

NAZI, ITALIAN ENTRY NOT TO ALTER PICTURE

By DeWitt MacKENZIE
Wide World War Analyst

The declaration of war against the United States by Germany and Italy, in alliance with Japan, was fully expected and doesn't alter the position materially.

Herr Hitler, as overlord of the axis, undoubtedly hopes that the moral effect of this declaration, delivered at a moment of great triumph because of Japanese successes, will benefit his cause, however, it is likely that the effect has been largely discounted in advance.

True, this may presage more direct action against the United States. Indeed one would expect this to be so. But that action would have come in any event, for the normal axis strategy is to strike without warning. It happens to suit Hitler's purpose now to make a show of the formality.

As for the Japanese end of our now all-inclusive war, the long lane is showing some slight curves even though no turning has developed.

We have some good news to go with the bad. Foremost is the announcement by an American army spokesman in Manila that "the situation is completely in hand" in connection with the Japanese landings on the island of Luzon, of which Manila is the capital. With this is recorded the fine success of our bombers in making three direct hits on a Jap battleship off Luzon and leaving it a blazing mass.

This is encouraging in view of the vital importance of the defense of the Philippines. The battle of the Pacific at this moment pivots on the Japanese assaults against the two great allied bases—our own Philippines and Britain's Singapore.

Possession of these two powerful bases is essential to control of the Pacific. That is to say, it is essential to successful prosecution of the war in the far east.

While the word from Manila is cheering, we shouldn't jump to conclusions. The Japanese attack is continuing, with fighting forces ashore at various points, and a further landing of parachute troops at an airport near Ilanga was reported this morning. We have to sail through a lot of dirty weather yet.

The sensational success of the Japanese in the first round of this fresh conflict very naturally has distracted attention from the European war. Had the world taken trouble to glance at this theatre it would have learned that the Russians have had further successes, both in the Leningrad and the Moscow sectors, and report inflicting bloody losses on the Germans.

Simultaneously the nazis announce with apparent complacency that their advance forces have withdrawn to winter lines along the Russian front. The military spokesman in Berlin said the German push eastward was finished until spring. That is cheerful news for the allies, for it will give the bolsheviks a chance to recuperate from the effects of their fierce struggle thus far.

Sooner or later all groups must realize that all, in the long run, will be better off if they will get together on a program of building a greater America. Instead of each group working selfishly in its own particular interest. — Edward A. O'Neil, president American Farm bureau.

A gnat is an insect.

Defense Savings Bond Sales Take Jump in Klamath

Buying of government defense bonds took a decided jump and almost entered the boom class Tuesday afternoon as prospective buyers lined up at banks and other points where bonds and stamps have been sold the past six months.

Although figures were not available, one institution reported the sale of more than \$20,000 worth of bonds before 11 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Purchase of tax anticipatory certificates have also been on the increase, it was stated.

SEVEN AIR BASES TO BE CONSTRUCTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—Army air corps officials informed members of congress yesterday sites had been selected for seven new air bases to be constructed in the United States at a cost of approximately \$12,000,000 each.

Senator Gurney (R-S.D.) said he was notified the new bases would be at Syracuse, N. Y., Richmond, Va., Rapid City, S. D., Columbus, O., Walla Walla, Wash., Greenville, S. C., and Nashville, Tenn.

Gurney said the construction program was expected to begin immediately and that the bases which would have between 5000 and 6000 men would be used for tactical training after preliminary training had been given at other places. The senator said the Rapid City base would be interceptor, fighter or bombardment groups.

Members of congress said the bases at Walla Walla and Columbus each would have a complement of 400 officers, 4500 enlisted men and about 130 planes. The Walla Walla base will comprise 1500 to 2000 acres.

Members of the city-wide air-base committee said Wednesday that they consider it possible Walla Walla may be the first phase of extensive military aviation development on the Pacific coast.

They stated they had no further information on the possibility of a site at Klamath Falls. The air corps has complete information on this possible location, it was stated.

Rear Admiral Kidd Killed at Hawaii

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—The navy announced today that Rear Admiral Isaac Campbell Kidd was killed in action during the attack on Pearl harbor, Hawaii, Sunday.

Kidd was flag secretary and aide on the staff of the commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, Admiral Husband Kimmel.

Admiral Kidd reported for duty as chief of staff and air commander of battleships of the battle force on February 3, 1940, and was in command of a battleship division of the Pacific fleet at the time of his death. The ship on which he was serving was not named.

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