

22-SHIP JAP CONVOY ANNIHILATED

Weather News

March 3—High 85, Low 27
Precipitation as of February 25, 1943
Stream year to date.....13.22
Last year.....9.92 Normal.....8.31

The Herald and News

ASSOCIATED PRESS IN THE SHASTA-CASCADE WONDERLAND NEA FEATURES
PRICE FIVE CENTS KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1943 Number 9736

Yanks Wipe Out 15,000 Jap Troops

By The Associated Press
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, March 4
An entire convoy of 22 Japanese ships, including 16 cruisers or destroyers, has been virtually annihilated in the Bismarck Sea and 15,000 Japanese warriors bound for the battlefields of New Guinea have been wiped out "almost to a man" by airmen of the southwest Pacific command, an allied communique announced proudly today.

The amazing victory, the bulletin said, was achieved at the cost of only three allied fighters and one bomber, while 55 Japanese planes protecting the powerful armada were shot out of the fight and many others damaged. Thirty-three of the 55 were listed as certainly destroyed and 22 as "probables."

Jap Campaign Dislocated
In addition to the 15,000 ground troops killed or drowned in the furious allied onslaught several thousand Japanese naval personnel probably lost their lives, a spokesman said.

The daring and persistent two-day aerial attack—one of the great plane-versus-ship battles of the war—"completely dislocated" the Japanese campaign, the communique said. It obviously reduced the threat to Australia. "We have achieved a victory of such completeness as to assume the proportions of a major disaster to the enemy," the communique said, and General Douglas MacArthur added that "merciful Providence must have guarded us in this great victory."

The enemy transports and warships represented an estimated tonnage of 90,000 tons.

Weather Hazard Extreme
"All are sunk or sinking," the communique said. "His (the enemy's) air coverage of this naval force has been decimated and dispersed, 55 of his planes having been shot out of combat and many others damaged. His ground forces, estimated at probably 15,000, destined to attack in New Guinea, have been sunk or killed almost to a man."

The action was executed brilliantly under extreme weather hazards and extended from the Vitiaz Straits, between the Bismarck archipelago and the New Guinea coast, south to Huon Gulf on which the Japanese bases of Lae and Salamaua are situated. The convoy started from Rabaul, New Britain, and originally consisted of 14 ships. Eight more vessels joined it yesterday shortly before the final, concentrated allied attack.

The convoy was first attacked Tuesday. Yesterday, when the last of the 22 ships was turned into a burning, listing hulk, more than 100 tons of bombs had been dropped by the allied airmen, and, as the communique said, "The entire force was practically destroyed."

Enemy Air Coverage Weak
"Our air force in all categories constantly attacked throughout the day and ship after ship was again and again hit with heavy bombs from low altitudes," the communique related.

"Enemy air coverage became weaker and weaker; his forces more scattered and dispersed; and finally his remnants, isolated and bewildered, were gradually annihilated by our successive air formations as we sent them into combat."

"Our losses were light, one bomber and three fighters shot down and a number of others damaged but returned to base."

"Our decisive success cannot fail to have the most important results on the enemy's strategic and tactical plans. His campaign for the time being at least is completely dislocated."

Dramatic Report
While formation after formation hammered the convoy yesterday, attack units kept up a constant assault on the enemy airdrome at Lae, dive bombing and strafing the field and engaging in combat with any Japanese fighters able to leave the ground. Seven of these Japanese planes were shot out of the fight, bringing to 62 the number of enemy aircraft destroyed or probably destroyed in the battle against the convoy and connected actions.

A Flying Fortress on reconnaissance over Huon Gulf off Lae last evening reported dramatically: "Three cargo ships and two destroyers, one large and one small, sighted burning from 6000 feet—remaining as last vestige of 22-ship convoy. All cargo ships on fire, smoke rising 3000 feet. Large destroyer moving slowly, oil slick pouring from stern. Small destroyer low in water; hole seen on waterline, starboard side."

A message from another Fortress late yesterday said: "Many lifeboats and Japanese in water. Many dead and much wreckage. Sighted cargo ship going under."

Allied Squadron Prepared
A spokesman, discussing the battle, said "Our air losses were so small because of the planes, the pilots and the breaks—plus thorough preparation."

The convoy started out behind a thick weather front rolling southward upon New Guinea, but it was sighted by air scouts and allied squadrons were prepared.

American and Australian pilots took off in some of the most fearful storms seen in the New Guinea area since the war began, crossed the treacherous mountains of New Guinea to find the convoy and return safely. The weather lifted somewhat Wednesday, permitting the final, concentrated assault in the Bismarck sea.

Observation of some phases of the battle was so difficult that detailed reports are still confused, but it was indicated that five ships were sunk or badly damaged Tuesday and 15 enemy planes destroyed or probably destroyed.

US Troops Near Faid

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THERE'S heart-warming news today:
Twenty-two Jap ships—the 14 we'd already heard of, joined later by eight others—are SUNK or SINKING.

Fifteen thousand Japanese ground troops, bound for the battlefields of New Guinea, are drowned or drowning in the Bismarck sea—wiped out, General MacArthur's communique says, ALMOST TO A MAN. Add to these several thousand Jap sailors who manned the ships of war and the transports and the cargo vessels that made up the expedition.

Ninety thousand tons of precious Jap shipping are gone.

THIS smashing blow to our enemy was accomplished with a loss of only ONE allied bomber and THREE allied fighters.

Get the picture:

The bomber's crew probably did not exceed eight men. The three fighters could not have been manned by more than six men—two each, a pilot and a gunner.

And some of these fliers of ours who were shot down may be safe.

PARAPHRASING Churchill slightly, never before in history was so much loss inflicted on an enemy with so LITTLE loss to our side.

If you have a boy in New Guinea, pause here and reflect gratefully how much his chances for life have been enhanced in the next few weeks by the heroism and the deadly effectiveness of these air men of ours who are mates of his.

THE Japs made the fatal mistake.

They sent a force of SHIPS among islands against a SUPERIOR land-based air force—definitely superior in quality and perhaps superior in quantity (we have no figures on the number of planes ENGAGED on both sides).

Their ships advanced under an umbrella of planes, according to the best modern practice.

Our air men tore into the Jap plane umbrella. Fifty-five of the enemy planes composing it were shot out of the air and many more damaged and put out of commission.

First the enemy air formations were broken, and then the broken remnants were hunted down and destroyed.

THE Japs had land-based planes, too—at Lae—but at the same moment when our air squadrons went out to sea to engage the oncoming Jap armada OTHER squadrons attacked the Jap airfields, destroying enemy planes on the ground and shooting down those that managed to get into the air.

That shows good LEADERSHIP.

More good leadership is shown by the establishment of air fields in ADVANCE in the neighborhood of the critical spot where the battle was to come. The enemy was out-guessed from the start.

That is what sound generalship does.

THE closeness of these fields to the scene of the fight was of inestimable value. Our planes could go forth to battle, drop their bombs, empty their guns and return to the field to RELOAD and then go back and do it all over again.

The dispatches tell over and over of WAVES of our planes tearing into the Japs.

AS to the importance of the victory, General MacArthur's communique (official communique lean over backwards in the (Continued on Page Two)

178 Londoners Die as Woman Trips on Stairs

LONDON, March 4 (AP)—At least 178 persons were killed and 60 injured in an accident at the entrance of a London subway shelter during the air raid alert last night, it was announced today.

People suffocated in a great heap after a woman tripped on the stairs and following crowds piled up, authorities said.

The ministry of home security issued a statement which said there was "no sign of panic before the accident" and no bombs fell anywhere in the district.

The text of the statement: "On Wednesday evening a serious accident took place near (Continued on Page Two)

NEW RATIONING TO USE WAR BOOK TWO

What Has Happened To Nation's Meat Supply?

WASHINGTON, March 4 (AP)—The government plans to ration meats, butter, margarine, cheese, lard and other cooking fats and oils under a single set of coupons in ration book No. 2.

This was learned today from informed authorities who withheld use of their names and it coincided with the raising of the question of what has happened to the nation's meat supply in view of unbroken reports that civilians will get an average of only about 1 1/2 pounds of meat weekly under rationing.

Each of the meat, butter, cheese and fat products is to be assigned point values, as in the case of canned and processed fruits and vegetables.

The points will be interchangeable. That is, a consumer could use all his points for the purchase of any one of these commodities or for any combination.

For example, a consumer could use all his points for the purchase of meats if he did not want or need butter, cheese and cooking fats and oils. Or if he did not want meats, he could use all the points for any of the other products.

Rationing of these foods has been scheduled to start April (Continued on Page Two)

Gandhi's in Good Spirits Today

NEW DELHI, March 4 (AP)—Mohandas K. Gandhi, who ended a 21-day hunger strike yesterday at Poona, spent a restful night and awoke in good spirits this morning, a government bulletin announced today.

Boeing Plant Seethes as WLB Awards 4 1/2c Raise

SEATTLE, March 4 (AP)—Union leaders said the great Boeing plants seethed with discontent today over the war labor board's wage award of a 4 1/2 cent an hour pay increase to the lowest bracketed workers. They termed the award inadequate.

As workers discussed the situation, plans went ahead for a big public rally Sunday under leadership of the AFL-Aeronautical union at which attendance of 40,000 was forecast and various other labor leaders, not connected with the Boeing union, joined in criticizing the WLB decision.

The Seattle Times said it had learned the union might appeal to President Roosevelt for a revision of the wage decision. At a mass meeting a week ago today, the union adopted a resolution asking Washington's congressional delegation to invite

ALLIES FALL BACK ON NORTH TUNISIAN LINE

Terrific RAF Raid Unleashed on Hamburg

By CARL C. CRANMER
Associated Press War Editor
American troops were reported within three miles of Faid pass today where they began their recent 66-mile retreat, as the Germans concentrated their striking forces on the northern and southern sectors of Tunisia.

Near the sea in the north, an allied communique announced, allied forces fell back four miles before the attack of Gen. Jurgen von Arnim. Marshal Erwin Rommel in the south was concentrating at least a part of his armor in the Mareth line whence he struck out with small infantry forces against the British eighth army, the announcement said.

Two Red Offensives
The change of emphasis from the central to the southern Tunisian fronts by the German chief of staff was further indicated by field reports received at allied headquarters that American and British forces, retracing the path of their recent defeat, had occupied Sidi Bouzid, only about 10 miles from Faid pass, without meeting opposition.

Two red army offensives northwest and south of Moscow gained momentum as the Russians smashed southeastward from the fallen fortress of Rzhev, capturing 11 towns and villages. (Continued on Page Two)

Lee Hing Has Dog Worries To Cope With

Lee Hing, 500 Broad street, gave eight dogs his bed while he slept in a chair at his one-room residence, but the animals were removed to the city pound at noon Thursday while Lee Hing drew a \$5 fine and two days in the city jail for violation of ordinance No. 902.

Lee Hing's arrest was one of the first in violation of this ordinance which sets forth, in part, that not more than two dogs over the age of three months could be kept in the city limits. Eight dogs, and one belonging to a neighbor, found refuge at Lee Hing's tiny house. Police Judge Harold Franey sentenced Lee Hing early this afternoon and remembered having removed 12 dogs from the (Continued on Page Two)

75 Families Homeless, 1 Dead in L. A. Flood

LOS ANGELES, March 4 (AP)—Approximately 75 families were made temporarily homeless, at least one person was dead and property damage was heavy in a flood which struck Los Angeles' east side and other parts of the county early today.

Scores of families in the low-lying eastern section of the city were driven to their rooftops when four to six feet of water poured through their homes, sheriff's deputies reported.

They were removed by deputies and volunteers in rowboats with only one known casualty, Ruth Correla, six weeks old, slipped from her father's arms when he was attempting to place her on the roof, and was swirled away by the current. Officers recovered the body after diving for half an hour.

Jap Plans for Coming Campaigns Badly Disrupted
WASHINGTON, March 4 (AP)—Japanese plans for the coming campaigns in the South Pacific have been disrupted by the smashing of their 22-ship convoy in the Bismarck sea by General MacArthur's air forces, Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson said today.

Reviewing the past week of the war, Patterson told his press conference that continued good news from all fronts was climaxed by the brilliant victory that left all 22 enemy ships sunk or sinking and 55 enemy aircraft shot down in a two-day battle.



Ed Ostendorf, right, local retired auto dealer, at last received confirmation Thursday of his appointment as director of the OPA district office. Mrs. Eleanor Zinnery, personnel clerk of the OPA office, is shown with the director in the above picture.

YANKS LOSE FIVE BOMBERS IN RAID

Flying Forts Pull Off Before-Lunch Blow At Rotterdam

By GLADWIN HILL
AT A U. S. BOMBER STATION IN ENGLAND, March 4 (AP)—U. S. Flying Fortresses from this station pulled a quick before-lunch raid today on Rotterdam, The Netherlands, bombing docks and warehouses and encountering only short and weak attacks from a handful of German fighters.

"(A U. S. communique said) Hamm, Germany, 140 miles east of Rotterdam, also was attacked and that five of the Fortresses failed to return, but "information available indicates 14 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Presumably all the five missing craft had been assigned to the Hamm raid."

Boomerang Boys
The "Boomerang Boys," the group based here, lived up to their name by returning without the loss of a single ship and with negligible damage.

One German fighter fell victim to a top-turret gun manned by Sgt. Stanley Tucker, 32-year-old former lumberjack from Bandon, Ore., in a Fortress (Continued on Page Two)

Ed Ostendorf Confirmed as OPA Manager

PORTLAND, March 4 (AP)—The Portland office of war information disclosed today appointment of Edward Ostendorf as Klamath Falls district manager of the office of price administration.

Ostendorf, a Klamath Falls automobile dealer, has been acting director since the district was created on February 15.

The district comprises the following Oregon counties: Lake, Klamath, Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Coos, Curry; plus two California counties: Modoc, Siskiyou.

Word of the confirmation of his appointment was received by Ed Ostendorf, director of the district OPA office, Thursday. Ostendorf is already in harness, and said that every effort will be made to give efficient service to the people of this district in a fair and just administration of the OPA program.

Ration Board Appeals for Volunteer Help

An appeal for volunteer help was issued from the war price and rationing board office Thursday afternoon.

Percy Murray of the board said the office is in "desperate need" of assistance, and particularly wanted are people who can work regularly for a while. Typists are badly needed.

Murray said that the work has piled up in the past few days, particularly in connection with fuel oil rationing and issuance of B and C gas cards. Most of the volunteer help that put the board over the top during the early rushes has gone to other jobs.

"If we can't get help, people will have to wait for the service they need so badly," said Murray. "This is war work and we hope people will respond to this plea."

Eight Men Killed in Bomber Crash in New Mexico

ALAMOGORDO, N. M., March 4 (AP)—Eight men were killed last night in the crash of an army bomber a few miles north of the Alamogordo air base, Lieut. W. G. Zelt Jr., public relations officer of the base, announced today.

Lieutenant Zelt said the plane was on a routine training flight. An army board is investigating the crash, he said.

The dead included Staff Sgt. William A. Lonnevik, Valley, Wash.

PACIFIC VICTORY SOUNDS INCREDIBLE

Folks at Home Won't Believe It, Smiles Officer

By TOM YARBROUGH
SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA, March 3 (Delayed)—An officer at fifth air force headquarters looked up smiling tonight from a stack of reports on the smashing allied victory over a Japanese convoy in the Bismarck Sea and said: "The folks back home aren't going to believe this when they see it in the papers."

"It's incredible," he continued. "We destroyed more ships than the total number of men we lost."

Like a Radio
I listened to the radio conversation among the members of a Flying Fortress formation over the convoy for a half hour this afternoon.

Their voices came through a loudspeaker in a tent beside a muddy road and their comrades at headquarters were crowded around the loudspeaker as if they were gathered around a radio at world series time.

As I walked into the tent, somebody grinned and said, "You're just in time for the bombing."

Presently the loudspeaker croaked: "Direct hit on that one—blew it right up—if we're not intercepted we'll make individual (Continued on Page Two)

British Subs Destroy Seven Enemy Vessels

LONDON, March 4 (AP)—British submarines in the Mediterranean have destroyed seven enemy vessels and damaged nine others, the admiralty announced today.

One of the submarines, it said, surfaced in the Gulf of Genoa near the Italian coast and fired on a shipbuilding yard, reporting that she "scored several hits with high explosive shells on two vessels on the stocks."

Three Per Cent Sales Tax Issue May Go to People

By PAUL W. HARVEY, JR.
SALEM, March 4 (AP)—The Oregon house tentatively approved 33 to 26 today a bill to refer a 3 per cent sales tax proposal to the people in November 1944, while the senate unanimously adopted a house bill to use up to \$4,000,000 a year of surplus income tax revenues to reduce property taxes by 10 per cent within school districts.

The house vote was taken on the committee's tax and revenue bill. It is expected the house will pass and send the bill to the senate tomorrow.

The people have defeated sales tax bills four times between 1933 and 1938.

Speaker William M. McAllister took the house floor to lead the successful fight for the bill, asserting Oregon's property and income taxes are too high, and the sales tax is the only means of reducing them.

"There is little merit in the argument that the people won't approve a sales tax because they have defeated it four times already," McAllister said. "The people defeated the income tax five times before they accepted it."

McAllister charged that high property taxes, which raised 78 per cent of all revenues raised by the state and its subdivisions, have driven industries to Washington and California, and prevented new industries from locating in Oregon.

Relatives of Men in Service Want Draft, Says Expert

WASHINGTON, March 4 (AP)—Grenville Clark, New York attorney working for a national war service act, pictured the relatives of men in the armed services today as united in wanting a draft law to put men and women into war work.

It is obvious, he told the senate military committee, that when 11,000,000 men and women are in military service their kin will represent an overwhelming majority of the nation, all agreed on the need of such a labor draft as projected in the pending Austin-Wadsworth bill.

Protesting that there is a "tremendous gap" between the nation's "all-out war talk" and actual effort, Clark declared that America must be at least 50 per cent mobilized to win the war.

McAllister charged that high property taxes, which raised 78 per cent of all revenues raised by the state and its subdivisions, have driven industries to Washington and California, and prevented new industries from locating in Oregon.

Speaker William M. McAllister took the house floor to lead the successful fight for the bill, asserting Oregon's property and income taxes are too high, and the sales tax is the only means of reducing them.

"There is little merit in the argument that the people won't approve a sales tax because they have defeated it four times already," McAllister said. "The people defeated the income tax five times before they accepted it."

News Index

City Briefs	Page 5
Comics and Story	Page 10
Editorials	Page 4
Farm News	Page 6
Markets	Page 7
Midland Empire News	Page 9
Patterns	Page 10
Sports	Page 8