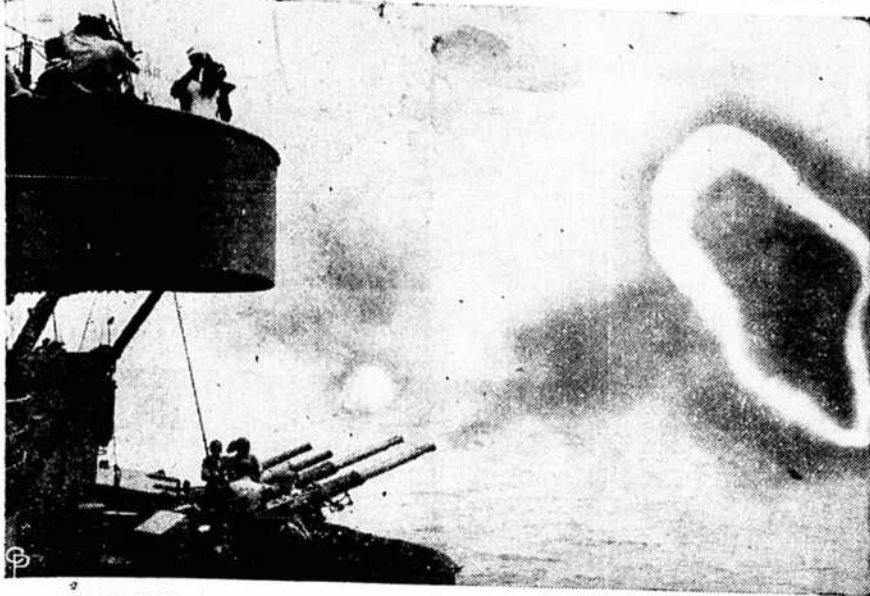


TEST NEW CRUISER'S GUNS ON SHAKEDOWN RUN



THIS UNUSUAL PHOTO, taken during battle practice aboard one of the U. S. Navy's new cruisers on her shakedown run, shows a firing ring and fire ball from the five-inch guns. It is during this trial cruise that many of our Navy personnel try out their sea legs and get acquainted with the ship's operation. (International)

New Draft Rules Effective, 600,000 Man Induction Goal

Final Draft Is Made Of New Tax Bill

Bill Probably Will Go to Both Houses Some Time Tomorrow

Washington, Feb. 1—(AP)—The new \$2,315,800,000 tax bill which is counted on to swell the government's total income to more than \$43,500,000,000 a year went to legislative drafting experts for a final policy today before its ratification by House and Senate.

As approved last night by a joint conference committee named to flush out differences between the two houses, the measure proposes to raise more than a billion dollars through sharply increased excise taxes, about a half billion extra from corporate excess profits taxes, approximately \$664,000,000 from individual income tax payers and the balance from higher postal rates.

Girl Dies Of Bullet Wound

Fayetteville, Feb. 1—(AP)—A 25-year-old blue-eyed blond, identified as Miss Alexander Burke of Syracuse, N. Y., died in a Fayetteville hospital early today of a bullet wound in the chest, suffered under conditions which set police and detectives investigating.

Miss Blake, a temporary employee of a dental laboratory at nearby Fort Bragg, was found lying upon the lawn of a private home in which she had a room. She was conscious when taken to the hospital but, police said, defiantly refused to answer questions about the shooting.

Police Chief N. A. Wetherington and Detective Chief John Weems said the young woman had apparently been shot with a 32-caliber pistol while sitting in a parked automobile in front of her home, and that after

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Parties Clash In Senate Over Soldier Vote Delay

Washington, Feb. 1—(AP)—Democrats and Republicans clashed in the Senate today over responsibility for delaying a vote on the administration's war ballot for the armed services.

On the House side, meanwhile, Minority Leader Martin of Massachusetts predicted that the majority of Republicans would oppose a special roll call vote on the war ballot legislation.

Majority Leader Barkley, Kentucky Democrat, declared in the

Nearly Two Million Prewar Fathers Get Reclassified Status

Washington, Feb. 1—(AP)—New and more rigid draft deferment and reclassification rules went into effect today with about 2,500,000 men remaining in dependency groups as selective service boards aimed for the goal of a 600,000-man induction for the first two months of 1944.

Officials estimated last night that in December and January, a total of 2,000,000 men who had been deferred because of family obligations were reclassified from 3-A (exempt) to 4-F (physically or mentally unfit); 631,000 fathers were given occupational deferments, and 11,500 fathers were deferred as "hardship" cases.

There was no information available, however, as to how many of the 2,000,000 reclassified from 3-A were put into 1-A or went into uniform.

The new regulations provide: 1. No registrant shall be inducted until he has passed a thorough physical exam by army and navy doctors at least 21 days previously. 2. Prior to the ordering of pre-induction physicals by Congress, examinations were given at induction. 3. Registrants from 18 to 21 no longer will be granted occupational deferments unless they are engaged in farming to a state selective service director certified that a potential inductee is essential in industry.

Casualty List Totals 146,186

Washington, Feb. 1—(AP)—The Office of War Information (OWI) reports that casualties among the armed forces total 146,186. Estimates of the dead do not include victims of Japanese atrocities as disclosed in the recent army-navy report.

The OWI's report, made public today and based on War and Navy Department figures, shows these totals:

Dead, 33,153; wounded, 89,516; missing 33,617; and prisoners, 29,898.

New Burma Road To China Being Built

New Delhi, Feb. 1—(AP)—Fresh from a visit to the Ledo front in northern Burma, Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell told a press conference today that the reopening of a land route to China was a workable job, and that the Chinese and Americans were fighting well to make it so.

Asked whether the Chinese and Americans are cooperating well, Stilwell reported "they have been associated for 18 months. They have been killed together. Naturally they cooperate."

Stilwell conceived the project of building a road through the north Burma jungle to connect with the old Burma land route which formerly began at Rangoon now in Japanese hands.

The general said the road would work and critics who had said it would be impossible to build a highway through the India-Burma jungle had seen the "impossible" accomplished.

State To Buy Cattle Farm

Raleigh, Feb. 1—(AP)—The State board of agriculture today decided to buy, with approval of the council of state, a 425-acre tract of land in Peak Creek township of Ashe county and to convert it into a test farm for breeding of beef cattle and sheep.

The property will be purchased for \$24,000 and will go into use this spring. Agriculture Commissioner W. Kerr Scott said:

Two hundred-fifty acres will be devoted to pasture, 100 acres to crops, 17 in orchard and the remainder in timber.

PASTURES FOR HOGS

College Station, Raleigh, Feb. 1—A larger use of temporary pastures for hog production is necessary in 1944 to reduce feed costs and produce profits, Ellis Vestal, Extension swine specialist at State College, declared here yesterday.

Vestal called attention to the fact that research work by the Agricultural Experiment Station last year indicated that a larger per cent of the oil meals can be successfully used in protein supplements for hogs.

Allies Are 16 Miles From Rome Wake Island Air Base Bombed

No Reports Of Actions At Marshalls

Official Silence on Further Operations Of Huge Task Force

Pearl Harbor, Feb. 1—(AP)—A highly accurate bombing by two squadrons of navy seaplanes, intended to prevent Japan's Wake Island air base from interfering with the current American offensive in mid-Pacific, was reported last night by the Navy but further operations of a mighty task force against the Marshalls were cloaked by official silence.

In two announcements, spaced by only a few hours, the Navy told of Coronados dropping all their bombs on or near the designated targets at Wake Sunday night, and of land-based army and navy planes sustaining through the 25th straight day their pounding of the Marshalls Sunday night.

But Monday was permitted to pass without word on the movements that day of the largest mass of warships ever sent against the Japanese. Saturday, it had been disclosed officially that carrier planes of the task forces opened a powerful drive of the Marshalls, 700 miles south of Wake island, Sunday the naval units including battleships, were reported to have moved closer to pour shells on the air bases and shipping lagoons of those atolls.

No official credits were given radio today reports that "Japanese army and navy units have intercepted powerful enemy units which have been attacking the Marshall group." Lacking this substantiation, there was inclination here to doubt the reports, particularly as to the inference that the Japanese navy, at long last, had joined battle.

The Wake raid, tenth of the war to hit that island since it was captured December 24, 1941, by the Japanese, was made by between 14 and 20 seaplanes, each probably carrying more than a ton of bombs. None of the raiders was lost while making what was described officially as a "strong attack."

Meanwhile, spotlighting the speed with which Japan's constantly reinforced southwest Pacific air force is meeting piecemeal destruction, a south Pacific naval spokesman today reported 1,450 enemy planes downed in the past six months.

His figures make the Rabaul-Bougainville campaign one of the greatest Allied air victories of the war.

General Douglas MacArthur's communique today added another 26 destroyed aloft or on the ground at Rabaul, in raids Saturday on this New Britain base. Headquarters tabulations disclosed nearly 550 of the defenders' lost planes were downed in this area in January alone.

REID MADE COMPTROLLER

Raleigh, Feb. 1—(AP)—Paul A. Reid was sworn in today as acting comptroller of the State Board of Education, succeeding Nathan Yelton, now on leave with the armed forces. Reid, a native of Surrey County, came here from Elizabeth City, where he was in public school work.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Fair and slightly colder tonight; Wednesday partly cloudy and continued rather cold, with slightly higher temperatures in the afternoon.

ALLIED TROOPS ON WAY TO ROME



TROOPS OF THE ALLIED Fifth Army are shown advancing along low, flat terrain a few miles inland from Nettuno, Italy. The Allies are continuing to advance and have expanded the beachheads south of Rome. British troops are within 18 miles of the Eternal City and Yanks are 33 miles from the city. Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International)

Russians Now Near Estonian Frontier

Turkish Town of Gerede Destroyed By Great Quakes

(By The Associated Press.) The Turkish town of Gerede was destroyed by a powerful earthquake today and many of its 25,000 inhabitants were killed.

Earthquake described as "very severe" and of "devastating intensity" and apparently originating in Turkey, were recorded by seismographs in both the United States and England.

Gerede is in northern Turkey, some 60 miles from the Black Sea and 180 miles east of Istanbul. Reports from Ankara said the tremors lasted 50 seconds and were felt throughout Turkey.

Grange Favors Tobacco Plan

Raleigh, Feb. 1—(AP)—The North Carolina Grange's business committee favors a crop insurance program, continuation of the tobacco control program, and adoption of what it terms an "averaging up" price ceiling.

The committee expressed unanimous favor for these things at a meeting here.

State Grange Master Harry Caldwell of Greensboro said the committee had asked the experiment station at N. C. State college to study costs of tobacco production and that through that study the committee hoped to determine the proper differential between prices for graded and ungraded tobacco.

House Has Hearings On Crop Insurance Revival

Washington, Feb. 1—(AP)—The House Agriculture Committee, opening hearings on legislation to revive government crop insurance, today placed into the record letters from War Food Administrator Marvin Jones and the Budget Bureau, then adjourned until tomorrow.

The adjournment was at the request of Republican members of the committee who said it was necessary they attend a party meeting.

Jones stated it was desirable that permanent program for agriculture should provide for crop insurance

Campoleone Outskirts Hit In Offensive

New Gains Made By Americans on Front To North of Cassino

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Feb. 1—(AP)—Allied troops bursting forward in a big offensive from their invasion beachhead have struck to the outskirts of Campoleone, only 16 miles southeast of Rome, and also to the edge of Cisterna, communications town on the Appian Way 14 miles northeast of Anzio, headquarters announced today.

American troops attacking on the main front north of Cassino have hammered out new gains meanwhile, and seized 250 prisoners from the German 44th Infantry division.

A field dispatch said German defenses in the corridor above Cassino were beginning to crumble. United States units striking northeast of Anzio have reached within half a mile of Cisterna, a key rail and road junction and large air base. They found the Germans well dug in on the horizon of the city and resisting strongly.

British forces pushing northward carried ahead in a coordinated assault on the edge of Campoleone.

The twin attacks were the first big offensives since the landings. An Allied officer said the Nazis brought troops from the area north of Rome to meet the Allied blows.

But the Navy said that Allied landings of reinforcements and supplies were proceeding on schedule, under favorable conditions.

American heavy bombers reached clear into Austria seeking to destroy German air strength, pounding the air base at Klagenfurt. The four-engine bombers also smashed at two fields in northern Italy.

A field dispatch dated Monday from Associated Press Correspondent Hal Boyle said the Americans of the Fifth Army who drove a wedge into the Nazis' Gustav line were pursuing "the retreating Nazis through the hills north of Cassino today as the entire enemy defenses in this key corridor to Rome began to crumble."

The nature of extensive and powerful enemy fortifications was disclosed with the capture of numerous German troops, including officers, Boyle added.

Some prisoners complained they had been in the line two days without food, indicating that air attacks on German communication lines was giving the Nazis "a major supply problem," Boyle said.

Patrols said the town of Cassino itself still was strongly held by the enemy.

Meanwhile, French troops made local advances in the hills above Cassino. American artillery fire drove off two German counterattacks Sunday night, headquarters continued.

On the Eighth Army front, Canadians attacking in clear weather with strong tank and artillery support, advanced against heavy German opposition from dug-in positions. German fighter planes twice were repulsed in raids on Allied positions in the Orsoina area.

STATE DEMOCRATIC MEET

Raleigh, Feb. 1—(AP)—Chairman Monroe Holden today called a meeting of the State Democratic executive committee for February 24 to set the dates for the State county and precinct meetings.

The Budget Bureau, however, expressed the opinion the legislation should not be considered at this time.

Under Fulmer's proposal the government would pay the insurance premiums on all "war crops" such as potatoes, peanuts and soy beans and farmers would pay premiums amounting to about half those under the old plan on the major crops—wheat, cotton, corn and tobacco.

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