

JAPANESE PLAN NEW ATTACK VERSION Smolensk Reported In Range Of Russian Big Guns JAPS LOSE 40 PLANES IN AUSTRALIA AREA

Americans And Aussies Determined To Strike On Move To Prepare Offensive

By C. YATES McDANIEL U. S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS, AUSTRALIA.—(AP) Allied airmen, facing through tropical rainstorms one of their attacks, were reported today to have destroyed 40 Japanese bombing and fighting planes on the ground in two raids on Rabaul.

While these continuing attacks dedicated American and Australian determination to press the Japanese in their outer rim bases and perhaps force them to relax their grip on the island, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's new High Command in the Southwest Pacific began a swift outwitting plan to carry out instructions to prepare an offensive.

As an initial step, Prime Minister John Curtin met with MacArthur and other Allied service chiefs in a conference on a "highly confidential" subject.

The attacks on Rabaul in New Britain were made Saturday and Sunday. Thousands of pounds of high explosives have been hurled on Lakunali airdrome station, wrecking runways, blasting pieces at least four Navy Zero fighters with direct hits and wrecking many others with flying steel.

MOORED FLYING BOATS FIRED Another Blaze Aboard Normandy

NEW YORK.—(AP)—New York City Fire Commissioner Patrick J. Walsh said today that investigations of the fire in his many months ago the former French liner Normandy and as yet shows "no evidence of sabotage."

Attending the conference he said that the Japanese had been credited as highly successful.

Smolensk Faces Great Threat Red Army Initiative May Have Been Carried Within Hitler's Vision

By ASSOCIATED PRESS Smolensk, which has served the German High Command as field headquarters for the Eastern front, was reported within range of Russia's big guns today, and the central front army of General Gregory Zhukov, savior of Moscow, was said to have advanced to within eighteen miles of the city from the northeast.

There was thus a possibility that the Red Army's initiative on the central front had carried the war within the vision of Adolf Hitler himself as an odd sort of birthday present for Berlin said the flier passed the day, his 53rd anniversary at eastern headquarters "in immediate charge of operations."

It was not known, of course, whether Smolensk still served the Hitler command as the nerve center for the Battle of Russia. The city is 230 miles west of Moscow.

Such group defendants, including men of certain skill qualifications from military duty, would be upon not only an occupational group basis but also upon a regional basis, McButt said.

With reference to the proposed labor priority system, he declared: "Arrangements will have to be made for supplying labor to various war industrial plants in accordance with the urgency of the need for the products each plant turns out."

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Navy, acting on orders from President Roosevelt, today took over the operations of the American Aeronautical Corp. at Long Island City, N. Y.

Plan Use Of Labor Priorities System To Be Created

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Chairman Paul V. McNutt of the War Manpower Commission said today that he would create a system of labor priorities, designed to get needed men into the most important war industries, but directed not to contemplate a work or fight method of forcing men into war production.

McNutt told a press conference he favored a program of "group" defendants from Selective Service induction, although acknowledging that such a program might conflict with present Selective Service procedure, and would require legislation to effect.

McNutt planned to use Army service as a "lever" to get men into essential industries, McButt said.

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Japs Batter At Corregidor Fort Intense Effort To Smash Island Resistance Started

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Opening of an intense Japanese effort to batter the Philippine Island fortress of Corregidor into helplessness by bombs and siege guns was reported today by the War Department.

From new positions on the Bataan Peninsula and from the south shore of Manila Bay the foe began an intense artillery bombardment yesterday, and for the first time since the fall of Bataan dive bombing raid were made on Corregidor.

Defending gunners replied effectively to the new attack, splintered at least three batteries, a communications reported, and breaking up three motor truck and troop concentrations on Bataan.

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Three new vessels, a 1,900-ton freighter and two minesweepers, rested in the water today at the same Chelsea-Saw Yards of the Gulf Shipbuilding Corp.

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—German occupation authorities at Brest have ordered the execution of 30 French hostages for bombing of a German troop train in which "large numbers" of Nazi soldiers were killed. It was officially announced today.

Think Carrier-Based Planes Flew To China

Washington Remains Silent as Japs Grow More Fearful

By ASSOCIATED PRESS Japan broadcast a new version today of a bombing raid Saturday on Tokyo and three other great cities, implying that the assault was launched from three United States aircraft carriers in the Pacific and that some of the planes raced on to safety in China after losing their bombs.

Both are in mass production for both the Army and forces of other United Nations.

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—A new medium bomber described by an American aviator as one of the world's fastest and most deadly was credited by the Japanese today with raiding Tokyo and other industrial centers of Japan.

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The North American Aviation Incorporated's B-25 is a twin-engine medium bomber with a top speed of more than 300 miles an hour and a cruising range of 2,500 miles.

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The French people today called France's declaration of war on Germany a "crime" and said that "approchement between France and Germany is the condition for peace in Europe."

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Probe Third Ship Fire

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New Plane Being Used

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British And Chinese Start Limited Burma Counter-Attack

LONDON.—(AP)—British tanks and Chinese infantry counter-attacked and recaptured Yenangyung in the Burma hills from the Japanese, Chinese and British in German-occupied India.

Fire Destroys Army Bomber

MITCHELL FIELD, N. Y.—(AP)—Fire today destroyed a medium bomber being warmed up for a routine operation, but none of the crew was injured.

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WEATHER

Continued rather cold tonight with scattered showers.

Notes To Readers