

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

(Continued From Page One)

that the bulk of it has withdrawn to Nip home waters, with a portion still based at Singapore. If this is so, then the Japs won't match their fleet against ours until we get much closer to Tokyo than we are now.

CHALK UP another government agency fading into limbo from inaction: war mobilization committee.

It was created nearly a year ago as half-answer to demands for a real war cabinet. Chairman: OWW Director Byrnes. Members: Stimson, Knox, Nelson, Hopkins, Vinson.

Committee started out meeting about once a week, soon fell into habit of meeting only when some big problem had to be solved. Last meeting was about a month ago. None scheduled for future.

Committee was supposed to resolve conflicts among government agencies, determine uniform policies. Its failure to function largely accounts for failure of administration to develop coherent manpower program. Lacking administration policy line, McNutt, Hershey, Patterson, et al., go their separate ways.

Dewey Two-to-One Favorite

SEASON FOR political handicapping has opened, with the following among wagers reported this week:

Two to one that Dewey will be G. O. P. nominee.

Even money that G. O. P. nominee (whoever he may be) will be chosen on first ballot.

Even money that Willkie's vote won't exceed 200 on any ballot (convention will have 1000-odd delegates).

Hundred to one MacArthur won't be nominated.

G. O. P. committee on convention arrangements is figuring on sessions not to exceed five days, indicating expectation on early nomination, no deadlock.

Some committee still want young war hero for convention keynoter, but haven't been able to locate right man.

RAILROAD LOBBYISTS are credited with knocking \$65,000,000 Tennessee-Tombigbee inland waterway from rivers-and-harbors bill in house. It was to have been a post-war project.

Reason railroads don't want it: It would open large new areas of cheap water transportation to the South. Efforts will be made to re-store it in senate.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS committee indicates it will try to get the navy to use existing facilities, or extend those already constructed, instead of spending money on new shore bases at home. Committee would like to see army and navy work out a co-operative plan for using each other's bases when practicable. No luck so far, but it hasn't given up hope.

Farm Leaders Get G. O. P. Invitation

FARM PLANK committee appointed by G. O. P. National Chairman Spangler has invited leaders of various farm organizations to appear at its preliminary sessions in Chicago Monday and Tuesday. But there'll be no anti-subsidy pronouncement in the final platform draft. Convention managers have decided not to take a chance on alienating urban voters.

CONGRESS FARM bloc is organizing to get a bigger slice of proposed billion-dollar-a-year highway appropriation for secondary and feeder roads. Familiar cry "get the farmers out of the mud" will ring again, pending plan proposes 29 per cent of appropriation for secondary roads.

COLLEGES ARE ABOUT to lose the 40,000 soldier students they're been training for army air corps ground crews, as well as the army student training program.

Entire ground-crew college program is to end by June 30; students will join overseas units.

TEXANS IN CONGRESS haven't forgotten that the Republican candidate wasn't the only loser in Tuesday's election in the second congressional district of Oklahoma. Other loser was Senator W. L. (Pass-the-Biscuits, Pappy) O'Daniel, who campaigned against the Democratic candidate. It was O'Daniel's first defeat since he quit the floor-slapping business to become governor of Texas. Reason: Texas congressmen note the event is that O'Daniel has been tramping around the state demanding a thorough "housecleaning" in Washington—or, at least, retirement of all who have served more than six years.

Price Control Seeks Cities' Support

MAYORS OF numerous large cities may join the fight for extension of price-control legislation. OPA Administrator Bowles is urging them to testify before congress.

NAVY HAS HIT on ingenious plan to get its new fighting vessels into operation faster. It has built replicas of the new ships on shore. While a vessel is still under construction, officers and crew who are to be assigned to it train on the replica, which is fully equipped. It saves several months, formerly spent in familiarizing men with their vessel before taking it into action. Shore training's being done mostly on Pacific coast.

MISSISSIPPIANS who felt certain Senator Bilbo would be defeated in 1944 are not so sure now. They say publicity he received in Washington newspapers for his anti-Negro utterances will be capitalized, may be just what's needed to help him regain strength he had lost in home state.

Marine Press Chief Says His Job Is to Provide News

QUANTICO, Va., April 1 (U.P.)—Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig, director of the marine corps' division of public relations, said today that the function of his office is to provide news, not to withhold it from newspapers and radio.

Speaking before the marine staff and command school here, Denig said:

"This war we are fighting is far more than a war between armies. It is a war between nations of people."

"The American people feel they have a right to know what the armed forces are doing in this war, inasmuch as their money and their sons are fighting it, and their labor is producing the mass of the necessary armament."

Denig said that the marine corps combat correspondents were not only keeping the public informed about marine activities, but were helping troop morale in the field. He emphasized that the combat correspondent program was designed to supplement, and in no way to supplant, the work of civilian correspondents.

"To go further," he said, "let me say—and I tell you this not as a boast, but as a matter of record—

2 LOCAL Fliers LOST N EUROPE

Lt. Alander, Sgt. Fiers Missing; 3 More on Wounded List.

(Continued From Page One)

T. 5th Gr. John Richardson, 1108 N. Tibbs ave. T. 5th Gr. Vernon E. Starker, 718 Euclid ave.

T. SGT. JAMES H. PIERS, 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 Simmons, both of 4780 Wentworth Blvd.

Based in England, Sgt. Fiers has been in the air forces since Oct. 13, 1942, and went overseas last November.

The 22-year-old engineer was a steamfitter in Indianapolis before entering service and was graduated from Technical high school. His brother-in-law, M. Sgt. George P. Simmons, is in the air forces in England.

L. EINO V. ALANDER, husband of Mrs. Betty Tripp Alander, a copilot on a B-17 based in England, has been missing over Holland since March 6, when he was shot down on his 21st mission.

Lt. Alander, a mechanical draftsman and former Indiana University extension student, has been awarded the air medal and three oak leaf clusters. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vilje Alander, live at 1633 Montcalm st.

PPC. LOUIS W. KAMPE, 34, was wounded with the 5th army in Italy, Jan. 31, according to word received by his mother, Mrs. Grace L. Arterburn, R. R. 4, Box 463.

In a recent letter to the family he said he was recovering in an Italian hospital. He formerly was employed by the Diamond Chain Co. here and has been overseas a year.

His wife and baby son, Louis Jr., who is six weeks old, live in Tanger.

A sister, Mrs. Harold C. Botkin, lives at 2037 Rockle st.

T. 5TH GR. JOHN RICHARDSON, 30, was wounded Jan. 31 in Italy, is in serious condition in a hospital there, his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Selzer, said.

A Red Cross worker has had to write his letters for him, she said. Richardson, 38, is a veteran of the African and Sicily campaigns with the engineers. He formerly worked in the boiler rooms at City hospital.

His father, Lev, and another sister, Mrs. Lillian Munn, live at 3847 Fletcher ave.

T. 5TH GR. VERNON E. STARKER, 30, was wounded for the second time Feb. 9 in Italy, where he has been serving with an armored division.

He was wounded in Africa last fall. He has written his family that he is recovering now in an Italian hospital. He has been overseas 18 months, first serving in England, having entered the service in November, 1940.

His wife and two-year-old boy, Edward Lee, live at 718 Euclid ave. and his cousin, Mrs. Earl Malcolm, with whom he made his home before his marriage, lives at 1116 Wright st.

SGT. KENNETH C. DREYER, 1706 N. Delaware st., a radio operator with a troop carrier group of the 13th service command, has been awarded the air medal for over 100 flying hours in the South Pacific. He entered the service in September, 1942.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT to-day confirmed that Fireman 2-c. Cecil Eugene Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester O. Baker, 1638 Carrollton ave., is missing on sub duty in the Pacific.

Other Indiana men missing are: Pfc. John H. F. Duffy of the marines, son of John F. Duffy, Elkhart, and Lt. Walter Allen Shaver of the navy, husband of Mrs. Frances D. Shaver, Versailles.

SECOND LT. BLANCHARD J. HORNE, Anderson, was among nine army airmen killed yesterday when two B-24 Liberator bombers from the Liberal, Kas. air base collided in mid-air and crashed near Lawrence, Okla.

He is the son of Mrs. Blanchard J. Horne, Anderson, and husband of Jean B. J. Horne, Louisville.

COLUMNIST WINS IN LIBEL ACTION

WASHINGTON, April 1 (U.P.)—A federal court jury late yesterday found for the defendants in a \$1-\$50,000 libel action brought by John Monroe against Drew Pearson, newspaper columnist and radio commentator, and Agnes and Eugene Meyer, publishers of the Washington Post.

Monroe figured in a house military affairs committee investigation of war contracts last year. He charged that Pearson libeled him in matter published by the Post.

The jury deliberated only 35 minutes after hearing testimony for two weeks.

Letters already are being mailed to 4-F's in some eastern states, summoning those in nonessential work for interviews to explain why they are not-in war production.

The procedure was described by eastern manpower commissions as "routine" operations to fill war plant jobs left vacant by selective service drains on essential industries.

Instructions are expected to be

given to the Indiana war manpower commission within the next few days to review draft registrants in 4-F classifications for their possible entry into war work, John K. Jennings, state manpower director, said today.

The procedure was described by the Jefferson county welfare department more than four years after serving two years as executive secretary of the Madison Merchants association. Previously he had been a hotel manager in several larger cities for more than 30 years.

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