

JAPS TIGHTENING NET OF STEEL ON KEYPOINT SUCHOW

One Column Less Than Ten Miles From Nerve Center of Central China Area — Chinese Forces Trapped

SHANGHAI, May 16.—(AP)—Japanese army spokesmen tonight announced that Nippon's gigantic net of steel was steadily being drawn tighter around strategic Suchow, with one column driving forward less than 10 miles from that city. This column, leading in what the Japanese called the race for the nerve center of the central China battle area, was advancing after capturing Shaochen, 15 miles southwest of Suchow.

The war offered the dramatic spectacle of Japanese forces estimated at 200,000 men equipped with tanks, planes and heavy artillery, moving from all directions on Suchow, where the vital east-west Lanchai railway crosses the north-south Tientsin-Pukow line.

Large Force Trapped

Japanese declared they had cut the Lanchai both at Tangshan, west of the junction, and Sinanchen, to the east. Roughly a circle of some 40 miles radius described the contracting net, inside which the Chinese strength was estimated at 40 divisions of 6,000 or 7,000 men each. (In Peiping Japanese officers estimated the Chinese strength between Sinanchen and Lanfeng, 200 miles west of Suchow, at 80 divisions.)

Sharply challenging Japanese assertions that the Chinese must either surrender or perish, a spokesman for the Chinese high command at Hankow declared the Japanese were "still remote from the Lanchai both in distance and strength."

The Japanese asserted it would be only a matter of hours before they actually assault the strategic city for which they have been fighting for months.

Chinese In Rout

(Communications issued by Japan's North China army headquarters at Peiping declared that China's defense of the Lanchai railway was turning into a rout with all lines collapsed and chaos observable on all fronts.)

(An army spokesman said that although the fall of Suchow was imminent this would be of less importance than the fate of some 80 Chinese divisions—400,000 to 800,000 men—he said were trapped along the Lanchai between Sinanchen, east of Suchow, and Lanfeng, to the west.)

(He declared the Chinese had failed to capitalize on the victory of which they boasted at Tsiensichwan last month. He said that for there were no indications of effective Chinese counter-attacks which might endanger Japanese units from the rear.)

Encirclement of Suchow was accomplished, the Japanese said, by closing the last gap to the west, just below the Lanchai railway near Tangshan. This railroad town is approximately 50 miles west of Suchow.

DANGER OF FROST BELIEVED PASSED

Frost danger to Rogue river valley fruits and other crops is now unofficially regarded as passed, though it will not be so recognized by the government, until June 1. Frost Observer Roy Rogers will remain here until that date.

County Agent Robert G. Fowler said today he figured the frost danger for the season was over. Though the "drop" may cut down the pear crop Myron Root estimates, from the present outlook, there will be 250 more cars of pears than last year, when the crop totalled 2,500 cars approximately.

The county agent also said the planting of tomatoes had started, and that onions had been sown. It is estimated there will be 100 acres of onions planted.

Many farmers are rushing to get in their late grain, delayed by wet weather in the spring. There has been some cutting of hay the past week.

Sheep shearing started a week ago.

DAVIS ACQUITTED ON DRIVING WHILE DRUNK

Kenneth M. Davis, Grants Pass mining man, charged in a state police complaint with driving an auto while intoxicated, was acquitted by a justice court jury today after short deliberations. The alleged offense occurred two weeks ago on the Pacific highway. Davis has been at liberty on \$150 cash bail.

A jury trial of another defendant, charged with driving while under the influence of liquor, was postponed when it was reported he was confined to a hospital with an injury.

RELECT JUDGE J. O. BAILEY SUPREME COURT JUDGE Position No. 3 Judges Are Elected Without Reference to Political Parties Paid Ad.

Meteorological Report

Forecasts

Medford and vicinity: Fair tonight and Tuesday; warmer tonight. Oregon: Fair tonight and Tuesday; warmer interior of west portion tonight; moderate to fresh northwest wind off coast.

Local Data

Temperature a year ago today: Higest 71; lowest 45. Total monthly precipitation, .33 inches; deficiency for the month, .37 inches. Total precipitation since September 1, 1937, 24.96 inches; excess for the season, 8.68 inches. Relative humidity at 5 p. m. yesterday, 24 percent; 5 a. m. today, 71 percent. Tomorrow: sunrise 4:48 a. m.; sunset, 7:26 p. m.

Observations Taken at 5 a. m. 120 Meridian Time.

CITY--	Temp	Wind	Clouds	Moisture
Boise	74	45	00	Cloudy
Bozeman	58	45	08	Cloudy
Chicago	64	44	14	Clear
Denver	58	45	03	Cloudy
Eureka	55	45	00	P Cloudy
Helena	74	40	00	P Cloudy
Los Angeles	80	52	00	Cloudy
Medford	77	44	00	Clear
New York	56	46	01	P Cloudy
Omaha	74	58	00	Cloudy
Phoenix	98	40	00	Clear
Portland	74	42	00	Clear
Reno	78	52	02	Cloudy
Roseburg	78	40	00	Clear
Salt Lake	80	52	01	Cloudy
San Francisco	66	52	07	Cloudy
Seattle	66	40	00	Clear
Spokane	72	40	00	Clear
Wash., D. C.	62	54	00	Cloudy
Yakima	80	48	00	Clear

WILLIAM HABICHAT PASSES SUDDENLY

William F. Habichat, 54, a resident of Jackson county for the past 10 years, the last two of which were spent one mile northeast of Central Point, passed away at his home Sunday morning from an acute heart attack. He had been married a short time over five weeks, having united in marriage April 3 to Mrs. Etta Conlen.

Mr. Habichat was a devout member of the Church of Christ of Medford. Besides his wife, he leaves one brother and one sister, Henry Habichat of Chicago and Mrs. Joseph Voto of Indiana. Deceased was born in Germany but came to the United States at the age of seven years.

Funeral arrangements when completed will be announced by Conger funeral parlors.

SWEET-TOOTHED THIEF RAIDS JELLY CLOSET

A sweet-toothed robber entered the basement of K. C. Nelson's home at 16 Ashland avenue early Sunday morning and carried off two dozen pint jars of assorted jams and jellies, the owner reported to city police yesterday.

Mr. Nelson told police he heard someone in his basement shortly after midnight, but didn't investigate because he thought it was the hired man. The thief entered the basement through the garage door, which was open, police said.

MEXICO UNIVERSITY SCENE OF UPRISING

MEXICO CITY, May 15.—(AP)—Several persons were wounded today in a clash between students and several hundred members of an organization known as "socialist youth" who had occupied buildings of the University of Mexico.

The "socialist youth" force, armed with pistols and knives, seized buildings of the university and its preparatory school early this morning and resisted efforts of police and firemen to eject them.

Enraged students who discovered the seizure of the buildings shortly after 8 a. m., made several forays trying to recover them, but were met by pistol fire from the roof tops. A number fell, wounded.

FIVE LOSE LIVES IN FIGHT ABOARD SHIP

LONDON, May 15.—(AP) The death of five men after a fight at sea was reported today when the United States steamer City of Norfolk arrived at London from Baltimore and Norfolk, Va.

The United States lines office said one man jumped overboard after a fatal assault on another member of the crew the night of May 14. Three others were drowned when a rescue boat which put out in a heavy sea capsized.

NOTICE: I will not be responsible for debts incurred by anyone other than myself.—DELOS WALKER.

BISHOP DAGWELL CONFIRMS CLASS AT SAINT MARKS

The usual church capacity assemblage greeted the Rt. Rev. Benjamin D. Dagwell, bishop of the Oregon Episcopal diocese, when he came to St. Mark's yesterday to conduct confirmation services, an annual event that is looked forward to with much eagerness, and one that brings out most of the Episcopalians in the Rogue river valley.

The class on this occasion numbered twenty persons, and the beautiful confirmation service began shortly after the choir rendition at 11 o'clock, followed by a short but interesting and instructive sermon by Bishop Dagwell. His text was "Follow Me."

The bishop came to the Rogue river valley last Thursday evening and a review of his activities during the past four days will give the public some conception of the many daily tasks he has to perform day after day throughout the year in his extensive diocese.

Bishop Dagwell and Rev. Lansing Kempton, rector of Trinity church, Portland, arrived by auto in Grants Pass Thursday evening and the bishop was immediately prevailed upon to address the Rotary club at a dinner on Friday evening the bishop held confirmation services at Trinity church, Ashland, and Rev. Kempton preached the sermon. Saturday morning the bishop took the plane for Portland and then drove to Salem where he officiated at the funeral services of Mrs. Henrietta White Routh, daughter of Major General George A. White. He then drove back to Portland and boarded the plane at 10 o'clock Saturday night, arriving in Medford at midnight.

He was up early Sunday morning and presided at the 8 o'clock communion service at St. Mark's. At 9:45 he addressed the church school.

STRAY PALM SPROUT CHANGES LANDSCAPE

PORT ISABEL, Texas.—(AP)—A coconut palm sprout washed ashore here in the hurricane of 1933 may mean a new landscaping plan for Port Isabel.

Someone planted the sprout and it grew. Now 60 more have been planted. If they flourish, Port Isabel expects to set out enough to line the bay front and all roads to the city limits.

Northern California: Fair tonight except unsettled south portion with scattered showers over southern mountain ranges; cooler interior south portion tonight; Tuesday fair with somewhat higher temperature interior; moderate to fresh northwest wind off coast.

Oregon: Fair tonight and Tuesday, warmer interior west portion tonight; moderate to fresh northwest wind off coast.

Methodists Confirm

PORTLAND, May 15.—(AP)—Appointment of Berthe E. Pease of Wenatchee, Wash., as director of religious education for the Oregon Methodist conference was announced by Dr. J. C. Harrison, superintendent of the Portland district. She will succeed Olivia De Vries, whose resignation will become effective Aug. 31.

Port President Dies

ASTORIA, May 15.—(AP)—Funeral arrangements were being made today for Robert P. Moore, 52, president of the Port of Astoria commission, who died of a heart attack Sunday.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads

Commencement Gift Tip: Not Necessary But Nice

By Joan Durham AP Feature Writer

You've been invited to attend the commencement exercises for some young friend. What most people immediately ask themselves is: "Does this mean I must send a present?"

No, it doesn't. Of course you'll sit down and write a friendly note of congratulation; commencement is a big day in the life of anyone. And a pleasant custom has grown up of late of sending a little remembrance along with the note—a gay handkerchief, for example. That will express your best wishes as well as an elaborate gift.

But it is important that you acknowledge a commences invitation as soon as possible. Most graduation ceremonies are held in auditoriums where the seating accommodation are limited. Seniors seldom can invite as many persons as they would like to. So, if you have to decline, it is well to let your friend know in time to permit him to use your seat for someone else.

College commencements generally are spread over several days. The fact that you have been invited does not mean that the senior has arranged for a place for you to stop nights. Unless he tells you otherwise, you are expected to look after those details yourself.

Most commencement weeks follow the same schedule. Saturday afternoon, for instance, class reunions and such events as the alumni-senior baseball game are held. Saturday evening the "senior dinner" is generally listed. (Unless you're especially invited for that don't plan on it.) Sunday morning comes the baccalaureate services. In the afternoon, teas and get-togethers are scheduled at the halls of residence or fraternity and sorority houses. The commencement exercises themselves usually fall on Monday morning.

Don't be put out if your graduating host doesn't spend a great deal of time on you. Remember, he has lots of things to attend to—moving out

SCREENS PLANNED TO SAVE MONTANA'S FISH

HELENA, Mont.—(AP)—Montana is planning to screen every irrigation ditch leading from streams stocked with game fish.

John M. Schofield, superintendent of state fisheries, said thousands of game fish die each year because they are unable to get back into streams after they go through irrigation ditch headgates.

Masons Meet

BAKER, May 15.—(AP)—The annual eastern Oregon meeting of Masons, held here Saturday afternoon and evening, was highlighted by an address delivered by Charles Walker, Portland educator, on "Inevitable opportunities" at the evening session.

Berry Pickers Wanted

PORTLAND, May 15.—(AP) Oregon strawberry growers have placed advance orders for 1000 pickers for the harvest expected to start May 25, the state employment service announced. Family units with women, boys and girls predominating were preferred.

Wagons to Texas

OKLAHOMA CITY, (AP)—The wagons of the 101 Ranch "Wild West" show once again are on the move but this time the collipe is silent and the band wagon is empty. A Port Worth, Texas, carnival has purchased them. They were stored at the ranch after the 101 show, once world famed struck financial shoals.

HIGHWAY IS SEEN AS DISEASE LINK

RICHMOND, Ind.—(UP)—Construction of the international highway between North and South America will require United States physicians to become proficient in the treatment of tropical diseases, according to Dr. Herbert C. Clark, director of the tropical section of the Gorgas Memorial laboratory in the Panama Canal Zone, who visited here.

"It will be possible," Dr. Clark said, "for persons to become infected with yellow fever and be back in the United States before completion of the period of incubation. This makes it necessary for physicians in the United States to become more familiar with tropical diseases."

"The international highway will be a greater distributor of animal and plant diseases than trains and airplanes because some people will travel by burros from South America to the United States. These people will not stop for customs but will travel deserts and across country to avoid them. In so doing they will bring many tropical diseases into western states," Dr. Clark said.

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ROADMAN EXPLAINS EARLY CUCKOO CRY

WITHAM, England.—(AP)—Bird lovers have been puzzled for many a spring over the fact that the cuckoo's cry was always heard here long before any other part of the country.

The secret's out now, Jack Mawdsley, a roadman, has confessed. "I first found out I could imitate the cuckoo when in the trenches during the war," he said. "Ever since I came back to Witham I've been 'catching' people. My mate never give me away."

WOMEN OFFICIALS PARADE FOR TREES

FORD, Kan.—(AP)—Ford's city officials, all women, decided recently that the city needed a campaign of beautification.

Led by Mayor Kathleen Emrie, they paraded down Main street with spades and shovels over their shoulders. They explained that each woman was doing her part by planting a tree.

Gas Use at New High

DALLAS, Tex. (UP)—The Southern Gas association, in convention here, heard its president, Chester L. May, reveal that domestic gas consumption reached an all-time peak in 1937. Commercial uses of gas consumption reached an all-time peak in 1937. Commercial uses of gas also increased during the past year, May said.

VOTE FOR Reade M. Ireland for United States SENATOR

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