

WASHINGTON Calling

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

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are everything possible will be done to confuse you—and the enemy. This is one more point in the war where surprise is important.

'Jap Water Rats' Damage Ships

PRE-LANDING and landing operations at Okinawa and the two neighboring islands were not without damage to some of our ships.

"Jap water rats" helped do this damage. The Japs have their counterparts of our P. E. boats, little vessels carrying torpedoes.

V-E day has come and gone. That's the way they're saying it here. We're now in V-E period, which may last 60 days or more.

Another way of putting it: We've already achieved victory strategically; remainder of the war in Europe is a tactical job.

Desire of Americans to celebrate has been cooled, anyway, by army announcement that armistices in Europe would be moved at once to the Pacific war.

INFORMED SOURCES here don't expect much movement on the Russian front closest to Berlin until the final collapse of the German army; expect our forces and the Russian to reach Berlin at the same time.

Leveling Off

WAR DEPARTMENT has quietly canceled construction of artillery and mortar plants which wouldn't have got into production before the end of this year.

It's also leveling off, at the present production rate, two types of small arms ammunition. No cutbacks yet in this field, but there'll probably be no more increases, no more breaking of production records.

Supplies to the Pacific will be doubled—approximately—when war ends in Europe, yet this will take only about 70 per cent of the supplies both wars together have been eating up. And guessing here is that Pacific war will require lighter ordnance—fewer heavier fortifications to storm.

NEWEST TIP on demobilization plan comes from statement of Veterans Administrator Hines before American Legion's employment conference.

In first year after German defeat, Hines said, 1,325,000 new jobs must be found for returning veterans. \$80,000 must be reinstated in their old jobs. 78,000 will enter business or farming. 110,000 will resume education or get vocational training.

But: The figures add up to 2,393,000, a total similar to the one Hines used in February, when he got crossed up with the war department. At that time, he said discharge rate after V-E day would be 200,000 to 250,000 a month, but Secretary Stimson promptly labeled the figure "unauthorized and inaccurate."

Law Partners? LOOK FOR announcement of a Byrnes-Cohen law partnership. Jimmy Byrnes and Ben Cohen are both out of government offices for a few months in Texas, will practice together in Spartanburg and Washington.

STORY GOING the rounds here is that Jesse Jones might run for the senate next year in Texas. If so, he'd have to oppose Senator Tom Connally, the man who tried to help him keep part, at least, of his government jobs.

Connally told the President that Wallace couldn't be confirmed for both, urged him to agree to a split-and-thought Jones would stay in as loan administrator.

Texas politicians here believe that in a Jones-Coffey contest in Texas, Long Towns would win hands-down.

MEANWHILE, Jesse's hand still rests heavily on the federal loan

WEATHER OUTLOOK: A MILD WEEK-END

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weather reported that the frost, brought by temperatures ranging as low as 25 degrees, nipped the blossoms of lowland orchards and trees. The pear crop suffered most acutely, with smaller loss to cherries and apples, they said.

Knock county growers said the peach crop was safe.

The early development of leaves protected many fruit trees. The leaves served as umbrellas for the blooms, according to County Agricultural Agent A. M. Bishes of Evansville. The Vanderburgh county fruit crop was damaged only slightly, he said.

OUR DOCTOR ordered her to the hospital and we took her there Monday morning," Mr. Henson said. "She was in a serious condition until our son was born that night."

The Hensons have three other children: Donald Dean, 6; Maureen, 3, and Mary Catherine, 18 months.

The rescued tot is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Patrick of 315 N. Hamilton ave., Indianapolis. Mrs. Patrick is Mr. Henson's daughter by a previous marriage.

REV. FRANCIS BILSTEIN DIES Tipton, April 7 (U. P.)—The Rev. J. G. Bennett, bishop of Lafayette, will officiate Monday at funeral for the Rev. Francis Bilstein. The 78-year-old pastor of St. John's Catholic church died Wednesday. He formerly served at Ft. Wayne.

FIRE DAMAGE \$800 A blaze causing damage estimated at \$800 swept a home this morning at 5155 Plainfield ave. Volunteer fire units from Fleming Gardens and the Oak Park fire department fought the flames, along with the city fire department.

Clyde Sullivan, 17, of Shelbyville, still was at large.

Hays said the men would be questioned concerning the theft of a car at Groversdale shortly after the man escaped from the farm.

PLANES SINK 6 JAP WARSHIPS

(Continued From Page One) Super-Battleship Is Among Okinawa Victims.

(Continued From Page One) and probably commissioned after the start of the Pacific war.

It was rated at better than 40,000 tons but the exact figure never was known. It was supposed to have been armed with nine 16-inch guns and had a speed of 30 knots or better.

The Okinawa sea-air battle, Nimitz revealed, opened yesterday, Guam time, with a strong Japanese air attack launched against our forces on Okinawa and the concentration of ships lying off shore.

The Japanese "pressed their attack with desperation," Nimitz said, and succeeded in sinking three U. S. destroyers and damaging several other smaller craft. But they failed to hit any of our larger fleet units.

In this battle the fleet carrier fighters had a field day, knocking 245 Jap planes out of the sky while fighter plane pilots on Okinawa and ack-ack batteries there accounted for another 116.

Early today fleet air search planes sighted a Japanese surface fleet which had steamed out of its refuge in the inland sea and, passing south of the main Japanese island of Kyushu, had headed into the East China sea.

The force, possibly as strong a fleet as the Japs could muster for their all-out effort to oust us from Okinawa, was seen to comprise the Yamato, one Agano class light cruiser, another smaller light cruiser and a large destroyer and an unspecified number of other destroyers.

Mitscher, as so many times previously, was ordered to the attack. His fast carrier force charged in at high speed and by noon brought the Japanese to bay.

While the fleet planes had found the sky filled with Japanese aircraft yesterday they discovered no Japanese planes over the fleet when they drove in for the attack.

The Japanese opened up with heavy anti-aircraft fire, but the American planes pressed in.

50 MI. FROM KYUSHU

Attacking the Japanese at a point only 50 miles southwest of Kyushu, they rammed at least eight torpedoes into the big Yamato and rained eight heavy bombs onto her. She sank. In the same vicinity they sank the Agano and rained eight heavy bombs onto her.

"It looks like a good 25 per cent of the remaining naval Japanese combat force," he replied.

The spokesman here expressed the opinion that the Japanese force did not include that many destroyers. He thought that in the excitement of battle more of these craft were lost.

The weight of the enemy attack made it plain that the desperate Japanese, in the midst of a deep cabinet crisis, with American forces firmly installed at Okinawa and faced with the Soviet denunciation of the Russo-Jap neutrality pact, had made a do-or-die attempt to drive us from Okinawa.

At the same time on land American forces, supported by the strong Japanese opposition as they drove into the strong positions designed to protect the northern tip of Okinawa and the capital of Naha.

Nimitz reported that, nevertheless, marine forces at the north drove forward across the Ishikawa isthmus from Chuda on the west to the mouth of the Kimbara river on the east.

To the south army troops gained about 200 yards and occupied the town of Tsuwa.

LEAGUE OPPOSES SOFTBALL FIELD

(Continued From Page One)

Members of the Eastside Civic League will appear before the city zoning board Monday to protest proposed construction of a softball stadium in a plot bordered by Riley, Emerson, Noland and Elliott aven.

Protestants will say they fear a reduction in property values.

The planned softball diamond was announced as a commercial venture, but its sponsor has offered to donate part of the block to an additional city playground space.

CARD PARTY MONDAY

Indianapolis Lodge No. 137, Ladies' Society of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, will give a card party at 1:30 p. m. Monday in the Food Craft shop.

RABBI WILL SPEAK ON 'TIDE OF HATE'

Rabbi James G. Heller, spiritual leader, will speak at the final lecture of the season of the Indianapolis Open Forum at 8:15 p. m. tomorrow at the Kirshbaum center. His subject will be "The Rising Tide of Hate."

A founder and for two years a member of the Cincinnati Peace league, Dr. Heller has served as a member of the Metropolitan board of the Cincinnati Y. M. C. A. and of the Cincinnati board of education. He has been spiritual leader of the Isaac M. Wise temple in Cincinnati since 1920.

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