



Roseburg News-Review

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY DAILY

The war situation, hitherto apparently hopeless for the allies, takes on a brighter hue today, as hard smashes hit the Japs in the air and at sea off Java, as well as Burma. Follow up on the news in the NEWS-REVIEW.

GUNS IN CALIFORNIA BLAST AT SKY OBJECT

ALLIED FLIERS DESTROY 30 JAP PLANES

Nature of Target, Reported in Motion in Los Angeles Area, Shrouded in Military Secrecy

Balloon or Airplane Included in Variety of Guesses; No Bombings Occur, but Damage to Private Property Results From Barrage of Anti-Aircraft Shells.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Anti-aircraft guns thundered over the metropolitan area early today for the first time in the war, but hours later what they were shooting at remained a military secret.

An unidentified object moving slowly down the coast from Santa Monica was variously reported as a balloon and an airplane. Some observers claimed to have seen two planes over Long Beach.

Army intelligence, although uncommunicative, scoffed at reports of civilian observers that as many as 200 planes were over the area.

There were no reports of bombing, but several instances of damaged property from anti-aircraft shells.

A garage door was ripped off in a Los Angeles residential district and fragments shattered windows and tore into a bed where a few moments before Miss Blanche Sedgwick and her niece, Josie Duffy, had been sleeping.

A Santa Monica bomb squad was dispatched to remove an unexploded anti-aircraft shell in a driveway there.

Walling air raid sirens at 2:25 a. m. (PWT) awakened most of the metropolitan area's three million citizens. A few minutes later, they were treated to a gigantic Fourth-of-July-like display as huge searchlights flashed along a 10-mile front to the south, converging on a single spot high in the sky.

Moments later the anti-aircraft guns opened up, throwing a sheet of steel skyward.

Tracer bullets and exploding shells lit the heavens.

Three Japanese, two men and a woman, were seized by police at the beach city of Venice on suspicion of signalling with flashlight beams near the pier. They were removed to FBI headquarters, where Richard B. Hood, local chief, said "at the request of army authorities we have nothing to say."

A Long Beach police sergeant, E. Larson, 59, was killed in a traffic accident while en route to an air raid post.

Henry B. Ayers, 63-year-old state guardman, died at the wheel of an ammunition truck during the blackout. Physicians said a heart attack apparently was responsible.

It was broad daylight before the all-clear sounded at 7:19 a. m. Late homegoers and early workers, who had been flagged down by air raid wardens, started moving.

Soon traffic was snarled. Thousands of Angelenos were an hour or more late to their jobs.

Blackout Partly Ignored The blackout was the first covering the metropolitan area since the first week of the war.

There were isolated instances of failure to comply with blackout regulations. Neon signs were left glowing inside stores. Traffic signals continued to flash in some areas.

Radio stations went off the air with the first alert, and were not

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Burma Drive Halted; Land Army Braces

Three Jap Ships Sunk Off Indies, Air Fleet Routed; MacArthur Stymies Foe

RANGOON, Burma, Feb. 25.—(AP)—American volunteer group fliers and RAF pilots struck one of their heaviest blows at Japanese air strength over Burma today, destroying 30 enemy planes and carrying out effective sweeps over enemy positions along the Sittang river front.

An army communique indicated that the British imperial forces, pushed back to the west bank of the Sittang river some 70 miles from Rangoon, had been given a breathing spell after facing intensive Japanese pressure and were making the most of this opportunity to reorganize their defenses.

The Sittang, which is the last natural obstacle of any size between the Japanese and Rangoon, is 400 yards wide at this season.

Some observers predicted that if the Japanese crossed the river in force Rangoon would fall in less time than Singapore did.

The Sittang river front is about 60 miles from Rangoon.

By ROGER D. GREENE (Associated Press War Editor)

Allied warplanes blasting at Japan's sea-borne invaders were credited officially today with sinking three big enemy transports in the critical battle for the Dutch East Indies, while a Tokyo spokesman acknowledged that 26 Japanese transports had been sunk or damaged to date in the far Pacific.

The spokesman, Commander Tashiro of the naval press section, said Japan expected even heavier losses because the united nations

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS LATE news includes some significant fighting and some significant talking. BOTH are important.

THE fighting occurred around the island of Bali, at the eastern tip of Java, where Dutch and American warships and planes scattered and destroyed a Jap invasion fleet that had attacked the island.

The Dutch communique (issued at Batavia) says: "Not a single Jap warship remained near Bali to give the Jap troops support or supplies."

(Before being scattered and destroyed, the Jap fleet succeeded in landing troops on Bali who seized the airport at Denpasar.)

Hope is expressed in the dispatches that these troops may be destroyed before they can be reinforced.

DON'T do too much wishful thinking on the strength of this brilliant and locally successful blow at the enemy.

The combined Dutch and American navy in the East Indies, outnumbered and outweighed by the Jap navy, dares not risk a MAJOR battle and has to hit and run in narrow waters where the Japs can't bring their full strength to bear.

In these heroic hit-and-run fights it is hoped to whittle down Japan's present superiority and to delay the Japanese advance until our ULTIMATELY OVERWHELMING strength can be brought to bear.

We entered this Pacific war in-

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China Cannot Be Isolated



Fall to the Japanese of the port city of Rangoon, terminus of the Burma road, would not cut off China from war supplies. The above map shows three other routes converging on Chungking, capital of China. One of these starts at Calcutta, India. The other two extend from the Siberian cities of Semipalatinsk and Chita.

County Tire Quota, Rationing of New Autos Are Fixed

A total of 29 tires for passenger automobiles will be released in Douglas county during the month of March, according to Carl B. Cadwell, Portland, secretary of the Oregon Tire Rationing administration. With the 29 tires, car owners will be able to secure 23 tubes.

The allotment for trucks and busses provides for 94 tires, 40 tubes and 106 retreads.

No passenger car tires can be retreaded or recapped in Oregon, during the month of March, according to instructions received by the state administration. The freezing order on camelbacks, the rubber used in recapping, has been extended from March 1 to April 1, according to the notice received by the state administrator.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—(AP)—The nationwide rationing of 145,500 new 1942 passenger automobiles to eligible buyers in March, April and May will begin March 2.

The actual quotas for states total only 120,000 cars, the office of price administration disclosed today, but an additional 25,500 vehicles were placed in state and national "reserves" and a small number were released for sale in the territories.

The new car quotas and reserves, by states, include: Oregon, 1,340 and 223.

The county quotas in each state were arrived at largely on the basis of 1941 new car registrations. The cars to be released amount to 43 per cent of the 340,000 new vehicles to be sold to essential users the next 12 months, and 30 per cent of the total supply of about 490,000 new cars left in the hands of manufacturers, distributors, and dealers when the motor industry closed down for complete conversion to war production.

Heart Attack Fatal to Mayor of Prineville

BEND, Feb. 25.—(AP)—The mayor of Prineville, Dr. John Henry Rosenberg, 68, died here last night of a heart attack. He had been a physician in Prineville since 1905. The widow survives.

Father, Son Victims of Identical Accidents

PENDLETON, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Three weeks ago Dan McDevitt, Sr., crossed a Pendleton intersection, was hit by a car, suffered a fractured left leg.

Over the week-end Dan McDevitt, Jr., 12, crossed the same intersection, was struck by a car, had his left leg fractured.

Silverton Policeman Dies of Heart Attack

SILVERTON, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Harry Greenfield, 55, special Silverton policeman, died last night, apparently of a heart attack, while discussing duties with Chief of Police Victor Grossnickle.

A son, Ted, was killed in the Dec. 7 attack at Pearl harbor. The widow and another son, Clarence, survive.

Parity Price Battle Draws In Roosevelt

President, in Protest to Senate, Brands Pending Measure as "Selfish"

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—(AP)—President Roosevelt stepped directly into the senate dispute over farm prices today with a letter protesting that a pending bill represented "selfish interests" at a time the very existence of the country was at stake.

The chief executive, in a letter read at the opening of the senate session, said that a proposal to restrict sales of government-held stocks of farm commodities would do "irreparable damage to the war effort and farmers of the country."

Declaring that the production of American foodstuffs was vital to allied nations, the president said that the two most important needs at this time were livestock and oil producing products.

Expansion of production in these fields would be impeded by proposed restrictions on the sale of corn, wheat and cotton off the market in past years in order to keep prices up and insure a fair return for the farmers. He said it was "generally understood" that these stocks would be available in time of emergency.

"That emergency is now upon us," he declared.

The letter, directed to Vice-President Wallace opposed a pending bill that would prohibit any sales of government stocks now held by the commodity credit corporation at less than parity prices.

Mr. Roosevelt said that, in order to expand the production of livestock and oil producing commodities, it would be necessary to maintain a favorable ratio of prices between feed and livestock.

The good will created for the farmer in the past, the president said, "should not be shattered by grasping for a few dollars in the name of the farmer."

Administration leaders have offered a compromise to the farm bloc and called for a showdown vote.

Protesting that the original bill

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Seine Nets, Warehouses Prey of \$500,000 Fire

SEATTLE, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Hundreds of seine nets, valued up to \$4,000 each, were burned in a spectacular waterfront fire which destroyed two warehouses and damaged a third here last night. Estimates of the total damage ran up to a half million dollars because of the loss of the nets.

A large number of fishing boats adjacent to the buildings were pulled to safety as the flames raged through the highly inflammable articles. Firemen said gasoline used to thin preservatives applied to the nets apparently exploded and started the blaze.

Fishermen expressed fear that damaged nets would be difficult to replace because of war demands for other uses, and might result in a decrease in next year's salmon catch, they said.

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Axis U-Boats Add Norway Ship to Toll

U. S. Tanker Torpedoed Also Increased as Raids in Atlantic Continue

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Secretary of Navy Knox reported today that during January and February 56 attacks had been made on enemy submarines in the Atlantic resulting in the sinking of three and the damaging of four.

The secretary said that the only reports he had received of enemy aircraft activity in the Los Angeles area last night were that it was "just a false alarm."

"There were no planes over Los Angeles last night, at least, that's our understanding," Knox declared. "None have been found and a very wide reconnaissance has been carried on."

BALTIMORE, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Six men, the only known survivors of the torpedoed Norwegian freighter Blink, whose sinking was announced by the navy department today, told haltingly of their 66-hour fight for life in a swamped lifeboat in rough, shark-infested seas.

The 2,700-ton freighter was torpedoed without warning off the Atlantic coast with a probable loss of 24 lives.

The survivors believe the chief engineer, donkeyman and a fireman of the 22-year-old ship were killed when two torpedoes exploded in the engine room. They believe four others were lost on a life raft.

They watched 17 other crew

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Dr. Futrelle Hads Vets Facility Temporarily

Dr. W. C. Futrelle, chief medical officer at the U. S. veterans administration facility here, is acting as manager of the institution, pending formal appointment of a manager to succeed the late Colonel E. F. Tandy, who died last week after having served as manager since the facility was opened here. Dr. Futrelle is expected to continue as manager until a successor to Colonel Tandy has been named by the veterans administration at Washington, D. C.

Sabotage Suspected in Grain Elevator Fire

IONA, Idaho, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Federal bureau of investigation agents were investigating today the explosion and fire which destroyed the Sperry grain elevator and a large quantity of wheat yesterday.

Sheriff Harry Meppen said sabotage is suspected because 100 gasoline saturated grain sacks were removed from the warehouse section of the elevator.

David R. Clark, the operator of the grain elevator and who suffered a brain concussion and other injuries in the explosion, said 10,000 bushels of wheat and 15,000 sacks were destroyed. He placed the value of the building at \$20,000.

Douglas County's First Air Raid Alert Gets Prompt Compliance; So Does West Roseburg Blackout Signal by Mistake

Douglas county this morning had its first official air raid alert since the beginning of the war. The alert signal was received at the Roseburg control center at 4:55 a. m., immediately following the action in the Los Angeles area, where shots were fired at an unidentified airplane. From the Roseburg control station the warning was given to all Douglas county municipalities. Heads of civilian defense units were mobilized at headquarters, and all advance preparations were made for a blackout. The all clear signal, however, was given at 7:45 a. m.

In West Roseburg, the blackout signal was sounded through error, but the signal, given by a privately owned siren, was recalled within a few minutes. Residents of that area, however, complied completely with the signal and air raid wardens went to their posts in accordance with instructions.

Harry Pinniger, defense coordinator, reported this morning that the county defense organization functioned very well in connection with this morning's alert,

particularly in view of the fact that there has been no call since the practice blackouts which were held at the outbreak of the war. Only a part of the defense group was notified, as the control center receives two alert signals prior to an actual blackout order. In connection with the first two calls, the heads of the defense units are notified and are called to the control station and other volunteers are not summoned until the final emergency signal is received.

SALEM, Feb. 25.—(AP)—All western Oregon was ordered at 5:07 a. m. today to be on the alert against enemy attack, but the all-clear signal was given at 7:45 a. m. There was no explanation for the alert, ordered by the fourth interceptor command.

The "yellow alert" was transmitted by the army to civilian defense officials, heads of defense industries, utilities, docks, police and fire departments and oil storage plants.

These "yellow" messages are sent as soon as there is a possibility of raids.

12,000 Nazis Slain In New Russian Blow

Base of Leningrad Siege Smashed; Hitler Boasts Of Spring Retaliation

(By the Associated Press) Russia proclaimed a smashing new victory over Adolf Hitler's battered invasion armies today even as the fuhrer announced that the bitter snows of winter were melting and that he had completed preparations for the "final struggle" this spring.

"Snow and frost brought to a temporary standstill the series of victories of the German army, unique in history," Hitler declared in a message to nazi party followers.

"Our enemy then hoped to inflame the German army the fate of the Napoleonic retreat. This attempt has collapsed miserably."

In Moscow, Russians celebrated the triumphal red armies had crushed Germany's 16th field army, shattering three divisions and killing 12,000 troops in the Staraya Russa sector, 140 miles below Leningrad.

Staraya Russa had been a key German base guarding the southern flank of the nazi armies before the explosion and fire which destroyed the Sperry grain elevator and a large quantity of wheat yesterday.

Soviet front-line dispatches al-

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Boy Confesses He Slew Sweetheart

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—(AP)—A young boy friend confessed today, Coroner A. L. Brodie said, that he fatally shot Dorothy Broz, 17, in the balcony of the downtown Palace theater, a mystery that had been more baffling than the one being shown on the screen.

Brodie named the slayer as Clarence McDonald, 17, of suburban Berwyn. He was picked up after police questioned a girl friend of the victim. She told investigators she knew of a theater date Dorothy had with McDonald.

Police had obtained only a vague description of the youth who stepped across Dorothy's bleeding body, sprinted up an aisle and escaped in the dark and confusion of the theater.

Young McDonald said he had been going with Dorothy, aged 16, for about two years, that they had talked of marriage, but later had decided "to wait four years until she was a little older." He admitted, the officials said, that on a former occasion he had drawn a pistol on the girl while they were in an ice cream parlor, but that he was just "fooling."

Millikin, Devin Again Rivals for Mayor of Seattle

SEATTLE, Feb. 25.—(AP)—The final lap in the race for mayor of Seattle was begun today by the two remaining candidates, Police Judge William F. Devin and Mayor Earl Millikin, who were selected in the city's municipal primary yesterday from a field of six candidates.

Final unofficial returns gave Devin 27,940 votes, and Millikin 17,035. Councilman William Norton ran a distant third with 9,495.

Devin and Millikin will thus resume a battle they fought a year ago when Millikin bested the police judge in the campaign to fill the unexpired term of Governor Langlie. In the election a year ago Devin had nearly twice the vote of Millikin in the primary but lost by a narrow margin in the finals.

The final election will be March 10.

Waste, Sports in Britain Must End, Cripps Declares

LONDON, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Sir Stafford Cripps, lord privy seal in the revamped British cabinet, told the house of commons today the government would not permit a "business as usual or pleasure as usual" attitude toward the war from now on.

He made this statement as government leader in the house when he rose to defend the Churchill cabinet toward the close of a two-day debate on the conduct of the war.

He announced that a government decision would be given shortly on the problem of India.

On the home front, Sir Stafford said, steps will be taken to halt "dog racing and boxing displays" which he called "completely out of accord" with the "solid and serious intention of this country to achieve victory."

Personal extravagance must be "eliminated altogether," as well as every form of wastage and unnecessary expenditure, Sir Stafford told a startled house, in order to "keep up the tempo of our war effort." He added that no "small or selfish" group must abuse the wishes of the majority of the people.

It is of "vital value" to the British empire that the Indian people "fight for the defense of their country" and "act with us" in repelling the axis, he said.

"Blimpery" is helping Britain lose "part of our colonial empire," Sir Stafford declared, adding that this can be regained "only on condition that we hold it in the interest of the world and the people who live in those parts."

"Blimpery" is a reference to cartoonist David Low's character "Colonel Blimp," who portrays the "reactionary forces in the fighting and colonial services."