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MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1942.

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ASIATIC FLEET SINKS 5 JAPPO SHIPS

News Behind The News by Paul Mallon

Washington, Jan. 15.—Mr. Roosevelt did not go very deep into the barrel for his choice of William H. Davis as head of the war labor board.

Before the selection, he sent Madame Perkins to sound out AFL and CIO. The labor secretary found these warring factions together again in their complete lack of enthusiasm for Mr. Davis.

The president also asked Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones to inquire into the attitude of business through the chamber of commerce and National Association of Manufacturers. Mr. Jones could have used Lady Perkins' report. Business was likewise unsympathetic.

But Miss Perkins, Sidney Hillman and Davis wanted Davis and Mr. Roosevelt apparently thought the widely disproved mediators chairman had done as well as could be expected. (They were all friends of old days in New York.)

So the Davis mediation board was merely juggled. Half its members, including the chairman, were allowed to alight in the new board. The old office staff was retained, even the old office and the old telephone number.

Business and labor had no severe complaints against Mr. Davis except they thought the failures of the mediation board (captive mine fiasco and all) could best be forgotten if a fresh personality could be brought in to give the wartime truce between business and labor a stronger character in the new setup. Business also did not like his speeches favoring general unionization and labor did not care for some of his appearances in the movie newsreels.

THUS nothing is guaranteed about how the new board will work out. Several business (Continued on Page Eight)

Radio Highlights

(Time is Pacific Standard)
New York, Jan. 16.—(Wide World)—Listening tonight: the war and Pan-American conferences, 4 MBS, 4:15 NBC, MBS, 5 Blue MBS, 5:55 CBS, 6:15 MBS, 7:30 Blue, 7:45 CBS-East, 8 MBS, 9 NBC, CBS, 9:55 NBC, CBS.

MBS, 7, lightweight fight, Fritzie Zivic vs. Ray Robinson.

What to expect Saturday: the war—5 a. m., NBC, CBS Blue, 5:45 NBC, 5:55 Blue, 6 CBS, 7 MBS, 7:15 MBS, 8 CBS, MBS, 10:45 NBC and Blue, 11 CBS, 1:30 p. m. CBS, 2:45 NBC, 3:30 CBS, MBS, 3:25 NBC and Blue, 3:45 CBS, Blue.

NBC-Red, 12:15, On the Home Front.

CBS, 11:30 a. m., Wendell Willkie and Gov. Griswold of Nebraska before Women's National Republican club; Blue, 9:30, National Grange.

SIDE GLANCES

BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS

The F. F. Burk family being greatly pleased with the new puppy given Daughter Joan by a friend after the sad death of their faithful dog Waddies.

Robert Fowler braving nasty weather without hat or coat, declaring he has had a doctor only once in 25 years and adding he didn't authorize the doc's visit that time.

Deputy Coroner Carlos Morris wondering why state police aren't named in MT news stories, he not knowing the high command doesn't like to have individual policemen designated by name.

AMERICAN NAVAL TRIUMPH BOOSTS JAP LOSS TO 24

Adm. Hart Without Base At Cavite Scores Thrilling Victory.

(By the Associated Press)
A spectacular American naval triumph was reported by the navy today with the announcement that the U. S. Asiatic fleet has sunk three enemy transports and two large Japanese cargo ships in western Pacific waters.

The navy's announcement—the biggest American success at sea in the five-week-old conflict—boosted to 24 the total number of Japanese warships and non-combatant vessels sunk by the U. S. navy and marine forces.

Only yesterday, the navy announced the sinking of a fast 27,000-ton Japanese liner of the Yawata class, which could be converted into an aircraft carrier.

The navy acknowledged that the threat of axis submarines hovering off the Atlantic coast "remains unchanged," and it confirmed the torpedo-sinking of a foreign registry ship yesterday 20 miles off Long Island—the second victim in New York waters within 36 hours.

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—The Asiatic fleet has sunk three enemy transports and two large Japanese cargo vessels in the far east.

These sinkings, announced today by the navy, brought to a total of 24 the number of Japanese warships and non-combatant vessels sunk by the United States navy and marine forces.

The navy communique, based on reports received up to 6 a. m. PST today reported the submarine to the northeast coast of the United States "remains unchanged."

Text of the communique:
"Far east:
"Units of the U. S. Asiatic fleet report the sinking of five enemy vessels in far eastern waters. They include two large cargo ships, two large transports and one medium-sized transport. These sinkings are in addition to enemy casualties at sea previously reported."

"Atlantic area:
"The submarine situation along the northeast coast of the United States remains unchanged."

"There is nothing to report from other areas."
The success of Admiral Thomas C. Hart's Asiatic fleet in Japan's fight against the Japanese, even though dispossessed of its base at Cavite, Philippine Islands, was underscored yesterday by the sinking of a speedy 17,000-ton Japanese passenger and cargo liner of the Yawata class.

The navy gave no names or identification of the five additional Japanese ships sent to the bottom.

ARGENTINA BALKY SPELL IS ENDED

By John McKnight

Rio De Janeiro, Jan. 16.—(P)—Indications that Argentina had changed her position and might swing into line with her sister republics in a resolute call for a break of all relations with the axis powers were seen today in informed quarters as the conference of American foreign ministers swung into action.

Pre-conference talks between her representatives and other conference leaders, in which Argentina was said to have been brought under considerable pressure by her sister republics, were believed to have averted a deadlock on the issue, one of the most important on the agenda.

Boston, Jan. 16.—(AP-U.S.D.A.)—The Boston wool market was not very active today.

War Production Boss



Taking over his new job as America's war production boss, Donald M. Nelson told the army, navy and OPM that he was ready to shake up the entire defense machinery is necessary "to lick Hitler and the Japs."

HENDERSON SAYS TIRE RATIONING MUST BE SEVERE

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—Price Administrator Leon Henderson told a congressional committee today that the tire rationing program must be severe on the nation's luxury-loving civilian population because "improvement use of rubber would bring us to a day of reckoning in the near future."

He cautioned that not even all fire trucks, police cars, doctors and nurses—on the "preferred list"—would be able to get new tires for "there just simply isn't enough."

The tire rationing, he said, would "pinch more and more" with requests of defense workers coming in for tires to take them to plants located intentionally and strategically away from transportation lines.

"I do not see," he said, "how the civilian communities can do otherwise than choose to make a severe curtailment at a time when it has the most fat on its bones."

With a shrug of his shoulders, the price administrator quoted William Knudsen, OPM chief, as saying: "Everyone seems to want to get from one place to another sitting down."

JAP SUB FAILED TO RAM RESCUERS

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—A Japanese submarine, the navy disclosed today, tried and failed to ram a coast guard lifeboat launched into heavy seas to rescue survivors of the tanker Emidio, shelled and torpedoed off the northern California coast December 20.

Twice later, after the power-driven lifeboat had eluded the ramming attempt, the little coast guard vessel came into close contact with the submarine, within sight of the glow of lights from Eureka, Cal.

The story was revealed in the report of Chief Boatwain Gardner J. Churchill of Samos, Cal., who took the lifeboat out with a crew of four coast guardsmen when squally weather and rough seas prevented the cutter Shawnee from leaving its station in Humboldt bay.

During the heavy air attacks on England in 1940, British fighter planes shot down nearly 10 times as many German bombers as did anti-aircraft guns.

ARMY PROMOTIONS OF F.D.R. WILL BE EYED BY SENATE

Sen. Holman On Committee—Charge of 'Inefficiency' Brings Action.

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—The senate military affairs committee acted today to expand its investigation of army appointments following charges in the senate that officers accused of inefficiency and waste in the defense program often got promotions instead of censure.

Chairman Reynolds (D-NC) announced appointment of a subcommittee headed by Senator Chandler (D-Ky.) and including Senators Kilgore (D-WVa.) and Holman (R-Ore.) to investigate all presidential nominations for army promotions.

Chandler told reporters the group was named largely because of a statement Senator Truman (D-Mo) made to the senate yesterday.

Truman, discussing the defense investigating committee's charges that there were graft, waste and inefficiency in the defense program, was asked by Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich) what usually happened to army and navy officers thus involved. The Missouri senator replied that they usually were promoted.

Chandler said it was the subcommittee's intention to investigate all army appointments to see if they were justified on the basis of the individual's record.

"There will be no attempt to delay, just to scrutinize these appointments," Chandler said.

The president sent to the senate today a long list of lieutenant colonels he recommended for promotion to the full rank of colonel. Included also was a shorter list of majors, serving temporarily as lieutenant colonels, for whom he sought confirmation as colonels.

'DRY' CAMP AREAS BILL LOSES 2 TO 1

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—The senate defeated today an effort of Senator O'Daniel (D-Tex) to obtain immediate consideration of a measure barring the sale of liquors, wines and beers at army and navy posts.

O'Daniel's motion to take up the bill, made on the anniversary of national prohibition, was announced as lost on a voice vote. Senator Johnson (D-Colo.) then demanded a standing vote.

An unofficial count from the galleries showed the motion was lost by a margin of approximately two to one.

LADY BOUNTIFUL OF OSC PASSES

Corvallis, Jan. 16.—(P)—Thousands of Oregon State college students and alumni today mourned the death of Mrs. Lulu M. Howard, for 21 years a companion lady bountiful and employment agent for undergraduates who had to finance their own education.

Funeral services for Mrs. Howard, who died Wednesday, were held today.

IRRIGATION CHARGE
Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—Interior Secretary Ickes announced today the annual operation and maintenance water charge on the Boise reclamation project in Oregon-Idaho for this year and thereafter until changed would be \$1.15 for the first three acre feet of water.

GENERAL PUBLIC EXPECTED TO USE DAYLIGHT SAVING

Law Applies Only To Federal Business And Interstate Transportation.

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—Chairman Lea (D-Calif) of the house interstate commerce committee predicted today that there would be general, nationwide acceptance of daylight saving time even though it applies directly only to interstate transportation and federal business and personnel.

"In practice, I believe that the general course of the country will be to conform to daylight saving time," Lea said. "Doubtless there will be a few cases where industry's needs will be such that they will use some other time."

"The convenience and disposition of the public will be to observe the general and common practice."

Legislation which congress sent to President Roosevelt for approval yesterday would require the time governing interstate transportation and all federal business to be advanced one hour throughout the nation, effective 20 days after Mr. Roosevelt signs the measure.

Lea said that no one but those affected in the two categories of employment would be required to comply, but many house members said the two alone were sufficient to command all others to follow suit. During house debate on the legislation, Rep. Wadsworth (R-NY) said that "literally everybody in the country must lead the life decreed by this statute."

ARGUMENT JAN. 23 ON FAG TAX VOTE

Portland, Jan. 16.—(P)—No attempt to refund cigarette tax money would be made should the supreme court order a referendum on the tax, Commission Chairman Charles V. Galloway said last night.

Galloway asserted the commission assumes that the two-cent-per-package tax is being passed along to the consumer and there would be no way of certifying refunds.

Salem, Jan. 16.—(P)—Attorney General I. H. Van Winkle said today he has not yet decided whether he would file an answer or a demurrer in the proceeding to force Secretary of State Earl Snell to place the cigarette tax law on the referendum ballot.

Arguments on the case will be heard by the supreme court on January 23. The suit was brought by the Retail Grocers association.

SET UNION FUNDS EMBEZZLER TRIAL

St. Louis, Jan. 16.—(P)—Four officers of the AFL Hod Carriers union pleaded innocent to charges of embezzlement of \$151,355 in union funds today and trial was set for February 17.

The indicted officers are Edward Hill, president of local 42; Orville Golden, secretary-treasurer; and Paul H. Hulahan and Earl Jenkins, business agents.

INDUSTRY ACCIDENTS
Salem, Jan. 16.—(P)—Oregon industries reported to the state industrial accident commission during the week ended yesterday that their employees had 714 accidents, including one fatality.

ICC LACKS POWER TO ACT IN ESPEE DISCONTINUANCE

PUC Advised Formal Hearing Sought—ICC Has No Authority Over Service.

Grants Pass, Jan. 16.—(P)—The ICC in a letter replying to a personal telegram protesting discontinuance of passenger train service by the Southern Pacific railroad between Ashland and Dunsmuir, Cal., has disclaimed authority in the matter.

However, the ICC has made no reply to the formal protest which followed the telegram, said Niel R. Allen, attorney, who was asked by Josephine and Jackson county officials to draw up their joint protest. The inter-county committee today advised Ormond Beach, Oregon PUC commissioner now in the east, that they will require a formal hearing on discontinuance of the Shasta between Grants Pass and San Francisco last Sunday.

The ICC letter said:
"The supervisory power of this commission under the law of the operation of passenger trains is very limited and covers only matters dealing with the safety feature. No authority is vested with the commission to compel frequency of passenger train service by the railroads."

"It is suggested that you may care to refer your problem to your state railroad commission, who may have authority over matters involving the frequency or adequacy of passenger train service."

WAR DEPARTMENT RAPS BASE RUMOR

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—The war department denounced today as "utterly false" what it described as a "whispering campaign" report that 1,500 bodies had arrived without coffins at the Brooklyn, N. Y., army base from Hawaii.

The war department acted after being advised by the army base commander, Brigadier General Homer M. Groninger, that the reports were circulating.

He said it was reported that help was needed to put the bodies in coffins.

"The war department states that there is no truth whatever in the report as to the arrival of any bodies and that, in no case, would shipments be made unless the bodies were cared for in coffins, according to the highest standards of civilian practice," a statement said.

"The war department accords its honored dead the honor and dignities rightfully due the defenders of our nation."

EXEMPTION CUTS ON INCOMES HIT

Washington, Jan. 16.—(P)—Chairman George (D-Ga.) of the senate finance committee said today he was opposed to any reductions in the present individual income tax exemptions of \$1,500 for married persons and \$750 for single persons.

There have been reports in congressional circles that the treasury might suggest that all single persons with incomes of \$500 yearly and married persons with \$1,000 incomes be subjected to direct federal taxes, thus broadening the sources of revenue in an effort to raise \$9,000,000,000 in new levies requested by President Roosevelt.

War Bulletins

London, Jan. 16.—(P)—The Exchange Telegraph heard a Berlin radio announcement today that further curtailment in railroad passenger traffic had been ordered starting Sunday night because of an "increase in important traffic."

London, Jan. 16.—(P)—The admiralty announced today that the trawler Lady Shirley which sank the German submarine U-111 on October 4 is overdue and considered lost. The Lady Shirley was credited with sinking the U-boat in a dramatic, fast-firing fight against what the admiralty termed "a larger and better equipped adversary."

SOVIET REPULSES COUNTER ATTACKS, GAINS CONTINUE

Moscow, Jan. 16.—(P)—A Soviet communique declared tonight that the Germans had attempted counter-attacks in some sectors of the Russian battlefield but said they were beaten back with heavy losses.

"Our troops," the communique asserted, "continued to advance."

Moscow, Jan. 16.—(P)—Red army troops, driving 100 miles west from Kalinin in a month, based the northern spearhead of the central front pincer today at Selizharovo and 14,000 Germans were reported slain in this and associated actions from Jan. 6 to 15.

Selizharovo is a railroad town on the headwaters of the Volga river 175 miles northwest of Moscow. The lower spearhead was last officially reported at Kirov, almost an equal distance southwest of the capital.

Through the recapture of Selizharovo, announced by the Soviet information bureau, a German defense point 50 miles down the river at Rasev was outflanked.

In today's communique the information bureau reported the recapture of six localities in one sector of the front and of four in another sector but did not identify them.

In actions at the two extremities of the long battlefield, it added that 280 German officers and men were destroyed by one unit in the Leningrad region while in the Crimea, in the far south, a detachment of Guerrillas attacked German units retreating from Kerch and killed 120 men.

BRITISH CABINET CHANGES COMING

By William J. Humphreys

London, Jan. 16.—(P)—A "drastic reconstruction" of the Churchill government, with emphasis on the war and colonial offices, was forecast today by informed circles to follow upon the prime minister's return from the United States.

The view in qualified circles is that the prime minister has been "let down" by advisers on the oriental situation and that immediate cabinet changes are essential because of the setbacks in Malaya.

As minister of defense, Churchill also is responsible for all land, sea and air operations. "Some of Churchill's advisers in the Pacific already have been sacked," one observer pointed out.

LET GRADING CONTRACT
Redmond, Jan. 16.—(P)—Babler Bros., of Portland, won a contract for clearing and grading the northwest-southwest runway of Roberts field, Redmond airport, today on a bid of \$108,625. The project will be under WPA supervision.

INVADERS BLASTED ON MINED BRIDGE, AIR FORCE BUSY

Battle Looms Near Johore—New Action Thrills Orient—Casualties High.

Rangoon, Burma, Jan. 16.—(P)—British combined headquarters announced tonight that British troops had "met" the Japanese on the Burma-Thailand border.

Singapore, Jan. 16.—(P)—Rallying around a fresh force of battle-hungry and jungle-wise Australians, the British imperial defenders of Singapore appeared today to have checked the Japanese in their offensive toward this vital oriental base.

Two Japanese armored units were reported shattered by the stiffened defense all along a shortened front in lower Malaya aided by considerable air support.

While the air force smashed at Japanese truck and railway concentrations near Tampin, 120 miles northwest of Singapore, British imperials fighting with fresh fury in the coastal strip north of the Malacca plain claimed to have knocked out 14 Japanese tanks and 10 armored vehicles. An official communique said advance guards of the Australians smashed six more tanks and inflicted heavy casualties in their first battle since the Malayan invasion began, in the eastern part of Negri Sembilan state.

BBC, quoting a Reuters dispatch on the Malacca coastal strip engagement, said "an enemy armored column was allowed to advance over a bridge prepared for demolition. When the column passed over the bridge, it was blown up and the enemy engaged by artillery. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Japanese and they ran for cover." The broadcast was heard in New York by CBS.

The Australians' first fight occurred yesterday in eastern Negri Sembilan state, some 120 miles north of Singapore, while the main body of the Australians, singing and eager for a fight, moved into battle positions on the main Malayan front for their first taste of fire.

The command said the planes left several vehicles burning, damaged a number of railway trucks and inflicted casualties on the Japanese army.

(The scene of the air attack indicated the British were hitting just behind the Japanese front lines in preparation for a big battle in that sector just north of Johore state.)

The news that the Australians had seen action sent a thrill of expectancy through this British stronghold even as its residents prepared to defend it.

On all sides hope was expressed that the Australian reinforcements would be prepared to take the offensive rather than continue the policy of fighting rear guard actions.

The movement of the Australians to the battle zone was described as one of the most stirring sights yet seen in Malaya.

Major General Gordon Bennett, commander of the Australians in Malaya, had a good laugh when he read the Japanese report of his alleged capture during the retreat from Kuala Lumpur, when the Japanese still were 200 miles from defense positions assigned the Australians.

In Canberra, Australia, Prime Minister John Curtin said he had received a cable from Major General Bennett declaring that the "troops are eager for a fight, I trust; the enemy soon will realize I'm alive."

Seattle, Jan. 16.—(P)—Washington women are going to get a chance at state-sponsored training for metal works jobs in the expanding aircraft industry.