



ON THE INSIDE—
in Washington!

By **KIRKE L. SIMPSON**

Wide World War Analyst for The Statesman

Hard knocks rained by growing allied air power in Australia on Japanese sea supply lines, and weather certainties in Burma, are forcing the Tokyo war management to show its hand soon as to which way, if either, it intends to strike next in the Pacific. The alternative is to halt for consolidation and let Herr Hitler take over the offensive for the axis.

It is still uncertain whether Japanese invasion thrusts at New Guinea are a prelude to a full fledged incursion into Australia. Footholds the enemy has seized there and that he is seeking to expand would be equally useful as bases from which to harry American-Australian supply lines. Those lines constitute the greatest threat to the conquest pattern Tokyo is trying to work out.

There are very urgent reasons for a Japanese concentration immediately in Burma, however. The campaign must come to a halt in lower Burma within a few weeks for weather reasons.

Once the vast winds of the Indian Ocean make their annual turnabout beginning in late April to pour the April-to-October "wet monsoon" across the Delta of Irrawaddy, the war on the Burma front must subside. To maintain adequate supply lines in lower Burma in that period of tremendous thunder-storms and continuous tropical downpours appears as much an impossibility as mass troop movements or effective air work.

General Wavell's hopes of stalling the Japanese thrust against his British forces and Chinese armies, now under American command, rests heavily upon the time and weather elements. Old General Mud has been the master of many a battle field and lower Burma is likely to prove no exception.

There seems, too, little doubt that a tremendous shifting of British empire forces all the way from England to India has been gathering momentum ever since Japan struck in the Pacific to change the whole nature of the war. From that moment,

Service Men

Where They Are
What They're Doing

PORTLAND, March 19—(P) Navy enlistments announced Thursday by the Portland district recruiting headquarters included: Alton B. Shannon, Henry F. Doner, Warren D. Shannon, Carl C. Anderson, all of Salem.

MONMOUTH—Mrs. R. D. Elliott has received word from her sister, Mrs. John Harry, San Diego, that the latter's husband, Lieut.-Col. John Harry, has been ordered to a northern post for several months. He is an engineer by vocation and has been stationed at Fort Rosecrans, Calif., for the last few years.

Prior to that the Harrys were in the Philippines for a time. Mrs. Elliott and her daughter, Betty Lou, spent last summer visiting at the Harry home in San Diego.

COLFAX, Wash., March 19—(P) The last letter written by Marine Lieutenant John F. Kinney, hero of Wake island, before he was taken prisoner by the Japanese has been received here by his mother, Mrs. E. A. Kinney.

The letter, written December 21, the day before the invaders finally overcame the heroic band, and forwarded from Honolulu by Capt. Bob Galer, who received it, said:

"Getting some good gunnery practice (aerial) although the targets shoot back. Had my goggles shot off last week when I went in on eight bombers—seven got away. No more news except what would be censored.

GERVAIS — Maj. Michael J. Mahoney, rural mail carrier, left Tuesday for Ft. Benning, Ga., from where he will be in charge of a group going to an eastern camp. Maj. Mahoney is a veteran of World War I. Ted Nibler is carrying the mail during his absence.

TURNER—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Spencer have received word from their son Cyril, at Pearl Harbor, naval radio technician, that he is well and spending part of his time in the air.

A wire this week to Mrs. L. E. Peterson from her son Herschel with no postmark. When last heard from, their son, who has been in Texas and Wyoming, was at San Francisco.

Sgt. Harlan Bones, son of Mrs. Maude Bones, who has been at Ft. Lewis, is now at Camp Luis Obispo, Calif. awaiting further orders.

Mrs. N. W. Hutchens received an airmail letter Friday, from

her son, Darrel Hutchens, chief petty officer on the USS Lexington. Written on February 22, Hutchens stated he had just heard over the Japanese radio broadcast where the "good ship Lex had been sunk, and all the Jap planes returned safely. Boy, they had better check them over again." He told his mother not to worry, that the

ship had been reported sunk four times now by the Japs and that he was safe. Turner firemen have received word from their former chief, Albert Jensen, that he is "deep in the heart of Texas." Jensen is now at Sheppard field. His wife, Mrs. Mabel Jensen, is a teacher in the Turner grade school.

ST. LOUIS—Michael Mahoney, mail carrier, left Sunday for Georgia, where he will attend officers' training school for a few weeks. Thomas Ferschweiler, St. Louis, surprised his parents by coming home. He is recovering from an appendicitis operation and is on vacation while recovering. In about a week he will leave for California.

Word was received recently by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schomus from their son Francis, who had not been heard from for three weeks. A long-distance telephone call Thursday night informed Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Wilt, Salem, that their son, Wilson, had been promoted from first lieutenant to

Woman Found Dead
PORTLAND, March 19—(P) Mrs. Marion Tee, 36, Portland, whose body was found in a downtown hotel room Wednesday night, died of a self-inflicted bullet, Deputy Coroner Gideon Snook said. Captain Wilt is stationed at Ft. Lewis.

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