



# The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Moderate cold wave this afternoon and tonight, with lowest temperature tonight about 10 degrees above.

VOLUME 53—NUMBER 294

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1942

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice, Indianapolis, Ind. Issued daily except Sunday.

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## DUTCH FEAR 5 TO 10-YEAR WAR

### Why Singapore Fell: Complacency And 5th Column

#### Natives, Treated Badly By Traders, Accepted Bribes to Guide Japs

#### FLEET ESCAPE SEEN AS BOON BY CHURCHILL

Nazi Warships Put Out of War in Channel Battle, Commons Told.

LONDON, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Prime Minister Winston Churchill, defiantly demanding a vote of confidence, told the House of Commons today that "terrible forfeits" will be exacted from the United Nations in the Far East but that "our position in the Atlantic has been definitely improved" by damage to big German warships.

The escape of a German battle fleet, including three powerful warships, from Brest through the Dover straits to Germany, was achieved only under heavy British attack that put the vessels out of action "for some time," Mr. Churchill said, and the battle actually improved the allied naval situation.

Position Is Stronger

The British and American naval forces will be strengthened and reinforced by "units of the highest quality" before the German warships, including the 26,000-ton Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the 10,000-ton Prinz Eugen, can be put in operation again, he said.

In his speech, Mr. Churchill:

1. Said a secret inquiry had been ordered to determine why the German ships were not detected sooner and whether there was any lack of co-operation between the Admiralty and the R. A. F. He said the warships were heavily damaged.

2. He indicated he would not accept demands for appointment of a minister of defense.

3. He called on members of the House to vote, following a debate next week, in line with their criticism rather than their sentiment—thus demanding a real showdown in debate next week.

4. He indicated that there might be cabinet changes later.

Mr. Churchill made no attempt to soften the blow of Singapore's loss but spoke of the possibility that a combined allied expedition would regain the vital Pacific outpost in the future.

Mr. Churchill's theory that Britain's sea position in the Atlantic had been improved by the escape of the German fleet from Brest was in direct contrast to the generally held British opinion that consolidation of Nazi sea striking power increased the danger to Atlantic shipping.

FIGHTS CONGRESS PENSION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Senator Francis T. Maloney (D. Conn.), saying that Congress, like Caesar's wife, must be above suspicion, called upon his colleagues today to repeal a section of the Federal Retirement Act which grants pensions to Senators and Representatives.

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British 'Bureaucrats' Disregarded Warnings That Foo Could Drive Through Jungle to Attack Naval Stronghold From Rear.

By HAROLD GUARD  
(Copyright, 1942, by United Press)

BATAVIA, Java, Feb. 17.—Singapore was lost in 70 days by bureaucracy, complacency, and a legion of Fifth Columnists.

Fifth Columnists had swarmed through the jungles and towns of the peninsula for years.

The native tribesmen, having been unfairly exploited by some British traders, were quick to accept Japanese bribes to aid these Fifth Columnists in guiding the Japanese through the jungles which enabled the enemy time and again to outflank the defense forces.

Bureaucratic complacency had stood by in idleness for months, supremely confident that Japan could not drive through the jungles and attack Singapore from the rear and would be forced to make a direct attack on the strong sea defenses.

Harold Guard was with the defenders of Malaya and Singapore from the time the Japanese landed Dec. 8 at the top of the peninsula until the last hours of the British Bastion.

He shared the dangers and hardships and heart-break of what was from the first a losing battle.

In the accompanying dispatch he analyzes the factors responsible for it.

#### BY-PASS ON 31 OPENS FEB. 27

Route Around Columbus Is Another Step Toward Military Highway.

The new eight-mile Road 31 by-pass around the city of Columbus will be opened to traffic Feb. 27, Highway Commission officials announced today.

The present portion of Road 31 which runs through Columbus will be marked as an alternate route. Completion of the by-pass marks another step in the Commission's program to make Road 31 an "adequate" military highway to handle troop movements between Ft. Harrison and Ft. Knox, Ky.

Plans are now under way for dual-lane Road 31 from the end of the present dual-lane pavement south of Greenwood to Columbus.

Contract for Six Bridges

The Commission yesterday awarded contracts for the construction of six bridges, two in Randolph County and four in Warrick County. John R. Gates, Ft. Wayne, was awarded the contract for the construction of the Randolph County bridges, one on Road 36 over West River and the other on Road 34 over Marindale Creek, for \$30,944.

R. P. Olinger, Huntington, received the contract for the four Warrick County bridges for \$51,778. They will be built on Road 62 over Kelly Prong Ditch, Carter Ditch, Cypress Creek and Cypress Creek Overflow near Boonville.

ASSAIL COAST 'DEFENSE'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Chairman David I. Walsh, (D. Mass.) of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, and Senator Hiram W. Johnson (R. Cal.) today described the nation's coastal states as "practically defenseless."

EVERYONE IS  
PLAYING IT!  
YOU CAN, TOO

What is it? Gin Rummy, of course. The latest national card craze.

William E. McKenney, America's card authority, was asked to send the lowdown on rules and regulations. McKenney's answer: Four concise, easy-to-understand lessons.

Start today with McKenney's new series—beginning on page 11.

#### ICKES APPEALS FOR 15% CUT IN GASOLINE USE

Move Would Affect East Only; Doubts Need for Rationing Yet.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Petroleum Co-ordinator Harold L. Ickes today called for a voluntary reduction of 15 per cent in civilian gasoline consumption in the East but expressed belief that actual rationing is not yet necessary.

He disclosed to a House Interstate Commerce Subcommittee that the oil industry had recommended a 7 p. m. to 7 a. m. daily curfew on all retail gasoline sales in the East with a complete ban on Sunday sales.

Mr. Ickes said that he personally was not convinced of the advisability of a filling station shut down. "Sunday driving," he said, "is sometimes more essential than Monday driving."

Favors Pipeline to Gulf

He told the Committee that he was making every effort to postpone the necessity of rationing and with that objective in view he is asking the War Production Board to reconsider proposals to construct a 24-inch pipeline from the Gulf to the East Coast.

Mr. Ickes added that he is urging industrial plants now using heavy fuel oil to convert to coal wherever possible at the earliest opportunity. He said he also has suggested that the Maritime Commission convert some tankers, now carrying gasoline, to the transportation of light fuel oil to avert all possibility of unheated homes.

Natives Wanted to Fight

Lack of air power was another factor in the defeat. The defenders had few planes at the start; none at the finish.

Chinese volunteers were organized only a week before the invasion of Singapore Island and were sent out to fight with only shotguns against Japanese dive-bombers and tanks.

There were no plans to use native man power and no effort to mobilize or encourage the natives to defend Malaya, though the Tamils, a fierce native tribe, wanted to fight the invaders.

Imperials Fought Bravely

The British never were able to oppose the Japanese effectively in the air. In the final phase of fighting the Imperials were forced to lie hour after hour in the mud while enemy planes, including dive-bombers, attacked them at will.

"If we only had something against their dive-bombing we could hold out," one British artilleryman said after the battle reached Singapore Island.

"But how can we fire the (Continued on Page Five)

Axis Hits at Oil Lines

Mr. Ickes described the submarine attacks on oil refineries at the Dutch West Indian island of Aruba and on tankers in that vicinity as a serious indication of the "gravity of our shipping situation."

"The implications of such a bold thrust against our oil supply lines are indeed ominous," he added.

The threatened shortage was brought about by the diversion to war duties and the sinking of an undisclosed number of coastwise tankers, which normally supply 95 per cent of oil used on the East Coast and approximately the same amount for the Pacific Northwest.

He reported favorably on the progress of his office's efforts to increase production of 100 octane aviation gasoline. But he said exact figures are a military secret.

#### 'Irish Confetti' Is for Irish Only

CHICAGO, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Judge Charles S. Dougherty contributed to the doorknob of the common law today with a decision circumscribing the use of "Irish confetti."

Steve Hassel was brought before the Irish judge in Felony Court, charged with tossing a brick through the window of a tavern operated by his father-in-law, Andrew Tygman.

"Are you Irish?" Judge Dougherty asked.

"No," said Hassel.

"Then you have no right to throw bricks," the judge said.

Hassel agreed to pay for the window, and the judge placed him on probation.

MALTA DOCK 'SMASHED'

BERLIN, Feb. 17 (Broadcast Recorded in New York by United Press).—A big floating dock in the Malta harbor of La Valetta has been smashed by German air raids, German military sources said today.

YOUTH ON BIKE HITS GIRL ON BACK OF HEAD;  
Two Men Attempt to Entice Child Into Auto

A youth who struck a young woman on the back of the head as he rode past her on a bicycle was hunted today by police.

A piece of metal, with which the blow apparently was struck, was the principal clue.

Miss Betty Haines, 21, of 338 Leslie Ave., was the young woman hit on the head. Her injury was not regarded as serious. She was treated by a physician.

She said she was walking along Layman Ave. near Washington St. about 8 o'clock last night, when the youth, about 16 or 17, struck her and rode on without saying a word. She said he had a new bicycle.

Eugene Reed, 42, of 70 N. Tremont St., reported to police that two men in an auto who followed his daughter Melody, 11, on Pershing Ave. last night attempted to entice her into the car. The child ran from them.

Police today hunted a youth, about 20, who threatened a 15-year-old girl with a revolver in Ellinger Park yesterday as she was on her way to Howe High School. The girl said he kicked her when she refused to go into a wooded house and peep in the windows.

#### Diagnoses City



Thomas H. Reed

#### ANNEXATION OF SUBURBS URGED

Consultant Also Prescribes Unified Government for 'Growing Pains.'

By RICHARD LEWIS

A national municipal affairs consultant today prescribed "strong medicine" for Indianapolis' growing pains of blighted districts and exodus of residents to the suburbs.

He is Thomas H. Reed of New York City, former director of the National Municipal Consultant Service.

His prescription was the unification of City-County government, the annexation of suburbs and the intelligent remodeling of areas inside the City where the blight is taking hold and destroying property values.

War Diverts Attention

Mr. Reed came here to address the Rotary Club at noon on the dual problems of blight and migration which are advancing on the City while its attention is focused on the war effort.

"Unification and annexation are the obvious solution to these problems," he said in an interview.

"That's strong medicine to take. But I predict that Indianapolis will take it some day, perhaps in small doses."

Smoke and dirt and congestion are the main forces impelling City residents to move out and beyond these nuisances, he said.

"You will never solve your smoke problem until you adopt the St. Louis plan whereby residents must (Continued on Page Five)

#### RUSS WORKERS SENT TO FACTORY CENTERS

War Zone Evacuees Move To East, Central Areas.

MOSCOW, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Soviet authorities today issued a decree permanently settling all Russian workers—evacuated from western areas—in the central and eastern regions to which industries and enterprises have been removed.

The decree means that millions who resided in the western provinces until the war will be permanently removed.

The order provides that the industries moved to the east are to be decentralized.

The return of workers and citizens from the eastern areas to their original homes was banned by issuance of instructions to local authorities to repossess all vacated apartments and fill them with workers and employees who have not been evacuated to the east.

BOMBAY MAY SEE CHANG

BOMBAY, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Mohandas K. Gandhi left Wardha for Calcutta today under last-minute arrangements expected to result in a meeting between the famous Indian leader and Gen. Chiang Kai-shek.

#### FEAR SUB PACK MAY STRIKE AT PANAMA CANAL

U. S. Forces Tighten Guard After Attack on 5 to 10 Tankers in Caribbean.

BALBOA, C. Z., Feb. 17 (U. P.).—American armed forces tightened Caribbean defenses today against the possibility that German submarine attacks in the Dutch West Indies were a feint in preparation for an enemy thrust at the Panama Canal.

The enemy submarines—one or more of which apparently had been sunk—shelled the Standard Oil refinery at Aruba and torpedoed from five to 10 allied oil tankers off the great Venezuelan oil center of Maracaibo.

Five ships were definitely reported torpedoed and five others missing were feared torpedoed with heavy loss of life in addition to two known dead, 22 missing and 18 injured.

Bombers Join in Search

Bombers from all United States Caribbean bases were converging on the Aruba area in search of the enemy submarines.

Army officials were checking and re-checking the Canal Zone defenses to be on a constant state of alert in event of an enemy attack.

The submarines had penetrated deeply into the American defense screen of West Indies islands to make their attacks in the Aruba area, 600 to 700 miles from the Canal Zone.

Some officials feared that the attacks were merely a feint in order to cause the United States to withdraw forces from the Canal to the oil zone and thus leave the way open for a blow at the vital Panama waterway.

At Least One Believed Sunk

Reports received by Army Headquarters confirmed that three tankers were attacked at Aruba with a strong possibility that others had been torpedoed and sunk. Seven of the tankers might raise the total of tankers attacked to 10.

Lieut. Gen. Frank M. Andrews, U. S. commander in the Caribbean, who was at Aruba during yesterday's attack, reported that at least one of the Nazi submarines which torpedoed the tankers and shelled oil installations at Aruba, is believed to have been sunk.

Gen. Andrews said that there was so much oil on the surface of the sea around the Dutch oil island that it was difficult to be certain whether the submarine was destroyed.

On Inside Pages

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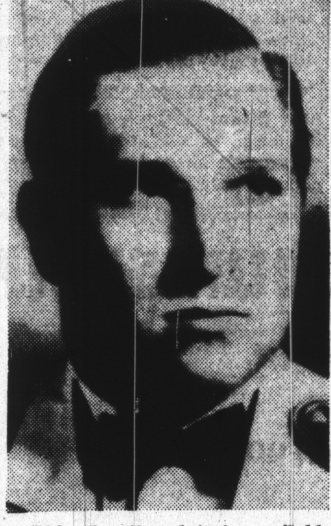
#### 500 WELDERS QUIT JOBS AT SHIPYARD

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 17 (U. P.).—More than 500 members of an independent welders' union who said they would quit their jobs rather than take out membership in A. F. L. unions, today led a walkout of workers at the Gulf Shipbuilding Corp., which has vital defense orders.

GANDHI MAY SEE CHANG

BOMBAY, Feb. 17 (U. P.).—Mohandas K. Gandhi left Wardha for Calcutta today under last-minute arrangements expected to result in a meeting between the famous Indian leader and Gen. Chiang Kai-shek.

#### He Bags 116 Japs



Arthur W. Wermuth

#### JAPS ADVANCE IN BURMA PUSH

Australia and Java Get Ready for Thrusts at Any Moment.

By JOE ALEX MORRIS  
United Press Foreign Editor

Japan's southwest Pacific offensive gained momentum in vital Burma today and pressure upon Prime Minister Winston Churchill for drastic changes in Britain's war direction reached the boiling stage.

The Japanese attack on Burma appeared to be rolling forward rapidly. Java and Australia feared Japanese blows at any moment.

The Dutch, pounding at the foe on every possible occasion, sent United Nations' planes over south Sumatra to blast the Japanese-held airbase at Palembang. Three Japanese transports in nearby waters were attacked, at least one being seriously damaged.

Australia Gets Ready

Australia, on an all-out total war basis, anticipated a Japanese assault on Port Moresby, New Guinea, any day. The Australian government received an urgent appeal from the Dutch to speed more aid to the vital Java front.

The increasingly critical Burma situation was admitted by British spokesmen both in London and Rangoon. A British commentator in London said there was little hope for arrival of effective reinforcements in Burma from India due to "lack of roads."

The Rangoon communique admitted a general British retreat in the face of Japanese attacks of increasing severity.

The British had abandoned Thabon and were falling back to a line along the Billin River. The Japanese were within 50 miles of the Burma Road and moving ahead sharply.

On War Fronts

BATAVIA: Planes attack Japanese-held airbase at Palembang; blast three ships in nearby waters.

SYDNEY: Australia completely mobilized against Japanese attack.

RANGOON: Japanese within 50 miles of Burma Road.

LONDON: Prime Minister Winston Churchill demands vote of confidence, rejects demand for unified defense ministry.

BALBOA: American air and sea forces hunt German submarines in Caribbean.

RUSSIA: Germans admit Russians penetrate German lines south of Smolensk.

PHILIPPINES: Jap guns and air squadrons attack Bataan lines.

CAIRO: R. A. F. scores torpedo hits on two cruisers and a destroyer in attack on Italian fleet in central Mediterranean.

#### FATE OF JAVA AND SUMATRA HOLDS ANSWER

Fall Would Compel U. S. To Muster Force 3 Times Size of Japs.

By GEORGE WELLER  
Copyright, 1942, by The Indianapolis Times and The Chicago Daily News, Inc.

BATAVIA, Feb. 17.—Conservative estimates in local military circles of the duration of the struggle for allied victory, which varied from two to five years when Singapore was immunized but still intact, now range from five to 10 years.

Should the Japanese Archipelago and Sumatra be lost, experts most familiar with the terrain revise their estimates sharply upward, 15 years being a perfectly possible ceiling.

Such estimates are made by reckoning Japan's present lodgments and extended communications against the formidable difficulties of a running campaign from barren northern Australia, once a rich garden land, Java having been lost, and measuring at the most optimistic level the giant American production plants.

Japs Equal to Germans

Using as a basis his experience in the Balkan campaign both behind and before the German lines, your correspondent is simply convinced for reasons only incompletely discussable here that the Japs are every department of warfare, fully equal with the Germans.

Whether the staff work is German or not, is immaterial. The execution is beautifully timed and carried out with as near perfection as warfare permits.

The Japanese transport system, which brought big armored barges to the Straits of Johore upon the hour when the causeway was broken, which has maintained an unceasing flow of bombs and aviation gas to new-gained airbases well protected with ack-ack, has solved problems fully equal to the toughest of the Balkan and Russian campaigns.

In taking Singapore the Japs sent 10,000 men across marshland in the western quarter of the island which British troops had found impassable. Their artillery is reasonably well directed; their mortar fire is imaginative and adaptable; their engineers are quick and efficient.

No Answer to Pincer

Their double-enclosed pincer movement in the jungle advance has still not found a working answer, due perhaps partly to heavy British losses under ceaseless aerial attack.

The Australians, whose heavy losses in the attack on Singapore represent a problem more difficult to liquidate politically than the similar losses in Greece and Crete, were photographed by airplanes five hours without protection before undergoing the all night bombardment, Saturday night, which preceded the Jap landings.

North from Java the Japs are almost unchallenged in the air. Each of the few ships which run the Straits of Sumatra has been given aerial bombardment varying from 57 to 125 bombers and reports from many still are unrecieved.

Match Fortresses

Whatever the Americans may have been told elsewhere, the Japs' navy is fully a match for flying fortresses unaccompanied by fighter escort.

However unpalatable these truths and unmixing with such sophisticated reassurances as were required in your correspondent's dispatches from Singapore to escape the charge of spreading "despair and alarm," Americans must understand that a long, costly war in which the Japs' forces must at least be trebled by the Americans faces the United States if Java is permitted to fall.

Once forced back upon Australia the United States will face convoy problems in the Pacific which will make the Atlantic seem simple by comparison.

Java can supply food for an army of 4,000,000, even with European tastes, and whether that army will be American or Japanese is for America to decide. The citizens of every small nation in Europe will be watching to see how the last outpost of the small powers and liberty is held.