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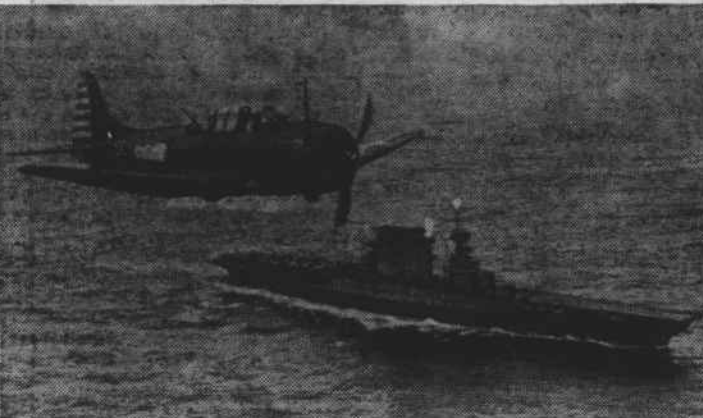
No. 2

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

### United Nations Rush Reinforcements To Far East Battle Fronts in Effort To Check Spreading of Jap Attacks; Nazis Again Take Offensive in Africa

(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.)



Somewhere in the Pacific ocean, this dramatic picture taken of a U. S. navy offensive patrol plane carrier being circled by a navy dive bomber as it begins its anti-submarine duties. Note in the picture that on both the side and underpart of the plane there have been deletions of certain parts and insignia which might give information to the enemy. Also on the top rigging of the carrier you will notice further deletions for the same reason.

#### LUZON: Epic Battle

Hailed as an epic of warfare that would live in all history, the defense of Bataan peninsula and of the fortresses holding the entrance to Manila bay had been diverting large Jap forces needed elsewhere than in the Philippines.

The adding to MacArthur's embattled and smoke-begrimed army of a battalion of bluejackets and marines was welcome news and showed that perhaps not all of the men of Cavite and Olongapo had been withdrawn, but that they had been given a post of honor with the defenders.

Up on the Mariveles mountains they were entrenched, and no matter what strength the Japs hurled against them they were holding firm. On one moonlit night a whole regiment of small boats moved down the coast, using the same tactics that had hurled the British back on Malaya.

The effort was to get in on MacArthur's flank and confuse the defenders, at the same time signalling for an offensive on the central front. But the shore defenders and artillery opened up on the Jap invaders, left scores of them struggling in the water, and the few that made shore were quickly mopped up by the Filipinos.

There was apparently at least one Japanese warship which managed to run through the eight-mile strip of water between the fortresses at the entrance of Manila bay.

One of the United States' intrepid torpedo boat skippers, piloting his tiny craft at close to 80 miles an hour, swept down on her in the moonlight, and launched two torpedoes which struck the ship. She is believed to have been sunk.

The attack was carried out directly into the glare of the warship's searchlights, and under the full power of her guns, but so skillfully did its skipper maneuver that she was not struck, and escaped with all hands to tell the tale.

#### WAVELL: And Reinforcements

The statement by General Wavell that "great reinforcements" were to arrive, and calling on the Singapore defenders to "defend the city as Tobruk was defended" was more than a little significant.

Tobruk was the bastion that held out for months despite being surrounded on three sides by Axis forces anxious to wipe it out, and finally was relieved by the allied winter drive.

Wavell's statement to the Singapore army smacked of a situation which might see sufficient reinforcements sent to Malaya to do the same thing, not only to relieve the garrison, but send the Japanese on the run again.

Whether this reinforcement was going to be sent to Singapore itself, or whether a method was to be found of striking at the Japanese rear, which might be lightly held, was not revealed, but either method, it was pointed out, might work.

No British commentators felt that the war in the South Pacific would be lost utterly if Singapore was to fall, but the ability to hold the East Indies would immeasurably be weakened if this was to happen, hence Wavell's strong appeal to the city's defenders to hold out at all costs.

## General Wounded



General Clinton A. Pierce, who has been reported wounded in action in the Philippines. He is the first U. S. general wounded in action in World War No. 2. This picture was taken before the outbreak of the war in the Pacific.

#### SINKINGS: Continue Heavy

The U-boat raids on the North Atlantic continued heavy, with a total of 16 ships attacked of which two escaped and 14 went to the bottom, with about an average loss of life.

Since our entrance into the war, two navy tankers had been torpedoed, the first managing to reach Iceland under her own power, but the second one, the Neches, going down with a reported estimated loss of 56 men, with 126 men escaping to fight again.

The location of the Neches' torpedoing was not immediately announced by the navy, but ship losses had been small in the Pacific after Pearl Harbor, more than equalled two to one by Allied sinkings of Jap ships.

There were growing reports of Allied naval strength in the Pacific, showing that increasing numbers of ships were active in those waters, and in one case having carried the attack to the Japanese-held Marshall and Gilbert islands, generally in the Australia defense zone, with terrific results.

In this action, though no strictly war vessels of Japan were sunk, the navy reported several auxiliaries were sunk and damaged, which might include tankers, transports, supply ships used for naval purposes.

That our forces lost 11 planes but no ships showed that probably one of our aircraft carriers was in the neighborhood, and that a vessel of this size was being used in a task force offensive action demonstrated that Admiral Nimitz was keen on getting even with Japan for Pearl Harbor.

#### RUSSIA: Buying Insurance

The Russians, having fought the Germans back considerably past their announced "winter line" on the northern sectors, might be said to be buying insurance against the Nazis' spring drive.

Some observers, including Senator Tydings, in addresses had warned that the Germans had some 100 divisions of soldiers that they had been holding out of action, just for the spring offensive against Russia.

The Red armies were not, however, believed to be losing anywhere nearly as heavily on the whole front as were the Germans, so this taste of victory, even though temporary, was expected to stand them in good stead when the time comes to hang on after May 1.

Experience of 1940 and 1941 was that the Russian winter would not break until about that time, to any appreciable degree, and at that point the Germans might be expected to launch another all-out attack.

The Red armies were well into Smolensk province, reporting that the Germans, instead of fighting holding actions, were now hastily moving back to better fortified lines, and trying at all costs to save as much material and as many men as possible.

It was considered probable that the Russians would be able, before the coming of spring, to shove the Germans at least back to Smolensk, thus giving the Nazis 230 miles to cover in reaching Moscow again, a distance that the Russians had already fought over twice, once going and once coming, and which they would defend even more stubbornly than the first time.

And they would, it was pointed out, be able this time to get an ever-increasing amount of Allied aid, and not be subject to the same quality of surprise which gave the Germans so much advantage the last time.

The battle-lines now being so well drawn, it would be impossible for the Nazis to gain much momentum.

## Washington Digest

### Holding Dutch East Indies Is Vital to United Nations

Slim Crescent of Islands Blocks Jap Aggression By Forming a Barrier Between Continents Of Asia and Australia.



By BAUKHAGE

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By the time these words are printed Singapore may have fallen. Japanese bombers may be raiding Australia and Japanese ships may be in Australian waters. Even so, according to the sober prediction of those in diplomatic and official circles who are able to look at the war map without wishful thinking, the tide may still be turned against the Japanese if one condition remains the same. That condition is that the United Nations continue to hold key territory in that slim crescent of islands, the Netherlands Indies which form a barrier between the continents of Asia and Australia.

There are two reasons why these experts believe this Malaysian barrier may be held in spite of Japanese gains north and south of it. First, as one military man put it, "by rule of thumb Japan has already stretched her supply lines so far from her home bases that they may be expected to snap in vital spots." Second, because of successful delaying actions now going on, time is fighting on the side of the United Nations, time for sufficient reinforcements to arrive, especially from the United States, which will snatch air superiority away from the Japanese and thus affect the tide of battle.

Japan has so far extended herself, experts agree, that a powerful blow might topple her over backwards. General MacArthur has held a Japanese army of 200,000 men in the Philippines. Huge land, air and sea forces have been drawn into the siege of Singapore. Japanese troops are fighting in Burma, 3,000 miles from the Manchukuoan border. They are spread fan-wise from Sumatra in the west 4,000 miles along the equator to the Solomon islands beyond New Guinea.

It is the barrier the United Nations have established from Sumatra to the Solomon islands, with Java as the key point, upon which Japan may break her curved scimitar of offense. Japan has already penetrated scattered islands in some places—in Borneo, New Guinea, in the Celebes and in the Australian mandated islands in the Bismarck archipelago. But there are many dents in her sword already—more than 31 ships lost in the first few days of the battle in the Macassar straits, which lie between Borneo and the Celebes. Many more such losses will be irreparable.

Successful, although scattered attacks by American and Dutch planes and submarines and surface ships are taking their toll. And even though Japanese units may secure some island bases near enough to bomb the Australian coast, and some ships are able to slip through to raid coastal towns, the sword hand will be badly strained. The tough, well-fortified, well-supplied island of Java can deaden her blows. And if enough other bases for allied bombers and subs remain from which the far-flung Japanese invaders can be harassed, her course westward and southward can be checked.

For the United Nations fighting at the Malaysian barrier it is simply a problem of hanging on. For the United States it is a problem of producing and delivering the goods. Against us is first our late start in war production; second, the great distance to the front—about six weeks from loading to unloading; and third, lack of ships.

**Into High Gear**  
We cannot make up lost time but it is agreed that Donald (Batling) Nelson and his war production board will keep us in high gear from now on.

As for the ships, by June we will be producing them at the rate of two a day—cargo ships. As for the precious cargoes, fighting planes—which have to be shipped—they are being turned out in rapidly increasing numbers. The figures are secret. I have it on good authority that it would take only 2,000 more planes to give us superiority in the whole Pacific. But far less than that are needed to establish superiority in the present fighting area since Japan must keep a large air force at home for defense of her own cities.

As for the tanks and men, these needs are not so pressing, but tanks will soon be rolling to the tune of a thousand a month, and Garand rifles for next year's army of seven million men are being turned out at a thousand a day at the Springfield arsenal alone.

Meanwhile, the men on the fighting front say this to America and England:

"Hurry. Cut red tape. Take risks. Don't wait until you have had what you think is enough. Send what you have, risk it. We'll risk our lives to use it."

If we are willing and able to answer this message, Japan may be toppled over on her heels. With Singapore in Japanese hands some Japanese elements would be able to filter through the island barricade toward Australia.

The fall of MacArthur will release thousands of Japanese soldiers, the fall of Singapore, thousands more. If the key defense of Java goes, the Japs can then flood south to Australia and perhaps isolate that continent of hardy fighters. The invaders can also swarm westward through the Straits of Malacca, take Rangoon, gateway of the Burma road. They can move submarines into the Persian gulf and the Red sea and threaten the life line to Britain's middle east armies and Russia.

## War to Solve Farm Problem

Substitutes From Crops to Be Forced by Shortages In Raw Materials.

WASHINGTON.—American genius and inventiveness finds an opportunity in the war to apply some of the proposed remedies for curing one of the nation's severest headaches—surplus farm products.

During the last decade, agriculture has been plagued by warehouses, elevators and bins overflowing with supplies of cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco, and other farm products—marketable only at ruinously low prices. This situation was reflected in economic instability in many rural areas, necessitating huge expenditures by the government on relief and price-insuring crop programs.

Scientists and technicians suggested that this problem of surplus would be solved, at least partially, if new industrial uses could be developed for farm products. Much laboratory work already had been done along this line, both by governmental experiment stations and by private industry.

**Seek Sources at Home.**  
Raw materials normally secured from abroad may become difficult or impossible to secure.

Industry is turning to possible sources at home. It is beginning to adopt many of the suggestions of scientists for use of farm products. The most notable is the use of corn in making industrial alcohol. It is quite possible that by the time the war is over, American grain, rather than imported molasses, will be the major source of the country's alcohol supply, and possibly an important source of supply for motor fuel, as well.

The war has started scientists exploring the field of solid fuel also. Here starch offers an interesting possibility. It is produced on every farm in this country in the form of corn, wheat, other grains, potatoes and other crops.

Threatened shortage of paper is developing new interest in making paper from such raw materials as corn stalks, wheat straw and cotton plants. The quantity of stalks and straws produced in this country each year is several times the amount needed to make all the paper that is needed. Heretofore, it has been more economical to use wood.

**Seek Substitute Starch.**  
Agriculture department authorities estimate that American farmers produce annually about 260,000,000 tons of by-products that provide a potential source of supply for manufactured products. This includes straw, stalks, husks, cobs, cottonseed hulls, sugar-cane bagasse, and peanut hulls.

Agricultural leaders hope that the war will expedite the manufacture of starch from potatoes so that a large part of the 215,000,000 pounds of imported root starch may be replaced by domestic production.

Agriculture department production goals for 1942 call for increases of 1,100,000 acres of soybeans and 1,600,000 acres of peanuts. With average yields, these increases would provide an additional 500,000,000 pounds of oil.

By shutting off Japanese silk, the conflict is increasing the use of cotton in clothing. One notable example is full-fashioned cotton hose. The result may be a larger permanent market for the cotton farmer.

#### 10-Year Savings of Pair Go for Defense Bonds

CHICAGO.—Some people save pennies, or dimes, or quarters. But with Mrs. Celia Brodsky, who runs a grocery with her husband, Abe, at 2461 West Madison street, it was silver dollars.

Every time a customer came in with a silver dollar Mrs. Brodsky put it away in her cedar chest at her home, 3615 Flournoy street. She saved silver dollars for 10 years, never bothering to count them.

She always said that when she got enough she was going to take a trip to see her two brothers in California, one of whom she hadn't seen in 15 years.

But when the Japs attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor on December 7 she started thinking. Sunday night when she saw a news reel showing the wreckage caused by the Japs at Pearl Harbor she made up her mind.

"There's only one thing to do in a case like this," said Mrs. Brodsky. Yesterday morning she put all her silver dollars—250 of them—in a shoe box and went down to the First National bank. She clanked them down before the cashier and said proudly: "I want to put all these in defense bonds."

## Amateur Weather Seers Now Have Day

Even Grandpa's 'Rheumatiz' May Be Valuable!

WASHINGTON.—With the daily maps and forecasts by the U. S. weather bureau suspended "for duration," except in a very limited way that will give no aid or comfort to the enemy, local weather prophets may be expected to come into their own. For it may be taken as assured that people aren't going to stop talking about the weather.

There is, of course, good reason for the "blackout" of the daily weather maps and reports.

Back of the old jingle, "red in the night, sailors' delight; red in the morning, sailors take warning," is the truth that bright sunsets usually come during periods of settled weather, while a reddened sun (at any time of day) indicated the presence of moisture-laden particles in the air that may later precipitate rain or snow. Even at sunset, a bleary reddened sun (as distinguished from red-tinted clouds) may warn of storm to come.

A ring around the moon, or to be academically precise, a halo, is another fairly dependable weather "sign." So is a fuzzy or blurry appearance of moon or stars. These appearances are due to the interception of light by thin clouds running ahead of an approaching general storm area.

There is, however, no truth in the belief that the crescent moon "holds" rain if its horns are pointed upward, "pours" rain if they point downward. Those phenomena are purely astronomical, and have nothing to do with conditions on earth. The same holds true for the position of the "bowl" of the Great Dipper as seen early in the evening.

#### Weather Helped Japanese Attack, Says Scientist

DALLAS.—The Japs struck in the Philippines at the favorable season for naval and air operations, Dr. H. Landsberg of the University of Chicago, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

All the rest of this winter will be good for attacks, until the typhoon season starts next summer, he said.

Other points he made were: There is also a weather paradox in the present fighting zones. In northern Luzon, where heavy fighting goes on, the present is a bad season for air operation on account of heavy rains.

These rains are expected to hamper takeoffs from northern Luzon airfields. They will clear up next summer.

But in Mindanao, where the Japanese have landed in force, the rain situation is exactly reversed. That area now is mostly rain free and can be used immediately. Next summer it won't be so good.

#### Papa Is Out \$10, but Son Regains His Speech

RICHMOND, VA.—"Papa" blurted out 14-year-old R. W. ("Ranny") Nuckols Jr., as he drove toward home with his mother and dad.

"Say that again, son," his father cried tensely, "and I'll give you \$10."

The boy repeated himself slowly almost painfully, and for good measure added a few more words. The conversation was costly to Nuckols Sr., but he was overjoyed.

Those were the first words Ranny Nuckols had spoken since a bus knocked him from his bike last May.

#### Canadian Girl Commutes To Washington School

DEMING, WASH.—Thomasina Earl, 14, commutes to school internationally, by special permission of the United States immigration authorities. She walks a few hundred yards from her home on the Canadian side to the border, where she catches a Deming school bus. She had to get a passport and is not allowed to travel farther south than the school. She adopted the plan because the nearest Canadian school is much too far to attend regularly, and because the Deming school is convenient.

#### Four Wallflowers Picket Soldiers and Get Results

CHANUTE FIELD, ILL.—Four Cinderellas from nearby Champaign were the unhappy girls at a military dance. They stood, sadly neglected, while a platoon of troops sat on the sidelines and paid them no heed. So the young ladies took lipstick in hand, scrawled "Wallflower" on cardboard squares, held the signs high and proceeded to picket the sedentary soldiers. The response was immediate and overwhelming. The picketers became the belles of the ball.