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NO. 257.

NAVY SINKS 3 JAP SHIPS OFF TOKYO

News Behind The News by Paul Mallon

Washington, Jan. 17.—Donald Nelson had no idea he was to be made the long sought single head of America's primary war effort—production. At noon that day he received word he would be wanted at the White House some time that night or next day. About 3 p. m. he was phoned and told to come over that night. Not until he walked in with Vice President Wallace, was he aware he had been chosen.

Mr. Roosevelt's decision apparently was so hastily made, he did not have the customary executive order prepared carrying out his decision. Next day his secretary, Steve Early, indicated Nelson would be allowed to write his own order.

F.D.R. had been working on the reorganization question about three weeks. He had been closeted with Lord Beaverbrook on the subject for several whole days. Beaverbrook and Nelson had been in to see him the night before the decision was made.

The town had been full of planted pressure stories favoring one man or another for the job—the usual sign that the president is cogitating an important appointment. Friends of Supreme Court Justice William Douglas were passing around the suggestion he had been chosen—an apparently indispensable part of all presidential cogitations.

Mr. Wallace, the V. P., was pressing a plan whereby his friend and former secretary, Milo Perkins, would get half of another two-headed OPM, with Nelson the other half, one to handle production, the other materials. This, too, had been printed.

Yet Wallace was not disappointed with the choice of Nelson. No one could be. Nearly everyone else wanted one-man control and everyone agreed Nelson had more experience for the task than any man in the country.

WHAT caused Mr. Roosevelt to rush his decision is not entirely clear. Most government associates suspect he suddenly said "to heck with the problem," and decided to act. Some outsiders believe he wanted to smother a speech Wendell

(Continued on Page Nine)

BOMBER CRASHES PENDLETON AREA

Fort George Wright, Wash., Jan. 17.—(AP)—An army bombing plane crashed in the rolling country 2½ miles north of the Pendleton, Ore., air base today, killing its crew of three officers and five enlisted men.

Second air force headquarters said little information was available on the accident, other than it occurred at 11:30 a. m. and crews from the Pendleton base were sent to the scene.

The dead all were identified but their home addresses, and in some cases the full names were lacking.

ONE SHIP AFIRE, THE OTHER SINKS

Washington, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Two American freighters collided off the New Jersey coast tonight, the navy department announced, one of them sinking and the other catching fire.

The United Fruit steamer San Jose, of 3,358 gross tons, was sunk. The 7,600-ton Santa Elisa of the Grace Line, built only last year, was ablaze off Atlantic City, N. J.

WAR CARRIED TO ENEMY SHORES IN AUDACIOUS MOVE

On Land Battles in Philippines and Malaya Reach Critical Stages.

By Associated Press
A United States submarine has carried the war to the stronghold of the enemy and, in the fleet's most audacious operation of the war to date, has sunk three Japanese merchant ships off Tokyo bay, the navy department announced last (Saturday) night.

Coming on the heels of the report on Thursday that an American undersea craft had torpedoed a 17,000-ton enemy liner and yesterday's reported sinking of three transports and two cargo ships, this raised to 27 the total of Japanese ships sunk by U. S. naval or marine action since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The navy's communique gave no details of this latest blow at Japanese shipping, first to see the United States take the war into enemy coastal waters. But it was perhaps no coincidence that in the same communique Washington disclosed officially that Admiral Thomas C. Hart has assumed command of all allied naval forces in the southwest Pacific.

The fact that the navy said the submarine's successful attacks took place "off" Tokyo bay was taken as an indication the vessel had been operating within striking distance of the Japanese capital itself. For it is navy custom to locate any such action by the nearest port.

Try Flanking Movement
Word of this newest smash at the Japanese on the sea lanes came at a moment when, in the land of fighting, the armies of the rising sun were forcing the battle of Malaya and the Philippines into new and more critical stages.

The war department told of the Japanese onslaught against General Douglas MacArthur's forces in the Philippines, an attack, which was encountering stubborn resistance.

Aircraft and artillery are supporting the assault which it was believed here is aimed at turning the flank of the outnumbered American-Filipino troops and preventing any eventual retreat to Corregidor fortress.

Tokyo radio broadcasts, subject of course to discount, said MacArthur's men were finally retreating down the peninsula. There was, however, no confirmation of this here.

The British command in Singapore acknowledged that on the western flank the Japanese had broken through to establish a foothold on the south shore of the Muar river, some 90 miles northwest of the island base.

A Tokyo broadcast placed this spearhead well past the river, in the Batu Pahat area, and declared the invaders would be "knocking at the gates" of Singapore within 24 hours.

Jap Lines Blasted
Even the Japanese, however, were forced to admit "surprising resistance" farther east, where the bulk of the battle-hungry Australians had been pitched into the fight.

Along the Gemas-Tampin railway line, 110 to 120 miles northwest of Johore strait, British bombers blasted troop concentrations and trains while fighter planes, roaring down on a two-mile long truck convoy, strafed it from end to end.

At the same time other RAF units rained destruction on troop-laden barges and small ships near the mouth of the Muar river.

But Singapore itself suffered its heaviest blows of the air war. Two flights of Japanese bombers—seventy in all—rocked the island base throughout its length and took their heaviest toll of civilian casualties, with at least 150 civilians either killed or wounded.

Portland, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The demand was active for carrots on the East Side Farmers' wholesale market today.

Carol Lombard, 15 Army Pilots Die in Plane Crash

This Type Jap Ship Sunk by U. S. Sub



This is the Japanese liner Yawata Maru, owned and operated by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha lines and probably convertible into an aircraft carrier. The U. S. navy announced that a 17,000-ton Japanese merchant liner of the Yawata class had been sunk by an American submarine.

CHURCHILL HOME, CABINET CHANGES OVER MALAYADUE

Premier Uses Flying Boat For Return—British Irked By Far East Reverses.

By the Associated Press
London, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Winston Churchill came safely home by flying boat today from his historic trip to the new world, and the happy cries of "Good old Winnie" which welcomed him subdued, for the moment at least, British recrimination over Singapore's plight.

It was apparent that the prime minister would lose no time in moving to assuage the distress of both nation and parliament over the humiliating defeats in Malaya. Most of the newspapers looked for some sort of a cabinet reconstruction, but their speculation as to its nature was very vague.

Churchill and his entourage arrived by train from Plymouth, the terminus of his flight, in an American-made flying boat, from Bermuda.

Week-ending travelers at once spotted Churchill's familiar reef jacket and nautical cap and descended upon him with un-British abandon. The official welcoming party had to form a bodyguard to clear a path through the cheering crowd, and black hats went flying from ministerial heads in the cheery jostling.

Manchester, England, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Declaring that Britain has been "caught napping in every theatre of war" so far, Emanuel Shinwell, labor member of the house of commons, told an audience today:

"We are watching the British empire breaking up before our eyes, yet the men responsible remain in power and we have no guarantee that worse will not befall us."

Shinwell's speech coincided with reports that a drastic cabinet shakeup was imminent because of dissatisfaction caused by British reverses in Malaya.

For Art's Sake

Portland, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Charles Voorhies, Portland art museum instructor, who had only a few hours left in which to enter a drawing in a contest, set to work in the early morning on a waterfront scene.

"Sketching factories, eh?" asked a passerby.

"Yep," said Voorhies. The passerby, a civilian air raid warden, called a cop and the next thing Voorhies knew he was en route to police headquarters where lengthy explanations won him his freedom.

Charles Voorhies is the son of Mrs. Gordon Voorhies of this city, who is now visiting her son in Portland, and the brother of Mrs. Sprague Reigel.

Interpreting The War News By Kirke L. Simpson

Wide World War Analyst
Six weeks from its grim opening in the Pacific, that war area still grips major American attention; but the most important and possibly decisive front of the axis-allied conflict still is in Russia.

The Red armies opened a new and little publicized offensive on a wide front northwest of the Moscow sector last week which could prove more disastrous for Hitler than any other phase of his great winter retreat.

Lake Ilmen, southwest of Leningrad, the Valdai Plateau, south of the lake, and the springs of the Volga river on the southern slopes of the plateau, are vital strong points for the whole northern flank of the German winter line. Down the Volga the northern flank merges with the Moscow central sector in the Rzhev region.

That upper sector, from Rzhev to the Volkhov river north of Lake Ilmen, is the most rugged and difficult for military operations in all western Russia. Despite that and the added handicap of a Russian winter, Red armies have developed within the last week attacks of even greater strategic potentialities than the grinding battle of the Moshaisk bulge before Moscow.

A deep Russian breakthrough either above or below Lake Ilmen, down the Lovat valley south of the lake, or along the southern flank of the Valdai plateau would leave the whole German line about Leningrad up in the air. It could force Nazi retreat from all northwestern Russia into Estonia through the narrow land corridor between Lake Peipus and the Baltic at the Russian-Estonian border.

The first Russian step in a northern offensive of still undisclosed scope was a drive down the Volkhov toward Novgorod, near the north rim of Lake Ilmen. A companion drive from the Msta river, due east of Novgorod, is also indicated. The east bank of the Volkhov is now reported cleared of Germans and Russian crossings of the river make the Nazi hold on Novgorod insecure.

South of Lake Ilmen but north of the Valdai hills, the Russians have surged westward to invest if they have not taken Staraya Russa, where they suffered a crushing defeat last September. They are also reported swinging along the Lovat toward Kholm from east of Staraya Russa. With Kholm retaken they would be within striking distance of Velikiye Luki and Nevel.

From the Volkhov front and the Staraya Russa drive, Red forces appear converging on Shlisselburg, junction west of Lake Ilmen, or in a position to bypass it to the south toward Pakov, 100 miles or so westward.

Whether these complex operations are a full scale offensive or designed primarily to exert additional pressure on the Moshaisk bulge is not clear. It is certain, however, that they imply an even greater threat to the German winter line program than do those operations farther south.

WORKERS JOBLESS ACCOUNT OF WAR WILL GET RELIEF

President To Send Message To Congress Soon On New Problem.

Washington, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Plans for a \$400,000,000 to \$600,000,000 relief appropriation for workers temporarily displaced by the shift to war time production came out of a White House conference today, while plans progressed for expediting the conversion process.

President Roosevelt discussed the relief problem with congressional leaders and obtained their agreement with apparent ease. The shift to war production, it was estimated, would throw 4,000,000 men out of work for varying periods of time.

While they are laid off they will receive 60 per cent of their normal salaries, to a maximum of \$24.00 weekly. If they receive state unemployment compensation, the government is to make up the difference between that and the 60 per cent of salary standard. To be eligible for the payments, displaced workers will have to enroll for training in needed new skills.

Mr. Roosevelt, it was said, will transmit a message to congress on the subject next week, and legislation, originating in the house appropriations committee, will be introduced and pushed through as swiftly as possible.

OREGONIAN SIGNS GUILD CONTRACT

Portland, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The Portland chapter of the American Newspaper Guild yesterday signed an 18-month contract with the Oregonian, calling for a 10 per cent payroll increase.

The contract also provides a five-day week, cash payment at time and one-half for overtime and a maximum of 28 weeks severance pay.

LADY SWINDLER PLEADS

Newark, N. J., Jan. 17.—(AP)—Prosecutor William A. Wachenfeld said today Mrs. Amelia Mildred Carr, whom he has identified as a million-dollar swindler, had waived jury trial and offered to throw herself on the mercy of the court on a charge of obtaining \$4,700 under false pretenses.

COAL NEEDS SURVEY

Salem, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Gov. Charles A. Sprague asked Roy Mills, manager of state institutions, today to make a survey of Oregon governmental units' requirements of coal and coke, if any, at the request of Secretary of the Interior Ickes, national solid fuels coordinator.

LEWIS PROPOSES A.F.L.-C.I.O. UNITY FOR WAR EFFORT

Green Agrees To Peace Talk To Adjust Differences Between Labor Rivals.

By James J. Streebly
Washington, Jan. 17.—(AP)—John L. Lewis called tonight for a joining of the CIO and the AFL under "unified and competent leadership" and met a ready response from President William Green of the AFL.

In an open letter to Green and President Philip Murray of the CIO, Lewis said, "labor imperatively requires coherency in order to give maximum assistance to the nation in its war effort to defend American liberties and American institutions."

He proposed a resumption of the negotiations between standing committees of the CIO and the AFL which he himself caused to be broken off in April, 1939.

"Our peace committee stands ready to meet with a committee from the CIO at any time," Green replied in a statement.

"We regard Mr. Lewis' letter as a partial response, at least, to the repeated appeals we have made since 1939 for resumption of conference to adjust differences between the CIO and AFL."

There was no immediate statement from Murray, but since he is vice president of Lewis' United Mine workers and relations between the two men are close it was believed probable he had given his approval in advance.

RUSS PARACHUTE TROOPS CUT OFF MOZHAISK WEDGE

(By The Associated Press)

London, Jan. 17.—Striking hard at both the rear and flanks of imperiled Germans before Moscow, the Russians were reported dropping clouds of parachute troops behind the Moshaisk wedge tonight as red forces surged forward in a new and smashing gain northwest of the capital.

The parachutists were declared to have virtually cut off the Nazi forces—perhaps 100,000 men—holding Moshaisk, 57 miles west of Moscow. German lines on both sides of this salient have been bent far back, exposing this last remaining advance position which has held out against the soviet onslaught.

Northwest of Moscow, the Russians announced their forces have smashed German counterattacks and recaptured Latschino in an advance that carried almost to Rzhev, German stronghold on the north shore of the Volga. Latschino is some 130 miles northwest of Moscow on the high road to Rzhev.

Shakhovskaya, another regional center on the Moscow front, was declared also liberated along the numerous other populated centers.

To the south, heavy fighting was reported continuing around Kursk, Kharkov and Taganrog with the Russians driving hard to win back the important industrial districts of the Donets basin.

War Bulletins

Chunking, Jan. 17.—(AP)—American pilots, guarding the vital Burma Road, wiped out a force of three Japanese warplanes today in a dog fight over Mengtsu in southeast Yunnan province.

Dies in Crash



Carol Lombard

Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—(AP)—"Carol, don't take that plane." Those were the words Mr. and Mrs. James C. Todd of Indianapolis heard Movie Star Carol Lombard's mother say to her at the Indianapolis municipal airport early yesterday morning.

The blonde screen actress boarded the plane, however, and she and her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Peters, presumably rode to their death in a crash in the Nevada mountains.

LATIN AMERICAS CLOSE TO ENDING AXIS RELATIONS

Hope To Complete Deal Monday—Argentina Ready Enter Agreement.

Rio De Janeiro, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Oswaldo Aranha said tonight that the conference of American foreign ministers was "near agreement" on accepting the proposal for severance of relations—including diplomatic—with the axis.

A proposal to this effect offered by Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela has been opposed by Argentina.

Aranha, who is chairman of the Pan American conference, told the Associated Press he was surprised the proposal had been published.

"I hope to have a statement Monday," he said. "I am not sure we will succeed by Monday but we hope to put it through."

(Acting President Ramon S. Castillo of Argentina told the Associated Press in Buenos Aires last night that Argentina was prepared to impose rigid restrictions upon axis nationals and diplomatic representatives to prevent their sabotaging the American war effort.

He said his government was ready to subscribe to "any agreement to safeguard the common interests in America.")

Many private talks outside the conference rooms were directed toward swinging Argentina to approving severance of diplomatic relations.

Earlier, Chile appeared veering toward Argentina's previous stand against a complete break.

OREGON FIRST TO TOP RED X QUOTA

San Francisco, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Oregon today became the first state in the Pacific area and the second state in the nation to exceed its American Red Cross war fund campaign quota.

A. L. Schaffer, Red Cross area manager, announced.

Oregonians contributed \$393,085 in the current Red Cross drive to exceed the quota of \$381,750 allotted to their state when the drive opened, December 12.

SEARCHERS FIND CHARRED BODIES ON MOUNTAIN SIDE

Skyliner Hit At Full Speed—No Comment On Cause—Army Takes Charge.

By the Associated Press
Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 17.—Blonde, carefree Screen Actress Carol Lombard, her mother and 20 other occupants of a luxurious TWA Skyliner crashed to flaming death last night on 8,500-foot Table Mountain, 35 miles southwest of here.

Searchers on horseback reached the scene today, nearly 18 hours later, and found the shattered wreckage, with bodies scattered for hundreds of yards up the mountain's face.

Undersheriff Glenn Jones reported from Jean, Nev., that the big 21-passenger craft apparently hit at full speed. Many of the victims were burned beyond recognition.

Thus ended the idyllic marriage of the actress and Clark Gable, idol of thousands of feminine moviegoers. When word came, a distraught Gable was on his way into the mountains to join personally in the search.

Because 15 army pilots were aboard, army guards were sent to the scene to take charge. A patrol also barred the highway into the mountains to sightseers.

Pending on the spot investigations by army and coroner's officers, there was no indication how or when the bodies would be brought out. A grueling, 11-mile hike to Good Springs, at the base of the mountain, would be necessary to bring the victims to hearses.

Gable Distraught
For hours Gable had paced a hotel room, refusing to be consoled by friends. Soon after noon he announced he could wait no longer. He and Sheriff M. E. Ward headed into the mountains.

His face was drawn and lined. Dark glasses hid bloodshot eyes. Accompanying him were Howard Strickling, publicity chief at his studio, M-G-M, and A. T. G. Steffen, Las Vegas attorney.

Gable, who learned of the crash as he waited for his wife to return from an eastern defense bond-selling trip, had flown here early today today from Hollywood.

Aboard the west-bound craft, which left Las Vegas at 7:07 p. m., were three civilian passengers, beside Miss Lombard, 15 soldiers attached to the army ferry command, and three crew members.

With Miss Lombard were her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth K. Peters, and Otto Winkler, M-G-M publicity man and close friend of the Gables. Winkler drove the couple to Kingman, Ariz., to be married two years ago.

The air corps ferry command at Long Beach, Calif., said the soldiers were returning to the coast for new assignments. All boarded the plane at Albuquerque, N. M., where four civilians left the plane to make room for the military party.

Film Queen Popular
Miss Lombard, 32, one of the most popular and successful actresses in Hollywood, was returning from a defense bond sales trip to Indianapolis. The former Jane Peters of Fort Wayne, Ind., had sold nearly \$3,500,000 worth of bonds Thursday.

From scanty reports reaching here, the big 21-passenger Douglas-built liner apparently crashed in snow at an elevation of about 8,000 feet on Table Mountain.

Neither TWA, army or civilian aeronautics authorities would comment on the cause of the probable explosion.

A veteran pilot, Capt. Wayne Williams, 41, was in charge. His co-pilot was Morgan A. Gillette, 25. Alice Getz, 25, was stewardess. The other passenger was Mrs. Lois Hamilton of Lincoln Park, Mich., a Detroit suburb, enroute to visit her husband, Lieut. Al D. Hamilton, in California.