



The Indianapolis Times

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

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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, definitely 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 battleship, the *Westfalen*, 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 show-down 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 save 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.)—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.

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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. 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."

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.

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.

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.

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 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 fight the invaders?"

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**TEMPERATURE TO DIP
TO 10 ABOVE TONIGHT**

Rainfall Here .66 Inches

During 24 Hours.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES

6 a. m.	31	10 a. m.	30
7 a. m.	31	11 a. m.	27
8 a. m.	31	12 (noon)	26
9 a. m.	30	1 p. m.	27

A "moderate cold wave" can be expected tonight, the Weather Bureau warned in its forecast today, predicting a low temperature of 10 degrees above zero.

A "moderate" cold wave just falls short of being a cold wave, the Bureau explained. A cold wave is defined as a 20-degree drop in temperature to 10 degrees above zero or lower within 24 hours.

Indiana farms are receiving more than their share of rainfall, the Bureau reported, but the soil has not thawed sufficiently to soak up the rain.

J. H. Armstrong, chief meteorologist, reported that the White and Wabash Rivers were "quite high" today, but there was no danger of floods. He pointed out that freezing temperatures tonight would check the flow of the water.

The rainfall within the 24-hour period ended at 7 a. m. today totaled .66 of an inch, bringing to 2.16 inches the excess of precipitation for February and to 41 of an inch the excess for March.

Motorists were warned by the State Highway Commission that roads are icy in the La Porte and Franklinton districts.

DISCUSS WAR STRATEGY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (U. P.)—President Roosevelt today summoned his military and naval leaders to a White House staff conference on American war strategy. The meeting followed yesterday's submarine shelling of Aruba.

'Irish Confetti' Is for Irish Only'

CHICAGO, Feb. 17 (U. P.)—Judge Charles S. Dougherty contributed to the development 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 Reordered in New York by United Press).—A big floating dock in the Malta island harbor of La Valette has been smashed by German air raids, German military sources said today.

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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 336 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. on her way to Howe High School. The girl said she kicked her when youth, about 16 or 17, struck her. She refused to go into a woodshed

and defiantly told him she did not believe the gun was real. He grabbed her purse, but returned it when he found it contained no money.

A report that a man, about 30, has been annoying women in an area bounded by 17th and 20th Sts. and College and Cornell Aves. was received by police.

Police today hunted a youth, about 20, who threatened a 15-year-old girl with a revolver in Ellenberger Park yesterday as she was on her way to Howe High School. The girl said she kicked her when youth, about 16 or 17, struck her. She refused to go into a woodshed

and defiantly told him she did not believe the gun was real. He grabbed her purse, but returned it when he found it contained no money.

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

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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 on 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, 27 missing and 18 injured.

Bombers Join Search

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

Armed forces 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.

Such officials feared that the attacks were merely a feint in order to cause the United States to withdraw forces from 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 other tankers were believed to be missing which might raise the total of tankers attacked to 10