

ALLIED PLANES BOMBARD JAP BASES

Arthur Faces Problems For War Efforts

Mounting Of Detail Must Be Overcome

MacArthur's Headquarters, Manila, March 31.—(UP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur is getting the cooperation of all United States officials and services in facing perplexing problems in the supreme command for the Philippines.

A mountain of detail involved in preparing for defense of Australia and an eventual offensive against the Japanese cannot be handled in a day although the work is being speeded. But in addition there are three major problems that must be solved to achieve unity and authority:

MacArthur's command does not have allied naval forces. This has not been important in the past, but it will be most essential in the future. The strategy must be closely integrated with other operations in the Pacific which MacArthur envisions.

The now separate organization of the royal Australian air force must be integrated with American forces, which are a part of the army.

High Australian and American officials have said that they are frankly uncertain how the situation of widely scattered and uncoordinated organizations can be adjusted.

There is considerable confusion as to the extent to which MacArthur might command or superintend the allied government forces.

These problems admittedly are not unique to the United States. To match the Axis system of centralized and unified command and for swift, smashing operations it is felt here that they must be solved.

A bright spot is the reorganization of the Australian forces. Greater responsibility for the hard-hitting veterans is being taken home from Libya and other battlefields. They are being regrouped and distributed about the Australian forces, using experience and ability in a well-set-up.

The old Australian military board has been dissolved to simplify the command and one member of the board may join the Pacific war council at Washington.

There will be department heads. The general coordination of the United Nations forces under MacArthur is completed, probably within two or three weeks hence, the veteran forces will hold a major conference of responsibility for defense of Australia.

The organization of the battle plan for Australia, based on a belief that the Japanese may hurl their main attack against the country's north coast within two or three weeks, will be studied by the Australian war cabinet and war council.

The complete reorganization of the commands of Australia's land forces under Gen. Sir Blamey is under way.

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Berne Rural Carrier Resigns Position

Raymond Beer, Berne route one mail carrier, has resigned his position preparatory to being inducted into selective service soon.

Two Contingents To Enter Army Service

Groups Leave City In Next Two Weeks

Contingents of Adams county registrants will leave here for final army service on April 4 and 11.

Such was the information released today by the local draft board in conformity with a bulletin from state headquarters relative to publicity regarding induction.

The ruling forbids publication of the number of men, time of departure and route of travel. However, the list of names of the men in the contingents and their photographs may be published after they have begun their travel to induction center.

The Adams county board has been one of the few boards in this section of the state which has been observing the ruling banning publication of names of men in contingents, time of departure, number in quotas and calls.

The bulletin today served only "to clarify the situation since reports have been received in state headquarters indicating that there is considerable misunderstanding in Indiana about releasing news concerning inductions."

Although many nearby communities have been listing these men prior to their induction the local board adhered strictly to the rule.

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Clerk's Office Open For Voters

A new schedule of opening hours for the clerk's office on Saturday was announced today by county clerk Clyde O. Troutner.

The office will remain open later each day to accommodate voters who must register or transfer to be eligible to vote in the primary.

County workers and voters are urged to take advantage of the extra hours.

Both Saturday and Monday the office will not close until 5 p. m. Monday is the final day for the law for a voter to register.

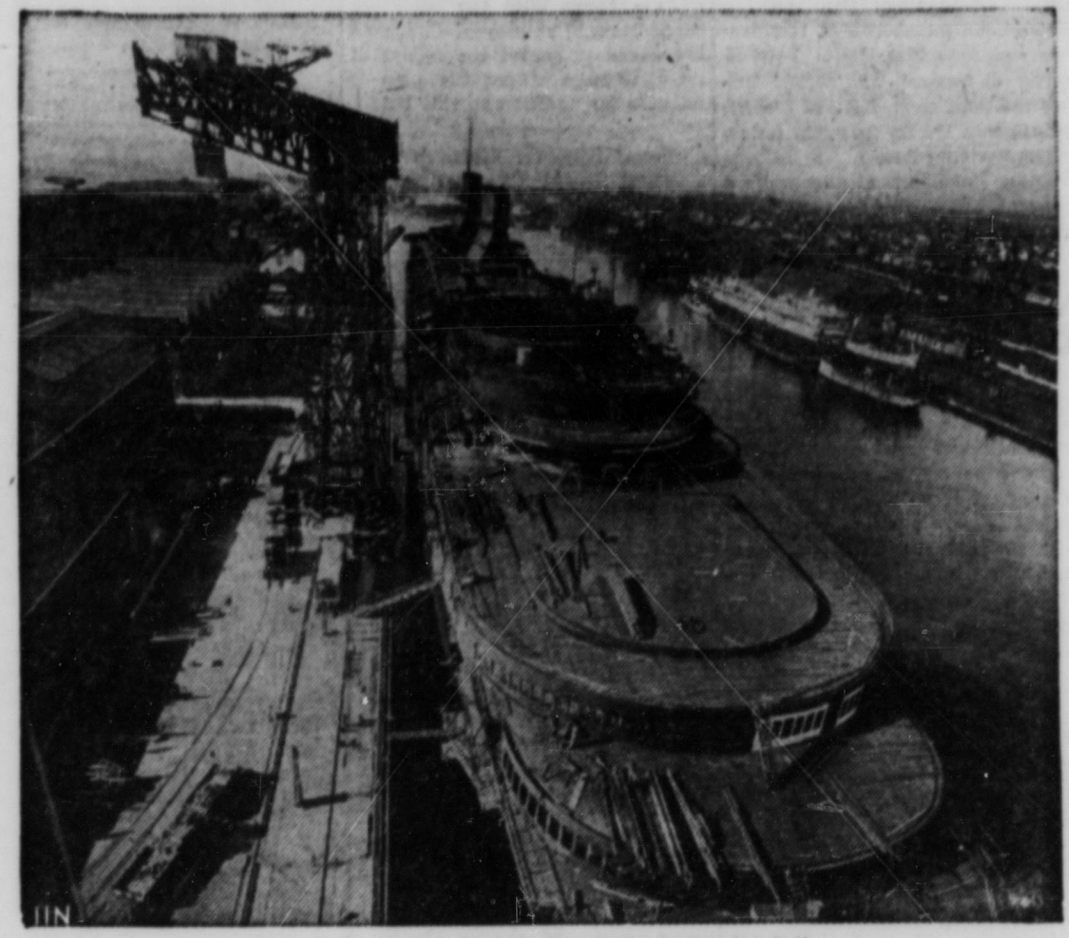
Saturday is the last day for a voter to file his declaration.

The law provides the regular voting hour as the deadline, no registrations may be filed after 5 p. m. The deadline actually fell on Sunday this year and thus was moved to Saturday under the election laws.

Orders Minors From Dispensing Liquor

The Indiana state excise board ordered the removal of minors from those places where beer and liquor are sold. The board has notified proprietors that girls or boys under 21 years of age can not be employed as waiters where alcoholic beverages are sold. Several places were affected by the order, which was received yesterday. The minors can not work behind bars or serve alcoholic beverages, according to the notification received here by dealers.

Where British Staged Daring Nazi Dock Raid



View at St. Nazaire at time Normandie was being built

Britain has given a heroes' welcome to the commandos, sailors and airmen who staged that daring, successful raid on St. Nazaire, France, Nazi submarine base. The British used a former American destroyer, fitted out as a time-bomb, to blow up the docks at St. Nazaire. It was believed that the wrecking of the dock facilities at St. Nazaire would limit German sub activities in the North Atlantic.

Asks Solicitors To File Defense Cards

Cal E. Peterson, city civilian defense chairman, today issued a statement, urging all volunteer defense solicitors to return their cards.

Solicitors are asked to have the cards returned to Mr. Peterson by Wednesday evening. Cards which were not used in conducting the house to house civilian defense enrollment are also to be returned.

The signed cards will be filed and indexed under the direction of Mr. Peterson and then used at future dates to secure persons in various lines of civilian defense work.

Many of the cards have already been returned, Mr. Peterson stated, and he is especially anxious to have the balance in order that the filing may be started.

A casual survey of the city disclosed that many homes have been enrolled 100 percent in civilian defense. Window stickers were

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Wells County Man For State Senator

Homer C. Michael, Wells county contractor, today announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for joint state senator from Adams, Wells and Blackford counties. Mr. and Mrs. Michael and their two sons live in Liberty Center.

He was disqualified for military service a year ago by reason of injuries sustained in a fall from a building.

Mercury Again Dips Below Freezing Here

In making a "MacArthur-like" stand against the advances of spring, Old Man Winter turned on a barrage of his more unfavorable elements into the city of Decatur and community late yesterday.

Dashing cold water onto the hopes of Decaturites who had looked for an early arrival of warm, spring weather, he covered the entire city in a cloak of high snow and thin ice.

Temperatures dropped below the freezing mark and traffic was slowed considerably last night as drivers rolled down windows to peer around the windshield in an effort to safely negotiate the intersections.

A bright sun appearing intermittently this morning soon removed most of the snow, but the mercury climbed rather slowly in conformity with the weather man's report of not much change in temperature for today.

Low Ayres, Movie Star, Sent To Camp For War Objectors

By M. Richard Applegate (Copyright 1942 by United Press)

Aboard West Coast Limited, En route to Portland, Ore., Mar. 31.—(UP)—Low Ayres, the movie star and first prominent American to refuse to shoulder arms because of religious scruples, sped toward a conscientious objectors' camp in Oregon today, and said that any other course would cause for him "a nightmare of hypocrisy and deceit."

Nervous, and as he put it, "emotionally upset," the handsome hero of many a movie epic, including Hollywood's first preachment against war, "All Quiet on the Western Front," boarded the train at a flagstop north of Hollywood last night.

"The whole thing is almost too close to me to talk about now," he said, pulling his brown tweed coat about his shoulders and settling down in the tourist sleeper berth for which government had paid.

Travelling with one other conscientious objector, a mechanic from Hollywood, Ayres said that his motives were almost entirely "religious." He said he believed that his experience in making "All Quiet" had had a tremendous effect on his outlook, and added that he would be sincerely sorry if his picture career had been ruined. From his pocket he took a prepared statement which he had intended to release when he reached the camp at Cascade Locks, Ore. The statement—one of the most surprising ever issued by a movie star—said:

"Now let us consider war. Is it not strange that no one really wants war, yet few think that life can be successfully or even respectfully lived without it? We all shake our heads sadly over our predicament, and then wait for the other fellow to stop it first, each side perhaps eager to be the benevolent victor."

"In confusion we stumble blindly

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Destructive Raids Made By Allied Air Squadrons; Japs Bomb Bataan Base Hospital

Suspend Business During Three Hours

Decatur To Observe Good Friday Here

Stores, offices and mercantile establishments will close Good Friday afternoon from 12 o'clock noon to 3 p. m. in observance of the Three Hours.

The First State bank will be closed all day, the last legislature declaring Good Friday a state holiday.

Public offices will also be closed during the Three Hours and several may remain closed for the balance of the afternoon.

Services will be held at the St. Mary's Catholic church and at the First Methodist church, the latter a union service of all Protestant churches, during the time that the Christian world commemorates the Three Hours which Jesus Christ spent on the Cross at Mt. Calvary.

Participating in the union service will be Rev. Ralph W. Graham, D.D., First Methodist church; Rev. Dwight Patterson, Union Chapel U. B.; Rev. G. T. Roselot, United Brethren church; Rev. Glen E. Marshall, Church of God; Rev. Paul Brandyberry, Church of the Nazarene; Rev. G. S. Lozier, First Evangelical church; Rev. Kenneth Timmons, First Christian church; Rev. C. M. Prugh, Th.D., Zion Evangelical and Reformed church; Rev. G. O. Walton, First Presbyterian church; Rev. C. R. Moser, First Baptist church.

At the Zion Lutheran church, a Good Friday service will be held at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, the pastor, Rev. Paul W. Schultz, announced.

The Daily Democrat office will be closed during the Three Hours.

India Refuses Acceptance Of British Plans

New Delhi, India, Mar. 31.—(UP)—Mohandas K. Gandhi, who often has stood against the British Empire, was reported today to have swung the all-India congress working committee against acceptance of Great Britain's plan for enlisting an independent India in the war against Japan.

The consensus of the working committee of the majority party after hearing Gandhi and President Azad, was for rejection of the British plan, which called for immediate Indian participation in home and empire councils and post war dominion status.

No flat rejection was made, however, because the committee continued to debate on whether to advise Sir Stafford Cripps that the plan was unacceptable or to present to him an alternative suggestion.

It was understood that if an alternative suggestion was presented it would include the working committee's rejection.

The working committee debate apparently did not mean collapse of Cripps' efforts to bring about an agreement among the Indian factions, especially the congress and the powerful Moslem minority. But it seemed to make certain that his efforts were gravely endangered unless some compromise formula can be worked out quickly.

Gandhi, as always in his opposition to Britain, was following a passive opposition policy. His main opposition was said to be based on his policy of non-violence, which made the British proposal for Indian participation in the war unacceptable.

James Werst Dies Late Monday Night

Decatur Man Dies After Long Illness

James Fredrick Werst, 69, well known Decatur resident, died at his home in this city at 11:36 o'clock Monday night after a year's illness of a heart ailment.

He was born in Adams county May 6, 1881, the son of Charles and Lydia Werst, and had lived in Decatur the past 28 years. He was an employee of the Decatur Lumber company for 30 years. He was a member of the Church of the Nazarene and the Moose and Red Men lodges.

Survivors include the widow, Malaysia; the mother, Mrs. Lydia Bodle of Decatur; four sons, Chalmers of Decatur, Olen of California, Adrian of Griffith and Chester of Geneva; one brother, Rufus Werst of Decatur; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Thursday at the Church of the Nazarene, Rev. Paul Brandyberry officiating. Burial will be in the Decatur cemetery. The body will be taken to the home of the mother, 1021 Line street, from the Gillig & Doan funeral home and may be viewed after 7 o'clock this evening.

Decatur Lad Loses Fingers In Accident

Tommy Rambo, 4, son of Glenn Rambo, of Fifth street, is confined in the Ada, Ohio hospital following an accident in which he lost two fingers from his right hand. The lad reportedly was playing with a pulley when the accident occurred, as his parents were visiting in Ada.

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14,500 Acres Signed By Sugar Company

Approximately 14,500 acres for growing of sugar beets for the Central Sugar company in this city, have been contracted by the fieldmen, H. W. McMillen, president of the company, stated today.

The goal is about 16,000 acres, which will allow for a little shrinkage during the sowing and growing season, the company planning a net of at least 15,000 harvested acres.

The plant is being repaired and put in shape for the anticipated increased factory run next fall. Sugar production is expected to reach more than 40 million pounds, an increase of about 50 percent over a year ago.

Payments For Job Insurance Higher

February job insurance payments to Adams county workers totaled \$6,454, Colonel Everett L. Gardner, Indiana employment security division director, said today. January payments were \$3,307 and February, 1941, payments were \$4,624.

Unemployment compensation awards in all counties of the state amounted to \$1,558,887.79, an increase of \$200,000 over January, and two and one-half times the February, 1941, payments. February payments brought the total for the first two months of the year to \$2,911,854.79, which is just half as much as the \$5,846,854.46 paid in the complete year 1941.

The average check for February was \$12.39, a new all-time high, and 44.1 percent of all checks were for either \$15 or the maximum of \$16.

February, 1942, disbursements in this county were: \$1,922 to rural residents; \$4,110 to Decatur residents; \$422 to Berne residents.

American Airmen Inflicting Heavy Losses On Japan Force In Far East

By United Press

Allied air squadrons ruling the air north of Australia raided Japanese bases again today in the New Guinea port of Lae and the Koepang airdrome on Timor island.

The offensive blows, led by American flying fortresses, followed a statement by Col. Eugene L. Eubank, American air commander in Java, that his forces had knocked out 16 Japanese warships, 46 transports and 50 airplanes up to March 1.

Since then the American and Australian pilots were credited with sinking about 28 enemy ships, including at least 14 warships, in the islands north of Australia. Some of these may duplicate Eubank's figures but in any event the total is high.

Counting the enemy ships knocked out in the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies as well as those reported hit or sunk around New Guinea and New Britain islands, the total number of enemy casualties would be approximately 30 warships and 60 transports in addition to probably 200 airplanes. Not all of the Japanese craft were sunk, however, and some may have been attacked more than once.

Today's raids against Koepang and Lae were destructive, Australian communiques said. At least six enemy airplanes were believed destroyed on the ground at Koepang, while at Lae the Japanese airdrome was hard hit and set afire.

The Japanese position in New Guinea appeared to be difficult since their forces advancing into the Markham valley previously had been driven back 27 miles to Lae due to floods and the rainy season now is likely to disrupt land operations for weeks.

In the Philippines, land fighting died down except for sharp patrol clashes on Bataan but Japanese air bombardment continued and an American base hospital was blasted, causing a number of casualties. The Washington communique said that the hospital was plainly marked and that the Japanese previously had avoided it.

On the European front, an Arctic sea battle was reported still in progress around an Allied convoy carrying war materials to Soviet Russia's port of Murmansk. Analysis of reports from London, neutral capitals and of the Berlin propaganda broadcast indicated that the Germans had made three or four air and warship attacks on the convoy, which the Nazis said was carrying supplies from America and Britain.

The results claimed by the Germans included the sinking of four Allied ships and the torpedoing of

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Retail Federation Reverses Policies, Proposes Sales Tax

Washington, Mar. 31.—(UP)—The American retail federation today proposed a five percent sales tax to raise \$3,000,000,000 in new revenue.

Earl Puckett, president of Allied Stores Corp., and chairman of the federation's tax policy committee, told the house ways and means committee that the federation was reversing its previous opposition to a general sales tax.

"Our previous opposition has been based on the merchant's selfish interest in protecting the purchasing power of the public against the tax collector."

TEMPERATURE READING DEMOCRAT THERMOMETER

8:00 a. m.	30
10:00 a. m.	33
Noon	37
2:00 p. m.	38
3:00 p. m.	40

WEATHER

Little change in temperature today and tonight; few snow flurries in north and central portions today.