

THE ALAMANANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVII

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1942

No. 52

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

President Sketches World Strategy; Australia Is Periled by Japanese Army Invasion of Its Key Island Outposts; Nelson Speeds Up U. S. War Production

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



Sumner Welles, undersecretary of state and head of the U. S. delegation to the Pan-American conference at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is cheered by spectators as he waves his hat from the Tiradentes palace, scene of the historic meeting.

BLUEPRINT: Of World Battle

While the nation girded itself for victory production on a scale never hitherto dreamed of, and while American soldiers were arriving on foreign fields ready to do battle until victory, while still others were filling the news with their heroic exploits, President Roosevelt gave newsmen a hint of the "blueprint of battle."

The President, following the close of the Churchill conferences, and the safe return of the British premier to London by airplane from Bermuda, had told little to newsmen save that there was a complete accord among the united nations.

Now he had begun to give them the picture, a portrait of battle carried on simultaneously in every part of the globe by the soldiers of all nations working in concert with each other.

Thus were found American aviators fighting in the Singapore area, with the Dutch in the East Indies, in the Philippines, over the Seven Seas, and most lately arriving in Britain and other points for service.

The President said one could look at the map of the world and assume that the anti-Axis group was doing something at almost every strategic point.

He said that joint technical committees were busy, covering the subjects of production, of transportation of produced supplies to every part of the globe, also to the assignment of fighting men and machines to points where they were most needed.

While all of his information had been of a general nature, the nearest he came to giving out details was when he said that excellent progress was being made in strengthening the Allied forces in the Pacific.

This latter statement was taken by the press to be an attempt by the President to allay Chinese fears that the Allies were not going to make a vigorous enough battle against the Japs.

The President had finished a conference with Dr. Hubertus Van Mook, lieutenant governor general of the Netherlands Indies. Dr. Van Mook came out of the conference room beaming.

JAPS: Extend Fronts

The Japs, far from being licked or even stopped, were constantly extending their front, and with reports of their continued advances spreading out with attacks on all fronts, came dispatches telling of two new ventures. These were the invasion of New Guinea and the Solomon island area; and an invasion of Burma by the Siamese as a measure to aid Japan.

Indicating a threat to Australia itself, the New Guinea invasion was paced by air attacks and a movement of naval forces. The Solomon islands lie in a chain northeast of Australia and east of New Guinea.

The Burma invasion had started at Myawaddie on the Burma-Thai frontier. This lies at the northern end of the Burmese panhandle bordering the puppet country.

PRODUCTION: OPM Finally Dies

The OPM, over which William S. Knudsen and Sidney Hillman had presided as twin geni for many hard-working, hard-fighting months prior to American entry into the war, finally died, Production Chief Donald Nelson supplanting it entirely with his new War Production board, probably to be known as WPB.

Mr. Nelson, however, had "portfolios" in his new series of divisions for most of the key men in OPM—for it was not so much a junking of an old organization as a revamping of it on a streamlined basis.

The placing of one man, Nelson, at the head of the war production effort, also necessarily called for a change in organization.

This was undertaken fearlessly by Nelson, who created five primary divisions, most of them utilizing as heads former members of the organization of OPM, SPAB and other groups.

Leon Henderson still was in charge of civilian supply; Hillman still had the labor job; Stacy May was "progress reporter," and so on down the line.

Probably the first and most vital job, almost coincidental with the naming of Nelson himself, went to Knudsen. The big motor man became a Lieutenant General, in direct charge of the speeding up of factory production in general, that is, as far as Army procurement was concerned.

But the man who was to be most in the public eye for the next few weeks was Ernest Kanzer, a new figure in the picture, who was named automobile production czar—not of automobiles, but of what the auto factories are going to make.

MAC ARTHUR: Resistance

As if to prove that the defeat of his army had been prematurely predicted, General MacArthur sprang a distinct surprise on Washington and the country's newspapers when he reported that American-Filipino resistance was continuing on the island of Mindanao in the vicinity of Davao.

An all-out Japanese effort to turn the Luzon defenders' right flank had earlier been turned back with heaviest Jap losses, and yet the danger was far from over, for the Japanese were reported returning to the attack again with vigor.

It was reported that an entire Japanese army—estimated by some as many as 300,000 men—had been thrown into the battle for Luzon and the whole Bataan peninsula front blazed into action in a renewal of the Japanese attempt to crush the defenders.

But the word from MacArthur's headquarters that fighting was continuing in Mindanao came long after official Washington had given up Mindanao for lost, and simply showed how difficult communications were in the area.

It was believed possible that MacArthur himself had thought Mindanao gone until he received belated word from the southern island that the battle was still in progress.

'March of Dimes'



Alma F. Borgmeyer, clerk in the mail room at the White House, opens mail bags jammed with "March of Dimes" letters addressed to President Roosevelt and designed to aid in the fight against infantile paralysis. The mail was reaching its peak just before the President's Diamond Jubilee Celebration on January 30.

SUB-ATTACKS: Intensified

Submarines, probably German U-boats, were pressing their attacks along the East coast of the United States, but the Navy department had reported that strong counter measures were being taken.

The whereabouts of the navy's chief strength was being kept a closely guarded secret, but all authorities from the President down continued to insist that the navy was extremely active, and was disposed in such a manner as best to meet present threats.

The sinking of a Japanese cruiser by navy bombing planes was announced, and there had been a number of sinkings of supply ships, some of them close to Japan.

Most dramatic had been the exploit of PT-boat division commander Lieutenant Bulkeley, who shot his own boat at 80 miles an hour into the Bay of Olongapo, sent a 5,000-ton Japanese vessel to the bottom and escaped unscathed.

Bulkeley's boat, a 77-foot speedster, carries heavy machine-guns and 18-inch torpedoes. He was being hailed as a hero almost on a par with Colin Kelly.

The cruiser sinking lacked details, but the navy said it was sent to the bottom 100 miles off the island of Jolo, one of the nearly 8,000 isles of the Philippine group.

Where the American bombers which did this trick and achieved other victories were based was a closely guarded secret, but there were many possible bases in territory within reach of the location where the sinking occurred.

PRICE CONTROL: 'Joker'

The price control bill, sulking in the house and senate conference under the baleful displeasure of the President, continued to bog down as prices continued to soar.

The farm relief "joker" in the bill had met with condemnation, not only from the White House, but from many leading agricultural centers, and this remained the main point of controversy in the bill.

In the meantime, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard came out with a statement that there probably would be a shortage of sugar, just after all the refinery men had gone out on a limb with the opposite prediction.

Sugar hoarders, and other purchasers of foodstuffs were continuing to storm grocery stores and cartoons were published under the caption "this little pig went to market" showing hoarders at their deadly work at the grocery counters.

Administration circles were at their gloomiest over the situation, one source saying "we had hoped to get an improvement over the house bill when we got to the senate, but the senate bill was worse than the house bill, and now most of us would be calling it a victory if we could get the house bill enacted."

MISCELLANY:

Bern: German rationing has cut men down from five cigarettes a day to three. Women are allowed no tobacco ration whatever.

Viehy: A German soldier was shot and killed outside a Paris night club. Police were able to arrest a young girl said to have been a witness. She was confronted with a dozen suspects and ordered to pick out the man who fired the shot.

Washington Digest

A Strange 'Open Secret' Blocks U. S. and Britain

Large Forbidden and Mysterious Area in Pacific Is Believed to Shelter Most of Japan's Naval Strength.

By BAUKHAGE
National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

WNU Service, 1343 H Street, N-W, Washington, D. C.

There is a strange open secret about the war against Japan which concerns a mysterious area in the Pacific ocean and about which very little is known even to our high command. Its existence explains why a little island nation is holding at bay the two greatest powers in the world—Britain and the United States.

This forbidden territory includes a group of scattered islands covering a sea space about 2,000 miles from east to west and a thousand miles from north to south. It is the hiding ground of the Japanese fleet. Military people believe that most of Japan's naval strength, not in actual use in protecting troop ships on the way to Malaysia, is sheltered there. And this sea stronghold is a tower of strength against the American navy, against aid to the Philippines, Singapore and the Netherlands Indies.

This area lies about 2,000 miles from Hawaii and extends westward from the Japanese mandated islands of the Marshall group which lie south of Wake island to the eastern extremity of the Caroline group (also Japanese mandates) a few hundred miles west of the Philippines. Guam, once ours, now Japan's, is within the area.

Accurate Reports Difficult to Obtain

"For ten years," a British diplomat said to me recently, "only one of our people who got into that area ever came out to report what he saw."

Americans have similar tales to tell. In 1939 a fishing boat from the island of Saipan, one of this group, was wrecked near Guam but, when an American ship started to return the survivors, a Japanese ship stopped them at sea and took off the survivors.

It is known, however, that for a decade great quantities of cement and other building materials, endless stores of food and war supplies have been pouring into that zone where it is believed that among the nearly 2,000 islands lie at least 50 bases. There are no known large harbors but there are plenty of submarine and air bases and big ships can be fed and watered and supplied with munitions for an indefinite period. From these spawning grounds Japan can strike in all directions, threatening the sea routes from our western shores to the southwestern Pacific.

Here is the hornet's nest from which the swarms of enemy air and sea craft are making their sorties against the reinforcements from America which are the only hope for Singapore and the Netherlands Indies.

Already the Philippines are virtually a part of this nest. As soon as the Japanese had secured beachheads in the archipelago, they made temporary air bases and the narrow waters which might give entrance to American supply ships were made impassable. Even if American supply ships could have reached the islands in time to save Manila and relieve General MacArthur, they could not have penetrated the narrow waters protected by land-based planes. American bombers—our pitifully few bombers—did some damage to the Japanese here, but bombers cannot fight long against protecting interceptors and fighters. The little fighting planes can fly only a few hundred miles. We have few airplane carriers and it would be risky business to send them past the hornet's nest. Carriers are about the most vulnerable things afloat.

Japs Were There 'Fustest with Mostest'
The Japs applied the ancient principle of being there "fustest with the mostest" of everything, and the carefully built "hornet's nest" was created to the utter indifference of the American public in spite of the futile warnings of military men.

In February of 1941 the navy asked for \$5,000,000 to improve the harbor facilities of Guam. Congress turned down the appropriation. "It is not a wise thing for the American navy to go 6,000 miles from home when we do not have a single thing to defend in that territory..." was one of the arguments against this appropriation. In the

same debate the statement was made that "for Japan to attack the United States, it would have to have twice as big a navy as it has now."

There is no use to cry over spilt milk, but it is well to recall when people are asking "where is the United States navy?" to know where the Japanese navy is and what an impenetrable wall of defense Japan built for her navy right under our noses, the presence of which now postpones united nations' victory in the Far East.

Washington—A World Center

These days Washington is a citadel within a citadel, a world center which, paradoxically, is nearer its circumference than all else within the circle. On the perimeter of America's existence is the war. It is very far away. It is a dim and distant domain where men and boys from American cities stand on ice-fringed decks in the North Atlantic; where others stand—and fall—in the swamps and jungles of the Far East; where still others hurtle through the bullet-and-shell-torn heavens.

Between that frightful edge of things and the separate beings bound to it by fragile threads of anxiety, lies the vast expanse of peaceful America, still sleeping to the murmur of distant guns, shuddering only fitfully now and then when bitter news stabs a waiting heart.

Anxiously but impersonally calm, nearer to that vague, far-flung undulating line which is the front, is Washington, the dynamic center of wartime America. Here is known all the hope, fear, triumph and defeat that the rest of the nation does not know; yet knowing that only a fraction of what it knows is truth. For certainty today is speculation tomorrow. Here, in the citadel within the citadel, the impendability of war rests with all its weight upon the slender minds of men.

A Revealing Book On Nation's Capital

I wanted to review "Washington Dateline," a new book by Delbert Clark, but when I found he had so little to say about radio I decided that I had better turn it over to a more objective mind. There is so much interest in Washington as a news center now that the book is important. So I asked Douglas Silver, a veteran newspaper man, now a writer of radio serials, to review it. This is what he says:

A good fat juicy account of how the 500 Washington newspaper men and women "mingle with the great, the small, the nobles and the knaves who make up a government and its camp followers" is sandwiched between the covers of "Washington Dateline," by Delbert Clark (Stokes).

Although having no illusions about the city which, as he says, "crouches miserably in a reclaimed marsh, and lifts up its eyes to the hills of Virginia and Maryland which cut off the breeze," Mr. Clark, a veteran member of the New York Times Washington staff, manages to invest his book with a great deal of the glamour and excitement of capital newsmaking.

From first to last Clark is concerned with the progress, ethics and usefulness of his craft in a democratic society; tracing the history of Washington newsmaking from the vitriolic and venial dispatches of 100 years ago to the present era of comparative respectability. But respectability definitely does not mean dullness. The accounts of our latter day saints-and-sinners are replete with inside stories, quoting chapter and verse.

This high assay value in anecdote runs all through the book. It includes some choice bits about Mr. Coolidge's pathetic attempt at humoring the press, a delightful yarn about the slightly insane congressman who sought to influence newspaper men with annual oyster roasts and it features timely and factual accounts of reporters and their run-ins with the present administration. This book can be read with profit by anybody who wants to know what is going on in Washington and how it gets in the papers and on the air.

—Buy Defense Bonds—

U. S. Prepared For Part in War

In Better Condition Than in 1917 to Co-Ordinate With Allies.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The United States is in far better condition today to speedily co-ordinate her war effort with those of her anti-Axis allies than it was in 1917.

The tremendous task will benefit by preparations already made. At the outset of America's last war effort, much time was lost in the confused dispatching of missions on subjects which this time have been dealt with well in advance.

It was six months after the 1917 war declaration that the United States participated in Allied conferences. And it was not until November 28, 1917, that Robert Lansing, then secretary of state, sent a circular telegram to American diplomatic representatives abroad to "establish close and confidential relations with Allied representatives."

Supply Is Developed. But today, "close and confidential" relations with Great Britain, China and Russia already have been established and in many other ways time has been saved which should be of the utmost importance.

Already, discussion is heard of formation of a supreme war council involving statesmen and other representatives from the United States, Britain, Russia and China. In the last war, the Allies council had no American representative until December 28, 1917, or nearly nine months after the United States had entered the war.

American observers already have been to practically all the war fronts and others have witnessed air raid defenses of the democratic powers. Supply lines for American goods have been developed to all centers of hostilities, in contrast to the hit-or-miss technique of the last war when the problem was complicated by private financing and shipping.

Many Policies Defined. The early days of World War I found the United States struggling with problems of alien property, alien funds, diplomatic property and accounts, shipping, allocation of food and supplies and scores of other questions which jammed the machinery of government.

Now the policies on most of those questions already are defined and many of them are in operation.

Communications, have improved greatly since 1917 and the great mass of necessary detailed work will be cared for more speedily.

Japan, an ally in 1917, sent one of the first missions to visit this country during that struggle. There also were Belgian, Rumanian, many British missions as well as many American missions to Europe.

In a November 7, 1917, conference at Rapallo, seven months' after America's war declaration, Britain, France and Italy formed the supreme war council. The United States joined more than two months later.

Today's war is a far different war—both in the amount of territory involved and the intensity with which it is being fought.

60,000,000 Americans Are Without Birth Records

CHICAGO.—Efforts are being made by many states to provide satisfactory, yet quick methods by which native-born Americans may obtain birth certificates.

Approximately 60,000,000 Americans lack proof of their birth, according to the Council of State Governments. Of increased importance as a result of rulings that defense industry employers hire only native-born Americans for certain types of work, records are being sought by many persons who lack such proof.

One reason for the mass failure to have certificates, the council said, is that before 1900 only two states—Maine and New Hampshire—provided by law for official registration of births.

The navy and commerce department has proposed that states without provisions accept certain information as proof of birth. Such information includes affidavits by relatives and supporting statements by doctors or hospital authorities.

Antarctic Area Named

For U. of M. Professor ANN ARBOR, MICH.—One thousand miles of the shoreline of the Antarctic continent has been named Hobbs Land, in honor of William H. Hobbs, professor-emeritus at the University of Michigan.

Admiral Byrd said he had named the tract after Professor Hobbs in recognition of the latter's explorations.

Byrd said part of Hobbs Land was the area formerly known as Rupert Land.

'Remember Pearl Harbor, War Cry

Takes Its Place Alongside Slogan of Other Wars.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"Remember Pearl Harbor!"

Born in Japan's treacherous, peace-shattering attack on the great American naval base in Hawaii, the phrase overnight became the battle cry and the byword of the nation.

As such, it ranges itself beside such other famous expressions in American history as "Taxation without representation is tyranny," "Damn the torpedoes—full speed ahead," "Don't give up the ship," "Lafayette, we are here," and those two others dealing with poignant memories: "Remember the Alamo," "Remember the Alamo" was voiced by Gen. Sam Houston preceding the Battle of San Jacinto, in 1836, when Texas gained its independence from Mexico.

Curiously, the World war seems to have had, for Americans at least, no one battle cry to ring discordantly on the ears of the foe. The tribute to Lafayette, who aided this nation in the Revolution, was paid by Col. C. E. Stanton before the Frenchman's grave.

"Damn the torpedoes—full speed ahead" came from Admiral David Farragut in the Battle of Mobile in 1864.

"Don't give up the ship" was an order from Capt. James Lawrence in the War of 1812. "Keep the guns going," he said. "Fight her until she strikes or sinks." "Don't give up the ship."

The famous Revolutionary war taxation slogan came prior to the nation's fight for independence.

Countless others were originated during the wars in which the nation took part.

The latest, however, looks good for the duration—and then some. "Remember Pearl Harbor!"

Big Air Rings to Dispel Smoke in Factory Areas

PITTSBURGH, PA.—"Smokeless rings" projected from "guns" may soon be used to dispel smoke in industrial areas, Dr. Phillips Thomas, research engineer for the Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing company, believes.

Telling of experiments with the device, Dr. Thomas described how artificially-created "whirlwinds" may be used to blow factory smoke high into the atmosphere and thus provide clean air in industrial cities.

By means of a metal drum, which, when tapped with a hammer, creates rings of air, Dr. Thomas has blown out candles and rung gongs 100 feet away. A special air-ring projector, developed by Westinghouse, can, when struck with a heavy hammer, deliver an air ring powerful enough to throw a man off balance at 20 feet.

Dr. Thomas reported that in the Westinghouse research laboratories scientists are studying the possibility of utilizing the more powerful of these vortex rings to blow giant puffs of factory smoke into the air.

"Such a method of smoke elimination would outmode ugly smoke stacks and perhaps make powerplants and mills welcome near industrial areas as clean, streamlined buildings," he said.

Captain Tells How 'Mine' Came Up and Sank Ship

WASHINGTON.—A Norwegian sea captain, testifying at an official investigation that his vessel had been stopped and sunk by a British submarine off the coast of Norway, was interrupted by a German official.

"Nonsense!" shouted the German. "There are no British submarines off the Norwegian coast. You must have struck a mine."

"Very well, then," the captain replied, according to the report received here by the Norwegian News Service. "A mine came to the surface. It halted us, gave us ten minutes to get into lifeboats, and then ran amok into our ship, sinking it."

Farmer Finds Vein of Onyx Marble in Oklahoma

HOMESTEAD, OKLA.—C. H. Carey was strolling over his 800-acre farm in northwest Oklahoma when he discovered some pinkish white rock.

He found that with little effort he could chisel the rock into ash trays, lamp stands and fancy paper weights. He sent some of the rock to a chemist in Phillips university in Enid, Okla., and some to chemists at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Carey, a former member of the Oklahoma legislature, was told by chemists at both schools that he had discovered a fine grade of alabaster, often called onyx marble.