

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Jap Naval Losses Off Midway Island Strengthen U. S. Position in Pacific; Terrific Bombing Attacks by British Stun Nazi's War Effort in Rhineland

(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.



This annual photo shows representatives of the British commonwealth gathered at the Washington airport to welcome Sir Owen Dixon, new Australian minister to the United States. Left to right: Walter Nash, New Zealand; Sir Owen Dixon, Australia; Ralph W. Close, Union of South Africa; Sir R. I. Campbell, British embassy, and Leighton McCarthy, Canada.

MIDWAY:

Melee
"Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged. Vengeance will not be complete until Japanese sea power has been reduced to impotence. We have made substantial progress in that direction."

With these blunt, stirring words, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, announced a decisive United States naval victory at Midway Island. In a remarkable demonstration of the coordinated power of the three American services—navy, army and marines—a Japanese invasion fleet was repulsed with the greatest losses of the current war.

From 14 to 17 Japanese warships were sunk or damaged, according to early reports. Included were two or three aircraft carriers sunk and one or two lost; three battleships damaged, four or six cruisers damaged, three transports damaged and one destroyer sunk. Continuing attacks on the fleeing enemy made it impossible to state whether the ships bombed in pursuit had been damaged previously.

At the conclusion of the four-day action, Adm. Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the American fleet, hinted that the United States has a chance to knock out Japan as a sea power. The battle, he said, may determine the outcome of the war in the Pacific.

Hawaii, he said, "must be held at all costs," because it is the keystone to the entire Pacific defense system. Midway, 1,312 miles from Pearl Harbor, is a vital outpost in the Hawaiian defense.

U-BOAT MENACE:

On the Run?
Axis submarines operating along the Eastern seaboard have been driven out into the Atlantic, according to Chairman Carl Vinson (Georgia) of the house naval affairs committee.

His disclosure came in a formal statement which added that the "anti-submarine warfare organization has passed through its period of growing pains and is now well established and functioning effectively."

"In dealing with submarines we have a tough and clever enemy," the statement said, "and it does not pay to be unduly optimistic. However, the fact remains that in the last few weeks the submarine has largely withdrawn from our eastern seaboard and is operating farther at sea."

"The committee has full confidence that we shall defeat the submarine."

V-MAIL:

For Soldiers
U. S. army units in England and Northern Ireland are now using a new and unique mail system for contacts with the United States. Known as V-mail, this system provides that letters may be dispatched to a central station, censored and then photographed on small rolls of microfilm.

Under army direction these rolls are then sent to the United States where they are developed and photostatic copies are presented to the postal service and sent through regular mails to the addressee.

Value of plan lies in the fact that microfilm saves cargo space in eliminating mail shipments.

POISONING GAS:

Another Warning
Within a month after Winston Churchill had warned Germany that any use of gas warfare by the Nazis would be met with the same tactics, President Roosevelt has warned Japan that if she persists in using gas against China the U. S. will retaliate in "kind and full measure."

This statement by the President came as a confirmation of reports that Japan was using noxious gases in battles with the Chinese.

LIBYA:

Tank Tangle
The battle of Libya entered its most violent phase as thousands of tanks took part in a raging fight in the desert at Knightsbridge. Two heavy German tank attacks were repulsed as the British struck another dent in the Axis salient in their lines south of Tobruk.

Marshal Erwin Rommel was reported in the Knightsbridge area 15 miles south of Tobruk, directing his men in a desperate attack against the hard-fighting British. The Nazis were sent reeling back south and west of Harmat, six miles south of Knightsbridge.

Experts looked upon Harmat as an extremely important position since it was near an escape gap in the British mine field. With the British in possession, there could be no wholesale Axis escape.

GAS RATIONING:

Revolt in House
The congressional fight against nationwide gasoline rationing broke into the open when Rep. Jed Johnson of Oklahoma introduced a concurrent resolution opposing such a step until the house gets proof that the move is necessary.

The resolution declared that there is a surplus of oil in Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma and other producing states and that nationwide rationing would cripple the war effort. The War Production board proposed the rationing program to conserve rubber rather than gasoline, of which there admittedly is no shortage.

The Johnson resolution was submitted following a boisterous caucus session of 100 members of the house. The resolution instructed Rep. Richard M. Kleberg of Texas, who was elected chairman, to appoint a committee of five house members to confer with a similar committee of the senate to take necessary steps.

YOUTH AGENCIES:

House Acts
At the same time as the house of representatives refused to abolish the National Youth administration, this branch of congress voted to end the life of Civilian conservation corps.

The standing vote on NYA was 118 to 62 in favor of retaining the agency. Voting was on the specific motion by Rep. Everett M. Dirksen (R., Ill.) to cut \$49,700,000 from NYA funds in its current appropriation. His plan would have restricted NYA activities to a \$5,000,000 student-aid training program for the next year.

FOOD:

New Control
In wartime, food for fighting men is always of prime importance. With this fact in mind the government has now moved to assure ample supplies of U. S. forces and the armed units of United Nations. Creation of a nine-member food requirements committee headed by Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard has been announced by the War Production board.

This agency has been granted power to designate what foods may or may not be produced; what commodities are to be allowed for import or export; and to regulate the distribution of foodstuffs.

While attention was thus being drawn to the nation's food supply, the department of agriculture was quick to declare that it should not be assumed that shortages of food



CLAUDE WICKARD Heads nine-man committee.

or rationing of most foods are in prospect.

An analysis of the step however would indicate that this new board might eventually find it necessary to make rather definite changes in the eating habits of U. S. civilians. While the total supply of food for 1942 is expected to be the largest on record and more than enough for U. S. needs plus the demands of England and Russia, it is conceivable adjustments in normal food production and consumption may become necessary.

PRODUCTION:

Indication that U. S. military production was hitting its full stride was gathered from the statement by Undersecretary of War Patterson to the effect that the army now has all the weapons it can send abroad under present shipping conditions and also enough to arm every soldier in the U. S. This was true, he said, despite the fact that almost twice as many light arms are required per man since the development of parachute troops.

Canal Zone Ready for All Comers

Panama Jungles Now Huge Armed Camp.

By CHARLES A. SINGLER
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

OUR canal zone is one of the hottest spots in the Western hemisphere, both meteorologically and strategically, and is becoming increasingly "hotter" as the war wears on and the possibilities of an enemy thrust by land or sea, or by both, become more imminent.

The Panama Canal is not only our proudest national possession, but a vital link in the U. S. chain of defense fortifications. Little wonder, then, that the eyes of Europe, Asia and all America are turned towards this narrow but important waterway which military forethought and engineering skill provided for our nation some twenty-seven years ago.

The Canal Zone is 50 miles long and about 10 miles wide. Approximately 95 square miles of this is under water. The canal itself is about 34 miles in length and 87 feet high. Deep jungle growths crowd densely upon all sides, furnishing ideal concealment for gun emplacements.

All Is 'On the Alert.'
In these lush, steaming jungles where there seems to be no life except that of the countless strange birds and jungle animals that live by the code of tooth and claw, there are many eyes watching; all on the alert. Here brave U. S. boys are waiting for the planes to come, and somehow or other hoping that maybe they will, to relieve the deadly monotony of life in the deep jungle. Here under the concealing drapery of leaves and branches great naval rifles point forever out to sea with their silent threat to all who may come that way, unbidden. These great 16-inch coastal defense rifles out-range the guns of most battleships. Practice is constantly going on, mostly with the use of dud loads, for Uncle Sam cannot afford to waste costly ammunition or the precious rifling of these big guns on a harmless sea.

And here under the same friendly foliage, "ack-ack" guns bristle towards the sky, a hidden challenge to any air armada or lone enemy bomber which may be rash enough to venture near the canal. Jungle foliage also conceals cool hideouts for gunners—caves in which long gleaming rows of shells, some of them inscribed with loving names for the enemy, await the day or night when the call for action comes. In these caves the "day" is 24 hours long. During all this time gun crews stand on the alert, ready to pour a hot welcome into the sullen jungle skies. During the "off" periods the men repair to more comfortable barracks, completely camouflaged, to gain the needed exercise and recreation.

Underground Cities.
In the Panama Canal Zone are also secret island fortresses where underground cities, carved from sheer rock, offer a threat to the would-be invader. Switchboards have been installed, and when the time comes, if it should, tons of red hot trouble will pour from these fortresses to make the invader wish he had stayed closer to home.

Not only does the jungle shroud great naval and anti-aircraft guns, ready for instant action, but also hidden airbases, full of planes poised

for flight, ready to do their bit for Uncle Sam. It conceals keen-eyed watchers on the alert for surprise attacks and treachery. Pearl Harbor has not been forgotten.

Great forts stand at either ocean entrance to the canal, and swift naval vessels are constantly on guard. P-T boats, those swift messengers of death which accounted for more than one Jap warship in Manila bay and which got General MacArthur out of Bataan, are ready to lend their speed and their fighting power to the defense of the waterway. These deadly "mosquito boats," as they are called, carry an anti-aircraft gun that hurls a 20 mm. explosive shell which is bad medicine for attacking planes. P-Ts can also raise havoc amidst surface craft with their deadly torpedoes and blast a sub from the deep with depth charges.

Where 'Walls Have Ears.'
Unseen sentinels move about through the Panama jungle, as ubiquitous as all outdoors, popping up when least expected. No action escapes unseen; no spoken word is unheard. Here is a place where, indeed, "the walls have ears." Landmine units are on the qui vive, waiting to do their share in rendering enemy progress dangerous and slow.

Packed away in the jungle, too, there is infantry—the inevitable infantry—to which we must all pin our hopes to push the enemy back if he should succeed in gaining a foothold in this vital area. With the advent of the new trans-isthmian highway the speedy movement of troops from one end of the canal to the other—a 48-mile run—is an accomplished fact.

Dangers Facing Us.
These are some of the things that are awaiting those who have lost their respects for territorial rights. And now, having had a glimpse of the canal's defenses, let us consider briefly from which direction and in what form any thrust at the canal may come.

As the most strategic spot in our hemisphere, and offering an opportunity of bottling up our fleet in either ocean, it can safely be assumed that our enemies will want to smash the canal at the earliest possible date, regardless of all hazards, and will leave nothing undone to attain this objective. Their plans might take shape in the form of small raiding parties or in vast armadas of bombers and fighter planes.

Then, too, we are faced with the menace of secret bases. We must not forget the lesson of the Jap-occupied Marshall Islands on which secret bases were built in open defiance of international treaties. The uninhabited jungles of nearby Central and South America might pro-

vide aerial hideouts for the treacherous Japs or the deceitful and ever-diligent Nazis.

With Franco "playing ball" continually with Adolf Hitler, islands such as the Spanish Canaries and the Portuguese Azores, or the many small islets that dot the Caribbean, might furnish springboards for hostile wings.

Airplane carriers, steaming ahead at full speed all night, or for several nights, as in the case of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, offer serious potential dangers. Once within 500 miles of the Canal Zone they could launch their planes in the gray of the dawn. They know full well that just one big "egg" dropped in a lock, would hatch loads of trouble for Uncle Sam. We must bear in mind that without the canal in operation a 50-mile trip becomes a 13,000-mile cruise "around the Horn," either way you take it, with its terrific loss of precious time and greatly increased operating costs.

The battleship Oregon made one such emergency trip during the Spanish-American war, and arrived on the scene in time to turn the tide of battle, but we have neither the time nor the inclination for this sort of thing in this war with the Axis. Nothing must happen to the Panama canal!

For Protection of Panama Canal



Dr. Octavio Fabrega, foreign minister of the Republic of Panama, pictured (right) as he signed the agreement whereby Panama agreed to establishment of bases within the republic, for the protection of the canal by the United States. At left is Edwin C. Wilson, ambassador to Panama. The agreement, which was signed May 18, 1942, involves the use of some 40,000 acres in the republic by the U. S. armed forces.

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Danger From the Sea.

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Friendly but Questionable Isles.

Let us look in another direction. One thousand miles to the southwest of the Canal Zone loom the shadowy shapes of the Galapagos islands. These islands are owned by friendly Ecuador. These tiny islands, though in friendly hands, are anybody's guess these days, for Jap "fishing boats" have been known to have plied off their shores, and who knows what observations have been made and what soundings taken.

Then there is the menace of the nearby blue Caribbean, in which enemy subs are known to be prowling, and which have already taken heavy toll of our merchant shipping in these very waters, so dangerously close to the canal. Dealing with this menace is the Caribbean patrol of huge navy patrol bombers, 15-ton Consolidated flying boats with sound apparatus to detect subs, and two tons of bombs. These bombers roar out daily on dawn-to-dusk sweeps of the Caribbean and the Atlantic, and may be included as an important arm of the canal defense.

Espionage and sabotage, the long suit of the enemy, may also be listed on the debit side of the ledger in an accounting of the Canal Zone's danger potentials, and all must be dealt with in their own individual way.

An Historic Event.

The most important event in the history of the canal occurred in January, 1939, when the U. S. fleet passed from the Pacific to the Atlantic ocean, and even more dramatic was the return passage of a large portion of the fleet in early May of that year. Both transits were made without the appearance of haste, but in record time.

Contrary to the general belief, the canal does not run due east and west, but zig-zags irregularly across the isthmus. Its operation consists in helping ships, however big and bulky, to ascend three water-steps (locks) from one ocean into the huge man-made Lake Gatun, from which they descend three other water-steps into the ocean at the canal's other end. The locks are so constructed that two vessels proceeding in opposite directions may go through the canal at the same time. Big ships occupy a whole lock, and smaller ships are wedged in like sardines. Once in the locks the ship's crew is shoved aside and the canal crew takes over.

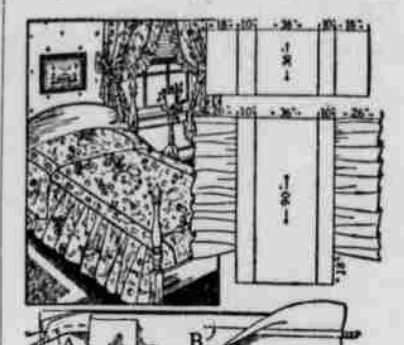
The United States has sovereignty over the entire Canal Zone. Two cities stand guard at either gateway of the canal—Balboa at the Atlantic end and Panama at the Pacific end.

The canal was constructed during Theodore Roosevelt's administration by the U. S. army, with General Goethals as engineering chief and General Gorges in charge of public health. It was opened to commercial traffic August 15, 1915, and was declared formally completed July 12, 1920, during President Wilson's administration.

NEW IDEAS For Home-makers

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS
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NOTE: This bedspread is from BOOK 1 of the series of booklets which Mrs. Spears has prepared for our readers. This book also gives step-by-step directions for making slip covers, dressing table skirts and 12 different styles of curtains including a simple rigging for draw curtains. To get a copy of Book 1, send your order to:

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Sentinels of Health

Don't Neglect Them!
Nature designed the kidneys to do a marvelous job. Their task is to keep the flowing blood stream free of an excess of toxic impurities. The act of living—life itself—is constantly producing waste matter the kidneys must remove from the blood if good health is to endure. When the kidneys fail to function as Nature intended, there is retention of waste that may cause body-wide distress. One may suffer nagging backache, persistent headaches, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel tired, nervous, all worn out.
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