

NAZIS MOVE ITALY'S ART TREASURES



THE BIG VANS in this photo are loaded with art treasures from the Monte Cassino Monastery and are on their way to the Vatican for safe-keeping, say the Nazis. In the background is the Dome of St. Peter's. The Nazi caption writer tried hard to prove that the Germans were much maligned in regard to looting and said this picture disputed such stories. Radiophoto from a neutral source. (International)

Germans South of Rome Are Thrown Back; Reds Smash Through The Nazi Baltic Salient; Argentina Freezes Movement Of Their Fleet

Move Follows Break With Axis Powers

Believed Unwise to Expose Unprotected Ships to Submarines

Buenos Aires, Jan. 27.—(AP)—The Argentine military government froze movement of the state merchant fleet today as one of the first follow-up actions to its diplomatic break with the axis, all vessels being directed to remain in port "until new orders."

(Although no reason was given for the freezing order, it seems apparent that the Ramirez government deemed it unwise to expose the vessels to the menace of any lurking enemy submarine in the south Atlantic until some provision could be made for their protection, possibly in convoys.)

As congratulations poured in from all over the continent, the Argentine government turned to another problem attending its diplomatic break, the question of communications with Germany.

Suspension of these facilities loomed as great importance in view of the revelation that Buenos Aires was headquarters for a giant espionage ring. It is believed that telephone communications with Germany already have been cut.

The German news agency Transocean, a powerful Nazi propaganda arm, has been notified to wind up its affairs here by January 31, and it was believed that the pro-axis afternoon newspaper Paparo served by Transocean and often said to be maintained by the German embassy might close at the same time.

One question which is expected to be settled quickly is who will handle Argentine interests in Germany and Japan. A principal newspaper said last night it probably would be Sweden, although Switzerland and Spain were other possibilities.

The effects of the diplomatic break upon the Argentine financial world still were uncertain, but the first reaction on the stock exchange was favorable. Clients were hastening to withdraw accounts from German banks.

Breaks With Axis



The map of Argentina shows that country's relation to the rest of South America. With the announcement Wednesday of her break with Germany and Japan, Argentina was the last American country to sever relations with the axis.

Pincers Is Tightened By Soviets

Russian Forces at Bank of Luga River In Westward Drive

Moscow, Jan. 27.—(AP)—The Russians have reached the bank of the Luga river west of Novgorod, a Pravda dispatch reported today as the Leningrad army of General Leonid A. Govorov and the Volkhov army of General K. A. Meretskov continued to smash from opposite directions into the Germans' Baltic salient.

The Luga is only about ten miles east of the Leningrad-Vitebsk railway, one of the two remaining railroads radiating southward from Leningrad that remain available for German use.

London, Jan. 27.—(AP)—The German army's hold on northern Russia crumbled today as two Soviet armies, one driving south and west from Leningrad and the other pushing west from Novgorod, slowly tightened a pincer, threatening to trap some 250,000 Nazi troops massed below Leningrad.

Immediately below Russia's second city, General Leonid A. Govorov's armies were racing toward the Estonian frontier following the capture yesterday of the big railway center of Krasnogvardeisk, 30 miles south of Leningrad. They had stormed through the town of Kasakovo 24 miles further west, and were reported closing in on Volosovo, 48 miles from the Estonian border city of Narva.

Other columns of Govorov's forces were blasting a path south of Krasnogvardeisk with the evident designs of effecting a junction with General K. A. Meretskov's army smashing west from the Lake Iman region, 70 miles to the south, in an effort to cut the Leningrad-Vitebsk railway, one of the two rail escape routes open to the Germans. The other rail line, further west, leads into Pskov and thence to Riga on the Baltic coast.

The great Russian offensive which lifted the siege of Leningrad was now in its 14th day, and was rolling through the German lines with apparently unabated momentum. In the first 12 days it had brought death to more than 40,000 Nazis and had routed ten enemy divisions—normally 150,000 men—on the Leningrad front alone, the Russian communiqué declared.

Govorov's veterans also had loosened the last German stronghold on the Leningrad-Moscow trunk railway—a 500-mile stretch between Tesno and Volkovo. Tesno itself was all but surrounded.

(Indicative of the scope of the Russian threat to the entire German front, a Polish underground radio station yesterday broadcast a report that the Nazis had begun an economic evacuation of the city of Warsaw. German engineers and technicians, the broadcast said, were departing, "taking with them whole factories, administrative staffs and the workers.") The broadcast was recorded by NBC.

Farm Workers Deferred May Be Inducted

Chicago, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Selective service served notice today on the 1,700,000 farm workers who have been deferred from military service that if their individual production does not add substantially to the nation's food supply their deferments may be cancelled.

Commander Patrick H. Winston, assistant executive, National Selective Service Headquarters, said in a speech prepared for the National Council of Private Motor Truck Owners, Inc., that the Agriculture Department had set crop goals for 1944 substantially above 1943 production and declared:

"We can ill afford to further defer farm registrants whose production does not substantially exceed their own family consumption and add to the nation's food supply."

Recalled by U.S.



WITH THE State Department announcement that the United States would not recognize the present regime in Bolivia, Pierre Boal, American ambassador in La Paz, was ordered to return to Washington. In addition, economic action may be taken. (International)

Supplies Of Allies Flow Into Wedge

Elements of Goering Armored Division Met in Engagement

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Jan. 27.—(AP)—The first German counterattack against the Americans and British south of Rome, the first of the many that probably will be launched in a furious effort to wipe out the Allied beachhead, has been thrown back with the crushing of German armor. Allied headquarters announced today.

Men and supplies continue to pile into the strategic wedge threatening the Italian capital.

General Sir Harold Alexander's central Mediterranean headquarters announced that elements of the Hermann Goering armored division had been met southwest of Littoria, chief town of Mussolini's Pontine Marsh agricultural development, in a "fierce local engagement."

The Germans left 120 dead on the field as they were tossed back. The Hermann Goering division, formerly an armored grenadier outfit, has been strengthened by new equipment to a fully armored unit. It was last encountered on the main Fifth Army front. Its appearance on the beachhead front indicated it has been shifted to counter the threat to the German rear.

Meanwhile other Americans of the Fifth Army, 48 miles east of Littoria, continuing to uproot Germans, mines and meshed defenses, struggled slowly forward across flooded streams and over steep crags just north of Cassino where field dispatches said they were within half a mile of the Liri valley gateway and were overlooking the bomb-jumbled ruins of the ancient town. Patrols had penetrated the outskirts of the stronghold.

Some four miles further north the French rushed down from their mountain positions on Mt. H Lago in the Sant' Elia area, across the Secco river and the Cassino-Atina road and attacked the Germans on the slopes of Mt. Belvedere.

Cassino itself appeared to have been largely abandoned by the Germans but their positions on the rugged mass of Mt. Cairo and other hills nearby enabled them to rake the streets and ruined houses with their artillery.

Allied naval units continued to exert a powerful control over the coastal road by which Germans could shift their fighting front from the Cassino area to the northern beachhead, and again ploughed up sections near Formia Tuesday night with their plunging shells. This sea attack on enemy road traffic is continuing by day and night.

Allied air forces, despite deteriorating weather, put new rents on other sections of the German communications network in the angle between the two Allied fronts, hammering especially at Cisterna, Ceccano and Itri.

ed plants; development of new markets, both foreign and domestic; demobilization and reemployment of ex-soldiers and war workers.

Two-Thirds Army Will Be Overseas By This Year's End

Some Domestic Camps To Close, Transfer of Men to Combat Units

Washington, Jan. 27.—(AP)—As present plans shape up, two-thirds of America's steadily growing army will be at overseas stations by the end of this year.

That was the word today from War Secretary Stimson as he announced plans for closing a number of domestic army camps during the next few months and transfer to combat units of a substantial proportion of the soldiers now assigned to administrative duties.

The overseas expansion program will double our forces abroad. At the end of 1943, only about a third of the army had been sent outside the country.

In addition, a number of officers over 33, particularly those commissioned directly from civil life or in the national guard and reserve corps, will be placed on the inactive list because "no suitable assignments are available or in prospect either at domestic or overseas installations or establishments."

The readjustments were dictated generally by the progressive shift of army operations from the defensive to the offensive and by the growth of air power, said Stimson.

Stimson asserted that "the army will no longer need all its present troops housing facilities and it will be necessary to place a number of camps, posts, stations and other installations on a caretaker basis, and to return many of the civilian installations and facilities which previously had been taken over by the army."

He announced that the War Department has ordered physically qualified men in all branches of the army who have a total of more than 12 months service at five stations or "overhead activities" in the United States to be reassigned to combat units for mobile activities ultimately destined for overseas service.

Enlisted men under 30 will be reassigned first according to their length of service in the United States,

Hurry Vote On Absentee Ballot Bill

Washington, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Administration senators, faced with a possible week-end delay if they don't get some quick action, tried today to hurry a vote on their second attempt to pass a uniform Federal absentee balloting plan for the armed forces.

At least 15 members probably will leave the capital after today's session—some of them to attend the Indiana funeral of Senator Van Nuys, Indiana Democrat, and others as official visitors to the New York launching of the battleship Missouri. With that number gone failure to get a vote today probably would delay final action until next week.

buoyed by a bluntly worded presidential message and by the support of some of the southern Democrats who helped beat the first ballot plan, administration backers were confident they have the votes to put over the new Green-Lucas bill, despite the heat engendered when Senator Taft (Ohio R.) described it as a "fourth term announcement."

Taft, retorting to President Roosevelt's assertion that a previously approved state ballot plan was "a fraud," declared the administration was seeking to line up the soldier vote "in much the same manner used to see WPA workers lined up."

and they will be followed by those over 30, in order of age—youngest first. These assignment orders will not apply to men who have served overseas at some time since Pearl Harbor, or to men with highly specialized skills which cannot be utilized overseas.

\$200,000 Warehouse Fire at Washington

Washington, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a warehouse, 22,000 bags of government-owned peanuts, a furniture store, and four residences here today.

The damage was estimated at \$200,000 by H. C. Gravely, owner of the warehouse.

When the fire was discovered, the roof of the warehouse was falling in. Damage to the warehouse, estimated at \$300,000, is partly covered by insurance. The government property damage, estimated at \$150,000, is fully covered. No estimate was made on other losses.

DECLARES WAR

London, Jan. 27.—(AP)—The British foreign office received word today that Liberia, the Negro republic on the west coast of Africa, declared war on Germany and Japan yesterday.

ART EXHIBIT AT UNC

Chapel Hill, Jan. 27.—Much interest is being shown in the current exhibit of African Negro sculpture and German expressionist prints now on display in Person Hall Art Gallery at the University. Miss Harriet Dyer Adams, acting director of the Gallery, reported today. The African exhibit, which is being sponsored here by the American Association of University Women, was lent by the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

NEGRO CROP MEETINGS

College Station, Raleigh, Jan. 27.—Negro county agents have reported to State College Extension officials a series of successful "Time for Teamwork" meetings. The purpose was to increase crop production through better planning.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Mostly cloudy and slightly warmer tonight. Friday cloudy and mild with occasional light rain in central portion.

Request Of Aid By Argentina Is Expected

Washington, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Argentina's new position in relation to the rest of the Americas will probably be clarified when and if she again applies for lend-lease arms and supplies.

A request for such aid is expected as soon as Buenos Aires has complete reorientation of her foreign policy toward the Americas when she severed diplomatic relations with Germany and Japan.

The issue is considered by the Argentines to be of immense importance because they see themselves suffering as a South American power in relation particularly to Brazil, which as a full-fledged fighting ally of the United States has been receiving arms and equipment since 1941.

What Washington reaction will be, however, probably will depend on the extent to which the Buenos Aires government has gone by then in cleaning up axis spy nests, propaganda and revolutionary intrigue within her borders. It probably will depend also on the need Argentina can show for lend-lease in the interests of hemispheric defense and the Allied war effort.

Relaxation Of Wage Controls Being Sought

Washington, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Senator Pepper, Florida Democrat, today expressed the hope that reports from War Labor Board Chairman Davis and Dept. Administration Bowles will lead to a relaxation of Federal wage controls as they affect the "white-collar" worker.

The two agency chiefs were requested to testify before the labor sub-committee headed by Pepper which is inquiring into economic conditions among the workers who have missed the war boom in wages. "We are hopeful," said Pepper, "that Mr. Davis can point the way toward a relaxation of the government wage policy on wage increases insofar as it affects the sub-standard groups struggling along without sufficient money to maintain health and efficiency."

He said Bowles would be asked to outline the steps taken by OPA to police its regulations "to keep prices down to a minimum for millions eking out a bare existence."

The sub-committee chairman said testimony thus far indicated that many fixed income workers "need tax relief, higher wages and more rigid price controls even to get by."

He has under consideration a tax amendment to exempt from "double taxation" the amount deducted from workers' checks as social security taxes.

"It does seem wrong for a worker to be taxed on the one hand for social security and on the other hand for income tax on income that actually is taken before he receives his check," the Florida senator asserted.

Milk Rollback Issue Still Is Unsettled

Raleigh, Jan. 27.—(AP)—A cross-fire of proposals got nowhere today. Governor Broughton reported, and the Coble Dairy Products Company of Lexington, largest milk jobber in the State, remained adamant in its decision immediately to cease wholesale deliveries.

The Office of Price Administration was reported to have suggested that George Coble, the firm's president, continue deliveries until the matter of three cents a gallon rollback could be thrashed out. Coble countered with a suggestion that the OPA suspend its order, in effect since January 15, until the matter could be settled. Coble contends the rollback has cost him \$1,200 a day.

Governor Broughton asked the OPA yesterday to suspend its rollback order 15 days.

Baruch Heads New Committee

Washington, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Bernard M. Baruch, 75-year-old adviser to two wartime presidents, will be asked to head the staff of the newly created House Economic Policy and Planning Committee, set up yesterday to help get the country back on a peacetime basis when the time comes.

Baruch was head of the War Industry Board in World War I, advised President Wilson on economic policy, and now is head of President Roosevelt's advisory unit on war and postwar policy.

The new House committee will take over many of the activities envisaged for President Roosevelt's national resources and planning board, which was abolished by Congress last year.

The committee will study and make recommendations on such factors as equitable termination of war contracts; disposition of surplus war commodities and government-owned

7 Ships Sunk At Rabaul, 24-28 Planes Shot Down

Advanced Allied Headquarters, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Making every bomber count, 18 Avengers torpedo bombers in a masterful demonstration of accuracy sank or left sinking seven ships in the harbor at Rabaul Monday while more than 80 escorting fighters shot down 24 and possibly 28 out of 60 Japanese intercepting planes.

A South Pacific spokesman, elaborating on headquarters' announcements today of the raid, said the fighters afforded the Avengers such brilliant coverage that the Nipponese over their supposedly strong New Britain air base got through for only one run at the bombers.

Utilizing what the pilots call a

"side splitting bombing from a low level glide," the Avengers sent their 1,000 pound bombs into the sides of the ships at the waterline. Every bomb hit a ship.

Four cargo ships and a tanker were observed to sink. Three other cargo ships were damaged severely as a South Pacific naval spokesman said two of these were "left sinking." Another tanker also was damaged.

The raiders so completely surprised the Japanese, despite the fact Rabaul had been pounded almost daily this month, that Nipponese anti-aircraft fire did not open up until after the bombers' first run.

The raid was the third and heaviest blow delivered this month against Japanese shipping at Rabaul,