

WASHINGTON Calling

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

(Continued From Page One)

Guadalcanal, they say, but we have two big advantages—more heavy equipment, artillery, than Japs.

GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS plan expansion of experiments with jet propulsion for military aircraft. That's meaning behind budget bureau's request for additional \$3,900,000 appropriation for engine laboratory operated by national advisory committee for aeronautics.

Why Are We Short of Shells?

MAJOR CAUSE behind current shortage of shells is miscalculation by the army two years ago of the need for heavy guns in European operations, some interested congressional sources believe.

End of the war may turn up facts concerning the neglect of artillery as interesting as those having to do with circumstances at Pearl Harbor.

Indications are that effectiveness of bombing from air was heavily over-estimated. Not until our troops got in Italy was the necessity for heavy guns correctly appraised.

AS WE SAID before, look for the Little Steel formula to be bent, not broken.

In the steel wage case, outlook is for technical maintenance of the formula, but allowances for inequalities and sub-standards that will serve as a temporary palliative.

There is an important difference to union members: A raise in basic hourly rates apparently could not be made retroactive.

But allowances for the inequalities could be dated back to last December, thus producing a six-cent payment for all affected workers.

Which might do much to sweeten any disappointment over continued holding-the-line on rates.

Watch for Threats

MEANWHILE, look for intermittent threats from spokesmen for both A. F. of L. and C. I. O. to withdraw their representatives from national war labor board if some kind of upping is not accomplished soon.

But Note: Roosevelt knew, before he asked public members of the board to stay on, that their cost of living report will largely sustain bureau of labor statistics, largely reject labor claim that cost has risen more than bureau's figures show.

NINE MALE members of house military affairs, leaving next week for first hand look at the war, tried to keep Clare Boothe Luce, also a committee member, from going along.

Army backed them, but they all lost and Clare's going.

Members will visit England, France, Italy and Africa; will try to find out what the G. I. thinks about compulsory military training in peace-time.

Meanwhile, deluge of mail against compulsory training has started to flood into congressional offices here.

It's organized, apparently by Quaker communities, and this Catholic hierarchy lined up against action at this time.

Cigaretts and Labor

MAYBE the cigaret shortage can be helped this way: American Tobacco Co. and Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co., with large plants in Durham, N. C., are working with U. S. employment service to get employees of other industries willing to do an extra four-hours-a-day making cigarettes.

There's plenty of pressure on war manpower commission to change cigaret industry classification to essential to aid it in getting manpower but odds are against it.

Reason: It might open door to letting soft drink manufacturers and others apply for special consideration.

AUTHOR, PROFESSOR ON FORUM PROGRAM

(Nov. 18, 1944)

WESTERN FRONT—Patton crashes into Germany and Metz proper. U. S. 1st and 9th armies slug toward Rhine in Aachen area. Nazi resistance shows signs of cracking.

EASTERN FRONT—Hundreds of Soviet bombers and fighters hammer enemy positions through northeast Hungary as Red army troops crumble outlying eastern defenses of Budapest.

PACIFIC—American 24th division drives wedge into Japanese pocket on northwest Leyte and threatens annihilation of remnants of force once estimated at 3000.

ARMY SEEKING DOGS FOR OVERSEAS DUTY

Another call for smart dogs as scouts for overseas duty with the U. S. army has been issued here through Dogs for Defense, Inc., with headquarters at 22 E. 60th st., New York City.

Indianapolis persons who have dogs qualified for army scout duty have been asked to contact Dogs for Defense at the New York address.

FRATERNITY ALUMNI TO HEAR JUDGE SHAKE

Judge Curtis G. Shake, Indiana supreme court, will speak at the Sigma Delta Kappa alumni chapter meeting at noon Monday at the Claypool hotel.

Judge Shake will speak on "Early Indiana Days and Laws." The report of the committee for nomination of officers and directors will be announced. Huber Patton, president, will be in charge.

City-Wide BRANCHES Fletcher Trust Co.

Hoosier Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

JAPS WONDER WHAT HIT THEM

Navy Reports 14 Enemy Warships Sunk in Sea Battle.

(Continued From Page One)

Japanese battleships, four carriers, six heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and an undetermined number of destroyers.

Furthermore, it said, one battleship, three heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and seven destroyers were "so severely damaged that they may have sunk before reaching port, and in any event removed from action for from one to perhaps six months."

"Damaging hits," it said, were noted on six battleships, four heavy cruisers, one light cruiser and 10 destroyers.

The U. S. fleet lost six ships sunk. Other American ships were damaged, the navy said, but because "the Japanese are still wondering what hit them," it is impossible at this time "to identify the composition of our naval forces or to describe the damage—other than losses—suffered by us."

"All damage, however, was remediable and some of the United States ships hurt in the fight are already back on duty," it said.

The communiqué told how the preliminaries to the MacArthur-led invasion of the Philippines and the great sea-air battle there began about Sept. 1, when Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's carrier task force of the 3d fleet undertook a two-week series of raids which "kept the Japanese forces off balance while whittling down their aerial strength by about 900 planes."

The Second Step

The next step, it said, came in mid-September with American landings on Peleliu and Morotai islands southwest of the Philippines. These successes, it said, "indicated the feasibility of advancing the date for the invasion of the Philippines" and the date for that move was set for Oct. 20.

It recounted how, beginning on Oct. 9, surface and carrier forces began raiding widely-separated Japanese islands, with "the Japanese defenders . . . caught off base each time."

The climax, it said, came when "a fleet appeared in the enemy's own back yard, off the island of Formosa, from which the aerial attack against the Philippines had been launched by the Japanese three years before."

"The effrontery of the attack on Formosa from the sea," the navy said, "provoked the Japanese into immediate counter-action."

Jap Planes Attack

Bomber and torpedo planes began moving down from the Japanese homeland to attack the American force, it said.

"While these units were dispersed by carrier-borne fighters two Japanese planes broke through and "found targets in a couple of United States medium-sized ships, which were damaged by torpedoes but which successfully retired to the eastward."

The next step, the communiqué said, constituted "one of the most fantastic chapters of the war."

Japanese aviators who reached home "reported an amazing victory, and Tokyo was quick to claim—for the fifth or sixth time—that the naval strength of the United States had been rendered puny."

The fantastic part, the navy said, was that "this time the Japanese believed in their own propaganda."

Halsey Gets Ironie

A task force was seen leaving Japanese home waters to "give the American fleet its coup de grace," but the navy said, when the force's fliers saw the size of the surviving U. S. fleet the enemy fleet fled.

"Adm. Halsey ironically observed that his ships sunk by Jap radio announcement had been salvaged," the navy commented, "and were retiring at high speed toward the Japanese fleet."

Of the three-day battle itself, which began on Oct. 23, the navy told how three separate Japanese forces were sighted moving in the general direction of Leyte Gulf—one from the south, another from the west and the third from the north.

Its story of the ensuing actions was substantially that previously related by Gen. MacArthur and Adm. Chester Nimitz.

When the battle was over, it said, the enemy fleet had sustained losses and damage which materially weakened their overall naval and air strength against the final drive of the United States forces against the empire."

Reinforcement Possible

"We must not, however," the communiqué added, "allow ourselves to feel that this victory effectively prevented any reinforcement of the Jap forces on Leyte and Samar, because he can still, by the very nature of the geography of the islands which afford protection and hiding places for short, fast transportation runs, continue his reinforcements at a continuously diminishing rate."

"He cannot, however, prevent our reinforcement and supply of Gen. MacArthur and his gallant troops."

They dropped 182 tons of bombs on six enemy airfields in the Philippines.

Three airfields at Davao on Mindanao, southernmost of the Philippines, were rendered unserviceable by 120 tons of explosives. Two others on Cebu and one on Negros also were hit hard.

Enclavement of the enemy regi-

ment at the northern end of the Ormoc corridor on Leyte was completed by the 24th division Thursday with the establishment of a strong road block across the Ormoc-Limon highway three quarters of a mile south of Limon.

Another 300 Japanese were killed within the pocket as they thrashed about seeking means of escape.

Other American forces 200 miles

Why 'Mercy Is as Vital as Guns'

Two Hoosiers, fresh from campaigns at opposite ends of the earth, stick together at Wakeman general hospital, Camp Atterbury. Lt. Alice Black of the army nurses Corps, just back from the Fiji Islands, tends T. 5th Gr. Leroy Kenworthy of Lynn, Ind., an army scout car driver, who was wounded in Italy.

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