

We Must Win the War!  
All Else Is Chores!

# DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER IN ADAMS COUNTY

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## SINGAPORE DISASTER ROCKS BRITAIN

### Japan Occupies Masbate Island in Philippines

#### Continued Lull In Fighting Reported From Bataan Front

Washington, Feb. 12—(UP)—Japanese troops today occupied the island of Masbate, near the center of the Philippine archipelago. Occupation of the island which is off the southern tip of Luzon, was announced in a war department communique telling of a continued lull in air and ground fighting on the Bataan Peninsula between the Douglas MacArthur's forces and the Japanese.

The enemy is evidently reorganizing his forces and awaiting reinforcements before resuming the offensive, the department said.

Meanwhile, reports have reached MacArthur that Filipino farmers have been evicted from their homes in Manila or have hidden themselves in the mountains to escape harsh treatment by the Japanese.

This has produced, the communiqué said, a great scarcity of labor to tend crops, with the result that food supplies are becoming scarce in the Japanese occupied areas.

The department said that as a result, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, Japanese commander on Luzon, has become alarmed and issued a communique urging the farmers to return promptly to their homes with a promise that "Japanese never harm any Filipino who submit to his occupation."

"Don't flee into the mountains, misled by the absurd propaganda of the United States," Homma said. "The tumults of war have already gone far away. Peace will be brought about solely by the common sense and determination of the Filipinos. Secure food supplies for your own."

The department quoted Homma as referring to the Philippines as "our brethren" and telling them that starvation or prosperity is in their own hands.

The proclamation related that crops, which have been abandoned, will rot and the next year's seedlings of sugar cane will be lost unless the farmers return.

"If you leave them as they are, you must die from starvation on the roads," the proclamation said.

#### Nation Not Idle

Washington, Feb. 12—(UP)—

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### The Bid Submitted in City Improvement

Only one bid was submitted to the board of public works and safety of the city of Decatur this afternoon for furnishing the switchgear for the improvement of the municipal light and power plant.

The bid was that of the General Electric company of Fort Wayne at a figure of \$11,238.

Cost of the switchgear had been estimated at \$13,500 by Hersel, assistant city light superintendent and other officials.

The bid, after being checked by members of the board of works and safety, will be submitted to council next Tuesday night for awarding of the contract. If approved, Mayor Forrest Elzey stated this afternoon.



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### IHC Employees Seek Blanket Pay Boost

Fort Wayne, Feb. 12—(UP)—A request for a 12½ percent blanket pay increase for all employees of the International Harvester company here was presented to the company management by a bargaining committee from local No. 57, United Automobile Workers of America, (CIO), at a meeting last night. A union spokesman said the request was based on the increased cost of living and of federal and state taxes. He estimated the increase would amount to about one dollar a day for the 4,000 workers involved.

### U. S. Soldiers Guard Dutch West Indies

#### Contingent Sent To Guard Oil Supplies

Washington, Feb. 12—(UP)—American soldiers are guarding vital oil supplies in the Dutch West Indies islands of Aruba and Curacao today in conformance with President Roosevelt's expressed policy of sending troops wherever their services are needed most.

United States forces previously had been assigned to the Netherlands possession of Surinam, which is on the north coast of South America. Their primary purpose is to guard important bauxite mines.

On Curacao and Aruba, which are off the northern coast of Venezuela, are some of the world's great oil refineries. With the supply of oil in the Dutch East Indies threatened by Japan's smashing southern drive, the West Indies are more than ever essential to the Allied war effort.

The state department announced the arrival of the American contingent in the Dutch islands. The forces were dispatched, it was said, at the request of the Netherlands government, and they will assist Dutch armed forces in defending the islands and the refineries.

The American soldiers will be under the general supervision of the governor of Curacao and will be withdrawn when the emergency has passed. The state department reported that Venezuela had given its wholehearted approval of the agreement between the Netherlands and United States governments. The wells which supply oil to the refineries on the Dutch islands are in Venezuela, near Maracaibo.

Both Curacao and Aruba are in the colony of islands known as Curacao. Other islands in the same group are Bonaire, St. Martin, St. Eustatius and Saba.

Aruba has but 69 square miles, and the latest census figures available show that it is inhabited by approximately 6,000 persons. Curacao has 210 square miles and in 1939 had a population of about 100,000.

Capital of the Curacao colony is Willemstad, which also is the site of an important Dutch naval base. British and French military forces landed on the island in 1940 after the German invasion of the Netherlands. It is presumed that British troops serving there either have been or will be withdrawn.

The text of the department's announcement:

"The United States government at the request of the Netherlands government has sent a contingent of the United States army to Curacao and Aruba to assist the Dutch armed forces in the defense of these islands and the oil refineries thereon which are vital to the war effort of the United Nations and to the defense of the Western hemisphere."

"The United States forces will operate under the general supervision of the governor of Curacao and will be withdrawn upon the termination of the emergency."

"It is understood furthermore that the Venezuelan and the Netherlands governments have reached

### Asks Receiver Sale For Portland Paper

Portland, Ind., Feb. 12—(UP)—Fred Jackson of Portland, in a suit filed against the Portland Publishing company, today sought a receiver's sale of the property and division of money claims against the newspaper enterprise, which he was operating at a daily loss. The company formerly published the Dunkirk News and later the Portland News.

### Registrars Named For Third 'R' Day

#### Men 20 To 44 To Register Monday

Final plans for the gigantic task of registering for selective service approximately 1,800 men in Adams county on next Monday, February 16, were being pushed today by the Adams county draft board and Adams Post No. 43, American Legion—in charge of the work.

Names of the registrars for the Decatur registration site and the chief registrars for Monroe, Berne and Geneva registration sites were announced today by Adrian Baker, chairman; Albert Miller and Joseph A. Laurent, Legion committee in charge.

#### Registrars Meet Friday

All registrars are asked to meet Friday night at 7 o'clock at the Legion home. There they will receive instructions and supplies and will be sworn in. Chief registrars at Berne, Geneva and Monroe are urged to bring their assistants to the meeting.

Registrars must take an oath before they begin work. They must also be instructed in handling the work. By calling the registrars together Friday night, it is believed a lot of unnecessary delay will be eliminated on Monday.

#### Laurent Is Chief

Joseph A. Laurent, of the local Legion post, has been named by the committee in charge as chief registrar at the Decatur registration site—the Legion home. Assisting him, most of whom will work in five-hour shifts, will be:

James K. Staley, Dorothy Elcher, Marie DeBolt, Rose Neeswald, William Linn, Ralph E. Roop, Roy Mumma, Frank Linger, Dallas Brown, Zelma Roop, Naomi Borman, Mildred Darwacher, Anna-belle Gehrig, Alice Lemhas, Justine Everhart, Mrs. Albert Miller, Doris McRae, Francis R. Costello, J. L. Ehler, Leo T. Gillig, A. B. Kleinhenz, T. C. Smith, George Harding, L. V. Baker, Ed Jaberg, Ray Kundert, H. V. Aurand, V. J. Bormann, Elmo Smith, Leo Kirsch, Walter Hockman, Vaughn Millikan, Clyde Troutner, Ireta Fryback, Ed Bauer.

At Geneva, Tom Rhoades has been named as chief registrar. At Berne Earl M. Webb is the chief and at Monroe, Homer Wintergert.

Ralph E. Roop, chairman; Roy Mumma and O. N. Smith, the latter from Berne, all members of the Adams county draft board will be in general supervision of the registration.

Members of the registration staff today urged all men to register early if possible. They cited the heavy rush expected after factories and business houses close in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN)

### Stengel Drain Bids Will Be Received

#### Take Bids On Drain Saturday, Feb. 28

Bids for the construction of the main ditch of the proposed Stengel drain, commonly known as Blue Creek, which, when constructed will provide Berne with a new drainage outlet to the St. Mary's river, will be received up until 10 o'clock Saturday morning, February 28, at the county clerk's office in this city.

Walter H. Gilliom, engineer of construction, has prepared the plans and specifications which are on file at the clerk's office.

Bids are to be received on clean-out of 180,292 cubic yards of earth and 9,084 cubic yards of stone excavation. Stations are numbered at 600 in the profiles.

The petition for the drain which is one of the largest drainage projects ever undertaken in this county, was filed in the fall of 1940 in

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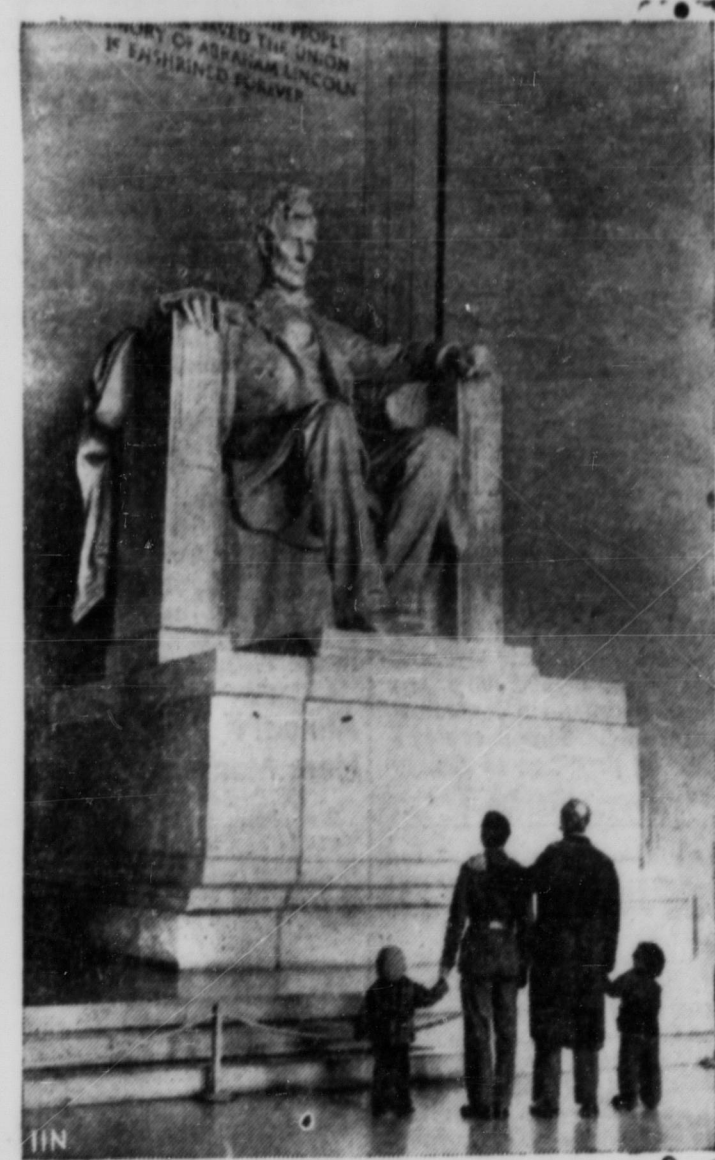
#### TEMPERATURE READING DEMOCRAT THERMOMETER

8:00 a. m.	16
10:00 a. m.	21
Noon	25
2:00 p. m.	32
3:00 p. m.	34

#### WEATHER

Few snow flurries in west portion this afternoon and tonight, not so cold tonight in northeast and east central portions.

### "... Dedicated to the Great Task"



In the Lincoln Memorial in Washington

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure... it is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause... that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." These words, spoken by Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg address Nov. 19, 1863, carry a real meaning today as the United States fights for the same principles, not in civil war, but in world conflict.

### Contingent Leaves For Army Service

#### Adams County Youths Leave This Morning

"Tell the Japs we're coming!" These were the words of the latest Adams county contingent of selective service men as they boarded an ABC bus this morning.

The youths climbed aboard the bus bound for army service only a few minutes after a larger contingent of young men left draft board headquarters on another carrier, headed for Fort Wayne to take their final physical examination.

The scene was one of the busiest ever enacted at draft board headquarters. Ralph E. Roop and Roy Mumma, draft board members and Mrs. Urcile Chase, draft board clerk, hurriedly gave orders and tickets to the 46 and sent them on their way to Fort Wayne.

Then they immediately turned their attention to the youths going to actual service with Uncle Sam's forces, who meanwhile had been standing around in groups chatting with relatives, friends and sweethearts.

Carl Lose, well known Decatur young man, was chosen as leader and given the credentials of the contingent. After posing on the library steps for photographers, leader Lose checked off the men as they deposited their skimpily luggage with the driver and boarded the bus.

By 8:10 a. m. the bus pulled away amid a barrage of hand-waving from those along the curb and walks. "Tell the Japs we're coming," the leader and others shouted as they pulled away.

Those who left for service were: William Shinnaberry, Luther Sievers, Noel Sprunger, Kenneth Shell, Carl Lose, Donald Herman, Robert Moser, Dale Augsburg, Lloyd Miller, Richard Reed and William Schrock, Jr. As is customary, Rev. Carey R. Moser gave each of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

#### Defense Council To Meet This Evening

A meeting of the Adams county civilian defense council will be held tonight at 8 o'clock at the city hall. Director V. J. Bormann urged today that all members attend the meeting.

### Attorneys Honor Departing Officer

The members of the Adams county bar honored D. Burdette Custer, attorney, at a dinner and farewell party at the Rice hotel last evening.

Mr. Custer left today for Edgewood Arsenal, Edgewood, Maryland, where he begins military service as a first lieutenant. Henry B. Heller, president of the bar, presided and members made short talks.

### Special Lincoln Program Is Held

#### High School Pupils Observe Anniversary

The Great Emancipator was feted today in special Lincoln Day services at the Decatur junior-senior high school under the direction of principal W. Guy Brown.

Following the custom of commemorating the former president's birthday, the program was presented as a special early morning chapel program.

Three members of the senior class, Miss Flora Belle Kohls, Robert Yost and Richard Buckley, participated in the program which was broadcast over the school's public address system.

Lincoln's biography was sketched for the students, his famous Gettysburg address was again read and his teachings and tenets were called to the attention of the students.

A partial suspension of business marked the occasion in downtown Decatur, as the First State Bank and all offices in the county courthouse were closed in observance of the holiday. The public library also closed its doors for the day.

All other places of business and public buildings remained open and the normal business routine was continued.

#### War Labor Board Orders Increase

Washington, Feb. 12—(UP)—A seven-cent an hour increase in wages paid at southern plants of the Aluminum Company of America was ordered today by the war labor board.

## War Policy Of Government Is Bitterly Assailed; Situation At Singapore Extremely Grave

### Delay Experienced In Auto Rationing

#### No Certificates Are Yet Available Here

Adams county residents who purchased new cars before January 1 and expected to get their certificates from the local rationing board will have an indefinite wait, it was apparent today.

Glenn Hill, director of the Adams county tire rationing committee, which also has jurisdiction over the car rationing, received a telegram to this effect from James D. Strickland, state tire rationing administrator.

The delay in rationing is caused by inability of the boards to secure certificate forms. The telegram to the local board stated that: car deliveries could not be made until application and certificate forms had been received from Washington.

It continued that he had "no assurance when they would be received." Boards cannot authorize deliveries until they are, the wire stated.

In a United Press dispatch received by the Daily Democrat, the state administrator was quoted as saying that only a small amount of certificate blanks had been received and that the certificates had been apportioned to county boards.

In either event, however, the blanks were not available today and may not be available for some time.

### Farm Problems Are Discussed At Meet

#### Farm Labor Problem Topic Of Discussion

Huntington, Ind., Feb. 12—Northeastern Indiana county USDA war boards were told Wednesday by L. M. Vogler, chairman of the state USDA war board, that "the responsibility of finding solutions to local problems arising out of the government's food expansion program rests with local boards."

"Any obstacle in the path of farmers which might jeopardize the nation's number one war effort of producing food is the immediate concern of the boards," he declared.

The local problems such as farm labor, priorities and farm machinery were discussed with state USDA war board members at a meeting held in the Huntington YMCA.

County boards were given broad authority to find storage space for milk accumulating in certain areas. The farm labor problem was eased somewhat when it was announced by J. B. Kohlmeier, Lafayette, bureau of agricultural economics, that the Indiana employment service would make a survey of available farm labor. He urged farmers and war boards to make known their specific labor needs and requirements to the U. S. employment service. A representative of the employment service, he said, would be assigned to every Indiana county.

M. M. Justin, agricultural marketing service, told the war board

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

#### Geimer Funeral Is Held This Morning

Funeral services were held this morning at 11 o'clock at the St. Mary's Catholic church for the still born infant of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Geimer. Rev. J. J. Seimetz conducted the services and burial was in the Catholic cemetery.

The infant girl was born at 5:30 o'clock this morning at the Adams county memorial hospital. Mrs. Geimer was formerly Miss Justine Spangler.

Surviving other than the parents are the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spangler and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Geimer.

### Dutch Forces Fight Bitterly Against Japs

#### Wage All-Out Fight To Stem Japanese Pincer Movement

Batavia, Feb. 12—(UP)—Dutch land forces fought bitterly to stem a huge Japanese pincer aimed at Java today while a Netherlands navy communique revealed the sinking of five enemy ships off Amboina island since the Japanese attacked that naval and air base 10 days ago.

This morning's high command communique said "the fight against the invader is still being continued" in various parts of the Archipelago. No further news was available from any of the threatened points, it added.

The Indies troops were believed to be waging an all-out fight to check the Japanese advances toward Macassar, capital of Celebes, and toward Bandjermasin, chief of South Borneo—strategic points in the pincer operation against Java.

The communique, distributed by the Netherlands Indies news agency, said the Japanese continued their air activity over Java, center of united nations resistance. A bomber yesterday approached the East Java naval base at Soerabaja, but it fled when Dutch fighters roared to the attack, the communique revealed.

"Enemy reconnaissance over various parts of the Netherlands Indies Archipelago" was reported. The navy communique said Netherlands Indies mines and coastal guns sank three Japanese cruisers, a destroyer and a submarine off Amboina.

#### Attack Defeated

Rangoon, Burma, Feb. 12—(UP)—The British army reported tonight that a Japanese attack in the Pa-An area of the Salween river front has been defeated.

The communique said that the Japanese appeared to have abandoned operations in the Pa-An area for the time being as a result of the setback. The situation was re-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT)

### Monroe Resident Dies Last Night

#### Albert T. Duer Dies After Long Illness

Albert T. Duer, 77, resident of Adams county for more than three-quarters of a century, died last night at 11:15 o'clock at his home in Monroe.

Death was caused by complications following an illness of two years. He was a retired farmer. Mr. Duer was born near Fletcher, Ohio September 16, 1864, the son of William and Martha Duer.

He was first married to Viola Reffey-Hendricks, who preceded him in death in 1906. He was married to Louise Baker in 1912. She survives.

Surviving also are the following children: Mrs. W. O. Newton and Solon Duer of Palm Beach, Florida; Felicia Duer of Toledo, Ohio; Clifton Duer of Fort Wayne, Frank Duer of Crawfordsville; three stepchildren, Chester Hendricks of Colon, Michigan; Mrs. Manos Lehman of Fort Wayne and Mrs. William Stettler of Toledo, Ohio; 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock at the home and 2 o'clock at the Monroe Methodist church with Rev. R. F. Hart officiating. Burial will be in the Spring Hill cemetery.

The body was returned from the Lobenstein funeral home this afternoon to the residence, where it may be viewed until time for the services.

### Imperial Defenders Slowly Give Ground Before Onslaught Of Powerful Offensive

Berlin, Feb. 12—(UP)—A report from Lisbon tonight claimed that the British legation there had announced that Singapore has been surrendered to Japanese forces.

London, Feb. 12—(UP)—The Singapore disaster rocked Britain today and brought a demand that prime minister Winston Churchill establish a "government of national union" in which the dominions and empire would be represented.

The political and parliamentary repercussions of Singapore were so far reaching that Churchill was said to be contemplating a radio address to the nation Sunday.

A spreading revolt against the government, as presently constituted and against war policy blamed for the Singapore defeat, appeared in the ranks of the nationalist liberal party.

Three prominent members of that party—hitherto supporters of the government—resigned and there were indications that an opposition critical group may arise in parliament, centering around Sir Stafford Cripps, laborite resigned ambassador to Moscow.

Edgar Granville, spokesman for the liberal dissenters, said that the group plans to advocate reconstruction of the government on a "national union" basis with spokesmen for the dominion and empire to be included.

#### Situation "Grave"

London, Feb. 12—(UP)—Battered and bleeding British troops at Singapore were reported today to have carried out desperate counter attacks against the Japanese—only one of which was successful.

A spokesman said tonight that "the situation at Singapore is very grave."

His statement was underlined by the revelation that the imperial garrison, still resisting under constant dive bombing, machine gun strafing, tank assaults and artillery bombardment, is slowly losing its defensive punch.

#### Hear Radio

London, Feb. 12—(UP)—The Singapore radio was heard broadcasting at 9:30 a. m. CWT today, indicating that the British still held possession of at least a part of the besieged city.

The reception was extremely poor but the British broadcasting company picked up a few words. The broadcast started:

"This is the 10 o'clock news from Singapore and this is Michael

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### War Bulletins

Seattle, Feb. 12—(UP)—A twin-motored army bomber from McChord Field crashed near Toit, north of here, today. Sheriff's officers said four men were killed.

Military and civil authorities found wreckage scattered over a wide area of swamp land. Witnesses said the plane had been flying low.

Two bodies were found 100 feet from the main wreckage. Part of the fuselage was submerged in the swamp, hampering investigation.

Washington, Feb. 12—(UP)—All army men will be immunized against yellow fever as "a preventive measure designed to make all soldiers available for service in areas where the disease is known to exist," secretary of war Stimson announced today.

London, Feb. 12—(UP)—British planes on their second straight night offensive, raided industrial Mannheim in southwestern Germany during the night while other formations bombed docks at LeHavre and Brest on the French invasion coast and fighter planes attacked German airdromes in occupied territory, the air ministry said today. Two bombing planes were missing.