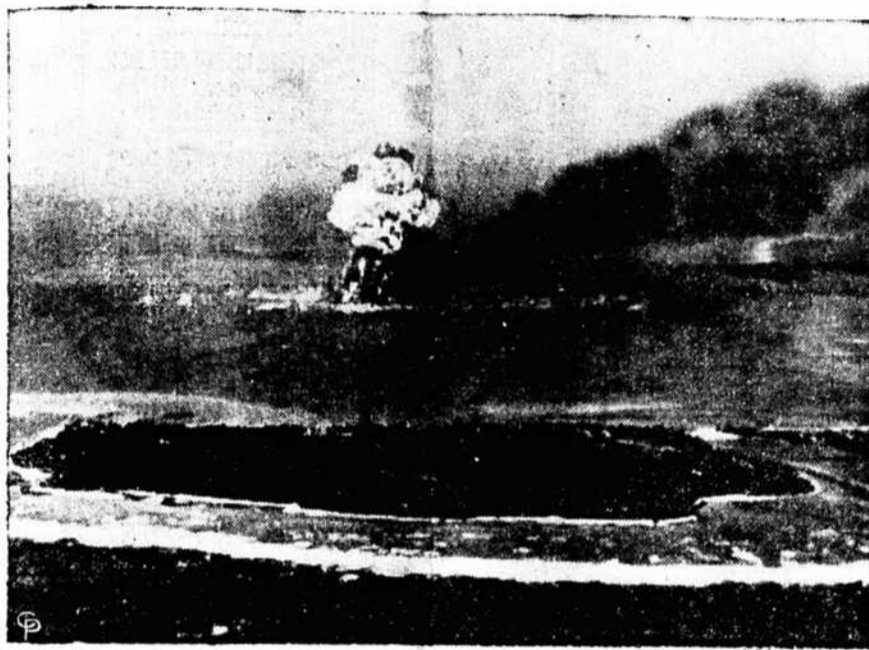


Reds Merge Ukrainian Fronts

U.S. Invasion Troops Menace Anchorage Of Marshalls Atoll

First Rumbling Of The Kwajalein Storm



Great smoke rises from an explosion in Kwajalein Atoll of the Jap-held Marshalls as a U. S. naval ship looks down in the course of a recent attack by air.

Subsidy Plan Leaders Try For Support

Threaten No Action On Feed Increases Until CCC Continued

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Administrators of the government's subsidy program today handed out a promise and a threat interpreted as an effort to win support of southern Democrats in Congress who have opposed their policies.

The threat: there will be no action for at least three months on requested stock feed subsidy increases, unless Congress acts before February 17 to continue Commodity Credit Corporation.

The promise: if Congress acts before that date to extend CCC it will be possible to increase stock feed subsidies in areas where such action is shown to be needed.

Plane Crash Kills Clapper

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Raymond Clapper, 51, the well-known Washington columnist and political commentator, has lost his life in a plane accident while covering the invasion of the Marshalls in the central Pacific.

Clapper, long associated with the Scripps-Howard newspaper syndicate, left here on December 28, going to Honolulu and Australia and subsequently joining the Pacific fleet.

He is survived by his widow, a son and daughter, and his mother, all of Washington.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA Cloudy and mild with occasional light rain tonight, Friday, mostly cloudy with moderate temperatures. Occasional light rain in east portion.

Senate Leaders Agree On New Amendment To Soldier Vote Bill

War Ballot Would Be Confined Largely To Overseas Servicemen

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—In a quick shift of strategy, Senate administration leaders agreed informally today to accept an amendment to pending service vote legislation which would confine use of a proposed Federal war ballot largely to members of the armed forces overseas.

Senator Lucas (Ill., D.) told a reporter he and others of like views vised amendment by Senator Danaher (Conn., R.) which would make state absentee ballots available to most military personnel in this country.

The Danaher proposal would retain the Federal ballot for servicemen and women overseas and also would make it available to members of the armed forces in this country whose state failed to provide adequate absentee voting facilities.

Lucas said the amendment would be accepted with an additional proviso that if a service man did not receive a state ballot which he had requested, he could so state in an affidavit and then could use the Federal ballot.

Danaher said he planned to revise his amendment to add this provision.

Blockade Of New Guinea Successful

Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Sprawling bones of Japanese dead, apparent victims of hunger and exhaustion, gave proof today of the efficiency of the Allied sea and air blockade of the northeast New Guinea coast.

Australians pushed northward along the coast past Reiss point, advancing another two miles toward the 32nd American army division's invasion area around Saidor. Only 30 miles now separate advance units of the two forces, with the Japanese between them desperately trying to

Roi Airbase On Kwajalein Is Captured

Airfield and Harbor Are Keys to Largest Atoll of Marshalls

Pearl Harbor, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The four-day old United States invasion of the heart of the Marshalls, a tactical surprise so complete that a vital airbase for bombers and fighters was captured in less than a day, threatened the Japanese today with imminent loss of a fine harbor.

The four-runway airfield at Roi, on the northeast end of Kwajalein atoll, was overrun Tuesday, the second day of invasion and on the same day that forces went ashore at that point. The deep anchorage of boomerang-shaped Kwajalein islet on the southern end of Kwajalein atoll is seriously menaced, with one-third of the islet already in American hands.

The airfield and the anchorage are the keys to Kwajalein, world's largest atoll, thus promising the Americans investment of all its more than 20 islets surrounding a 655-square mileagoon.

The capture of Roi airfield and the invasion of Kwajalein islet were announced late yesterday by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. These developments had been made possible by initial landings Monday on nearby bays from which artillery was able to support the larger moves.

Admiral Nimitz's Wednesday communique made clear that the choice of Kwajalein for the invasion scene had fooled the Japanese, who for 25 years had been on the maddened Marshalls and for long had been preparing their defenses. Parallel lines of eastern and western atolls make up the Marshalls, with Kwajalein near the center of the western group. Apparently, the Japanese had looked for an attack on the eastern group—the chain facing Hawaii more than 2,000 miles away—or at the southern extremities of either chain in the direction of the American-von Gilberts.

American Marines landed Tuesday at Namur, adjacent to Roi on the southern end of Kwajalein atoll, and Alva Dopking, Associated Press war correspondent reported from there yesterday that the Leathemels were mopping up the last enemy resistance. Namur was used by the Japanese for barracks and disperse planes. It is connected by a causeway with the Roi airbase.

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Over 1,100 Yank Planes Bomb Reich

London, Feb. 3.—(AP)—More than 1,100 American bombers and long-range fighters attacked targets in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, today, army headquarters announced.

The sixth operation in seven days by British-based American bomber and fighter forces was made in clear weather against the great north German U-boat and ship-building center. The flight represented a 700-mile round trip.

Wilhelmshaven was last hit by the Americans on November 3 with 560 bombers, believed to have been a record force of four-engine craft up to that time.

Target is one of Germany's motor ports—capable of accommodating the largest ships. The shattering daylight assault followed RAF Mosquito attacks on targets in western Germany last night, thus keeping the greatest sustained Allied offensive of the war rolling around the clock.

BRESLAU, ERSATZ CAPITAL, NOW NAZIS' HAVEN



Bombed and blasted out of Berlin by the increasing Allied air offensive from England, Germany's leaders have moved the bag and baggage of their government to Breslau, pictured above in a scene of years ago. Some observers think that the Nazis may find no peace even there, 200 miles beyond Berlin (see the map, inset above)—for the Allies, east and west, may soon be over Breslau with bombs. (International.)

U.S. Troops Within Cassino's Suburbs

Great Gaps Ripped In The Gustav Line On the Way to Rome

Allied Headquarters in Italy, Feb. 3.—(AP)—American troops had battled to within 500 yards of Cassino from the north today and Allied headquarters announced the core of the Germans' Gustav line was "furiouly threatened."

The Americans and French tore wide gaps in the Gustav line in bloody fighting in the mountains to the rear of the stronghold. At the same time other Americans were making a direct frontal attack on the ancient city guarding the open Liri valley.

To the north, meanwhile, Allied troops engaged their Anzio bridgehead in the face of desperate German counterattacks and engaged in hard fighting in several sectors. One of the German counterattacks thrown back was just west of Littoria.

With their Cassino front near collapse the Germans were throwing attacks against the beachhead with increasing strength as new elements arrived in the enemy line in an effort to seal off the most serious threat to Rome.

Fighting grimly to halt Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army at Cassino, the Germans threw in counterattacks after counterattacks on the American flanks.

But the Americans and French to the north widened the breach in the Gustav line to three miles, capturing several heights near Terelle. The Americans crossed the Cassino-Terelle road and Terelle itself was almost surrounded after the capture of a series of heights on Mt. Castellone, a 2,500-foot peak where 100 prisoners were taken.

Cassino faced encirclement if the Germans continued to fight to the last man as they gave every indication of doing. The Americans coming down from the mountains were in a position to cut highway No. 6 to Rome behind the defenders. The highway already was of little use to the Germans since it was under the command of Allied artillery on the slopes above.

Fayetteville Death Believed Suicide, Investigators Say

Fayetteville, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Coroner W. Davis said today the pistol bullet death of Miss Alexandra Helen Buske, apparently a case of suicide, was "apparently a case of suicide," but Fayetteville officers continued their investigation.

Detective Chief L. F. Worrell said he was checking the story of two army sergeants from nearby Fort Bragg that they had seen Miss Buske standing beside a parked convertible coupe on the Fort Bragg road a short time before she was found lying mortally wounded early Tuesday on the lawn of the home where she resided. She died several hours later, refusing steadfastly to answer any questions about the shooting.

The coroner said he had not yet decided whether an inquest would be necessary.

Ten Nazi Divisions Are Trapped

Germans Admit Loss Of Lutsk and Rovno, Smela Is Captured

London, Feb. 3.—(AP)—In a triumphant order of the day, Marshal Stalin announced today the joining of the first and second Ukrainian fronts, trapping ten German divisions, after the German high command had acknowledged the loss of Lutsk (Lutzk) and Rovno in old Poland.

Stalin proclaimed the capture of Smela, rail center in the Dnieper bend, and said the two mighty Red armies of General Nikolai Vatutin and General Ivan S. Konev had made gains of up to 15 miles in a 100-mile breakthrough of the German lines.

London, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The German high command announced today that Nazi troops had abandoned Lutsk (Lutzk) 70 miles inside old Poland, and Rovno, another important stronghold 30 miles inside the prewar border, ahead of a developing Red army offensive driving west from Novograd-Volynski. To the north, meanwhile, the Germans said they were evacuating Narva in Estonia.

The Nazi withdrawal from Lutsk was surprising since last previous reports from this sector to the eastern front had placed the fighting in the area of Rovno, 40 miles to the east, and there had been no indication that Lutsk was yet menaced.

The high command's communique, broadcast in English by DNB, said: "Rovno and Lutsk were evacuated in the course of embittered defensive fighting."

(Lutzk is the German spelling; Lutsk the Polish; Lutsk an Anglicized form.)

An earlier announcement by the Berlin radio said: "In the course of German movements on the eastern front Rovno and Lutsk were abandoned by German troops yesterday. The German troops have taken up new positions west of the two towns."

Although the Russians themselves have not disclosed a new offensive in this region, Berlin reported last night that an intensified Soviet drive had been launched and said the Red army had crossed the middle Gorin river which runs west of Rovno.

Further to the southeast the communique said the Russians were attacking Shepetovka. New Soviet thrusts also were reported on the Mikolaj bridgehead while southwest of Dnepropetrovsk the Nazis advanced against Soviet tank formations against advancing Soviet tank formations.

The Germans also were being pushed back inside Estonia, where the Red army driving along the Gulf of Finland west of captured Kingisepp reached positions along the Narva river, northwest of the ancient seaport of Narva itself. This indicated that the Russians now are battling on Estonian soil.

Furloughs For Men Overseas Are Planned

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—American veterans of long hitches in World War II may soon be coming home on furlough under a "troop rotation" plan to be inaugurated by the War Department.

Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, commanding general of army forces in the South Pacific, disclosed yesterday that such a program will begin with men who have been in the area two years or longer. But he warned that it would be tempered by combat requirements and transportation facilities, and that it could not be construed as promising a furlough for all men of two years' service in the South Pacific.

Harmon also disclosed that approximately 60 percent of the pilots and crews shot down over enemy territory in the South Pacific have been rescued.

Farm Leaders Are Against Subsidy Plan

Raleigh, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Edw. J. A. O'Neil, president of the American Farm Federation, today advocated elimination of consumer subsidies, the continuation of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Commodity Credit Corporation after the war, and the breaking down of world monopolies and artificial trade barriers.

"Despite professional propagandists and much of the big city press, the farm bureau is opposing subsidies as an effective and practical control against a dangerous, destructive and uncontrolled inflation," O'Neil said. "We are opposing subsidies in order to break down price controls. It is our belief that the general price level of farm commodities is high enough at the present time."

"On the other hand, certain commodities need sensible and common sense price adjustments, in order to meet increased costs and to assure adequate and abundant production in time of war. Such a practical and sensible program is far more desirable than a billion dollar program of consumer subsidies, which are not needed, and which will increase the inflationary gap of unspendable income."

ALUMNUS MISSING

Maxton, Feb. 3.—Another alumnus of Presbyterian Junior College, Stephen Alvin Wooten, of Maconfield, N. C., has been reported lost by the air forces. He is the sixth former student of Presbyterian Junior College who has given his life in defense of our country, or who has been reported missing.

Mixed Prices For Cotton

New York, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 25 cents a bale higher to 17 cents lower. Noon values were 30 cents a bale higher to 20 cents lower. March 20.44, May 20.10 and July 19.67.

Table with columns: Month, Previous Close, Open, High, Low, Settle. Rows for March, May, July, Oct. (new), Dec. (new).

DEBATE THEME FOR SCHOOLS SELECTED

Chapel Hill, Feb. 3.—"Resolved, That the United States should join the other nations in a program of world security and that the association so formed should have an adequate police force" will be the topic of high school debates throughout the State this spring.

The 32nd annual contest sponsored by the North Carolina High School Debating Union, with C. E. McIntosh of Chapel Hill as secretary, will begin on a triangular basis March 13 and continue through March 18.