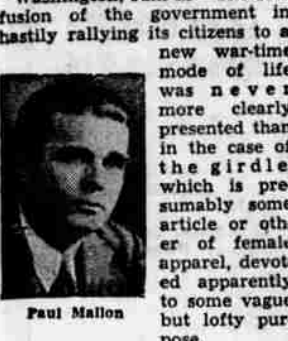


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NIPPONESE DRIVE NEARS SINGAPORE

News Behind The News by Paul Mallon



Washington, Jan. 29.—The confusion of the government in a hastily rallying its citizens to a new war-time mode of life was never more clearly presented than in the case of the girdle, which is presumably some article of female apparel, devoted apparently to some vague but lofty purpose.

FATEFUL BATTLE NOW RAGING ONLY 30 MILES AWAY

Mile-Wide Strip Being Cleared Along Strait in Preparation For Final Stand.

13 Japs Downed

Rangoon, Burma, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Sharp-shooting Yankee and British combat pilots wiped out a Japanese fighter plane sweep over the cloud-decked Rangoon area this afternoon destroying at least 13 enemy planes, and possibly four more, without a loss in their own squadrons.

The smashing blow to the Japanese added to the already glistening record of the American volunteers and the British pilots who yesterday knocked down seven raiders and chased off 30 others at a cost of but a single plane whose pilot bailed out unhurt.

A British communique acknowledged that Japanese vanguards had advanced within 30 miles of Johore Strait, which separates Singapore Island from the mainland, but declared that bayonet-wielding Australians had successfully counter-attacked and inflicted about 200 casualties.

On the Malaya east coast, other Japanese columns had apparently driven to a point 40 miles northeast of Johore Strait, with heavy fighting reported at Ulu Sedil.

British headquarters said imperial defense troops were "in contact" with the Japanese central front spearhead near Layang-Layang, a town on the main Singapore railroad 30 miles above Johore Strait.

A mile-wide strip was being cleared along the strait in preparation for the battle of Singapore Island itself.

In the Philippines, a war department bulletin said American artillery gunners smashed new heading Japanese infantry assaults on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's defense lines in the Batan peninsula, inflicting bloody losses.

The war department said United States heavy bombers carried out a third attack on the big Japanese invasion armada trapped in Macassar Strait, between Dutch East Borneo and Celebes Island, destroying an enemy transport and setting another transport afire. This apparently referred to action announced by the Dutch yesterday.

Two enemy fighting planes were shot down and a third damaged," the communique said. "Five of our bombers participated in the attack and all returned safely to their base."

Girl Friend Will Wait



Lola Christensen, 20, (above), of Hutchinson, Minn., girl friend of Milburne Henke, first American soldier to land in Europe in World War II, said: "I'll be waiting." Miss Christensen said she was "sorry to see him go but I'm proud of him." Henke's picture below was cabled from London to New York.

WHITECHAT HAD GOOD TIME WITH STOLEN MONEY

Alvin John (Pat) Whitechat, arrested at Redding, Cal., Tuesday, was returned to the county jail here late yesterday full of remorse for his admitted theft of \$350 from Carl Wiltermoor, owner of the Coffee Pot on North Riverside avenue, where Whitechat was employed as a cook.

Sheriff Syd I. Brown, who brought Whitechat back, reported he had spent all the \$350 on wine and women and left his suitcase in Redding as security for a \$6 room rent bill. At a supper, Whitechat presented each of his 15 guests with a bottle of wine, and entertained lavishly while the money lasted.

Whitechat admitted the theft, and told the sheriff, "I'm sorry, and will never do it again."

Whitechat, who has lived here for five or six months, was on parole from a five-year sentence for passing spurious checks in this city. From his weekly wage he gave a portion to the district attorney's office to pay back the bogus checks. According to the sheriff's office, Whitechat has no past record, except a few misdemeanors, aside from the check and grand larceny charges.

Beside the grand larceny charge pending against him, Whitechat is subject to sentence as a parole violator.

BUS FARE BOOST GIVEN ICC OKEH

Washington, Jan. 29.—(AP)—The interstate commerce commission authorized the nation's bus lines today to increase their passenger fares by 10 per cent.

Aluminum Plant Shift to Spokane Due to Politics, Holman Believes

CHURCHILL GIVEN CONFIDENCE VOTE IN WAR CONDUCT

Lone Negative Cast By Laborite—Minister Says U. S. Eager To Meet Foe.

By the Associated Press London, Jan. 29.—(AP)—The house of commons, with but one dissenting vote, expressed confidence today in the conduct of the war by Prime Minister Churchill after he had told them the United States was determined to close with the German foe as soon as possible.

The vote was 464 to one. The lone negative ballot came from James Maxton, independent labor party, whose two co-members, Jock McGovern and Campbell Stephen, acted as tellers and could not vote. Twenty-four members, mostly laborites, abstained from voting.

The presence of an AEF on soil of the United Kingdom—in northern Ireland—represents the desire of the United States that her ready troops should establish battle contact as soon as feasible, the prime minister said.

Singapore Reinforced In a 42-minute summation for his government as the house moved toward a vote of confidence, Churchill also indicated appointment of a British counterpart to the United States' chief of war production, Donald M. Nelson, and disclosed that Singapore had been steadily reinforced for a fight to the finish.

These were Churchill's high spots: The AEF in the United Kingdom—"meets the wishes of the American people and leaders of that republic that the large mass of trained and equipped troops they have in the United States should come into contact with the enemy as close and as soon as possible."

War production—"In reference to appointment of Donald M. Nelson as chief of the war production board in the United States: 'Some similar office, not exactly with the same scope but with similar scope, must be created here.'"

No Apologies In summation of his defense after three days of criticism and reply in general debate, Churchill said: "I offer no apologies. I offer no excuse and make no promises. I avow my confidence was never stronger than at this moment that we shall bring this conflict to an end in a manner agreeable to the interests of our country and in a manner agreeable to the future of the world."

Churchill's address followed debate in which further criticism of his government piled up, including that of Socialist Dennis Nowell Pritt who asserted that "luke-warm supporters of Fascism in the government... are very serious and anxious menace."

TIRE CHECK-UP GIFTS UNDER WAY

Washington, Jan. 29.—(AP)—A nation-wide inspection of the stocks and records of tire and tube dealers was started today by Price Administrator Leon Henderson to detect violations of the tire rationing regulations.

AMERICAN UNITY SIGNED, SEALED AT RIO CONCLAVE

Peru and Ecuador Agree To Settle Old Row in Triumphant Session Windup

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 29.—(AP)—An air liner carrying Enrique Ruiz Guinazu, foreign minister of Argentina, and other delegates home from the Rio de Janeiro Pan American conference fell into the sea today but all aboard were saved.

Ruiz Guinazu suffered a chest injury. He was picked up by a launch and taken to the Naval School hospital.

The accident occurred as the plane was taking off from the Rio de Janeiro airport.

Western hemisphere solidarity was affirmed unanimously and Peru and Ecuador agreed to settle their 111-year-old boundary dispute in a triumphant windup of the Pan American conference here early today.

The conclusion came in post-conference mediation of the Peruvian-Ecuadorian differences several hours after foreign ministers of the 21 American republics had formally adjourned their two-week sessions.

Major fruits of the conference were contained in 41 resolutions—inscribed in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese—recommending severance of relations with the axis, setting up joint military, economic and financial boards and otherwise covering virtually the entire field of Pan American relations.

Ecuador was signed up as the 21st to endorse them. Her delegation had insisted on settlement of the boundary dispute as a prerequisite.

MOVIE STARS IN CAPITAL ARRIVAL

Washington, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Arrival of nearly a dozen movie stars coming to appear at the capital's various celebrations of President Roosevelt's 60th birthday tomorrow drew upwards of a thousand young Washingtonians to Union Station today.

Edward Arnold, who arrived here earlier in the week, was on hand to greet the stars as president of the Screen Actors' Guild. The stars included Ensign Wayne Morris, in uniform; Rosalind Russell, Jackie Cooper, Bonita Granville, Patricia Morrison, Carol Bruce, who clung to the arm of Senator Radcliffe (D-Md.), and William Holden and Brenda Marshall, husband and wife in private life.

War Bulletins

Moscow, Friday, Jan. 30.—(AP)—The Red army announced today a deep penetration 43 miles west of the Donets river with the capture of Losovaya, and said Soviet troops had advanced 62 miles in three days, killed 25,000 Germans and occupied 400 inhabited places.

Moscow, Jan. 29.—(AP)—The Russian command tonight announced recapture of Sukhitchi, a railway junction approximately 150 miles southwest of Moscow and 50 miles southwest of Kaluga.

Cairo, Jan. 29.—(AP)—General Erwin Rommel's Libyan counter offensive has veered sharply to the west and north-west and driven to within 18 miles of the British-held port of Bengasi, the British command announced today.

Rome (from Italian broadcast), Jan. 29.—(AP)—The Italian high command announced in a special bulletin that German and Italian troops this morning entered Bengasi, chief port and capital of Cyrenaica.

AIR LINE PLANS \$15,000 STATION AT CITY AIRPORT

Plans were carried forward today for the construction of a \$15,000 building by United Air Lines at Medford municipal airport. At present the company rents space from the city in the administration building.

Frank Clark, Medford architect, was commissioned by the company today to draw up the plans and specifications after O. C. Richerson, assistant vice president in western operations, and Victor G. Wandmayer, construction supervisor, both of the San Francisco office, had gone over the site. Mr. Clark was asked to expedite drawing up of the plans as much as possible so that construction can be started in the near future, Mr. Richerson said.

It is the wish of the company that local materials be used in the frame, one-story building. Mr. Wandmayer said, the company at one time talking about a rustic building of logs. The materials, however, will be decided by Mr. Clark, he added.

The building will be 63 by 40 feet, situated about 250 feet west of the administration building. It will have an operations room, manager's office, ticket office, lobby 28 by 36 feet, toilets and store and utility room.

Bids will be called for here as soon as the plans and specifications are ready, Mr. Richerson said.

Pantries Will Soon Reflect Shortages Due to Conflict

Portland, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Brace yourselves, folks. Here it comes. If you've been buying coffee in tins, you may run into difficulty next month. Wholesalers were informed today that the output of coffee in tins will be cut 50 per cent in February from the amount offered the same month a year ago. Barring a change in orders the 50 per cent reduction will remain in effect for the months to come.

OREGON SENATOR GIVEN RUNAROUND COMMITTEE TOLD

Solon Contends No Greater Safety Attained By Move; Disputes Army Testimony

Washington, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Senator Holman (R-Ore.) said today he had asked senators from California, Washington and Oregon to meet jointly to plan defensive matters.

"Officials now are shifting sites for new wa. industries and other strategic plants to the interior," Holman told reporters. "Obviously there must be some hazard that senators should prepare for."

Holman said he had asked the west coast senators to look into two subjects: First, proper defense of citizens in their persons and properties.

Second, possible removal from strategic areas of aliens and Americans who might have dual citizenship "meaning the Japanese."

Washington, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Senator Holman (R., Ore.) contended before the senate appropriations committee during hearings on the fourth supplemental national defense appropriation bill that he was given a "run-around" by government officials when he sought the reason for moving an aluminum fabricating plant from Fairview, Ore., to Spokane, Wash.

He said he believed the shift was "a political and not a military move."

The hearings on the measure were made public today. The bill was passed in the senate yesterday.

Folley Cited Holman spoke after Lieutenant General H. H. Arnold and Lieutenant Colonel G. K. Heiss from the office of Undersecretary of War Patterson said that it was the government's policy to put new defense industrial plants between the Rocky and Appalachian mountains.

Holman said the transfer of the Fairview plant to Spokane would leave it west of the Rockies. He said if it was not safe to leave the fabricating plant in Oregon it would be equally unsafe to leave aluminum rolling mills there. He told the committee army officers said they could defend Bonneville dam area where the Fairview plant was to have been located but "civilian people" say you can't defend it.

Mysterious Influence "Now if you can't defend this plant," Holman said, "you can't defend Bonneville dam and the three Ingot aluminum plants."

After reviewing other plants in the area Holman exclaimed "there is an influence that I can't put my finger on, that is effective in making this move, and I think it is a political and not a military move."

20 FEDERAL AGENTS CITED IN RUM PLOT

New York, Jan. 29.—(AP)—A federal grand jury in Brooklyn today returned indictments charging 20 agents of the United States alcohol control unit with accepting bribes in a conspiracy to defraud the government of \$5,000,000 in alcohol taxes.

Radio Highlights

(Time is Pacific Standard) Tonight: the war—NBC, MBS Blue, 9 Birthday Greetings to President, Eddie Cantor and others. CBS—7:15, U. S. navy program. Blue—5:30, Army Camp Variety; 6, America's Town Meeting from Detroit, "Schools and the War Emergency".

SIDE GLANCES BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Joe Earley returning to its rightful owner an expensive coat left in his hostelry, Joe finding the owner through this department.

Forest and park service personnel riding down in the same elevator and nothing happening. This showing how really united the nation has become.