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EXCEPT SUNDAY.

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Assuming Supreme Command Of United Nations Forces In Southwest Pacific,

MacArthur Is Now In Australia

Labor Laws Gain Support

Sailors Snatched From Fiery Death at Sea



These grimy, oil-smeared survivors of a torpedoed American tanker wait in a medical dispensary to which a few minutes after they were landed safely at Southport, N. C. They told a gripping story of slipping perishing in burning oil covering the sea after a torpedo struck the tanker.

Reds Close In On Nazi Army

Key Point Is Captured

Position Identified as
'N' May be Novgorod,
Strong Center of Resistance.

(By The Associated Press)

Russian troops battling to crush remnants of the trapped German 16th army in the Staraya Russa sector, south of Leningrad, were reported today to have seized a key point on heights overlooking the battlefield and further tightened the noose around the beleaguered Nazis.

Soviet front-line dispatches, identifying the point only as "N," said it has been one of the strongest centers of German resistance.

This may have been the ancient walled city of Novgorod, on the north shore of Lake Ilmen, one of the main anchorages of German defense.

On the Ukraine front, Russian dispatches said the Germans were surrendering in mounting numbers as Marshal Timoshenko's Red armies battered at the gates of Kharkov, the Soviet "Pittsburgh."

In the Crimea, a bulletin from Adolf Hitler's field headquarters asserted that Russian attacks on the Keren peninsula, gateway to the Caucasian oil fields, had collapsed against German-Russian resistance.

The Nazi communiqué said the

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French Intern 2,000 Britons

London, March 17.—(AP)—Reuters reported from Tangier today that French authorities in Morocco have ordered internment of all British subjects between 18 and 50 residing in coast towns.

The number involved is believed to be about 2,000.

Reliable sources said the step was taken in reprisal for the RAF bombing attack on occupied France.

It was recalled that last summer the Vichy government ordered British nationals in unoccupied southern France to move inland from all points on the Riviera and elsewhere along the Mediterranean coast.

CIGARETTE PLANTS TO BE CONVERTED TO WAR INDUSTRY

Daily Dispatch Bureau,
In the Sir Walter Hotel,
By BOB THOMPSON

Raleigh, March 17.—It is possible, even probable, that North Carolina's large tobacco companies will begin the manufacture of guns, gun cartridges or some other tools of war within the near future. The cigarette companies have large and well equipped machine shops and it is machine tools that the government most needs now. What is more, these companies are big enough to accept the responsibility of prime contracts and could let out the sub-contracts to other smaller North Carolina firms.

At least one and perhaps all the big cigarette manufacturing companies have agreed to such a procedure if the government so desires. Moreover, such action on the part of the tobacco companies would make it much easier for the contract distribution office of the war production board to accomplish one of its major tasks and bring war work to the smaller industries in this state.

A British broadcast yesterday by Sir Winston Churchill indicated that the royal Australian air force men who have been serving against Japan in Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies are now back in Australia.

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(By The Associated Press)

A British broadcast reported today that "most of the royal Australian air force men who have been serving against Japan in Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies are now back in Australia."

The veteran Aussie airmen, it was said, "will add greatly to the offensive spirit and training power of the Australian squadron taking the fight to the enemy."

An Australian prime minister, John Curtin, and Japanese bombers striking yesterday at Darwin inflicted a toll of two killed and twelve wounded, but failed in their attempt to destroy ground力量.

Conflicting to rumors, there have been no fresh Japanese landings in the New Guinea and Papua area, Curtin said.

A Vichy (French) radio broadcast gathered Secretary Stimson's announcement that strong United States forces had arrived in Attu today. In what was presumably a slip of the tongue, the Vichy broadcast quoted Stimson as saying that Japanese troops had carried out a landing in the "town under" command.

On other fronts:

Increased pressure upon British Chinese defense lines in Burma coincided with a Tokyo announcement that Japanese submarines had sunk eleven merchant ships totaling 85,500 tons off the Burmese and Indian coasts. Thus far in the war,

Japanese raiders, owing a 1,500-mile course across the Bay of Bengal, were reported to have destroyed eight vessels near the tip of India—four off Madras and four near the Ceylon port of Colombo.

Two merchantmen and a freighter were listed as sunk off Rangoon, the Japanese-occupied capital of Burma.

Japanese patrols flushed yesterday through fire-charged jungle areas about 100 miles north of Rangoon and there were unofficial reports of skirmishing between invaders and defenders around Nyangshelin, a shabby, semi-deserted town on the railway line to the Burma Road.

The opposition arguments were heard by L. Metcalf Walling, administrator of the wages and hours division of the U. S. Department of Labor, and at their conclusion he announced he would make his findings public after studying briefs submitted by both sides.

Hearings on the wage proposal began some time ago in Washington after a committee appointed by the Labor department to investigate the industry recommended the 40-cent minimum sought by the Tobacco Workers International Union.

J. C. Lamer, executive secretary of the Leaf Tobacco Exporters Assn.

(Continued on Page Two)

New York, March 17.—(AP)—Representatives of the leaf tobacco industry of the dark-leaf tobacco region of Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina today argued against a proposed minimum wage of 40 cents an hour on the ground that the war had virtually stopped all of their exports and that any increase above the present 30 cent minimum would result only in increased unemployment.

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RAAF Back In Homeland

Most of Airmen Who
Fought in Malaya and
Indies Ready to De-
fend Australia.

(Continued on Page Four)

FDR Says Whole Field Considered

House Support for
Drastic Legislation
Affecting Both Labor
and Industry Assumes
Major Proportions.

Washington, March 17.—(AP)—A public cry for faster war production got a quick reaction from Congress and the administration.

Senate, 16-14, last night after both labor and industry raised House's wage law, assumed major proportions.

President Roosevelt was understood to have advised his legislative leaders that the whole labor production problem—increasing quantities ranging from "wage parity" to temporary suspension of the 40-hour week—was coming soon indeed.

As a result, there were reports that Democratic congressional leaders would attempt to stave off immediate action in Congress on any other new program. Pending action, it was believed, might lead to a general labor difficulty.

Friends of the administration in the House, however, reported that with sentiment mounting rapidly for any legislation that would speed war production, the first new bill to reach the debate stage probably would be approved speedily and overwhelmingly.

In this category they placed legislation relating to both military and naval war contracts introduced yesterday by Representative Sam Johnson, Virginia, which would:

1. Wise out the current basic 40-hour work week and provision of laws and contracts requiring payment of time and one-half for overtime.

2. Create the chief step to insure that Smith termed the "final deal."

3. Establish a national minimum wage of 40 cents an hour.

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