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MEDFORD WATER ON METERS SOON



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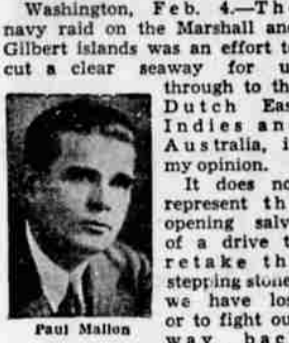
MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1942.

NO. 272.

MEDFORD WATER ON METERS SOON

News Behind The News

by Paul Mallon



Washington, Feb. 4.—The navy raid on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands was an effort to cut a clear seaway for us through to the Dutch East Indies and Australia, in my opinion.

It does not represent the opening salvo of a drive to retake the stepping stones we have lost or to fight our way back across the central Pacific. If we were ready for that, we would have captured the islands or have tried to recapture Wake or Guam.

The Japs have an inside track to the central Pacific area, well protected by the Volcano and Marianne Islands running straight south from Tokyo to Guam. We will have to wait to crack that.

But they were sitting right across our transport route with large forces of scouting planes and bombers in the Marshall and Gilbert bases. (Their air forces must have been large because we lost 11 planes in the attack.) Those bases had to be broken up to assure safety for our ships moving into the southern Pacific.

Thus, it seems to me, the unexplained raid was neither a foray (like the commandos raids on Norway) nor necessarily the opening of a broad attack. While this is purely a personal interpretation, no other seems to fit the announced facts.

MR. NELSON is getting ready for some head-rolling. His sharp new arrangement for keeping daily track of progress on 300 main war items was a preparation for it. All who do not produce must go, and this new daily check-up will show

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Radio Highlights

(Time is Pacific Standard)
Tonight: CBS—8:30, Dr. Thomas Parran on "Wartime Attack on Venereal Disease."
MBS—8, Basketball at New York.

Thursday: The war—8, MBS; 8:15, MBS; 9 NBC, CBS, MBS; 10, Blue; 10:45 NBC; 11, MBS; 12:15 p. m., CBS; 1, MBS; 1:45 CBS, MBS, 3, MBS; 3:25, NBC; 3:45, CBS, Blue.

Highway Relocation Is Military Secret

Salem, Feb. 4.—(P)—State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock refused today to give any details regarding the relocating of the West Side Pacific highway, asserting such information has been put into the "confidential" class by the war department.

Relocation of the road will be necessary because of construction of the cantonment between Corvallis and Monmouth.

SIDE GLANCES

BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Educator EH Hedrick stumping the honorable city councilmen with a letter of fa'cy words, "apertunances" being one big troublesome hurdle.

Joe Fliegel showing great restraint in telling how good has been the conduct of the members of the Medford Boxing Commission, he, as secretary, recommending appointments as terms expire.

Ken Norwood forgetting his keys and having to slide down a sawdust chute to get in his house.

Tiny pussy willows braving censured weather conditions and quietly announcing the advent of spring.

ACTION TAKEN TO CONSERVE SUPPLY BECAUSE OF CAMP

Meter Installation Expected To Be Complete By June 1; Federal Aid Hoped For

Medford will be metered for water in the immediate future, Robert A. Duff, superintendent of the city water commission, announced today. Installation of the meters is dictated by the water needs of the army cantonment to be constructed in this locality.

The water commission is taking this step reluctantly and only because of the vital necessity of conserving water for the benefit of the armed forces that will occupy the camp, Mr. Duff said. "It must be remembered that we are at war and must make sacrifices," Mr. Duff said. The cantonment will draw its water from the Medford supply.

Ready June 1
Installation of the meters will probably be started within a fortnight and completed about June 1. Mr. Duff stated, adding that meter rates, not yet adopted, would not become effective until about June 1. It will cost about \$58,000 to buy and install the meters, Mr. Duff said. It is hoped, he added, that the federal government will help pay the cost.

If the experience of other cities holds true here, about 20 per cent of the residents should pay less under a meter than at present under a flat rate of \$2.35 a month, about 50 per cent will experience no change and about 30 per cent will pay more, Mr. Duff said.

Paul B. Rynning, chairman of the water commission, could not be reached for a statement regarding the legal aspects of meter installation. In his absence other board members declined to be quoted. Counsel, Frank P. Farrell, said he was authorized to give legal opinions only to the commission.

The cantonment has been allocated 5,000,000 gallons of water a day, Mr. Duff stated, this being slightly more than the average daily consumption in Medford last year but far below the daily peak consumption of 9,450,000 consumed in this city last July 14. If serious trouble is to be averted, the peaks and not the averages must be provided for, he emphasized.

New Lines Hoped
It is hoped that the army or some other federal agency will build or help substantially in financing another pipe line to the source of water supply but even if this project should be approved it could not be constructed in time now to avoid use of meters, Mr. Duff said.

While no meter rates have been adopted yet, for comparison purposes Mr. Duff pointed to the present meter rates paid by commercial users: \$1.75 a month minimum for 5,000 gallons, 15 cents a thousand for the next 95,000 gallons and 12 cents a thousand for the next 200,000. He added that the water commission figures that 5,000 gallons a month would be ample for a family's domestic

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British Rain Shells on Japs Massed in Singapore Siege

War Bulletins

Rangoon, Feb. 4.—(AP)—British aircraft today bombed Japanese invaders in the Mar-taban sector, where strong enemy forces have been trying to cross the Salween river on their westward thrust into Burma.

Canberra, Australia, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Australian fliers scored a direct hit on a large Japanese vessel in a raid last night on the occupied New Britain harbor of Rabaul, an air communique indicated today.

BUSINESS LICENSE AND PARK METERS STUDIED FOR CITY

The city council last night initiated a study of licensing every business and profession in town and of meters as a means of solving the parking problem in the downtown district.

In a petition signed by 56 downtown business men, the council was asked to make arrangements for installation of parking meters, it being understood that the petitioners were looking forward to the time when the traffic would be increased greatly by construction of a cantonment here. Councilman M. N. Hogan, presiding, said the matter was so important that a special meeting of the council should be called as soon as a report became available.

Mr. Hogan referred the petition to the public safety committee and suggested that the committee meet with a group of business men to thresh out a solution.

Barbers Request
On motion of J. C. Collins the license committee was instructed to study and report at the next council meeting on the advisability of licensing every business and profession in Medford. This question was brought up by a petition from barbers asking that an ordinance be adopted licensing barber shops, the initial fee to be \$200 a year and the renewal fee \$10. The barbers asked that barber shops in operation at the time the ordinance became effective be required to pay only the renewal fee.

Mr. Collins said that what the barbers wanted was a protective tax and declared that while the petition had its humorous aspects it also had a serious side. Pointing out that at the request of electrical contractors the council had doubled the licensing fees, Mr. Collins said others were entitled to the same consideration. City Attorney Frank P. Farrell said the case of the electrical contractors was a little different as the fee was intended to cover the cost of the examination they must pass before they may engage in business. Mr. Collins insisted, however, that fundamentally the fee was a protective tax and there seemed to be general agreement.

The council adopted an ordinance doubling the license fee of electrical contractors, increasing the original fee to \$100 a year and the renewal fee to \$50. The action was approved at the previous council meeting. Barber shops do not pay a license fee, Mr. Farrell said.

DEFENDERS TOLD REINFORCEMENTS ON SCENE SOON

By Roger D. Greene
Associated Press War Editor
Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell, allied generalissimo, announced today that the United States and Great Britain were sending "great reinforcements" to the far Pacific battle theater, while in the five-day-old siege of Singapore, British guns rained shells into Japanese troops massed across the mile-wide Johore Strait.

Gen. Wavell's heartening message was the second official word in 24 hours that mighty counter-blows against Japan are soon to be struck by the united nations.

Australia's army minister, Francis M. Forde announced yesterday, without elaboration, that "a big allied movement" is underway.

Flanking Foiled
Gen. Wavell, hero of the first British offensive into North Africa and one of the world's shrewdest military strategists, also declared that the Japanese "have now reached an area where we cannot be constantly out-flanked and where the enemy cannot exploit superior mobility."

Japanese bombers blasted anew at the beleaguered Singapore defenders, inflicting some damage but few military casualties, British headquarters reported.

Embers still smoldered in the wreckage from yesterday's aerial assaults, in which the toll was listed officially as 22 killed and 80 wounded. By nightfall, all but two fires were reported under control.

Today's communique tersely reported that there was "no change" in the five-day-old siege as reinforced British, Australian and imperial Indian troops worked steadily to install and camouflage new machine-gun nests, rifle pits and gun emplacements in the tangled mangrove swamps facing the enemy.

On other fronts in the far Pacific conflict:
Dutch East Indies—Dutch and

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COUNCIL FORBIDS GREASE DISPOSAL THROUGH SEWERS

The city council last night approved an ordinance providing for the installation of grease traps in restaurants and like places of business and regulating the disposal into the public sewer of grease, oil, cannery waste and certain industrial waste.

It was indicated that the ordinance was necessary because grease and cannery waste entering the sewer lines hinder operation of the sewage disposal plant. A report filed last night by Fred W. Scheffel, city superintendent, showed that the disposal plant was closed during the entire month of December while circulating pipes in the digester were repaired and the tanks cleaned.

The ordinance requires eating places to install grease traps of adequate capacity approved by the plumbing inspector.

The ordinance also provides that it shall be unlawful "to dispose of into the public sewer of the city of Medford oil, grease, cannery waste or any industrial waste of a kind, quantity or nature that shall be detrimental to or retard or interfere with the normal operation of the sewage disposal system."

The council approved the sale of lots 7 and 8, block 15, Imperial addition, to A. L. McHenry for the appraised price of \$450. The lots are on Willamette avenue near East Ninth street.

Eugene Thorndike was reappointed to the water commission. Councilman Harold Frye suggested that it was mutually advantageous to have a city councilman on the water commission.

The civil service commission certified three men for the position of hoseman in the fire department and the council approved appointment of the top man, W. W. Coleman. Mr. Coleman will replace Hiram Martin who has resigned.

Mayor H. S. Deuel was a few minutes late and M. N. Hogan, vice chairman, presided.

Sugar Stamps Will Be Issued Under System of Rationing

Washington, Feb. 4.—(P)—Special "sugar stamps" to be issued by the government to registered consumers, will be required before purchases can be made under the pending sugar rationing program. It was learned today.

Each stamp will permit an individual to buy 12 ounces of sugar—his weekly ration.

A spokesman for the office of price administration disclosed that booklets containing enough stamps to last three months or more would be printed and that the time required for the printing would delay operation of

the rationing machinery for at least another month.

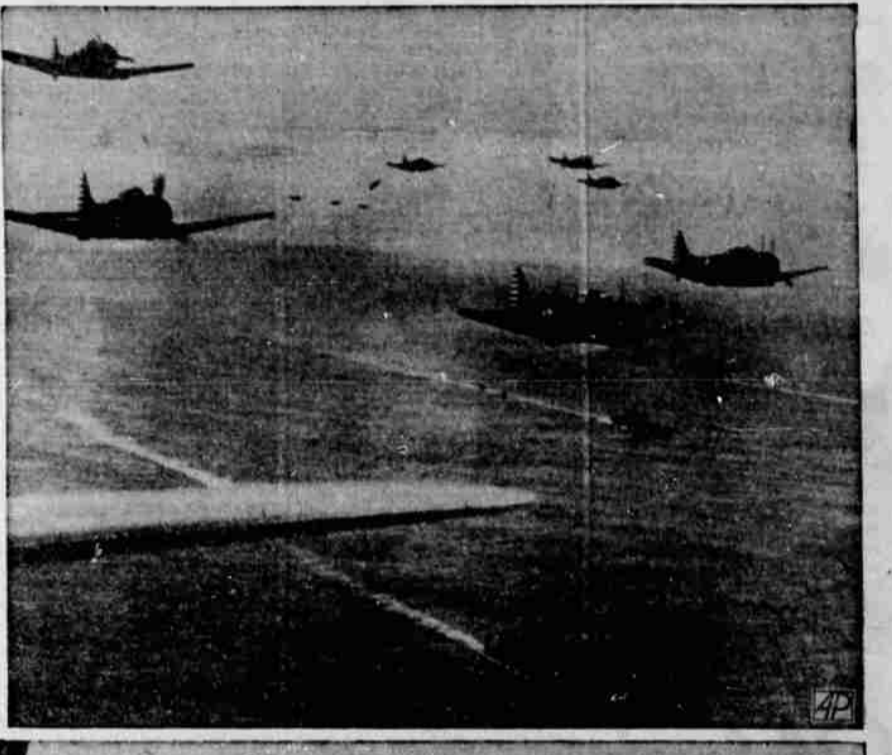
It was reported that the plan contemplates registration of consumers families, with stamp booklets to be issued to each member of the family regardless of age. However, no more than one stamp per person may be used each week. This would allow a family of three, for example, a weekly ration of 36 ounces of sugar.

The OPA spokesman said details of the registration requirements had not yet been worked out but that the registration would not be handled by local postoffices. Stamp books will be issued at the time of registration.

OPA said the rationing would be supervised by local boards, probably the same boards now handling tire rationing but augmented by a member or members drawn from the food industry.

It was understood that retailers accepting the sugar stamps would paste them on "sugar cards." When a card is filled, the retailer then can present it to his wholesaler as authority to purchase the exact amount of sugar represented by the stamps on the card.

J. S. Striking Power In Air and On Sea



United States Navy scout bombers fly in formation (above) over vessels of the fleet on an offensive patrol somewhere in the Pacific. Closely packed planes lined up on the deck of an aircraft carrier (below), are ready for a quick take-off during patrol in the Pacific.

Axis Submarine Sinks United Fruit Freighter

Lewes, Del., Feb. 4.—(P)—The freighter San Gil, owned by the United Fruit company, was torpedoed and shelled by an enemy submarine off the Maryland coast at 11:50 o'clock last night with the loss of two lives, it was disclosed with the landing of survivors here today.

Thirty nine other members of the crew and one passenger, Stewart Winslow Condon, 26, of Roslindale, Mass., an accountant for the fruit lines, were saved. Four of the crew were injured.

The ship was struck first by a torpedo on the port side, a navy spokesman said. The two missing members of the crew apparently were killed by an engine-room explosion. They were Beaumont Barge, 26, of Antwerp, Belgium, and Secundino Castro, 38, of Honduras.

The crew launched two lifeboats and the submarine then shelled the ship. All but about four of 15 shells hit the target. Captain Walter W. Koch, 44, of Canasota, N. Y., reported.

A second torpedo struck the ship as it sank by the stern. A coast guard cutter picked up the survivors after they had spent seven hours in the lifeboats.

FERCE BATTLES FOR KEY TOWNS NEAR SMOLENSK

By the Associated Press
Soviet front-line dispatches reported heavy battles were raging today near several key towns in the Smolensk sector, 230 miles west of Moscow, with the Germans falling back under the assault of a powerful Russian counter-offensive.

While none of the "key towns" was specified, the Russians have been driving close upon Yelna, only 35 miles southeast of Smolensk, in a thrust to cut off the escape of German armies retreating along the old Napoleonic road from Moscow.

Fierce fighting also was reported on the Leningrad front, where a British broadcast said the Germans had been thrown back 18 miles south of the one-time czarist capital by heavy Russian attacks.

On the North African front, the sweep of Field Marshal Gen. Erwin Rommel's axis forces encroached upon Derna, only 95 miles west of Tobruk, after driving the British 160 miles north-east of Bengasi.

London quarters, however, declared flatly that the main British force had not yet clashed with Gen. Rommel's army and that only patrol and rearward actions had been fought.

There was still no official explanation for the sudden British retreat after hurling the Germans back more than 350 miles from the Egyptian-Libyan frontier last month.

PAWNEE BILL OF WILD WEST DIES

Pawnee, Okla., Feb. 4.—(P)—Major Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie, frontiersman, wild west showman and last surviving leader of the Oklahoma boomers, is dead.

The stocky, white-haired old veteran died last night at his Buffalo ranch.

He would have celebrated his 82nd birthday on Valentine's day.

He had been an invalid since 1936, when he was injured in an automobile accident near Cleveland, Okla. His wife, May Lillie, was killed.

Pawnee Bill was captain of the boomer movement, which had for its purpose the colonization of Oklahoma territory.

CLERGY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR TIRE PURCHASE

Portland, Feb. 4.—(P)—O. L. Price, state rationing administrator, said yesterday the office of price administration had advised him that clergy members are not eligible for tires under present rationing regulations.

Detailed regulations will be sent from Washington, D. C., in a week or ten days, he added.

OLCOTT'S SON HELD BY JAPS IS BELIEF

Portland, Feb. 4.—(P)—Former Gov. Ben W. Olcott said yesterday the navy had advised him that his son, Ensign Chet W. Olcott, probably is a Japanese prisoner.

Olcott was on duty at Wake Island at the time of the Japanese attack.

RESTRICT ALIENS ON SOUTH COAST

Washington, Feb. 4.—(P)—Attorney General Biddle today designated as an area of sharply restricted movements for German, Japanese and Italian nationals, the California coast from the Oregon border south to a point fifty miles above Los Angeles and running inland from 30 to 150 miles.

The order is effective February 24. After that date, enemy aliens in that area must remain in their residences from 9 p. m. to 6 a. m., and at all other times they must be at their homes or their places of employment or en route between the two, or in any case within five miles of their residences.

Interment is the penalty for violations.

EKWALL FAVORED
Washington, Feb. 4.—(P)—Senate judiciary committee officials said today the committee probably would report favorably Monday on the nomination of William A. Ekwall, Portland, Ore., to be judge of the United States customs court.