

ALLIES HOLD FIRM ON ANZIO BEACHHEAD

Approval Of Baruch Plan By Congress

Disagreement Over Post-War Tax Bill May Block Program

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Congress applauded the objectives of the Baruch post-war report today but an undercurrent of controversy over specific recommendations may block early enactment of legislation needed to give life to some phases of the proposed reconversion program.

A cross section check of bipartisan sentiments showed these legislative reactions: Congress likes—The overall objective of getting government out of business as quickly as possible after the war ends.

The promises of the government to pay its war production debt promptly, to cut red tape in settlement and to underwrite the necessary financing for the change-over.

The desire to dispose of surplus property in a high level, with the records always open to public inspection, and to channel them into trade at a price least harmful to private industry.

The assurance that new boards and agencies will be held to a minimum and agencies cut as their work dwindles.

These things are fine, the legislators said, but there were immediate objections raised in influential quarters to a proposal for enactment of a post-war tax bill and the necessary evidence that trouble lies ahead before some of the current war powers are extended.

Chairman George (Ga., D.) of the Senate Finance Committee said he thought it impractical, in the middle of a year, to attempt to draft a tax bill that would not become operative until after hostilities cease, as House suggested.

Senator Tamm (Ohio, R.) said the bill would question of continuing price subsidies is sure to arise when the administration asks for extension of the wartime price controls.

13 Merchant Ships Of Japs Sunk By Subs

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Two American submarines, operating within Japanese territory, sank 13 enemy merchant vessels before returning to their home port.

The sinkings, reported by the Navy today, brought to 597 the number of Jap ships sunk, probably more than 600, since the war started.

The Navy said the patrols were carried out "deep in Japanese enemy waters"—the first time such specific information has been given on submarine operations. It indicated a growing confidence in the strength and ability of the submarine forces to carry on their attack against enemy shipping even in most hostile territory.

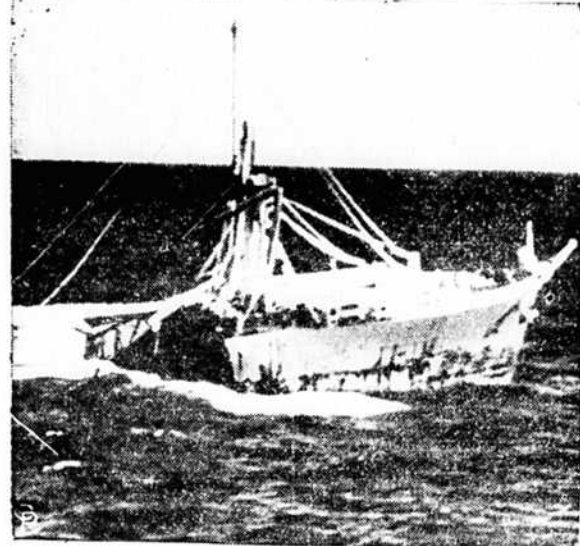
The Navy also disclosed in a communique that the 13 enemy ships had a total tonnage of 66,200, or an average of 5,200 tons for each vessel sent down. All craft of such size would be of major importance in the continuing efforts of the Japanese to maintain supply lines to their bases scattered through the Pacific area.

State Rights Or Nothing Is Soldier Ballot Edict

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Senator Connally (Tex., D.) predicted today that the congressional fight over votes for the armed forces will end in a deadlock unless the states have the final voice in approving absentee ballots.

Connally, one of the Senate's conferees on a joint committee seeking a compromise measure, was convinced by two days of discussion that opponents of the administration's Federal war ballot proposal will not budge from their "state rights" stand—an insistence that all ballots comply with state laws.

24 LOST WHEN SHIP BREAKS IN HALF



HERE IS A VIEW of the bow section of a 7,241-ton British cargo vessel as it appeared from a Coast Guard plane after it rammed Boone Island Ledge, 9 miles off York, Me., during a blizzard. The ship broke in two after an eighteen-hour battle to save her had failed. The Coast Guard rescued 20 of her crew of 44.

Colleges Face Huge Financial Loss With Soldiers' Departure

Some Stand to Lose Two-Thirds of All Of Their Students

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Many of the nation's colleges and universities today face crippling financial losses and drastic cuts in student enrollments as a result of the army's decision to drop most of its specialized training programs.

Some schools, already struggling with reduced incomes because of the military induction of students, face even further serious enrollment drops, in some cases as much as two-thirds.

Others, devoted mainly to advanced courses in medicine, dentistry, and engineering specialties, are retained in the training set-up—expected to be little affected.

The army order directed the virtual abandonment of the college training program by April 1, with the exception of a limited number of advanced technical soldier students. The withdrawal, said the army, is necessary because it is still 200,000 men short of the goal it should have reached two months ago.

Approximately 145,000 men are now assigned to the ASTP—Army Special Training Program. About 110,000 will be withdrawn by April, while 35,000 who are taking the advanced medical dental or engineering courses will be continued in the schools. Of this latter group, about 5,000 are production students.

The order affects 250 colleges and universities. Some of them will lose their entire complement of army students.

PRISONERS GIVEN KITS

New York, Feb. 19.—(AP)—The Tokyo radio said today that American war prisoners interned in Java had been given "comfort kits" sent from the United States, at the time of the exchange of Japanese and Allied civilians several months ago.

The broadcast was recorded by U. S. government monitors.

Archduchess Dies



ARCHDUCHESS Maria Theresa of Austria, 86, grandmother of Prince Franz Joseph of Liechtenstein, had died in Vienna. She was the widow of Archduke Charles Louis and stepmother of the Archduke Ferdinand, whose assassination on June 28, 1914, at Sarajevo led to World War I.

Bedaux Dies By Suicide Before Trial

Miami, Fla., Feb. 19.—(AP)—Charles E. Bedaux, international mystery man, died of a heart ailment here last night and John E. Harding, immigration agent, said that he had taken an overdose of sleeping pills and left a suicide note.

Harding said Bedaux swallowed the pills a few hours after he had been informed that a grand jury would be convened to decide whether he could be indicted for treason and for communication with high German officials and the Vichy French government.

A special board of inquiry had decided that Bedaux was a citizen of the United States and could be admitted to this country, but he had been held by immigration officials since he was brought to Miami from North Africa in an army plane late in December.

ROME AGAIN BOMBED

London, Feb. 19.—(AP)—The Vichy radio said today that Rome was bombed heavily again last night. The Allies have been striking almost nightly at rail-way objectives in the Rome area in an effort to interrupt German supplies flowing toward the Anzio bridgehead.

Tokyo Claims Other Atolls Struck Along With Eniwetok

Allies Win Beachheads On Eniwetok

Await Confirmation Of Indicated Triumph Over Action at Truk

New York, Feb. 19.—(AP)—A third United States carrier task force attacked the eastern Marshall island atolls of Tarao and Maledon Wednesday while one task force was carrying out operations against Truk and another was attacking Eniwetok, the Tokyo radio said today in a broadcast recorded by NBC.

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Army and marine invasion forces, speeding up the breath-catching tempo of Pacific offensive, battled Japanese today for Eniwetok in the westernmost Marshalls while Americans awaited confirmation of an indicated sea-air triumph over mighty Truk.

Firm beachheads were won Thursday at Eniwetok, last life-line to bypassed Japanese garrisons throughout the Marshalls, while guns of battleships thundered a protective barrage and carriers supplied air cover. The assault forces then moved in strength against enemy pillbox defenses already battered by re-created plane attacks.

Only the day before at Truk, 750 miles southwest of Eniwetok, an American sea armada sent hundreds of bombing planes to open the first attack of the war on enemy fleet concentrations in the heavily fortified lagoon. Although radio silence was maintained, the perhaps prolonged action, Navy Secretary Frank Knox said confidently in Washington, "I think this attack was a victory."

Monday, only two days prior to this thunderbolt stroke, a big force of land-based Liberators dropped 55 tons of bombs in the war's first attack on Ponape, Gilbert-like enemy base on this side of Truk.

Less than two weeks ago, tremendous sea, air and ground forces swiftly overwhelmed the world's largest atoll, Kwajalein, 370 miles from Ponape, to imperil at one stroke the thousands of Japanese in the Marshalls over a mid-Pacific area 800 miles square.

As at Kwajalein, invasion forces moved far in back of many other fortified Marshall bases when they struck Thursday at Eniwetok. The 21 by 17 mile atoll, 400 miles north-west of Kwajalein, has at least one and possibly two or three airfields and several seaplane bases scattered among its 30 islets as well as deep lagoon anchorages.

The capture of Eniwetok atoll has been undertaken by forces of the Pacific ocean areas," Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced yesterday in the first disclosure of the new operation.

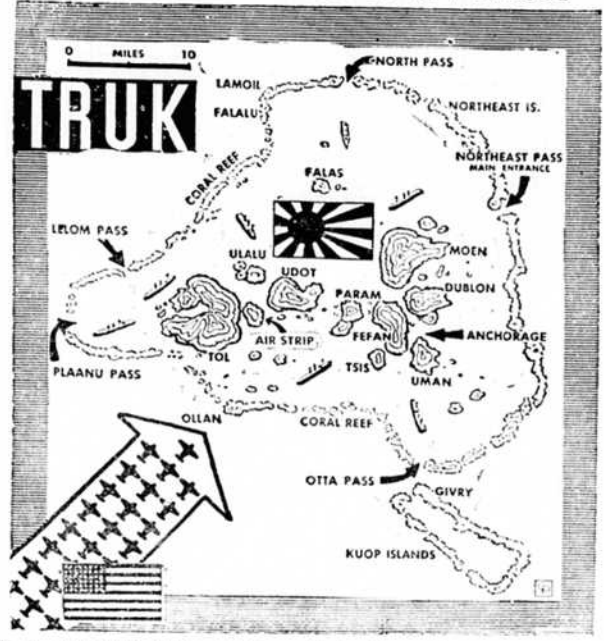
Claim That Liberty Ships Cracking Up

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 19.—(AP)—The Post-Intelligencer said today that a troop-laden Liberty ship recently split open while tied up to an Alaskan dock and that ten of the ships which had been converted for troop carriers were held in the Seattle area because of army and navy refusal to use them.

The paper said Senator Willgren (Wash., D.), member of the Truman committee, which recently had a hearing in Seattle on asserted failures of Liberty ships, described the situation as "a major scandal" in a long distance telephone interview from Washington.

The ten converted ships represent a value of \$21,000,000, the paper said, and 100,000 tons of tied up shipping. Senator Willgren was quoted as saying the Alaska shipping report will become the immediate concern of the Truman war investigating committee.

NAVY OPENS DRIVE ON TRUK



U. S. naval task forces, striking with hundreds of planes, have made their first assault on Truk, Japan's great stronghold in the western Pacific and the last major obstacle on our road to the Philippines and China. Truk, shown on this map, has been reported harboring Japanese warships and scores of merchant ships. There is also an important air base on one of the islets, and large quantities of supplies. The attack is thought to be a prelude to a general assault on the Caroline Islands, following with relentless speed the capture of the Marshall Islands.

Nazi Baltic Front May Crash In Loss Of Staraya Russa

Fall of Rail Head Cost Foe Heavily; Mop Up in Ukraine

London, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Capture of the heavily fortified city of Staraya Russa, eastern anchor of the German lines in northern Russia, raised the possibility today of complete collapse of the easternmost salient of the Nazis' Baltic front.

Staraya Russa and the important rail town of Smolensk, 30 miles to the north, fell to General K. A. Meyer's Volkhov army in an encircling drive from the northwest. The battle for Staraya Russa was especially fierce, and cost the Germans heavily in men and material.

More than 40 other towns and villages were captured in the day's advance, including Lopynia, 12 miles south of Staraya Russa on the main highway to Kholm and Szyssowka a Moscow bulletin said.

The strategic junction town of Dno, 30 miles west of Staraya Russa on the Staraya Russa-Polov and Leningrad-Vitebsk railroads was left exposed to Mershon's tank-fitting Baltic veterans in their westward lunge.

Mershon completed the capture of Staraya Russa by bypassing the city to the southwest and then launching a strong frontal attack from the east. Soviet troops crushed the massive drive in depth in fierce fighting, but the Germans since the last winter of the war, fierce counterattacks were repulsed and large enemy stores and many prisoners were taken, Moscow said.

In developing his front south of Staraya Russa, Mershon apparently was preparing to move across the forest and marshes toward Polotsk, slightly more than 100 miles to the west, according to a report by General Lennal A. Gerasimov, captured from the north and northwest, several towns southwest of Luga were taken by Gerasimov's forces yesterday, the Moscow bulletin said.

Russian troops in the Ukraine, meanwhile, completed mopping up isolated detachments of Nazis in the Chernobyl sector around Korom and Shostkivka, where the remnants of the Nazi divisions were liquidated after a 14-day battle, which Moscow claimed the Germans lost nearly 74,000 killed and 11,000 as prisoners.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Rain and moderately cool tonight and Sunday.

Gains Made In Battle For Cassino

Counter Attacks by Four Nazi Divisions Are All Hurdled Back

Allied Headquarters, Naples, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Allied forces are holding their lines intact on the battle-ridden Anzio beachhead after smashing back attacks by four full German divisions—40,000 to 60,000 men—in the strongest Nazi counter blows yet delivered. Allied headquarters announced today.

The Fifth Army on the main front to the east, reinforced by New Zealand and Indian troops, tightened a ring on Cassino from the northeast, northwest and south, winning two heights of Mount Cassino and reaching the railway station south of the town after throwing 50,000 shells into the ruined stronghold.

The powerful No. 1 assault knock-out force in the Allied lines below Cassino, an Italian force Anzio, and Fifth Army tanks and infantry took part in several successful local counterattacks, beating heavily on the "Germans" and making the Germans retreat.

Allied officers declared that "the previous attacks have been successful, the breakthrough to the sea." Front divisions said the Germans were attacking with even greater fury today, and that Allied troops were defending their lines in the heaviest fighting. The Germans were spraying the whole area with shell fire.

The beachhead battle, which may be one of the most decisive of the war—was apparently in its crucial stage.

Field Marshal Albert Kesselring was counter-attacking with units drawn from all over Europe, throwing in the full weight of his force without regard to cost.

At least four divisions, including the Third Armored Grenadiers, were trying to smash straight through to Anzio, Allied nerve center of the beachhead, a mile or two units brought pressure all along the perimeter.

Withering Fifth Army fire took a heavy toll of the attackers, which also included the 14th and 79th motorized divisions and 65th German infantry. Allied warships and planes aided the defense.

To Check On War Plants

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—A Senate military subcommittee has arranged to send agents into a number of the principal shipyards and airplane factories to investigate allegations of man-overboard under the post-war export controls.

Senator Murray (Mont., D.) made that announcement today and reported that the subcommittee which he heads, plans to open public hearings on the operation of export controls shortly after March 1.

Without identifying specific plants and yards to be investigated, Murray said the "war checks" would be made at some of the largest ones throughout the country, with a view to assembling data that would reflect conditions generally.

London Heavily Raided By 150 Nazi Bombers

London, Feb. 19.—(AP)—A heavy night raid on London, striking in the middle of the day, saw 150 Nazi bombers attack the city, dropping 1,000 tons of bombs and 100,000 incendiary bombs, but London in three waves last night and left fires, smashed homes and apartments and casualties in their wake.

Best official estimates were that 150 bombers showed at the capital area. Although not all of them penetrated the umbrella of searchlights, the damage was the most widespread in any attack of the past year and casualties were left in half a dozen districts.

Fire still glowed today as searchlights kept burning through the wreckage for victims. Twelve persons were known to have died and a number of others were injured when high explosives struck a factory and home in working class districts. Three persons were still trapped under the ruins of a factory.

Supplies in the district headquarters of the British Red Cross were destroyed by flames started by incendiaries.