

Non-Essential Building Prohibited

Rule In Effect Today

Repairs Okeh For Houses; \$500 Top On

WASHINGTON, April 8-(AP)—The war production board Wednesday night prohibited new construction of non-essential residences, roads and commercial buildings, and indicated that projects already under way might be halted if the materials going into them could be used more efficiently in the war program.

The order is effective Thursday. Specifically it bans any residential construction other than maintenance and repair work if the cost is \$500 or more, unless specific government permission is granted. Similar permission must be obtained for any new agricultural construction if the estimated cost is \$1000 or more.

No other types of construction, commercial, industrial, recreational, institutional, highway, or utilities, whether publicly or privately financed, may be started without permission if the cost of the project is more than \$5000.

"It is in the national interest that all construction which is not essential directly or indirectly to the successful prosecution of the war, and which involves the use of labor, material or equipment urgently needed in the war effort, be deferred for the duration of the emergency," the board stated.

The drastic action, which WPB Chairman Donald M. Nelson had declared would virtually "suspend the civilian construction industry," does not apply to ordinary maintenance and repair work needed to restore a structure to "sound working condition."

To prevent evasion, the \$500 upper limit on residential construction was made the maximum for a 12-month period. That is, no person may spend \$500 on a dwelling and subsequently make another \$500 outlay on the same dwelling in the same 12-month period. The same restriction applies to the farm and "other restricted construction" maximums.

Although the shutdown was applied only to construction not yet started, WPB gave this warning: "Projects already under construction are being examined by the WPB on an individual basis. Such projects may be stopped if the scarce materials to be used in them can be put to more effective use in the war program."

In effect, the order "freezes" the sale of building materials except for specifically approved projects or those costing under the dollar limits specified.

"This is done through provisions which not only prohibit the start of construction, but also the withdrawal from inventory and the purchase, sale or delivery of any material for use in such construction unless authorized by the war production board."

Exempt from the order are projects built for the armed forces and a group of other named government agencies; construction to replace residences destroyed since January 1, by fire, flood, tornado, earthquake or the "public enemy," and petroleum producing and distributing facilities which are provided for in earlier WPB actions.

No change was made in existing regulations permitting construction of residences, costing up to \$6000, in defense housing critical areas specifically designated by the government.

Applications to start new construction elsewhere must be filed with local offices of the federal housing administration on forms obtainable from FHA local offices or from WPB district offices.

The FHA local officer will decide whether a project is eligible for recommendation to WPB.

If so, the application will go forward to WPB's production division, headed by William H. Harrison, for final consideration.

Auto Scrap Yards Warned

PORTLAND, April 8-(AP)—Operators of automobile graveyards here received warning Wednesday that they had better begin selling scrap iron and steel—

Warning that Portland dealers were far behind in junking old cars, John S. Graetzler of the war production board said yards that failed to comply could be requisitioned.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1854

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR

Salem, Oregon, Thursday Morning, April 8, 1942

Price 5c.

No. 323

Invaders Press at New Bataan Line

Axis Troops Move in North Africa

Battles Light In Desert

Heavy Raids at Malta Portend Drive on East

BY DREW MIDDLETON

LONDON, April 8-(AP)—Axis columns in north Africa have sprung into sudden activity in the front area west of Tobruk which may be the forerunner for the expected big axis drive for control of the eastern Mediterranean, the Suez gate and the southern road to Russia.

The British issued a special communique in Cairo Wednesday night announcing the action, noting that as yet there had been only "minor engagements with our light forces" by "two or three" enemy columns operating between the Tmini-Mechill track and the British position south of Ain El Gazala, roughly 40 miles west of Tobruk.

Although no heavy fighting had yet been reported in two days of this action, issuance of the special communique underscored the potential significance of the axis move.

"The enemy movements are being closely watched," the communique concluded.

(Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

300,000 Tons Rubber Asked

Wanted for Civilian Use; Council Plans Immediate Study

WASHINGTON, April 8-(AP)—Production of a minimum of 300,000 tons of synthetic rubber a year for civilian use over and above the 700,000 tons already planned by government agencies was proposed Wednesday by the petroleum industry war council.

The council appointed a committee representing the entire industry to make an immediate study of the problem of producing synthetic rubber, especially Butyl rubber, "with a view of determining its practicability in meeting the tire shortage."

William R. Boyd, jr., council chairman and president of the American Petroleum Institute, said the industry action was prompted by the fact that the present rubber program made no

(Turn to Page 2, Col. 7)

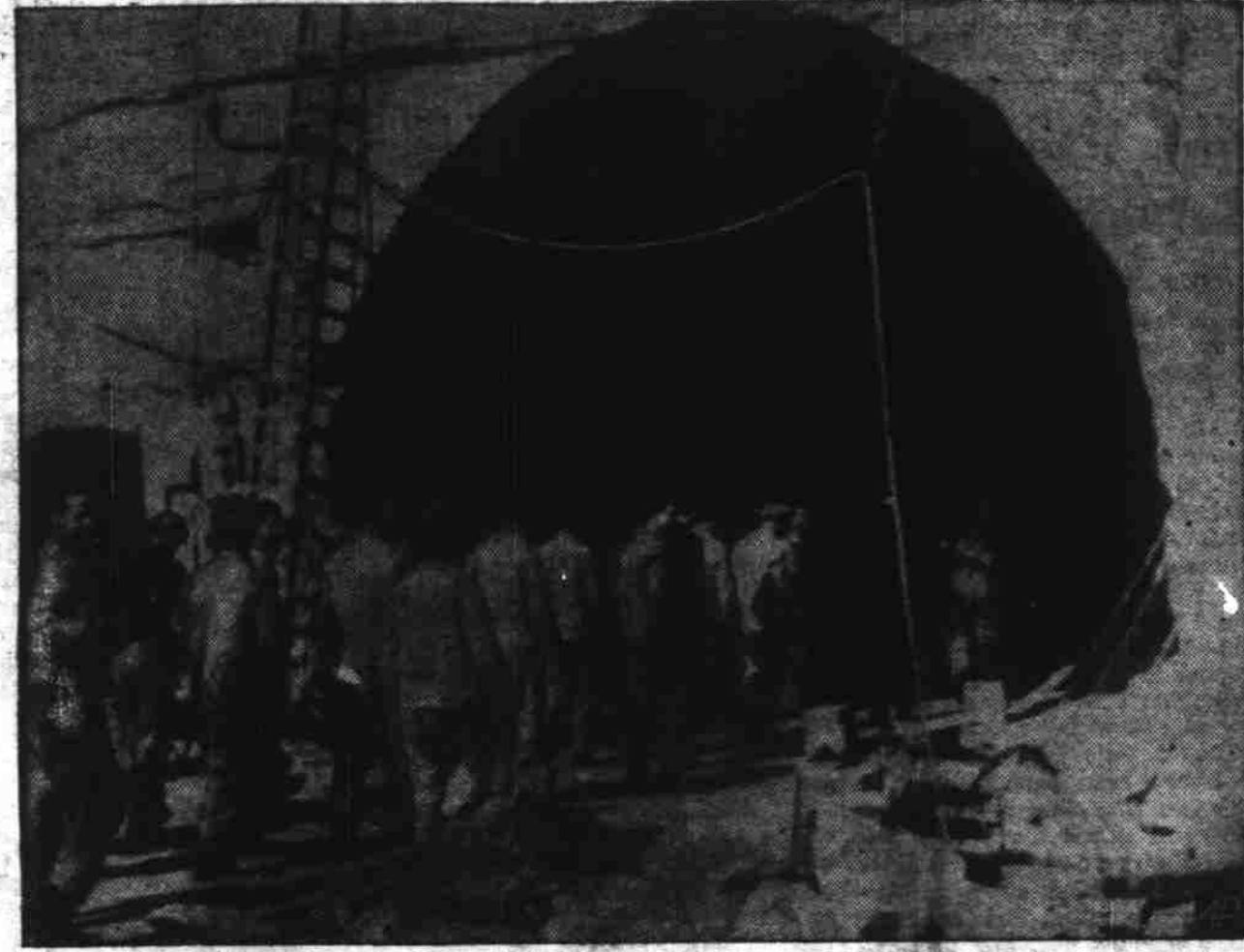
Reports to Be Heard

CORVALLIS, April 8-(AP)—Progress reports on crop production, scrap iron collection and other war activities will be heard by the Oregon war board of the US department of agriculture at Portland Friday.

Tuesday's Weather

Weather forecasts withheld and temperature data delayed by army request. River Wednesday, 2 feet. Max. temperature Tuesday, 54, min. 47.

Malta—On the Alert



Because of deep rock shelters, like that pictured above with dockyard workers entering, few casualties have been suffered on the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta, plague of the axis campaign in North Africa. Since the war began the island has undergone more than 1500 air raids, the heaviest of which came Tuesday. The attack seemingly was prelude to sudden axis troop movements in Libya, where light clashes were reported by the British.

Marshall and Hopkins Visit

Confer With Churchill After Surprise Atlantic Flight

LONDON, April 8-(AP)—Gen. George C. Marshall, US army chief of staff, and Harry Hopkins, chairman of munitions assignments and close aide of President Roosevelt, arrived in London Wednesday on a surprise mission by airplane and almost immediately conferred with Prime Minister Churchill.

Wednesday night Gen. Marshall told newspapermen that the purpose of the American forces in Europe was to "expand," Hopkins said that President Roosevelt had entrusted him with some confidential matters on which to confer with Churchill.

General Marshall's remarks about expanding the American forces were in reply to a question implying that US forces might become cramped in the British Isles.

"Well, we want to expand over here," he replied, and the correspondents at his press conference roared with laughter.

Gen. Marshall said he was here "to see the development of the British forces here in the British Isles and to talk things over in general with the British chief of staff." He said he was not sure whether he would go directly back to Washington, and he said he certainly would

(Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

Two Defense Road Awards To Be Made

Awarding of contracts for two important defense road contracts will be considered at the next meeting of the state highway commission in Portland April 30, the commission announced here Wednesday.

The largest project, estimated to cost approximately \$1,000,000, involves straightening and widening the Pacific highway west, south of Monmouth, in the area including the Adair cantonment. The straightening and widening operations will cover approximately 15 miles.

The other job, to cost \$150,000, involves construction of access roads to Portland shipyards. Both jobs will be financed by the federal government. The first job was requested by the army and the second job by the navy.

Los Angeles Area Is Blacked Out

Unidentified Planes Cause Alert For Two Hours, but Identified as Friendly; Darkening Success

LOS ANGELES, April 8-(AP)—An all-clear signal at 10:54 p. m., Pacific war time, Wednesday night ended a blackout that had covered Los Angeles and Orange counties since 9:03 p. m.

At San Francisco, the western defense command said the blackout was caused by the presence in the Los Angeles area of unidentified planes which later were identified as friendly.

The blackout was preceded by a radio blackout at 8:35 p. m., and within half an hour Los Angeles and its suburbs were almost completely dark.

Aviation plants continued operations but shipyards in the Los Angeles harbor area, unable to darken their lights, were forced to suspend operations. Workmen waited until the blackout ended to resume their interrupted tasks.

Difficulty was encountered in isolated areas, one of them in downtown Los Angeles, in darkening street lights and traffic signals, but within a few minutes they were all extinguished. Hotel guests in some cases had to be warned personally by air raid wardens to darken their windows.

Air raid wardens exercised little patience with motorists and pedestrians, compelling drivers to draw to the curb and turn out their driving lights. Only emergency vehicles with approved blackout lights and driving permits were allowed to proceed at a 10-mile an hour rate.

Wednesday night's blackout was the first here since last February 25, when anti-aircraft batteries fired for three hours at unidentified objects over an outlying section of the city.

OSC Co-eds Plan Camp Programs

CORVALLIS, April 8-(AP)—Oregon State college co-eds will do their bit to make life pleasant for soldiers at Camp Adair near here.

The Associated Women Students in cooperation with dean of women Buena Maris are planning entertainment for camp social events next fall.

Enemy On New Isle; Toll Told

British Improve Position; Aerial Success Related

SYDNEY, Australia, April 8-(AP)—The Japanese have landed on Manus island in the Admiralty group, it was reported Wednesday, in an apparent design to protect their far-extended forces on New Guinea and New Britain, to the south and southeast, respectively.

Anticipating this move by a small occupation group, the Australians had destroyed the airfield and everything else which might be of use to the Japanese at the landing port, Lorengau.

The point is 350 miles north of occupied Lae on the New Guinea coast and about an equal distance northeast of Rabaul, New Britain. Lorengau's seizure strengthened the belief here that Rabaul was growing in importance to the Japanese hold in the entire southwest Pacific area and that the invaders found they virtually needed further outposts for sea and air reconnaissance to protect Rabaul's supply lines.

A similar intention was seen in the recent Japanese landing at Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

An Australian war correspondent reported from Port Moresby that "excluding allied air operations north of Australia Tuesday and Wednesday we have destroyed or seriously damaged at least 157 Japanese aircraft in the past month in a brilliantly executed air offensive over a front extending from Timor to Rabaul."

The correspondent described these successes as a result of "one of the most powerful and most sustained air blitzes since the Pacific war began."

It began with the Japanese landing at Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea, exactly a month ago Wednesday.

"It is only a few weeks since single Japanese reconnaissance planes could come over Port Moresby and complete their jobs almost unchallenged."

"Today on such a job the pilot stands a good chance of suicide, and we see the extraordinary picture of five or seven high-speed Zero fighters being used as escort for one lone reconnaissance plane."

(Turn to Page 2, Col. 1)

Siletz Logging Operation Is Announced

ABERDEEN, Wash., April 8-(AP)—Logging of a big stand of timber in Oregon's Siletz river district will be started soon by the newly incorporated Western Logging company, Edward W. Morley, secretary-treasurer, said Wednesday.

Railroads and truck roads are now being built to the timber, he said. The logs will be dumped at Independence and rafted down the Willamette river to Portland and other Willamette valley mills.

The operation eventually will employ about 300 men, Morley said.

William R. Morley, Aberdeen, is president of the new company and J. R. Dant, Portland, is vice-president.

The Morleys also operate the Siletz Timber company and Siletz Logging company and a shingle mill on Grays Harbor.

Casualties High As Japs Throw In Fresh Hordes

Yanks Occupy Southern Tip Of Peninsula; Dive Bombers Still Come; Barges Ruined

WASHINGTON, April 8-(AP)—The Japanese invaders, after forcing the desperately pressed defenders of Bataan back to a new line, swarmed down upon them Wednesday with hordes of shock troops and all types of planes—and a communique reported ominously that casualties were heavy on both sides.

Fresh Nipponese infantrymen were aided by dive bombers and lead-spitting attack planes. Describing a struggle which reddened the soil and rocks of the narrow peninsula, the war department declared in the late afternoon:

Assurances to India Reported

US Envoy Begins Efforts on New Defense Formula

NEW DELHI, India, April 8-(AP)—Assurances that the United States endorses the British pledge for Indian self-government after the war and a declaration of American confidence of victory were reported in semi-official quarters Wednesday to have brightened the prospects for settling the complex Indian question.

Louis Johnson, special envoy from President Roosevelt, was reported to have stepped into a newly-desolated situation with these assurances, and as a result the All-Indian congress party—most potent single group (Turn to Page 2, Col. 1)

Reds Cross Dnieper

Attempt to Cut Off Salient Before Russ Capital

LONDON, April 8-(AP)—The Russian armies of the center were reported Wednesday night to have forced the heavily fortified upper Dnieper river in a major flanking movement designed to cut off and destroy the German Rzhev-Gzhatok-Vyazma salient before Moscow, the last enemy line of consequence standing east of Smolensk.

The crossing, said soviet advices via Stockholm, was made between the towns of Dorogobuzh and Durovo about 50 (Turn to Page 2, Col. 4)

Chet Olcott Jap Prisoner

PORTLAND, Ore., April 8-(AP)—Ensign Chet W. Olcott, Portland, son of former Gov. Ben W. Olcott, is in a Japanese prison camp, according to a Japanese propaganda broadcast heard here Wednesday. Young Olcott was on Wake Island at the time of the Japanese attack and his father had assumed he was a prisoner but the broadcast was the first definite word of it. The broadcaster read a brief message from Olcott saying he was well.

Ship Training Offered Army Camp Workers

PORTLAND, April 8-(AP)—Construction workers on the Corvallis and Medford army cantonments will be offered shipyard training in their off-duty hours, L. C. Stoll, state director of the US employment service, said Wednesday.

When cantonment construction is completed, the men will then be available for transfer to shipbuilding jobs, Stoll pointed out. He estimated that by the end of 1942, an additional 50,000 men would be employed. Provision has already been made for training more than 17,000 of these, Stoll said.

Your Choice

KANSAS CITY, Kas., April 8-(AP)—A tavern free-for-all brought into play as weapons: Two cases of soda pop, a baseball bat and a chair. The seven participants were fined \$10 each.