



## SOVIETS STORM ODER RIVER NEAR BERLIN

### Where One of 16 Babies Died in Nursery Fire



Women stand over a charred and empty crib in the ruins of the Anstett, Mainz, nursery, bombing bomb that was struck by fire following a V-2 rocket explosion. Sixteen infants and a nurse were burned to death in the disaster. The nurse was later operated as a boarding nursery for displaced war workers. A two and a half story building, it was left destroyed. (International Staff, Associated Press)

## New American Landing Traps Nazis Ready Jap Soldiers Holding Manila To Defend The Capital

### Enemy Is Surprised By MacArthur Move; Fee's Guns Silenced

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Luzon, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Manila was in a deadly American trap today.

U. S. invasion troops fashioned a pincers on the Philippines capital Wednesday morning by landing on the Batangas provinces coast 67 road miles southwest of the city, while sixth army spearheads drove to within a bare 20 miles on the north.

The eleventh airborne division swept ashore from landing craft virtually unopposed along five miles of Batangas beach near Maszabu, and quickly pressed eastward toward the 400-foot Tawagay river, which commands the highways leading to Manila and the Cavite naval base in Manila bay, 82 miles away.

General Douglas MacArthur reported today that his third Luzon invasion, the second by the newly trained eighth army in 48 hours, again taught the Japanese by surprise.

The first wave of Major General J. M. Sweeney's airborne assault troops hit the shore without firing a shot at 8:30 a. m. and took the town of Maszabu, where highly Filipinized soldiers threw their rifles at hot coals, smoke and tear.

It was a bloody bloodless landing, as was Monday's invasion of the Zamboanga coast line to the north. A halt hour after the first tanks were ashore, Japanese in caves to the north brought machine gun and 17-mm. fire to bear on the landing team. This was quickly silenced by naval gunfire and mortar attack.

Three air units heading toward a pincer strike on a sixth army column advanced westward from San Francisco. They will seal off Japan's air escape to the Batangas peninsula, which lies on the way to Manila bay.

### ZHUKOV AIMS AT QUICK KNOCKOUT



INTENT ON GIVING the Germans an overwhelming spell in which to organize their retreat, Russian Marshal Zhukov has launched a redoubtable offensive which is reported to have resulted in the capture of 800 prisoners, in the Pomerania area (1), about 70 miles from Berlin. Other thrusts from a broad front drove toward Frankfurt and, to the north, pushed into Pomerania toward Stettin. This could result in the cutting off of a huge section of north Germany. Another drive heads northward toward Danzig, just west of the Torun (2) area.

### Moscow Says Drive, Slowed Slightly, Is To Be Pressed

London, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Russian forces have made one attempt to storm across the Oder in their onslaught toward Berlin, a German broadcast said today, while other Berlin reports indicated Soviet patrols might already have crossed.

The German high command clamped a blanket on news from the front in the military communication to the army of Western army units east of Berlin.

Berlin radio accounts said Marshal Gregory Zhukov had brought on strong forces along the Oder on both sides of Frankfurt and that assaults to reduce the fortress of Kustrin were under way.

The German high command, however, emphatically denied assertion of the capture and said the Russians consequently also report in East Prussia, but they showed after hard fighting, and Moscow's capture and Zhukov's last night's drive more fields and a final shell of German armor along the northern front threatening the German capital.

Declaring the capital could and would be defended, Hitler's own newspaper said, "German armed forces are in a position to build barriers which the enemy, who has crossed the Oder with very small forces only, cannot even threaten."

Heavy fighting raged on the line from Gleiwitz on the Oder, 115 miles southwest of Berlin, to Kustrin, to the angle of the Oder and Warthe, east and slightly north of Berlin.

The Germans admitted they had driven the Russians out of Kustrin and that remnants of German armor, weapons and trucks were being pushed to the east by a great stream of refugees to the Berlin area.

Moscow's official newspaper, however, said that the drive was making its progress and that the capture of the Oder is not to be regarded as a goal.

### U. S. Air Base In Suchwan Leveled, Then Abandoned

Changsha, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The U. S. 14th Air Force base at Suchwan, west of Chungking, China-Indochina airway, has been destroyed and abandoned, American headquarters announced today.

The base was east of the Japanese frontier in southern and southernmost of Henan province, the communiqué announced. It was destroyed January 23.

Suchwan is in Yangtze, roughly halfway between Hankow and Chungking.

The new Chinese army spokesman, Major General Kung Chi-Kuang, stated that the Japanese, in attack, have gained full control of the 300-mile, Canton-Hankow railroad. He said fighting still was in progress at several points.

### Casualties Now Near 3/4 Of Million

Washington, Feb. 2.—(AP)—United States combat casualties since Pearl Harbor reached the three million mark today, with losses that exceed 750,000.

The army's total, plus the latest news figures of 66,922 plus the overall combat casualty figure of 757,742, an increase of 25,292 over the 732,450 reported. The army accounted for 36,460 of the total.

Army Secretary of War Patterson said the army's losses were based on computations made at the War Department through January 21, and reflected "actual" fighting through most of December. This would cover the last two weeks of the big German counter offensive in the Ardennes.

### Early Nazi Crack-Up Spurs Big Three Plans

Madrid, Feb. 1.—(Delayed)—(AP)—Workers returning to the Spanish town of La Lina from Gibraltar brought rumors that Erwin Rommel's headquarters arrived there by plane Wednesday night. There was no confirmation.

London, Feb. 2.—(AP)—On the basis of reports indicating the possibility of early peace and perhaps military disintegration of large sections of northern Germany, Prime Minister Churchill will urge immediate approval of the big three meeting of plans for ruling the Reich.

This information came today from an entirely reliable London source. It was emphasized that this statement should not be interpreted to mean that Germany as a whole would collapse in a matter of weeks, or that a quick surrender of Nazi forces could be expected.

### Bill Would Switch Part Of Wilkes Into Caldwell

### Service Bill Faces Delay With Senate

#### Legislative Fight Looms; Treaty Issue In Another Measure

Washington, Feb. 2.—(AP)—When the Senate today took up the bill to switch part of Wilkes county to Caldwell county.

But there were signs of a possible break in the legislative stalemate, as the bill was passed by the House.

The House specifically and unambiguously refused to give the War Department authority over the 19th movements of men.

### 2 Tar Heels Are Freed In Luzon Raids

Charlotte, Feb. 2.—(AP)—At least two Tar Heels were among the American soldiers liberated in the being Ranger raid on the Japanese prisoner of war camp on Luzon Tuesday night.

They were Private Herman J. Keller, of Pineola, in Avery county, and Private Travis W. Flowers, of Seranton in Hyde county.

Flowers was at Clark Field the day before the Japs pulled their first bombs there in December, 1941. His mother, who hadn't seen him since September, 1941, said last night it was the most exciting moment of his life when she heard her son had been rescued.

Among the rescuing Rangers was another North Carolinian, Staff Sergeant Cletus George Norton, 24-year-old farmer from Enoch, in Henderson county. Norton and two other sergeants stealthily approached within five feet of one of the prison camp towers without firing a shot and they moved down 30 or 40 Japs in their barracks.

### Big Names Talked For Lending Job

#### Vinson, Eccles and Kennedy and Kaiser Talked; Wallace Out

Washington, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Big names in the government were considered today for the job of lending officer in the new government's new lending agency.

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The bill, passed by the House, would give the Federal Reserve Bank the right to issue currency.

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### Embargo On Gas Ordered Imposed Over Ten States

Washington, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The War Production Board today ordered a 72-hour embargo on the use of natural and mixed gas in amusement places in all or parts of ten states, and the District of Columbia. The order is effective at 3 p. m. CWT today.

The ban on theatres, moving picture houses, night clubs, bars and other entertainment establishments will last until 3 p. m. S. today or "until further notice," WPA said.

Precipitated by prolonged cold weather, the emergency action affects Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky and parts of Maryland and Virginia and Washington, D. C.

### Witnesses Tell Of Pay By Meadows

Greenville, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The State yesterday in its effort to convict Dr. Leon Meadows, retired president of East Carolina Teachers College here, on charges of embezzlement and false pretense in connection with his financing of special college and student funds.

Among the witnesses, Alonzo Taylor, a truck driver, said he set some fire at the college in 1942 under a contract for \$50, for which he received two \$28 checks.

Henry Freeman, cement worker, described similar transactions with Meadows and the defense tried to show that the blank receipts signed by him represented other work.

Banks Davis, a painter, said he was paid entirely by college checks, but the defense presented receipts designed to show that Meadows had paid him \$300 in cash for other work.

### Socialists Quit Belgian Cabinet; Others May Quit

Brussels, Feb. 2.—(AP)—All five socialist members of the Belgian government resigned today, but agreed today to stay in the cabinet until Tuesday, when the question of continuance of the government may be decided.

Before it was announced the five socialists had agreed to stay in office for the time being, it was said that there was a possibility that as many as five other ministers also would resign.

### Slight Gains For Cotton

New York, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 10 to 20 cents a bale higher. Noon prices were 15 to 25 cents a bale higher. March 21.78, May 21.63, July 21.23.

	PC	Close	Open
March	21.75	21.77	21.77
May	21.59	21.62	21.62
July	21.38	21.21	21.21
October	20.52	20.34	20.34
December	20.44	20.48	20.48

### WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Increasing cloudiness tonight; Saturday cloudy with light snow, changing to rain.