

NAZIS MASS FOR DRIVE ON VITAL MALTA NAVY BASE

Control Of Mediterranean Would Be British Disaster And Aid To Japan.

(By DeWitt MacKenzie)
British military experts read in the concentration of Nazi warplanes and troops in Sicily the possibility of a full-scale attack on Britain's great sea-naval base at the neighboring island of Malta — an operation which might constitute part of a general axis offensive to seize control of the Mediterranean.

That might well be, for any campaign which Hitler undertakes in the near future, while he has vast forces tied up in Russia, will be largely aerial. Also, if he could gain domination of the Mediterranean he would have inflicted on his enemy a disaster so terrible that he would have made a mighty stride towards winning the war.

Malta is the Atlas that carries on its back a power that goes far towards maintaining this all-important domination of Mussolini's mare nostrum. Speaking of it, Duce, if it seems strange to be talking of Nazi concentration on his own soil, it must be remembered that the Italians have become unwilling heavers of wood and carriers of water for the German master.

The big island of Malta—with its area of 95 square miles and population of a quarter million—lies about half way between the western and eastern gateways to the Mediterranean, Gibraltar and the Suez canal. That, in itself, is important, but its strategic strength rests largely in the fact that it commands the narrow passage—about 90 miles wide—between Sicily and Cape Bon, in French Tunisia on the African coast.

Malta has one of those so-called impregnable fortresses, such as boasted by Singapore and Gibraltar, but like all citadels these days is susceptible to air attack and may be rendered useless as a base for ships. However, it has at least two airdromes from which bombing raids can be counter-attacked and returned, and from which shipping can be bombed. Thus Malta still remains to a considerable degree the open sesame for vessels passing through the Mediterranean.

The loss of this base to the axis would have several grave effects on the British position. For instance, if the Germans could capture the island and utilize its airdromes in conjunction with the Italian airbases in nearby Sicily, it might enable the axis to cut the Mediterranean in two. This would sever connection between the eastern and western portions of the British fleet. That would force the British to go round Africa to move supplies through the Suez canal to the eastern Mediterranean, and to reach the far east. Naturally this would greatly lengthen the time of a voyage.

Such a development would be a mighty assistance to Japan, and

may represent a contribution which Hitler has in mind for his ally.

FIRST 'ICE JINX' OF SEASON TO BE SATURDAY NIGHT

Featuring local talent almost exclusively, the Medford Ice Arena will hold its first "Ice Jinx" of the season next Saturday night from 8 to 11:30 o'clock, the program itself to be presented between 9:15 and 10:30. The ice will be available to public skaters the rest of the time.

Denny Edge, manager of the arena, said today he had lined up a fine program, headed by the Medford senior high school girls' drum corps majorettes. These four girls will drill with their batons on ice, and will be supported by Ruth Edge, one of the northwest's most promising skaters.

"Frick and Flack," world famous ice comedians, will be imitated by "Tick and Tack," whose real names are Bill and Dick Frederick. There will be a wheelbarrow race, a men's five-lap and a women's three-lap open race, a broom-ball game on ice between Medford and Grants Pass skaters, a solo number by Miss Edge, and a pair number featuring Miss Edge and Bill Frederick in a demonstration of the 14-step.

LEASE STORES IN HOLLY BUILDING

The signing of five-year leases on two stores in the Halley building was announced today by M. N. Hogan, manager. The new businesses were being installed today.

The corner premises at South Central avenue and Eighth street were leased to R. W. Hodges who will install a pool and billiard room, Mr. Hogan said. The premises next door were leased to Charlie Card who will establish a restaurant, he stated. Work will be rushed so that both places can be opened on or before February 1.

Both Hodges and Card come from Merrill where they are members of the city council. Card was mayor of Merrill in 1939 and 1940. He owns the Palm restaurant in Merrill. Both men will make their home here.

WRONG DOORBELL

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 14.—(P)—A city fireman canvassing for fire volunteers in Albany's defense effort rang a doorbell just before a trial blackout.

Even the immediately ensuing blackout hardly obliterated his flushed face—it was the home of City Fire Chief Michael J. Fleming.

LOCAL SCHEDULES FOR MAIL DUE TO S.P. CURTAILMENT

Local schedules were announced today for the mail truck substituted for the discontinued Southern Pacific trains connecting the Rogue river valley and California.

The northbound truck which leaves Dunsuir at 7:30 a. m. is scheduled to arrive here at 12:30 p. m. and to depart at 1:10. Mail for this truck will close at Medford central postoffice at 12 noon. The truck ends its run at Grants Pass.

The southbound truck which leaves Grants Pass at 4:30 p. m. is scheduled to arrive here at 6:15 and to depart at 6:25 p. m. Mails close at 5:15 p. m.

Here the truck stops next to the railway express office at the railroad station, another vehicle from the postoffice connecting with the truck at the station, two blocks distant.

The postoffice here received notification today that its request had been granted by the postoffice department and so a direct pouch of mail will be made up for delivery by the southbound truck at Yreka. Weed and Hornbrook, Calif. Hugo Guenther, superintendent of mails said. As first arranged, the truck would carry all mail for points south of Ashland on to Dunsuir for transfer to a southbound train which later would turn the mail over to a northbound train on which it would be sorted and taken back to the truck at Dunsuir the next morning.

LIVESTOCK

Portland, Ore., Jan. 14.—(P)—(USDA)—Hogs: Salable 400, total 1050; market active, strong, some sales 10 higher; good-choice 170-215 lb. drive-ins \$12.80-10; few outstanding lots \$12.15; 230-270 lb. weights \$11.00-50; light lights mostly \$11.00-25; soy weighing 390-590 lbs. mostly \$9.25-75; smooth sows \$10.00-25; choice light feeder pigs quotable to \$12.00 and above.

Cattle: Salable and total 100; calves salable 25, total 50; around 20 loads beef steers and cows held over; demand broad for canner-cutter cows and bulls; these strong; other classes not moving, asking about steady with last Monday; few lots medium to low; good steers Tuesday \$11.00-12.00; common heifers today \$8.00-9.00; fed heifers quotable to \$11.00; canner-cutter cows mostly \$5.75-6.75; fleshy dairy type cows \$7.25-7.5; medium bulls \$5.50-6.00; good heavy beef bulls quotable to \$10.00; medium-good steers \$11.00-13.50; choice quotable to \$14.00.

Sheep: salable and total 50; few lambs steady; medium-good woolled lambs \$11.00; good-choice grades quotable to \$11.75 and above; fat ewes salable around \$5.50-6.00.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—(P)—(USDA)—Salable hogs: Light hogs and under weights, slow, steady to 25 lower; best 200-270 lbs. \$11.15-45; few choice lots \$11.45-50; extreme top \$13.50; most 270-300 lb. butchers \$11.00-25; good 300-350 sows \$10.50-50; lighter weights to \$10.75.

Salable cattle: fed steers and yearlings strong to 25 higher; mostly 15-25 up on good and choice grades; common and medium grades selling at \$11.50 down to \$9.75 and below; largely \$11.50-14.00 fed steer trade.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—(P)—(USDA)—California Butter: Sacramento, Jan. 14.—(P)—Churning cream butterfat: first grade \$1 1/2c; second grade 90 1/2c.

San Francisco, Jan. 14.—(P)—(USDA)—Butter, 92 score 38c; 91-97 1/2c; 90-96 1/2c. Cheese, flats, 24 1/2c. Triplets, 24c. Eggs unchanged.

Pear Market Yesterday
Chicago, Jan. 13.—(P)—(USDA)—Pears: 5 cars on track; no car arrivals, 2 cars diverted; Oregon Anjou 3-9 extra fancy \$2.25-3.00 average \$2.67.

New York, Jan. 13.—(P)—(USDA)—Pears: 14 cars arrived, 1 Oregon unloaded; 14 on track; 1 diverted; Oregon Anjou 175 extra fancy \$2.70-3.10, average \$2.96; 720 fancy \$2.00-5.00; average \$2.35; Bosc 455 fancy \$1.50-2.75; few \$3.00; average \$2.02; 2225 No. 1 \$2.80-2.80, small lot \$3.25, average \$1.69; Comice 345 extra fancy \$2.40-2.85, average \$2.54; 550 fancy \$1.65-3.10, average \$2.25; 250 hall boxes extra fancy \$1.50-1.10, average \$1.07.

The highest per capita state and local tax bill in 1940 was paid in New York.

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PORTLAND PRODUCE

Portland, Ore., Jan. 14.—(P)—Dressed turkeys—Selling prices: hens 28c; toms, 28-29c lb. Buying prices: toms, 27c lb.; hens, 26-27c lb.

Onions—Yakima, \$1.50-1.65; Oregon, \$1.45-2.00 per 50-lb. sack. Potatoes—White, local, \$2.25-2.50; Deschutes gems, \$2.85-3 cental; Yakima No. 1 gems, \$2.85 cental; Klamath \$2.85-3 cental Idaho gems, \$2.85 cental.

Portland Wheat

Portland, Ore., Jan. 14.—(P)—Crain: Wheat: Open High Low Close May 1.03 1.03 1.03 1.03 1.03. Cash grain: oats No. 2-38 lb. white \$39.00; barley, No. 2-45 lb. b.w. \$34.00; corn, No. 2-e.y. shipments \$36.25; No. 1 flax \$2.98 1/2.

Case wheat (bid): soft white \$1.01 1/2; soft white excluding red \$1.03; white club \$1.04; western red \$1.03. Hard red winter: ordinary, \$1.01 1/2; 10 pct., \$1.02; 11 pct., \$1.11; 12 pct., \$1.16. Hard white-beart: ordinary \$1.12 1/2; 10 pct., \$1.17; 11 pct., \$1.23; 12 pct., \$1.27.

Chicago Wheat

Chicago, Jan. 14.—(P)—After declining fractions early in the session, the grain market today rallied, led by rye which advanced as much as a cent a bushel at one time.

Wheat closed 1/4-1/2 cent higher than yesterday, May \$1.31 1/2, July \$1.32 1/2; corn 1/4 lower to 1/4 higher, May 86 1/2-1/4, July 87 1/2-1/4; oats 1/4 up; rye 1-1 1/4 higher; soybeans unchanged to 1/4 higher.

Wall St. Report

New York, Jan. 14.—(AP)—A little profit selling today threw the stock market off the forward pace, followed in the previous session.

Softness of the steels tended to put light pressure on other leaders and coppers and rubbers, favored on Tuesday, gave an indifferent performance.

Dealings were approximately 600,000 shares.

Today's closing prices for 34 selected stocks follow:

Al. Chem. & Dye	unqtd
Am. Can	64
A. T. & T.	128 1/2
Anaconda	28 1/2
Atch. T. & S. P.	31
Bendix Avia.	38
Beth. Steel	65 1/2
Caterpillar Tract.	39 1/2
Chrysler	48 1/2
Curtiss-Wright	8 1/2
Douglas Aft.	68 1/2
DuPont	135 1/2
Gen. Elec.	28 1/2
Gen. Foods	39
Gen. Mot.	32 1/2
Int. Harvest	48 1/2
Johns-Man.	52 1/2
Kennecott	39 1/2
Monty Ward	28 1/2
No. Amn. Av'n	18 1/2
North Amer.	10 1/2
Pennay (J. C.)	72 1/2
Penna. R. R.	22 1/2
Phillips Pet.	40 1/2
Radio	13 1/2
Sou. Pac.	8
Std. Brands	4 1/2
St. Oil Cal.	20 1/2
St. Oil N. J.	40 1/2
Trans. Amer.	4 1/2
Union Carb.	7 1/2
Unit. Aircraft	34 1/2
United Airltne	11 1/2
U. S. Steel	34 1/2

JACKSON COUNTY \$1000 OVER QUOTA FOR WAR RELIEF

Jackson county has gone "over the top" in the county campaign to raise \$12,000 for American Red Cross war relief.

B. E. Harder, county chairman, announced today. He stated that the quota is \$1,000 over the county set by American Red Cross national headquarters.

The chairman requested that all solicitation cease and those having receipt books and stubs return these immediately to Red Cross headquarters in the county court house in order that reports may be completed.

"On behalf of the local chapter of American Red Cross, I wish to thank every worker and the public for their generous contributions," Mr. Harder said.

WARN SELECTEES TO RESPOND WITH GUSTO TO ORDERS

Headquarters of local selective service boards 1 and 2 today issued a special warning to all registrants that they must respond to all official inquiries and calls within the time specified or face serious penalties.

Some of the registrants don't seem to realize that this country is now at war and Uncle Sam will tolerate no delays in getting the nation on a war footing, headquarters said. Before this country's entrance in the war, selective service was a training organization; now it is strictly a war organization and all orders come from the war department it was emphasized.

Various notices to registrants to report for screen testing, for physical examinations by army doctors and for induction are no longer requests but orders that carry with them stiff penalties for failure to comply, the statement of the two boards said.

One of the jobs before the boards now is the reclassification of registered married men.

LABOR ARMY WILL SHOW 15 MILLION

Washington, Jan. 14.—(P)—Sidney Hillman hinted broadly today that 5,000,000 men is the projected strength of the new United States army now being built.

The associate director general of the office of production management mentioned the figure indirectly during the discussion of the war production labor problem which he prepared for the annual meeting of the United States conference of mayors.

Hillman reported that 5,000,000 workers were engaged in war production at the end of 1941.

"By the end of 1942," he went

on, "we must add at least 10,000,000 others—probably more—to their ranks, making a total of more than 15,000,000.

"To mobilize a labor force three times the projected size of our new army," he declared, "isn't going to be easy."

BRILL NEW HEAD OF ACTIVE CLUB

The Active club meeting in Hotel Medford last night elected Wallace Brill president and David Lowry vice president for the coming year.

The chairman requested that all solicitation cease and those having receipt books and stubs return these immediately to Red Cross headquarters in the county court house in order that reports may be completed.

"On behalf of the local chapter of American Red Cross, I wish to thank every worker and the public for their generous contributions," Mr. Harder said.

Delmar Wright was re-elected secretary-treasurer, Maurice Parrish was named sergeant-at-arms to succeed Emil Mohr and Ben Newman and Royal Clare were elected six-months' trustees, along with Eugene Peterson, a one-year trustee.

A guest of the club was Robert Thompson.

DEAN SCHOENFELD TALKS ON FRIDAY

Dean William A. Schoenfeld of the Oregon State college of agriculture will be guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Fruit Growers League of Jackson county in the county court-house auditorium Friday at 1:30 p. m.

All persons interested in the outlook for the fruit industry and the other activities in this county closely connected therewith are invited to attend the meeting to hear Dean Schoenfeld's discussion of the problems with which they must deal in the near future.

DRAFT DEFERMENT WILL BE HARDER

Salem, Jan. 14.—(P)—It's going to be extremely hard for men to obtain occupational deferment from the draft, as they will have to prove that their jobs are absolutely necessary in their civilian activities or are necessary to the war production program, state selective service headquarters said today in explaining new regulations issued since declaration of war.

Local boards will reclassify many hundreds of men to make them eligible for service.

Such deferments will be

HEMORRHOIDS (Piles) HEMORRHOIDS (Piles) HEMORRHOIDS (Piles)

Dr. C. J. DEAN CLINIC physician and Surgeon N. E. Cor. E. Burnside and Grand Ave. Telephone East 3919 Portland, Oregon

granted for six months or less, depending on how long is necessary to obtain and train a replacement for the registrant.

In class 2-A will be placed men necessary in any industry, business, employment, agricultural pursuit, governmental service, or any other activity which is essential to the national health, safety or interest.

PROMISE VICE CONTROL Salem, Jan. 14.—(P)—The state board of health yesterday

promised army authorities their full cooperation in the army's plans to close houses of prostitution near army establishments.

The board's part will be to check spread of venereal disease.



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Here's hoping 'forty-two is good to you! Why not start in and Be good to yourself!

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