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Thirty-seventh Year. MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1942. NO. 25.

Burma Oil Fields Blasted



British engineers destroyed the Yenangyaung oil fields as Jap forces (black arrows) advancing up the Irrawaddy river (1) pushed allied defenders back to a point north of Magwe and threatened to split the British and Chinese forces at Thagaya and thereby endanger the Chinese flank. The main Chinese army is under heavy attack by Japanese columns striking up the Sittoung river and is threatened with being cut off by other Jap invaders driving at the Shan States from Thailand (2).

News Behind The News
By Paul Mallon

Washington, April 20.—The Germans have opened their drive on the Near East in Vichy.



The point in lifting their puppet Laval into the driver's seat at this time is discernible in the policies he set forth at once—one policy in particular. Laval wants restoration of French colonies.

It was clear he was not talking about Indo-China which is in the hands of the Japs, or Equatorial Africa, which is held by the Free French. Plainly he wanted Syria, where the British are standing guard against Hitler's hopes for conquest of the Near East oil fields.

If Laval can get Syria for Hitler, the Nazis will have won a bigger military objective than any achieved on the battle front in Russia.

It is a plot of typical Nazi design, involving treacherous use of the French fleet, although the honor of France has been pledged that those ships would not be turned upon the British or upon us, the honor of France is to some extent in Nazi hands.

France no doubt has more naval strength in the Mediterranean than the British. If Laval can get Darlan to send these neutralized ships forth to occupy Syrian ports, it is doubtful that the British will be able to stop them. Such a conquest has an excellent chance of success.

And while it would be done in the name of France, Hitler's soldiers would be moving to sword Cyprus before the first French war vessel had dropped anchor in Syrian ports.

Thus Nazi Germany, blocked so far from reaching oil by the Russian army, and stopped by the vastness and insistent neutrality of Turkey, has schemed a flank attack through Vichy to reach the same objective.

ADMIRAL DARLAN, the new commander-in-chief of land, sea and air forces, is the only figure apparent in Vichy who might stand against this Nazi

(Continued on Page Four)

Myrna Loy Readies For "Renovation"
Reno, April 20.—(P)—Film Actress Myrna Loy is staying at a guest ranch at Washoe Pines, 20 miles south of Reno, to establish legal residence preparatory to seeking a Nevada divorce from Film Producer Arthur Hornblow, Jr.

10 Per Cent Minimum From Every American Is Defense Bond Aim

Washington, April 20.—(P)—Every American who receives an income will be urged to invest at least 10 per cent of it in war bonds or stamps.

Treasury Secretary Morgenthau, announcing that quotas would be set for each of the nation's 3,070 counties beginning May 1, said "ten per cent of every county payroll is the minimum war bond goal."

Bond sales, which soared to \$1,000,000,000 in January, have dropped off recently to about \$500,000,000 a month.

The treasury said the quotas would be "revised and stepped up" in the months after May, and that it was the plan to reach every person in the United States who received income of any sort though it recognized that "some people, because of family circumstances, cannot afford to save 10 per cent of their income, while other persons can afford an even higher percentage."

Fuel Gas Rationing Required As Floods Rupture Pipe Lines

Denver, Colo., April 20.—(P)—Rationing of natural gas—cutting off fuel for cooking and heating in many homes—continued today in a dozen Colorado and Wyoming cities while pressure along a flood-broken pipeline was slowly built up through an emergency by-pass.

Tired, mud-covered workmen who had struggled for two days at the site of the break in northern New Mexico, completed welding a six-inch emergency pipe to the main 22-inch line last night.

The pipeline, which brings gas from Texas fields, was severed Saturday by flood waters roaring down normally-dry Colorado creek, 20 miles northwest of Clayton, N. M.

Rock slides blocked several mountain highways.

From three to four feet of snow marooned more than 50 persons in the Cripple Creek Divide-Florissant area of central Colorado. Men on horseback carried 20 to safety.

FORMER SPEAKERS TO BE SINGER PALLBEARERS
Portland, April 20.—(P)—Eight former speakers of the Oregon legislature were named today as honorary pallbearers for the funeral of Joe Singer, veteran legislator sergeant-at-arms, here tomorrow.

They are Robert N. Stanfield, K. K. Kubli, Denton Burdick, John Carlin, Ralph Hamilton, Frank Loneragan, Earl Snell and Robert S. Farrell, Jr. Singer died in a hospital here Saturday.

Declaration Of War On Nazis Was Crime
Is Pierre Laval's Word To French People

PRO-AXIS CHIEF URGES SUPPORT FOR NEW REGIME

Rapprochement Between France, Germany Condition for European Peace.

Vichy, Unoccupied France, April 20.—(P)—Pierre Laval, new pro-Axis chief of the French government, told the French people today that declaration of war against Germany was a "crime," that Britain, "after having let us down in the fight now is treating us as an enemy," and that "rapprochement between France and Germany is the condition for peace in Europe."

In a broadcast appealing for support, Laval insisted he had "no responsibility whatever in the misfortune which has befallen us."

Nothing To Fear
He urged the farmers to "fill their soil with the same passion as you would use to defend it," and told workers "you have nothing to fear, but everything to hope, from the regime which is being born. . . This war carries in itself the veritable germs of revolution."

He promised to "do everything to try to bring about the salvation of the country."

The first broadcast by the new chief of government came after the first formal cabinet meeting at which Marshal Petain presided.

The speech was made against a background of unrest, emphasized by the German announcement that 30 hostages had been condemned to death at Rouen in connection with a railway wreck in which many German soldiers were killed.

Tribute To Conquerors
"When I spoke in the name of victorious France (as premier before the war) I never thought to humiliate Germany," Laval said, "and I must pay this tribute to our conquerors: that they have never tried to humiliate France."

"I do not speak to Germany in the language of the vanquished," Laval asked.

"Do you accept that with British help you will be submitted to a system which will bring you into misery, or do you want to be integrated into new Europe where our honor and vital interests would be respected?"

"I warn you," he said, "against all rumors that this policy is only possible at untold sacrifices and untold humiliations."

"I can only tell you that the situation is grave."

Laval promised the peasants he would do everything to reduce to a minimum the restrictive measures operating against them.

"Every time we can do it without risk to the country we shall try to give you back the freedom to which you are so justly and so profoundly attached," he said.

NORMANDIE BLAME PUT ON WORKERS

Washington, April 20.—(AP)—The navy announced today that a court of inquiry had placed full responsibility for the disastrous Normandie fire in New York February 9 on employees of the Robins Drydock and Repair company of Brooklyn, N. Y., which was converting the former French liner into a troop transport named the U. S. S. Lafayette.

An official summary of the naval court's report said the "direct and sole" cause of the fire, which led indirectly to the capsizing of the 83,423-ton ship, was "gross carelessness and utter violation of rules of common sense" by the company's workmen.

The court recommended that proceedings be instituted against the Robins company for damages to the full extent of liability.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is limited to 800 fellows and 130 foreign honorary members.

NAVY TAKES OVER BREWSTER PLANTS HEADED BY ALIENS

Dissatisfaction With Management Cited as Reason for White House Order.

Washington, April 20.—(P)—The navy, acting on orders from President Roosevelt, today took over plants of the Brewster Aeronautical corporation at Long Island City, N. Y., Newark, N. J., and Johnsville, Pa.

This action, White House officials explained, was taken over because of "dissatisfaction with the management."

Presidential Secretary Stephen Early did not explain on what the dissatisfaction was based, and he added that "I don't think there is any labor trouble."

R. J. Thomas, president of United Automobile Workers union and a member of the president's labor war board, said after a White House conference Thursday that the union had informed the FBI that there were a large number of aliens in the Brewster management.

It was through the instrumentality of an executive order, dated Saturday, that the authority for the navy's taking possession of the plants was given.

The order said this was "deemed essential" because the construction of "essential war materials."

YARDMEN QUIT AT CENTRAL PT. MILL

Approximately 20 men, composing the yard crew at the Southern Oregon Sugar Pine company mill at Central Point, walked out on strike this morning when the management refused to reinstate an edgeman who had declined to work the night shift, according to Chauncey Florey, mill manager.

The mill is still running, however, Florey said, and the crew from another plant will be brought in to continue the shipment of vital war orders.

The company possesses an A-1 priority rating and has orders for lumber to be used in the repair of Pearl Harbor. Employed by the company in its two mills and in the woods are 150 men.

JIM THORPE BIDS FOR OREGON POST

Eugene, Ore., April 20.—(P)—Jim Thorpe, famed Indian athlete, today applied for the post as head football coach at the University of Oregon.

It was regarded as a foregone conclusion, however, that John Warren, freshman coach, would be named by the athletic board tonight to succeed Tex Oliver and Vaughn Corley, who followed each other into the navy in rapid succession last week.

Thorpe, believed by many sports followers to have been the greatest athlete of all time was decathlon and pentathlon champion in the 1912 Olympics, played major league baseball with the New York Giants and 25 years played and coached football.

BASEBALL

American
New York at Philadelphia postponed, weather.

First game: R. H. E.
Washington 10 15 1
Boston 4 5 2
Wilson and Early; Dobson, Ryba and Conroy.

National
Boston 2 7 0
Brooklyn 9 11 2
Early, Spahn, Tost and Lombardi, Klutts; Higbe and Sullivan, Dapper.

ADA A. POELLNITZ DIES OF INJURIES DUE TO SMASHUP

Medford Woman Succumbs In Hospital After Accident Near Savage Rapids Dam

Mrs. Ada A. Poellnitz, 50, a long time and well known resident of this city, died in a Grants Pass hospital Sunday afternoon of injuries sustained early Saturday morning, when the auto in which she was riding with Robert Swoape of this city, plunged off the Pacific highway, two miles south of Savage Rapids dam.

Mrs. Poellnitz made her home at 1121 East Main street. Her husband, Dr. R. W. Poellnitz, passed away here in 1932.

There were no eye-witnesses to the accident. Shortly afterwards motorists arrived while Swoape was pulling his companion out of the overturned car.

According to Deputy Coroner Carlos W. Morris, the state police officer investigating, reported evidence of high speed, as there were skid marks on the pavement for a distance of 300 feet. The auto had careened into a roadside ditch and continued for another 200 feet before dropping off a small embankment and overturning.

According to Sheriff Syd I. Brown, Swoape and Mrs. Poellnitz were returning from a trip to Josephine county.

District Attorney George W. Neilson said an inquest would be held probably tomorrow.

Swoape, according to the authorities, claims Mrs. Poellnitz was at the wheel.

Mrs. Poellnitz was born January 22, 1892, in Joe county, Kansas. She leaves to mourn her mother, Mrs. Flora Welch of Medford, and three brothers, Mel S. Welch of Klamath Falls, Harry Welch of San Francisco and O. D. Welch, residing in Nevada.

Private service will be held at Perl's funeral home at 10:30 a. m. Wednesday, the Reverend R. W. Coleman of the First Christian church, officiating. Interment will be in Medford L.O.O.F. cemetery.

PIEPER TO HEAD REDDING C OF C

Ashland, April 20.—(P)—Dean Pieper, manager of the Ashland chamber of commerce, resigned today to become secretary of the Redding, Calif., chamber.

Pieper, who has been manager here since September, 1940 said his resignation will be effective May 16. He said he also is resigning as secretary of the Oregon Commercial Secretaries Association, a post to which he was elected a week ago Saturday.

Mr. Pieper, is a former Medford resident, having served as correspondent for a number of out-of-town newspapers here for some time before moving to Ashland two years ago.

By their latest official account, the Japanese appeared fairly convinced that the raiders were United States medium bombers launched by three warship-shielded aircraft carriers

political warfare is warfare fought with the weapons journalists and publishers are trained to use—the weapons of ideas and words. It can be met and turned only by employment by the most skillful and effective employment—of these same weapons. And it is the press, in a country which puts its reliance on a free and independent press, which has that skill and can employ it."

Axis Peace Offensive Scheduled This Summer, Declares MacLeish

New York, April 20.—(P)—An axis peace offensive is due to be launched this summer, Director Archibald MacLeish of the Federal office of Facts and Figures told more than 600 publishers and editors at the annual luncheon of Associated Press members today.

MacLeish, who is also librarian of congress, emphasized that one of the principal weapons vital to the defeat of this forthcoming offensive of the axis partners was the one that journalists were trained to use—ideas and words.

"You have realized for a long time and for a longer time than most of us—that an axis 'peace' offensive is in the cards for next summer," he told the editors.

"A 'peace offensive' is an offensive in political warfare, and

Japanese Still Trying To Figure Origin Of Raiding War Planes

By Clyde A. Farnsworth
Associated Press War Editor.

With the Japanese still trying to figure out how they were bombed in their own islands Saturday, the united nations drew up plans today for an Australia-based counteroffensive in the southwest Pacific and the struggle in Burma took a favorable but still indecisive turn against the enemy.

Chungking reported that Chinese troops swooping down from the northeast had recaptured Yenangyaung, Burmese oil center, and in two days of bitter fighting had released a British force of several thousand from Japanese encirclement.

Chinese Join British
Chinese infantrymen who had been defending the eastern wing in Burma, joined British tanks which had been helping on the western wing and together they executed the limited counter-offensive which regained Yenangyaung.

The RAF made a sweep of 200 miles along the west Burma coast in which the airfield at Bassein, on the Irrawaddy delta, was damaged and motor launches, small barges and a schooner strafed.

The British also reported raiding a Japanese-held airfield at Allannyo, along the Irrawaddy north of Prome, and credited the American volunteer group, the Flying Tigers, with destruction of two Japanese planes over another airfield.

Manila Points Bombed
As if trying to regain face lost in the bold daylight assault on the homeland, Japanese gunners on Bataan peninsula and at Cavite opened intense fire yesterday on the United States' insular forts in Manila bay—Fort Mills on Corregidor and nearby Hughes and Drum.

Return fire silenced at least three enemy batteries and broke up truck and troop concentrations on Bataan. Five dive-bomber raids were made on Corregidor, apart from high level attacks there and on Fort Hughes. One plane was downed.

General Douglas MacArthur and aides discussed offensive plans today with Australia's prime minister, John Curtin, at Canberra. It was the first of a series of facilitating conferences between him, as confirmed commander for the united nations in the southwest Pacific, and Curtin, in his concurrent capacity as defense minister.

The specific subject was "highly confidential."

40 Jap Planes Lost
American and Australian airmen chalked up 40 more Japanese planes destroyed around and in two raids at Rabaul, New Britain, Japan's kingdom invasion base facing Australia. This was the score of raids Saturday and Sunday, the Sunday results also including damage to at least one Japanese ship in Rabaul harbor.

Japan showed signs of jitters over the homeland attack. Two more alarms sounded yesterday, evidently with no real basis, and Dornier Japanese news agency, said the government was trying to control "baseless rumors" concerning the Saturday smashes.

Heavy fighting continued on the Burma approach to India with the British, now helped on the right wing by Chinese reinforcements, reported holding their ground at Taunggyingyi.

No one could say yet whether invasion of India, or Australia, or possibly both at once, was next on Japan's timetable.

The Japanese interest in questioning the prisoners from the plane reported downed seemed to indicate that Tokyo itself did not know all the answers.

A Chungking dispatch said that the raiders had arrived safely at their destination, but did not identify it. Chungking declared Saturday that the raiders had not flown from Chinese bases.

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SIDE GLANCES
BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Harvey Cassman, Central Point night watchman, thinking he had a prowler on his hands, much amused when the stranger turned out to be Sid Bristow in search of a flashlight.

Officer Clyde Fichtner being kidded about missing the opportunity to write out a certain gentleman's traffic ticket.

Janet Mann garbed in a hilarious "victory garden" outfit for the Junior Guild style show tonight.

Joe and Elizabeth Rinard, going rural with the purchase of a house in the country and wanting friends to call them "Bruce and Joan" after a radio program, "A House in the Country."

SMOLENSK WITHIN RANGE OF RUSSIAN BIG FIELD PIECES

Reds Only 18 Miles From German Field Headquarters on East Front.

By the Associated Press
Smolensk, which has served the German high command as field headquarters for the eastern front, was reported within range of Russia's big guns today, and the central front army of Gen. Gregory Zhukov, savior of Moscow, was said to have advanced to within 18 miles of the city from the northeast.

There was thus a possibility that the Red army's initiative on the central front had carried the war within the vision of Adolf Hitler himself as an odd sort of birthday present, for Berlin said the fuhrer passed the day, his 53rd anniversary, at eastern headquarters "in immediate charge of operations."

Turmoil Grows
The turmoil in the new Europe at Hitler's back was depicted in a report of an attempt last night to assassinate Jacques Doriot, one of the backers of Hitler-sponsored Pierre Laval, and in an official announcement that 30 more French hostages had been ordered shot in occupied France.

A bomb hurled in a theater at Rennes, in Brittany, while Doriot was lecturing, dropped in front of the stage. A woman picked it up and tossed it into the orchestra pit where it exploded with harm to no one, according to an announcement by the French popular party which Doriot heads.

These advices flowed through Vichy where Laval, as the new chief of government, is now installed.

Besides 30 hostages doomed at Rouen, 80 more executions were threatened if persons guilty of attacking a German troop train were not turned over for punishment by April 23. In addition, 1,000 "communists, Jews and sympathizers" were ordered deported to eastern Europe.

The reprisals followed a familiar pattern. In similar cases last week in the Calais region, 35 French lives were taken by the Germans.

The advances on the Smolensk operations came in Moscow press dispatches via London and it was Reuters which placed the advancing Russians so close to Smolensk.

Concurrently, Russian sources also reported new attacks along the Volkhov river south of Leningrad and against the Finns, between lakes Ladoga and Onega.

Hitler was said by the Russians to be trying to put the old blitz back into the air war with attacks by as many as 50 planes against single sector objectives.

The signs were that he had marshaled the bulk of his air force on that front, at the expense of his air strength in western Europe. Poor visibility over the continent last night, however, caused a pause in the British offensive in the west.

Radio Highlights

(Pacific Wartime)
Another program on behalf of the war effort starts on the blues at 7 p. m. Wednesday. Presented as "Three-Thirds of a Nation" on behalf of the war production board, it will, with music and drama, seek to acquaint Mr. and Mrs. America with the urgency of the production drive and to depict how they can help the nation's fight for victory.

Tonight: Talks, blue, 6. Radio Forum, Rep. Mary T. Norton, "Labor Legislation," MBS, 7:15, Safety Council Award dinner, Joseph R. Eastman.

Blue—6:30, boxing, Bob Montgomery vs. Joey Peralta, Philadelphia.

Eugene, April 20.—(P)—Robert L. White, two and a half old son of Floyd W. White, Eugene, was instantly killed here Sunday when his father accidentally backed a truck over him.