

SINGAPORE FALL ADMITTEDLY NEAR HART RELIEVED OF NAVAL COMMAND

Admiral Hart Is Relieved As Head Of United Forces

S. Admiral Asks To
Be Relieved Because
Of Health; Lull In
Philippine Battle.

Washington, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Admiral Thomas C. Hart of the U. S. Navy has been relieved of command of the United Nations forces in the Far East at Manila and replaced by a new naval chief, it was announced today, while the land forces of the Philippines brace themselves for a Japanese assault.

The surprise replacement of Admiral Hart, for reasons of poor health, was announced only four days after he formally had been relieved of command of the 64-year-old naval commander had been placed in command of the combined Allied naval forces in the A-B-D-A Pacific.

Thus the decision to relieve him at his request, must have been made some time ago.

Acting commander in chief of the Southwest Pacific include the United States, Britain, Netherlands and Australia.

The war department communique, issued simultaneously with the announcement of Hart's relief, said the Japanese were pouring reinforcements into the battle lines of Bataan, and that the "movements of the reinforcements indicate

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few days along the Bataan peninsula, and the Japanese smashing aerial bombardment of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces has lessened appreciably.

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Dr. Thurman Rice Banquet Speaker

Medical Authority
At Farm Banquet

Dr. Thurman B. Rice, chairman of the department of bacteriology and public health in the school of medicine at Indiana University, who will speak at the annual farmer's banquet next Tuesday evening at Monmouth, is one of the

noted medical authorities and authors of the United States.

About 300 guests are expected at the meeting, at which awards in the various farm clubs and 4-H clubs will be made. Roy Price will be chairman of the meeting.

Dr. Rice is editor of the "Monthly Bulletin" of the Indiana state board of health and is nationally known for his contributions to various medical magazines. He is a former director of the laboratory of state board of health and since 1936 has been assistant director of the Indiana division of public health and education.

He is a native of Indiana, graduate of Muncie Normal school, Valparaiso University, and Indiana University. From the latter he received the A. B. degree in 1914, the A. M. degree in 1917, and the M. D. degree in 1921. He has taught in various capacities in high schools and colleges and has been connected with the I. U. faculty since 1914.

Dr. Rice has done research in vital statistics, bacteriology, bacteriophage and cataplasms. He received the Ravdin medal when he was graduated from the university's school of medicine. He is a member of several honorary scholastic and scientific organizations, including American medical association, American public health association, Phi Beta Kappa, Indiana state medical association, Sigma Xi, Alpha Omega Alpha, and Nu Sigma Nu.

Dr. Rice has been a frequent contributor to Hygeia, Journal of Outdoor Life, and other publications. He is the author of "The Conquest of Disease," "The Hoosier Health Officer," "The Human Body," "Racial Hygiene," "Applied Bacteriology," "Sex Education," "Textbook of Bacteriology," and co-author of "Adventures in Health Series for Common Schools" and "Public Safety." He has given lectures before many clubs over the state and is a popular speaker.

School Will Hold Lincoln Program

One feature of the annual Lincoln Day celebration of the Decatur public schools to be held tomorrow morning at the junior-senior high school will be missing—missing for the first time in 21 years.

For exactly 20 years French Quinn, noted Decatur historian and authority on the life of Lincoln has delivered the annual Lincoln's Day address.

Fierce Battle Continues On Russia Front

German Resistance
Reported Stiffer
In Some Sectors

London, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Fierce fighting raged today at Rzhev, northwest of Moscow, and Russian dispatches attested the ferocity of the Soviet drive extending from Karelia to the Crimea.

A Russian communique said a fresh German army corps had been thrown into the fighting at Rzhev, where two separate battles were in progress. The Red army had encircled the city, except possibly in the southwest, and was attempting to occupy it. The Germans battled in another section to break out of the Russian ring.

A British military commentator said there was every indication that German resistance "on the whole" was stiffening.

The Red army high command said new German reserves also had been rushed to the Kalinin front, where it said there was stubborn fighting. It said the Russians annihilated half a Nazi ski battalion which sought to break through the Soviet lines. The remaining Germans fled to the surrounding woods.

It told of liberating more inhabited places on the central Moscow front. It said the Germans had been driven from 25 places in one day's fighting, and abandoned large quantities of material. In a 24-hour period the Russians advanced more than six miles.

Today's early communique reported "offensive battles" during the night and said two more inhabited places were liberated. Sixty trucks, six guns, 14 machine guns, 37 motorcycles and 11,400 cartridges were captured, it said.

At Kharkov, Russia's "Pittsburg" in the Ukraine, a battle has been

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Boy Scout Banquet Held Tuesday Night

Annual Banquet Is
Held Last Evening

With the theme, "Strong for America," stirring their hearts, approximately 175 men and boys of Decatur attended the annual Boy Scout banquet, held Tuesday evening at the Decatur junior-senior high school.

The meeting opened with the song "America" by the entire group, following which the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, grouped on the stage, led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The invocation was given by Rev. C. M. Prugh, following which W. F. Beery led community singing.

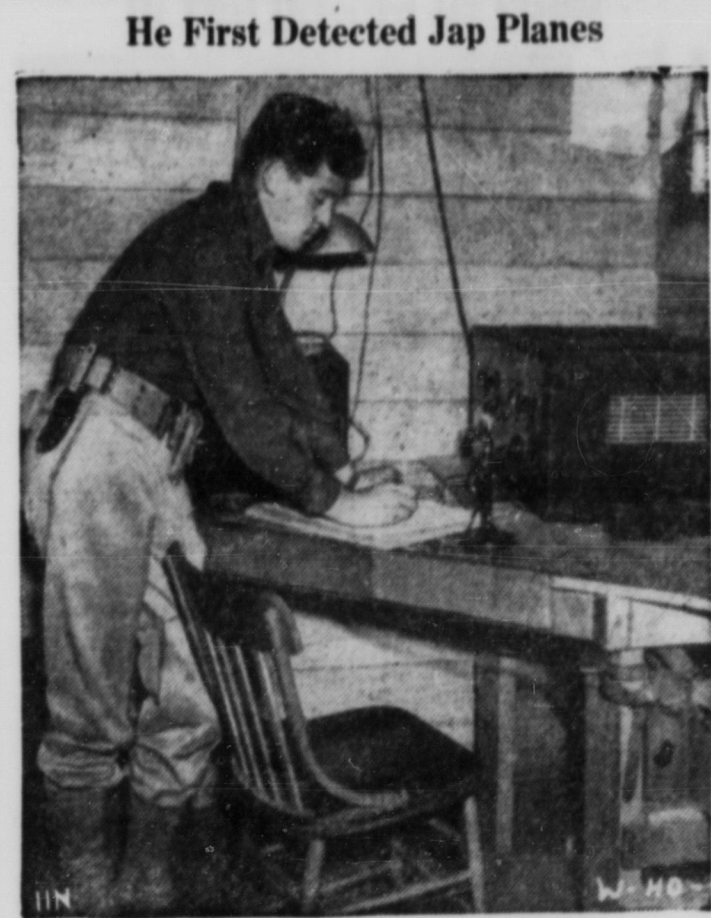
Investiture ceremonies of Cub Scouts into the Boy Scouts was conducted by Rev. Prugh, with Lowell Smith and Dick Linn receiving the Cub Scouts on behalf of the Scouts.

Don Tiesberg, area executive, presented certificates of the index of achievement to all three Scout troops and the Cub pack, stating his pleasure at making presentations to all troops for the third consecutive year. These certificates were accepted by the scoutmasters: Harold Daniels, troop 61; Lowell Smith, troop 62; Clarence Weber, troop 63; Rev. Prugh.

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Earl Martin Again Trustee Candidate

Earl Martin, incumbent trustee announced today that he would again be a candidate for trustee on the Democratic ticket in the May primary. Mr. Martin is serving the last year of his first term, having been elected in the fall of 1938 after his nomination in the primary that year.



He First Detected Jap Planes
Private Joseph L. Lockard at his station. From this radio station on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, Private Joseph L. Lockard, of Williamsport, Pa., pictured, detected the presence of Japanese planes almost an hour before they attacked Pearl Harbor that fateful December Sunday. Lockard had stayed at his listening post to practice with the listening device. Some authorities say that if his warning had been heeded, perhaps the result might have been different. Representative Forest A. Harness of Indiana has asked congress that appropriate recognition be awarded Private Lockard.

46 Youths To Take Army Examinations

Take Physical Test
Thursday Morning

Forty-six young men from Adams county will leave the city tomorrow morning for the Fort Wayne armory to take final physical examinations for selective service. The bus will leave at 7:30 a. m.—approximately one-half hour before the other contingent of young men leaves for service.

The names of the men, preceded by their order numbers:

V. Robert Wayne Johnson; V. Benjamin Franklin Hower; S. Ambrose August Meyers; 361, Ernest Willis Striker; 976, Russell William Ramsey; S-2049, Mart Roy Knittle; 2079, Edward Joseph Metzger; 2085, Richard Eugene Lewis.

2095, Roy Melvin Sheets; 2115, Claire James Sprunger; 2126, Earl Leroy Lautzenheiser; 2132, Joseph Henry Schultz; S-2127, Delbert Milton Hoffman; 2136, Anthony Edward Teeple; 2137, Delbert Garfield Yoss; 2146, Cyril Robert Becker.

2170, Robert Paul Ryanson; 2182, William Andrew Briggs; 2188, Roy Jacob Cook; 2189, Leonard Levear Hendricks; 2307, George Charles Hunter; S-2192, Arthur Eugene Merriman; 2209.

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Two Leave Thursday For Army Service

Two Commissioned
Officers To Leave

Two more men will leave Decatur tomorrow preparatory to entering army service as commissioned officers, bringing the total of professional and business men who have been called from the city through reserve officer classification to nine.

D. Burdette Custer, local attorney, leaves tomorrow for Edgewood Arsenal, Edgewood Md., where he will become a first lieutenant in the U. S. infantry. Dan Schafer, of the Schafer company, will leave tomorrow for a Florida vacation before becoming a second lieutenant in the infantry at Fort Benning, Ga., on February 24.

Mr. Custer is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where he received his ROTC training, while Mr. Schafer was graduated from

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Here's Warning To The Superstitious, Friday The 13th

The superstitious today began laying plans to avoid the pitfalls of misfortunes that await them Friday—Friday the Thirteenth.

For the first time this year the 13th day of the month falls on Friday of this week, but it will happen twice more before the year is over.

It happens right away next month, in March, and then again in November—so the believers will have a bad year trying to dodge the spell of Dame Misfortune.

Change Studied In Civilian Defense

James Landis New
Defense Director

Washington, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Director James M. Landis said today he was studying plans for a complete reorganization of the office of civilian defense.

He indicated that one of the major questions under consideration is whether the division of physical fitness—in which the dancer Mayris Chaney, friend of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, is employed—may be transferred to some other agency.

Landis also revealed that Mrs. Roosevelt is conducting a thoroughgoing reorganization of the civilian participation division, which she heads. He added that whether she will remain with OCD after that is completed was a matter which only Mrs. Roosevelt could decide at present.

Questioned sharply at a press conference, he put aside queries as to whether he would take any action on Mrs. Roosevelt's tenure in event she did not leave the organization. Landis succeeded to the directorship of OCD yesterday after resignation of Mayor LaGuardia.

Landis strongly defended the appointment of motion picture actor Melvyn Douglas, asserting that he

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Michigan Escapee Is Taken Into Custody

Elzie McCall, 22, who escaped from the Lapeer state home and training school at Lapeer, Mich., last July, was taken into custody last night by Sheriff Ed Miller. McCall was located on a farm near Berne, where he had been working. His companion in the escape, Hessel Scott, is reported still at large.

Loss Of British Stronghold Grave Blow To Allies; Japs Continue Gains In Far East

Dutch Fighting Hard Against Japan Advance

Japanese Landing
Forces Driving On
To Take East Indies

Batavia, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Japanese landing forces drove forward against stubborn Dutch defenders at three points on the southwest arm of Celebes island today in an attempt to gain new footholds for an apparent thrust toward Java, 500 miles to the southwest.

A Netherlands Indies communique reported that Dutch fighter planes intercepted and broke up an airplane fleet which attempted to raid the Soerabaja naval base in eastern Java.

The additional Japanese landings, disclosed in the communique distributed by the Aneta News agency, were effected at Macassar, capital of Celebes; Balangnipa, at the entrance to the Gulf of Bone; and Djemponto.

"As already was reported previously, the Japanese have been carrying out landings on the southwest arm of Celebes in the vicinity of Macassar," the communique said. "Further reports state that landings were effected at Macassar and Balangnipa and Djemponto."

It added that one enemy company, advancing on Maros, northeast of Macassar, was attacked and "losses were inflicted on the Japanese." The Dutch said four of their men were wounded slightly by machine gun fire from a Japanese plane.

The outnumbered Dutch defenders on Celebes were reported carrying out a scorched-earth policy.

"The previous destruction which has been ordered has been thoroughly executed," the communique said. "Fighting continues."

Further enemy reconnaissance was reported over northern Sumatra and over part of western Java. The Japanese planes attempting to raid Soerabaja were driven off without bombing the base, the communique said.

It was admitted that an addition to the Japanese landings near Macassar, on the southwest side of Celebes, Japanese troop movements had been reported at Balangnipa, across the southwest arm from Macassar, and in the neighborhood of Djemponto.

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Patriotic Firms To Fly Special Flag

Flag Designed For
Bond Purchasers

A blue flag, with a Minute Man in white, surrounded by white stars, will fly from the flagpole of every firm in Decatur which has 90 percent or more employees enrolled in the pay roll savings program and every firm that gains this record will be given a certificate bearing a facsimile of Secretary Morgenthau's signature, countersigned by the state administrator, Wray E. Fleming, and the executive chairman, Eugene C. Pulliam, Earl Caston, executive chairman of the Adams county defense savings staff, said today.

A certificate will be issued on the recommendation of the state administrator, upon receipt of evidence that 90 percent or more employees in a plant are participating

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City To Take Bids For Improvements

Will Receive Bids
Thursday Afternoon

Bids for the three feeder units of metal clad switchgear as a part of the improvement and addition to the municipal light and power plant will be received Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the city hall by the board of public works and safety of the city.

The cost of the switchgear has been estimated at \$13,500 by Hessel Nash, assistant city light superintendent.

This is the first of a series of bids to be received on equipment to be installed at the plant in order to furnish light and power to the new General Electric plant, now under construction.

Total cost of the entire improvement and remodeling at the plant has been estimated at nearly \$100,000.

Bids are to be received by the board of public works and safety on February 29 for cable to the new factory, revamping of boilers and stokers. It has been estimated that the cable cost will amount to about \$20,000 and that of the boiler improvement at about \$45,000. Other revamping is expected to be necessary in the plant in order that the additional output may be efficiently handled.

The bids will be received and the work of tabulation started Thursday. Awarding of the contract will follow in probably a few days.

Former Decatur Girl Dies Suddenly Today

Mrs. G. E. Stump Dies
Early This Morning

Mrs. G. E. Stump, 28, formerly Miss Gladys Thompson of this city, died suddenly this morning at 4 o'clock at her home in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, according to word received here.

Mrs. Stump was born and reared in this city. She was the daughter of Rev. Harry W. Thompson, of this city.

She was graduated from Decatur high school in 1931.

The deceased had resided in Pennsylvania for the past seven years, following her marriage to Mr. Stump, who is affiliated with an insurance company in that city.

Word of her death was received in a telegram by her father this morning. It is not thought that she had been ill. Survivors include the husband, the father and stepmother, Rev. and Mrs. Thompson of Decatur.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

February 19 Set For Rationing Of Retreaded Tires

Washington, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Nation-wide rationing of retreaded and recapped tires will begin February 19, price administrator Leon Henderson disclosed today.

He added that it is quite probable there will be no crude rubber available for retreading except for the small number of vehicles already eligible to obtain new tires and tubes.

A certain amount of comeback—rubber compound used for retreading—will be made available each month to permit retreading or recapping of truck tires, Henderson said. None will be available this month for passenger car tires and perhaps none for March, he said.

Vastly Outnumbered Troops Battling To Last Ditch; Heavy Losses Inflicted

London, Feb. 11.—(UP)—British defenders of Singapore were reported still fighting against overwhelming odds tonight as darkness—split by the flashes of high explosives—closed down on the besieged city.

(By United Press)

Singapore fought to the last ditch today to postpone as long as humanly possible the gravest blow suffered by the United Nations in the Far Eastern war.

The loss of the once great naval base after 123 years of British rule admittedly was imminent, but even as huge Japanese forces smashed across the island the British imperials launched a counter-attack that threw the enemy back for a few more hours and inflicted heavy casualties.

A Japanese imperial headquarters communique issued late Wednesday evening in Tokyo said merely that Japan's forces had entered the Singapore city area and that fighting still was in progress.

British defense forces—apparently without any air support—were subject to merciless and continual bombardment by high level and dive bomber planes, but they fought for every foot of ground as they fell back on the city.

On the basis of official dispatches from Singapore, a London military commentator said that "in some ways" the situation was better for the defense forces this morning but later dispatches made it clear that the enemy's vastly superior numbers had all but decided the outcome of the conflict and long postponed.

That loss of the island could not be. The Japanese claimed that about 30,000 British troops were trapped on the island and other Axis broadcasts said that there still were 24 American citizens in Singapore, although a number had evacuated by sea.

On other Far Eastern fronts the Japanese offensive continued slow but steady gains.

In Burma, the British acknowledged that enemy forces had crossed the Salween river and it was reported that they had taken the town of Martaban, about 160 miles by railroad from Rangoon. Official sources in London said, however, that they had no confirmation that large enemy units had been able to break through the Salween barrier.

Severe fighting was reported in progress north of Martaban, a key defensive point on the Gulf of Martaban.

In the Dutch East Indies, the Netherlands air forces intercepted and broke up an enemy attack on the big naval base at Soerabaja

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County Offices To Close On Thursday

Lincoln's birthday will be observed in Decatur and community tomorrow with only a partial suspension of business marking the occasion.

All public offices in the county court house will be closed for the day, a survey revealed today. Offices in the city hall will remain open, however.

The First State bank will close its doors for the day. The post office and other business houses will remain open.

The Decatur public library will close for the day, it was announced by Mrs. Lamelle Fogle, librarian. Programs observing the day will be held in a majority of the schools in the city and county.

War Bulletins

London, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Radio Paris tonight quoted Japanese reports that the Singapore railroad station, harbor and several districts in the eastern part of the city were flames.

Chungking, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Japanese forces driving north toward the Burma Road have occupied coastal Martaban and are using rubber plants in crossing the Salween river, radio Rangoon said tonight.

Washington, Feb. 11.—(UP)—Red Cross national headquarters said today that information received here refuted reports from Australia that the hospital ship Macktan had been attacked en route from the Philippines to Sydney. Red Cross field director Irving Williams cabled from Sydney that the mercy ship was not bombed or molested in any way during its voyage.

TEMPERATURE READING
DEMOCRAT THERMOMETER

8:00 a. m.	23
10:00 a. m.	23
12:00 noon	24
2:00 p. m.	25
4:00 p. m.	26

WEATHER
Little change in temperature this afternoon and tonight with occasional very light snow in extreme north portion.