

## 2 COASTS SHORT OF OIL SUPPLIES

Nine Tankers Sunk, Others Are Diverted to War Duties in Pacific.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (U. P.).—The oil industry is operating today under restrictions just short of government rationing as supplies threatened to drop to critical levels at munitions plants on both coasts.

Fifteen major oil companies, responding to a federal request, began loading all available tankers and tank cars exclusively with industrial fuel oil in an effort to build up supplies depleted by a tanker shortage. Officials reported last month that "a large number" of tankers, which normally supply nearly all East Coast and Pacific Northwest needs, had been diverted to war duties in the Pacific. Nine more have been sunk by enemy submarines.

Whether more tankers are being diverted was a military secret. Petroleum Co-ordinator Harold L. Jakes is scheduled to appear before the House committee on petroleum investigation "sometime this week."

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## Japs Grasping at Keys to Pacific



(1) Japs near Singapore City. (2) Jap drive on Burma Road. (3) Climax near Bataan. (4) Japs thrust at Macassar and Bandjermasin. To aid Singapore Allied planes must fly from Bataan or Rangoon.

### Russia:

Rzhev, Nazis' Northern Anchor, Reported Cut Off by Red Army

LONDON, Feb. 10 (U. P.).—The Russians were believed today to have cut off Rzhev, northern anchor of the badly-mauled German front before Moscow.

The Russian advance through the deep snows and sub-zero temperatures of the central front carried six miles in a single day and resulted in the recapture of 26 inhabited places and the capture of artillery, machine guns and other material, a Russian army communiqué said. The communiqué also reported continued successes on the southern front.

Evidently the Russian counter-offensive as a whole was slowing, probably as much because of the

gripping cold as stiffened German resistance.

The Russians said they had seized an order of the day from the commander of the 290th German infantry, which said:

"I constantly receive new proof of demoralization among my soldiers. It has been reported to me that some stopped firing and laid down their arms. During marching, many soldiers, singly or even in whole groups, left their columns, abandoning their arms. These conditions must be stopped."

The Germans have rounded up Russian children to transfuse blood from them to their wounded, and take their skin for grafting on Germans, according to Russian reports.

### Vichy:

Nazi-Planted Tangier Bomb Believed Plot to Bring Anglo-Spanish Break

By HELEN KIRKPATRICK  
Copyright, 1942, by The Indianapolis Times and The Chicago Daily News, Inc.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—That bomb planted by Nazi agents in Tangier and the ensuing anti-British riots were intended to cause a break between Britain and Spain, in preparation for a big Axis offensive in Africa scheduled to begin within the next six weeks, it is learned here.

Vichy's further collaboration is anticipated by the Germans as a result of the United States' investigations into possible Vichy aid to German Marshal Erwin Rommel in North Africa.

But the trouble in Tangier is only the beginning of real trouble throughout Africa, according to reports available in London, if the Axis plan for a major offensive against the Suez is launched.

It includes Japanese action along the southeastern coast of Africa, and in Madagascar. It would coincide with the opening of warfare in the world's third ocean—the Indian.

Thus the first step is expected to be an Axis attempt to stage a coup d'état in Tangier and assume control in Tunis, key French possession in North Africa. Simultaneously, the large Jap Fifth Column in Madagascar is expected to seize control there with the connivance of Vichy.

Pressure on Spain Seen

The British are inclined to regard the bomb outrage, which killed 24 persons in Tangier Friday, more as the exuberance of local Nazi agents than as part of the major plot.

Other informed quarters, however, see more in the riots than an isolated attempt to stir up anti-British feeling. It is felt that the trouble is part of a plot to force Spain to break off with Britain and possibly request Axis collaboration in protecting Tangier and Spanish Morocco.

### Stiffer U. S. Attitude Toward Vichy Expected

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (U. P.).—The State Department is dissatisfied with the Vichy Government's explanation of reports that Nazi forces striking across Libya have been aided by French supplies, it was understood on high authority today.

The explanation of Marshal Henri Philippe Petain's Vichy regime received yesterday failed to calm rising suspicion of greater French "collaboration" with the Germans. The United States' dissatisfaction, it was believed, would be communicated to the French Ambassador, Gaston Henry-Haye, when the latter visits Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles this afternoon. Meanwhile, there were some senatorial demands for a stiffer American attitude toward Vichy.

Senator Claude Pepper (D. Fla.) said if the reports were true the situation should bring about a showdown in U. S.-Vichy relations, although not necessarily a break in diplomatic ties. Senator Elbert D. Thomas (D. Utah) agreed that "we've got to take action" if the reports are accurate.

**WATERMELONS BY THE MILE**  
WASHINGTON (U. P.).—If all the watermelon patches in the country were joined they would make a field 10 miles wide and 48 miles long, census figures show.

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## JAVA IS FACING GRAVE DANGER

Key Island Is Menaced by Jap Thrusts in Celebes, Borneo.

BATAVIA, Feb. 10 (U. P.).—Japanese invasion forces have landed on the southwest coast of Celebes island in their gravest threat of the war to this key island of the Netherlands Indies, which are the capital and the headquarters of Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, United Nations commander in chief.

The Japanese troops were landed in the vicinity of Macassar, one of the most important centers of the Netherlands Indies.

At least 10,000 troops blew up all installations which might have been of use to the enemy. Strong forces were fighting the invasion troops stubbornly.

### Land Troops Press South

As the Japanese made their new landing, their patrols were moving down the east coast of Borneo across the Macassar strait, in what was now plainly a threat to take both Macassar and Bandjermasin, on the southeast coast of Borneo.

Macassar is 500 miles northeast of Soerabaja, the great naval and air force base at the eastern end of Java, and Bandjermasin is only 300 miles from it across the Java Sea.

### Civilians Quit Macassar

Today's communiqué, released through the Netherlands Indies news agency, revealed that Japanese troops were filtering down the west coast of Borneo as well as the east coast.

Enemy airplanes again bombed the Malang airdrome in east Java, where they failed to damage the base, and appeared near the Soerabaja naval base where one enemy bomber was shot down. No allied planes were lost.

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## MASS FOR BLOW AT BURMA ROAD

British Defenders Point to New Danger From Jap Forces.

RANGOON, Burma, Feb. 10 (U. P.).—Allied forces which for 10 days have held the Japanese invasion at the Salween River, 100-odd miles from the Burma Road, prepared today to meet a threatened new offensive north of the smoking, bomb-smashed river town of Paan.

The Japanese were believed gathering in force on the east bank of the Salween in Thailand to hurl an attack westward toward Toungh, nearly midway of the Rangoon-Mandalay railroad which is the first link of China's "life line."

(Military sources in Chungking, China, said the Japanese were concentrating at Chienghai, Thailand, for an offensive aimed at Toungh, 175 miles due west.)

### Would Divide Burma

Toungh is 60 miles west of the upper Salween where it forms the Thailand-Burma border and 150 miles north and slightly east of Rangoon.

An offensive on that east-west line, 175 miles north of captured Moulmein, would cut the railroad link of the Burma road and threaten both the Burmese capital and Mandalay.

It would enable the Japanese to fan out in flying columns for a strike at Lashio, the Chinese supply base in the north, which is the junction point for the railroad-highway parts of the lifeline.

It virtually would divide Burma and open a gateway for a direct offensive toward India.

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100	51.91	26.60	18.18	13.97	11.45	9.77	8.10	6.99
125	64.89	33.25	22.72	17.46	14.31	12.21	10.12	8.73
150	77.86	39.91	27.26	20.95	17.17	14.65	12.14	10.48
200	103.56	53.07	36.23	27.82	22.79	19.43	16.09	13.87
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