

SEA BATTLE REPORTED OFF SHANGHAI

50 U. S. AND JAP VESSELS ENGAGED CHINESE DECLARE

Fifty Enemy Ships Sunk In Fortnight, Is Claim; Japs Flee For Homeland.

Pearl Harbor, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Unconfirmed Chinese reports said today 50 American and Japanese ships battled for nine hours within 300 miles of Shanghai Tuesday in the biggest naval engagement since last October and that 50 enemy vessels have been sunk off the coasts of Fukien and Chekiang provinces within the past fortnight.

Japanese forces broke off the battle at noon and fled from the east China sea toward their homeland, some 650 miles to the northeast, the Chinese army newspaper Sao Tang Pao at Chungking said.

Central (Chinese) news agency, in a dispatch dated Nanking, said allied submarines and planes have been "very active" off the central China coast and accounted for 50 enemy ships in two weeks.

AMERICANS TAKE CLARK AIRFIELDS

American troops pushed within less than 40 miles of Manila today after capturing the vital Clark Field, greatest air base in the western Pacific, to open the way for increased aerial blows on Japanese bases strung along and near the China coast.

The quickening campaign on Luzon, which brought the conquest of Clark Field's dozen airstrips and nearby Fort Stotsenburg, carried American troops within 20 miles of Manila bay. The offensive was expected to make rapid progress without a major battle until it reaches at least Calumpit on the Pampanga river, 28 miles northwest of Manila.

Capture of Clark Field, which probably can be restored quickly to operational condition, was announced by Gen. Douglas MacArthur on his 65th birthday today. It also was the birthday of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, commander of the 6th army which is making the fight for the liberation of the Philippines.

Nazi Propagandists Warn Blood Purge If Red Army Wins

London, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Nazi propagandists, struggling to rally their own people and to sow dissension among the Allies, reached a new peak of hysteria today with a series of shrill warnings of a "blood purge" that they said would sweep all Europe if the Red army overruns Germany.

The official press and radio line set by Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels painted a gloomy picture of Germany, deserted by her allies at the critical hour of the war, fighting alone to "save civilization" from Bolshevism.

SIDE GLANCES

Mary Wilson readily admitting that she is a "great talker". Dick Baize kindly offering a shivering reporter a piece of gunny-sack to cover her cold ears. Penny Gail offering a belated piece of news, with apologies for her tardiness. Harry Walker, P. O. money order clerk, figuring out, via Bill Catey, another sequence for dates to compete with the recently published 1-3-45; his being 12-3-45.

Mother Appeals To British Government To Save Son's Life

Boston, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—A heartbroken Boston mother has appealed to the British government to spare the life of her soldier-son, Pvt. Karl G. Hulten, 22, who has been sentenced to be hanged in London for the robbery-murder of a London taxi-cab driver, the United Press learned today.

In a cablegram, gray-haired Mrs. Signe M. Hulten implored British Home Secretary Herbert Morrison to "answer the prayer of a mother" and grant some form of clemency to the convicted American paratrooper.

Both Hulten and his co-defendant, 18-year-old striptease dancer Elizabeth Jones, already have announced they will appeal the mandatory death sentences imposed on them early this week for shooting Taxi Driver George Heath.

BILL WOULD HIKE ATTORNEY WAGES

Salem, Ore., Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Salaries of district attorneys and their deputies would be increased by a bill introduced yesterday by Sen. Thomas Mahoney, Portland, which provides \$5700 for the Multnomah county district attorney and salaries for other counties in proportion to population.

District attorney salaries proposed included: Clatsop, Coos and Jackson counties, \$3000; Lane and Marion: \$3240; Linn, Wasco and Union \$2760, and Deschutes: \$2580.

NUMEROUS FIGHTS ON ITALIAN FRONT

Rome, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Headquarters today reported numerous clashes along the 5th army front as American patrols probed German positions, while in the Adriatic sector 8th army units fought out two attacks on strong points.

American patrols tested out the German positions all along the 5th army front and drew strong enemy reaction.

PAPER SHORTAGE TO CONTINUE AFTER WAR

Washington, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—The department of commerce predicted today that the paper shortage would continue for one year after the end of the European war.

In a survey of the industry, W. Leroy Neubrecht, chief of the department's pulp and paper unit, estimated that there would be a world deficit of 1,000,000 short tons of paper and paperboard for the first year after V-E day.

ROADSIDE BUSINESS ATTACKS Highway 'Freeway' Proposal

Salem, Ore., Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—The Oregon joint legislative roads and highways committee today had under consideration arguments opposing and favoring the proposed limited access bill, also known as the "freeway" measure.

At a large public hearing late Thursday, opponents of the bill charged that it is a "vicious" piece of legislation, "poorly conceived" and an "unwarranted delegation of authority", saying that it was against the interests of hundreds of small property owners of the state.

Give Commission View Officials of the state highway commission, headed by T. H. Banfield, chairman, R. H. Baldock, engineer, and J. M. Devore, legal council, presented the highway department's favorable view of the bill, sponsored by the Portland Chamber of Com-

YANKEES BLUNT NAZI OFFENSIVE IN NORTH ALSACE

Another Five Square Miles Seized West of Cologne; Now 10 Miles in Germany

Paris, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—American armies blunted the Nazi offensive in northern Alsace today, seized another five square miles of Germany west of Cologne and, according to a Berlin report, struck out from the former Ardennes bulge in a new assault along a 30 to 35-mile front.

The 102nd infantry division of the ninth army added another five square miles to the American line along the west bank of the Roer river 27 miles due west of Cologne, with an unopposed advance across the Wurm river just north of Linnich before dawn.

Germans Pulled Out The advance resulted in the capture of Brachelen, two miles northwest of Linnich and 10 miles inside Germany. Patrols reported the Germans had pulled out of the area under cover of darkness last night.

The British second army also enlarged the allied springboard for the next phase of the advance into the German Rhineland with a 2,000-yard Nazi advance that engulfed six more Nazi villages six to 12 miles northwest of Linnich.

The British forces reached the Wurm along a two-mile stretch and erased all of the German bridgehead west of the Roer with the exception of a strip less than a mile deep. Grebben, Huloven, Dremmen, Horst, Norm, and Hoven were captured and a front dispatch said the German lines were "sagging at a quickening tempo."

Public Hearing To Discuss Diversion of Klamath Water

Yreka, Calif., Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Residents of northern California and adjoining parts of Oregon will have a chance to speak their minds on proposals to divert water from the upper Klamath river watershed into the Sacramento river behind Shasta dam, it was announced today.

The U. S. army engineers have scheduled public hearings at Klamath Falls, Ore., Feb. 20; Yreka, Feb. 21, and Eureka, Calif., Feb. 23 to discuss two alternate proposals for the diversion, it was announced.

Increase Sought On Butter Price

Chicago, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—A joint committee representing the American butter industry today recommended that the price of butter be increased six cents per pound to relieve the existing shortage.

The committee also recommended that butterfat production and close associates fear he might not live until his federal court probation expires in May, it was reported today.

COLD SNAP AND COAL SHORTAGE HIT NORTHEAST

Albany, N.Y. Closes Schools, Libraries, Amusement Places; Fuel Lack Critical

By United Press A transportation crisis, caused by a paralyzing cold wave that threatened vital war shipments, caused federal, state and local officials to clamp rigorous new living restrictions today on one-third of the American public living in the northeastern states.

Civilians in this area faced the prospect of less coal for their homes, possibly none for public gathering places, and severe shortages of all except locally-raised food products in the immediate future as freight handlers battled snow and ice to move essential war materials only.

Fuel Supply Cut With sub-zero temperatures severely taxing fuel supplies, Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes curtailed coal deliveries in the storm-bound area and urged that no coal be used in amusement places, schools, and public buildings "until further notice."

At Albany, N. Y., Acting Mayor Frank Harris immediately ordered all public schools, libraries, bowling alleys, night clubs, and other amusement places closed, effective Sunday. Harris said coal dealers told him the fuel situation in Albany was critical.

The Pittsburgh Board of Education met with government officials this afternoon to decide whether to take similar action. An embargo on all freight shipments except war goods to, from and within the storm-bound area, invoked earlier in the week, was extended through the week-end and dealers expected acute shortages of fresh fruits and vegetables and a scarcity of eggs by the middle of next week.

Transportation lines virtually were frozen to a standstill in New England and northern New York areas in what railroad officials described as one of the worst transportation crises in history.

Hoyt Warns Nation Losing Battle On Diplomatic Front

San Francisco, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Palmer Hoyt, publisher of the Portland Oregonian and former domestic chief of the office of war information yesterday warned that the United States is losing the war diplomatically while winning it on the military front.

It's time, Hoyt said, "that we win this war on every front, diplomatic as well as military. The events in Greece, the confusion that darkens the future of France... the complete breakdown of Chiang's Chinese legend, all indicate how tragical we have failed to make the proper deals when we held the blue chips."

"Are we so enthralled with the British empire policy," Hoyt asked, "that we cannot force by immediate sanctions the actual lifting of news censorship there so that we may know what is going on?"

Black Market Deal Brings Jail Terms

Detroit, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Thirty-two persons, including a pair of newlyweds and the wife of a serviceman, were under sentence today for black market gasoline operations after appearance before Federal Judge Frank Picard.

Most of the defendants were Detroit filling station operators, and others were described by federal authorities as "hangers-on."

Cutting Up the Reich



Berlin admits East Prussia has been cut off from the remainder of Germany by a Soviet thrust in the Baltic near Elbing. Other Russian troops were reported battling in Konigsberg. Moscow says its forces were within 124 miles from Berlin, presumably near Poznan or beyond Steinau, where a spearhead had crossed the Oder River. Other Oder crossings were made to the southeast and a new drive gains on Hungary-Slovakia border area. Observers believe the Russians might form a new defense line from Vienna to Kolberg, running about 80 miles from Berlin.

New York Farmer Hosts 140 Snow-Bound Drivers in Home

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—James W. Ehrmentraut, Churchville, N. Y., farmer, who was host to more than 140 snow-bound motorists in his 14-room house, admitted today it was quite an experience, but boasted he could have "taken care of another hundred."

Ehrmentraut's impromptu house party began Wednesday night as automobiles and trucks were halted by a blizzard. The stranded travelers found hospitality, food and fun at Ehrmentraut's home. Two still were there today.

The farmer said that 10 pounds of his home-cured bacon had been eaten as well as 400 cans of soup, a case of coffee, and an unestimated amount of breakfast food, commandeered from stalled trucks.

Peer, also from a stalled truck, added to the conviviality of the snow-bound guests.

CHILD KILLED AS PLANE HITS HOME

Los Angeles, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—An army pilot and a four-year-old child were killed yesterday when a P-38 dropped from a formation and plunged into a house, spewing flaming gasoline over the neighborhood.

Dead were 2nd Lt. Emil B. Feaster, 28, Phoenix, Ariz., the pilot, and Dennis Walker, 4, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Walker, whose home was crushed by the blazing ship.

Efforts to save the infant were balked when machineguns, set off by the heat of the burning plane, sprayed .50 calibre bullets into nearby houses.

Mrs. Walker, the boy's mother, was at a neighbor's house when the plane crashed and before she could reach her son, a wall of fire had imprisoned him.

RELATIVES HEAR FROM PRISONER HELD BY JAPAN

Washington, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Rep. Homer D. Angell (R., Ore.) said today he had been informed by the office of price administration that it would not prosecute grocers who had violated the Christmas day food point cancellation order before 5:05 p. m. (EWT) December 25.

Angell said he had made inquiries when told that the Portland, Ore., OPA office had threatened to initiate enforcement proceedings against Portland grocers.

He was informed, he said, that the order was announced December 25 because a "leak had developed" and it was necessary to release the order earlier than had been intended.

However, the order could not be filed formally in the federal register on the holiday and actually was not filed until 5:05 p. m. the following day.

COMMITTEE VOTES AGAINST WALLACE

Washington, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—The senate commerce committee today voted against the nomination of Henry A. Wallace to be secretary of commerce.

The committee also voted, 14 to 4, to recommend senate passage of a bill to strip the commerce department of its supervision over the multi-billion dollar federal lending agencies.

A motion to approve the Wallace nomination was rejected by a vote of 14 to 5.

Nine G.I.'s Admit Theft of Supplies

Paris, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Nine American soldiers pleaded guilty today to stealing army supplies and were sentenced by a court martial to five years in prison at hard labor and dishonorably discharged from service.

The men, who were repentant and begged to be sent to the front, were charged with stealing 1100 packs of cigarettes, five boxes of rations, 20 pounds of coffee and three cases of bacon.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF AIR MEDAL FOR GRANTS PASS FLIER

Posthumous presentation of an air medal and two oak leaf clusters to Sgt. Mark A. Mitchell of the army air corps was made yesterday to the sergeant's father, Elmer Mitchell at the latter's home near Grants Pass. The presentation was made by Capt. O. M. Smith, commander of the Medford air base.

Sgt. Mitchell's parents already have the silver star medal and the purple heart awarded to their son. The awards were based on a bombing raid made Oct. 11 in 1943 on an enemy held harbor in the far eastern war theater.

The Mitchells formerly resided in Medford moving later to California and then returning to southern Oregon.

Nelson Optimistic On China's Effort Washington, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Donald M. Nelson has reported to President Roosevelt that China, with the aid of American experts, has now coordinated her economic war effort "for the first time" and is "throwing its weight into the job of winning the war." The White House revealed today.

BABY GIRL

Camp White—First Lt. and Mrs. Albert J. Franklin are the parents of a five and one-half pound daughter born yesterday at Sacred Heart hospital. The child has been named Carol Jane. Since Lt. Franklin's assignment as finance officer at Camp White, the Franklins have made their home at 16 Laurel street, Medford.

CENTRAL POINT HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

Central Point, Jan. 26.—Fire, believed caused by faulty wiring destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Perborse, near Central Point, Monday evening. The family was away and lost all furniture and clothing except the clothing they were wearing.

NEWSPAPERS' HELP IN-BOND CAMPAIGN LAUDED BY LEADER

Washington, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—The nation's newspapers, radio stations and advertisers contributed \$25,000,000 worth of space to urging the people to buy bonds during the sixth war loan campaign, more than in any previous drive, according to the War Finance division of the treasury.

Thomas H. Lane, director of press and radio advertising, said newspapers, radio, advertisers and agencies, periodical and outdoor advertisers "all contributed their magnificent driving force to a degree never surpassed."

LAW CAN'T FORCE WIFE TO COOK IS RALING BY JUDGE

Hollywood, Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—There's no law that a wife has to cook for her husband. Superior Judge William S. Baird so ruled in the case of Mrs. Mildred E. Pederson, suing for divorce from Theodore, her husband for 22 years.

Until the case is settled, Pederson wanted to keep on eating home cooking.

"The court cannot force her to cook for you," the judge said. "You'll just have to eat out."