

Nazi Front Crumbling In East

Germans Hit At Six Points On Rome Front

INVASION GUNS REDUCE JAP FORT TO RUBBLE



The wrecked Jap steel and concrete blockhouse on N mar island, on Kwalein atoll, is mute but striking testimony to the ferocity of the land, sea and air bombardments that softened up this section of the Marshall Islands for our invasion forces. This effective barrage is credited to the small price in lives we paid for capturing that strategic mid-Pacific bastion. (International Soundphoto)

Diplomatic Groundwork For Invasion Now In Full Swing

Labor Need Threatens Ship Goals

Senate Committee Informed of Crisis By Admiral Land

Washington, Feb. 10—(AP)—Manpower shortages and job turnover among experienced workers threaten defeat of 1944 ship production goals, Admiral Emory S. Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission, told the Senate Military Committee today.

Authorizing a national service act to authorize the drafting of civilian labor, Land declared: "Voluntary methods will not secure enough new workers in the right places at the right time."

A national service act, he said, would "make certain that the comparatively few persons at a few spots—few in number but important to the achievement of the war plan—would be available to fill gaps of needed workers at the particular points of difficulty."

Land said ship deliveries in January were the lowest since February, 1943. Production fell from 200 ships in December to 124 last month, he reported.

Revolt Nipped By Colombia Government

Bogota, Colombia, Feb. 10—(AP)—The government today, warning the opposition, which had proclaimed Colombia "on the border of revolution," said it was prepared to evolve method by any subversive movements developed.

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Led Surprise Raid



AU. S. NAVY task force of the North Pacific Fleet under the command of Vice Adm. Frank Jack Fletcher (above) dealt the first blow against Japanese home territory when it shelled Paramushiro Island, in the Kurets. The attack caught the enemy by surprise. (International)

Favorites In Stocks Lower

New York, Feb. 10—(AP)—Firmly favored continued to drop today and other favored attack market favorites today but many leaders still were unable to attract worthwhile support.

Ahead most of the time were Southern Railway, Allstate, Coast Line, Chrysler and General Motors. Backward were U. S. Steel, Bethlehem, American Can and Douglas Aircraft.

Carried bonds were selectively higher. Commodities steadied.

Sharp Gains For Cotton

New York, Feb. 10—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to 30 cents a bale higher. Noon values were 30 to 35 cents a bale higher. March 20.02, May 20.02, and July 19.33.

	Previous Close	Open
March	20.19	20.62
May	20.19	20.23
July	19.17	19.69
October	19.27	19.30
December	19.12	19.14

Spain, France, Italy, Finland Are Focal Points of Program

Washington, Feb. 10—(AP)—Diplomatic preparations for the invasion of Europe appeared to be in full swing in Washington and London now with Spain, France, Italy and Finland as focal points of developing Allied foreign policy.

The objective is two-fold—to split off Germany as much as possible and to pave the way for invading forces striking from both the north and south.

Expected developments include: France—Broadened recognition of the authority of the French National Committee of Liberation at Algiers which will assure its right to govern liberated areas of France until reasonably normal civil machinery can be set up to give them a voice in government.

Italy—Reconsideration of the whole question of keeping King Victor Emmanuel in power, a step which may result in his getting out before the Allied armies reach Rome, also expansion of the territory in southern Italy under the jurisdiction of the Italian government.

Spain—Close observation of the means which the Franco government and its supporters are using to maintain "strict neutrality." This is what the Allies want, instead of a "neutrality" favorable to Germany.

Finland—Use of whatever diplomatic measures may be possible in conjunction with Russian military action, such as the recent bombings of Helsinki, to get Finland out of the war. Some authorities believe it still is not too late for the Finns to make peace with Russia and Britain and preserve their territorial integrity but they have little time in which to act.

Record Soil Program Of \$290 Millions Planned

Washington, Feb. 10—(AP)—The War Food Administration announced details today of a 1944 soil conservation program under which upwards of \$290,000,000 will be distributed among farmers who employ agricultural cultivating practices designed to increase output of needed crops.

Fighting In Cassino Is Violent

Three of Thrusts Below Rome Aimed At the Americans

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Feb. 10—(AP)—The German have launched a strong attempt to break through Allied lines on the Anzio beachhead, striking at six points along the American-British defense perimeter, headquarters announced today, as violent fighting continued in the ruins of Cassino.

The heaviest of the beachhead attacks came in the area north and west of Cassino (Aydin) where fighting continued as British forces sought to stem the enemy plunges.

Three of the enemy thrusts were directed against American positions west of Cassino but they were beaten back and the doughboys recaptured some ground.

American troops of the Fifth Army who have plunged into Cassino from the north and south still are fighting fiercely in the streets against determined enemy resistance, headquarters announced today.

Allied bombers, in sweeps off the west coast of Italy yesterday, hit and one in Nice harbor, the three merchant vessels near Corsica announced today.

Hard fighting raged on the beachhead below Rome as German forces probed the American and British defense positions in a continuing attempt to drive the Allies back to the sea.

On some sections of the Cassino front the enemy launched counterattacks, the communique said, but all were repulsed.

The Yanks made slight progress in Cassino although the Germans still held the main portions of the town as well as the crest of the hill on which is perched the ancient monastery just west of the town.

One and a half miles northwest of Cassino the Germans counter-attacked at Monte Albaneta, but were beaten back. Below Cassino, the British advanced against Monte Orsino, two and a half miles north of Castellote, gaining slightly and two attacks.

Gas And Oil Supply Faces Crucial Test

Washington, Feb. 10—(AP)—Interior Secretary Ickes, warning that the east coast supply of gasoline and fuel oil is now facing a crucial test, said today that from now on it will be a race between limited transportation and the heavy winter consuming season.

Ickes, who also acts as petroleum administrator, added, however, that there is still some hope that emergency measures in effect in the area will make it possible for consumers to "squeeze through with only brief and local shortages."

"Even though oil shipments to the east are nearly 300,000 barrels daily above those of a year ago, military demands have more than counter-balanced this gain," Ickes said.

ALEXANDER AT ROME BEACHHEAD



A GROUP of American Rangers fighting in the sector below Rome, listen attentively to Gen. Sir Harold Alexander (right) discuss battle plans. The visit to the front was a surprise and the Yanks apologized for not shaving. The new Allied chief in the Mediterranean said he had done enough shaving for all. Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International)

Japs Fully Beaten In New Guinea Area

President Calls For Larger Funds For Works Agency

Washington, Feb. 10—(AP)—President Roosevelt approved today and transmitted to Congress a recommendation of the budget bureau for an additional appropriation of \$150,000,000 for the Federal Works Agency to be used in providing public works and services in war expanded communities.

Congress originally authorized \$500,000,000 for the purpose and appropriated \$350,000,000. The agency has spent most of this fund and now wants the remaining \$150,000,000. The money is being used for such things as schools, hospitals, streets and highways, waterworks and sewers.

Western Rail Agreements Repressive

Washington, Feb. 10—(AP)—Various railroad agreements and practices have "almost totally suppressed" competition west of the Mississippi river, cutthroat new strikes and prevented rate reductions, Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge told a Senate subcommittee today.

In a statement prepared for the group, which is studying war mobilization problems, Berge particularly cited the so-called "western agreement," among the lines operating west of the Mississippi.

He said the western agreement, with an avowed purpose of avoiding "practices which will dissipate railroads' earnings in the western district," was entered into December 1, 1932, and remained in effect until April 23, 1943, "when it was reportedly cancelled by the Department of Justice, having just discovered its existence, addressed an inquiry to the western commissioner."

The department now is considering "what legal action, if any, is required under all the facts and circumstances" of the western agreement.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Cloudy with little change in temperature tonight. Cloudy Friday and slightly warmer.

Retreat In Ukraine Is Near Rout

Red Army Pincers Close in Tightly on Remnants of Enemy

Moscow, Feb. 10—(AP)—Germany's once all-powerful eastern front was crumbling at many points today under the staggering sledge-hammer blows of seven Russian armies.

In the vast reaches of the lower Ukraine the Nazi retreat approached a rout as the tentacles of a great Red army pincer closed on disorganized remnants of between 10 and 15 battered German divisions trapped in the rain-soaked steppe country between Cherkassy and Nikolopol, 200 miles to the south.

German dead littered the battlefields as the combined third and fourth Ukrainian armies under Generals Tolstunov and Malinovsky turned the German retreat west of Anastolovo into a helter-skelter rout. The great iron core of Krivoy Rog from the south area surged westward to imperil the Kiev-Nikolopol railway, sole remaining escape route left to the fleeing enemy.

Fifty towns were captured in this tremendous drive to clear the Ukraine of the invading Germans, including the important stronghold of Radshchye, 14 miles northwest of Anastolovo and less than eight miles from heavily fortified Krivoy Rog, Soviet communique said.

In the Dnieper death circle, north and east of the towns of Shpol and Sventigorodka, the first and second Ukrainian armies under Generals Vatutin and Konev stormed and captured the important town of Guforodische, 18 miles north of Shpol, killing hundreds of Germans, taking many prisoners and sweeping up great stores of war material, including 26 big guns. Enemy airfields through which supplies were reaching the doomed Germans also were captured.

The war bulletin said that at least 2,000 Nazi troops were killed in the past 24 hours along the entire 1,200-mile-long front as more than 57 towns and villages were liberated by the victorious Red army troops.

ing toward Mading in the Ramon valley have found Japanese soldiers dead of starvation and disease along trails in the rugged Finisterre mountains, indicating they had been unable to get supplies from the Haidong base.

The Americans landing at Sidor and the Australians subsequent capture of Sio January 15 on the Huon peninsula left the Japanese trapped along a narrow 50-mile stretch of beach. The enemy was hemmed in between the sea and the 12,000-foot Finisterre range.

There was speculation that the enemy may have evacuated to his other base at Alesha-shan, about ten miles north and Wewak, 175 air miles northwest of Mading.

There also were indications that the enemy was reducing his activities at Rabaul, the shipping and plane base on the northeastern tip of New Britain.

American Bombers Strike German And Dutch Bases

London, Feb. 10—(AP)—U. S. heavy bombers today attacked targets at Brunswick in central Germany, army headquarters announced.

At the same time formations of Liberator bombers hit Gize-Rijen, Holland, and strong forces of U. S. Mustangs flew against military installations in northern France.

The Gize-Rijen attack probably knocked out many enemy fighters, which would have been in the air against the Brunswick-attacking formations and the Dutch fighter base there left undisturbed.

No figures on planes shot down on the Brunswick attack or on Fortress losses were available immediately from the U. S. air force. On a trip January 11 to Brunswick, Oshersleben and Mulbenstadt the Yank forces lost 60 heavy bombers but shot 152 Nazi fighters from the sky. The heavies went back to Brunswick and Hannover January 30 and shot down 91 enemy air craft while losing 20 bombers.