

# Herald and News

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## NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—The trouble at Guadalcanal has been that the main Jap battle fleet was centered in an area just north of there, while ours was scattered around the world.

The Japs, therefore, have been able to call upon an overwhelming force of naval power to center upon that one point any time they chose and we could do nothing to balance it. Their naval strength available for summoning to that point outclasses ours. Paul Mallon probably two to one.

Ashore, on that magnetized fly speck in the far Pacific, the opposing forces apparently were about equal, after the October 15 Jap landings. Each side presumably had something like 15,000 men.

But the final outcome of the struggle obviously rested from the start, not upon the land strength, or upon the ability of either side to reinforce its forces, but solely upon the extent to which the Japs would choose to use their fleet. With it, they might seize control of the seas at anytime, and isolate our resisting land force.

This is the reason why Navy Secretary Knox and other officials lately have been viewing the situation with open pessimism. While the official communiques may have been holding back some phases of the operation, the basic situation was enough to inspire apprehensions.

You may have noticed, the communiques on this subject, for the first time since the war began, have been current, that is, dealing with day to day action. Up to this time the navy has espoused a policy of silence during actual continuing operations, and waited until engagements were concluded or longer before announcing anything important about them.

**BLAME GEOGRAPHY**  
 Conflicting announcements about our plane operations the past week are attributable to the fluctuating status of our all-important airfield on the island. One day it was announced no American planes had been in the air for 48 hours, while the next day's news recorded the overwhelmingly successful operations of American planes.

Obviously, the Japs had been able to obstruct our operations from the airfield. Their artillery and bombers could knock it out for a day or so, but our subsequent operations from the field against their ships reflected the ability of the marines to put it back to effective use.

The main big weapon we had been able to swing against their naval concentrations was our land-based bombers, operating not only from this field, but from distance from New Caledonia and the New Hebrides.

These operations, coupled with hit and run maneuvering by our cruisers and/or battleships in the area could, however, merely serve notice on the Japs that a big portion of their main battle fleet—bigger than they used before—in order to accomplish the objective which they had been pecking at.

That they intended to come in with greater superiority next time has been evident, in the fact that they called troops on transport from the Philippines and even far away China, and gathered them at their various nearby South Pacific bases.

You will have to blame geography most for an unsatisfactory condition like that.

**PROHIBITION REMOTE**  
 Dries have not descended upon Washington to promote national prohibition as they did in the last war. Congressional agitation which you see in the day's news, merely is the result of local dry activity out in some sections in the country.

In many of the local option elections this year, dries have

## SIDE GLANCES



"You know you do it on purpose—you let that cat out every day just to wreck our war dog training!"

shown renewed strength. An authoritative computation indicates the dries have gained about 16 local communities in the last 42 contests this year.

The explanation of Senator Josh Lee's attempt to tack a military post prohibition on the draft bill is two-fold. His Oklahoma is a dry state, into which liquor has seeped to the army in considerable quantity. Also, on a national scale, considerable trouble has developed from liquor dispensing conditions around army posts.

But when Mississippi's dry Senator Bilbo attempted to start a national dry campaign two or three months ago with a meeting here, no one came (including the noted dry leaders like Henry Ford, who were invited.)

So while the prohibition movement has gained some considerable momentum since the start of the war, it does not yet appear to be a potent political factor.

It is true that quiet local temperance units, exerting individual pressure upon politicians, without any national display, could conceivably exert a controlling influence on congress. So far, however, national prohibition is only an extremely remote possibility.

## OVERSEAS MAIL DEADLINE NEARS

Eight more days left to mail overseas packages, warned the postoffice department Thursday. All parcels going to men in the service who are stationed in foreign parts, in other words all mail which must travel by water, must be in the hands of the postoffice department by November 1. After that date delivery cannot be guaranteed.

Response has been "pretty good," the postmaster stated, and many are taking advantage of the Pelican Bay wooden boxes which have been distributed free. The postmaster warned patrons against the sending of foodstuffs such as cakes and cookies. Canned articles and confections will probably reach their destination intact. Glasses of jelly, for example, were also frowned upon.

Hundreds of parcels have been going out within the past several weeks and as the deadline looms the parcel post window clerk has been kept exceptionally busy.

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## Park Board Measure

A CITY measure to be on the November 3 ballot which may not be fully understood is the proposal to abolish the park board as now constituted and transfer its functions to the mayor and council.

At present, under a state law, the members of the city park board are APPOINTED FOR LIFE by the circuit judge. We do not know all that was behind the passage of this law many years ago, but when we first heard of it we could hardly believe it.

Now, we favor the measure which will be on the November 3 ballot—not because we question the judgment of any circuit judge or the ability of the members of the park board. Our attitude on the matter is purely impersonal, based on a sincere belief that the method as set up in the state law is unsound.

Life appointments are hardly the thing for a park board, or any other city office, so far as that is concerned. A person appointed for life may lose interest or otherwise become unsuitable for the office, but can hang on until death parts him from the position he should have left long ago. Life appointments for public office are a rarity for that reason, being confined chiefly to the federal judiciary. That feature is enough to justify the change now proposed.

City parks are city property, and it is reasonable that their administration should be tied in closely with the policies carried out by the elective officials of the city. Those are the officials we can hold responsible, and those are the policies which come frequently before the voters for approval or disapproval through the elections of the officials that carry them out.

What is planned, as we understand it, is that the city park board will not be eliminated if this measure passes. A park board will be set up by city ordinance, with terms of say five years each, staggered. We suggest that present interested park board members would be ideal prospects for these appointments for, as we have said, we have no quarrel with the way they have handled the work and we do not consider this measure a "crack" at our park board. Neither do we consider it a "crack" at the present circuit judge or any judge of the past who has had this appointive job thrust upon him by state law.

As far as we are concerned, we would prefer if the park board set-up were provided in the city charter, with appointments by the mayor to be confirmed by the council. Perhaps this can be done later. The proposal on November ballot could be the first step in this direction.

## Big Crop Goals for 1943 Will Be Needed for War

With an army of 10 million men in the offing, it is understandable why 1943 farm production goals calling for a food output even greater than this year's record total will be needed, reports R. B. Taylor, chairman of Oregon's USDA war board.

Selective service and army officials indicate that America's armed forces will number about 10 million men by the end of 1943. The food requirements of an army of that size will take a large share of the nation's food production. This required production is recognized as a national task in which farmers will need full support in meeting labor and other problems.

"One day's rations for such an army will take almost 41 million pounds, or 815 carloads of food," Taylor said. "That's food in concentrated forms—canned, dried and dehydrated—that can be shipped to the fighting fronts."

Oregon's entire 1942 pork production would do little more than supply a week's meat rations for America's projected 1943 army, points out Taylor. The daily food requirements for 10 million men, based on the army's menu for expeditionary force No. 1, will include 9,355,000 pounds of meat and meat substitutes, 4,654,000 pounds of dairy products, 7,345,000 pounds of cereals, 7,345,000 pounds of vegetables, 5,908,000 pounds of fruits and 12,765,000 pounds of other foods.

Food for the army comes first, and unless farm production can be increased proportionately, less food will be available for civilians, the war board chairman explains. Farmers are willing to do their job, he believes, but they will need more help. Farms will probably lose additional men to the armed forces

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## Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 500 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules, are warmly welcomed.

## GALS AND SPUDS

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor)—As a man trying to put over the spud harvest in the Klamath basin I would like to pay tribute to the Klamath high school girls.

The Paul Tschirky ranch in Tulelake was needing help badly. Spud pickers making as high as \$30 a day quit the job. Good spuds. Ominous, lowering clouds added to the dismal outlook.

I observed two cars rapidly entering the spud field, honking horns and waving hands. Two cars packed with Klamath high school girls eager to do their bit. In a jiffy, they had on belts and were ready to ramble.

They never had picked potatoes before and before I could give a few instructions one girl had completed a row across the field, one quarter of a mile, and filled every sack, 100 pounds.

We needed a truck driver, they were only getting \$10 to \$16 per day. One of the girls was behind the wheel before I could recover my shattered morale. She was an expert. They never slowed down and at quitting time they clamored for more spuds, 20 more sacks anyway.

With such girls the country can't lose the war. We will win, its a cinch.

These girls would volunteer to drive the tanks while the men do the shooting.

P. C. CHAMBERS.

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