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AMERICAN TROOPS IN NEW CALEDONIA

Kelly's Comment
From Washington, D. C.
Coast Prepared For Jap Attack
War Insurance Plan Discussed
Airplane Turnout Hits High Mark
By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., April 25—(AP)—Immediate reaction in the national capital to the bombing of Tokyo and other metropolitan areas in Japan was that this will in all probability inspire the enemy to retaliate with a bombing raid on the Pacific northwest and, probably, Alaska. Should the enemy come, however, the navy which has charge of defense of the coast (including the army air force) will be ready. In fact, from what can be gathered here the navy yearns for the Japanese to make the attempt; it has a score to settle with the Nipponese.

The Alaska coast, plus the Aleutian islands, has an immense army sprinkled at strategic points. (Many of the troops are from the deep south). There is no secret that bases are located at Dutch Harbor, Kodiak and one or two other places, but in addition, and unadvertised, are a dozen or more landing fields hidden away where no one but the air force is aware of their location. There has been a constant "inching" along the Aleutians toward the jumping off place. The late Billy Mitchell, court-martialed for his insistence upon developing the air force, asserted that whoever held Alaska had control of the world, and Mitchell's views are largely confirmed by the activity of the United States armed forces in the territory. London has broadcast that a new route to Moscow has been mapped across the north pole from Alaska.

There is considerable talk that the Americans want a base at Vladivostok from which to reach Japan in an easy flight. However, although the Japanese are permitting Russian ships to bring in lend-lease foodstuffs to Vladivostok (they can blockade and destroy that Siberian port at any time), the real base for American planes—if Russia permits—will be Nikolosk, the terminus of the trans-Siberian railroad. Nikolosk is being built up with war munitions from the United States, a point which can be reached without going through Vladivostok.

IN the event of a Japanese raid in the northwest or Alaska and token bombs are dropped, RFC will furnish war insurance
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SPRAGUE OPPOSES FURTHER GAS CUT

Marshfield, April 25.—(P)—Protest against any additional restrictions on gasoline supplies for Oregon motorists was made today to Oil Coordinator Ickes and Price Administrator Henderson by Governor Sprague.

"This state is ready for any necessary sacrifice but it should not be deprived of essential supplies without sufficient cause," the governor said.

He told the federal officials that wooden barges could be used to augment rail, truck and ocean tanker shipments from California.

OWN SPEECH PUTS MAYOR TO SLEEP

Louisville, Ky., April 25.—(AP)—Mayor Wilson Wyatt in preparation for a trial blackout made a brief electrically transcribed address to be broadcast by the local radio station.

Curious as to how the talk would sound, Wyatt placed the record on a reproducing machine and settled back in a comfortable chair. He heard himself start—but dozed off and awoke an hour later.

MOVE AIDS FREE FRENCH, DEFENDS STRATEGIC ISLE

Outcry From Vichy Due—
Australian Supply Route Protection Aim.

Washington, April 25.—(AP)—The United States announced today it had landed troops in New Caledonia to assist the Free French in the defense of that vital strategic island which flanks the supply route between this country and Australia.

The action, which the war department said was "taken with the approval of local authorities," was the first announcement of American troops moving into French territory. The size of the American force was not disclosed.

In view of the new collaborationist regime of Pierre Laval at Vichy—and of the previous angry outburst from Vichy when the United States sent a consul-general to Brazzaville in Free French Equatorial Africa—observers expected a new outcry from Vichy over the troops in New Caledonia.

Relations between the Washington and Vichy governments have steadily deteriorated since announcement that Laval was returning to power. Ambassador William D. Leahy has been called to Washington for consultations.

This country has enunciated a policy of maintaining relations with French citizens who are in actual control of French territories.

Thus, the way for the troop landing in New Caledonia was paved last month with an announcement by the state department that the United States ways chose Noumea, the capital, as a port of call for its San Francisco-Auckland, New Zealand, route.

The island, about 280 miles long, has a white population of 17,300 of which more than 15,000 are French.

About 1,430 Japanese live on the island, most of them having come in as free immigrants but would aid Free French forces there in the defense of the island.

Vital To Allies

From a military standpoint, New Caledonia is of utmost importance to the United Nations. Lying 800 miles east of Australia, it is close to the route for the ships carrying men and munitions to the Australian bases for the projected offensive against the Japanese.

Its value as an air base was recognized even before the southward surge of the Japanese focused attention on the islands off Australia. Pan-American Air—a small proportion as indentured laborers in the mines.

The landing of the American troops on the island represented, in a manner, the winning of a race with Japan's invading armies. For weeks the Japanese have been moving steadily east and southward from Java, nearer and nearer to the trans-Pacific route from the United States to Australia.

The Nipponese now are believed to be about 1,200 miles northwest of New Caledonia on the island of New Britain and they claim to have taken two other smaller islands slightly east of New Britain.

London, April 25.—(AP)—The arrival of United States troops in New Caledonia was described by a "Free French" source tonight as a "very welcome step to insure the common defense of the allied lifeline to Australia and New Zealand."

He said the Free French agreed fully to participation of the United States in the defense of the island and that Gen. Charles de Gaulle had been in communication frequently with the United States commander there.

New Caledonia had been under Free French, rather than Vichy control, since shortly after the fall of France.

Washington, April 25.—(P)—The government imposed a blanket price ceiling today on all commodities and products sold for export.

Commandos Start for Boulogne Raid



Lor Lovat (right center), leader of the British Commando unit that successfully raided the German-occupied port of Boulogne, reads over plans of the attack with members of the unit. This picture was radioed from London to New York.

FIRST LADY HITS ANTI LABOR TALK IN ARMED FORCES

Blames It On Propaganda—
Public Also Influenced—
Says It Must Stop.

New York, April 25.—(P)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt says that some "awfully clever people" are spreading anti-labor propaganda among the nation's armed forces and she believes that labor and the American people should check such a move as a menace to a united war effort.

"There has been a decided propaganda drive against labor," she said last night at a Y.W.C.A. round-table discussion. "It is not only directed at the public mind—that would be an easy matter—but it is also being done in the armed forces."

"For the sake of our country, all of us should do all we can to beat that propaganda. It is trying to create classes, into which, Lord knows, we should not be divided. We need that feeling of urgency to win this war. The sooner we get it over with the more will come back alive."

Mrs. Roosevelt said she had heard about service men remarking "We didn't have such and such a thing because of a strike in a plant back home; if we had it, some boys' lives would have been saved."

"Now that isn't true," the first lady said, "but who started that story? That's a hard thing to find out. It is awfully easy to propagandize, and there are awfully clever people doing it."

War Bulletins

Allied Headquarters, Australia, Sunday, April 26.—(P)—Allied air fighters shot down eight Japanese bombers and three fighters yesterday over the north Australian port of Darwin. One of three strategic allied positions raided by enemy planes, General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

The other targets of Japanese raiders, a communiqué said, were Port Moresby, New Guinea, and the Solomon Island port of Tulagi.

All three were heavily attacked, the war bulletin said, but the raiders encountered "brilliant" interception.

London, April 25.—(AP)—The German radio said today it was officially announced that Maj. Gen. Gerhard Berthold, commander of a German infantry division, had been killed on the Smolensk front.

DRAFT MANY MEN WITH DEPENDENTS INTO ARMY SOON

New Rulings Sent Board—
No Deferment For Newlyweds Ordered.

Washington, April 25.—(P)—Many men with dependents may be summoned to military duty this summer in line with the new instructions to local draft boards for "more drastic action" to meet the growing manpower needs of the armed forces.

Officials noted today that the instructions of national selective service headquarters to the local boards followed estimate by Major General Lewis B. Hershey, the national director, that existing quotas of men immediately available to meet the expanding army's demands would be exhausted before fall.

In anticipation of the time when large numbers of men with dependents may have to be called, the army has asked congress for legislation providing government payments and allotments from soldiers' pay to dependents. A pending measure would provide \$40 a month for a wife and \$10 additional for each child; \$35 a month for one parent, or \$45 for two.

National headquarters also advised that no deferment be allowed men who married since Pearl Harbor, who took wives with the "primary purpose" of avoiding military service or whose wives had been providing adequately for their own support but who quit their jobs "for the primary purpose of according a basis for dependency deferment."

ORDER BLACKOUTS FOR NEW ENGLAND

Boston, April 25.—(P)—Major General Sherman L. Miles, commanding officer of the first all New England coastal lights directly visible from the sea, be shielded, dimmed or blacked out immediately until further notice.

The order explained that: "Shore lighting is silhouetting passing ships, enabling enemy submarines to attack them."

BULLETIN

Dwight Catherwood, left fielder, knocked in seven runs with a double and three singles in five trips as the Medford Cubs crushed the Redding (Cal.) Cubs, 18 to 5, in an exhibition game at the fairgrounds park last night. The two teams play again today at 2 p. m.

Manager Dutch Lieber gave up four hits and one run in the five innings he worked, and fanned seven. Walt Snider finished the seven-inning tilt and yielded three hits and four tallies.

Score: R. H. E.
Redding 5 7 0
Medford 18 17 1

Hammerickson, Allen and Bottany, Marietto; Lieber, Snider and Swanson.

Portland, April 25.—(P)—Hollywood finally tripped up the rampaging Portland Beavers tonight, winning 6 to 5, in a ten-inning coast league contest.

Score: R. H. E.
Hollywood 6 9 2
Portland 5 14 2

Osborne and Atwood; Hatcher, Orrell and Castro.

GREATER BERLIN FOREST ON FIRE

London, April 25.—(P)—The German radio said tonight that a vast fire was raging in the Grunewald district of Berlin because of the "carelessness of children."

Der Grunewald is a 7,500-acre forest in the southwest part of greater Berlin, between Charlottenburg and Potsdam. It is a favorite resort of Berliners and contains the fashionable villa colony of Grunewald, an area of small lakes and fine homes. The popular Wannsee borders the area on the south.

CAMP ADAIR PAPER
Corvallis, April 25.—(P)—The Camp Adair Sentry, the official newspaper of the army cantonment near here, made its first appearance this week.

BRITISH BATTER 3 FRENCH PORTS IN AIR ATTACKS

Nazis Retaliate With Raids—
Rostock Again Blasted—
War's Fiercest Battles.

London, Sunday, April 26.—(AP)—The Royal Air Force daylight offensive over France reached a new peak yesterday with six large-scale onslaughts in eleven hours in a fiery aftermath to a second violent night attack on Rostock.

The Germans retaliated by sending large numbers of bombers over the west of England last night and early today, cascading high explosives and fire bombs on one town.

Maintaining attacks over the longest daylight raid period of the war, the RAF pounded targets at Cherbourg, Le Havre, Calais and other points between Saturday's dawn and sunset.

During these operations the fiercest air battles of the year raged with swarms of the latest type German fighters challenging the British at levels ranging up to five miles high over a 250-mile front.

The RAF took advantage of the lengthening daylight hours to wage its massive offensive which forced the Germans to put into the air the greatest number of fighters encountered during any one day of 1942.

The success of these sweeps and the comparatively small British losses—15 fighters and one bomber—appeared to indicate the Nazis, even by straining to the limit, now are unable to muster enough fighters to match the RAF. German losses for the day were given officially by the British as eight fighters.

While Spitfires and Hurricanes weaved and dived in dogfights, American-made Bostons unloaded their bombs on targets along the German-held coast even at Rostock, the important German Baltic port, still flamed and crumbled from its second straight British assault.

Pilots of British fighter planes reported there was "tremendous fighting" yesterday high above France between British craft and formations of 10 and 20 German Messerschmitts and Focke-Wulf 109's, Germany's latest and best fighters.

Hardest blows however were dealt at Rostock, second of Hitler's great Baltic bases for the German armies of Norway, Finland and Northern Russia, to be turned into a black wreck by British bombs. Nearly a million pounds of explosives were used to blast that town in two of the most violent allied air raids of the war, the British said.

Interpreting The War News

By Kirke L. Simpson
(Wide World War Analyst)

By every lesson drawn from experience, this or some early week end should see Hitler's panzer juggernauts loosed in Russia in a final effort to annihilate the Red armies that have given him his first bitter taste of defeat.

Rarely in this war has a Hitler-timed stroke failed to fall on a week-end. The initial military reasoning which dictated that may be outworn, but it has become a Hitler habit.

Where he will strike first is a much more difficult prediction to arrive at. Full scale German attack is possible now in the Crimea and southern Ukraine. And there is official British testimony that Hitler's prime objective, wherever and whenever he strikes, will be oil sources.

"Be sure that the strategy of Germany and Japan is directly pointed at the Caucasus, Persia and Iraq, all oil producers," Lord Beaverbrook told an American audience. "Thus above all do they hope to subdue the rest of the world to their will."

That, however, is only part of the picture.

But the hope of crippling the nations war effectiveness by cutting their European oil life lines is only part of the picture. The other part is the axis' own urgent need for oil.

Japan's stunningly swift sweep down the China sea to take possession of the vast oil fields of the Dutch East Indies and now her march into Burma has achieved greater danger of allied oil strangulation on that front than all Hitler's victories have accomplished in Europe. India and China are already feeling the oil pinch. The last important producing field in Burma is dangerously threatened.

If allied sources best informed as to oil resources of the axis are right about it, however, both Germany and Japan, to say nothing of Italy, are themselves approaching oil starvation. Cumulative deficits in their reserves are steadily piling up, deficits that no synthetic production has offset.

SEN. McNARY ASKS SMALL SHOPS BE GIVEN WAR WORK

Washington, April 25.—(P)—Senator McNary (R., Ore.) urged Donald M. Nelson, director of the war production board, today to take steps to provide war work for small shops of Oregon and the nation.

The senator said that on the basis of reports from his home state and conferences with business men from Oregon he believed that one of the most important issues before the WPB now is to get the government procurement agencies to recognize the smaller concerns which have good equipment and skilled workers.

"If conditions in other states are similar to those reported to me by people from Oregon," McNary said, "there must be a very heavy war production capacity which is not yet used."

McNary said he knew Nelson was appealing to the procurement agencies and large private contractors to place business with smaller concerns but he felt confident that a heavy producing capacity was not yet enlisted.

The senator said that of 274 metal working shops in Oregon which have been studied and listed some are too small to take war work but experts have found a large number of Oregon shops equipped and manned in a manner that would insure good production.

F.D.R. TO REGISTER

Washington, April 25.—(P)—President Roosevelt will register in the cabinet room of the White House Monday morning in the nationwide counting of men between 45 and 65 to ascertain availability of man-power for non-military war duty.

CONGRESS TO ACT DESPITE F.R. PLEA FOR 40-HR. WEEK

President To Tell Views Over Radio—Overtime Pay Disturbs.

Washington, April 25.—(P)—A high administration official said today that President Roosevelt would make clear in his message to congress next week on the high cost of living that he is opposed to suspension of the 40-hour week law.

The presidential message is expected to outline a program calling for freezing most commodity prices at about March 1 levels, drastic taxes on war profits and possibly wage control. It is to be sent to congress Monday. Later, the president expects to discuss the program in a radio address to the nation.

Mr. Roosevelt was represented as taking the attitude that since most war plants were employing shifts of 48 hours or longer, the issue involved in the dispute over the 40-hour law was one of pay that could be handled satisfactorily in any directive he might make to government agencies to keep wages in line with living costs. The law requires time and one-half pay for work in excess of 40 hours a week.

Furthermore, he was said to regard proposals to suspend or repeal the law as being tantamount to changing the rules while the game is in progress. As for other labor questions, it was predicted the president would say that such issues as strikes and the open and closed shop were being worked out satisfactorily under existing agreements.

A pronouncement of this nature, however, was not expected to quiet demands in congress for restrictive labor legislation. Senator George (D., Ga.) said he regarded the 40-hour week question as the most important issue.

"I don't think the public is going to be satisfied unless congress does something about the overtime pay situation," he told reporters.

CUT DUE IN CCC CAMPS, PERSONNEL

Washington, April 25.—(P)—A retrenchment in operations of the civilian conservation corps, reducing the number of camps to 350 and the personnel to approximately 70,000, was announced today by Paul V. McNutt, federal security administrator.

A CCC spokesman described the action as an adjustment to war-time conditions, particularly to the present employment opportunities for youth.

Of the 600 camps now operating, McNutt said 202 would be closed before May 31 and an additional 48 in June, making a total of 250 to cease operations within about two months. There are about 85,000 enrollees in the CCC at present.

JAPS WILL TREAT PRISONERS FAIR

Newton, Mass., April 25.—(AP)—An army officer recently returned from the Philippines said last night that he believes American fighting men captured in the fall of "Bataan" will be given fair consideration and treatment by the Japanese.

Expressing hope that families of the captured men would be reassured by his words, Lt. Col. Warren J. Clear told newspapermen that his views were based on "my knowledge of the Japanese army."