

CAPTURE OF KWAJALEIN IS IMMINENT

Service Men Will Receive \$100-\$300 Mustering Out Pay

In Welder's Role



WEARING a welder's outfit, Adm. Thomas C. Hart is shown as he officiated at the laying of two keels for mechanized landing ships to be constructed at the Charleston, S. C., Navy Yard. This is an official U. S. Navy photo. (International)

President Signs Bill Providing Payments For Those Eligible

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—President Roosevelt signed today legislation providing mustering out pay of \$100 to \$300 for members of the armed services.

The mustering out pay law limits the maximum sum of \$300 to service men and women who have served overseas or in Alaska.

Payments of \$200 are provided for those serving 60 days or more in the United States and \$100 for those serving less than 60 days in this country.

All receiving no more than \$200 a month base pay are eligible for the mustering out benefits.

Those eligible to the \$300 will receive \$100 at the time of final discharge and \$100 a month for the succeeding two months. The \$200 payment will be made in two equal monthly installments. Those entitled to \$100 will get the whole amount upon final discharge.

Those already discharged have two years within which to make application. The War and Navy Departments are allowed one month to make such payments after approval of applications.

Specifically denied benefits are those eligible to retirement pay, those discharged to take civilian jobs, those dishonorably discharged and the following:

- 1. Any member of the armed force whose total period of service has been as a student detailed for training under the army specialized program, the army air forces college training program and other similar navy, marine corps or coast guard programs.
2. Any member of the armed forces for any active service performed prior to the date of his discharge for the purpose of entering the naval, military, or coast guard academies or whose sole service has been as a cadet at one of these academies.

Petroleum Shortage Is More Acute

Concern Felt Over School Bus Travel Being Discontinued

Raleigh, Feb. 4—(AP)—A shortage of petroleum products grew more acute in North Carolina, particularly in the eastern portion, today and Governor Broughton continued to press Federal officials for relief.

There was no promise of immediate relief, he said, adding that so many wartime agencies were involved that petroleum products could not be obtained until each had been contacted. He listed the Office of Price Administration, the Petroleum Administration for War, the Office of Defense Transportation and others.

Meanwhile there was concern that buses might be affected by the shortage and, in some instances, would have to be taken from the roads. C. C. Brown, director of bus transportation of the Department of Public Instruction, said that none had been discontinued so far but that there was fear that those in at least 20 counties might not be able to operate unless gas supplies were obtained by Monday.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Fair and slightly cooler tonight. Saturday fair with moderate temperature.

Proposal Made To Raise Army-Navy Heads' Ranks

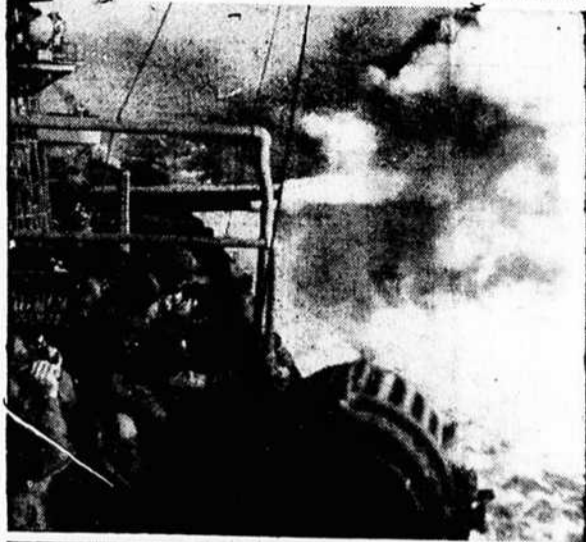
Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Bills to boost four of America's top ranking military and naval leaders to commensurate with those now held by their British colleagues on the combined chiefs of staff were introduced in Congress today.

Legislation authorizing President Roosevelt to raise Generals George C. Marshall and Henry H. Arnold to the rank of "generals of the armies of the United States" was offered simultaneously by Chairman Reynolds (N. C., D.) and May (Ky., D.), of the Senate and House Military Committees. The appointment would be for the duration of the war.

May and Representative Vinson (Ga., D.), the latter chairman of the House Naval Committee, introduced another bill to permit the President to appoint Admiral William D. Leahy and Ernest J. King as "admirals of the Navy."

Marshall is army chief of staff, Arnold is head of the army air corps, Leahy is chief of staff to the President and King is chief of naval operations.

BLAST MARSHALLS DAY AND NIGHT



THESE SPECTACULAR photos of U. S. warships of the Pacific fleet in action both by day and by night graphically picture the terrific pounding given Roi, Kwajalein and other islands of the Marshall group, "More than 2,000,000 tons of naval might" has been thrown into the battle, according to one statement. U. S. Navy photos. (International)

Nazis Launch Big Offensive Against Anzio Bridgehead

Marshal Rommel Is Directing Strategy Of Nazis in Italy

Allied Headquarters in Italy, Feb. 4—(AP)—Marshal Erwin Rommel, master of "don't get trapped" tactics, was reported back in Italy directing Nazi strategy today and Allied headquarters disclosed that the Germans have launched their expected big offensive against the Anzio landing head below Rome, supporting their assaults with terrific fire power and tank charges.

On the main Fifth Army front Americans were fighting fiercely in the outskirts of Cassino, fighting with tanks against Germans who had to be cleaned out of rubble-cushioned dugouts and cellars in methodical and bloody fashion.

The offensive aimed at driving the British and Americans back into the sea from their beachhead and the tough house-to-house resistance offered at Cassino appeared to be the twin parts of a German strategy to fight off the Allied threat aimed at trapping a large part of the German Tenth army.

On the Eighth Army front there was vigorous patrolling and the British occupied Torricella, southwest of Orsogna and 20 miles inland, where the Germans withdrew from a considerable mountain wedge and left the Allied line running almost straight from Cassino to Sant' Angelo.

The Germans, reinforced along the perimeter of the Anzio bridgehead, struck four times against the British and Americans who are reported to have poured more than six divisions ashore. The German air force, almost absent from Italian skies for several days, returned to support the thrust.

In each case, Allied headquarters said, the Germans were repulsed with heavy losses and the Allies improved their positions slightly.

Spain Keeps Her Neutrality

Madrid, Feb. 4—(AP)—The Spanish cabinet, its way prepared by a host of editorials accusing the British of trying to high-pressure Spain into abandoning her neutrality, reaffirmed this country's position of "strict neutrality" last night after a special meeting at which it reviewed the international situation.

The cabinet, meeting at the urgent call of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, also announced it had studied means of making this neutrality respected and that it planned to make all foreigners in Spain as well as Spanish nationalists conform.

Senator Lodge to Return to Service

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., resigned today as Republican senator from Massachusetts in order to return to active service as an army officer.

Appointment of a successor rests in the hands of Republican Governor Leverett Saltonstall. Saltonstall himself has been mentioned as a likely appointee to the vacancy.

He charged that "this palace guard" had "usurped a leadership in our Federal administration" and that a "wire pulling Rasputin" was sitting on the U. S. Supreme Court.

U. S. Losses Very Light In Invasion

Reinforcements of Men and Materials Pour Into Marshalls

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Feb. 4—(AP)—Fighting men, tanks and guns, pouring ashore to annihilate the dwindling forces of Japanese defenders, appeared today to be on the verge of conquering all Kwajalein, largest atoll in the Marshalls and core of that enemy defense system.

As the momentous invasion moved through its fifth day, preliminary reports told amazingly light American losses during the achievement of a strong entering wedge in two mid-Pacific positions Japan has held for 25 years.

United States Seventh Division reinforcements and mechanized equipment in great force moved against tottering Japanese resistance at the south end of the atoll where 1,250 an estimated garrison of 2,000 had been wiped out by Wednesday night.

American casualties were placed at 27 dead, nine missing and 190 wounded. The north end of the atoll, with airfield and the adjacent repair and dispersal base of Namur, were entirely in the hands of Fourth Division Marines. Roi was quickly overrun Tuesday and the slaughter of bitter end defenders of Namur was announced yesterday. Preliminary estimates of American losses at Roi and Namur were less than 100 killed and 400 wounded.

The bulk of Kwajalein's more than 32 islets now are in American hands.

The only remaining enemy opposition of consequence appeared to be on Kwajalein island at the south end of the atoll. There, where an airfield and a deep anchorage are the prizes, American troops which landed Tuesday pushed the Japanese against the northeastern part of the island.

The announcement, covering raids Tuesday and Wednesday, extended the offensive to two atolls never previously mentioned as targets, Rongelap, northwest of Kwajalein, was pounded Wednesday by Liberators which damaged ground installations with nearly eight tons of bombs. Southeast of Kwajalein Navy search planes hit a small beached cargo vessel at Namu atoll Tuesday.

JONES COUNTY IS OVER WITH BONDS

Trenton, Feb. 4—Jones county has gone over the top of its \$50,000 quota in the fourth war loan campaign. It was announced today by Mrs. Lurley Whitty Hines, of Pollocksville, county campaign chairman, who said she would keep on boosting the sales until the end of the month.

Hull Suggested For President By Woodring

Chicago, Feb. 4—(AP)—Henry H. Woodring, former secretary of war, proposed today that the Democrats nominate one like Secretary of State Hull for president, and announced he would call a national convention of "loyal" party members to consolidate their forces.

In a speech denunciatory of what he termed "the palace guard," the one-time Kansas governor also suggested that Hull—if elected—could appoint President Roosevelt chief of the American delegation to the peace conference.

The erstwhile Roosevelt cabinet member defined his views in an address prepared for delivery before the Executive Club.

He said there had been a "revolt at the polls" since 1940. He held it was not a revolt against the Democratic party but against "policies, administration, and personalities" and against the "power and influence" of a group of "fellow travelers."

10,000 Germans In Dnieper Bend Trap Are Already Slain

Kwajalein Leader



MAJ. GEN. Charles H. Corlett, U. S. Army (above), commands the Seventh Infantry Division that has landed and is fighting the Japanese near Kwajalein islet in the Marshalls. Gen. Corlett's force is composed mainly of veterans of the Attu campaign. (International)

Main Soviet Forces Continue Their Push Westward to Baltic

Moscow, Feb. 4—(AP)—Systematic extermination by the Red armies of ten encircled German divisions in the upper Dnieper bend was well under way today, the army newspaper Red Star said, while the main Soviet forces continued to forge westward from the Ukraine to the Baltic.

The midnight communique indicated nearly 10,000 of the trapped Germans already were killed.

The situation west of Cherkassy, where nine infantry and one tank division have been trapped by a great five-day offensive, presented "the same picture as Stalingrad," Major Pavel Orendar said in a Red Star dispatch.

Thousands of German units have become "groups of wanderers" within the ring which the troops of General Nikolai Vatutin and Ivan S. Konev are tightening around them, Orendar asserted.

An Lvov dispatch said the Russians were capturing tremendous amounts of guns, tanks and machine guns. Photographs from the front showed big artillery pieces apparently in perfect condition taken by Konev's troops.

There were no Russian reports from the sector farther west where Vatutin's first army of the Ukraine was last reported closing in on Rovno from three sides, but there was reason to believe that this front was active again.

(The German high command announced yesterday that Rovno and Lutsk, 50 miles from the Bug river, had been abandoned by Nazi troops.)

At the Baltic end of the 1,200 mile front the Red army commanded by General Leonid A. Govorov bypassed Narva on both the north and south and indications were that the Germans had waited too long to evacuate the city. There may be another large loss in lives and equipment, since the Soviets hold at least five villages in the Estonian republic and that number should be increased by nightfall.

German resistance was fierce in places, but the commanders appeared unable to execute any clear plan of defense.

French Coast Bombed By Yank Planes

London, Feb. 4—(AP)—The Vichy radio said that Toulon, naval base on the southern coast of France, was raided at 2 p. m. today.

A Berlin broadcast said that "American bombers carried out heavy terror raids against the towns of Trieste, Rimini, Albano, Formia and Porto Recanati."

VANDENBERG STARTS BOOM OF MACARTHUR

New York, Feb. 4—Gen. Douglas MacArthur was acclaimed today by Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg Republican, Michigan, as the Republican party's "strongest candidate" for the 1944 presidential nomination.

The Michigan senator in an article entitled "Why I am for MacArthur," published in the current Collier's, expresses belief that not only is the famed general the strongest candidate for president, but he also "would make the strongest president in the tough days that lie ahead."

It is understood 1,000,000 reprints of the article will be distributed shortly throughout the United States by a group of Republicans, indicating it may be the opening gun in a new and determined drive to draft MacArthur for the top spot on the November G. O. P. ticket.

Three Nazi War-Laden Ships Sunk

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Three German blockade runners laden with war materials from Japanese-held Pacific ports have been sunk by American destroyers in the south Atlantic.

The Navy, announcing this today, said the holds of the enemy ships were filled to capacity with thousands of tons of rubber, tin, fats and strategic ores. Some of those materials, particularly hundreds of tons of baled rubber, were salvaged and many prisoners were taken.

Seeking to sneak through the American blockade, the three ships—the Buzerland, Rio Grand and Weserland—were sighted and sunk within a 48-hour period "early in January," the Navy reported.

Down Swing Of Stocks

New York, Feb. 4—(AP)—Stocks made feeble passes at recovery in today's early market proceedings, but, failing to attract a worthwhile following, leaders soon resumed the down swing.

Dealings, slow at the start, gathered a little momentum as trends wavered. Prominent on the retreat were Atlantic Coast Line, U. S. Steel, Chrysler and Westinghouse. Bonds and commodities held to a slim groove.