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MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1942.

NO. 271.

News Behind The News by Paul Mallon

Washington, Feb. 3.—The British could use a Rommel or two. No wonder is expressed here that Hitler has made his Libyan commander a field marshal (second class). He duped the British out of Bengazi, immediately after getting his promotion.



The nazis sent a feinting force straight east from his base south of Bengazi as if he were going on a wide arc, the same strategem he used when he swept around and isolated Tobruk last year. The British sent a strong force out to meet him, leaving Bengazi lightly defended. But Rommel cut his eastward procession, turned his main force north toward the city and captured it.

The launching of his whole counter-drive out of defeat was just as well screened. Two or three weeks ago Hitler started concentrating planes in Sicily and Sardinia, simultaneously opening an air attack on Malta. Naturally the British expected a Cretian blow at their tiny island fortress, send a good portion of their Libyan planes to defend it. The nazis continued their daily air menacing to keep these British planes occupied. But instead of attacking Malta, they slipped ten transports (10,000 tons each) loaded with troops and supplies across to Tripoli to reinforce Rommel for this drive.

NOTE—Both the Nazis and Japs can get away with these swift moving deceptions because they are attacking while the united nations must run around the outer arc. The shorter radius of center lines enables the aggressors to shift troops and planes with great speed. The Japs from Formosa, for instance, sent their bombers against MacArthur one day, Malaya the next. This basic defect will be met when we are able to take the offensive, choose our place of attack and marshal superiority of force at that point.

ALL kinds of stories are going the rounds about agriculture Secretary Wickard's change of mind against inflating farm prices to the limit. One told to (Continued on Page Four)

100,000th Joins For Navy Service

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The 100,000th volunteer to join the navy since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor December 7 enlisted yesterday.

The navy department said today that day and night operations of the navy recruiting service, on a seven-day average basis had brought an average of 1,786 enlistments a day during the eight weeks period since the war began.

Clark Gable Coming On Oregon Vacation

Willows, Calif., Feb. 3.—(AP)—Clark Gable, film star whose wife, Carole Lombard, was killed in a recent plane crash, left here yesterday en route to Oregon for a vacation. Only his chauffeur accompanied him.

Radio Highlights

(Time is Pacific Standard) Tonight: Blue — 5:30, Meet Your Secretaries Knox and Mengenthan. Wednesday: The war—8 MBS; 8:15 MBS; 9, CBS, MBS; 10 Blue; 10:45 NBC; 11 MBS; 12:15 p.m., CBS; 1 MBS; 1:45 CBS, MS; 3 CBS, MBS; 3:25 NBC; 3:45 CBS, Blue.

SIDE GLANCES

BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS Eino Hemmila recently agreed to agree that it was "The Chocolate Soldier" rather than "Tanks a Million" that packed 'em into the Riatta Sunday, he arguing it was vice versa. Jack Jewitt being a little more than surprised when he sat on a stool in a coffee shop and it gave way under his weight.

CIGARETTE TAX HALTED FOR VOTE

GROCCERS UPHELD ON REFERENDUM BY HIGHER COURT

\$45,000 Already Collected To Be Held Until People Decide Issue In November

Salem, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The state supreme court today ordered unanimously the two-cent cigarette tax law placed on the ballot at the next general election in November, and compelled the state tax commission to cease collecting the tax immediately.

Earl B. Day, member of the tax commission, said the commission would stop collecting the tax at once. "The commission," Day said, "won't have any formal statement. The decision stops collection of the tax. And I can't imagine any cigarette dealer sending in any more money to the commission after he hears about the decision."

The law was passed by the 1941 legislature, but the State Retail Grocers association filed a referendum against it. Attorney General I. H. Van Winkle then advised Secretary of State Earl Snell not to accept the referendum. Van Winkle holding that the association's expense accounts in connection with the referendum movement were inadequate.

Snell then accepted Van Winkle's advice, and ordered the tax commission to begin collecting the tax. Collection began on Jan. 8, after which the association filed the supreme court suit against Snell.

The commission has collected about \$45,000, which will be placed in the state treasury and kept there until the people decide next November whether they want the tax. Today's decision, by Justice Bailey, said that the statute requiring filing of expense statements by sponsors of referendum movements "does not require that the service for which money is paid be minutely described or that everything an employee does to earn his stipend be set forth in the statement of disbursements. It is our opinion that the statement of contributions as expenditures filed by the State Retail Grocers association is in substantial compliance with the provisions of that statute.

WAR INSURANCE BILL APPROVED IN SENATE VOTE

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The senate passed today a bill setting up a \$1,000,000,000 fund to insure private property against damages resulting from bombing and other enemy attacks. On a voice vote, it authorized the government War Damage corporation to provide this protection and at the same time increased the lending and borrowing authority of the Reconstruction Finance corporation by \$2,500,000,000.

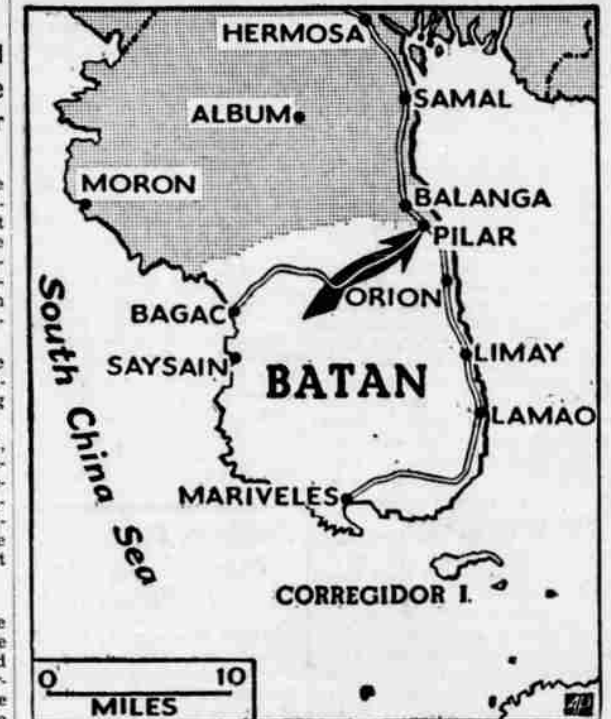
Senator Vandenberg (R., Mich.) demanded that all war costs, including loans by government corporations, be listed as part of the public debt. Senator Maloney (D., Conn.), floor leader for the war damage measure, had told Vandenberg that the pending bill would raise the total lending authority of the RFC, headed by Federal Loan Administrator Jesse H. Jones, to about \$10,000,000,000.

The measure would authorize free insurance against war damage up to \$15,000, and thereafter a "reasonable premium" would be charged.

The Constitution of the United States originally consisted of a preamble and seven articles.

Allies in Big Move to Counter Nipponese

MacArthur Scores Again



Artillery fire laid down by General MacArthur's Philippine forces smashed a Japanese mass attack at an important junction near Pilar (arrow). On the opposite side along South China sea, the invaders were forced back to coast along South China sea and either destroyed, captured or drowned. MacArthur said the Japanese now occupy about half of the Peninsula (dotted area).

Farm Produce War Boom Heading for Early Ceiling

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The nation's farmers heard straight from headquarters today that their products has gone about as far as the agriculture department and the office of price administration will permit.

Leon Henderson, the price administrator, and Secretary of Agriculture Wickard disclosed yesterday they were in "complete agreement" that the cost of living should be stabilized. The agriculture department will do its part by using government-owned stocks of grains and cotton "to supplement private stocks" and by keeping fixed prices at levels which will encourage production of meat and livestock products.

The price administrator will reciprocate by bearing down on the prices of things farmers buy. The joint statement did not disclose how high they planned to let farm prices go, but Wickard provided a clue Saturday when he told the senate agriculture committee he thought "around parity" would be about right.

Parity is a price which would give farm products the same purchasing power as they had in a stipulated previous period—for most crops, the years 1909-14. Farm prices averaged 102 per cent of parity as of January 15, the agriculture department reported. Some were much higher, some lower.

LUMBER BOUGHT FOR ARMY CAMPS

Portland, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Approximately 300 Pacific northwest lumbermen, most of them from Oregon, attended an auction here today in which the army let contracts for approximately 60,000,000 board feet of lumber.

The lumber was for cantonment construction in various sections of the west and mid-west, including some work at Medford. Originally the auction was to have included sufficient lumber for cantonments at Corvallis, Ore., and Marysville, Calif., but purchasing for these projects has been delayed.

100 RAID SHELTERS Portland, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Portland has 100 downtown buildings containing quarters that would serve as air raid shelters, an air raid shelter committee said today after a survey.

REGISTRY PLACES SET FOR COUNTY BY DRAFT BOARD

7 A.M. To 9 P.M. Will Be Hours For Feb. 16 Registration; Name Registrars.

Headquarters of Jackson county selective service boards today announced the following as places of the new registration to be held February 16: City and Place Medford, Courthouse Auditorium. Ashland, City Hall or Armory. Butte Falls, Town Hall. Eagle Point, Brown's Hall. Central Point, Old City Hall. Gold Hill, City Hall. Jacksonville, Old Courthouse. Applegate, Community Hall. Prospect, Prospect Gymnasium. Talent, City Hall. Trall, Engineer's Office.

All registration places will be open from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. Although registration on days prior to February 16 is permissible, there will be only the one day of registration in Jackson county, it was announced by Ernest L. Scott, in charge of the registrars for the two selective service boards here. Mr. Scott explained that the services of the registrars are entirely gratis and voluntary and that therefore it was unfair to ask them to give unnecessary time to this work.

Mr. Scott said the following had been appointed chief registrars under the American Legion volunteer plan of which Frank H. Ray is chairman: Butte Falls, Clyde Smith; Eagle Point, Dale Ensminger; Central Point, Elmer Wilson; Gold Hill, Cleo Gilchrist; Jacksonville, Ray Wilson; Applegate, Ed Kubly; Trall, Dr. John H. Mallory; Prospect, Dewey Hill; Ashland, Harry D. McNair; Talent, Bert F. Simmons; Medford, board No. 1, Walter J. Thurman and board No. 2, Lyle B. Lorkman.

Required by law to register February 16 are all men not previously registered for selective service who were born on or after February 17, 1897, and on or before December 31, 1921, or, in other words, those who attained their 20th birthday on or before December 31, 1941, and who will not have attained their 45th birthday, on or before February 16, 1942.

Both boards will hold a meeting at 7:30 p. m. February 13 in the county courthouse auditorium for all chief registrars and for other citizens who have the time and are willing to volunteer their service to help in the registration February 16. Mr. Scott said. At this meeting all necessary supplies and instructions will be given and the office administered, he stated. As the registration job is a big one, he asked all who can help as registrars to attend the meeting February 13.

California D. A.'s Favor Alien Ouster

San Francisco, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Strict enforcement of California's alien land act through civil suits for state seizure of land held illegally by Japanese has been endorsed by nearly 100 district attorneys and sheriffs. Where the alien land law has been violated in a flagrant manner or near military establishments, criminal prosecutions also will be undertaken, the law enforcement officers decided at a conference with State Attorney General Earl Warren.

TO TALK HIGHWAY Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The house public lands committee will take testimony tomorrow from Gov. Ernest H. Gruening of Alaska and other territorial officials on a bill to construct a \$25,000,000 highway from the United States to Alaska.

PLAN NEW SEARCH FOR WALBERTS IN COW CREEK AREA

Belated Information Gives Hope of Finding Medford Couple Missing On Flight.

Roseburg, Ore., Feb. 3.—(AP)—Search for the plane in which Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Walbert of Medford disappeared Nov. 29, 1940, while flying from Medford to Portland is to be renewed within the next week or ten days, Sheriff Cliff Thornton announced here today. New information, belatedly received by the sheriff, has been transmitted to Leo G. Devaney, director of the state aeronautics board, who advised Thornton in a letter received today that an aerial search is being organized and that a flight is contemplated in about one week if weather permits.

The search will be made along the Eden ridge, between the Rogue river and Cow Creek, about fifteen miles west of West fork. Reports of a plane being heard in that vicinity were discounted at the time the Walberts disappeared, because of what was regarded as more credible information indicating that the plane had been flown as far north as Marcola, Lane county. Sheriff Thornton said that he was recently contacted by Frank Ingram, living about seven miles up West Fork creek from Dothan station, in Cow creek valley, who reported that he heard a crash which he estimated to be about eight or ten miles away.

In correspondence with Ingram the time element has been established fitting closely with the flight of the Walberts. The Medford Flying club's offer of a \$250 reward for the finding of the Walberts or their plane was recently withdrawn. For many months after they took off from the local airport search was carried on, and recently when it became certain they had perished their estate was settled. Mr. Walbert was local representative for the Stubbs Electric company of Portland.

More conferences on various community needs created by the army cantonment were held here today. Here for a late afternoon conference with the cantonment civilian coordinating board's housing committee were L. E. Scarborough, Seattle, regional coordinator for the federal office for defense housing coordination, Felger Johnson, Portland, state director of the federal housing agency, W. G. Crawford, Salem, executive director of the Oregon Economic council, and Fred Cuthbert, Portland, consultant of the Northwest Regional Planning board. Executives of the farm security administration were here also to confer with representatives of Medford Traylor Camps, Inc., incorporated yesterday by local men to help solve the expected housing problem.

Conferees on cantonment community problems, with the idea of receiving government help on housing, water service enlargement, sewer and sewage plant expansion, and hospital and school extension, have been a regular feature here and elsewhere since last May.

Physician Held in Abortion Fatality

Centralia, Wash., Feb. 3.—(AP)—Dr. J. G. Sargent, Centralia physician, was still in the Lewis county jail today unable to raise \$2,000 bail after his arrest on charges of manslaughter and performing an abortion. He pleaded innocent when arraigned in justice court, and was bound over to the higher court for trial during the next jury term.

New York, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Two gunmen robbed Berthold Alesandre of \$7 in Central park and then shot him in the right foot so he couldn't chase them.

War Bulletins

New York, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The London radio said today a Moscow broadcast claimed Soviet forces were "less than 20 miles from Dniepropetrovsk," the site of the big hydroelectric power dam on the bend of the Dnieper. The Russians were last reported within 37 miles of the city. The broadcast was heard by NBC.

REDS DRAG GUNS THROUGH SNOW IN SMOLENSK DRIVE

By the Associated Press Russian troops dragging machine guns and cannon on sledges at 40 degrees Fahrenheit below zero were reported surging forward at several points today in a drive aimed against Smolensk, 210 miles west of Moscow.

At the same time, the British radio said German generals had demanded that Hitler send 20 fresh, picked divisions to the Soviet front immediately, threatening that otherwise it would be "very difficult if not impossible to prevent a general Russian break-through."

Soviet dispatches said German air and tank reinforcements arriving on the southern (Ukraine) front were being more than matched by Red army weapons. British north African troops, thrown back 225 miles in less than two weeks, were reported attacking Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's armies "wherever found" in western Libya today in an attempt to check the headlong axis counter-offensive.

A British spokesman, emphasizing the prime necessity of destroying the enemy's forces in desert warfare, declared: "Area is not important. Tanks, men and trucks are." Cairo headquarters indicated that Gen. Rommel's vanguards had reached the vicinity of Sionta, 105 miles northeast of Bengazi and 225 miles northeast of El Aghelia, highwater mark of the British January offensive. While the British said they now were taking the initiative, the German high command gave this version:

Mail Tribune's Carriers Top Defense Stamp Sale

Mail Tribune carriers are far out front in the national average for the sale of defense saving stamps, a tabulation compiled by the U. S. treasury department shows.

The treasury department bulletin listed figures on 493 of the 900-odd newspapers participating in the stamp-selling plan. Of the 493 newspapers listed, 107,303 carriers sold 38,265,370 of the ten-cent stamps up to January 10, the period covered in the report. This was an average of 336 stamps per carrier. In the same period the 36 participating Mail Tribune carriers sold the equivalent of 60,880 stamps or an average of 1,658 stamps per carrier.

The report showed also that Mail Tribune carriers had sold more stamps than the carriers of any newspaper in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah and Montana. In the northwest area the Tacoma, Wash., Times was closest to the Mail Tribune, its 235 carriers having sold 50,500 stamps.

Up to February 1, when the plan had been in operation here for seven weeks, Mail Tribune carriers sold defense bonds and stamps with a total value of \$8,709.50, the equivalent of 87,095 stamps of the ten-cent denomination. The original plan was to sell only the ten-cent stamp but so many subscribers wanted to buy bonds through their carriers that arrangements were made for this too. Of the 36 participating Mail Tribune carriers, 29 have won

BATAN DEFENDERS BEAT OFF FRESH JAP ONSLAUGHTS

MacArthur's Force Takes Bloody Toll When Japs Attempt Shore Landings.

By Roger D. Greene Associated Press War Editor. Australian Army Minister Francis M. Forde declared today that "a big movement by the allies is under way" to counter Japan's sweep in the far Pacific, even as Japanese dive-bombers struck violently at Singapore and a Tokyo military spokesman said that a direct assault on the island stronghold was imminent.

In a broadcast to the Australian imperial force at Singapore, Forde declared that each hour Japan's siege armies were held at bay permitted the massing and deployment of more reinforcements and the accumulation of more weapons.

Move Not Specified "It does not need my words to impel you, therefore, to hold on," he said. Forde did not specify the nature or direction of the allied movement.

In the Philippines, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's American-Filipino defenders wrote a heroic new chapter in the battle of Batan peninsula, beating off two fresh Japanese attempts to land on the Batan west coast, on the night of Feb. 2, and successfully counter-attacking the Japanese right flank.

Three lines of enemy trenches were overrun, a war department bulletin said, a large amount of Japanese equipment fell into American hands. Gen. MacArthur reported that picked shock troops first attempted to land on the west coast, only to be driven off by artillery fire.

"A second and more serious attempt was made at midnight," the communique said. "A large number of barges under naval escort approached the coast. The raid was discovered by a few of our night-flying pursuit planes which immediately attacked the convoy with light bombs and machine-gun fire."

Bloody Reception American troops and artillery gunners waited on the beach as the Japanese approached, inflicting bloody casualties with their deadly fire. "None of the invading group reached shore," Gen. MacArthur reported, adding that in the morning a number of shot-smash-

East Indies Rubber Still Coming to U. S. Secy. Jones Reveals

Washington, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Secretary of Commerce Jones declared today the United States still was receiving practically the entire rubber output of the Dutch East Indies and that 114,000 tons had arrived in this country from the western Pacific and other sources since the war began. Jones told the house banking and currency committee that rubber was arriving at an average rate of 35,000 to 40,000 tons a month. During January, he said, 78,000 tons was received and 70,000 tons allocated "so that the stock pile actually was increased."

Jones said he doubted if rubber imports would reach normal by next year "but I believe we'll have enough to get along if we're careful."

London, Feb. 3.—(AP)—An arrangement between Britain and the United States for development in the latter country of synthetic rubber "on an immense scale" was disclosed without details in a dispatch today. Yankee, meaning an American, was originally a Dutch word.