

GERMAN AIR BLITZ PRELUDE TO ATTACK

15 Trapped Nazi Divisions' Plight Grows More Desperate

Battle For Manganese Area Rages

Circles Made Around Enemy Narrowing at Nikopol, Cherkasy

Moscow, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The situation confronting 15 German divisions trapped in the Iupier bend grew steadily more desperate today as the Red army cut down thousands of the axis troops and narrowed the circles of death around the enemy forces at Nikopol and Cherkasy.

At the same time Russian and German troops fought without quarter in the outskirts of the manganese center of Nikopol in which the Red army probed yesterday, as the bewildered fascists fell back before the ferocity of the Soviet onslaught, other troops of the third Ukrainian army came to grips with the remnants of five captured divisions, effectively trapping in the Dnieper marshlands outside the city.

One hundred miles north of Nikopol the first and second Ukrainian armies reduced the Nazi-held Cherkassy pocket to approximately 40 square miles by capturing five fortified towns within its outer fringe. The Russians planted their artillery within shelling range of German airfields which heretofore had enabled the sole means of escape to thousands of the 100,000 troops encamped in this Russian desert.

On the northern end of the 120-mile-long front troops of the second Red Army captured 30 villages, 100 miles north and northwest of Novoroditsa, a Russian communication hub and posed an immediate threat to the German-held Pokov-Warsaw railway.

As the battles in the Dnieper bend moved to a climax the Russians were on the verge of reconquering the most important military base still in German hands. This was the Nikolov-Krivoy Rog area, which mines furnished the steel for Germany's war machine. It also would be a staggering blow to the Reich steel industry.

Napoleonic desperate defenses resorted to every trick they knew to stop the Soviet onslaught. They fought with dug-in tanks and anti-aircraft guns at the city's approaches, but were outflanked and crushed at every point, the commander said.

On the northern end of the long front the veteran Leningrad army was hammering further into East Prussia, shattering the Germans from their positions east of Lake Peipus.

The Soviet force pushed down the Leningrad railway to capture Cherkassy, 22 miles north of Leningrad.

INCREASED NEWSPRINT QUOTA

Washington, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Seventeen newspapers today were granted additional quotas of newsprint by the War Production Board during the first quarter of 1944. They include the Goldsboro, N. C., News-Argus, two tons.

Millions Involved In Speed Of President In Signing Tax Bill

Washington, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Time, the Constitution, and a three-time change in the \$2,315,200,000 tax bill combined today to make it impossible for President Roosevelt to allow the measure to become law without his signature unless he is willing to lose more than \$87,000,000 in potential revenue.

WELCOME FOR DAD SHE NEVER SAW



Berta Bergdoll, 4, daughter of Grover C. Bergdoll, World War I draft draftee, waits to welcome her father at Downingtown, Pa., after his release from Federal prison at Fort Leavenworth. He had never seen Berta until his arrival home. Recently he was recruited to have pleaded for a chance to fight for the U. S. in this war. (International Soundphoto)

Amendment To Continue Subsidies Until June 30

Gas Released For Averting Of Shortage

Raleigh, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The Federal Administration for War announced from Charlotte today that 34,000 barrels of gasoline have been released in the Wilmington area to avert a critical shortage that prevented some defense workers from reaching their jobs and stalled tractors engaged in agriculture.

However, Governor Broughton said, a serious situation was developing in the Franklin, Vance and Warren county areas. He attributed that to the fact that the allocations are based on 1941 figures, and Capt. Butler was not built at the time. Busy sawmills also use a lot of the gas.

River Bank Cave Falls In, Killing Greenville Boys

Greenville, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Two Greenville high school boys lost their lives yesterday when a river bank cave in which they were playing fell in on them.

The victims were Bruce Ervin Skinner, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Skinner, and William T. Ward, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mary Louise Ward, who formerly lived in Mount Airy.

A youthful companion who had not entered the cave gave the alarm. Rescuers, aided by the fire department, succeeded in reaching the boys in about an hour, after digging away several tons of rock and earth. Artificial respiration was tried for an hour or more.

U. S. Renews Its Warning To Finland

Washington, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Secretary Hull disclosed today that the United States had recently renewed its warning to the government of Finland to get out of the war or accept the consequences of continuing to fight on the side of Germany.

Bankhead to Amend Bill Because Final Action as Delayed

Washington, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Senator Bankhead (Ala., D.), leader of Senate opponents of the administration's food subsidy policy, announced today he would amend his repeal bill to continue the present program of government subsidies in full force until June 30.

As approved by the banking committee last month, the B. head bill would have directed administrative agencies to start liquidating payments to farmers and food processors at once, with June 30 the deadline for completing the job.

Bankhead said he would offer the extension amendment because Congress had been forced to delay final action a long time beyond the date contemplated when he introduced the repeal last year, and because he believed the Commodity Credit Corporation and other agencies should have time to adapt themselves to a subsidy-less program of consumer food price controls.

Conceding that the House, which voted in November to cut off the \$1,500,000,000 subsidy system as of December 31, might balk at an extension, Bankhead said he never had entirely agreed with House anti-subsidy leaders on the sudden death provision.

At the same time the Alabamian expressed doubt that the Senate still leaning over the soldier vote bill—could possibly dispose of the farm legislation by February 17, the date on which the CCC expires unless it is continued by Congress.

Two Subs Lost By America

Washington, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Loss of two American submarines, the Ciseo and the S-44, was announced today by the Navy.

The submarines both presumably were operating in Pacific waters where American submarines have been taking a heavy toll of Japanese shipping.

Great U. S. Bombing Of Frankfurt

London, Feb. 8.—(AP)—American Flying Fortresses in force thundered bombs on Frankfurt again today and the fury of their attack left no doubt that the obliteration of another great German manufacturing center was well begun.

While the Fortresses made their 400-mile penetration of Germany under the protection of long-range fighters, an independent force of Liberators dived across the channel to join swift flights of American Mustangs and British Typhoons and Hurricanes in a concentrated pounding of targets in northern France.

Frankfurt, a city of half a million near the junction of the Main and Rhine rivers, already had been severely damaged by three heavy RAF attacks when well over 300 American bombers struck it with 1200 tons of explosives last January 29. Both Fortresses and Liberators delivered another punishing attack February 1 and the follow-up 10-day campaign. Allied determination to wipe out the city with its railroad yards, anti-aircraft factories and chemical plants.

The daylight air offensive came after the RAF's swift Mosquito bombers bombed unspecified objectives in western Germany last night for the sixth time in seven nights.

Statesville Firm Submits Low Bid For Nurses Home

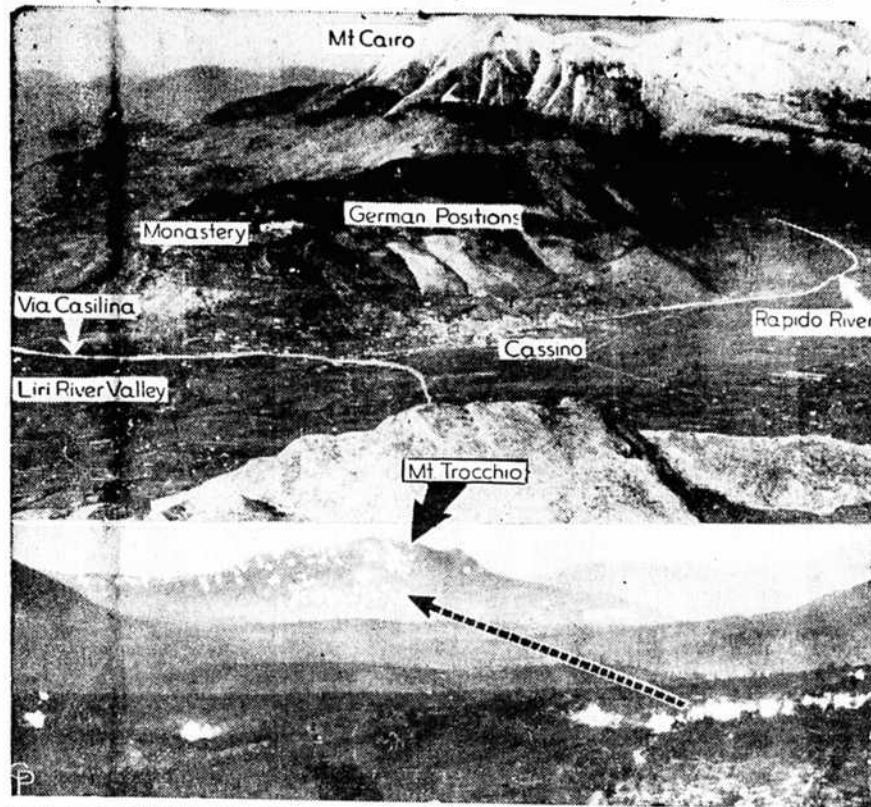
Washington, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The P. S. West Construction Co. of Statesville, N. C., submitted a low bid of \$95,464 to the Public Buildings Administration today for construction of a nurses home at Goldsboro, N. C.

L. B. Gollinore of Greensboro, N. C., made the seven bid offer of \$96,700, and Fowler Jones Construction Co., Winston-Salem, bid \$97,319.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Cold, with little change in temperature tonight; Wednesday occasional light rain over east portion.

CASSINO, WHERE GAINS ARE COUNTED IN YARDS



SCENE OF THE MOST DOGGED FIGHTING in the Italian campaign, this aerial view of the Cassino battleground with strategic points identified, looks peaceful—but just for the moment. The only action is a Nazi shell bursting among American gun positions. This shell probably was fired from Mt. Trocchio, which later was captured by the Allies. The explosions on the hill are exploding shells from 200 Allied cannon massed in the foreground, some of which are seen flashing. (International)

Jap Losses 20 To 1 Larger Than Yanks In Marshalls Drive

Tokyo Radio Asserts War in Acute Phase In Pacific Theatre

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The most powerful American fleet ever thrown into battle, an air force which drove the enemy from the skies and deadly accurate artillery fire struck with such coordinated fury in the Marshalls invasion that only 286 invaders were slain—against at least 8,122 Japanese.

Even including 82 Americans missing, that made it more than 20 Japanese killed for each one of ours. That ratio is the more remarkable considering that the opening blow of the Marshalls was struck at Kwajalein atoll in the center and that the Japanese had been there for 25 years.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commanding the fleet yesterday, reported 11,448 Americans were wounded. The number of Japanese taken prisoners also was unusually large, 261.

Meanwhile, the Tokyo radio informed the Japanese people today that 2419 American bombs had plunged the central Pacific war "into an acute phase" that is moving with amazing speed toward a battle in which the world hangs in the balance.

Enemy America is impatiently eager for a speedy decisive battle in the Pacific," declared the broadcast, recorded by U. S. government monitors. It asserted that American forces were seeking "intently to destroy our strategic structure."

The broadcast, which went to domestic Japanese audiences at 8 a. m. today, declared that "bitter fighting" continued in the Marshalls, but failed to give specific information.

In the southwest Pacific, Japanese air and supply bases from Tannibar islands in the Netherlands East Indies to Kavieng, New Ireland, along a 1,450 mile front, took heavy poundings in Allied aerial attacks reported by the high command.

Eighty-one tons of bombs, the heaviest load of all the raids, were dropped on the Admiralty islands northeast of New Guinea.

Two raids Saturday on Rabaul, New Britain, by more than 150 fighters, torpedo and dive bombers and Liberators from Admiral William F. Halsey's bases in the Solomons destroyed gun positions and started fires in supply dumps, and 29 tons of bombs, carried up one of Rabaul's three airfields.

Allies' Gains In Burma Are Consolidated

New Delhi, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Allied troops have consolidated gains in the Chin hills sector of Burma and twice have ambushed Japanese troops, inflicting heavy casualties, a communiqué from Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's southeast Asia command said today.

Allied heavy and United States medium bombers staged damaging raids Saturday on two airfields 90 miles southeast of Mandalay, the bulletin said, and the medium bombers attacked other Japanese airbases.

RAF dive bombers on Monday raided two towns near Buthading in western Burma, where "our land forces" continued to engage "the enemy."

ON HOSPITALS BOARD

Raleigh, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Governor Broughton appointed H. M. Baker of Lumberton as a member of the North Carolina Hospitals Board of Control for a term expiring July 1, 1945. Baker succeeds Dr. Roscoe D. McMillan of Red Springs, who resigned.

Soviets Say Bombing Of Helsinki Is Only Begun

Moscow, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The Russians have served notice on Finland that the bombing of Helsinki Sunday night is only a prelude of what is to come.

"The hour of retribution is coming," declared an editorial in the government newspaper Izvestia. "Soon the Finns will regret that the war is continuing. But if they don't regret now they will regret doubly tomorrow."

Hospital On Rome Front Is Shattered

Wounded Americans Killed in Attack In Broad Daylight

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Waves of German planes struck in heavy attack yesterday at the Allied invasion beachhead below Rome, headquarters announced today, and thunderous artillery shelling continued in prelude to an impending major battle.

Two Nazi fighter bombers attacked an American evacuation hospital on the beachhead in bright sunlight yesterday, killing at least 22 persons and wounding 65, including U. S. army nurses, Associated Press Correspondent Daniel DeLuce said in a front dispatch, and the death toll threatened to rise.

Two nurses were killed along with 14 other persons of the hospital personnel. Forty-three of the wounded, including three nurses, and a Red Cross aide, were attached to the hospital. The other victims were patients.

DeLuce declared it was a deliberate attack, for the hospital was plainly marked with red crosses and lay 1/2 mile from any major military target.

Nazi German planes were shot down. American and British troops further consolidated their positions in the beachhead, and the Germans strengthened their force thrown around the invasion area. Patrols were active, but there were no major land attacks by either side, headquarters added.

Allied war correspondents at the beachhead said the hospital was hit at 5:30 p. m. yesterday, and that three of the wounded women nurses were in serious condition. One correspondent said "at least 64" persons were wounded. The planes dropped eight small anti-personnel bombs, spreading shrapnel through two receiving tents, an evacuation tent, two ward tents, an X-ray tent and operating tent where surgery was in progress. The head doctor was among the wounded.

The Germans threw strong relays of bomb-carrying Focke-Wulf's over the Rome area beachhead, and American fighters intercepted them. Some dropped their bombs on Allied troops, but most of the formations were broken up before reaching their objectives.

Headquarters disclosed the Germans had used flame throwers, tanks, and other weapons in their last major effort against the beachhead—on Saturday night west of Cassino.

Heavy artillery barrages continued meanwhile in the Cassino area, but field reports said the intensity of street fighting in the town itself slackened yesterday, with troops of both sides weary by battle.

The Americans made new gains on Mount Cassino, fighting up its northern slopes against numerous German pillboxes and machine gun nests. The Germans resisted fiercely because the hill dominates Cassino and their corridor to it. There was no indication here as to whether the Germans were using the famous monastery there as part of their defenses.

ON HOSPITALS BOARD (Continued from page 1) Baker succeeds Dr. Roscoe D. McMillan of Red Springs, who resigned.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Cold, with little change in temperature tonight; Wednesday occasional light rain over east portion.

"The day before yesterday the wings of Soviet planes appeared Helsinki, the Finnish capital, and destructive bombs were dropped. Let the ruins of Helsinki fall upon the heads of the fascist rulers."

Meanwhile reorganization of the 16 Soviet republics continued with the announcement of the appointment of a chairman of the Council of People's Commissars to White Russia.