

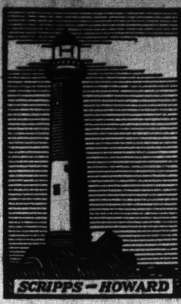
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The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Mostly fair tonight and tomorrow; slightly warmer tonight; lowest temperature near freezing; warmer tomorrow.

VOLUME 55—NUMBER 17

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1944

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice
Indianapolis 9, Ind. Issued daily except Sunday

FINAL
HOME
PRICE FOUR CENTS

Russ Units Enter Mountain Passes In Sight Of Hungary

LONDON, March 31 (U. P.).—Ochakov, German defense base on the Black sea 38 miles east of Odessa, has fallen to the Russ army, sealing the entrance to the Dnieper bay into which the Bug river also debouches.

MOSCOW, March 31 (U. P.).—Russian advance guards have pushed high up in the Carpathians within sight of Hungary and have entered the approaches of the

strategic mountain passes guarding the border region, front dispatches reported today.

The vanguard of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's 1st army of the Ukraine raced southwestward from captured Delyatin, 15 miles short of Hungary's Carpatho-Ukraine, formerly the eastern tip of Czechoslovakia, in a bid to seize the mountain passes before the Germans could plug them.

Zhukov sent other striking forces down from captured Cernauti to the Seret river, from which the whole German position in Rumania east of the Carpathians can be flanked.

Field dispatches said the speed and impact of the Soviet advance had panicked the Germans and there was no sign that they had been or would be able to regroup their shattered divisions to meet the powerful push de-

veloping against their Rumanian and Hungarian allies.

The battle of the Balkan frontiers approached a climax as Zhukov's men plunged forward and Marshal Ivan S. Konev's 2d army of the Ukraine massed along the Prut in Bessarabia waiting for the order to strike anew.

(Rumania acknowledged the war was at her threshold by issuing her first supreme command communique in two

(Continued on Page 5—Column 2)

SOLDIER VOTE SESSION CALLED FOR APRIL 11

Legislature Also Will Consider Other War Measures

Governor Schrickler today called a special session of the state legislature to convene at 10 a. m. April 11 for the purpose of passing a soldier vote bill and considering other "necessary" war time measures.

Copies of the governor's proclamation were mimeographed and mailed to all legislators today.

The governor's call came after it became known that President Roosevelt would permit the soldier vote bill passed in congress to become law without his signature. The governor, who had announced some time ago that he would call a special session, had declined to issue the call until definite action was taken in Washington.

The governor's office said that Tuesday, April 11, was picked for the opening day of the special session so that none of the legislators would have to leave his home on Easter and so that both parties could hold caucuses on the Monday night preceding.

Seek Week's Deadline

Leaders of both parties are hopeful that the business of the session can be transacted in one week, but they are not in agreement on what should be taken up at the session or even on the soldier vote bill itself.

On the latter, the governor has stated that he will ask for passage of a bill which will permit the counting of the so-called federal ballots in Indiana. (The federal bill provides that federal ballots can be cast only when soldiers have not received them.)

A special G. O. P. committee has drawn a bill which does not authorize the counting of the federal ballots, even if they are cast by Roosevelt and Republican leaders favor passing the bill as now drawn.

Would Amend Law

The G. O. P. measure would amend the present voting laws to permit the printing and mailing of ballots by Aug. 1 so that they could reach the soldier and be returned by the time of the general election. The measure also provides that the state ballots will be mailed upon receipt of postcards from the men in the armed forces.

Governor Schrickler already has started to work on his message, which probably will be delivered at the opening of the session.

Message May Include:

He is expected to recommend that measures also be passed (1) to remove technical restrictions on the right of the state to tax property of the federal Defense Plant Corp.; (2) to permit cities and towns to levy property taxes now for the purpose of accumulating post-war reserves; (3) to authorize the state budget committee to make a survey of postwar needs of the state institutions and report to the 1945 session and to correct technical errors that have been discovered in 10 laws passed by the 1943 legislature.

The governor may recommend these additional measures in vain, however, for the G. O. P. state committee has passed a resolution recommending to the Republican majority in the legislature that it deal only with the soldier vote question during the special session.

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SWIFT DRIVING JAPS MENACE 2 INDIA BASES

Establish Road Block on Vital Highway in The Interior.

NEW DELHI, March 31 (U. P.).—Japanese jungle troops, slashing 30 miles across the wild Indian frontier from central Burma, have cut the main highway linking Imphal and Kohima and are closing in for a major assault on the twin British strongholds, it was disclosed today.

A British spokesman revealed that the Burma town of Tiddim, 40 miles south of the Indian frontier, had been abandoned by the allies without a fight, presumably when the Japanese first launched their drive northward along the Tiddim-Imphal road some weeks ago.

Its fall was not regarded as important to the British frontier defense, however, since their main lines were drawn up about 15 miles further north and the town apparently had been by-passed previously by the Japanese.

Cut Across Highway

An allied communique revealed that Japanese invasion forces had fought their way to within striking distance of Kohima from three directions. Two advanced units cut across the Imphal-Kohima highway south of the town and other raiding parties stabbed into the British lines from the north, while the main attacking force drove in from the east.

Simultaneously, it was revealed that another Japanese column had driven 25 miles into India from Tamu to reach the Paila area, only 20 miles southeast of Imphal.

Gen. Sir Claude J. E. Auchinleck, commander-in-chief in India, reported to the assembly in New Delhi that the Japanese had reached the main defenses around Kohima and that stiff fighting has been under way for the past two days.

Auchinleck declared that powerful British forces are defending both Kohima and Imphal, and pledged a determined fight to hold both towns.

Report Road Block

"The enemy's object," he added, "appears to be to establish himself before the monsoon in the Imphal and Kohima area then attempt to strike our rail and river communications from Calcutta along the Brahmaputra (river) into north-eastern Assam."

The allied communique, meanwhile, said one Japanese raiding party had established a temporary road block on the Imphal-Kohima road, Wednesday, damaged a bridge and ambushed "one or two motor transports" before being driven off.

Further to the south, almost midway between Imphal and Kohima, another Japanese column was reported to have been scattered back into the Somra hills after undergoing a heavy bombing and shelling by British planes and artillery.

96 BRITISH BOMBERS FALL TO GERMANS

One Plane Shot Down for Every Eleven Miles.

LONDON, March 31 (U. P.).—The Royal Air Force suffered the heaviest loss ever inflicted on an allied air armada last night when 96 planes were shot down by German night fighters and anti-aircraft guns during a powerful British moonlight assault on the army center of Nurnberg and targets in the western Reich.

The loss exceeded by 17 the previous record toll of 78 R. A. F. bombers which failed to return from a raid on Leipzig the night of Feb. 20.

(Continued on Page 3—Column 4)

Dawson Slated to Announce His Candidacy for Governor

By EARL RICHERT

Reliable sources said today that Lt. Gov. Charles Dawson will announce his candidacy for the G. O. P. gubernatorial nomination next week.

Mr. Dawson, it is known, has long been considering entering the gubernatorial arena against former G. O. P. State Chairman Ralph Gates, and it is reported, he made up his mind after a survey made by friends convinced him that the race was still wide open.

Mr. Dawson became the state's top ranking Republican official in 1940 when he was elected and the Republican candidate for governor, Glen Hills, was defeated.

He has presided over two sessions of the state senate and is popular with G. O. P. senators throughout the state. He previously had served, while trustee of Washington township, as head of the township trustees' state association.

His entrance into the gubernatorial race will further complicate the situation for Mayor Tyndall.

(Continued on Page 5—Column 2)

JAP FLEET FLEES AS U. S. FORCE SMASHES BASES NEAR PHILIPPINES

Photos Dramatize Allied Bombardment of Cassino Ruins



Huge smoke columns mark exploding allied shells and bombs in a recent allied bombardment of Cassino's ruins where Germans, hidden molehills, resisted 5th army advances.



Taken from a U. S. army air force reconnaissance plane, a few minutes after the last wave of bombers left in a record-breaking aerial assault, this photo shows the raid's devastation.

ARMY TO CLOSE BUTLER SCHOOL

More Than 1000 Students To Receive Transfers to Other Units.

More than 1000 soldier students in the 52d college training detachments (air crew) at Butler university will be gradually reassigned to air fields for overseas service, Senator Raymond E. Willis' office in Washington was notified today.

The order to abandon all such army college training detachments by June 30 was announced by Col. George Parker. There are 40,000 air crew trainees in 81 colleges in the United States.

Butler university officials and army officials here, however, said they had received no notification as to the abandonment.

Too Many Eggs Give Farmers New Headache

By HELEN RUEGAMER

Ways to put more eggs on the tables of Indiana's homes and restaurants and relieve a glut in Indiana's egg market were considered at a meeting today of farmers, retailers, poultry men and government officials at the Indiana Farm Bureau.

The mild winter weather and an increase in the number of layers has increased Indiana's egg production 11 per cent over that of last year with the result that the price of eggs has fallen to a new low of 16 cents a dozen to farmers.

LOCAL FLIER, SAILOR MISSING IN COMBAT

AN INDIANAPOLIS airman and a sailor are missing following combat over Germany and in the Atlantic.

They are:

T. Sgt. James H. Fiers, 4780 Wentworth blvd.

Seaman 1-c Albert Sylvan Eldridge, 2711 N. Illinois st.

Hoosier Heroes—

T. SGT. JAMES H. FIERS, engineer in the army air forces, was lost in a raid over Germany Feb. 22 on what was believed his 14th mission.

He is the son of Mrs. Elma Fiers and brother of Mrs. George Fiers.

(Continued on Page 9—Column 4)

ELEVEN U. S. SHIPS LOST

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—The loss of 11 minor U. S. naval craft in the Mediterranean theater was announced by the navy today. The losses, due to a variety of causes, occurred in operations from Jan. 22 to the present.

AIRCRAFT LABOR CHIEF INDICTED

U. S. Jury Charges False Information Given in WLB Application.

NEW YORK, March 31 (U. P.).—Thomas de Lorenzo, president of the Brewster Aeronautical Corp., local of the United Automobile Workers union, C. I. O., was indicted by a federal grand jury today on a charge of making false statements in an application to the United States civil service commission for appointment as a labor panel member of the war labor board.

De Lorenzo was charged last year with responsibility for labor troubles which seriously curtailed the production of navy fighter planes at Brewster plants in Johnsville, Pa., and Farmingdale, N. Y.

The 35-year-old, Brooklyn-born (Continued on Page 5—Column 3)

NEW EXCISE TAXES START TOMORROW

Higher Rates to Go in Effect On Long List of Items.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—The public will feel the bite of sharply increased excise taxes tomorrow when stiff new rates go into effect to raise the government an estimated \$1,165,800,000 a year in new war revenue.

The new rates will bring excise revenues to an estimated \$5,438,110,000 yearly—more than the government collected from all internal revenue sources, including income and corporate taxes, in fiscal 1940.

(Continued on Page 3—Column 3)

LONERGAN VERDICT DEBATED BY JURY

NEW YORK, March 31 (U. P.).—A blue ribbon jury began its deliberations at 11:45 a. m. (Indianapolis time), today to decide whether Wayne Lonergan, R. C. A. P. airman, will be sent to the electric chair, or find him guilty of first or second degree murder, or of manslaughter in the first or second degree.

If it finds him guilty of first degree murder without recommending mercy, death in the electric chair is mandatory.

Tucker Formally Takes Place In Line for U. S. Senate Race

The Tucker-Capehart battle for the G. O. P. senatorial nomination was today as James M. Tucker formally announced that he would seek the nomination at the state convention in Indianapolis on June 2.

Homer E. Capehart, seventh district G. O. P. chairman and president of the Packard Manufacturing Co. here, announced his candidacy in January.

Mr. Tucker, secretary of state from 1938 to 1942 and recently discharged from active duty as a navy lieutenant, has been endorsed

Six U. S. Fliers Die When British Down Transport

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—British carrier fighter planes, protecting an allied Atlantic convoy, shot down an American transport plane by mistake this week and its crew of six men was lost, the war department and the British admiralty announced today.

The plane was a four-engine C-54 operated by the U. S. army air forces air transport command. It was flown by a civilian contract crew.

The plane carried cargo but no passengers.

"Fighters protecting the convoy attacked the C-54 in the vicinity of the convoy route when, according to reports, identification was not established," the announcement said. "Evidently the fighters mistook the C-54 for a German four-engine bomber, the Focke-Wulf 200."

It was the second announced case of mistaken identity involving aircraft since the United States entered the war. The first occurred during the invasion of Sicily when 23 American transport planes were shot down at Gela by British and American naval and ground anti-aircraft gunners who thought they were German bombers. About 400 men, plane crews and paratroopers, were lost in that tragedy.

The C-54 "Skymaster" is a low-wing, four-engine, all-metal transport manufactured by Douglas. It is an adaptation of the DC-4, a commercial airliner. Its wingspan is 117½ feet.

200 Small Islands

In view of the destruction inflicted on the even more strongly-protected Japanese bases of Truk and Saipan by similar task forces last month, observers believed the American fleet probably achieved wide devastation at Palau.

The raid was the most daring yet attempted by American naval forces

(Continued on Page 3—Column 4)

HEAVY ATTACK IS 'CONTINUING' BY SEA AND AIR

Yank, Ships, Planes Make Record Penetration Into Enemy Waters.

By UNITED PRESS

Powerful American naval forces, in their deepest penetration of Japanese waters, were believed today to have smashed Japanese bases in the Palau islands, 530 miles from the Philippines, in heavy attacks which still may be continuing, in the wake of one of the greatest co-ordinated aerial offensives of the Pacific war.

American battleships, carriers, cruisers and destroyers opened their assault on Palau, 2000 miles south of Tokyo and 4000 miles southwest of Hawaii, at dawn Wednesday while U. S. aerial fleets hammered the Japanese over an area stretching 2600 miles in length from Palau to the eastern Marshall, and 700 miles wide from Truk, in the Carolines, to northern New Guinea.

The naval attack on Palau was a new attempt to bring the reluctant Japanese navy to battle, but the enemy ships at the islands fled.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz said the "heavy attacks" were continuing, and although the details were lacking, observers in Washington doubted that a landing would be attempted.

Hundreds of Planes

Hundreds of planes were believed to have participated in the attack. (Naval observers in Washington regarded the attack as the prelude to an American invasion thrust against the Japanese defense system in the Carolines, stretching eastward.)

The exact size and makeup of the task forces comprising the attacking fleet was not disclosed, but Nimitz's communique called them "strong" and a spokesman said they were similar to those which sank 23 to 29 Japanese ships at Truk in a two-day raid last Feb. 16 and 17.

Japanese search planes from New Guinea and Carolines bases spotted the huge fleet as it approached Palau and flashed a warning to the islands, enabling ships anchored there to flee before the assault began.

Deserted by their protective warships, the islands presumably were left at the mercy of the attackers with only coastal batteries and fighter planes with which to ward off a sea or air bombardment.

200 Small Islands

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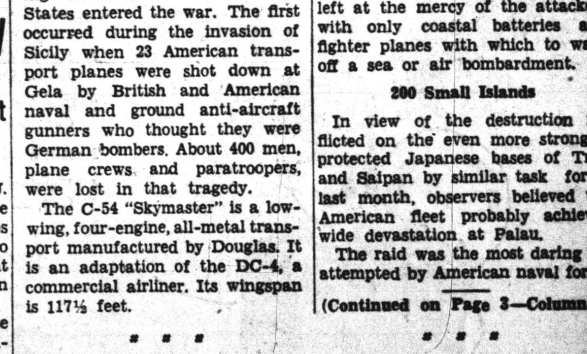
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PHILIPPINES



Striking within 530 miles (400 nautical miles) of the Philippines, a U. S. navy task force is continuing its assault upon Palau. The Jap navy turned tail, offering no opposition.