

SOVIET MAINTAINS BIG, ALERT FORCE ON SIBERIA FRONT

Strength of Land and Sea Strength Closely Guarded Secret — Constant Skirmishes Are Training.

KHABAROVSK, Soviet Russia (Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Soviet Russia's far eastern forces—a powerful army whose strength is a closely guarded secret and an even more mysterious navy—are kept constantly on the alert.

Marshal Vasily Blucher, the "Red Napoleon," chief of the army in the far east, has returned to his post after consultations in Moscow which foreign observers believe concerned Russia's defense against the Japanese.

Moscow apparently considers war with Japan a remote possibility while Japanese armies are trying to subjugate China but the vigilance of the far eastern forces on the Siberian frontier and in outer Mongolia, buffer state which the Soviets are pledged to defend, never relaxes.

Clashes Continue. Clashes and forays along the Manchoukoo frontier constantly keep alive the threat of war. They also give the Soviet forces training in chasing off invaders and hunting Japanese spies.

Soviet defense plans are secret, but huge, long-range bombing planes from Vladivostok, or even Khabarovsk, could strike devastating blows at Japanese industrial centers.

Vaieri Chkaloff, who flew over the North Pole to the United States last year, recently wrote in a Moscow newspaper that "the country able to send planes to the North Pole will be able to send them elsewhere and crush the foe without pity." The round-trip from Vladivostok to Tokyo is only about 1800 miles.

Blucher's command in the far east is believed to number between 800,000 and 500,000 men east of Lake Baikal with from 200 to 1000 tanks and from 800 to 1500 airplanes. In case of war, the Red army probably could muster 100,000 reserves in the troops of Outer Mongolia, which Russia has equipped and trained.

Naval Force Mystery. The naval force defending the Soviet coastline facing Japan is even more of a mystery than the army. Military observers believe Russia may have as many as 50 submarines around Vladivostok, which could be used with airplanes to offset in some degree Japanese superiority in sea forces.

The far eastern forces supposedly are equipped for months of fighting, if necessary, before exhausting their supplies.

For several years, large depots of food, fuel, supplies and munitions have been stored in the far east to make the army as independent as possible from its main lifeline, the long trans-Siberian railroad, which runs too close to the Manchoukoo border for safety.

The Trans-Siberian runs within 100 miles also of the Mongolian border—one reason for Soviet protection of the territory Moscow recognizes as part of Outer Mongolia. Enemy troops could drive northward in the Lake Baikal region and cut the line connecting the far eastern army from European Russia.

Building New Road. Against such a possibility, Russia is building a parallel railroad line north of Lake Baikal to Komsomolsk on the Amur river, which is planned as a new Soviet port to free far eastern shipping, if necessary, from reliance on Vladivostok.

Komsomolsk, now a city of 100,000 inhabitants, has been erected on scrubby, sub-Arctic plains and swamps in six years. Although described as still a raw city, with building materials scattered about, huge shipyards and machine works already are reported to be operating there.

Named for the young communist league, the Komsols, it is peopled largely by men and girls of that organization, sent out as pioneers in developing the Soviet's eastern frontier.

LOCAL STUDENTS SHARE IN PRIZES

PORTLAND, July 6.—(AP)—More than \$800 in cash as well as other prizes and scholarships were won by University of Oregon students during the scholastic year just closed. More than 120 students were recipients. They included:

William Dougherty, Medford, \$25 award from American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; Dorothy Burgess, Medford, and John Murphy, Roseburg, \$20 Associated Women Students' scholarships; Robert P. Bales, Willows, \$100, Beekman oration prize; Clifford Ayres, Medford, Scabbar and Blade society award; Eskie Canfield, Ashland, Laura C. Drury, Medford, Donald Richardson, Medford, Mary Esther Sheldon, Grants Pass, state scholarship awards; Dolph James, Medford, \$15 poetry reading prize.

JEV BAITING HIT BY VATICAN PAPER

VATICAN CITY, July 6.—(AP)—The Vatican newspaper O'Osservatore Romano asserted today that anti-Jewish propaganda had produced results

NIGHT LANDINGS OF MAINLINERS GET APPROVAL

Government Sanctions Unrestricted Use of Airport Here by Huge Planes After Runway Broadened

MEDFORD EAGLES SET GOOD RECORD AT STATE MEETING

A complete report on the state convention of the Fraternal Order of Eagles will be given at the regular meeting of Crater Lake aerie 2993 on Thursday evening. It was announced today by President A. H. Banwell. A large turnout is expected. According to those who attended the convention, Medford fared exceedingly well. The local lodge men's drill team tied with Marshfield for second place in fancy drill team work and was only one-tenth of one point behind Portland, the winner. Captain Ord Reed of the local drill team won the medal for the best drill captain in the state; the local ritualistic team won second place in the state; and the women's auxiliary ritualistic team captured first prize. George Tucker, past president of the aerie, was elected state conductor.

With the success obtained at Klamath Falls, the local ritualistic and drill teams will start immediately to train for next year's convention, which will be held at Roseburg, and local members are confident that the lodge will be able to obtain first place in many of the competitive divisions." Mr. Banwell said.

At the meeting Thursday, a delegation of the Ashland Eagles will attend, bringing a large silver eagle which was presented to the state convention, to be taken to every lodge in Oregon. The local lodge will hold the trophy for one week and then deliver it to the aerie at Grants Pass. In all, 36 aeries will be visited by the delegations conveying the trophy.

Celebrating the 40th year of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the local lodge is putting on a three months' membership campaign which will terminate on the last day of August. Candidates joining during the period will be initiated every week. It is expected that a large class will be on hand Thursday night, at which time the prize-winning ritualistic team will conduct the complete initiation.

A report of the convention will also be presented at the auxiliary meeting. Following the meetings of the lodge and auxiliary, a luncheon will be served by the women. The meetings will convene at 8.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Cochran of 28 North Riverside avenue, a girl weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces, on June 26 in Community hospital. The baby has been named Clara Jo.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Gardner of Butte Falls, on June 24, a girl weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces, in Community hospital. The baby's name is Lucy Maria.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Owen of 32 Portland avenue, a boy weighing 7 pounds, 6 1/2 ounces, in Community hospital, on Fourth of July. The baby has been named Kenneth C. Owen, Jr.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Muthhead of Charles Sheldon Antelope refuge in Nevada, a girl, July 1 in Community hospital. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 2 1/2 ounces, and has been named Adra Ann.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Chet Guiches of 519 Mayette street, on July 2 in Community hospital, a boy weighing 6 pounds, 15 1/2 ounces. He has been named Richard Clement.

Death Comes To Aircraft Maker

SANTA MONICA, Calif., July 6.—(AP)—Harry H. Wetzel, 30, vice-president and general manager of the Douglas Aircraft corporation since its foundation 18 years ago, died today at Santa Monica hospital. Death resulted from complications following an emergency abdominal operation last month. Mrs. Wetzel and their son, Harry, Jr., Cornell university student, survive.

The end came only a few weeks after Wetzel's greatest dream was realized—the first test flight of the DC-4, world's largest land plane.

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SPENDTHRIFT USE OF TIMBER HELD PERILING FUTURE

Northwest Lumbermen Told Three Feet of Timber Now Being Used Up for Every New Foot Grown

PORTLAND, July 6.—(AP)—Lumbermen of the northwest cut 10 billion board feet of timber each year but another two and one-half billion feet is lost, principally because of fires. J. C. Rettle, a member of the national resources board, told the opening session today of the institute of northwest affairs at Reed college.

Estimating the forest growth at four billion feet annually, Rettle said that three feet of timber was being used for every new foot grown and he pointed to the unemployment possibilities of the future in the fact that the makers of forest products, described as the backbone of northwest industry, hired one out of every seven men employed. Management of natural resources will largely determine the northwest's future, Rettle predicted, quoting a statement that the country should plan to "live on its income and stop relying on the spoils of conquest." Dust storms, floods and the like may serve to awaken the country to the need for a "balanced budget" for natural resources, he declared.

Rettle said that abundant water power would be available for generations if the watersheds of the northwest were protected wisely. Twenty million horsepower of present or potential energy could be available 90 per cent of the time if the northwest's water power resources were fully developed, he estimated.

Widening Completed. Widening of the runway was recently completed as a WPA project and approval of night landings for the Mainliners was quickly granted by the bureau of air commerce. The only Mainliner regularly stopping at the Medford municipal airport now is the northbound plane due at 1:11 p. m. The southbound plane due at midnight and the northbound plane due at 4:35 a. m. are both the smaller Boeing. Occasionally Mainliners that ordinarily fly over Medford have been making special stops here during daylight hours.

To Erect Radio Unit. At last night's council meeting Fred W. Scheffel, city superintendent, was instructed to submit additional development projects for WPA consideration as funds become available for such work.

Erection of a small army radio control building at the airport has been approved as a WPA project and work is to start soon, the council was informed by Thomas A. Culbertson, Jr., airport manager. Station antenna poles were installed and lighted last week.

EX-HARLAN DEPUTY HELD IN SHOOTING OF FATHER'S SLAYER

HARLAN, Ky., July 6.—(UP)—Leo Pleenor, 34, former deputy sheriff and a defendant in the Harlan county conspiracy trial, was jailed here last night on charges of shooting Charles Reno, convicted six years ago of killing his father.

The shooting occurred in the mining town of Modus, 14 miles west of here. Reno is in a hospital today in serious condition. State Highway Patrolman Lee White, who investigated the shooting, said witnesses told him Pleenor fired at Reno "without warning." Pleenor, however, in a statement to Harlan Police Chief Harmon Noe, said Reno fired at him first.

Police records here showed Reno was convicted in 1933 of killing Bird Pleenor, Lee's father, about a half-mile from the scene of today's shooting. Reno, about 40, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment, but was paroled four years later.

Lee Pleenor, police said, was convicted in 1934 of killing Deputy Sheriff Bige Cross in the Harlan court house. He was sentenced to serve 13 years in prison, but was paroled five years ago.

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