

## OPPOSES JAPS IN WAR PLANTS

Hallett Abend, Town Hall Lecturer, Says Record is Against Them.

"I would consider it a grave error for cities like Indianapolis to admit Japanese into their war plants. I certainly don't think the record justifies it," declared Hallett Abend, distinguished Far Eastern correspondent before Town Hall's luncheon audience at the Columbia club Saturday.

Mr. Abend, for 15 years chief Far Eastern correspondent for the New York Times, said that he could see no "very happy prospect" for the Japanese in this country for many years to come.

He estimated that the war in the Pacific would last possibly two years longer than the European conflict.

Asked if the war would not be materially shortened by the use of Soviet Russia's Siberian airfields and trans-European shipments of materiel, Mr. Abend agreed, but warned his listeners not to take that assumption for granted.

### Russia May Not Help

"Russia," he said, "may be wary and exhausted. She may not be able to assist us in any way in the Pacific. And even if she is able, she may not be disposed to do so. There is no way of answering that question point blank. One guess is as good as another."

Discussing atrocity stories, Mr. Abend leaned heavily on the table. "I shall," he said, "be very explicit and nasty."

He related one Japanese atrocity after another, some of them from eye-witness experience, others from Japanese diplomats, who, themselves, were shocked into near-hysteria by the reckless brutality and bestiality of their troops.

He said that in his trips across the country, he had found the American public anything but complacent.

### Cites U. S. Difficulties

"They are ready for anything," he said. "They are willing to do whatever is necessary, to give up whatever they must. They ask only for honest direction and leadership."

Prior to the luncheon, he gave a one-hour lecture at English's theater, in which he confined himself to a factual presentation of the Far Eastern situation, pointing out the difficulties facing American and allied forces in that area of war.

Norman E. Isaacs, managing editor of The Indianapolis Times, was chairman at both the lecture and the luncheon.

## BAR VOLUNTEERING FROM 18-38 CLASS

Beginning today all future members of the armed forces from 18 to 38 will be taken through the selective service system.

According to Comm. R. H. G. Mathews, who had been promoted to inspector of navy recruiting and induction for the fifth joint service induction area, Columbus, O., preference indicated for a branch of service will be considered as far as possible.

If a man is assigned to one of the naval branches he will return to the main recruiting station, which will be maintained for swearing in and the completion of all papers. Men under 18 and 38 and over may still enlist.

Comm. Mathews said that a man assigned to the navy has three choices. He may remain a navy inductee, enlist in the regular navy for six years or enlist in the naval reserve for the duration.

Lieut. James Weber will assume Comm. Mathews' position as head of recruiting for the Indianapolis area.

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## Italy Loses African Empire



## ABSENTEEISM SLOWS PLANTS

Many Officials Suggest Community Effort to Reduce Evil.

(Continued from Page One)

are to be met on time it will be necessary for war plants to produce to their utmost.

Here are summarized viewpoints of plant officials:

Absenteeism at one tank subcontractor has gone up from 2 per cent of total man-hours a year ago to 5 per cent today. "Absenteeism is the worst problem with which we are confronted at the present time."

A big plant that makes shells and other ordnance has an absenteeism rate of 5 per cent. "It is disturbing to production planning."

A manufacturer of vital equipment reported an absentee rate of 7.2 per cent of the total man-hours worked. "The situation is getting worse and worse. There is a good deal of sickness but it has been

A large food packer said last year its absenteeism amounted to 75 man-days a week out of a total of 7500 man-days worked. "But since we started making absences report to the employment office before returning to work, absenteeism has dropped to about half what it was."

A war plant which manufactures tank parts loses 5 per cent of the man-hours. "Very definitely, absenteeism is a significant detriment to our production, in view of present labor markets and the type of workers available."

Drivers Take War Jobs

A large trucking concern reported that at one time it had 28 trucks idle, although there was material for them to haul, because it couldn't get drivers. It has had cases where drivers telephoned from some other city, saying they had taken a war job there and that "you will find the truck parked" at such-and-such an address.

A manufacturer of communications equipment has an absenteeism rate of 4.6 per cent. At one of the military reservations near the city absenteeism among civilian employees is around 9 per cent. A big meat-packing concern reports the "problem is certainly a serious one" and that it is trying to find a solution.

A manufacturer of aircraft parts says absenteeism is particularly damaging in certain departments where close co-ordination depends on the continuous work of highly-experienced workers.

One utility said progress on a construction project was greatly slowed during the Christmas-New Year's holidays because of much absenteeism.

There Are Exceptions

But there are exceptions to these experiences.

A concern that makes incendiary bombs and aircraft parts took the problem in hand and began sending someone from the personnel office to the home of each absentee to find out why he didn't show up for work. Workers were made to realize what their absence meant. Chronic absences were suspended for a few days. These policies not only had a good psychological effect on the offending workers but on the others also, it reported.

When one plant cut its work-week from 56 hours to 48 hours, absenteeism declined considerably.

Those who have made investigations into the causes of absenteeism said it is not just a simple problem, traceable only to the good wages war workers make.

A number who have tried campaigns through posters and employee magazines, who have worked to impress their employees with the importance of their work, reported improvements.

But they added that such basic difficulties as transportation, housing, necessary recreation and other personal factors had to be solved also before the wasting of precious time can be reduced.

## OFFICERS TO TESTIFY IN PUCKETT TRIAL

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Feb. 1 (U.P.)—The first degree murder trial of Wm. R. Puckett, 64, retired Chicago painting contractor charged with killing his 67-year-old bride of seven months, resumed today with the prosecution expected to call police officers to the stand.

Prosecutor Charles Kemmer said he would question state police officers about the investigations they made following the shooting of Puckett's wife, Ella Mae, last Nov. 6.

Mrs. Puckett was shot to death on a road near Lafayette as she and Puckett traveled from Chicago to visit relatives at Lafayette.

The state charges that Puckett shot his wife to get her estate.

## JAPANESE CLAIMING VICTORY AS USUAL

TOKYO, Feb. 1 (Japanese broadcast recorded by U. P. at San Francisco).—A Japanese naval air squadron engaged an allied fleet off the Solomons and sank two battleships and three cruisers and damaged one battleship and one cruiser in a two-day battle, imperial headquarters said.

The U. S. navy declined comment on the Japanese reports.

Imperial headquarters said Japanese air units sighted the allied surface fleet off Rennel Island. Despite unfavorable weather, the Japanese force attacked just before evening Friday, the communiqué said.

The allied fleet, it said, attempted to flee, but was attacked again Saturday.

Three allied planes were shot down during the action, the communiqué said. Japanese losses were seven planes "through suicide dives on enemy warships" and three others unaccounted for.

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## Communiques

MACARTHUR COMMUNIQUE  
(Issued Monday, Feb. 1)

NORTHERN SECTOR:

NEW GUINEA—Mata-Wau. Sporadic ground fighting continues. Our attack planes have strafed and strafed the Mohnatama areas.

Wewak—One of our heavy units attacked the airdrome and shipping with unobserved results. Our attack planes strafed and strafed the Mohnatama areas.

Finchaven—An allied night reconnaissance plane started in the Wewak area.

Maribow: river. Our long-range fighters executed a sweep down the Wewak river and at the mouth of the Wewak river, strafing targets of opportunity.

NEW BRITAIN—Rabaul. Our attack planes have strafed and strafed the Rabaul installations before dawn, dropping bombs on docks and among anchored observation boats and small craft.

Maribow: river. Our long-range fighters executed a sweep down the Wewak river and at the mouth of the Wewak river, strafing targets of opportunity.

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