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Abandoning Resistance On Malayan Peninsula,

British Fall Back To Singapore

Another American Immortal



The first man to be awarded the Congressional Medal posthumously in World War II, according to a War Department announcement, is Lieut. Alexander R. Nimmer, Jr., of Gainesville, Ga. The award was made on the recommendation of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who cited the lieutenant for conspicuous gallantry and bravery above and beyond the call of duty in action with the Japanese near Abucay, Bataan, in the Philippines. (Central Press)

Navy Appropriation Measure Approved

Senate Committee Unanimously Passes \$26,485,265,474 Bill After Limiting Presidential Power to Lease Ships.

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The Senate appropriations committee unanimously approved a record breaking Navy fund of \$26,485,265,474 today after limiting presidential power to transfer ships of the Navy.

Senator Overton, Democrat, Louisiana, said the committee agreed that leasing of any ships be restricted to smaller vessels or landing ships provided for in the bill as "emergency construction."

"I think the limitation will be satisfactory to the administration and budget bureau," Overton said as he explained that the original budget bureau request for authority to lease ships had been so limited.

The measure, largest single appropriation in congressional history, will provide funds for about 25,000 airplanes for the navy.

DESTROYER BUILT IN RECORD PERIOD

Quincy, Mass., Jan. 31.—(AP)—On the ways little more than eight months, or about half the peacetime period for a vessel of her type, the U. S. destroyer Barton was launched today at the Bethlehem Steel Company's Fore River plant.

Plant officials said later ships of the same design probably would be built even more quickly.

STEAMER FREED

Stockholm, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The Swedish steamer Heimdal, carrying 600 Finnish children to Stockholm, was freed yesterday from the Finnish ice-breaker Bolma from ice floes in the coastal waters off Loo.

168-Hr. Week In Textiles

Charlotte, Jan. 31.—(AP)—B. E. Royal, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Textile Association, said today that extension of production operations to around 168 hours a week had developed into a general trend among Carolina's mills.

Relatively few mills have thus far placed all departments on the around-the-clock basis, he said, but in many plants departments are on the long schedule to overcome unbalances to assure maximum efficiency and output for the mills as a whole.

Royal forecast that this trend would result in a steady increase for textile mill operations. Many additional women may be employed, he said.

EMPLOYMENT RISES TO NATIONAL RECORD

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Secretary of Labor Perkins said today that civil non-agricultural employment in the United States rose to a record peak of 40,910,000 in December.

This represented a gain of 3,000,000 over December, 1939, the previous high in employment, and the secretary asserted that "there never have been so many persons employed in civilian work."

Wickard To Testify

Senate Farm Bloc Asks Statement of Policies Under Price Control Measure.

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Farm state senators brushed aside President Roosevelt's criticism of agricultural provisions of the price control law and called on Secretary of Agriculture Wickard today for a statement of his policies under the measure.

The Senate agriculture committee summoned Wickard to testify at a closed session in connection with his recent statement that farm prices ought not to go much over parity.

In signing the price control bill yesterday, President Roosevelt said that there was real danger in a provision which prevented the fixing of ceilings of agricultural products below 110 per cent of parity, a basic price calculated to give farmers equality in purchasing power with others. Although the President said that, if need be, Congress could be asked to correct the 110 per cent parity portion by amending the law, farm bloc members made it plain that any such proposal would provide a bitter controversy.

FIRE DESTROYS PART OF DANISH CAPITAL

London, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The Radio, quoting dispatches from Stockholm, said today that a quarter of Copenhagen, the capital of German-occupied Denmark, had been destroyed by fire.

(The dispatch did not bring out whether the fire was started accidentally, by incendiary bombs or by attacks of British bombers which have been raiding Danish military objectives).

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Showers this afternoon, ending in north portion early tonight, colder tonight.

Mediterranean Drive Near Causeway To Mainland Destroyed

Italian Rail Movements Curtailed

Hitler Believed Making Ready for Challenge to British Control of Sea; Attack May Aim at Knockout to Malta.

(By The Associated Press.)
A hint of possible axis maneuvers to challenge British control of the Mediterranean on an unprecedented scale was contained in a third-hand report today that passenger train service will be sharply curtailed in Italy.

The report came through Exchange Telegraph, a British news agency from Zurich, Switzerland, and quoted Rome dispatches.

Restrictions on civilian railway traffic have frequently attended large troop movements within the lands dominated by Hitler. British intelligence work already has disclosed an unusual concentration of German planes in southern Italy.

Mobilization aimed at knocking Malta out of the war would be a logical development of axis strategy following the surprise successes of Field Marshal General Erwin Rommel in re-capturing Bengasi and driving back the British from other newly won Libyan bases.

Malta, a fortified island lying between Sicily and the Tripolitanian coast, has been subjected to daily air raids for weeks. The aim of the Germans and Italians obviously is to neutralize the rock-spithead naval and air bases of British fighting men there.

On the Russian front, re-capturing of 46 more villages and towns was reported by the Red army in its drives against German winter lines in the center and the south.

The Germans, while officially dismissing Nazi withdrawals as inconsequential adaptations to arctic fighting conditions, broadcast warnings from Berlin to western Europeans on what a Russian conquest would mean.

A London Daily Mail dispatch from Madrid—seat of a Spanish government cooperating passively with Berlin—said Adolf Hitler had withdrawn all his active divisions from France, Belgium and Holland and replaced them with armies of occupation made up of boys from 16 to 18 and men over 40. This account, of course, may be intended to lure the allies into making a premature invasion attempt from the west.

Hitler proposes to use the active divisions as a nucleus of reserve in a spring campaign, the dispatch said.

On the north African front, British headquarters reported "no change" in the situation around axis-captured Bengasi and said two columns of imperial Indian troops had broken through German entrapment lines to regain the main British bases.

Premier Mussolini's high command asserted that the British were continuing to retreat under heavy axis pressure, with the scene of battle being steadily extended.

AUTO TAX STAMPS REQUIRED MONDAY

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Legally, today is the last day to buy automobile use tax stickers. A federal law requires that the stamps be on cars Monday.

But the Treasury admitted it had no systematic way of enforcing the tax, and would be glad to take motorists' money whenever it comes in. Congress rejected the bulk of a special appropriation that the Treasury asked for enforcement of this tax.

The stickers cost \$2.09.

AVALANCHE BLOCKS GOTTHARD RAILWAY

Bern, Switzerland, Jan. 31.—(AP)—An avalanche shortly after midnight blocked the Gotthard line—main rail route from Switzerland to Italy—derailing at least four freight cars. One track was expected to be cleared for resumption of traffic by tomorrow morning.

President Turns Back To His Tasks

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today turned back to his wartime tasks, "very grateful," he declared, for the nationwide celebrations of his 60th birthday which produced uncounted sums for the fight against infantile paralysis.

Twenty-three Hollywood stars lent glamor to the birthday celebration here. They had luncheon at the White House, witnessed the President's "thank you" broadcast to the nation, and made personal appearances at half a dozen balls and three theatres.

Mr. Roosevelt represented the Chief Executive at the cutting of his 650-pound birthday cake, the highlight of a once-around-d by the thousands of birthday guests.

The President was host to a group of intimate friends at a white House dinner preceding his broadcast to the millions of Americans gathered for dinners, dances and parties in all parts of the nation.

Auto Tire Ban Widened

Orders for Retreading and Recapping Machinery Rationed Under New Order.

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The war production board, it was learned today, has prohibited manufacturers of tire retreading and recapping machinery from filling any further orders except those accompanied by preference rating certificates.

The orders were issued by J. S. Knowlson, director of the WPB industry operations division, as a result of complaints from small tire dealers that large companies had bought up all available retreading and recapping tools.

Knowlson said the supplies had been distributed in such an uneven manner that many sections of the country were unable to meet the requirements for such machinery.

In addition to halting deliveries, Knowlson directed the manufacturers to submit by February 2 a list of all orders on their books, including customers' names, shipping addresses and types of equipment ordered.

The WPB will issue formal orders soon establishing a distribution system designed to assure equitable distribution of available supplies.

Hero's Son Safe



Arthur MacArthur

This is a recent portrait of three-year-old Arthur MacArthur, son of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, heroic defender of Bataan Peninsula in the Philippine Islands. Word has been received that both Mrs. MacArthur and little Arthur are safe in the Philippines. (Central Press)

In Army Air Corps Re-shuffle



These officers of the U. S. Army Air Corps were affected by the reshuffle announced by the War Department. Top, left, Col. Edgar P. Sorenson, assistant chief of air staff, has been relieved of that duty and assigned as director of bombardment aviation on the air staff; right, Maj. Gen. Barton K. Young will be in charge of turning out 30,000 new personnel required for the 1942 airplane production program. Bottom left, Brig. Gen. Carl Spaatz, chief of air staff, assigned to duty as chief of the air force combat command with the rank of major general; right, Maj. Gen. Frederick L. Martin, who was in charge of the air forces at Hawaii at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, will be commanding general of the second air force at Fort Wright, Wash.

Welders Walk Out At Tacoma Yards

BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST CONSCRIPTS LISTED

London, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Britain's youngest conscripts, boys of 17, registered today at labor exchanges throughout the nation for pre-service training until they become subject to regular army service at 18 1/2.

Blame Fixed For Air Crash

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The civil aeronautics authority reported today that failure of the aircraft to respond to the application of full power, probably caused the crash of a Northwest Airlines plane near Moorhead, Minn., last October 30, with the loss of 14 lives.

The ship failed to respond "in the manner reasonably to be expected in the light of aeronautical knowledge then available," the board said.

As contributing factors the board listed:

1. Accumulation of ice on the wings and other surfaces of the airplane, increasing the stalling speed and the drag of the plane on the power required to maintain flight.
2. Failure of the captain (Clarence F. Bates), only survivor of the accident, due to his having lost confidence in the air speed meters, to realize his close approach to a stalling condition.

PRICE CEILING SET FOR RADIO INDUSTRY

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—In a move to check price jumps, the office of price administration has fixed manufacturers' charges for home radio and television sets, phonographs and radio tubes.

The ceilings become effective February 9 and provide that the factories may not charge more than the highest net price of October 15, 1941, or the 90-day period prior to that date. No new models may be marketed after February 9 unless OPA approves the price.

Renewed Strife Between Independent Welders and AFL Union Causes Stoppage of Work at West Coast Shipyards.

Tacoma, Jan. 31.—(AP)—More than 750 of the 1,180 welders employed at the Tacoma yards of the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corporation were idle today in renewed strife between the independent welders and AFL unions with which they have been affiliated.

The existing union of welders refused to work and had been on strike for some time, but had been dismissed for failing to pay dues to the AFL, leaders makers union.

Charles L. Brunkerhoff, secretary of the Tacoma welders and hammermen, said "graveyard" and day shift crews had voted 529 to 14 to support their action.

The midnight shift declined to work this morning.

In addition, the waterfront fire-dredging production at five Seattle ships.

(Continued on Page Six)

Nazis Bomb North Ireland

Berlin (From German Broadcasts), Jan. 31.—(AP)—The high command said today "radio targets in north Ireland were machine-gunned by German planes" in operations yesterday.

(The RAF said British fighter planes had engaged and apparently crippled a German reconnaissance bomber over northern Ireland where several thousand American troops are now based as the vanguard of a second AEF.)

A military installation on the east coast of England, not further described, also was reported by the high command to have been attacked by German planes.

Far to the North, British Troops Evacuate Moulmein, Across Bay From Rangoon; Aid for Singapore Believed Near.

(By The Associated Press.)
Britain suffered two grave reverses in the far Pacific today as imperial defenders of Malaya fell back onto Singapore island, and far to the north, British troops evacuated strategic Moulmein, across the bay from Rangoon, Burma.

Burma is the gateway to the vast treasure house of India. It is also vital to China as the "back door" of the Burma Road, lifeline of China's war supplies.

"Our troops have withdrawn over the Salween river after removing all stores and equipment," a British bulletin said, adding that heavy casualties had been inflicted on the Japanese.

The Salween river empties into the Gulf of Martaban at Moulmein, 100 miles east across the gulf from Rangoon.

Japanese dispatches said Moulmein had been left virtually a "ghost city."

With the collapse of British resistance on the Malay peninsula, Singapore authorities destroyed the causeway to the mainland and called on every man to battle Japan's siege armies "until help can come." Thrown back 350 miles in two months of bloody jungle fighting, the outnumbered Australian, British and Indian imperial troops retired to the \$400,000,000 island fortress under cover of darkness, it was announced officially.

Japanese front line dispatches said the nikada's armies had seized control.

(Continued on Page Two)

CASES OF TYPHUS FOUND IN TURKEY

London, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Exchange Telegraph news agency reported today from Istanbul that the Turkish minister of hygiene had announced the appearance of a number of cases of typhus in Turkey, and said that adequate preventative measures had been taken.

Car Rationing To Be Started February 26

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The office of price administration announced today that new cars purchased, but not delivered prior to the government freezing order January 1 would be released after February 12.

Also, the OPA said, automobile rationing would begin February 26 instead of February 2 as had been planned.

At the same time, Price Administrator Leon Henderson disclosed that the rationing program—held up pending final determination of "eligible" purchases—contemplated release of all cars in dealers' hands by the end of 1942, except about 130,000 units which will be held back as a government stock pile.

It was estimated that dealers and manufacturers now have about 524,000 new automobiles, in addition to the reserve supply, which will be subject to rationing.

Henderson said it was felt that the problem of cars purchased but not delivered should be disposed of before the actual rationing plan went into operation, and that the two-week period between February 12 and February 26 therefore was set aside to permit local rationing boards to clear up that situation.