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NAVY SINKS 7 MORE JAP WARSHIPS

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon



Washington, April 4.—They said when France fell, the day of the fortress was dead, but Corregidor and Malta are still standing against the most terrific air-bombing attacks the mechanical mind of man has been able to devise.

The latest Japanese candidate for hankari in the Philippines, General Yamashita, stormed Corregidor for days with everything he had in the air shortly after he took command. Thereafter he sent over only two or three bombers a day, indicating he had reached the same conclusion as his suiciding predecessor.

The British dot of Malta, south of Sicily, has been subjected to the unbelievable total of more than 1,800 air attacks since the war began, without appreciable result (which may explain why the nazis have not fooled with Gibraltar).

The explanation is clear. Anti-aircraft fire from a small prepared rocky fort apparently can make it impregnable. The rocky formations permit building of safe bomb shelters, beyond reach of the thousand-pounders.

Large three-inch anti-aircraft guns can erect impenetrable walls of fire in a defensive circle above the fort. The bombers are thus forced to high, their chance of hitting their target is virtually nil, and most of their bombs are wasted.

Unfortunately ships at sea and cities cannot maintain such defenses. Only the largest ships can carry 3-inch A-A's and their aim is hindered by the motion of the vessels. Cities have their valuables above ground and are generally built on earth where bomb shelters 60 feet deep would be needed for such complete protection.

COMMUNIQUE have been speaking tersely of night assaults by the Japs against Wainwright's line in Bataan, hinting at a new wrinkle in warfare, stolen from the Russian book.

There are new wrinkles but not very well pressed. As the Japs use them, they are just glorified raids against outposts, organized more extensively than usual, so they can employ artillery and mortars in the dark.

In preparation for the night attack, aerial photographs are made of certain American positions. The guns are set and when darkness falls, the blaze away at the fixed invisible point.

Generally this night artillery barrage prepares the way for infantry assault against machine gun nests, the locations of which are plotted out on paper in daylight.

Fortunately most of Bataan is a jungle so deep and dark it can hardly be penetrated in daylight. The Japs, therefore, have concentrated their night attacks generally on the Abucay plain, an open level space near the east end of Wainwright's line, where a stream falls into rice paddies.

Wainwright does the same thing to the Japs, but only as far as his daytime vision permits planning, because he has no aerial reconnaissance.

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NO SALVAGE

Seattle, April 4.—(AP)—The 13th naval district said today efforts to salvage the navy patrol bomber which crashed into the Columbia river near the Tongue Point naval air station March 8 with the loss of eight lives has been discontinued.

Seattle, April 4.—(AP)—Third of a fleet of destroyers to be launched at the Harbor Island plant of the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corporation, the U. S. S. Endicott will slide down the ways tomorrow night. It will be Seattle's first night launching of the war.

UNITED NATIONS POWER MOUNTING ON ALL FRONTS

News From India Cheering—Fortresses Bomb And—Ships Torpedoed.

By the Associated Press

The United States navy, already mightily strengthened since the attack on Pearl Harbor, added seven more Japanese ships last (Sat.) night to the unceasing toll which its surface and under-sea craft are taking of enemy vessels in Far Pacific and East Indies waters.

The navy announced that American submarines had sunk one light cruiser and probably sent another to the bottom, damaged two seaplane tenders and scored torpedo hits on the other ships—all in actions not previously reported in Washington communiques.

Thus was furnished the climax to a day which, on the whole, was one of encouragement for the fighters against the axis on all of the world's many—and united—battlegrounds. These straws in the wind of the eventual victory came from east and west, north and south, from such widely-separated yet inevitably allied fronts as:

India—Still the highlight in the military news was the word that U. S. army Flying Fortresses, which already have proved potent poison to the Japanese over the Dutch Indies and Australia's outer islands, had fired a Japanese cruiser and a transport in an 800-mile foray from their Indian base to the enemy-held Andaman islands in the Bay of Bengal; on the political side was the cheering prospect that entry of Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell into the discussions, announced during the day, may swing India's leaders to acceptance of British proposals for post-war freedom.

Australia—U. S. and Australian troops are being forged into which, true to the code of its leader, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, will be committed irrevocably to a policy of attack. The allied air strength, credited with at least 10 Japanese planes destroyed in its latest raids on enemy bases, now is established so firmly that it can supply ample warning should the enemy set in motion any direct invasion thrust.

Britain—The RAF, lashing out in its own spring campaign with increasing forces of bombers and fighters, hinted broadly that the past weeks' assaults on Nazi industries and key defenses are merely a beginning. Even in daylight yesterday British squadrons roared across the channel in sky-darkening swarms, losing 11 fighters in bitter dogfights but taking a toll of at least five Japanese aircraft in fulfilling the objectives of their raids.

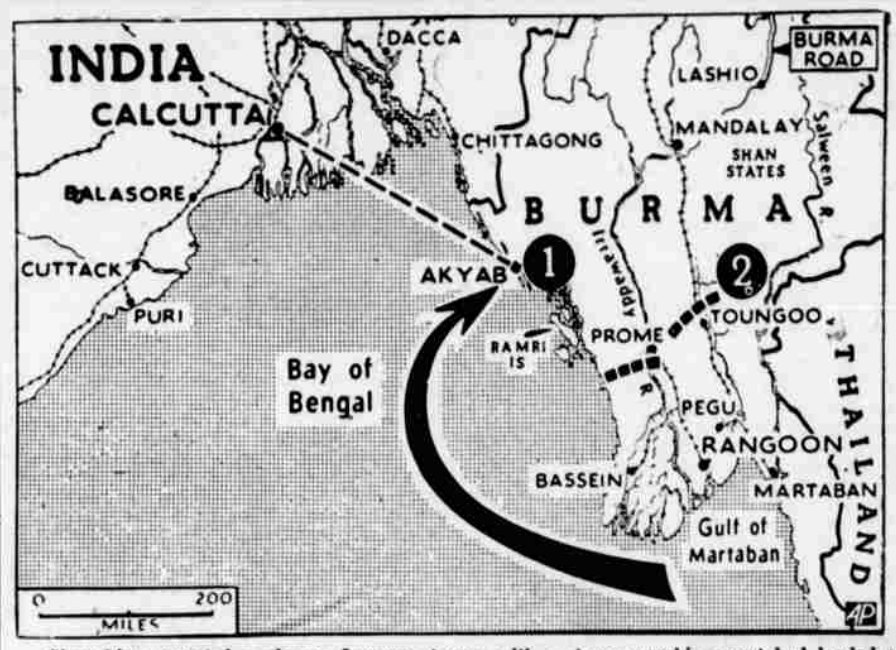
The torpedoing of three merchant ships by axis submarines—one in the Atlantic and two in the Caribbean—was announced yesterday (Sat.) by the navy, bringing to 20 the official score of ships sunk off the United States east coast in the week of March 29 through April 4. Losses since Pearl Harbor in that area total 114.

DEFENSE COUNCIL PLANS FARM HELP

Seattle, April 4.—(AP)—The Washington state defense council today adopted a series of resolutions designed to alleviate farm labor and equipment problems during the war harvest.

Introduced by John G. Kelly, Walla Walla, chairman of the agricultural advisory committee, the resolutions proposed federal maintenance of mobile migratory labor camps of the farm security administration, urged more rationing of trucks to farmers and asked parents and employers to furnish selective service boards with information justifying deferment of farm laborers.

Japs Reported on West Coast of Burma



Chungking reported sea-borne Japanese troops with a strong warship escort had landed at Akyab (1) (black arrow), chief western Burma port, only 350 miles from Calcutta. Akyab landing would threaten rear of British-Chinese forces in Central Burma (broken line), now guarding Promé and holding a line north of Toungoo (2).

WAR PRODUCTION ZOOMS; NEW LABOR ERA NEAR, NELSON

America 'Doing Impossible' War Chief Says—Record Since Pearl Harbor Cited.

New York, April 4.—(AP)—Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the war production board, asserted tonight that "America's industrial plant is really beginning to roll" and "a new era of management-labor cooperation is developing, which will prove of immense value to the entire nation."

Although he admonished that "this is no time for easy optimism," Nelson asserted in a prepared address at an Army day banquet of the military order of the World War that "we have not yet done the impossible—but we are doing it."

In a detailed review of the progress of the nation's war effort, Nelson stressed that its relative success thus far was still dwarfed by the fact that "it is the biggest job, bar none, that this or any other country ever tackled at any time in history. It is so huge that we can break every record we ever made and still fall short of the need."

Then he called the roll of achievement since Pearl Harbor: "The airplane production program adopted after Pearl Harbor was presumed by practically everyone to be bigger than could be attained. It was 'impossible' program if there ever was one. We met our schedules in January and we made 23 per cent more planes than we had made in December. We exceeded our schedules in February which, of course, called for an increase over January. In March again we met the schedule."

With regard to tanks: "We are ahead of schedule on tank production."

Ships: "Our production of merchant shipping is rising rapidly—we should meet this year's schedule."

Anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns: "The same is true."

He declared that no American need fear that the nation's soldiers were going into battle with inferior weapons, asserting: "Our planes have turned in outstanding performance records all over the world—in the Far East, in North Africa with the British, and on all other battle fronts. . . . Every American can be proud, not only of the heroic men who are flying those planes, but also of the men in the army and in our aviation industry who designed and built them."

Ottawa, April 4.—(CP)—Prime Minister W. L. MacKenzie King is considering making a trip to Washington late next week to attend a meeting of the Pacific council.

GAY EASTER WITH MILITARY TINGE FORECAST TODAY

Parade of Finery After Church On Fifth Avenue—Men To Wear Solid Colors.

New York, April 4.—(AP)—A multi-million dollar fashion show up and down Fifth and Park Avenues tomorrow was predicted by the sartorial soothsayers; the U. S. dept. of commerce says Easter merchandise is "up" 25 per cent over last year. So it's up to the women—and the weather.

Hats will be tilted at jaunty angles and colors will run to all shades in defiance of the grim war overtones cast by the presence of the heaviest police guard for the parade in many years and the metal signs along Fifth Avenue with instructions for behavior in case of an air raid.

In the city's humble churches and great cathedrals the faithful will gather to hear again the old, old Easter story. Church out, the parade of finery starts.

Malcolm Butt, New York tailor, and president of the Master Tailors Council of America, predicted tomorrow's well-dressed man would wear sharkskin fabric in solid color as mean as the "nailhead" with stripes.

NED LIEBMAN IS WINNING SPEAKER AT EUGENE MEET

Eugene, Ore., April 4.—(AP)—Ned Liebman, Medford, won the extempore speaking contest today at the annual Oregon high school speech tournament.

John Brown, Salem, was second and Robert Sayre, Beaverton, third.

Sayre won the public discussion contest, and Brown and Leroy Dillon, Hillsboro, tied for second.

Kenneth Brown, Salem, won the after-dinner trophy. Richard Smurthwaite, Beaverton, was second, and Vivian Miller, Roseburg, third.

In the radio speaking division Margaret Thompson, Roseburg, was first, and three were tied for second, Lee Chase, Medford; Harold Laduke, Oakridge; and Richard Smurthwaite, Beaverton.

MAC ARTHUR ASKS DIVINE GUIDANCE IN BATTLE AHEAD

Confidence Mounts As United Nations Gird For Offensive—Air Power Up

United States Army Headquarters in Australia, April 4.—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur bespoke Easter-tide divine guidance "in the great struggle that looms ahead" today as confidence mounted in allied quarters that the united nations will be able to defend this Australian springboard for an eventual offensive in the southwest Pacific.

Much of this confidence, it was disclosed, sprang from steady aerial reinforcements now making possible an air patrol of Australia's approaches so comprehensive that it should give three or four days advance warning of the appearance of Japanese invasion forces.

Allied aviation continued to dominate the skies, shooting down at least 10 Japanese planes and probably 12.

Six were destroyed in a raid on Koepang, Dutch Timor, and four others—bombers—were shot down in breaking up a raid on Darwin, where anti-aircraft bagged two and fought planes two. Two Japanese fighting planes also were listed as probably destroyed.

The few bombs dropped at Darwin killed two civilians, but caused no damage, said a communique.

General MacArthur, an Episcopalian from Little Rock, Ark., introduced the religious note in his military preparations in reply to a radiogram from W. P. Witsell, director of Little Rock's Christ church, who said, "the church of your baptism sends Easter greetings and expression of faith and loving pride in you."

In answer Gen. MacArthur messaged: "At the altar where I first joined the sanctuary of God, I ask that you seek divine guidance for me in the great struggle that looms ahead."

WAR BULLETINS

Lisbon, April 4.—(AP)—A British bomber made a forced landing tonight on the beach at Costa Decaparcia, 10 miles southwest of Lisbon. The four-man crew fired the craft, dined at a nearby hotel, then surrendered for internment.

London, April 4.—Mandalay, storied city in eastern Burma toward which the Japanese have pointed an invasion army, was heavily bombed yesterday by the Japanese air force but no military damage was done, the British reported today.

'TOTAL WAR' DAY PARADE AT 7:15 MONDAY EVENING

Army Officers And Civic Leaders To Talk—Other Cities To Participate.

Jackson county's observation of Army day as "Total War" day, will center in Medford Monday with a monster parade, starting at 7:15 and followed by a defense demonstration and talks by army officers and civic defense leaders at the senior high school football field.

"Total War" day has been proclaimed by President Roosevelt, Governor Charles A. Sprague and Mayor H. S. Deuel, as a time for appropriate demonstrations in honor of the men of the United States army in action overseas and in training at home.

Mayor Deuel has asked that business establishments of the city close at 5 p. m. so that personnel may take part in or witness the program.

Asland and other neighboring cities will join in the observance here.

The parade will form on North Bartlett street in the vicinity of Sixth and Fourth streets and will move promptly at 7:15 p. m. The line of march will be south on Bartlett to Main, west on Main to Oakdale and south on Oakdale to the senior school football field.

Upon arrival at the field the parade will break ranks and, as soon as the throng has found vantage places, Mayor Deuel will speak briefly on the significance of the day and then introduce Mayor Thornton Wiley of Asland.

Lieut.-Col. George C. Ferch, commanding corps area service unit, Camp White and training aide officer, will then be introduced and will deliver the address of the evening. Major Theron W. Bean, area engineer for Medford and vicinity, is also to be introduced and will be followed by Captain Joseph K. Carson, Jr., United States army engineers, and state commander of the American Legion.

John C. Boyle, chairman of Jackson county civil defense, W. A. Gates, Jackson county chairman for sale of defense stamps and bonds, and R. G. Fowler, chairman of the Jackson county salvage committee, will also be introduced and will speak briefly.

Following the speaking program, a house specially constructed on the field for the purpose, will be set afire with magnesium bombs for a demonstration of sand and water control methods.

First aid demonstrations will wind up the evening. This phase is expected to be especially interesting as the civilian defense with the Red Cross has trained over 2,000 civilians in first aid.

Interpreting The War News

By Kirke L. Simpson
(Wide World War Analyst)

As April, the historical war month, opens a new chapter of somber significance in the axis-allied struggle, there is a baffling babble of prediction about where its main scene will be laid.

A new and grievous disaster in Burma for the united nations—the loss of another great oil reservoir—seems to impend, but there are brightening skies on the Australian flank of the Pacific-Indian ocean war front. The first meeting of the Pacific war council in Washington with President Roosevelt presiding revealed nothing of its deliberations of planning; but following it was a wave of rising optimism over American-Australian ability to hold the Japanese at bay and prepare a counter-attack in Australia.

That confidence strongly underscores every Washington development, to give a silver tinge to otherwise dark war clouds to westward.

General MacArthur shares it. If he didn't, he would not have assented to his assignment as supreme commander in Australia. None who know him could doubt that he would have preferred otherwise to stay with his gallant American-Filipino troops.

In Europe, except for probably premature demands in Britain for an immediate counter-offensive against Hitler by land as well as by sea and air, the initiative rests with the Nazi warlord. Hope is waning that Russian armies can decisively clinch their winter gains by capturing key points still in German hands.

Moscow still forecasts enlarged victories. Hitler's own terse war bulletins are the best possible evidence that Red army elan is undiminished. The Russians are still on the attack all along the front, nibbling at Nazi reserves, threatening Nazi strong points. Yet the Red army seems now waging a war of attrition rather than fighting to win definite strategic goals.

The effect of that attrition campaign on Hitler's resources, the degree to which it may have sapped the striking power of his armies, cannot be measured until they strike.

The question, then, is both where and when Hitler will strike as April restores at least some degree of mobility to his armored battering-rams, the panzer units. Hampered by mud, snow, sub-zero temperatures and now mud and flood again, tanks have been of very limited value to either side since late fall.

This April, nevertheless, seems certain to see the prelude of an attempted final Nazi victory drive. It is a favored Hitler move for the attack and in southern Russia, in the Ukraine and Crimea, weather conditions should permit major operations before the end of April.

RUSSIA SENDS UP RESERVE FORCES TO CRUSH NAZIS

Millions Ready To Throttle Spring Offensive—No Changes In Land Battles.

London, April 4.—(AP)—The first of several million Red army reserves, freshly trained and brought from every part of the Soviet Union, were moving into the line from Leningrad to Taganrog on the Black sea tonight on a plan designed to throttle the German spring offensive with a total force of 7,000,000 Russians.

Russians here said the reinforced Red army had no intention of relinquishing the initiative which has carried it westward since early December, although it was apparent the Soviet counter-offensive had lost momentum in recent weeks.

While the midnight Moscow radio, again said there had been "no substantial changes" in the land fighting, it reported destruction of 23 Nazi planes on Friday, to Russian losses of only three, and the sinking of two enemy transports, one of 7,000 tons, by Soviet warships in the Barents sea.

Soviet dispatches reaching London said reinforcements had been moved into the Leningrad garrison over a double-track railway laid across the ice of Lake Ladoga.

On the Leningrad front, said a supplement to the midnight war bulletin, 3,400 German officers and men were killed in the last three days.

Besides capturing another populated center in this area, the Russians were described as steadily advancing in the Kalinin region northwest of Moscow, making continued cavalry sorties that cost the Germans dearly.

One cavalry unit in two days of fighting on this front was said to have put out of action 1,630 Nazi officers and troops while artillery fire destroyed six enemy tanks and 37 trucks.

On the central front the Germans were counter-attacking near Bryansk with tanks, infantry and artillery. In one narrow sector where the Germans used two regiments of infantry and 25 tanks, the Russians said the counter-thrust was beaten off with more than 1,000 German bodies left on the battlefield and 18 tanks damaged.

NIPS DROP HUGE BOMBS ON BATAAN WITH NO SUCCESS

Washington, April 4.—(AP)—Corregidor's unerring gunners parried a new Japanese air weapon, exploding incendiary bombs, by shooting down two enemy planes over the Philippine island fortress, and probably damaging two others, the war department reported today.

Frustrated in 12 days of intensive aerial attacks with usual type bombs, the Japanese raiders dropped bombs which burst in the air with huge flames. The new tactics failed, Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright advising that no damage resulted.

By downing two additional bombers, the anti-aircraft gunners swelled their score to 17 officially reported to have been destroyed since the latest phase of the hammering of the Manila bay forts opened on March 24.

On the nearby Bataan peninsula, the American-Filipino forces braced for a renewal of the Japanese offensive amid signs that another savage attack was imminent.

FIGHTER PLANES AND PILOTS LOST

Seattle, April 4.—(AP)—Two army fighter planes carried their pilots to death in separate crashes in western Washington late this afternoon.

One, a P-38 from McChord field, swooped low over Olympia, Wash., with its motors stuttering, managed to maintain altitude until it had cleared the downtown section of the city and then crashed into a house in East Olympia.

Near Edmonds, Wash., another army plane, this one from Paine field, at Everett, exploded in mid-air, falling into the waters of Puget sound. Witnesses said the ship was in three distinct pieces as it hit the water. The body of the pilot was not immediately recovered.

RECOGNITION FOR FREE FRENCH IN AFRICA GRANTED

Washington, April 4.—(AP)—The United States gave formal recognition today to General Charles de Gaulle's control over French Equatorial West Africa and the French Cameroons, strategic territory along the supply route to the Middle East and India.

The action, bringing closer ties between this country and the Free French, came in the announcement of a consulate general in Brazzaville, capital of the French possession directly across the Atlantic from Natal, Brazil, and taken "in view of the importance of French Equatorial Africa in the united war effort."

Recognition of the African Free French territory came a month after similar approval of the de Gaulle authority over New Caledonia, strategic island off the western coast of Australia, valuable also for its large deposits of nickel.

LIST MACHINERY POOL

Pendleton, Ore., April 4.—(AP)—All industrial equipment in the Pendleton area, including Rieth and Pilot Rock, was listed today by Guy V. Lintner of Portland as the first step in a plan to pool machinery here for war production board contracts.

Portland, April 4.—(AP)—Fire early today destroyed the main building of the Portland Shipbuilding company which holds government contracts for sea-going barges.