

Successful Ground Invasion of Alaska Held to Be Impossible

Petersburg, Alaska, March 21 (AP)—The director of intelligence for the Alaska command declared in a speech here that "a successful ground invasion of Alaska is impossible."



Princess Smiles—Princess Elizabeth smiles as she arrives at French Embassy, London, for a state banquet tendered by French President and Madame Vincent Auriol.

Captain Heine said the defense of Alaska will be satisfactory once adequate housing is provided for military personnel. He said the military felt it has mapped a satisfactory plan for defense of the territory. He expressed the belief that, when housing is available for the military, the strategically important territory's defenses will be sufficient to turn any possible attacking force.

Citing the unpredictable weather and the thousands of miles of rugged coastline, he described them as allies as much as aides to an enemy. Noting Alaska's dominant position on the Great Circle air routes between east and west, he added that the military is well aware that the territory could well be a bomber base for a possible invader as well as for defending American forces.

As long as the United States remains a democratic nation, the intelligence officer declared, defense strategy will have to consist of skeleton forces in strategic positions, with a vast bulk of lightning mobile forces based in the states and ready to move quickly in case of any invasion move by a hostile power. He said the nation's economy and the temper of the people would not stand the cost or manpower for bristling defenses at all strategic positions.

Captain Heine said the Alaska command is watching with interest the dredging of Wrangell Narrows in southeastern Alaska. If a war emergency arises, he said, shipping headed for northern bases would be forced to seek the shelter of the inland waterway.

Resolutions and the election of officers were the main items of business before the convention at its closing session today. A dinner and dance will wind up the annual meeting tonight.

700 Acres Open For Homestead

Boise, Idaho, March 21 (AP)—More than 700 acres of sagebrush land in south Central Washington was opened for homestead applications today by the bureau of reclamation.

The land lies in the Roza division of the Yakima reclamation project. It involves 11 farm units in the irrigation project totaling approximately 723 acres. Successful applicants will pay only a small homestead fee. The land will be subject to normal irrigation and construction charges assessed private owners on the project.

The units run from 44 to 91 acres each and lie north of Zillah, Sunnyside and Prosser—small towns in the area. Veterans of World War II will be given first consideration when drawings for the land are made. However, anyone can file an application.

The opening was announced by the bureau's regional headquarters here. The drawings will be made at Yakima on a date yet to be set. The reclamation bureau said all applications received from veterans by 2 p. m. June 19, 1950, will be given equal consideration.

Already in the hands of the reclamation bureau are 4,480 queries concerning the land. Application blanks will be mailed to each of them.

Applicants must meet certain requirements in addition to provisions of the federal homestead laws. They must have \$3500 in capital or equivalent assets useful in developing an irrigated farm, and the physical ability to perform farm work.

Street Conditions Irk Independence

Independence—A complaint has been registered on the condition of F street between 9th and 10th streets adjacent to the mill of the Independence Lumber and Manufacturing company.

Last fall a water main was laid on the north side of this street and the street has not been put back in condition so that automobiles can be parked along the north side.

This condition makes it inconvenient not only for the people and customers who visit the mill, but also for the parking of cars for the employees of the mill.

Pratum Club Hour Devoted to Business

Pratum—Noble Basher was in charge of business meeting for Pratum Community club. Committees appointed for next month: Program chairman, Adam Hensch, Dr. Earl Parker and George Kleen; refreshments committee, chairman, Mrs. Arthur deVries, Mrs. Claud Trent and Mrs. Robert Hansen. Pete Bishop introduced Paul Trevis of G. Slentz Implement company who showed moving pictures. Mr. May of Salem was auctioneer for the things brought for sale, proceeds to go to the club fund.

Pratum—Mrs. Wilber Basher is spending two weeks' vacation visiting her people in Iowa.

Major Coonan Will Be Here

Final plans for the training of Air Force reservists at McNary field are to be made this week with Airport Manager Charles Barclay by Maj. John F. Coonan from the 2343rd Air Force Reserve training center, Portland Air Base.



Coonan, from the office of the director of training at the training center, plans to fly to Salem Wednesday to make final arrangements. The major made his first trip to Salem in regards to the training program February 24.

The reservists group which is from the 403rd Troop Carrier Wing, plan to use McNary field as an auxiliary base for the first time the coming week-end.

While here Saturday and Sunday representatives of the wing will confer with any airmen (enlisted personnel) interested in joining the outfit.

The men will be located on the west side of the field and available for conference during any of the time that the planes are here.

Accepted as enlisted personnel will be not only men with previous military service but men without military experience between the ages of 17 and 32 years. Military men who have had military experience, regardless of the branch of service with which they saw duty, will be enlisted with the grade that they held while in the armed forces.

Among the branches in which there are openings are communications, electronics, aircraft maintenance and combat crews.

Seabees at Full Strength

Seabees have done it again—this time it's the organized Company 13-9 of Salem.

With the recent enlistment of four new men and transfer of a group of others to the active reserves the company has been brought up to the full complement of five officers and 40 enlisted men.

The company, now commanded by Lt. Donald M. Fisher, when it was placed on organized status in November, 1948, had four officers and 10 enlisted men.

The fact that the company now has full complement does not mean, however, that men will not be accepted for enlistment. Their names will be taken and placed on a waiting list or they can enlist in the volunteer unit and be transferred later to the organized company when there is an opening.

Operation Saves Life of Private

Las Vegas, Nev., March 21 (AP)—A spectacular heart operation saved the life today of PFC Alexander Scott, Jr., of the air force, after he was stabbed in the heart during an altercation.

Dr. G. M. Cazan, Jr., chief of surgery at nearby Nellis air force base, performed the operation after no blood pressure or pulse could be recorded, and Scott, of New York city, was breathing only at the rate of three times per minute.

Dr. Cazan, assisted by Drs. J. B. Denman and Harry E. Flightlin, performed the operation two hours after Scott was wounded by PFC William Alexander, Jr., of Cedartown, Ga., during an altercation at the Cotton club, military officers said. Scott's heart was perforated in two places.

A military court will be convened to consider action against Alexander.

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Strong Efforts on Foot to Revive Bipartisan Policy

Washington, March 21 (AP)—Administration leaders were reported making strong efforts today to revive the bipartisan foreign policy. It has been sagging in the continued absence from congress of Senator Vandenberg.

Recovering from a lung operation last fall, the Michigan republican, has been ill and unable to attend any senate sessions since February 2.

In his absence, bipartisan cooperation on foreign affairs has deteriorated to such an extent that the administration is reported to have enlisted Attorney General McGrath, a former senator, in an effort to reestablish the working basis the democrats have had with republicans in the past.

McGrath has talked to some republican senators about the matter. Possibly as a result of his urging, the state department has begun a series of meetings with senators of both parties.

As an example, a group of six senators will sit down at luncheon next Wednesday with deputy Undersecretary of State Dean Rusk for a briefing on problems in southeast Asia.

However, this doesn't fulfill the republicans' desire for consultation at the top levels.

It doesn't take the place, they say, of the almost daily conferences Vandenberg and others used to have with Robert Lovett, former under secretary of state and right hand man to the then Secretary of State George Marshall.

Secretary of State Acheson has developed no such contact man as Lovett.

The secretary himself goes to Capitol Hill frequently but republicans seem to doubt that they are being taken into the administration's confidence in advance of policy decisions as Vandenberg and a few others were in the past.

Chairman Connally (D-Tex) said Acheson probably will be called upon to discuss his recent seven-point challenge to Russia with foreign relations committee members soon.

Senator Brewster (R. Me.) told a reporter he thinks it is "most unfortunate" for continuation of the bipartisan foreign policy that Vandenberg hasn't

Vet Refunds Reach High Mark

Washington March 21 (AP)—Insurance refund payments to World War II veterans are now at the 10,000,000 mark.

Treasury department officials

Brewster said. "But if the administration is worried about the situation, it ought to look within its own ranks first."

say the total amount paid out so far is almost \$1,800,000,000, with about \$1,000,000,000 more to go to about 6,000,000 veterans.

There are 1,500,000 veterans who still haven't applied for their dividend payment.

Veterans administration insurance officials say the huge disbursing job is going faster than anticipated and by May 1 or thereabouts the huge payment machinery will slow down. By then all but a small percentage of "special case" veterans will have been paid.



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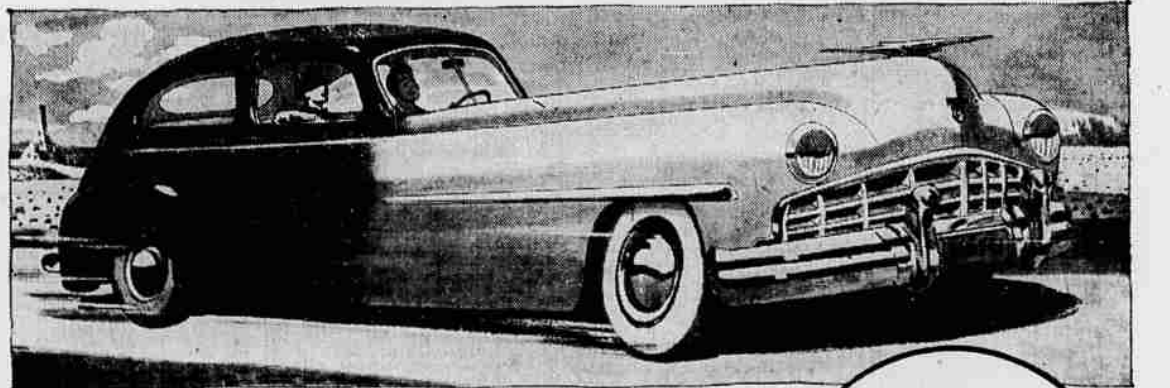
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