

The Evening Herald

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MALCOLM EYLES

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NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—The shocking speed with which Singapore collapsed is hard to explain.

It looks like the British were tricked into making the wrong preparations. They had expected a long siege or a Jap by-passing of the Bastion. Instead they were outwitted by a smashing blitz so cleverly conceived and so swiftly executed that the Japs must have been working on it for years.

The British had no sooner blasted the causeway from the mainland and settled back on a seventy-mile circle of defenses than the surprises started. Five days after the Japs arrived on the opposite shore they opened one of the most terrific artillery bombardments seen in this war anywhere. How they got so many big guns up through the jungle and into position with such speed, no one yet knows.

The counter batteries set up by the British (their big guns had long been faced the other way to meet attack by sea), were wholly inadequate. For two days (Feb. 5 and 6) the roads and communications of the island were blasted by a continuous hail of shells—one remote road in particular as it turned out later.

COLOSSAL FEINT

The Japs then executed a colossal feint. They encouraged the British to believe they intended to storm the island by direct assault, and seized Ubin Island (Feb. 7) off the northeast tip, in obvious conformance with that purpose.

The shelling and dive bombing increased next day and the British began to notice "menacing troop movements in the rear of the Jap positions" but they were wholly unprepared to meet the assault which came that night across Johore straits at the opposite end of Singapore—the remote, northwestern marshy section, where attack was most difficult, where the British thought the marshes protected them, where they were least ready to meet strength.

The Japs had trained troops to get through those particular marshes at that particular time. This was apparent from the efficiency with which they went about their business, and from their equipment which included steel boats, armored sufficiently to withstand machine-gun fire. (How they brought up these so quickly is another unanswered question.)

Only two side roads lead out to this marshy section, and when the blow fell, (if not before) the British discovered that the shelling and dive bombing of the previous days had been aimed at these roads more than any others. British communications

from their main forces in the center were therefore difficult. Within a few hours, a never-ending stream of Japs had slipped in the marshy backdoor to Singapore and established a front ten miles long.

With no air force to protect the British troops against machine gunning from above and the continuous shelling from the big Jap guns, the British were doomed from that hour.

PREPARED

These tactics show how long and well the Japs had prepared for this war. Like the Hitler generals who spent years in detecting and planning to exploit the defect they discovered in the Maginot line, the Jap general staff worked out the weakness of "impregnable" Singapore, and marshaled the necessary force and material to penetrate it.

From the event of Pearl Harbor to Singapore you can see now the painstaking finesse in ten or twenty years or more of work—well screened behind broken naval treaties, and lately behind an assumed position of weakness in China. They let the world believe for the last three years that they had lost the Chinese war. They played weak and poverty stricken while they trained troops in specific detail for a greater conquest.

Their statesmen talked peaceful intentions, while their military got the scrap-iron and oil from us and others to build the vast machinery of conquest—swarms of ships, tanks, planes, big guns. They edged peacefully into Formosa, then into Indo-China and then they were ready to strike.

First they had to immobilize our fleet by a treacherous timing of war action and a specially designed attack on Pearl Harbor. Then they unveiled their especially trained task forces and equipment to penetrate the Malayan jungle, the rice fields and all the natural "impregnable" defenses of Singapore.

Finally they show up just the right artillery, just the right boats, just the right scheme to seize the British bastion. And they are marching on to new surprises.

Can anyone now doubt what this war is about? Do these circumstances not prove that this is more than "axis aggression" or a belligerent search for raw materials, or the usual political war? Has it not now disclosed itself to be, as far as we are concerned, the long awaited war to conquer western civilization, in which all questions narrow down to the single one of whether we can survive or not?

Can anyone now remain apathetic to the danger confronting us?

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—They've thrown away the keys to the Tucson high school.

When regular classes end at 3 p. m. an adult class in welding and aircraft sheet metal fabrication moves in. When that group goes home at 11 p. m., another goes to work.

The janitors barely have time to sweep up after it leaves at 6 a. m.

Klamath's Yesterdays

From the files — 40 years ago and 10 years ago.

From the Klamath Republican
February 13, 1902

Ashland, Grants Pass, Roseburg and other towns in southern Oregon have active boards of trade, which are accomplishing much to promote their interests. Klamath Falls ought to have a similar organization.

The following children of Miss Cogswell's department of the Klamath school were neither tardy nor absent in the last month: Lloyd Clopton, Leon Boggs, Abere Moore, Etta Moore, Ida Miller, Audrey Farrar, Etta Turner, Henry Stidham, Johnnie Siemens, Marjorie McClure, Glenn Beals, Virgil DeLap.

In Malheur county, the oil borers are greatly encouraged and excited over the recent striking of oil in one place, a good flow of oil was found at a depth of 110 feet.

From The Evening Herald
February 13, 1932

Directors of the Chiloquin State bank voted this morning to liquidate the bank.

Henry Gerber, O. J. Hauge, Tom Thorne and Sam Richey left this morning on a ski trip to Lake o' the Woods.

The Beatty pool hall burned last night.

Ashland's basketball team de-

feated Klamath Falls, 35-25, last night.

FUNERAL

MILLARD F. LANG

The funeral service for the late Millard F. Lang, who passed away in The Dalles, Ore., on Tuesday, February 10, will take place from the chapel of Ward's Klamath funeral home, 925 High street, on Saturday, February 14 at 10:30 a. m., the Rev. Mildred Miller officiating. Commitment service and vault entombment in Hill cemetery at 2:30 p. m. Friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Date for Catholic Charity Sunday Set

PORTLAND, Feb. 13 (AP)—Catholic charities Sunday will be observed in Oregon March 15, the fourth Sunday in Lent, Archbishop Edward D. Howard announced today.

The annual appeal for memberships to aid the cause of charitable institutions will be extended to eastern Oregon by the Most Rev. Joseph F. McGrath, bishop of Baker.

CAN'T EAT AN ORCHARD SEATTLE, (AP)—The onion is pushing the orchard for the place of honor in next month's Pacific Northwest flower and garden show.

The exhibition—which would have turned up its nose at the fanciest of broccolis and rhubarbs in recent years—will feature a victory vegetable garden.

It's likely that blowouts are going to make a lot of touring plans fall flat this coming summer.

We'll Take MacArthur

WENDELL WILLKIE proposes that General Douglas MacArthur be lifted from the fox holes of Bataan and be given supreme command of the armed forces of the United States.

The proposal has great merit. If it gains popular momentum, it may make possible a move that otherwise would be difficult for psychological reasons.

For MacArthur to leave Bataan without such preparation in the public mind, might look as if he were deserting the field of battle. His leaving because the American people wanted him to do so, in order that he might be given greater responsibilities, should eliminate any such idea in the minds of the American people, MacArthur's forces on Luzon, and the enemy.

Thus far, we have seen no evidences of any intention to relieve or rescue MacArthur and his valiant band. If they fight on against overwhelming odds, the ultimate result will be capture or death for the great leader.

That would be an inestimable loss. It would give us a martyr, but we would rather have MacArthur, alive and carrying on with the daring and the brilliance that have marked his part in the unequal struggle on Luzon. For MacArthur to be captured or killed would be a serious blow to allied morale. For this leader to be saved for greater service would be a great lift to allied morale.

Certainly MacArthur's staff on Luzon must now be fully familiar with his strategic plan. It could be carried on without him. MacArthur should not be lost on Bataan.

It Was An Offensive Blow

BECAUSE of serious blows at Singapore, in the English channel and elsewhere, the delayed reports on the success of the American attack on Gilbert and Marshall islands will not get the prominent attention it would otherwise receive. For one thing, the news is a few days old, and it sounds a bit as if it were timed to take the edge off gloomier information from other points.

But there is a lift in the story of this mid-Pacific incident, and you might read it again. For it reveals an offensive blow, a pleasing departure from the deadening defensive position in which we and our friends have been in for so much of the time in this war.

It was daring. It was an attack. It was the kind of a thing that is going to have to be done, again and again, to win this war. If there is anything in the news from the war that stands out consistently as a lesson, it is that he who takes the initiative succeeds.

Registration February 16

THE third selective draft registration comes on Monday, February 16. The selective service headquarters gives us this brief summary to show who should register:

Born on or after February 17, 1897, and on or before December 31, 1921.

Had become 20 years of age on December 31, 1941, and had not become 45 years of age on February 16, 1942, unless already registered.

Anyone who has previously registered should not register on this occasion.

A list of registration places will appear again in this paper Saturday. Anyone can register at any one of these places.

Klamath's men who are of the ages to register in this draft should scrupulously avoid any possibility of failure to register.

Employment Office To Help Ousted Aliens Find Jobs

SALEM, Feb. 13 (AP)—The U. S. employment service announced today it would help find jobs and new homes and give other assistance to the enemy aliens who are being evacuated from the 30 prohibited areas in Oregon.

The aliens must be moved by midnight Sunday from certain areas in and around Salem, Portland, Eugene, Corvallis, Rose-

burg, Grants Pass, Medford, Marshfield, Umatilla, Pendleton, La Grande and the Bonneville dam area.

"While our officers may be of direct help only in finding jobs or in taking claims for unemployment benefits to eligible workers, we are prepared to advise aliens concerning necessary travel or rehabilitation," Harry Ketterman, acting state director of the employment service, said.

When they start building cars again why not make 'em with ready-bent fenders so they'll always look like new?

TODAY and TOMORROW

2 BIG HITS!

Ken Maynard in "Trailin' Trouble"

Sailors on leave
William Lundigan, Tom Kennedy and Shirley Ross

20c Tax **RAINBOW** Always Two Big Pictures

PINE TREE
FRIDAY and SATURDAY

2 Smash HITS
YOU'LL SUSPECT EVERYONE... Including Yourself!

*It's the master movie mystery of the year... with a thrill and a chill every moment!

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A Paramount Picture

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CHESTER MORRIS
JEAN PARKER

AND THERE'S ACTION EVERY MINUTE in
"LAW OF THE JUNGLE"
With Arlene Judge and John King

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WILLING?
She's Eagar!
A Whirlwind ALL Women

DIETRICH and MacMURRAY
The Lady is Willing

With 'Carnival of Rhythm' and All the Late News

SATURDAY and SUNDAY ONLY
Two Thrillers!
THE FIRST ONE IS

MEET MR. AND MRS. SOLVE IT!
A TRAGEDY at Midnight
John HOWARD - Margaret LINDSAY

AND THE SECOND ONE—

Autry in the Republic Picture
UNDER FIESTA STARS
Smiley BURNETTE - Carol HUGHES

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SON OF FURY
The Story of Benjamin Blake
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