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The Oregon Statesman

The Inside
Your complete morning
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ments on war news of the
day by Kirke Simpson,
Washington analyst.

NINETY-FIRST YEAR

Salem, Oregon, Friday Morning, March 20, 1942

Price 3c Newsstands 5c

No. 307

Gasoline Card System Due in 6 Weeks in West

Need Factor To Govern All Sales

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP)—Gasoline rationing by a rigid coupon system will be instituted in the east and Pacific northwest as soon as the millions of cards can be printed, probably six weeks hence, Petroleum Coordinator Ickes announced today.

Emphasizing the seriousness of the fuel emergency, the coordinator told his press conference that the supply situation in New England, both with regard to petroleum and coal, had become so critical that parts of the area, particularly in Massachusetts and Maine, already were planning "to rely on wood" for heating next winter.

Plans for rationing as a war measure were announced on the day that motor fuel consumption was cut by 20 per cent in the east and northwest by a limitation of supplies delivered to filling stations.

Ickes declined to predict the extent to which the ordinary motorists' gasoline allowance might be cut for a given period under the card system, but said all motorists would be classified according to their actual needs.

"We will go on a card rationing system as soon as Leon Henderson (the price administrator) can get around to it," Ickes told newsmen.

The coordinator expressed doubt that gasoline could be distributed equitably under the system that became effective today.

The supply limitation program places on the individual station operators the responsibility for fair apportionment.

Oregon motorists learned Thursday that a 20-per cent reduction in gasoline deliveries to service stations does not mean their consumption will be cut by only one-fifth.

Spokesmen for major oil companies said five groups of vehicles

45-64 Group's Registration Is April 27

Oldest Group Under Law To Be Ready For Non-Combat

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP)—The government Thursday ordered the oldest group of men under the selective service law—45 to 64 inclusive—to register on April 27, for possible non-combatant service in the future.

The new registration date proclaimed by President Roosevelt will leave only one group not yet recorded, those of 18 and 19 years estimates of the total registration for the 45-64 age group range around 15,000,000.

While none of these comparative oldsters will be taken into the fighting forces, there is the possibility that some or many of them will be assigned eventually to essential war work. Brig. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey has said that one purpose of the draft law was an "accurate and systematic appraisal" of the supply of man power.

Testifying before a house committee last month, Hershey asserted that "we must have much more control over placements of men than we now have to meet the war manpower problem." It was noted, however, that there is no existing law to compel a work-or-fight policy.

Like the previous drafts, Thursday's order applied to "male citizens of the United States, the territories of Alaska and Hawaii and in Puerto Rico. Exceptions are made for those already in the armed forces and provisions made in certain cases for registration before or after the April 27 date.

Wednesday's Weather
Weather forecasts withheld and temperature data delayed by army request. River Thursday, 1.8 feet. Max. temperature, 54, min., 37.

On Cabinet



Casey Named In Mid-East

1st From Dominion; Minister to Take Place at Cairo

LONDON, March 19 (AP)—Britain's government took a dominion statesman into its inner fold Thursday for the first time in history, appointing Australia's Richard G. Casey to be minister of state in the middle east for the war cabinet.

The handsome and vigorous Casey now is Australian minister to Washington.

The appointment, announced in the house of commons by Prime Minister Churchill, was interpreted in some quarters as an effort to re-tie the bonds between Australia and Great Britain.

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Japs Push Toward Moresby

Allies Lose 3 Ships To Subs in Atlantic; Total Attacked Is 41

Nearly All Crew-Members Are Rescued; Yugoslav, Norwegian Craft Listed

Submarine torpedoes and shellfire, destroying three allied vessels, lifted the toll of ships officially announced as attacked off the United States Atlantic coast to 41 Thursday. One was the 5402-ton Yugoslavian freighter Trepeca, whose sinking was disclosed after 33 survivors of a crew of 37 landed at Lewes, Del. Another was identified by the navy as a Norwegian tanker, with 38 of the 40-man crew saved, and the third was listed as a medium sized merchant ship with 38 out of 47 men surviving.

Survivors of the merchant ship, arriving in Miami, Fla., from Havana, said the ship's radio operator stayed at his post after the vessel was torpedoed and managed to send distress signals in spite of shellfire aimed at the radio shack.

"Right after the torpedo hit, the sub surfaced and fired four times," one crewman asserted.

"The water was pouring in, and the ship sinking about a foot a minute, but Sparks stayed on duty until he could get his SOS away."

Others told of swimming in the oil-covered water until they found a big lifeboat capsized. They managed to right the boat and kept picking up stragglers until there were 38 in the craft.

In New York City, six survivors among those landed at Lewes, blamed the loss of their ship on Friday the 13th, the wireless operator declaring that the ship sailed from its Caribbean port on a Friday and it was attacked on Friday, March 13.

The shuddering explosion of a torpedo below the bridge in mid-morning was the first sign of a submarine's presence, the Trepeca crewmen said. Four men, the only ones known to have been lost, were killed instantly, two of the lifeboats were destroyed, and the radio damaged, preventing an appeal for help.

Captain Stanko Marchioni declared in Lewes that the attack was carried out "by a cruiser sub, the largest I have ever seen, apparently German."

Survivors of the Trepeca drifted three days in open lifeboats through rain, fog and cold before being rescued by a Swedish freighter. Eight men were placed in a hospital, suffering from exposure.

The complete identity of the Trepeca, naval officials in Washington explained, was given out by authority of the Yugoslav minister, although contrary to the navy's usual policy of not announcing ship names.

Identity of the Norwegian tanker was not disclosed. Its sinking was first reported from Nassau, the Bahamas, on March 10, two days after 38 survivors of the 40-man crew arrived there.

Decision Near For Burma

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN CENTRAL BURMA, March 19 (AP)—The decisive battle for central Burma appeared definitely imminent Thursday in the Irrawaddy valley—Burma's spinal column—as Japanese troops moved northward by motor transport, boat and mule-train toward the British defenses in the Prome sector sheltering the Yenang-Jung oil fields.

The fight will be for the Prome road, asphalted western branch of the old Burma road running along the broad Irrawaddy to the rich central Burma oil fields, thence to Mandalay. Japanese forces also are moving up the eastern branch, or Toungou road, and there has been preliminary fighting in the Kanyutkin sector of this eastern road to Mandalay, some 100 miles north of Rangoon.

Japanese Objected To, Vale

Governor Asked To Aid; Idaho Makes Proffer

Migration of Japanese, alien and citizens alike, to the Vale district in eastern Oregon will be opposed unless they are concentrated in groups and placed under military supervision, John L. Caldwell, jr., Vale chamber of commerce secretary, telegraphed Gov. Charles A. Sprague Thursday.

Caldwell's message, drafted following a mass meeting at Vale and directed also to Lt. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, said citizens there did not want evacuated Japanese except under the following conditions:

That they be colonized or concentrated in groups.

That the United States government provide ample supervision.

That they will not be permitted to purchase or lease land.

That they will be removed from the area at the conclusion of the war emergency.

The telegram declared that because of four large irrigation dams and canal systems Malheur county is vulnerable to sabotage that could destroy the entire territory in a few hours.

Officials here said any influx of enemy aliens into Malheur county probably was voluntary for the reason that there has been no forced removal of evacuees into that section up to this time.

The telegram was referred to Charles P. Pray, superintendent of state police, who said he would conduct an investigation to determine the seriousness of the situation.

BOISE, March 19 (AP)—Establishment of one or more reception centers in Idaho for Japanese removed from war-vital west coast areas emerged Thursday as a possible method of quieting objections against settling the evacuees in the state.

Gov. Chase A. Clark announced the centers were being considered after conferring with Tom C. Clark of San Francisco.

The latter, chief of the civilian staff of Lt. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, head of the western defense command, said he had asked the general to dispatch a site board to look over "three or four sections of Idaho" where the centers might be established. The board was expected to arrive Friday.

Expenditures on the two projects

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Mission Radios Guide Advance; Air Forces Meet

Allies Account for Three More Enemy Ships; Plans Made for United Smash

MELBOURNE, March 19 (AP)—Guided by Nazi German missionaries, a strong Japanese force was reported Thursday night to be advancing overland in New Guinea toward Port Moresby, enemy-coveted springboard for invasion of the Australian mainland, while over the continent's whole defense periphery the combined US-Australian air force and Japanese bombers were furiously engaged.

The Japanese troops, thus supported by the first recorded instance of German fifth column work in the Australian theatre, appeared to be advancing westward from Lae, their beachhead on northeastern New Guinea island due north of Port Moresby and separated from it by a mountain range. The objective of the drive was to gain the central plateau, then turn south toward Port Moresby, the most important defensive position short of the mainland itself. It lies just across Torres Strait from the mainland.

The enemy's immediate aim, said dispatches from Port Moresby, was to take over the Markham valley with its system of first-rate airports.

The missionaries were said to have come from pro-Nazi centers in Finschhafen and Alexishafen—both towns incidentally are in the area of the enemy's initial landings on New Guinea—and to have equipped themselves with a radio transmitter, a small factory for producing arms and swastika bands. They maintained good airroads.

In recent raids on the missions, the authorities smashed one radio transmitter. They

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Jeep Serves Workers Tea

MELBOURNE, March 19 (AP)—An American colonel assigned to speed production in a Victoria airplane factory whose output is only three planes a month observed that the workers lost a half hour going out for their mid-morning tea, and the same time in the afternoon.

"I knew that tea institution couldn't be eliminated," he explained, "so we used an army jeep to bring the stuff into the factory and thus saved 45 minutes of that time."

Sale Increases Noted

SAN FRANCISCO, March 19 (AP)—Sales in 157 western department stores averaged 29 cents on the dollar higher than a year ago in February, store reports to the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco showed Thursday.

Promoted



Army engineer in charge of the Corvallis army cantonment and resident engineer at Bonneville dam, E. M. Dunalist was promoted Thursday from the rank of major to that of lieutenant colonel. He became a major January 31, 1941.

Highway Bids Award Today

Oregon Projects Are Limited Closely To Defense

PORTLAND, March 19 (AP)—Awards for a Crater lake highway improvement project to accommodate increased traffic for an army cantonment near Medford will be made Friday, the state highway commission announced Thursday.

Bids on a project to improve the Pacific highway between Corvallis and Monmouth to serve another army cantonment in that area probably would be received at next month's meeting, the commission said.

Expenditures on the two projects

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Nazis Said Burning Stores in Kharkov Fight Reds Futilely

LONDON, Friday, March 20 (AP)—German troops under assault in Kharkov are blowing up oil stores and other equipment, "apparently realizing the occupation is at an end," a Stockholm dispatch to the Daily Mail said Thursday.

Great fires are raging in the industrial city which the nazis captured last October, the report said.

The red army was reported at the gates of Kharkov last Sunday. "Tank, gun, and ammunition depots are being dynamited," the correspondent said.

"The Germans are destroying what they and hordes of forced labor have recreated during six months of precarious occupation."

MOSCOW, March 19 (AP)—The nazis are counter-attacking on virtually every front in desperately futile efforts to rescue trapped troops and stem the Russian advance, the red army reported Thursday night.

The fiercest fighting of all raged in an unidentified sector of the southern front, the army newspaper Red Star said.

Trying to relieve several units from a grave predicament, the Germans threw in every weapon of war, but were repulsed and lost another settlement, Red Star related, and added that the Russian advance there was continuing.

Hitler Calls Generals

BERN, Switzerland, March 19 (AP)—Confronted by a critical new situation in Russia and threatened with the possibility of an allied second front against Germany, Adolf Hitler has abandoned his "intuition" and called back nearly all the high-ranking generals he dismissed during the winter, German dispatches indicated Thursday.

The fuhrer apparently has become convinced now that he cannot direct his war alone, as he tried to do in December, when he personally supplanted Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch as commander-in-chief.

Von Brauchitsch and other keen military men who quit or were fired when the German army's march on Moscow collapsed early last winter now have been called back to Berlin to map a gigantic offensive expected to be launched against the Russian front, said a Berlin dispatch to the Swiss newspaper Basel National Zeitung.

Others named are Field Marshals Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt and Fedor von Bock, both among those who left their commands in reported disfavor

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Seattle May Link With New Alaska Road



The map shows how British Columbia is considering hooking up its existing highway north of Vancouver to the new Alaskan highway being constructed north from Edmonton, Alberta. Two routes are being considered: No. 1 via Vanderhoof to Dawson Creek; No. 2 from just south of Prince George to Dawson Creek. Terminus of the Northern Alberta railway is at Dawson Creek, where American engineers are already at work on construction of the Alaskan link. Advantages of the considered British Columbia hook-on routes are: proposed cut-off No. 2 is less than 500 miles. No. 1 route via Hazelton is somewhat longer, whereas the distance from Seattle to Dawson Creek via Edmonton is 1455 miles. The Edmonton route is the one decided upon by the Canadian and United States governments.