

# A Survey Of Bloody Munda's Fields

Editor's Note: Raymond Clapper knew that when he set out with our naval striking force he might be unable to send his dispatches for many days. So he wireless a few columns in advance from New Guinea, from Milne Bay, Guadalcanal, and from aboard an aircraft carrier. Other dispatches may have been found among his effects aboard the ship from which he flew to his death.

Before leaving the country, Mr. Clapper wrote for Jim that "some people in Washington feel there is not sufficient awareness of how much our men are doing and in what a living hell they must sometimes live. His mission was to help increase that awareness. Hence we feel sure that he would want us to print, posthumously, the columns that will appear during the next few days."

By Raymond Clapper  
MUNDA, SOLOMON ISLANDS  
HAD read a good deal about the Munda campaign, but not much of the bloody details. We suffered more than 25 per cent casualties due to the story come to life in all its ghastly details.

Admiral Nimitz was understanding when he said this was the worst terrain he had ever seen. It is surely the worst he ever will see. One Marine colonel said the single day he never saw the sun for days at a time.

We got in here early last August. Three days later the Seabees moved into the hills, dug and dynamite to remove coconut groves and saw off the top of a hill, and in 36 hours we were using an airstrip. The Japs' strip here, as everywhere else, was too small. It was 2,700 feet long. We built one 8,000 feet long and three times as wide as the Japs'.

Now after five months, Munda has a huge coral-surfaced airfield and hard-surfaced roads, and the hills are covered with installations and supplies, making a strong forward base out of this place.

The Japs had heavily accented Munda for their meager fighter strip at the climax of the nearby Battle of Guadalcanal, when they were about to lose Henderson Field to us. The Japs are primitive but they do have a few tricks. One of their devices, running into the jungle 50 feet back into the coast, was to hide their supplies. It was so large and strong we used it temporarily for our air-control plotting room.

We had to dynamite the Japs out of there. This and other dugouts stood up under direct bomb hits. The Japs were clever in that they built their air strip under coconut trees, which camouflaged it until they were finished. Then they cut down the trees and pulled the air strip open, ready for use. They planted sprouting coconuts on pillars of concrete for camouflage.

The Japs had only narrow roads to reach all their work and stores. This had to be done in a building machine such as we were using here. We were into here in a few days. The tools, first bulldozers, then followed by logs and rollers.

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## U.S. Evacuation Hospital Attacked

# German Planes Hit Rome Beachhead

## 27 Killed And 65 Wounded In Rome Beachhead Raid

### Nurses And Doctors Among Victims Of Dive-Bombing Assault

By REYNOLDS PACKARD  
Representing the Combined American Press  
Distributed by the Associated Press  
ON THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD, Feb. 7.—(Delayed) —Two German planes divebombed an American evacuation hospital at 3:20 P. M. today, killing 27 and wounding 65 persons, among them a number of American nurses.

The killed included two women nurses, four doctors, four medical attendants who had just been carried in from the front, and sixteen enlisted men attached to the hospital unit.

Among the 43 wounded were a dozen women nurses, three of whom were in grave condition last night.

The German divebombers, which were flying at an altitude of as low as 500 feet, dropped eight small anti-personnel bombs which sent shrieking whistling through the hospital receiving tent, one of which struck the tent.

Grim fighting continued in the streets of Cassino and the mountains around the town. Despite fierce attacks by American troops, the Nazis still held three-quarters of it, and had kept open a corridor to their lines.

Doughboy units have pushed within 100 yards of the summit of Cassino and are now being held by the Nazis, according to the Allied radio said. The famous Benedictine monastery rises 1,000 feet above the town.

Five hundred German planes have been captured by U.S. troops in the Cassino area.

The Germans threw strong rearguard attacks on the beachhead, and American fighters intercepted them. Some dropped their bombs on Allied troops, but most of the formations were broken up before reaching their objectives.

Headquarters were alerted by a heavy flare-thrower, and the attack was repulsed. The last major effort against the beachhead was an attack Saturday night by a force of 100 planes.

Twenty-four German planes and two gliders were shot down during the day in Allied operations, according to five Allied ships.

Heavy artillery batteries continued to shell the beachhead, and heavy tanks were also reported said the infantry.

## Over 8,000 Japs Die In Marshalls

By WILLIAM HIPPLE  
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor.—The powerful American fleet overthrew the Japanese and dealt accurate artillery fire struck with such co-ordinated fury in the Marshalls invasion that only 286 invaders were slain—against at least 8,122 Japanese.

—Japs including 62 Americans were killed in the attack on the island of Kwajalein. The Japanese had been there for 25 years.

## Forts Raid Frankfurt

LONDON.—An American plane destroyed two forts in Frankfurt, Germany, today, according to a report from the American military command.

The forts were destroyed by a single attack by a B-24 Liberator, which was shot down by German fighters. The plane was carrying a load of incendiary bombs.

The forts were located in the Frankfurt area, which is a strategic point in Germany. The attack was part of a series of operations aimed at weakening the German defenses.

## Two U.S. Subs Lost

WASHINGTON.—A loss of two American submarines in the Pacific was announced today by the Navy.

The submarines, USS Gato and USS Spangler, were both reported missing in the Pacific. The Gato was last seen on Jan. 29, and the Spangler on Feb. 1.

The Navy is conducting a search for the submarines and their crews. It is believed that the submarines were sunk by Japanese forces.

## Soldiers Will Be Glad To Turn The Outdoor Life Back To Boy Scouts

By HAL BOYLE  
ON THE FIFTH ARMY FRONT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.—The Army new Arctic suits are striking a fresh note in the winter clothing war. The suits are made of a heavy, wind-resistant material and are designed to keep the soldier warm in the coldest weather.

The suits are being issued to soldiers in the front lines, and they are being well received. The soldiers are glad to have the suits, as they provide much-needed protection against the cold.

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## Big Battle Impending In Sector

### Allied Positions Consolidated

By EDWARD KENNEDY  
ALGER, ALGERS.—(AP) —Waves of German planes struck in heavy attack yesterday at the Allied evacuation beachhead below Rome, headquarters announced today, and thunderous artillery shelling continued in prelude to an impending major battle.

Nation German planes were shot down in the air, and American and British troops further consolidated their positions in the beachhead, and the Germans were being driven back from the invasion area. Patrols were active, but there was no major land attack by either side, headquarters added.

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## Stronghold On Lower Dnieper

### Go On To Seize Nikopol On Right Bank After Clearing Bridgehead

By TOM YARBROUGH  
LONDON.—(AP)—The Red Army has liquidated the German bridgehead at Nikopol, driving the Germans from their last stronghold east of the Lower Dnieper River, and has captured the city of Nikopol itself on the right bank of the river, Moscow announced tonight.

In two orders of the day, Marshal Stalin said the Russian Army in the Dnieper bend had defeated seven German infantry divisions to clear a bridgehead 72 miles wide and 21 miles deep, and then gone on to seize Nikopol, important manganese center across the Dnieper.

The Germans now have been cleared from all territory east of the Dnieper except in its thin upper reaches above Gornel.

## U.S. Warns Finns Again

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Secretary Hull disclosed today that the United States had recently renewed its warning to the Government of Finland to get out of the war or accept the consequences of continuing to fight on the side of Germany.

The action was the first taken by this Government with respect to the Finnish situation, and suggested that the Finns might be under an Allied diplomatic as well as military pressure to force them out of the war.

## Beachhead Likely To Ride Storm

By WILLIAM FRYE  
WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Nettuno beachhead in Italy is sure to be hit by a savage and powerful German counter attack, military observers here said today, but it probably will weather the storm.

Obviously, they emphasized, should not be taken as a certain amount of uncertainty here about the situation although as yet no evidence of alarm.

## Think Allies Too Cautious

LONDON.—(AP)—Growing dissatisfaction over the attack developing around the Anzio beachhead in Italy was reflected today in a London newspaper editorial suggesting that perhaps the Allies may have been over cautious about pushing forward after their initial landing.

In contrast with the beachhead, the Italian situation is described as "a disaster in the making."

## Regime Wins Ballot Test

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Administration won a major victory in the Senate today when it passed a House-passed "states rights" bill for voting by the armed forces.

The roll call vote was 48 to 40 in favor of attaching the modified Green-Lucas Federal ballot bill to the "states rights" measure which would have the effect of making the Federal Government responsible for the cost of handling all armed service voting.

## Chinese Hail Kuriles Attack

CHUNGKING.—(AP)—The American naval bombardment of the Japanese home island of Parashan has been hailed as a "decisive step" in the Chinese view that it is a testimony of the great strength of the United States fleet and the readiness to meet the Japanese Navy in a show-down battle.

The Chinese newspaper "Tung-pao" predicted that even before the collapse of Germany, the British fleet would be able to defeat the Japanese fleet in large scale action, and the Japanese fleet would be destroyed.

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### WEATHER

Forecast for the next 24 hours: Partly cloudy with light rain tonight and tomorrow. High 65, low 45.