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U.S. BOMBER BLASTS ENEMY U-BOAT

News Behind The News by Paul Mallon



Paul Mallon

Washington, March 21.—Those criticisms of the Smith anti-forty-hour-week bill, which have been gushing from government officials, all came after they had privately heard from the boss in the White House. And the gushing seemed slightly painful for some of the officials who previously had taken a somewhat different view.

First, the president brought the matter up at a conference with the legislative leaders of the house and senate last Monday. Next day, Senate Leader Barkley made a statement on the floor saying just what the president subsequently said in a press conference—there are few strikes now and therefore no further restrictions should be placed on the unions.

As Barkley was speaking, Mr. Roosevelt called into the White House the War Undersecretary Patterson, Navy Assistant Secretary Ralph Bard and Admiral Land of the maritime commission. Wednesday they all appeared before a senate appropriations sub-committee and strangely expressed the same sentiments, to a word. The objections were not wholly expected from Land and Patterson, both of whom testified some weeks back in favor of the Conally anti-strike bill, designed to cause government seizure of striking defense plants and the freezing of labor conditions in them until after the war. It is not the same in detail as the Smith bill, but obviously Land and Patterson had changed their opinions about anti-strike legislation.

Another legislative leader, Speaker Rayburn, thereupon came out simultaneously with the same ideas, a little late, but nevertheless firm.

While these men spoke for themselves, they agreed even down to the one voluntary restriction which Mr. Roosevelt wants labor to accept—abandonment of the right to strike.

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AXIS SHIPS SHOT DOWN OVER MALTA

Valletta, Malta, March 21.—(P)—British Hurricane fighters, ranging out to meet persistent axis air attacks, downed 12 German bombers and two Messerschmitt fighters in the 24-hour period ending at 7 p. m. tonight—one of the best records made in the recent days of Malta's defense.

Six other German bombers were damaged in the long series of raids, a communique said tonight.

The nazis suffered most of their casualties in a desperate half-hour attack on an airbase on the islands. Curtains of anti-aircraft shells burst over the field as the slow Junkers 88 tried to come in.

NAB DRAFTEE FOR REPORT FAILURE

Roseburg, Ore., March 21.—(P)—Robert E. Gilbert, 26, registered with the Douglas county selective board, was taken into custody today upon orders from the federal bureau of investigation on a charge of selective service delinquency. Sheriff Cliff Thornton reported. Gilbert was employed in logging on Smith river in western Douglas county.

The sheriff reported that Gilbert had failed to obey an order to appear before the selective service board for induction into the army. The FBI was notified and issued a warrant for his arrest. He is to be taken to Portland for questioning, the sheriff said.

4 DEPTH CHARGES BLAST SEA WOLF OFF EAST COAST

Photographs Prove Victory—No Survivors—Honduras Liner Torpedoed.

New York, March 21.—(P)—Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, commanding the eastern army forces, announced tonight that an American bomber had destroyed an enemy submarine in an undisclosed area off the eastern United States coast.

"Destruction of the submarine was complete," General Drum said. "The sea was covered with oil and debris. It is considered improbable that there could have been any survivors."

Four depth charges were dropped by the bomber, which spotted the sub from about two miles away while the plane was bound home from a photographic mission, the general said.

Second Lieutenant E. H. Epperson of Scott City, Kas., the bomber's pilot, declared:

"We could see the conning tower clear of the water. We made four runs over the submarine, and dropped one charge on each run. The first two were direct hits on the conning tower."

"Crippled by the first hit the submarine was a clay pigeon for the following runs. The third blast was a 'short,' the fourth was an 'over' (a near miss)."

Ruin Complete

"It looked as if we had struck an oil well. The submarine disappeared from sight. My report reads: 'Complete destruction of enemy submarine.'"

The co-pilot, Second Lieut. Barney L. Johnson, of Fort Worth, Texas, said the bombing was from an altitude of 100 feet.

"We were on a photographic mission," Johnson said. "We went immediately to the submarine to launch our attack. There is no question about it. The submarine was destroyed."

In addition to the depth charges, the plane machine-gunned the U-boat. Corporal Clifton A. Cyr, Spokane, Wash., was the gunner.

"I gave the sub four bursts of fire from my machine guns," Corporal Cyr said. "That was while we were bombing. I saw a lot of oil, and I didn't see any survivors."

The plane's photographer, Pvt. J. A. Boyle, of Brooklyn, reported taking seven pictures of the submarine with his camera. Five were developable, he said. Three showed the conning tower.

"The prints clinch our report that we got it," he said.

Corporal Charles G. Parrott, of Clay City, Kas., the bombardier, declared the plane "released each depth charge carefully as our ship leveled out on each of the four runs."

The other member of the crew was Sergeant Robert P. Edwards, Franklin, Ky., a mechanic. He also declared that the submarine was wrecked and that he saw no survivors.

44 PERISH

New York, March 21.—(P)—The torpedo-sinking of a Honduras passenger liner on March 16 off the Jersey coast with a probable loss of 44 lives was disclosed today by the third naval district. Six battered survivors reached here Thursday.

The 44 missing persons were 32 crew members and 12 passengers—three women, two girls, a 7-year-old boy and six men.

A single torpedo blasted into the port side of the vessel just below the bridge at 8:45 p. m. (EST) sinking it in three minutes. It was the first Honduras ship lost in the war. Six South American ships have been torpedoed.

AFFIRM CONVICTIONS

New York, March 21.—(P)—The U. S. circuit court of appeals today affirmed the convictions of Joseph M. Schenk, former chairman of the board of 20th Century-Fox Film corporation, and Joseph H. Moskowitz, his "confidential associate," on income tax evasion charges.

Exchange Blows in Battle of Australia



United Nations fliers, bombing shipping at Rabaul (1), scored a direct hit on a Jap cruiser, following the action at Lae and Salamaua (2) where 23 Jap ships were sunk or damaged. Japs were reported advancing overland from Lae toward Port Moresby, after heavily bombing the port (3). Darwin (4) was again bombed, as was Tulagi (5), "stepping stone" in the Solomon group. Allied fliers bombed the Jap airdrome at Koepang, Timor (6).

NEW DEAL CHIEF ASKS CURB UPON UNION ACTIVITY

Public, Small Business, Need Protection—Misdeeds Charged.

Washington, March 21.—(P)—Attacking organized labor in terms seldom, if ever, used by a new deal official, Thurman Arnold, assistant attorney general, accused the unions today of a long list of misdeeds which, he asserted, were preventing the efficient use of men and machines and hampering the distribution of civilian necessities.

He charged organized labor with injuring or destroying independent business men, and holding farmers and consumers "at its mercy" of impeding the distribution of housing and food, and of "undemocratic procedures" within itself.

On the witness stand of the House Judiciary committee, he said a pending bill to require the registration of labor unions was insufficient to protect the public from the practices which he alleged. "No other group in our society" could do anything like the things of which he complained and escape punishment, he said.

"Today, under federal law, there is no right of the farmer which labor is bound to respect, there is no right of the consumer which labor is bound to respect, and there is no right of the small business man which labor is bound to respect," he asserted.

Arnold added that all three groups were "entirely subject to the will of the labor union."

"People complain to us and we have to say to them that there is nothing we can do," Arnold is in charge of anti-trust prosecutions for the justice department.

He said that state laws were inadequate to meet the situation, explaining that even if an employer was successful in obtaining an injunction against a labor organization, the labor organization could boycott the employer's good in another state.

"Independent business men all over the United States are completely at the mercy of organized labor groups," Arnold said.

In discussing a proposal that both labor union and trade association finances must be made public, Arnold declared that he could not "see any reason why contributions should not be made public and I can see every reason why they should."

GRAIN PRICE UP

Chicago, March 21.—(AP)—Grain prices took an upward course today, rallying moderately from the 1942 lows posted in most futures pits yesterday.

PRESIDENT ASKS SEIZURE STRIKE BOUND RAILROAD

Washington, March 21.—(P)—President Roosevelt today broke the long deadlock in efforts to arbitrate the Toledo, Peoria and Western railroad strike by ordering federal seizure and operation of the short line pending a strike settlement agreeable to the war labor board.

The chief executive, declaring the management had refused to arbitrate the three-month-old dispute, directed that Joseph B. Eastman, head of the office of defense transportation, take over and operate the 239-mile line, with the aid of the armed forces, if necessary.

It was the first time Mr. Roosevelt had used his powers to seize private property since the United States entered the war. His order said that continued operation of the road, which by-passes Chicago with transcontinental freight, was essential to the "successful prosecution of the war."

The action climaxed a long series of exchanges between the war labor board and the chief executive, on the other hand, and George McNear, Jr., president of the T. P. and W.

Eastman appointed J. W. Bariger, associate director of the office of defense transportation, to be "federal manager" of the railroad and instructed him to leave immediately for Peoria and reinstate "with certain exceptions" all strikers.

Wages and working conditions prior to the strike December 29 will be put into effect until an agreement is reached.

FILM QUEEN WED FOR 'INVESTMENT'

Hollywood, March 21.—(P)—In stiff legal phraseology, Curvaceous Rita Hayworth of the movies charged today that her wealthy oil operator-husband, Edward C. Judson, once told her:

"That he is an old man going down hill; that plaintiff was young and just building up her career and that he married her as an investment for the purpose of exploiting her and that he knew she would pan out for him and that he intended to get paid for the time he was married to her."

An amended complaint, superseding divorce charges which she filed last month, also asserted that he told her she would "have to pay him off or he would blast her career in motion pictures."

SIBERIA TROOPS AWAIT ORDER TO MARCH ON NAZIS

Washington, March 21.—(P)—"Tens of Divisions" Gathered For Supreme Test—Orel Next Objective.

Moscow, March 21.—(P)—"Tens of well-trained divisions," drilled and equipped on the vast plains of Siberia, awaited the command tonight that would send them into the front lines to lend added power to the Russian offensive driving forward relentlessly in the north, the center and the south.

A dispatch from Siberia indicated these were several hundred thousand troops drawn from the Soviet's still untapped reserves of manpower.

The sharpest spearhead of the Red army drive, according to latest reports to the army newspaper Red Star, now is aimed at Orel, one of the principal German strong points 200 miles south and slightly west of Moscow, which fell before the Nazi invaders last October 8.

Red Star located this thrust within 35 miles of Orel from the north and east, for it declared the advancing Russians had captured a German-designated mayor of Krenin county in the Matsensk district.

(The BBC, as heard in New York by CBS, quoted Moscow radio reports that the Red army were attacking six German divisions holding fortified villages around Kharkov, the great steel center, and that 85 miles beyond Kharkov to the west a fierce battle was raging for possession of a nazi-built supply base at Poltava. This railway junction lies 60 miles above the Dnieper river).

The midnight communique reported the occupation of "several populated places" during continued offensive operations today and said that 35 German planes were brought down Friday for the loss of five Russian planes.

NAKAMURA EASES INVASION FEARS

Tokyo (From Japanese Broadcasts)—March 21.—(AP)—Japan has "air tight" preparations against United States attacks by the northern route from Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, Admiral Koyzo Nakamura wrote today in the magazine Taiheiyō.

He added that fears that the United States will embark in the spring on surprise attacks on Japan by submarines and aircraft "are unnecessary because they have no adequate base."

TWO CRUISERS DAMAGED, 1 SUNK IN RABAU FIGHT

Mikado Loses 28 Ships In Australia Drive—Bombs On Broome.

Melbourne, March 21.—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur swiftly marshalled allied forces for his rendezvous with destiny on this embattled continent while planes of his command sank a heavy Japanese cruiser and damaged another in Rabaul harbor and the enemy struck back at northwest Australian ports.

The heavy Japanese cruiser was sent flaming to the bottom of the New Britain harbor. The damaged cruiser was in addition to one heavily battered late Wednesday. The score of Japanese warships and merchant vessels sunk or damaged at the approaches to Australia was thus raised to 28.

Enemy bombers struck again at the pearl-fishing port of Broome, 600 miles southwest of Darwin, centering their attack on the airport. Some commercial planes were damaged to 50 bombs dropped and a civilian was killed.

Derby, 75 miles southwest of Broome, was attacked for the first time by two bullet-spitting Japanese fighters which did no damage. A lone merchant ship survived undamaged an attack off Darwin by an enemy plane.

The enemy maintained ceaseless reconnaissance over the vast island of New Guinea, just to the northeast of the mainland, and a heavy Japanese bomber which approached Port Moresby was driven away by anti-aircraft fire.

Port Moresby, however, had two raids during the morning. Single planes reconnoitered the area persistently during the afternoon.

NEW OFFENSIVES ON BATAAN, BURMA FRONTS BREWING

Washington, March 21.—(P)—The long smouldering Philippine fighting front burst into flame today, and the American-Filipino defenders braced for a new full-scale Japanese offensive.

While patrols skirmished sharply on the Bataan peninsula, enemy batteries hammered at the Manila bay fortifications, the war department reported.

Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright, General Douglas MacArthur's successor, reported to the war department that a renewed assault on the peninsula appeared probable. A late day communique added that the resumption of activity, after a lull of weeks, indicated that Lieutenant General Tomoyuki Yamashita, the new Japanese commander, might be regrouping his forces for a long-delayed offensive.

Mandalay, March 21.—(P)—Strong Japanese forces were reported massed tonight for a crosswise drive through the Sittang river defenses near Toun-goo toward the Irrawaddy, 80 miles to the west, on the Burma flank where Chinese troops of the fiery American commander, Lieut. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, already have gone into action.

Dispatches from the Sittang front, where the Chinese dealt their first stiff blow Thursday and Friday to the Japanese near Puy, 20 miles down river from Toun-goo, indicated that this skirmish might be the forerunner of the main fight.

Portland, March 21.—(P)—Monthly payments to dependents of American civilians affected by enemy action outside the continental United States will be made by the Portland office of the Social Security board, Manager James E. Peebles said today.

Interpreting The War News By Kirke L. Simpson

(Wide World War Analyst)

April soon will replace bluster and uncertain March on the calendar of the world, and there is every indication that the sap of war is rising with the approach of the new month.

The Nazi warlord has revised his predictions to talk of a summer instead of a spring renewal of the German "annihilation" campaign in Russia. Conditions not under his control, such as the Russian weather and Russian war morale account for that postponement. Yet whatever the month for a Nazi attempted offensive in Russia and wherever the major blow on that front is to fall, April will see a stepping up of the battle tempo on the related fronts.

As is to be expected at this season, war reports from neutral observation posts and belligerent capitals alike in Europe are full of rumors and predictions of what Hitler intends to do next. That is part of Hitlerian strategy, of the war-of-nerves technique. It may not perplex allied high commanders, shaping their own war plans but it does tend to confuse the public mind in anti-axis countries.

Nazism has thrived since its birth on confusion in opposing ranks. It won its way to political and military mastery in Germany in that fashion and by the same means lulled Britain and France into a false sense of security led to French downfall and the gravest crisis in British history.

For almost a decade Berlin has put out annually rumors and gossip to create a pre-spring mania of speculation about what Hitler would do next. The nerve siege is on again now—but this time backed by grim facts that virtually insure 1942 a place in history as the year of decision in the world's greatest war.

This is not to say that the war will end this year. There is no means of saying when or how that will come. Yet it seems, even now, that if what Hitler is supposed to map out proves as futile to destroy the will and ability of his foes to fight on as did the Kaiser's last great spring offensive in France just 24 years ago, Hitler's ultimate collapse will be as clearly forecast as was the Kaiser's.

OLD TIRES OUT AS ORCHARD SMUDGE

San Francisco, March 21.—(P)—There's a better smell in west coast orchards if an OPA warning is heeded by orchardists.

Happy Camp, regional director of the office of price administration, asks orchardists to find something else for anti-frost smudges except old tires and worn out tubes.

"To burn tires and tubes at this time is a thoughtless act of the most serious character," he declared in a press statement.

"Substitute measures should be used by the grower who in the past made his smudge of old rubber."

COURT COST IRKS STATE TREASURER

Salem, March 21.—(P)—State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott today accused some Oregon justice of the peace of levying excessive costs in traffic violation cases.

In a prepared statement Scott said some justices listed costs at more than \$8 a case in instances in which defendants pleaded guilty to ordinary traffic law violations. Others, he said, limited costs to \$2.50.

"It is difficult to understand why a traffic law offender who has committed a minor infraction of the traffic laws should be compelled to pay excessive costs to subsidize a justice court but pay little or no fine," Scott said.

NOTHING MATTERS BUT WAR EFFORT, M'NARY DECLARES

Senior Senator Seeking Fifth Term Issues Statement On National Needs.

Washington, March 21.—(AP)—Senator McNary (R-Ore.), minority leader of the senate, announced today his candidacy for reelection to a fifth term with an assertion that "neither profits, service charges, social gains nor any other factor" should be permitted to stand in the way of completely equipping the war forces.

The senator said the task now was to work out a formula that would command the support of all and prevent internal strife.

McNary, republican nominee for vice president in 1940, added that because of his duties he might not be able to return to Oregon for the coming campaign.

"The attack upon our nation and our form of government is without precedent," McNary said in a statement. "Therefore, the successful prosecution of the war must take first place in the minds of every American. For this reason and because of the exacting duties of my position, my uninterrupted service at the nation's capitol is imperative. These demands may prevent me from returning to Oregon for the campaign. In whatever capacity we serve the government, the nation's crisis permits no neglect of duties in these perilous times."

"Rightly, public sentiment is demanding that neither profits, service charges, social gains nor any other factor be permitted to stand in the way of producing every item of equipment for American soldiers or sailors overseas or those who are defending the home front. This situation is desirable in the sense that it promises to force the taking of certain corrective steps which will assure more effective and less wasteful methods of conducting our war activities. Our task now is to work out a formula which will command the support of all and prevent internal strife which might nullify the progress made at the cost of great sacrifices. In a small way I am striving to do my part."

"I am sure, therefore, that those who have supported me for many years and others in my state will not fail to recognize my full appreciation for their confidence and support."

War Bulletins

London, March 21.—(P)—Exchange Telegraph, British news agency, reported hearing a Tokyo dispatch on the German radio today asserting that Japanese shock troops had reached the Gulf of Papua, on the southern side of New Guinea, and that thus "the last decisive attack for complete occupation of New Guinea" had begun.

Chungking, China, March 21.—(P)—Guerrillas have repeatedly raided Amoy island, important Japanese supply base at the mouth of the Kiung river, and Japanese batteries shelled Chinese positions on the mainland in an attempt to discourage further attacks, the Chinese Central news agency said today.

Berlin (from German broadcasts), March 21.—(AP)—The German high command claimed tonight that two United States coastal patrol warships and 11 freighters totaling 78,000 tons had been sunk off the U. S. Atlantic coast in the past week.

Berlin (from German broadcasts), March 21.—(P)—U-boats have sunk six more ships totaling 35,000 tons and a U. S. coastal patrol boat in operations off the American and West African coasts, the high command said today.