

The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Rain this afternoon becoming colder by night and decidedly colder tonight with rain changing to snow.

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FINAL
HOME

PRICE THREE CENTS

SUB SHELLS ISLE NEAR PANAMA

Japs Capture Major Allied Oil Base In Sumatra

300,000 HOOSIERS 20 TO 44 SIGN UP FOR DRAFT TODAY; 30,000 IN COUNTY REGISTER

All Realize Gravity as
They Offer to
Serve U. S.

By EARL RICHERT

Calmly and with little trace of the grimness they all felt, 300,000 Hoosiers who have been kept on the sidelines so far today broke ranks and flocked to the colors.

The routine for registering for military service was the same as in the two previous registrations, but today's registration of men between the ages of 20 and 44 inclusive was vastly different.

There was no light-hearted quipping about "being out in a year." And there were no bitter remarks about "the Administration trying to get us into war."

All Realize Gravity of Day
Today's was a war-time registration. The U. S. has been attacked and with the fall of Singapore only a little more than 24 hours old, each of the registrants was gravely aware of the gravity of the situation facing the U. S. and its Allies.

They all realized that it might become necessary, regardless of dependents or vital jobs, for Uncle Sam to call them into his armed forces. And, almost to a man, they were ready.

Early Registration Heavy
One registrant, whose gray hair belied his 40 years, expressed the sentiments of many:

"I have talked the matter over with my wife and daughter," he said, "and we have agreed that if it becomes necessary for me to go we will look upon it simply as a necessary job for me to do."

The registration worked smoothly. A large percentage of the volunteer registrants were veterans of the former two registrations.

Most of the county's 128 draft registration places were filled at 7 a. m. with persons who wanted to register before going to work.

The registration dwindled off after 10 a. m., giving the registrars a needed breathing spell. A rush is expected again after working hours this afternoon and by the time the registration places close at 9 p. m. it is estimated that 30,000 men will have been registered in Marion County.

Take Present 1-A Men First
Today's registration will boost the reservoir of Indiana manpower from which Uncle Sam has drawn and is drawing to approximately 730,000 men—one fifth of the state's population.

Over the nation, 9,000,000 men were registering, bringing the number of men registered throughout the U. S. to approximately 25,000,000.

Under orders from Washington, state draft officials will not release information concerning the number (Continued on Page Two)

MOTORIST ARRESTED AFTER PUPIL IS HURT

An 8-year-old child was struck while on his way to school today by a motorist who was charged by police with failure to give a pedestrian the right of way and disobedience to traffic signals.

The child, Melvin Brown, 402 N. West St., was taken to City Hospital for treatment and later released. The motorist was Raymond Farmer, R. R. 7, Box 426, who was driving a delivery truck. He told police the windshield was steamed and he could not see. The accident happened at Blackford and Michigan Sts.

Officer John Metzger, watching the corner, showed other children from the path of the truck.

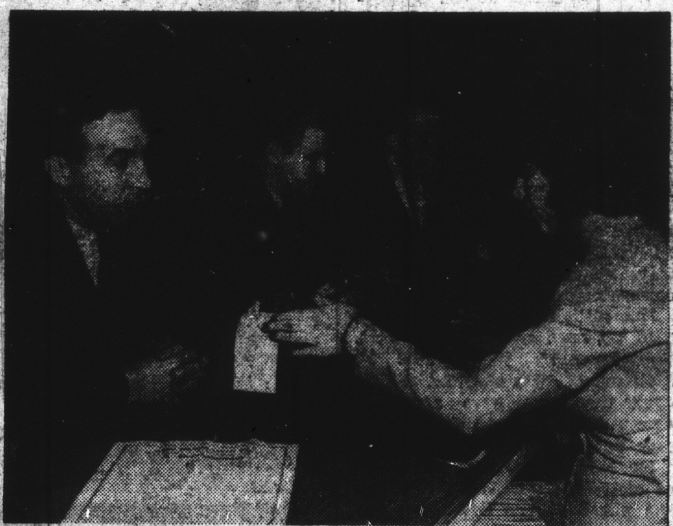
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Many of the men who run the draft in Marion County were being registered themselves today. Among them was Vernon M. Scott (left), chairman of Draft Board 1, who was registered at the Little Flower Church by Paul J. McDuff, 5301 E. 9th St.



His own registration today was not the first experience Tony Hinkle (left), athletic director of Butler University, has had with the draft. He has contributed several of his star athletes to it already. Registering him is Esther Odom, 221 E. Michigan St.

It's 'Father-and-Son' Day As Uncle Sam Calls Again

This was a sort of "Father-and-Son" day for many Hoosier families with both Father and Junior registering for the draft at the same time.

Draft Board officials reported that there were "a surprisingly large number" of fathers in the early 40s who came in with their 20-year-old sons.

Some were unable to register at the same time because of their work.

Typical of this group was Cecil Eggers, 43, a draftsman at Schwitzer-Cummins, and his 20-year-old son, Norman, a salesman for the General Neon Sign Co. Norman registered this morning at the Federal Building and his father was to register after work this afternoon.

Norman's brother, Maurine, 21, enlisted in the Marines the day war was declared. Norman tried unsuccessfully to get into the Marines. The Eggers live at 528 S. Vine St.

John LeBar, an Austrian who was detained by the FBI for a short time last month, announced his intention of enlisting in the Army Air Corps after he registered at the Federal Building.

"I was in the Austrian cavalry until Austria was defeated," he said. "And then after the portion of the country in which I lived was placed in Yugoslavia I served about 18 months as a machine gunner in the Yugoslav air force."

"It will be one of the happiest moments of my life if I can become (Continued on Page Two)

Fathers and Sons Sign
Men in the 36-44 age group who do fall into the 1-A classification, however, will be subject to call on the same selective basis as applies to the younger men.

There were many cases in the last few days of father and son registering at the same time. Many World War veterans, too, were included in this latest registration.

Detailed questionnaires on vocational experience will be sent to every registrant who has not already been called into the service. There are approximately 25,000,000 such men, including those registering today.

The new survey of vocational experience will fit into current preparations to obtain the most effective use of the nation's manpower in essential production as well as military service.

Call LI-6501
If you have a question about today's box draft registration for men between the age of 20 and 44, call LI-6501.

A special information service for the registration has been installed at State Selective Service headquarters here. Extra operators are on duty so that calls may be answered promptly.

FEAR 60,000 ARE CAPTURED AT SINGAPORE

Lack of Food and Water
Brings Fall; Believe
Only Few Escape.

LONDON, Feb. 16 (U. P.).—Fear spread today that the entire Empire garrison, estimated at 60,000 men, had been involved in the surrender of Singapore to the Japanese.

Nearly 24 hours after the cessation of fighting, government authorities said they were completely without news of the situation or of the fate of the British, Australian, Indian, Malayan and Sarawak troops.

Women, Children Remain
(Approximately 60,000 British troops surrendered, a Tokyo broadcast said. These included 15,000 British troops, 15,000 Australian and 30,000 Indian soldiers.)

The Tokyo report added there were 120 British women and children remaining in Singapore.

A military commentator disclosed that some time Sunday afternoon, Singapore time, Gen. A. E. Percival, commanding at Singapore, advised Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, united nations commander-in-chief, that because of heavy losses and lack of water, fuel, food and ammunition his position was hopeless and further defense was impossible, and that he intended to surrender.

The commentator said that he had no information whatever on Axis reports that many Empire troops had evacuated.

"We know nothing," he said. "There was no policy of evacuation. The intention was always to fight it out to the last."

"There was some evacuation of women, children and wounded and there may have been some evacuation in the case of technical troops. We had very heavy losses in material."

Japs Gave First Word
The commentator said that the Empire troops in the Malaya campaign included the 18th British division, two brigades of the 8th Australian division, the 9th and 11th Indian divisions, totaling about 55,000 men, plus some fortress troops and supply and ordnance units, making the total considerably higher.

Shocked by the fall of Singapore and asserting that the country faced its gravest situation since the (Continued on Page Two)

JAPS DIRECT NEW
BLOWS AT BATAAN

Singapore Fall Increases
Threat to MacArthur.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (U. P.).—Aided by heavy artillery fire and aerial attacks, Japanese infantry is slashing at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Bataan peninsula defense lines at several points, a communication said today.

Undaunted by the fall of Singapore, 150 miles to the southwest, which has increased the threat to Gen. MacArthur, the outnumbered American and Filipino forces were grimly resisting the new Japanese blows.

The unimpaired Japanese artillery along the mountainous and jungle like battlefield stretching across the peninsula, after a week of virtual silence, indicated to military experts that the Japanese commander-in-chief Gen. Masaharu Homma, might be nearly ready to unleash his threatened all-out assault.

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"I was in the Austrian cavalry until Austria was defeated," he said. "And then after the portion of the country in which I lived was placed in Yugoslavia I served about 18 months as a machine gunner in the Yugoslav air force."

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The Singapore I left Wednesday night in a sailing vessel was a blazing hell of shell and bomb fire and burning oil tanks.

The whole island seemed afire.

Registers Son



One of the first persons Mrs. Marjorie Swift, a registrar at the Indiana University Building at the Fair Grounds, registered today was her own son, Robert Wren Swift, 20. Many women registrars also had the unusual experience of registering their husbands for the draft.

FUNK SAYS BLUE BROKE PLEDGES

Possible Rival in Primary
Charges Graft by 'Same
People at Same Stands.'

By VERN BOXELL

Prosecutor Sherwood Blue's record since he took office Jan. 1, 1941, was termed a "trail of broken promises" today in an open letter by Glenn Funk, attorney and probable candidate for prosecutor in the Republican May primary.

His letter was in reply to one he received from Mr. Blue, also a Republican, Feb. 9, asking his co-operation in an investigation of the "policy racket" and certain taverns on Indiana Ave.

Mr. Funk charged that the Prosecutor had promised to "clean up graft and corruption in the county without fear or favor," but that the "same people are doing their same old business at the same old stands."

He also charged that Mr. Blue had failed to change the tavern situation or solve the youth problems, as he had pledged.

Prosecutor Blue said today that he had no comment on Mr. Funk's letter.

Pointing out that there are 30 deputies and two investigators on the Prosecutor's staff, Mr. Funk said "surely they are not so overworked as to be unable to investigate the conditions as they exist."

He also alleged that \$3000 paid to 10 "special deputies" put on the payroll during November and December was money "distributed as a sort of year-end dividend to some of the boys who were getting a little impatient, to keep them quiet a little while longer and to get them to consider you with a little more personal favor."

These special deputies were paid (Continued on Page Two)

SCHRICKE ASSAILS
JOBLESS AID PLAN

Washington, Feb. 16 (U. P.).—President Roosevelt asked his congressional leaders today to try to expedite handling of the Administration's bitterly contested \$300,000,000 program for relieving workers who lost their jobs through wartime conversion of industry.

Mr. Roosevelt was told, it was learned, that opposition to the bill has reached serious proportions because of apprehension in the states that Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt is trying to Federalize unemployment compensation.

Governor Henry F. Schricker of Indiana, urging defeat of the measure, said the "fathers and mothers of this bill, if it has a parentage, were thinking of federalization."

He denounced recent federalization of the employment services as an invasion of states' rights.

On that island then, were 60,000 British imperial troops—youths and veteran regulars drawn from all over the British Empire.

Unless there has been a miracle they are still there, prisoners of the Japanese, those who survive.

WHEN I LEFT, under a blast of Japanese bomb and shell fire, there was not a single naval unit around Singapore.

There were 675 persons aboard the sailing ship, built to accommodate 80 in addition to the crew. Of these, 20 (Continued on Page Two)

ENEMY WINS FOOTHOLD IN JAVA THRUST

U. S., Dutch and British
Fliers Blast 10 Ships;
Fail to Halt Foe.

By JOHN R. MORRIS

BATAVIA, Java, Feb. 16.—The Japanese army invading the main Dutch East Indies island by air and sea captured the destroyed Sumatra oil center of Palembang and thrust close to Allied supreme headquarters on Java today despite, "devastating" counter-blows that blasted 10 enemy transports and warships, including two cruisers, with heavy loss of life.

American, Dutch and British aircraft battered the enemy invasion forces along the Sumatra coast, up the 56-mile Musi River route to Palembang, where the oil facilities had been destroyed, and at three points where enemy parachute troops estimated at 700 well-armed soldiers were landed.

Defenders Still Fighting
Dutch land forces were reported still fighting south of Palembang to hold the railroad line leading south-eastward toward the island of Java.

A communique issued by the united nations headquarters of Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, said that:

1—American and Dutch planes scored direct hits on five troop-laden enemy transports and two cruisers, one of which was set afire off the Sumatra coast. Three Japanese transports previously had been bombed by the Dutch, making a total of eight ships hit in addition to the cruisers.

2—British eight-gun Hurricanes and Blenheim bombers battered enemy troop transports and barges with bombs and cannon in six attacks as they moved up the Musi River toward Palembang.

3—Dutch defense forces wiped out a great percentage—possibly 500—of the Japanese paratroopers landed at three points around Palembang.

Despite the Allied blows, the Netherlands East Indies news agency said that "a very large" enemy fleet was pouring thousands of Japanese soldiers into Sumatra Island as a result of the fall of Singapore.

Destroy Oil Facilities
Thus the western prong of the Japanese pincers moved closer to Java, while the eastern prong was set for an over-water thrust at Soerabaya naval base on Borneo.

(In London, Dutch sources said that Borneo was "as good as gone and Sumatra cannot be held.") The defense of Java was described by these sources as "touch and go."

The Dutch had applied vigorously the "scorched earth" in the great oil fields around Palembang, destroying at least \$100,000,000 worth of facilities and dashing the hopes of the Japanese to seize the main East Indies oil supply.

PREDICTS RATIONING
OF GASOLINE SOON

Wall Street Journal Sees
Action in 3 Weeks.

Times Special
NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—Plans to control the distribution of gasoline will be taken within three weeks, the Wall Street Journal reported today in an analysis of the petroleum situation.

Full-fledged rationing with ration coupons will follow shortly thereafter, it was predicted. Although stocks are lowest along the seaboard because of diversion of tankers to war uses, it was thought probable the rationing system would be set up on a nation wide basis.

20 BARBERS HERE
FIGHT NEW RULES

Twenty Indianapolis barbers filed a suit in Superior Court today asking that the State Barber Board be restrained from enforcing its recent prices and hours regulation.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES
6 a. m. 44 10 a. m. 48
7 a. m. 45 11 a. m. 49
8 a. m. 48 12 (noon) ... 49
9 a. m. 48 1 p. m. 50

On the War
Fronts

BATAVIA: Japs capture Palembang, but ten ships—including two cruisers—are hit in united nations air attack.

SINGAPORE: Fear 60,000 British troops lost in unconditional surrender of Singapore to Japs.

LONDON: Churchill's address fails to appease demands for radical reorganization of government.

RUSSIA: Russian drive into White Russia outflanks Nazi positions; Reds drive to within 85 miles of Poland border.

RANGOON: Jap drive threatens Thath, 75 miles from Burma Road.

AUSTRALIA: Government orders whole population to "work or fight" as nation braces for Jap invasion attempt.

BERLIN: Heavy British losses claimed in Axis attack on convoy from Alexandria to Malta.

PHILIPPINES: Bataan defenders resist increased heavy Jap artillery and aerial attack.

Scene of Attack



The grave menace in the Axis' first attack on the Western Hemisphere is shown in the above map. Aruba, shelled by a Nazi submarine today, is one of three islands in the Dutch West Indies only 800 miles from the Panama Canal and 2000 miles from New York. The star just off Venezuela at the bend of the lines shows its location.

LABOR SCARCITY FACED ON FARMS

Situation Threatens State
Dairy Industry, Bureau
Survey Shows.

By WILLIAM CRABE

Indiana's dairy industry is on the "downgrade" despite the Government's request for a 5 per cent increase in milk production, an Indiana Farm Bureau survey showed today.

The reason given was a farm labor shortage.

A survey in 88 of the 92 counties will be outlined to the Midwest meeting of Farm Bureau presidents and secretaries Wednesday in Des Moines by Hassel Schenck, president, and Edmond Foust, publicity director, of the Indiana Farm Bureau.

Most Helpers Too Old
Serious phases of the situation include:

Three-fourths of farm helpers average 57 years of age, "past the point of great energy."

In some counties 75 per cent of available labor has gone to industry.

At least 53 counties must depend on transient labor for this year's harvest.

In many places even "supposedly stable" labor is becoming migratory.

No county reported city labor coming to the farms.

Replacements Difficult
The report stated that dairy farmers hesitate to trust machinery to incompetents and are finding it hard to get equipment replacements.

In the general farming industry the labor problem "will not be such as to merit great concern," said the survey. Wives, daughters and sons are able to assist in this type of farming.

The report recommended that "greater draft consideration" be given farm boys.

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