

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

land of Masbate, near the center

of the Philippine archipelago.

Occupation of the island which

is off the southern tip of Luzon.

It was announced in a war department communiqué telling of a con-

tinued lull in air and ground fight-

ing on Bataan Peninsula between

General MacArthur's forces

and the Japanese.

"The enemy is evidently reor-

ganizing his forces and awaiting

additional supplies and reinforce-

ments before resuming the offen-

se," the department said.

Meanwhile, reports have reached

MacArthur that Filipino farmers

who were evicted from their homes

by Japanese invaders have "crowd-

ed into Manila or have hidden

in the mountains" to escape harsh

treatment by the Nipponese.

It has produced, the communiqué

said, a great scarcity of laborers

to tend crops, with the result

that food supplies are becoming

scarce in the Japanese occupied

area.

The department said that as a

result, Lt. Gen. Masharu Homma,

Japanese commander on Luzon,

has become alarmed and issued a

proclamation urging the farmers

to return promptly to their homes

in a promise that "Japanese

will never harm any Filipino who

is diligent in his occupation."

"Don't flee into the mountains,

you are misled by the absurd propa-

ganda of the United States," Homma

said. "The tumults of war have

already gone far away. Peace will

be sought about solely by the con-

cern and determination of the

Philippines. Secure food supplies

sweat of your brow."

The department quoted Homma

as referring to the Filipinos as

our brethren" and telling them

that starvation or prosperity is

based on their efforts.

The proclamation related that

those which have been abandon-

ed will rot and the next year's

yieldings 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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One Bid Submitted In City Improvement

Only one bid was submitted to a board of public works and safety of the city of Decatur this afternoon for furnishing the switchgear, 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

son, assistant city light superin-

dent 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

consideration of the contract. If approved, Mayor Forrest Elzey stated this afternoon.

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money. Use the Classified
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**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*.

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**TEMPERATURE READING
DEMOCRAT THERMOMETER**

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 or Aruba and Curaçao 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 Curaçao 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 Curaçao and will be withdrawn when the emergency has passed. The state department reported that Venezuela had given its whole hearted 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 Curaçao and Aruba are in the colony of islands known as Curaçao. 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.

Curaçao has 210 square miles and in 1939 had a population of about 100,000.

Capital of the Curaçao 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 Curaçao 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 hemi-

sphere.

The United States forces will

operate under the general super-

vision of the governor of Curaçao

and will be withdrawn upon the ter-

mination of the emergency.

"It is understood furthermore

that the Venezuelan and the Neth-

erlands governments have reached

an agreement.

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**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, Februa-

ry 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 ex-

cavation. Stations are numbered at

600 in the profiles.

The petition for the drain which

is one of the largest drainage pro-

jects ever undertaken in this coun-

try, was filed in the fall of 1940 in

the county clerk's office.

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WEATHER

Few snow flurries in west por-

tion this afternoon and tonight,

not so cold tonight in northeast

and east central portions.

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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