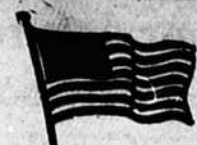




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SILHOUETTE OF DESTRUCTION



ON WIRES that only seem dangerously thin, a 4,000-lb. bomb is hoisted very carefully into its rack aboard a giant Lancaster about to fly from England on a mission to Germany. The armorer's "thumbs up" shows that all goes well with the delicate job. (International)

Crushing Air Blows Dealt Germany No U. S. Warship Losses In Marianas

Jap Losses Terrific In U. S. Attack

Our Plane Losses
Only Six; Japanese
Fleet Not Located

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Feb. 26—(AP)—The battleship-escorted American task force which ranged 3,800 miles west of Pearl Harbor Tuesday to strike at the Marianas, less than 1,500 miles from Tokyo, wiped out 135 Japanese planes, scored against shipping, caused heavy destruction—and didn't lose a warship.

Disclosures of these results by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz were permitted by lifting of the radio silence protecting movements of the battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers. The warships were not even damaged despite the fact their approach was detected the day before the attack when enemy torpedo planes repeatedly tried to sink them.

Only six out of hundreds of attacking carrier planes were lost. Guam, American outpost occupied by Japan at the war's outset, was bombed for the first time.

The elusive Japanese fleet wasn't found at Saipan's Tanapag harbor—as it also had not been in great strength at recently bombed Truk—but a cargo ship was sunk; another was damaged and beached; a third was set afire; a patrol war craft was blown up; and seven small boats were damaged.

Runways, seaplane aprons, air-drome facilities, fuel dumps and buildings were bombed during the attacks on Saipan, Tinian and Guam. The task force sent against the Marianas duplicated the February 16 and 17 feat at Truk of risking capital ships inside Japan's island defenses and emerging intact.

The task force caught Truk, naval base in the Caroline group, completely by surprise. But the force moving on Saipan and Tinian, 700 miles northwest of Truk, was detected on the afternoon of February 21. Despite being forewarned, 87 Japanese planes were wiped out on the ground in the carrier plane assault. Twenty-nine more were shot down in combat.

FDR Orders Review Of Deferments

Washington, Feb. 26—(AP)—President Roosevelt, estimating the armed forces were still short approximately 200,000 trained men, today ordered a review of all occupational deferments "with a view to speedily making available" the personnel required to carry on the war.

The President sent a memorandum to Paul V. McNulty, chairman of the War Relocation Authority, and Major Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, saying selective service "has not delivered the quantity of men who were expected."

"The shortage which commenced to develop last September reached a total of 200,000 on December 31," he added. "This means that today we are still short approximately 200,000 trained men although the actual personnel shortage in the army has been reduced to 100,000. Urging that agriculture and industry release younger men physically qualified for military service, the President said the army will not reach its planned January strength until some time in April, or even later if selective service 'continues to fall behind on its quotas.'"

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Cloudy with showers tonight, slightly warmer east and central portions. Sunday partly cloudy with showers and mild followed by cooler along the coast in afternoon. Showers over east portion Sunday forenoon.

Daughters Congratulate Barkley After Re-Election



Congratulations are in order as Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky greets his three daughters in Washington after his re-election as Democratic majority leader of the Senate. Immediately after Barkley resigned the post following President Roosevelt's veto of the tax bill, he was voted back into office by a Democratic caucus. The women are (l. to r.) Mrs. Max Trull, Mrs. Douglas MacArthur 2nd, and Mrs. Flo Bratten. (International Soundphoto)

Reds Gain In White Russia

Nazi Plane Output Cut By Bombings

60 to 80 Percent
Output in Motors
Is Now Calculated

London, Feb. 26—(AP)—German aircraft industry—target of the world's greatest aerial offensive during the past six days—has been bombed to the point where it is believed the factories will be unable to keep up with current German losses in fighter planes, a high ranking United States army air force spokesman said today.

Since January 1 Germany's twin-engine fighter production has been cut 80 percent and single-engine fighter production has been reduced 60 percent, the spokesman disclosed. He said these figures are based on latest reconnaissance but still are only preliminary.

The greatest damage probably has been done during the past week when, the spokesman said, the American Eighth Air Force alone has dropped 7,935 tons of bombs on German soil, a greater amount than was dropped in the whole first year of operations by the American air force here. With the tonnage dropped by the Eighth Air Force in Italy, the total rose to 9,425 tons.

He said United States headquarters believed that Germany had lost the last hope of maintaining a successful defense, adding that it has been definitely decided here that the Reich cannot prevent the strategic bombing of any target in Germany.

He promised that operations would increase as the year progressed.

Mild Decline Hits Cotton

New York, Feb. 26—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to five cents a bale lower and closed five to 20 cents a bale lower.

	Open	Close
March	20.85	20.86
May	20.48	20.44
July	19.95	19.91
Middling spot	21.47	

McNary Rites Set For Next Friday At Salem, Oregon

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Feb. 26—(AP)—Funeral services will be held at Salem, Oregon, next Friday for Charles L. McNary, Oregon's senior senator and Republican nominee for vice-president in 1940, who died yesterday in this sunny resort where he came to recuperate from a brain operation.

Memorial services probably will be arranged meanwhile in the Senate chamber at Washington where McNary had served since 1917.

Fresh Nazi Troops Fail to Halt Tide Of Soviet Soldiers

London, Feb. 26—(AP)—Russian armies massed along the 400-mile long front between Pskov and Rogachev are pressing westward in White Russia toward Latvia and the northern part of Poland despite increased German resistance, a Moscow communique reported today.

German commanders threw fresh reinforcements into the Rogachev area yesterday in a futile attempt to seal the gap torn in their lines by General Constantine Rokossovsky's first White Russian army on Thursday.

No less than 14 fierce counter-attacks north of captured Rogachev were thrown back by the Soviets, the Russian communique said, and the Germans lost 2,500 men killed. The Russian army surged forward and captured several unidentified localities together with a large number of prisoners.

To date the battle around Rogachev has cost the Germans 6,000 men and enormous stores of war equipment, the Moscow bulletin added.

On the northern end of the front, Russian troops converging on Pskov, Baltic gateway stronghold below Lake Peipus, drove the Germans further west toward Latvia. They killed another 1,100 Germans and captured 54 towns and hamlets, the Moscow bulletin said, and at one point to the northwest were less than 20 miles from the great communications center.

Twenty miles south of Dno on the railway leading to Nevel, the station of Dedovichi was captured as well as the towns of Barlayevo and Dorka, southwest of Kholm. All these towns are within 80 miles of the Latvian border.

The situation around Vitebsk, was still obscure. A Berlin radio report that the great stronghold 150 miles north of Rogachev had been evacuated was not confirmed by subsequent Russian and German communique, although the controlled Paris radio repeated the report early today.

Ex-Governor Ely, Of Massachusetts, Is Now Candidate

Springfield, Mass., Feb. 26—(AP)—Attorney Joseph B. Ely, former governor of Massachusetts, today, in effect, became a formal candidate for the Democratic nomination for president of the United States.

Joseph Lee, former Boston school committeeman, said that Ely gave his power of attorney to Charles H. McArthur, former chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic committee, to file an assent with the Secretary of State as Democratic candidate in the Massachusetts April primary.

The assent was given, Lee said, after he and Glen L. Archer, president of the Suffolk university, Boston, had visited the former governor.

Over 100,000 Felons Wear Khaki Uniform

Washington, Feb. 26—(AP)—More than 1,200 prisoners paroled from correctional institutions have gone directly into the army in the last six months, the House Military Committee learned today, and "well over 100,000" men who have been convicted of felonies are wearing khaki.

The information came from Col. Francis V. Keessling, Jr., selective service legislative representative, who informed the committee of action taken by draft officials in their quest for manpower.

The need was emphasized by Selective Service Director Lewis D. Hershey, who told the Senate Agriculture Committee that six out of every ten men now being called up are rejected for physical reasons. The rising rate of rejections is probably due, he said, to the more advanced average age of men now being called. At present, there are 3,500,000 men classified as 4-F, Hershey said.

While men are not being paroled from prison for the specific purpose of being inducted into the army, the War Department said in a memorandum filed by Keessling, "the army does accept and induct recently paroled men who are otherwise qualified."

"Close cooperation is maintained between the War Department, Federal and state prison authorities and the selective service system to the end that registrants with prison records other than those convicted of heinous crimes are accepted for service," the department said. The 100,000 former felons now in uniform, the memorandum pointed out, is exclusive of violators of the selective service act who have been inducted direct from custody.

Germans Hurled Back In Latest Beachhead Drive

Allied Headquarters, Naples, Feb. 26—(AP)—The Germans, maintaining steady pressure on the Allied beachhead below Rome, harassed American and British forces with shells and bombs but were knocked back in their single small attack yesterday, headquarters announced today.

The ineffective Nazi stab was made on the Allied right flank in the Pontine marsh area about four miles from the coast at a point south of Ciamera and west of Littoria. Taking advantage of the ravine terrain near Carroceto on the outer end of the beachhead, the Nazis tried to slip through the Allied lines, but all their attempts were unsuccessful.

High winds sweeping the mountains on the Cassino front, together with snow flurries, helped to keep that sector more or less stationary.

17,000 Tons Of Bombs In Single Week

City of Augsburg
Crushed by Blasts;
Luftwaffe Resists

London, Feb. 26—(AP)—A massive fleet of British bombers carried out a crushing attack on the burning city of Augsburg last night, and piled up a total of more than 17,000 tons of bombs dropped on Germany in an unparalleled six-day offensive against the Reich's aircraft industry.

The German radio said large-scale attacks on the chemical center of Frankfurt were made at the same time, and the Swiss radio said night flights crossed Switzerland from Italy—raising the distinct possibility that Italian-based Wellingtons of the RAF again carried out a two-way British assault as they did the night before.

The air ministry communique announcing the operation against Augsburg said it was carried out in "very great strength," and that the city, a center of aerial engine production, was attacked twice during the night by large forces of Lancasters and Halifaxes.

"The weather was favorable and reports indicated the bombing was concentrated and effective," the communique added.

Twenty-four planes were lost in these assaults and in simultaneous Mosquito operations over southwest Germany and the low countries and in extensive mine-laying sweeps.

Flying Fortresses from Britain made the 1,600-mile round trip to Augsburg yesterday, setting fires which lighted the way for the RAF. The night blow followed an unprecedented two-way star yesterday at single target—Regensburg's Messerschmidt factory. American heavy bombers flew from both Britain and Italy.

"In a vain effort to protect the vital remnants of German fighter production, the Luftwaffe opposed our attacking forces furiously," army headquarters announced. "The 15th AAF (from Italy) encountered 250 to 300 enemy aircraft and destroyed 93 fighters in a violent and prolonged air battle."

Together, the attacking forces destroyed 142 enemy aircraft against a loss of 69 heavy bombers. The 15th lost 39 bombers, the Eighth, 30. Photographs made at Augsburg, Furth, a Stuttgart ballbearing plant and Regensburg "showed good results," the communique said.

From the size of the force heard leaving Britain last night for the blow at Augsburg, 300 miles southwest of Berlin, it was probable that 2,000 long tons of bombs were showered on that production center.

The communique, disclosing that the attack was made by two separate forces of Lancasters and Halifaxes, indicated a new tactic employed by the RAF for the first time Thursday night against Schweinfurt, again had been used successfully.

except for patrolling, but the Germans again attacked a French-held hill northwest of Cassino and again were thrown back. On this front as well as on the beachhead heavy guns of both sides kept up their endless shelling.

Headquarters announced that 93 German planes were destroyed and 14 probably were knocked down on the Italian leg of yesterday's simultaneous American heavy bomber assault against Regensburg, Germany, by bombers flying from Italy and Britain.

Indian troops of the Eighth Army threw back three separate night attacks near Orsogna. Allied artillery fire also broke up an enemy raid at another point in the Orsogna area and a patrol inflicted casualties on the Germans in a clash north of Arielli, between Orsogna and the Adriatic Coast.

Army, Navy, Air Merger Now Being Advocated By High Authorities

Matter Is Believed
Already Presented to
President Roosevelt

Washington, Feb. 26—(AP)—Consolidation of the army, navy and air forces on an equal level, into a single government department, is being advocated in some high military quarters.

It is proposed for accomplishment while the war is still going on, for efficiency in operations and assignment of commands.

The Washington Post says in a copyrighted story that the matter is under consideration by the joint chiefs of staff with every indication pointing to approval and a recommendation to President Roosevelt.

The argument is being advanced among ranking commanders, and possibly already has been presented to the President, that the time to achieve unity of the armed services is now while they are in fact united in many important respects both on the battlefield and in the top direction of the war here at home.

Most of the opposition to any action prior to the war's end has been based on the contention that it would be disruptive to the fighting effort. However, many officers feel that it would be less disruptive now than if it were delayed until after the war.

The extraordinary prestige enjoyed by General George C. Marshall, chief of staff, is believed by those who advocate action now, to be so great that he could easily become the first chief of a supreme joint staff without objection from the leaders of the other services, or that high distinction might read-

McNary's Death Further Complicates Procedure

Washington, Feb. 26—(AP)—The slender thread of cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of the government—already worn fine by the revolt by Majority Leader Barkley against Roosevelt's tax bill veto—was drawn taut today by the death of Minority Leader Charles L. McNary, of Oregon.

McNary, who compromised and maneuvered many legislative bills originated by the administration into a form acceptable to the Republican minority and anti-Roosevelt Demo-

crats, died yesterday in an apartment at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he had gone last December to recuperate from a brain tumor operation.

Mrs. McNary, who was at his bedside when he died, notified Senate officials she did not wish a state funeral in Washington. She said she wished to take the body directly to Salem, Oregon, near where McNary operated a large fruit ranch.

A long time personal friend, President Roosevelt probably will not be able to attend the funeral. The President has left Washington to rest from his recent "flu" attack.