

JAPANESE OFFENSIVES ARE GRAVELY THREATENING ALLIED STRONGHOLDS

Large Liner Is Badly Damaged In 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 her side at a Hudson river pier today.

Immediately fire blazed again in the seared interior of her structure, but it was extinguished in 40 minutes and the hundreds of naval and municipal firefighters who had battled 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 today.

One third of her superstructure and bridge under water and three giant stacks and her funnels a few feet above the water, she looked like a crippled giant.

There was some good news today. The disaster of the accident 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 she could be righted and repaired — and with a speed which would surprise the layman.

The newspaper PM revealed in an investigation today that it was sabotage on the New York pier six weeks ago and had discovered that sabotage against any ship in the harbor, including the Lafayette, would be a "cinch." Its owner, Edmond Scott, got a job as a stowaway aboard her by paying a high initiation fee to the ship's crew, with no questions asked, and reported that he had even set explosives on her, so no-existent were the ordinary precautions.

Admiral Adolphus Andrews, commander 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, and that 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 structurally intact, both above and below the main deck.

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

City Asks Dismissal Of Bentz Complaint

Points To Expiration Of 30-Day Deadline

A motion to dismiss the complaint of Ralph W. Bentz, in which he seeks to be restored to the city fire department, has been filed in Adams circuit court by Ferd L. Litterer, city attorney.

The motion, filed late yesterday, cites that Bentz' complaint and bond was filed on February 5 — "one day after the 30 days expired after the said decision was rendered by said board of public works and safety."

Earlier in the motion, it is cited that chapter 86 of the acts of the general assembly of 1933 provides that "such an appeal (an appeal to the circuit or superior court from such decision of dismissal or suspension on the part of the board) shall be taken within 30 days after the date such decision is rendered."

The motion to dismiss continues, quoting from the acts that "such city may file a motion to dismiss the appeal for failure to perfect the same within the time and in the manner required by this section."

The motion further asserts that the decision of the board of public works and safety dismissing Bentz after a hearing in which the board charged he had been convicted of a criminal offense was made on January 5, 1942.

Bentz, it will be remembered, was charged with reckless driving and running a red light. He entered guilty pleas to both counts and was fined on each. Later, the action to remove him from the city fire force was brought by the board of public works and safety.

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To Discuss Farm Problems At Meet

County War Boards Meet At Huntington

Stumbling blocks farmers may face this year in producing vital wartime crops under the U. S. department of agriculture's "food for freedom" program will be discussed by members of the Indiana USDA war board Wednesday at a meeting of northeastern Indiana county war boards in the court house at Huntington.

Labor shortages, priorities and farm machinery repair problems and what is being done to offset these handicaps by the department of agriculture will be outlined by members of the state war board.

Winifred L. Gerke, AAA chairman who heads the USDA war board in Adams county, urged farmers to discuss production problems with the local board prior to the meeting in Huntington so that they may be presented to the state board. Any obstacle, he said, in the path of farmers which might jeopardize the nation's number one effort of food production is the immediate concern of the board.

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

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE)

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Luxury Liner Damaged By Fire



The U. S. S. Lafayette, formerly the Normandie, French luxury liner, was badly damaged by fire late Monday afternoon at her Hudson river pier in New York. The above picture shows firemen and sailors climbing ladders at the ship's bow. A former French officer of the giant vessel told the United Press today that the ship undoubtedly could be righted and repaired as only the superstructure was damaged.

Name Committees For Decatur Fair

Heads Of Committees For Fair Announced

Committees for the annual free street fair and agriculture show which will be held in Decatur during the third week in August, have been named by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

It was announced by Glenn Hill, president and Arthur E. Voglewede, secretary-treasurer, that contracts had been signed with the Gooding Amusement company of Columbus, O., for the rides and shows which will be erected on the midway. The contract is similar to the one heretofore in force between the Chamber of Commerce and the amusement company. The company pays a share of the gross receipts for the concession.

The committees follow:

Free acts: Herman Krueckeberg, chairman; Glenn Hill, Arthur E. Voglewede.

Concessions: Robert Helm, chairman.

Rides and shows: Clyde Butler, chairman.

City light and power: James Murphy, Cal Yost, co-chairmen.

Contributions: Clarence Stapleton, chairman.

Parades and bands: William Bowers, chairman.

Industrial exhibits: Eugene V. McCann, chairman.

Budget and finances: Arthur E.

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Montana Man Has Two Wheels Stolen

Berne, Ind., Feb. 10 — Home from Montana to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. 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.

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."

\$10,000 Damage Suit To Federal Court

The \$10,000 damage suit of Evelyn B. Gladfelter, of this city, against the Pennsylvania railroad arising from the death of her husband in an auto-train crash on February 18, 1941, has been removed from the Adams circuit court here to the district court of the United States at Fort Wayne.

Judge Fruchte granted the petition for a removal filed by the defendant railroad yesterday and ordered a transcript prepared within 20 days.

Advise Candidates To File Petitions

Office Seekers Are Advised On Petition

Candidates for public office here are being advised to carry petitions for signatures in preparation for filing them with their declaration of candidacies.

It has been announced that the law requiring the candidates to file the petitions had been repealed.

At the recent meeting of the district county clerk's association, the clerks agreed that a technically in the repealing of the law might call for the petitions so all clerks in this area have advised candidates accordingly.

The original law required that county candidates file a petition bearing the names of voters representing one-half of one percent of the total votes cast by both major parties for secretary of state; township candidates one-half of one percent of the votes cast for trustee, and city one-half of one percent of the vote cast for mayor — all in the last general election.

County Clerk Clyde Troutner has advised preparing the petitions "to be on the safe side."

Berne Schools Seek To Join Association

Berne, Ind., Feb. 10 — The Berne schools have applied for membership or admittance to the north central association of secondary schools and colleges and a committee of six principals of northeastern Indiana are visiting the school two days this week and will make a report to the Association's main office which will pass on the local request in April. School officials here this week are John Young, New Haven; Philip Blackburn, Union City; H. S. Brubaker, Portland; O. R. Smiley, Columbia City; L. W. Miller, Auburn; Paul Haller, Elmhurst.

Legislator Demands Farm Bureau Probe

Charges Check Off System For Dues

Washington, Feb. 10 — (UP) — A Mississippi legislator today asked congress to investigate charges that membership dues in the American farm bureau federation have been obtained by a check off system on farm wages and federal agricultural benefit payments.

The investigation was demanded in a letter from John A. Boutwell, chairman of the Mississippi house committee on agriculture to Senator Robert LaFollette, Progressive Wis. LaFollette read it to the joint congressional economy committee which is inquiring into farm security administration payments of poll taxes for indigent farmers.

Boutwell defended the FSA program but suggested that the committee inquire into allegations that southern farmers have been "coerced" into joining the farm bureau federation, a farmers' organization which has criticized the FSA.

Boutwell said there have been several complaints that local representatives of the farm bureau federation in the south had cashed agricultural adjustment administration benefit checks for farmers and deducted the membership dues of the farmers before giving them the proceeds of the check.

Federation president Edward O'Neal, who was present at the hearing, heatedly replied:

"The secretary of agriculture is more meticulous than the secretary of navy, who permits the checkoff. We have never approved that system. But, after all, if other government agencies do it for the CIO and AFL, I don't see why farmers don't slip once in a while."

Plaintiff Dismisses Divorce Suit Here

The divorce case of Fern Widman against John Widman, both of Fort Wayne, which was scheduled to have been resumed before Judge J. Fred Fruchte in Adams circuit court this morning was dismissed upon motion of the plaintiff.

Rotarians, Farmers Plan Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the Decatur Rotary club and farmers of Union township will be held at the Lutheran school in the Bleeker settlement Thursday evening, February 19. Rotarians unable to attend this meeting must call Paul Hansel, club treasurer, not later than noon tomorrow.

Fear Early Fall Of Singapore; Philippine Defenders Locked In Savage Battle With Japs

Small American Army Transport Sunk Near Hawaiian Islands By Japanese Submarine

Washington, Feb. 10 — (UP) — Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Philippine defenders are locked "in a particularly savage battle" on Bataan peninsula while, far to the east around the Hawaiian Islands, a Japanese submarine has sunk a small U. S. army transport, an army communiqué said today.

Twenty-nine persons were missing and believed lost in the torpedoing of the transport, the 224-ton Royal T. Frank, in the fleet enemy action around Hawaii in some weeks. Thirty-three survivors reached a Hawaiian port.

The battle of Bataan raged with spreading although intermittent fury, MacArthur reported, with his American and Filipino troops fighting in "grim determination." The communiqué spoke of "the heavy odds against them."

Emphasizing the overwhelming numerical superiority of the Japanese invaders, their total strength has been estimated at 200,000 or more on the island of Luzon — MacArthur said that five "veteran" Japanese divisions have been identified as engaged in the struggle of Bataan's jungles and ragged mountains. The five Japanese divisions along probably would represent 75,000 or more men, a great part of them crack, highly trained shock troops.

Thus, with Japanese reinforcements, it appeared that altogether more than 100,000 Japanese were pitted against MacArthur's weary men in Bataan.

The American and Filipino were holding out under attacks of Japanese dive bombers and the fire of Japanese, siege guns from

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

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In Air Corps



David B. Heller, former member of the Daily Democrat staff, is now serving with the air corps of the United States army at Sheppard Field, Texas. The above photo was taken before Pvt. Heller was transferred from Fort Benjamin Harrison.

Issue Request For Auxiliary Firemen

More Volunteers Are Needed For Defense

With only about half of the number of volunteer cards turned in that are needed, city defense leaders today issued another request for volunteers for auxiliary firemen.

The city's quota is 35. These men are to augment the present regular and volunteer fire force as a civilian defense measure and are to receive full training.

Harry Stuits, assistant fire chief, and Adrian Burke of the volunteer department attended school in Fort Wayne last month to receive necessary training to serve as teachers for the auxiliary squad. Volunteers are asked to contact Mayor Forrest Elzey, fire chief Ed Hurst or George Thomas, city civilian defense director.

Approve Measure To Keep Up Farm Price

Move To Keep Price Up To Parity Figure

Washington, Feb. 10 — (UP) — The senate agriculture committee today unanimously approved legislation designed to balk any attempt to keep farm prices below parity by release of grain or cotton held by the federal commodity credit corporation.

The measure, sponsored by Sens. John Bankhead, D. Ala., Guy Gillette, D. Iowa, Elmer Thomas, D. Okla., and Richard Russell, D. Ga., would forbid the corporation to sell or dispose of its stocks at prices below parity.

The committee admittedly aimed the bill at a policy of the administration and secretary of agriculture Claude Wickard to transfer the stocks to other federal agencies. The agencies then could send the commodities to processors and displace materials on the free market, thereby forcing prices down.

Bankhead explained that price provisions of the bill would apply to any agencies to which stocks were transferred. He estimated that 450,000,000 bushels of cotton, 300,000,000 bushels of wheat and 10,000,000 bushels of corn would be covered by the measure.

Contingent To Army Service Thursday

A contingent of youths from Adams county will leave Thursday morning for army service. They will leave draft board headquarters here at 8 a. m.

Following is the list of men in the contingent: William Shinnaberry, Luther Sievers, Noel Sprunger, Kenneth Shell, Carl Loe, Donald Herman, Robert Moser, Dale Augsbarger, Lloyd Miller, Richard Reed, William Schrock, Jr.

William F. Hoffman Dies Monday Night

William Frank Hoffman, 65, retired Adams county farmer, died last night at 8:30 o'clock at the Adams county memorial hospital. Death was attributed to carcinoma, following an illness of three months. He had been confined to the hospital for six weeks.

The deceased was born in Kirkland township January 13, 1877, the son of William and Catherine Zimmerman-Hoffman. He was never married.

Surviving are five sisters, Mrs. Rachel Fritzinger of Decatur, Mrs. Elizabeth Gregory of Hammond, Mrs. Mathilda Overland of Fort Wayne, Mrs. Lottie Myers of Bluffton, and Mrs. Hattie Johnson of Palo Alto, California and a brother, Harvey Hoffman of Hammond. One sister is deceased.

The body was taken to the Zwick funeral home, pending the completion of funeral arrangements.

ON VALENTINE'S DAY...

Remember Uncle Sam, too!

Also Give U. S. DEFENSE BONDS STAMPS