

JAPANESE OFFENSIVES ARE GRAVELY THREATENING ALLIED STRONGHOLDS

Large Liner Is
Badly Damaged
Costly Fire

Former Normandie,
Now Part Of U. S.
Fleet, Is Damaged

New York, Feb. 10—(UP)—A five million dollars worth of ship which had been expected to play an important part in the war effort, rolled over side at a Hudson river pier today.

Immediately fire blazed again in the seared interior of her superstructure, but it was extinguished in 40 minutes and the many hundreds of naval and municipal fire-fighters who had been there to save her since yesterday morning, left her to the engineers who must solve the monumental problem of righting her.

Formerly the Normandie, pride of the French merchant marine, the largest and fastest passenger ship afloat, now the U.S.S. Lafayette, the world's largest naval auxiliary, she was a sad sight when revealed her a crippled one-third of her superstructure and bridge under water and three giant stacks and her tops a few feet above the water in the ice-choked pier.

At there was some good news after the disaster of the accidental fire which raged in her for three hours uncontrolled yesterday afternoon and resulted in her turning over on her side. One of her former French owners told the United Press that probably she could be righted and repaired — and with a speed which would surprise the layman.

The newspaper PM revealed in its copyrighted story today that it had investigated precautions against sabotage on the New York six weeks ago and had discovered that sabotage against any ship in the harbor, including the Lafayette, would be a "cinch." Its master, Edmund Scott, got a job as stevedore aboard her by paying a high initiation fee to the shoremen's union, with no questions asked, and reported that could have even set explosives aboard her, so non-existent were ordinary precautions.

Admiral Adolphus Andrews, commanding officer of the third naval district, said, however, that there was no possibility of the fire having been set by saboteurs.

Naval censorship prohibited a detailed account of the damage, but it was permissible to say that the fire damage was entirely confined to the three upper decks, the interior of her hull had been sealed by her water-tight doors and bulkheads and remained dry even while she was partly under water, that she remained naturally intact, both above and below the main deck.

The French officer, who, because his status in this country is that

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Marys Drops

Below Flood Stage

Cessation of the rains and cooler weather has resulted in a fast fall of the St. Mary's river, it was reported today.

Whereas three days ago the St. Mary's was breaking out of its bank near the east bridge and overflowing into Schmitt's Mill, the river today was far below flood stage.

Observers reported the fall at about six feet in the past three days.

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Montana Man Has

Two Wheels Stolen

Berne, Ind., Feb. 10—Home from Montana to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Jones of near Berne, a sneak thief stole the two rear wheels and tires from the car of Clarence Jones while it was parked in front of the home of his parents. Both tires were in good condition. Jones does not know how he will return to Montana as the tire rationing program makes no allowance for such cases.

Members of the state war board scheduled to appear on the program.

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Son Of President

Undergoes Operation

New York, Feb. 10—(UP)—Lieutenant Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., was operated on for appendicitis today at the naval hospital in Brooklyn. The hospital said his condition was "satisfactory" and that he was resting quietly.

Lieut. Roosevelt was taken to the hospital from Portland, Maine, on Saturday for "observation" and the navy announced he was suffering from "chronic appendicitis."

Temperatures were moderate, with the Daily Democrat thermometer registering 26 above zero at 4 a.m. and giving every indication of rising still higher throughout the day.

WEATHER

"Little change in temperature this afternoon and tonight. Light snow in extreme north portion."

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TEMPERATURE READING

DEMOCRAT THERMOMETER

8:00 a.m. 26
10:00 a.m. 28
Noon 30
2:00 p.m. 30
3:00 p.m. 30

WEATHER

"Little change in temperature this afternoon and tonight. Light snow in extreme north portion."

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