to avert a strike that threatened to interfere with "major military offensives now planned."

The President's action, announced at 7 o'clock last night and effective immediately, took most of the capital by surprise because the wage controversy appeared to be well on the way to settlement.

But, the President, "I cannot wait until the act moment to take action to see that the supplies to our fighting men are not interrupted. I am accordingly obliged to take over at once temporary possession and control of the railroads to insure their continued operation."

"The government will expect every railroad man to continue at his post of duty. "The major military offensives now planned must not be delayed by the interruption of vital transportation facilities. If any employees of the railroads now strike, they will be striking against the government of the United States."

Seventeen of the 20 unions had withdrawn strike calls and accepted the President's proposal to let him referee the dispute, and two more days remained before the Thursday strike deadline to induce the three others to do likewise. These three—representing about 150,000 of the country's

(Continued on Page Three)

British Air Chief Made Deputy To Eisenhower

London, Dec. 28—(AP)—The appointment of an air chief commander for an impending assault from west, north and south was virtually complete. Although no actual commanders for the British-based invasion have yet been named, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, commander-in-chief of the British home fleet and hero of the battleship sinking, was regarded as a possible leader.

It was also announced that Captain M. R. Holcomb of Pasadena, Cal., had arrived at London, North Island, to become chief staff officer of the U. S. Naval Operations Base at Londonderry.

A General Eisenhower yesterday promised the complete defeat of Germany in 1944, the Berlin radio said that Field Marshal Generals Rommel and Von Rundstedt had held an invasion council of war at which Rommel "convinced himself of the preparedness for action of the western European area."