

WASHINGTON CALLING

A Weekly Size-up by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Washington is still waiting for action to make its hair curl; considers Nelson's performance so far on the same side; likes his plans for delegating authority and holding subordinates responsible; has its fingers crossed on his ability to get action out of War and Navy Departments, which still let contracts.

Congress discovers that Army air forces appropriation voted this week is intended only to carry on plane production of 1941 level—"So we will not fall back in production in the latter part of the present year." Quote is from Gen. Arnold.

Plans are "being prepared" to meet President's 1942 production program.

NO PROSPECT, apparently, that Mrs. Roosevelt will follow Mayor La Guardia out of OGD.

She won't admit responsibility for this week's sugar panic.

Put Curb on Comment

CLOSER WORKING arrangement between Congress and executive department, to avoid future Connally-Hull incidents, may be worked out. Lawmakers may be more fully informed about military strategy, plans and prospects; bound to secrecy; pledged to refrain from disastrous comments like Connally's on Argentina, Singapore.

Censorship: Congressmen complain more than newspapers. They may release news of munitions plants, cantonments, only in town where building is to take place. Senators, in particular, want state-wide publicity.

Centralization of manpower procurement agencies is in the works; selective service may be tied in with job of finding, training and allocating workers for munitions plants. Labor priorities are not far off.

New unemployment-insurance payments for war-conversion unemployed may be conditioned on workers taking vocational training for war industries. May also be weapon to control labor migration.

Spreads War Orders

LITTLE BUSINESS: There'll be no percentage allocations of raw materials. That plan went out with OGD. But this is no death sentence. Nelson plans: To spread war orders as much as possible without impeding speed of production; to divert civilian production from converted plants to small unconvertibles.

Small plants may get record-breaking business, this way.

Coast areas won't get new war industries, except where they can furnish the only quickly available electric power.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT: War effort may gobble most if not all of this year's nylon. Rayon and silk are scarce. Save those stockings.

SEC will win its battle against increase in size from five to nine members. Installation of panel system to procedure. Investment Bankers Association has been agitating for it.

Knudsen Stands By

GOOD SOLDIER: Some of Gen. Knudsen's friends at OPM wanted him to quit when Nelson took the big job. "I'll do whatever my President wants me to do," Knudsen said. "If he told me to take a gun and walk guard in front of this building I'd do it."

Budget Bureau tried to call Nelson's executive order illegal in parts. Roosevelt backed Nelson. Still to be heard from: Comptroller General.

Wickard victory in farm-price war may be a hollow one. Roosevelt can tell him to go along, or else.

Gasoline rationing? Yes, probably. Henderson wants it as a further rubber-conservation measure. Bicycle demand increasing each week.

REDS FORCE BIG BULGE IN NORTH

60-Mile Advance Promises To Eclipse Victory at Mzhaisk.

LONDON, Jan. 24 (U. P.).—Russian forces were reported today to be approaching the main Leningrad-Vitebsk-Kiev Railroad at a point more than 250 miles west-northwest of Moscow after a lightning advance of more than 60 miles which promised to eclipse their victory at Mzhaisk. The battle raged in a temperature of 40 below zero.

Tirelessly attacking, Red Army troops had driven into the German front between Moscow and a light-northern and central armies. There were unconfirmed reports that the Russians already were storming Rzhev, 135 miles west-northwest of Moscow, after the advanced forces had passed it by, and that they had left Vyazma in their wake, to be reduced similarly at leisure, in a drive for Smolensk, 210 miles west of Moscow on the Warsaw road.

Torch Applied to City

The main Russian forces advancing westward from Mzhaisk were reported to have captured Gzhatsk, 40 miles east of Vyazma, after the Germans had lost a motorized brigade left as a rear guard.

Unconfirmed Stockholm reports described a night-mare battle at Rzhev, asserting that the Germans were putting the city to the torch, preparing for a retreat, while Russian Stormovik planes raised bombs on them and Russian shock troops drove into the city with the bayonet.

According to some of these reports five German divisions, or upwards of 75,000 men, were faced with disaster in the general area of Rzhev.

Heavy Booty Listed

A Russian communique claimed the capture of 20 wireless stations, 38,145 mines, 11,300 81-mm. mortar shells, 225 miles of telephone cables, a pontoon unit and 16 pontons, 32 tractors, a launch, 355 railroad cars and quantities of other arms.

On the southern front Russian troops in one day captured 33 field guns, 24 machine guns, 10 trench mortars, 53 trucks, 10 radio transmitters, 21 motorcycles and quantities of food and other supplies.

The Germans lost 1700 men here, it was asserted, and the Russians took some prisoners.

DESERT TANK FIGHT COVERS WIDE AREA

CAIRO, Jan. 24 (U. P.).—British Imperial and Axis mechanized forces are locked in battle in the Agedabia region, 90 miles south of Benghazi, Libya, with the fighting raging over a wide area. British General Headquarters for the Middle East said today.

German and Italian troops were in contact with the main British forces, some 40 miles outside Agedabia. It was understood the battle between the two main groups was joined last night and that it was raging with increasing fury today.

Gen. Erwin Rommel, commander of the German Africa Corps, had halted his retreat at El Agheila on the Cyrenaica-Tripolitania border, and turned back to attack his pursuers.

British planes, held to the ground for several days by some of the worst North African weather in 10 years, repaid to battle the fresh air forces thrown into battle by the Axis in support of Rommel.

OSTROM TO ADDRESS PATRIOTIC ASSEMBLY

Henry E. Ostrom will speak tomorrow night at a patriotic assembly of the Building Service Employees' Union 69, in Castle Hall.

Mr. Ostrom is civilian aid for procurement of Army Air Corps cadets in the 5th Corps Area. Carl G. Berg, president of the A. F. of L. affiliate union, will preside at the meeting scheduled for 7 p. m.

The color guard of Frank T. Strayer Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will participate in a flag ceremony. Mr. Berg said Mayor Sullivan and a representative of the Board of School Commissioners had been invited.

IOZZO DENIED PAROLE; FACES ANOTHER YEAR

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Jan. 24.—A parole was denied Fred Iozzo, former Indianapolis tavern operator, by the State Prison Board last night.

Iozzo is serving a 1-to-10-year sentence for involuntary manslaughter and last night's ruling means that he cannot seek a parole again until a year has passed.

Iozzo was convicted Feb. 16, 1941, in connection with the fatal shooting of Virgil Disher, 16, in the Iozzo tavern Oct. 25, 1940.

SKIN BLOTCHES

External causes usually relieved and helped by mild medicated, emollient

CUTICURA

That Dog May Come Later



A boy's best pal is his dog, but this bed-ridden youngster must be content with a teddy bear. Dogs hardly fit into the scheme of things at James Whitcomb Riley Hospital, where this patient is fighting his battle against infantile paralysis. The President's Birthday Ball gives hope of victory and some day, when the battle is won, this boy may be walking with a dog at his heels.

U. S. LINES FALL BACK IN LUZON

MacArthur Forced to Yield Some Positions on West Coast of Bataan.

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but doughty force of U. S. fighting planes. Japanese forces were attacking on a 24-hour basis, apparently regardless of casualties in an attempt to deliver a knockout blow.

It was the first time since the early days of the war in the Philippines that any mention had been made of aircraft support for Gen. MacArthur's gallant fight.

The size of the fighter force nestled at a secret field or fields amid Bataan's jungles and mountain peaks was not revealed. But it was said to have accounted for at least 38 Japanese war planes since the war started. There was no statement as to how many of these planes had been brought down since Gen. MacArthur dug in on Bataan for his siege stand.

The planes were said to be Curtiss P-40 fighters, more than capable of dealing with any Japanese pursuit ships being employed in the Luzon attack.

This is the same type of plane with which American volunteer pilots attached to the Chinese Air Force aided British fighter squadrons in bringing down 21 planes over Rangoon.

The American fighters and the heavy anti-aircraft batteries of Corregidor, it was evident, have played an important role in preventing Japanese air power from delivering crushing blows against Gen. MacArthur's positions.

Corregidor's guns and the other anti-aircraft weapons protecting Gen. MacArthur's strong points are credited with the destruction of 84 Japanese planes since the start of fighting.

TAX LOOPHOLES DRAW MORGENTHAU ATTACK

CLEVELAND, Jan. 24 (U. P.).—Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., declaring that "it is high time to tax the income of state and municipal securities," attacked loopholes in Federal taxation today which he said allowed almost a billion dollars annually in tax income to pass from the shoulders of a few thousand persons on to the rest of the nation.

Mr. Morgenthau told the Cleveland City Club Forum that four specific tax loopholes—tax exemption securities, the community-property law of nine states, separate returns for husband and wife, and the so-called "percentage depletion" provision of the income tax law—should be closed to meet the insistent needs of a nation at war.

A new and drastic decree was issued by Lieut. Gen. Masaharu Homma, commander-in-chief of Japanese forces in the Philippines, imposing the death penalty upon civilians guilty of any one of 17 categories of offenses, ranging from "rebellion" to "any other acts against the interests of the Japanese forces."

The Japanese may have been compelled to order these drastic penalties because of actual or threats of revolt and sabotage.

Brazil Reveals Axis Threats; Peru Breaks After Rio Pact

(Continued from Page One)

to a point where he almost broke relations last Sunday.

The letters were understood to have prompted Vargas to order immediate police precautions in Brazil against subversive activities by Axis agents and put the Brazilian Government more strongly than ever behind the resolution for a break by all American nations.

Sumner Welles, U. S. Undersecretary of State, described Vargas as "a mountain of strength" in the final negotiations for approval of the resolution.

Welles to Broadcast

Mr. Welles will broadcast at 5:45 p. m. (Indianapolis Time) to the United States today, explaining the conference results.

Argentina and Chile to the end bitterly opposed a break and efforts to bring them into the united front had delayed the conference and frayed tempers for more than a week.

Ecuador Holds Back

Ecuador considers herself the aggrieved nation in her century-old border dispute with Peru, and pre-

BRITISH HOLD ON IN EAST MALAYA

Fight Stubbornly on West And Central Fronts; Wreck Jap Tanks.

By HAROLD GUARD

SINGAPORE, Jan. 24.—British Imperial troops, fighting stubbornly against a savage Japanese drive on the central and western fronts, have destroyed Japanese tanks and other vehicles and are holding on the eastern front, a General Headquarters communiqué said today.

British planes, backing up the hard-pressed ground forces, struck furiously against the Japanese along the main Singapore highway north of the central front, attacking troops and transport.

They bombed roads, causing casualties and damage to transport, the communiqué said, and low-flying planes machine-gunned Japanese troops.

All planes returned to base, it was asserted.

Pressure 60 Miles North

The Japanese were exerting powerful pressure on the Batu Pahat sector of the west coast, 60 miles above the Tebrau Strait which separates Singapore from the mainland, the communiqué disclosed.

It was in this area and in the Paloh area, on the central front 60 miles north of the strait, that the Imperials struck back at the Japanese and knocked out tanks and vehicles.

I returned from the front to find Singapore increasingly warlike, and talking more of the battle of Singapore than the battle of Malaya.

I saw also the damage that Japanese bombs had done during my absence.

Catholic Church Damaged

The great sultan mosque, the Catholic church of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Malayan and Chinese Methodist churches had been damaged. The parochial house of Our Lady of Lourdes and the parsonage of the Chinese Methodist pastor had been wounded.

Sir Shenton Thomas, the Governor, visited the bombed area Wednesday and helped dig out casualties at one place.

A big shipping company and two banks have opened bomb-proof shelters to the public.

Comradeship Exists

Authorities are appealing urgently for blood donors. Hundreds of lives were saved by blood transfusions after the Japanese bombings of the civilian area earlier this week, but casualties were so heavy the blood stock was almost exhausted and the need now is urgent.

The fighting services have requisitioned all but three of the British schools and those three closed because pupils could get no transport.

The approach of the front to the strait has altered the attitude of most people in the island, and there is a general feeling of comradeship.

It is heartening to see the city well protected by British fighter planes at last. There are unofficial reports of several dog fights across the strait and over the sea in which the Japanese got the worst of it.

It was evident that at the front the Japanese were greatly increasing their pressure on the ground. It was admitted that all reports from the now acutely dangerous west coast were confused and that it was hard to get an exact picture of the situation—except that it was bad.

Dispatches from the front indicated that Australian, British and Indian troops were fighting heavily on all three fronts, west, center and east, against superior numbers and tireless attack supported by big formations of Japanese planes.

There were strong indications that the Japanese were succeeding in penetrating on the east coast as well as on the west coast, and that they were being held on the center only.

NAVY BOMBER SINKS WITH CREW OF EIGHT

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 24 (U. P.).—Fifth Naval District Headquarters here reported today that a Navy PB-1 bomber had crashed and sunk near Oregon Inlet, N. C., with the loss of its crew of eight. Several bodies have been recovered.

NEW ALBANY COUNCIL ACTS UNDER INQUIRY

NEW ALBANY, Ind., Jan. 24 (U. P.).—Prosecutor Paul J. Taggart was expected to subpoena Street Commissioner Louis Thorn and several other department workers today to testify before a Floyd County Grand Jury investigating alleged violations of a state statute by City Council members which forbids them selling supplies to the city.

In the initial hearing yesterday, Frank E. Kelley, former police chief, and City Clerk James G. Ferrell testified as the first witnesses.

The charges against the Council members were brought by Kelley following his demotion to patrolman. Kelley had led the revolt of police personnel against the City Council's establishment of a 12-hour shift for police at no increase in pay.

Is Your Liver Asleep?

Don't be that way! The only trouble is you need Hask's Liver Pills to put you right back on top. It is very important that everyone has sufficient bile flow to keep intestinal waste moving. If this is not done you become bloated, your stomach is sour, and life in general looks pretty dark. Keep that bile moving into your intestines every day and keep that smile on your face because you're feeling TOPE!

V Formation



Painted V's top off close-shaved haircuts of these recruits in Hawaii Territorial Guard at Honolulu. Head shaving wasn't done with that bayonet.

AUSSIES ARMING AS PERIL GROWS

Canberra Appeals Again to U. S. for Help as Japs Keep Closing In.

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lots reported the enemy landing at Rabaul.

It was suggested unofficially that Japanese paratroops had aided in the invasion, but the big guns of the enemy fleet made it difficult if not impossible for the small Australian garrison to put up any serious resistance. It was believed the defenders had fallen back into the jungle and the hills to fight in guerrilla fashion.

All Units on War Footing

Australian mobilization applies to the militia, a compulsory defense force, and to certain home garrisons.

All units will be placed on a war footing immediately.

"In these times the nation's safety is paramount," War Minister Forde said. "I believe the Australian people are prepared for strong action. They will get it."

Earlier, Forde conferred with Gen. Vernon Sturdee, chief of the General Staff, on defense measures. Government reports indicated that Australian National Guardsmen and volunteers were fighting Japanese invasion troops in the interior of New Britain island, in the Bismarck archipelago, and in the neighborhood of Kieta, in the Solomons southeast of New Britain.

Win Foothold on Celebes

The Japanese had established themselves on the northern arm of Dutch Celebes, off the northwest corner of Australia, and the Government held that the situation was urgent because the Japanese Navy had effectively isolated the continent until reinforcements arrived.

It was reported in well-informed quarters that in its messages for help the Government said that though Japanese forces had been detected in the area of the Bismarck islands a week ago, no adequate Allied move had been made to prevent a threatened landing there or in New Guinea, which it was held was an obvious objective.

Bomber Planes Desired

The Government expressed the view that if the Allies continued to permit Japan to strengthen its position by seizing additional bases, the situation, already grave, would become acutely dangerous.

The Government asked especially for fighter, bomber and torpedo carrier planes for use against Japanese invasion fleets.

It was understood that service chiefs had told the Cabinet that immediate reinforcement gave the only hope of halting Japan's invasion of the Australian defense area.

DUTCH AIRMEN BOMB 3 SHIPS

Russian Drive Gains Speed; Nazis at Leningrad and Smolensk in Danger.

(Continued from Page One)

Burma Road base at Rangoon was developing. The British withdrew as the Japanese pushed out from the mountains to the flat coastal lands and claimed Moulmein was encircled in drive to cut the Burma Road and isolate China. In England Lord Strabolgi, Labor whip in Parliament, said that Japan was driving toward India.

CHINA—Chinese airplanes reported the sinking of two Japanese transports off French Indo-China.

BATAVIA—The Japanese bombed Ternate Island, east of Celebes, and Samarinda, on the east coast of Borneo.

Allied Traffic in Peril

The Japs already have nullified Singapore as an Allied naval base—but not as a key base for future counter-blows. They will have cut off all or almost all Allied traffic over the important route north of Australia if, as seems likely, they can consolidate their landings in New Guinea and New Britain.

But the main line of defense islands held by the Allies in the East Indies merely has been penetrated, rather than broken. The United Nations' lines have been shortened, especially at Singapore and Rangoon, and their defenses have become stiffer as the climactic battles develop to determine whether the enemy can finally break through.

British Fall Back in Libya

In any event, the gravity of the Japanese offensive continued unabated and the British gains in North Africa appeared to be in some danger as a result of Axis counter-attacks directed by Nazi Gen. Erwin Rommel.

Rommel struck back into the Agedabia sector after receiving aerial reinforcements, and has engaged the British on a triangular battlefield about 40 miles across the base, Agedabia, Antelat and Saunnu were the corners of the triangle, south of Benghazi, and it appeared that the Germans were attempting to break up British attack preparations rather than beginning a big-scale counter-offensive.

In Russia, the Red Army disclosed its biggest victory of the present counter-offensive had carried 250 miles northwest of Moscow and o within about 100 miles of the old Latvian border, recapturing or immediately threatening Khelm, Velikie Luki, Rzhev and other important cities in Hitler's winter defense line.

Can Pincers Be Closed?

This drive, made since Jan. 1, threatened to split the German front at Leningrad from the central front, but, more important, it showed that the northern arm of the Russian pincers had advanced to a point northwest of Smolensk.

The southern arm previously had battered its way to within possibly 60 miles of Smolensk and if the pincers can now be closed the Axis forces on the central section will be lucky if they are able to escape a huge trap and set up new lines on the Dnieper-Dvina front.

PRODUCERS HONOR VETERAN EMPLOYEES

Thirteen employees of the Producers' Commission Association who have been with the organization throughout its 20 years, were honored last night at the Association's 20th annual meeting in the Claypool Hotel.

Special recognition also was given livestock feeders with long periods of service.

The Association re-elected Layton Johnson of Atlanta, Ind., and C. L. Coffin of Bloomington as directors. The Rush County chorus provided music.

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