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BLANKET FREEZE TALKED FOR PRICES

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

Washington, April 3.—The surprising discovery of two American ship survivors that a Nazi U-boat commander knew the contents and destination of their ill-fated freighter was no surprise with in officialdom here.

This government has known for some time the existence of an elaborate German spy system reporting to Berlin speedily and efficiently on American ships.

The system is working in such an open field and was organized with such usual German thoroughness that it has been found difficult to smash.

The FBI raided the German seamen's home in Hoboken last Saturday and found again how some news was being sent out. What was described as a "diathermy machine" was seized, along with 71 inmates.

This is a piece of common electrical apparatus, capable of creating high frequency oscillations, which could be heard as far away as Germany if proper reception, through a similar set, had been provided there as it no doubt has.

The apparatus which can make intelligible short wave vibrations, under expert handling, has been sold commercially throughout the country for therapeutic treatment of tissues by heat. You could buy them anywhere.

A number of Japs on the Pacific coast seem to have suffered the same rash as the Nazi seamen. These machines were first discovered in their homes.

But the problem would be difficult to meet, even if there were not so many of these machines in private hands. The maritime commission here operates our ships, but the private companies and the hiring halls employ the seamen. The government therefore has no control over who is to be employed.

Before a sailor will sign for a voyage, naturally he must know when and where the ship is going.

(Continued on Page Twelve)

Milk Prices Jump in Coast Region

Toledo, April 3.—(P)—Milk prices advanced one cent a quart in the Toledo, Newport, Yachats and Waldport area yesterday on authorization of the milk control board. Five percent milk advanced 2 cents a quart. The new prices are 13 cents for 4 per cent and 15 cents for 5 per cent.

Radio Highlights

(Pacific War Time)
Tonight: Good Friday programs—MBS 7:15 "Seven Last Words of Christ" by Brooklyn Philharmonic chorus; NBC 7:30 sermon "The Crucifixion" Magr. Fulton J. Sheen.
Saturday: NBC—1:45 Tropical park racing; CBS—3:15 Calling Pan-America, tribute to Cecil B. DeMille; BLU—3:15 Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum on "Army Day."

SIDE GLANCES

BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS
Carl Von der Hellen appearing in town after nearly a five-month hibernation at Wellen.
Lela Rogers enthusiastically revealing the progress being made on her and daughter Ginger's Rogue ranch.
Bob Spalding joyfully returning from a successful mission in Portland.
Vern Pendleton peeking from beneath a truck and saying that there was still enough service station work to get a man dirty.

PIECEMEAL CURB ON INFLATION IS FOUND TOO SLOW

Action Would Bring Return Of Prices To Levels Of Several Months Ago.

Washington, April 3.—(P)—An order freezing prices of all consumer goods not already under ceiling orders, it was learned today, is under discussion between high officials of the office of price administration and the war production board.

Such a blanket freezing order, to be applied at both retail and wholesale levels, has been discussed for some time, responsible OPA sources said and "the meetings have been more frequent recently." A definite decision has not been reached, it was said.

The action, if forthcoming, would take the form of a permanent freezing order, cutting prices back to the levels of some chosen date, probably several months ago, it was reported.

Numerous administration officials have voiced dissatisfaction which present price control methods, holding them to be too slow to check an inflationary trend.

This feeling has been accentuated with the flood of new WPB curtailment and production stoppage orders of recent weeks, affecting radios, phonographs, vacuum cleaners, electrical appliances and many other major and minor consumer items. As each curtailment order has appeared, a buying rush has occurred and prices have moved up, resulting in such emergency action as last night's freezing of bicycle sales.

Heavy Ship Losses Suffered by Foes Is Claim of Nazis

Berlin (from German broadcasts) April 3.—(P)—The high command said today that during February and March the German navy, operating against the fleets of the United States and Britain, sank one cruiser, eight destroyers, three corvettes, four torpedo boats, 12 motor torpedo boats and motor gunboats, five escort vessels and three submarine chasers.

In addition during the same period, a communique said, the German air force sank two motor gunboats and three escort vessels.

"Another 37 warships, including 10 cruisers, 11 destroyers and five submarines were damaged in offensive operations by German naval forces and in air attacks by the Luftwaffe," it added.

By the Associated Press

Three new ship sinkings in the axis submarine campaign against American shipping were announced today by the navy. Seventeen men were missing from their crews.

Maritime sources in Havana said a fourth United States ship, a freighter, had been torpedoed and sunk somewhere north of Cuba.

Total War Day Plans Nearing Completion; Parade Is at 7:15

Plans for observance of "Total War Day" Monday in this city are being rapidly completed and those in charge of the parade announced today that it will begin at Sixth and Bartlett streets at 7:15 p. m. Definite line of march will be outlined in the Sunday edition of the Mail Tribune.

With Mayor T. S. Wiley's announcement of cooperation from Ashland citizens, it is expected that numerous Ashland civic and fraternal organizations will participate in the parade which terminates at the Medford football stadium. A demonstration of practical value concerning incendiary bombs and first aid will be featured as are talks by Lieut. Colonel George C. Ferch, commander of Camp White; Major Theron W. Bean, also of Camp White, and other officials.

Tell How They Downed Nine Jap Planes



Lieut. Comm. John S. Thach (right), Fordyce, Ark., squadron commander and Lieut. Edward (Butch) O'Hare (left), St. Louis, Mo., at Pearl Harbor tell how they downed nine Jap bombers between them when the Japs attacked a U. S. fleet unit in force in the Southwest Pacific recently. Thach was credited with three Japs, O'Hare, six.

LA FOLLETTE HAS PLAN TO ASSURE LABOR OF RIGHTS

Washington, April 3.—(P)—With the assertion that labor needed to be assured that the war emergency would not be used to deprive it of its rights, Senator LaFollette (Prog.-Wis.) introduced a bill today fixing criminal penalties for "oppressive labor practices."

LaFollette, chairman of a labor-subcommittee that made a four-year investigation of anti-union activities, took cognizance of other pending labor legislation, including proposals to suspend the 40-hour week, when he said:

"If the nation has time for consideration of any labor legislation, then, by all means, this proposed act should be carefully weighed."

The measure, an amplified version of an oppressive-labor-practices act which passed the senate in 1940 only to die in the house labor committee, sets maximum penalties of a \$10,000 fine or six months imprisonment for proscribed acts. These include the use of strike-breakers, private armed guards, the possession or use of firearms or tear gas during labor disputes, and interference with peaceful picketing.

In addition, the principle of the wage and hour act is applied so as to make it criminal for an employer who engages in oppressive labor practices to ship his goods in interstate commerce.

LaFollette declared his committee had unearthed "sordid violations of the rights of labor" in virtually every state.

UPSETTING TRUCK INJURES DRIVER

Byron. Crowell, 604 Plum street, is confined in the Sacred Heart hospital suffering from a hip injury received when the Valley Fuel Co. truck he was driving overturned on North Riverside near the 99 Motel about noon today.

Seriousness of the injury is not yet known, his physician said.

According to Charles Hobbs, Pearl ambulance driver who was called to the scene, Crowell's truck upset when he swerved to avoid collision with another vehicle which stopped suddenly in front of him. Identity of occupants of the other machine was not given.

Today's Axis Lie

Washington, April 3.—(P)—Under the heading "Today's Axis Lie," the office of facts and figures released without comment this item from the Berlin shortwave radio:

"Further reports from Lisbon state that four to five old cars in the United States will be turned into scrap iron. The total number of cars taken out of traffic on account of tire and gasoline shortages is estimated at twelve million."

Chiang Kai-Shek Asks Indian Acceptance of Dominion After War

New Delhi, India, April 3.—(P)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, advocate of war collaboration between 400,000,000 Chinese and 390,000,000 Indians, was reported today to have intervened in British-Indian negotiations, urging acceptance of Britain's proposal of post-war dominion status for India.

The generalissimo was said to have conveyed his views through a special messenger to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a former president of the All-India Congress party and a key leader in the Indian politics.

The contents of the message were not disclosed.

The Congress party's working committee, which replied to the British proposals yesterday with detailed objections, met for an hour and a half today and adjourned until tomorrow.

British Bombs Rock Whole Channel Area

London, April 3.—(P)—The RAF, in a daylight continuation of the most extensive two-sided aerial operations in many months, sent squadrons of fighters and bombers roaring across the English channel late today in blasting attacks on Nazi bases at Boulogne and Calais and other enemy-occupied areas further north.

Reverberations from their assault rocketed back across Dover strait for some time, and the entire area shook from the distant impact of the British bombs.

Vanderbilt Seeks Navy Commission

Beverly Hills, Calif., April 3.—(P)—Alfred Gynne Vanderbilt, 29-year-old millionaire turpentine salesman, said today he has applied for a commission in the navy.

At his apartment here he said he had "no idea whether the application will be accepted or not, but I hope it is, and soon."

WAR WHIRLS INTO FASTER TEMPO ON LENINGRAD FRONT

By the Associated Press

A heavy battle of tanks and men, with every hour that passes, was reported raging on the Leningrad front today, and the Russians declared 25,000 German troops had been killed and huge war supplies captured in 13 days of fighting around the old czarist capital and at neighboring Staraya Russa.

It was not immediately clear whether the Russians were making a major attempt to break out of the long besieged northern metropolis, or whether the Germans were on the offensive, hoping to knock out that long and stubbornly defended barrier.

The Leningrad radio, however, reported that red army troops had captured a fortified settlement which served as the center for several German-held villages.

Soviet dispatches said 15,000 Nazis had been slain in the Leningrad fighting and 10,000 at Staraya Russa, where the German 16th army has been trapped for weeks.

Portland, April 3.—(P)—Crown Prince Olav of Norway will visit Portland April 20 on a lecture tour, Emil P. Slovarp, Norwegian consul here announced today.

Americans Captured on Islands Reported Well Treated by Japs

By Walter R. Boettcher

Washington, April 3.—(P)—The 366 United States prisoners of war, who were captured on Gilbert, Wake and Guam islands by the Japanese and interned at Zentsuji, Island of Shikoku, are being well treated, the International Red Cross reported in a cablegram made public today by Rep. White (D., Idaho).

However, the men want more entertainment, fancier food and mail from the folks back home.

This was the most detailed account received through neutral sources to date on the welfare of men who fell into enemy hands.

Rep. White was chosen to release the report, presumably because many of the soldiers and civilians captured in the American outposts were residents of Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Civilians from these and other western states were engaged in military construction work on the captured islands.

Allies Suffer New Reverses In Effort to Defend Burma

CAMP ROAD JOBS WAIT ON FEDERAL ALLOCATION BOOST

Contracts To Be Awarded On Basis of Bids Opened Yesterday If Funds Found

Portland, April 3.—(P)—If the federal government increases its allocation for highway improvement in the Medford cantonment area, contracts will be awarded on the basis of bids opened yesterday by the State Highway commission.

Costs have increased since the original allotment was made, the commission was advised, and the Public Roads administration is seeking additional money.

Berke Bros., Portland, was low at \$252,908 for paving and grading 3.4 miles of the south unit of the Antelope creek-Medford section of the Crater Lake and Pacific highways. Jacobsen-Jensen, Portland, bid low at \$123,278 for grading and paving 1.4 miles of the same highway.

The Tru-Mix Concrete company, Medford, submitted low bid of \$19,980 for structures on the route.

Wage increases for all commission employees receiving less than \$250 monthly were approved. The increases, ranging from a flat \$10 a month for those on salary, to eight cents an hour or \$14.72 monthly for those on an hourly basis, affect about 2,320 employees.

The new scale, R. H. Baldeck, engineer, said was imperative to meet advanced living costs.

F. L. Somers, one of the proprietors of the Tru-Mix Concrete company of Medford said today the company's bid called for the construction of culverts, a bridge over Bear creek near the present railroad bridge and culverts, curbs and traffic dividers on the five-highway Cloverleaf intersection near the Big Y market.

Construction will start as soon as the government increases its allocation for the highway improvement, Mr. Somers stated.

Crosbys Reconcile Account Children

Los Angeles, April 3.—(P)—For the sake of their 2-year-old daughter Cathleen, and for another child expected in July, the Bob Crosbys have become reconciled.

Mrs. Jane Crosby yesterday withdrew her divorce suit against the orchestra leader. She had charged cruelty. Bob is a brother of Crooner Bing Crosby.

Indication that he would not care to re-live his Midway Island experience was given by Clarence Edwards in an interview this morning.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edwards, 1105 West 4th street, Edwards was a carry-all driver on the island at the time of the Japanese attack in December. He arrived in San Francisco on March 22 after a three weeks evacuation trip from Midway via Honolulu and has been visiting friends and relatives in southern Oregon for the past week.

Edwards, who was ordered to divulge little information, stated, however, that dangers were most apparent at sea during the evacuation.

Workers scoffed, Edwards said, at the false rumors concerning them that came by radio from the United States.

He served a full year on the Isle, leaving Portland in March of last year. Commenting upon his job, he said, "It was a good job before the war."

Edwards has no plans concerning work at present and is waiting word from his Klamath Falls draft board.

Objector



Lew Ayres, film star, was photographed in Portland en route to a conscientious objectors' camp at Wyeth. He said "idealistic principles" caused him to shun an army uniform in favor of swinging an axe while the country is at war.

LOCAL MAN HOME AFTER EVACUATION FROM MIDWAY JOB

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BRITISH FALL BACK BEFORE JAPANESE IN PROME SECTOR

News From Long-Besieged Bataan More Heartening — Mop Up Pocketed Japs.

By Roger D. Greene

Associated Press War Editor

Grave new reverses marked the allied defense of Burma today as British headquarters acknowledged that the Japanese had cracked the right wing anchor at Prome, key to Burma's vital oil fields, but the news from the Philippines was more heartening.

On long-besieged Bataan peninsula, Lieut. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright's American and Filipino fighters were officially reported mopping up pocketed Japanese units which yesterday burst through the main line in two heavy assaults.

Japs Trapped

The war department said "a considerable" number of Japanese got through, only to be trapped as U. S. troops counter-attacked fiercely and sealed the gap.

In Burma, the situation was critical at both ends of the British-Chinese defense line guarding the Burmese oil fields, a major source of China's gasoline and oil supply, and the road to Mandalay.

The British acknowledged that they had been forced to retire to the north of Prome, less than 100 miles south of the Yenangyaung oil fields, falling back after night-long fighting in the jungles south of the Irrawaddy river town.

However, British headquarters denied reports of a landing by Japanese sea-borne troops at the west Burma port of Akyab, only 100 miles from the Indian frontier, which would have been an even greater setback.

A Chinese spokesman at Chungking said yesterday the Japanese had landed under cover of cruisers and destroyers, but the British declared officially they had "been in direct contact with Akyab this morning" and no landing had been attempted.

Simultaneously, a Vichy broadcast reported that Chinese forces in the east, commanded by Lieut. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, were retreating farther north from enemy-occupied Tounghoo.

The broadcast said Japanese advance guards pursuing the Chinese had pushed almost 45 miles north of Tounghoo on the road to Mandalay. A British communique, however, declared the invaders' spearheads had only reached a point southwest of Yedaseh, 15 miles north of Tounghoo.

On the right flank, around Prome, a British communique said strong Japanese forces captured heights south of the town in an attack from the cover of jungles east of the Prome-Rangoon road.

"Our forces moved back to fresh covering positions north of the town early yesterday morning," it said.

Whites and Negroes Battle at Fort Dix

Fort Dix, N. J., April 3.—(P)—White and negro soldiers fought a bloody 15-minute battle on the darkened plains of Fort Dix last night in which three men were shot to death and five others felled in a furious exchange of bullets.

The sudden, bitter outburst ended when negro and white officers appeared on the scene and ordered the embattled white military police and negro enlisted men to cease firing.

BUTTERFAT

Sacramento, April 3.—(P)—Churning cream butterfat: First grade, 41c; second grade, 39c.