

Battleship Alabama Launched Today

Knox Says 'War Era' In Production Now

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 16. — (UP) — Secretary of navy Frank Knox said today that the United States has entered into the "war era" in the production of supplies and ships which in the end, will bring victory.

Speaking at the launching of the battleship Alabama—fourth of a class of the most powerful warships afloat—Knox said the navy is operating over three-fourths of the globe.

"Today we know beyond a doubt that the burden upon our navy is the greatest it has ever had to bear," he said. "We must protect our shores and our coastal commerce."

"We must protect those strategic areas vital to our defense—Hawaii, the Panama Canal, the Caribbean Sea, our good neighbors to the southward."

"We must protect the flow of supplies to Great Britain . . . we must check as best we can the surging flood of Japanese aggression in the Antipodes, until we can muster our forces to send it hurtling back to whence it came."

All these activities, Knox said, demand that the United States, as rapidly as possible gain control of the seas, not merely the surface, but the waters below and the air above.

"In some ways the launching of the Alabama here today marks the end of an era in our naval building program: the defense era," he said. "For the Alabama is the sixth battleship to be launched under the program and the last of a class of four which includes the Massachusetts, Indiana and South Dakota."

When the \$80,000,000 Alabama and preceding new ships of her class are completed the navy will have 19 battleships, the greatest battle force in the world. Excluded from that figure are the Arizona which was destroyed at Pearl Harbor and the Oklahoma which captured there and is temporarily out of commission. Eleven more battleships of still heavier classes are in the published two-ocean fleet program under contract.

The Alabama is 650 feet long, with a beam of 108 feet, 2 inches, and a draft of 34 feet. It has a designed speed in excess of 27 knots and will carry a main battery of nine 16-inch guns mounted in three turrets, as well as the most modern anti-aircraft and secondary broadside guns.

Its tremendous firepower and modern design will more than offset the loss of the battleship Arizona, a comparatively old craft.

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Jap Naval Base Goes Up in Smoke



A great pall of smoke hangs over Wotje Island, Japanese naval base and one of the main targets in the successful American attack on the Gilbert and Marshall Islands. The white streaks seen at the water's edge are flames consuming oil tanks, storage houses and shops. The Wotje Island base and four vessels found in the harbor were destroyed. This is a News of the Day Newsreel photo.

that the Japanese were moving up fresh troops.

Sixteen days ago the Japanese commander in the Philippines, Lieut. Gen. Masarahu Homma, believing he had MacArthur's valiant forces at his mercy, delivered an ultimatum demanding their surrender. Otherwise, he said, they would face "inevitable disaster" under the blows of an all-out Japanese offensive.

But since the ultimatum the men of MacArthur have held the enemy at a virtual standstill.

MacArthur has held out on Bataan peninsula now for 38 days, compared with the Japanese one-week siege of Singapore, and still has not fallen back upon his own "Singapore"—the fortress of Corregidor off the tip of Bataan in Manila Bay.

In the battling of the last five weeks he appears to have held the Japanese to an advance of about 15 miles southward of the Olongapo-Hermosa line to which his men fell back on Jan. 9 after the fall of Manila.

A war department communique Sunday said that fighting along the Bataan battlefield had been "limited to local, unimportant patrol skirmishes" with the Japanese evidently feeling out MacArthur's lines in an effort to find a soft spot or a springboard for their offensive.

"Forces of the enemy evidently are being regrouped for a resumption of the offensive," the communique said.

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Oppose Elimination Of School Vacation

Parents, Teachers Oppose Proposals

Indianapolis, Feb. 16. — (UP) — Parents and teachers were aligned today in opposition to wartime proposals to concentrate the public school program by eliminating vacations and shortening the training period of children.

The Indiana state teachers association and the Indiana congress of parents and teachers, in a joint statement, said "the lengthening of the school day or week and the elimination of proper vacation periods for the purpose of intensifying and shortening the training period of the child must be looked upon as a definite hazard to health."

The statement said child labor on farms and industry should be only an emergency measure, and recommended adjustments on an individual basis.

"Blanket dismissals of pupils for such purposes (labor) seem wholly indefensible," the statement asserted.

"It is imperative that children . . . be protected from emotional pressure of war."

Other planks adopted included school cooperation with civilian defense, revision of physical education programs, training of defense workers, cooperation in defense bond and stamp sales, retention of educational standards, adjustment of teachers' salaries to meet living costs.

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'The Wealth of the Indies'



Late reports from the East Indies indicate the Dutch are carrying out widespread "scorched earth" tactics to frustrate Jap drive for raw materials. If the Japs can take over the Indies without serious impairment of these resources by the defenders they will have the wherewithal for a war covering many years. Java is the richest of these islands, but all the others in the group are likewise rich in food to feed war machines. Map shows the riches on each of these islands for which the Japs are racing—in an effort to get there before Allied reinforcements can halt their drive to gobble up all of southern Asia. Increased Jap air activity over Sumatra, oil city of Palembang, is reported.

high percentage of the estimated 1,500,000 men in the 20-21 bracket probably will be called to military service.

Men in the 36-44 age group who do not fall into the 1-A classification, however, will be subject to call on the same selective basis as applies to the younger men.

New Canning Factory To Locate At Geneva

The town of Geneva is to have a new canning factory, it has been announced by the Geneva Booster club. The business, classified as a war industry, will employ 400 women and 75 men with an annual pay roll of \$45,000, according to H. R. Shaffer of Lynn, plant manager.

Construction is to start within 30 days on an 11-acre plot at the south edge of the town. The building, to be constructed of concrete, tile and steel, will occupy 13,000 square feet of floor space and will be equipped to handle 700 acres of tomatoes at a capacity

rate of 200 tons a day.

The canning season will start August 10. After the three months during which the tomatoes are packed, the factory will be converted to other uses, the manager stated.

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Decatur Daily Democrat

Chile President



Juan Antonio Rios Morales
Chile's new president, Juan Antonio Rios Morales, is shown as he voted in the Feb. 1 elections in Santiago. Morales, candidate of the National Democratic Front, defeated General Carlos Ibanez Del Campo by 55,000 votes.

THIMBLE THEATER



Now Showing—"SELF-SERVICE!"



BLONDIE

SHE STRIKES WHILE THE IRON'S HOT!

By Chic Young

