

The five-to-four decision of the supreme court upholding as constitutional Minnesota's tax on airplanes has raised a dither among airplane companies. Under the Minnesota law tax authorities levied an ad valorem tax on all the airplanes owned by Northwest Airlines, and not merely those domiciled in the state on the tax date.

Justice Frankfurter, who wrote the opinion of the court, could not find that the statute infringed the constitutional rights of the defendant company, but he gave broad hints that it was a proper subject for congressional study and action. As he said, "We are at a stage in development of air commerce roughly comparable to that of steamship navigation in 1824."

Any authorization of local burdens on our national air commerce will lead to their multiplication in this country.

If every state through which an airline company operates levies a tax on all the planes the company owns the burden would be prohibitive. If the tax is levied only in the state of the company's corporate home it would probably accrue to those states like Delaware and New Jersey which are comfortable havens for corporations. Clearly the subject is one for prompt attention. Pending in congress but pigeon-holed in the rules committee is the Lea bill which directs the CAA to consult with state authorities with a view to working out a plan which will avert multiple taxation. The decision in the Minnesota case ought to blast the blockade and let the bill get out on the floor for a vote.

There is prompt need for federal action from another angle. In Colorado for example the public utilities commission has proposed a set of regulations covering operation of airplanes which consists of 43 typewritten, single-spaced matters. It purports to regulate in minute detail the operation of interstate and intrastate air carriers. For instance all pilots are required to carry a flashlight; passenger cabins and pilot cockpits have to have ash containers. (Continued on Editorial page)

1000 Navy Men Rescued When Vessel Sinks

SAN FRANCISCO, May 31.—(AP)—More than 1000 navy men were rescued from a stricken transport and surrounding waters today after the SS Henry Bergh crashed around in rain and heavy fog on the Farallon islands 30 miles west of the Golden Gate.

The 12th naval district said there were no reports of casualties. The vessel, a 10,500-ton Liberty ship under private charter as a service transport, tonight was understood to be breaking up. It was inbound from the Pacific war theatres, and struck the islands just before dawn.

Hundreds of men took to the water in life jackets and on rafts; others made the rocky shores of the small islands visible from the Golden Gate bridge on a clear day. Most of those in life jackets were picked up within an hour. Destroyers and patrol boats under the western sea frontier were busy picking up rafts all day.

By late afternoon, most of the "more than 1000" aboard were at the navy's receiving station on Treasure Island in San Francisco bay.

Distress signals from the Bergh were first heard at 5 a. m., and shore-based craft were dispatched to the scene immediately. The skipper and a skeleton crew remained aboard the ship.

Survivors said the abandonment order was obeyed in orderly fashion.

The Henry Bergh was built in 1942 at a Henry J. Kaiser yard in Richmond, Calif., and was owned by the war shipping administration.

Plane Factory May Continue

WASHINGTON, May 31.—(AP)—The war production board announced tonight that an agreement has been reached to continue production of aircraft parts at the Long Island City, N.Y., plant of Brewster Aeronautical Corporation, provided the parts can be used by other companies making Corsair fighting planes.

Earlier the navy had announced plans to take over the company's Johnsville, Pa., properties and give jobs to about 2500 of the Brewster employees there.

The decision regarding the Long Island City plant was announced by Charles E. Wilson, WPA executive vice chairman. An expert will leave Washington at once, Wilson said, to determine whether the Brewster parts can be used by the Goodyear company and Chance-Vought, the two other producers of the navy fighter.

CIO Mill Workers Return

Work Resumes When Many AFL Men Come Back

PORTLAND, Ore., May 31.—(AP)—CIO workers in Marshfield and Eugene, Ore., mills today ended their walkout in what may be the start of a swing to parallel the general northwest AFL back to work in the lumber industry.

Three hundred voted to return to work in Marshfield, and others in four Eugene mills returned to work.

Production resumed today in many northwest mills, including three in Portland, when AFL men answered the call of their district council to get production of war-vital lumber rolling again.

AFL officials predicted all of their 26,000 idle workers would be back at work tomorrow, but Harvey Nelson, president of the CIO Columbia river district council embracing 15,000 workers, said he saw no immediate general CIO return to work.

In Portland plants of the Western Co. and the B. F. Johnson Lumber Co. and the Jones Lumber Co. operated today, and the Kinsey Lumber Co. and the Portland Lumber Co. mills were to resume operation tomorrow. The Pope and Talbot mill at St. Helens, Ore., resumed operation at 1 p. m.

Other AFL plants were resuming operations throughout the Willamette river valley, the lower Columbia river district, the Puget Sound area, and at Spokane and other Washington lumber districts.

President Roosevelt, appealed to Monday by the Columbia river district council, today wired Nelson that he had submitted the message to the WLB "with the request they give most careful consideration to the views expressed by you."

The council had asked the president to have the WLB reopen the wage cases, or suggested employment. (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Halsey Tells Jap Losses

AUCKLAND, N.Z., May 31.—(AP)—Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., told a press conference today that the Japanese in the south Pacific had lost 150,000 men, 4800 planes and "so many ships I cannot count them."

In the whole south Pacific, including Bougainville, he said, the Japanese now have only about 150,000 men with no more than 2000 of them effective.

"We can say of the Pacific generally that if the Japs' back is not broken, his spine is severely bent," the admiral asserted.

Halsey said that 19 months ago he himself had "only a shoestring, but now this has grown to a large-sized boot."

He recalled that after the battle of the Solomons November 13, 1942, he had available just one damaged carrier, one damaged battleship, one cruiser and a very few destroyers, but declared "the Jap was given such a drubbing he didn't come back."

"The Jap is really a small man and can be easily dislodged with our big boot," he said.

4 Powers Believed Already in Agreement On Main Points of Postwar Organization

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON, May 31.—(AP)—The four leading Allied powers are believed by informed officials here tonight to see eye to eye already on many points of postwar world organization—including particularly the assurance of an adequate voice to small nations.

This is a major factor behind the apparent feeling of confidence in high quarters that the forthcoming Washington conversations among the United States, Britain, Russia and China can make progress toward an effect world organization to secure peace.

The big four meeting probably will be held in the late summer or fall. Such differing views as do come up may be focused initially on the question of how to draw upon and apply the force of the United States, China, Russia and Britain and of other participating nations for suppressing future threats to world order.

The British in the past have

Gestapo Starts New Terror Wave in West

LONDON, May 31.—(AP)—The German press today pressed a ferocious wave of terror in France, Belgium and today in the Netherlands and Belgium today. Mass shootings and arrests of patriots of whom Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has called to assist his coming liberation armies.

This ruthless blood-letting, reported by the French press service in London, offered new evidence of possible jitters within the armed fortress of Europe and contrasted sharply with the calm confidence evidenced in this invasion base. The British press gave prominent headlines to the WPB report that the United States was producing a plane every five minutes and to Navy Secretary Forrestal's announcement that there now were enough landing craft to carry the entire invasion army over the waters to Hitler's Europe. Both articles were significantly noted by the public.

The French underground reported the "complete ravaging" of the Dordogne department when the nazis surrounded the town of Ribera and "piled into trucks 100 Frenchmen from whom nothing more has been heard."

"All inhabitants found on the road leading to Ribera were shot on the spot," the report said, "and the Germans set fire to a forest where many people were gathering wood. They burned alive."

The same day, the account continued, 26 hostages were shot at (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Nips Push Into Outer Defense Of Changsha

CHUNGKING, May 31.—(AP)—The evacuation of children and the aged from Changsha was ordered by officials of that Hunan province capital as two Japanese planes were driven into the city's outer defenses 40 miles to the north, Chinese dispatches said tonight.

One force which landed on the southeastern shores of Lake Tungting and crossed the strategic Milo river is engaged in severt fighting with the Chinese near Hochang, the high command communique said.

Invaders pushing along the trackless stretch of the Canton-Hankow railway yesterday reached the north bank of the Milo—key to the capital's secondary defenses—and were poised to cross in a strike south at Changsha, which three times before has been the goal of Japanese offensives.

An increasing number of troops from the crack Kwantung army of Manchuria have been drawn to the south and some already are in the thick of fighting, not only in Hunan but in Honan and Hupeh to the north.

P. H. Chang, counselor of the executive yuan, told a press conference the situation was "indeed grave."

He said Japanese offensives in Honan and Hunan "and probably soon elsewhere" were calculated to split China east and west, secure the trunk railway to Canton, occupy or destroy newly-built air bases and forestall any future American incursion along the south China coast.

His statement that China could hold her own provided she could control the air was regarded as an urgent plea to the United States to strengthen Major Gen. Claire L. Chennault's air force.

The fall of Kungang in western (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Allies Slowed Near Rome, Gain East



Arrows indicate allied drives along the Italian front (black line). Allies met stiff opposition south of Rome, reporting only unspectacular "satisfactory gains," but on the east they drove through Arce toward Sora and were reported to have reached Ceccano west of Cassino. (AP Wirephoto)

Victory Volunteers Get Royal Send-Off

By ISABEL CHILDS
"Tomorrow you will be making history, history that school-boys will be reading 50 years from now," Supt. Frank B. Bennett of Salem public schools was addressing Salem's Victory Volunteers, a battalion of mid-Willamette valley youths who only this week are ceasing their studies to don navy blue.

A third of the group were sworn into the navy last night in the Willamette university gymnasium,

where some of them had once planned to play basketball during the school year 1944-45. Others of the organization were elsewhere receiving high school diplomas. All of the 80 in the company are members of this spring's high school graduating class, and although they are known as the Salem Victory Volunteers they actually come from as far away as McMinnville.

Bennett, who delivered the principal address of the city's farewell party for the enlisted group, declared he spoke as the father of a son in the service and remembering the time when he had been called upon to make a decision similar to that made by the new navy members.

No longer boys but "full grown men," he said the group had become in one short week, emphasized that he spoke to them "not as kids but as men," urged each of them to "keep that dream alive" although the dream may (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Cuba to Vote For President

HAVANA, May 31.—(AP)—President Fulgencio Batista urged the Cuban people today to vote calmly in the national election tomorrow which will decide his successor. Police, army and navy forces were under orders to be ready for any emergency.

Retiring October 10 after four years in office, Batista emphasized his neutrality in the contest for the presidency between Dr. Carlos Saladrigas, his close friend and former prime minister, and former President Ramon Grau San Martin, veteran opposition leader.

For the first time in Cuba's history, voting is to be compulsory. Out of a population of less than 5,000,000, it is expected almost 2,000,000 ballots will be cast.

Patrol Actions Main Activity On Biak Island

ADVANCE ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Thursday, June 1.—(AP)—The bitter fighting on Biak island has subsided to patrol action and artillery exchanges with the Yanks still blocked from the airfield after battles in which 679 Japanese were slain, headquarters reported today.

Headquarters made its first report on enemy losses since the Americans went ashore Saturday on that main island in the Schoutens off the north Dutch New Guinea coast. The total covered action up to Tuesday.

Although still held two miles away from Mokmer airfield by enemy positions on ridges dominating a coastal road approach, the invaders added to the Japanese losses by cleaning out small parties north of captured Bosnek village.

A belated report told of the repulsing of two more enemy counterattacks Monday in the Mokmer vicinity. That was the same (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

Jap Rail Line To N. Burma Under Attack

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, May 31.—(AP)—The railway feeding Japan's beleaguered North Burma bases is under intense aerial attack which may have blocked the flow of supplies over that vital route, it was announced authoritatively today.

As the Japanese yielded slowly under heavy allied pressure on the by-passed Kamaing, on Mogaung to the southeast, and on Myitkyna, a spokesman said it was inconceivable that the enemy could bring anything up the railroad from Mandalay for these three strongholds.

While there are roads and trails the Japanese use, the loss (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

New Deadline Set for Trial

WASHINGTON, May 31.—(AP)—A new deadline of December 7, 1944—three years after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor—was voted by a senate judiciary subcommittee today for court martial proceedings against men responsible for the defense of the Hawaiian Islands.

Chairman Hatch (D-NM) said the only names mentioned in the closed session were those of Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Maj. Gen. Walter C. Short. Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.), author of the resolution, made it clear, however, that he favors prosecution of everyone, military or civilian, involved in any dereliction of duty in connection with the catastrophe.

Over Ferguson's objection, the subcommittee struck out a section of the resolution which would have "directed" that proceedings start as soon as possible.

DeValera Retains Seat In Irish Parliament

DUBLIN, May 31.—(AP)—Prime Minister Eamon De Valera and at least six of his cabinet members retained their seats in the dial (parliament) in Tuesday's general election and early returns tonight indicated he was well on the way to his goal of a dial majority for his fianna fail party.

Allies Drive Into Outer Defenses With More Fury

Yanks, British Reach Point West of Velletri; Germans Fight Bitterly on Last Line

By NOLAND NORGAAARD
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, May 31.—(AP)—American and British troops drove into Rome's outer defenses with increased fury today and smashed through to a point west of Velletri, a key fortress in the nazis' powerful new mountain line before the eternal city.

The German radio said "dramatic street fighting" was raging in Velletri itself as nazi shock troops fought American doughboys for possession of the stronghold, loss of which would seriously disrupt the enemy's plans to make a lengthy stand in the Alban hills.

Allied troops who advanced through deadly fire and repulsed savage counter-attacks west of Velletri were reported to have reached a point within six miles of the pope's summer home at Castel Gandolfo and within approximately 16 miles of Rome.

British forces driving up from the south, on the coastal flank of the 25-mile battle line before the Italian capital, were edging forward through thick mine fields south of Pescara Nuova, which is 14 miles due south of the edge of Rome.

Nazi forces entrusted with the immediate job of stemming the fifth army's assault until the bulk of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's 10th army could be withdrawn from the broken Hitler line continued to offer desperate resistance all the way from Valmontone to the sea.

An Allied communique said "it is now clear the enemy intends to hold this line at all costs."

Edward Kennedy of the Associated Press wrote from the fighting front at 6:30 tonight that the Germans were "delaying the Allies as long as possible and making them pay dearly for every inch gained in Italy." He said it was a hard slugging match, with Allied troops pushing ahead but having no easy time of it.

In today's fighting, Kennedy said, American troops broke into Nazi positions between Velletri and Valmontone and occupied points threatening Velletri.

All available German troops have been thrown into the line, and it has become plain, a headquarters spokesman acknowledged that only a very powerful drive will split it open. All four key strongpoints have been under fierce assault for several days and fast are being turned into smoking ruins by massed artillery.

Sea Smooth, Cool Breeze in Strait

LONDON, May 31.—(AP)—The sea was smooth under a cool northeast breeze in Dover strait tonight and visibility was fairly good.

The barometer dropped slightly following an afternoon thunder shower.

High tides are due at Calais at 9:43 p.m. Thursday and 10:18 a.m. Friday (3:43 p.m. and 4:18 a.m. eastern war time).

Bricker Calls on Dewey For Open Discussions

By the Associated Press
Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio, saying he was making an "affirmative campaign" for the republican presidential nomination, yesterday again called on Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York and others for open discussion of current issues.

In an interview, Bricker also announced plans for a speech-making campaign which will run until the republican national convention.

Dewey has said he agrees with Bricker that the issues should be discussed but that he is not a candidate for the nomination.

Indians, last of the mid-west states to name its republican national convention delegates, will begin choosing 29 delegates tonight with Gov. Thomas E. Dewey given a chance to pick up additional farm belt support.

With Indiana's selections, the candidate roster for the national convention will be complete except for six to be chosen by Nevada on June 10 and two each to be named for Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

Weather
Maximum temperature 68 degrees, minimum 52; precipitation .33 of in.; river -1 ft. Showers Thursday, clearing Thursday night. Fair Friday and warmer except along coast.

RAF Hits Coastline

British Smash Follows 3500 Plane Day Raid

LONDON, Thursday, June 1 (AP)—Following up a tremendous daylight aerial assault on Hitler's Europe from the west and south by possibly 3500 allied planes, RAF night raiders smashed at the French coast from Calais to Cape Gris Nez early today with its heaviest bombing of the war.

The mightiest blows yet struck at the nazis' vaunted west wall reverberated like an earthquake, echoing through the night with great, repeated blasts.

The targets appeared to be the German long-range guns which often have shelled the Dover district. (Turn to Page 2—Story H)

WLB Denies Restaurants Pay Increases

The regional war labor board has denied the application of restaurant operators and employees for an increase in the wage brackets in the culinary industry here, Dan Hay of Associated Employers, who represented restaurantmen in the application, was advised Tuesday.

Because the record shows there may have been a violation of wage stabilization regulations, the entire application has been referred to the regional attorney's office for a report on any mitigating circumstances involved, the board advised Hay.

Restaurant operators will meet in special session, probably sometime today to consider what action may be taken, Hay said.

Rates approved by the wage stabilization division of the 12th regional war labor board for Salem restaurants are: chef, \$200 a month (48 hours a week); head cook, 97 cents an hour; second cook, 85 cents; fry cook, 77 cents; pantryman or woman, dishwasher, or waitress in a restaurant, 52 cents; waitresses in hotels, 50 cents; bus boy, 50 cents; fountain dispenser and steam table, 54 1/2 cents; waitress—beginner, 50 cents; hostess, 87 cents; head waitress, 54 1/2 cents; cashier, 54 1/2 cents.

Iceland in Favor Of Being Republic

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, May 31 (AP)—The people of Iceland, one of the world's oldest democracies, voted 76,536 to 365 to sever their 700-year-old ties with Denmark and form an independent republic, final figures on last week's plebiscite released tonight showed.

About 88 per cent of the eligible voters on the island participated.

The young republic probably will be proclaimed June 17, an Icelandic national holiday.

The Althing, Iceland's legislative body, prepared to convene June 10 to name the island's first president, who will serve for one year. Thereafter, a president will be elected by the people for a four-year term.