

Tokyo Hints Landing At Truk

Allies Open Cassino Attack Following Intense Barrage

Nazi Threat At Landing Beaten Back

Troops Move Under Cover of Barrage on City and Nearby Hill

Allied Headquarters, Naples, Feb. 18—(AP)—Allied troops, moving up under cover of a thundering six-hour barrage from hundreds of guns, one of the most intense of the Mediterranean war, began an attack on the town of Cassino and the slopes of Mount Cassino before dawn this morning.

At the same time Allied headquarters announced that American and British troops on the beachhead below Rome, with the aid of one of the greatest air umbrellas ever raised in the head-on attacks made by the Mediterranean, had beaten back the Germans in an effort to drive the Allies into the sea at any cost.

The attack on Cassino and Monastery Hill was with the benefit of a daily hail of steel which swifter than a whip from the town to the mountain and back again where the Germans were holding out in pillboxes in the town and battle-blackened houses and around the ruined monastery of Monte Cassino.

The fire from these pillboxes prevented the initial attempts to occupy the crest of Monastery Hill just after a terrific bombing by Flying Fortresses and other aircraft which leveled the ancient abbey on Tuesday.

Just before the barrage ended shortly before dawn, the Allied

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Italian Labor Convention Is Being Held

SALERNO, Feb. 18—(AP)—Southern Italy's return trade unions sent delegates here today for a three-day convention of the General Confederation of Italian workers now coming to life again after nearly 20 years of suppression by fascism.

Concerned principally with labor's role in Italy's war-stricken economy, the confederation is expected to discuss three major items:

1. A request that Allied authorities help to bring about a reopening of idle factories.

2. Adjustment of wages to the high cost of living by raising rates of pay and lowering prices through rationing of the black market.

3. Organization of cooperatives for the purchase and distribution of non-rationed food stocks among workers.

It is possible also that politics may creep into the discussions. For the present, however, the leaders seem agreed to keep the new confederation free from any party affiliation.

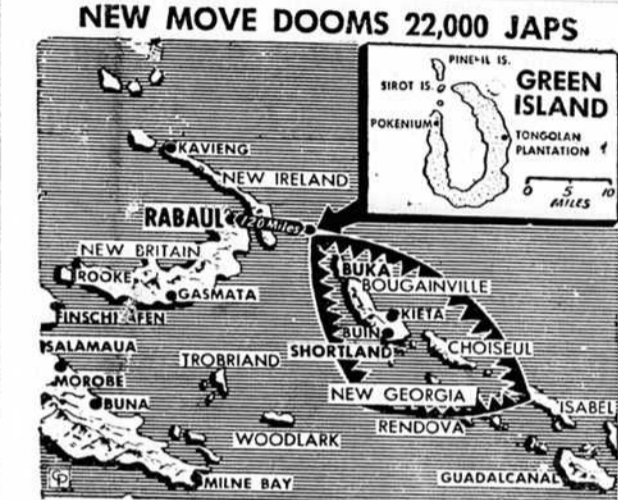
WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Partly cloudy, colder tonight; moderately cool and partly cloudy Saturday.

5,000,000 Man Standing Army Bill Introduced

Washington, Feb. 18—(AP)—The House Military committee plans to open hearings next week on legislation providing for the establishment of a 5,000,000 man peacetime standing army.

Chairman May (Ky., D.) recently introduced a bill calling for compulsory or naval training for one year for all males upon reaching the age of 17. Those still in high or preparatory school would be allowed to de-



CAPTURE of the strategic Green Island now blockades the supply line from Rabaul and thus traps some 22,000 Japs in the Solomons who, as shown by the map, will face starvation and disease on Choiseul, the Shortlands, Buka and Bougainville. Of great military importance is the use of the island as a springboard, the nearest base from which to strike at Rabaul. Inset is close-up of Green Island.

Soil Conservation Plan For Post-War Period Is Proposed

To Dismember Axis Nations After Defeat

LONDON, Feb. 18—(AP)—Germany and other enemy nations can expect to be dismembered after their defeat, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden indicated in Commons today.

The Atlantic Charter clause which opposes territorial changes not in accord with freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned is not regarded as applying to enemy countries, he said in a reply to a question.

Meanwhile, Russian proposals for handling of a defeated Germany were reported to have been presented to a European advisory commission. British and American views have already been given in the commission, which acts merely in an advisory capacity to the big three Allied governments.

A tight lid of censorship has been placed on all proceedings of the commission.

Cashing Of Rail Stocks

NEW YORK, Feb. 18—(AP)—Light profit-loss in rail stocks slumped the cream off the stock market today without stirring sentiment to any great extent.

Down fractions to a point or so were Atlantic Coast Line, Chrysler, U. S. Rubber, General Electric and Texas Company. Resistance was exhibited by Woodworth, DuPont and Goodrich.

Bonds were narrow. Grain futures weakened at Chicago.

FHA Includes Service Men

BOSTON, Feb. 18—(AP)—Sommer K. Wiley, regional director of the Federal Housing Authority, has announced that public housing projects soon will open their doors to the families of service men and to war veterans to enable their reduced incomes to keep pace with rentals.

Wiley said details of the new plan had not been completely worked out but probably would be made public shortly.

The FHA official explained that families of men in the armed services would be admitted to the low rent projects if "as a result of military service, the family income was reduced to a point where the family could not afford rent in a private house."

ONE FIGHTING BRANCH HONORS ANOTHER



GIVING HONOR where it is due, the crew of a U. S. Liberator in England takes the salute of WAC Sgt. Hazel Bliss during the ceremony which marked the christening of the first American bomber to be named for the women's service. On the fuselage of the plane is drawn the head of Pallas Athene, the Greek goddess of wisdom, used as the corps' insignia. U. S. Signal Corps Radiophoto

1,000 Yank Soldiers Drown

Troop Ship Is Sunk By Action of Enemy In European Waters

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—(AP)—The Army has announced the loss of 1,000 American soldiers in the sinking, "due to enemy action," of an Allied troop ship in European waters. Approximately 1,000 men were saved but the toll was the greatest suffered by Allied convoy forces.

The brief announcement gave few other details but word from London that none of the survivors had been landed in Britain indicated that the ship may have been headed for the Mediterranean, although there is a possibility that the survivors may have been landed in Iceland, or returned to the western hemisphere.

The army statement, which said the ship was struck at night, pointed out the enemy probably does not know fully of the success of the attack, and that for this reason the date of the sinking was not disclosed.

A number of American transports have been lost but never before with such a toll of American lives. About a year ago, the Navy disclosed sinking of two cargo-passenger vessels in the Atlantic, loaded with Army, Navy, Coast Guard and civilian personnel. Six hundred of the 900 on one ship were lost, and about half the 500 on the other. The President Coolidge hit a mine in the South Pacific Oct. 26, 1912, but only five lives were lost while between 4,500 and 6,000 were saved.

Rescue efforts that saved half the 2,000 in the latest disaster apparently were hampered at that. The ship was attacked in darkness and sank rapidly in a heavy sea.

"Military security now permits announcement of the sinking, due to enemy action, of an Allied ship carrying troops in European waters on an undisclosed date," said the brief announcement.

"American soldiers in substantial numbers were aboard the ship, which was lost at night. In a heavy sea, the ship sank rapidly and 1,000 men were rescued missing. Rescue efforts resulted in the saving of about the same number."

"The emergency addresses of all who are listed as missing have now been informed. There is reason to believe that the enemy does not know the results of this attack and therefore the date is withheld."

Farm Leaders Plan For Goal

MEMPHIS, Feb. 18—(AP)—Southern farm leaders will meet with government officials here next Monday to discuss plans for recruiting the 4,000,000 additional farm workers needed to meet the nation's increased food production goals this year.

State extension directors and farm labor supervisors will attend from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

German Evacuation Of Mighty Base Presages Retreat In All North

Veto Holds In Measure On Subsidies

25 Votes Short for Overriding Veto on Anti-Subsidy Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—(AP)—President Roosevelt fired the anti-subsidy bill back to Congress with a veto today and promptly won his battle for subsidies when opponents failed to muster enough strength to override the veto in the House.

The House voted 226 to 151 to pass the bill over the veto, 25 votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority. Thus the veto was sustained.

Mr. Roosevelt, in his veto message, called the subsidy measure "an inflation measure, a high cost evil, a measure which would increase the cost of living and retard the economic recovery."

Repeal of the bill would, he said, "enable the Government to stabilize living costs without subsidies and that he did not see how the wage line could be held if the bill became law."

Once that line breaks, he asserted, food costs will rise still further and all other costs will go up, including those of munitions and supplies for the armed forces.

52,000 More Killed And 11,000 Captured Of Trapped Divisions

LONDON, Feb. 18—(AP)—The Germans announced the evacuation of Staraya Russa, their mightiest base between Leningrad and Smolensk, in a broadening crack-up of defenses which seemed to presage the complete German abandonment of northern Russia.

The Red army triumph south of Lake Ilmen came just a day after the Russians said they had completed the liquidation of the German eighth army trapped around Kholm near the Dnieper bend, including on the enemy his worst single disaster in Russia since Stalingrad.

Marshal Stalin announced that 52,000 had been killed and 11,000 captured from the ten divisions and a brigade. Another 21,900 had been killed in futile efforts to break open the trap bringing total German losses around Korsun to 84,900.

Reelin's account of the newest retreat toward the Baltic states revealed Hitler's growing impotence. The Germans asserted that the retreat was necessary "to shorten the front and gain further operational reserves." Moscow has not yet confirmed the victory.

The evacuation of Staraya Russa gave the Russians control of all but the eastern western tip of Lake Ilmen and even there the rail junction of Shumsk seemed about ready to fall.

Whether or not a veto is coming up, the President's announced plan appeared destined to rule out any March 1 effective date for the long list of increased Federal excise taxes carried in the bill, which could only be effective then if the law had been entered on the statute books ten days before the first of next month. The new excises are estimated to yield approximately \$87,900,000 a month.

A veto would set aside the decision of Congress to freeze the social security payroll taxes at the present level of one percent on employers and employees, inasmuch as a temporary freeze measure expires March 1 and in the absence of the new proposed law, the rate will automatically rise to two percent on employers and employees at the end of February. Such a rise, it is estimated, will provide an additional \$1,300,000,000 in annual revenue.

State Takes Farrell's Life

RALEIGH, Feb. 18—(AP)—Andrew Wilson Farrell, 25-year-old Durham taxi driver, died in the State's lethal gas chamber today still denying he raped his eight-year-old step-daughter, a crime for which he was twice convicted in Durham county superior court.

Farrell, a native of Columbus county, was led into the gas chamber at 10:01 a. m. Smiling faintly, he asked Chaplain Watts to write to his mother. He then made a final denial of the crime. Breathing deeply of the gas fumes, he was pronounced dead ten minutes later.

His mother, Mrs. Chesla Jolly of Carolina Beach, claimed the body. It will be shipped to Whiteville for burial.

Tax Bill To Be Returned—Presumably With Veto

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—(AP)—President Roosevelt is today expected to return the tax bill back to Congress either Monday or Tuesday, presumably with a veto.

Mechanized Units Used In Assault

Powerful Jap Base Struck Wednesday by Mighty Task Force

NEW YORK, Feb. 18—(AP)—The Tokyo radio said today that "powerful mechanized units as well as air power" had been used in the American attack on Truk.

There was no explanation of what Tokyo meant by "mechanized forces" and nothing from any other source to support the implication that American ground forces might have attempted a landing. Japanese broadcasts in the past have hinted prematurely at American landings, perhaps with the purpose of claiming that they had been defeated in the event that they did not develop.

Washington, Feb. 18—(AP)—President Roosevelt told reporters today he had late reports about the American attack on Truk, the Japanese mid-Pacific stronghold, and added he knew nothing of reports that American forces had gone ashore there.

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Feb. 18—(AP)—Japan's mighty naval base of Truk, crowded with warships, was attacked for the first time in the war Wednesday. Today official silence left open the possibility that the powerful American aircraft carrier task forces had prolonged the heavy assault.

The carriers, protected by battleships, cruisers and destroyers, sent several hundred planes at dawn February 16 against Truk, the mid-Pacific guardian of Japan, 2,100 statute miles by its northwest.

One reconnaissance pilot brought back reports of sighting more warships in Truk's 40-mile wide lagoon than "I ever saw at one time in Pearl Harbor," 3,200 miles to the northwest.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz used the significant words, "commenced an attack," in disclosing that the offensive wrath of the United States Navy had fallen upon the long-secretly fortified bastion—some 200

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