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Convoy Duty on the Atlantic



Awaiting a call to action, these U. S. naval pilots, fully equipped, stand on the runway of a plane catapult (top), as their warship helps herd a convoy across the Atlantic. The freighters (bottom) limned by the rays of the sun that is slowly setting behind the cumulus clouds just over the horizon makes this one of those rare pictures of nature's beauty. (Central Press)

Motorists Trade Gas Ration Cards

Last Day of Registration Marked by Rush for Smaller Allotment Cards; Conversion of Oil Heating Units Urged.

(By The Associated Press) Rationing of gasoline on the eastern seaboard became effective at 12:01 a. m. EWT today amid a welter of predictions and suggestions regarding its far flung ramifications. Chief feature of the third and final day of ration card registration yesterday was a wild rush by motorists to exchange previously obtained unlimited or high allotment tickets for those calling for smaller allowances. Registration of honest mistakes by putative drivers who had over-estimated their needs was advanced by rationing boards as the main reason for voluntary surrendering of many liberal cards, but a possible factor was speculation by some that a stiff jail sentence or a \$10,000 fine might be the penalty for misrepresenting their gasoline requirements. Conversion of home heating plants from oil to coal wherever possible and federal subsidizing of gasoline transportation on railroads were urged at New York as ways to ease the shortage in 17 states from Maine to Florida.

TEXAS WOMAN HEADS NEW ARMY AUXILIARY

Washington, May 15.—(AP)—Secretary of War Stimson today announced the appointment of Mrs. William P. Hobby of Houston, Tex., as director of the women's Army auxiliary corps. The corps, created by legislation approved this week by Congress, will be composed of women volunteers for service with the Army, to replace enlisted men now assigned to such non-combatant duties as typists, telephone operators, clerks and laboratory technicians. The legislation authorizes a corps with up to 150,000 members.

No Tires In Prospect

Babson Says He is Getting Frightened Over Situation; Slow Driving Advised.

By ROGER W. BABSON
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Financial Bureau, Inc.

Akron, Ohio, May 15.—I am out here again, cussing up the tire situation. My interest is far deeper than what it means to you and your pleasure car. Next to banking, tires are the most necessary part of almost all industry. The financial, commercial, farming, professional and manufacturing business of the nation runs on pneumatic tires. To have these tires eliminated by a long war would be a great blow to the nation. Hence, the boys in Washington should count ten before saying or doing anything hasty. What About Rubber?

Since I first wrote on the tire situation, the Japanese have seized nearly 90 per cent of the world's commercial bearing rubber trees. We have enough raw rubber in stock piles to supply our war needs until our new synthetic plants get going. After that, the war requirements will take all the synthetic rubber. Getting rubber now from goldenrod, milkweeds, sugar cane, etc., is practically an idle dream. Gasyule which is now being planted will not produce rubber for five years. The Brazilians are too lazy to go into their wild forests to get it out. Hence, as far as getting new rubber tires for 30,000,000 pleasure cars, we can forget it.—no fooling!

The only hope I can give is that we really need rubber pneumatic tires only for the two rear wheels. Furthermore, cars are now being

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American-Made Tanks Lead Advance As

Reds Near Kharkov

Last Of British Troops Leave Burma

Vichy Radio Reports Jap Penetration

Weary Remnants of British Armies in Burma Retreat Into Manipur State in India; Stilwell's Troops Continue Fight.

(By The Associated Press)

Climaxing a bloody five-months battle against hopeless odds, the last weary remnants of the British army in Burma have crossed into Manipur state in eastern India, it was reported today, while the Vichy radio declared Japanese troops had advanced 80 miles into India along the Bay of Bengal.

The Vichy broadcast quoted vague and unconfirmed reports that the invaders had reached a point within 16 miles of Chittagong, only 210 miles from the great Indian metropolis of Calcutta.

The withdrawal of the last British force, estimated at 5,000 men, followed a dogged retreat from the bomb-ridden city of Mandalay and a Japanese thrust which separated the British from their Chinese allies commanded by General Joseph W. Stilwell. At last reports, General Stilwell's forces were stubbornly resisting a Japanese advance up the Burma Road some 125 miles into China proper.

In eastern China, a Tokyo broadcast credited Japanese forces with inflicting a heavy defeat on the main body of the 22nd Chinese division in a battle in central Hopeh province.

Other far Pacific developments included:

Battle of Australia — General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters reported that long range allied bombers again heavily pounded Japanese ships in the harbor of Rabaul, New Britain, and scored a smashing victory over enemy fighters which tried to intercept them.

A communiqué said gunners in the big bombers—presumably including giant American flying fortresses—shot down seven of 17 Japanese planes attacking them. All allied planes returned safely.

Other United Nations bombers raided the Japanese seaplane base in the Louisiana archipelago, off the southeast coast of New Guinea, sinking an enemy seaplane and leaving shore targets in flames.

The Japanese countered with two heavy raids on Port Moresby, key allied base in southern New Guinea, first attacking the airbase with 13 fighter planes and then striking at ships in the harbor with 26 heavy bombers.

Youth Saved From Tunnel

Portland, Ore., May 15.—(AP)—Alive but injured critically, 16-year-old James Harper was removed today from a rock tunnel in which he had been penned for 13 hours.

Strapped to a stretcher, he was passed down a long line of men and taken to a hospital. The boy had lain under a shaly arch of rocks, with a 1,500-pound boulder on his lap pinning his knees. For hours after the slide he had joked with rescuers. He was released at 6 a. m. Pacific war time.

Since 5 p. m. PWT yesterday the Hill Military Academy student from Yakima, Wash., lay in a tunnel-like aperture formed by rocks which had fallen from a sheer cliff on which the academy is located.

He was trapped there when the rocks closed the hole—fifteen to twenty feet from its entrance. Two companions crawled

NAZIS DECLARE U. S. WARSHIPS SUNK IN ARCTIC

Hendersons Get A's



Leon Henderson, head of the Office of Price Administration, will have to get along with "A" ration cards for his two cars. Although he drives to work his round trip falls under the six miles necessary to put him in the "B" class. Mrs. Henderson is shown holding the two "A" cards which entitle the Henderson family to six gallons of gasoline per week. (Central Press)

Report of Action is First Indication That American Fleet Units Are Operating So Deeply Along Supply Route.

Berlin (From German Broadcasts) May 15.—(AP)—The German high command announced today that its air force, flung into battle on the Arctic supply lines to Russia, had destroyed a United States cruiser and destroyer as well as a 3,000-ton ice breaker and 2,000-ton merchant vessel.

The special communique said also that a 10,000-ton freighter was set afire from stern to stern in a connected action, while at a southern English port bombers destroyed four British merchant ships totaling 7,500 tons.

The communique said the cruiser was of the 9,100-ton Pensacola class (which normally carry 603 men) and identified the naval formation as an American squadron operating between the north coast of Norway and the Arctic island of Spitzbergen.

The locale of the action—apart from the German claims which might have been drawn to gain information on disposition of United States naval power—was the first indication that American fleet units were operating so deeply on the supply routes to Murmansk and Archangel.

The communique gave no details. DNB, the news agency, however said that the cruiser was bombed on Thursday, took fire and sank at midnight last night. One of several accompanying destroyers was hit and sunk, the agency reported.

DNB said that the ice breaker and the 2,000-ton merchant vessel were bombed in a fjord at Spitzbergen, whereas the high command gave no locale.

(This might be taken to suggest some move pivoting on the large Norwegian island, 400 miles off northeastern Norway, which Canadian, British and Norwegian shock troops raided last September in an attempt of destruction against valuable coal mines and removal of several hundred anti-Nazi miners and their families.)

QUIET LAUNCHING FOR NEW CRUISER

Newport News, Va., May 15.—(AP)—The Navy's newest cruiser, the Mobile, got her first taste of salt water today in one of the quietest launchings ever staged at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. plant.

Sub Saves Island Wealth

Washington, May 15.—(AP)—A submarine which carried ammunition to the abandoned fortress at Corregidor was revealed officially today as the vessel which brought out a vast amount of gold, silver and securities from the Philippine island last February.

The story was told today by the Navy, but the value of the wealth, thus saved from the Japanese invaders, was not disclosed in the official release, the Navy saying merely that it represented a large part of the negotiable wealth of the island.

This property belonged to both the Philippine Commonwealth and the United States, and residents of the island.

The mission was carried out by a submarine commanded by Lieutenant Commander Frank W. Fennell, Jr., 39, of Westminster, Mass.

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Miss USO of Tampa



Zoe Lorch, secretary to the mayor of Tampa, Fla., was named "Miss USO of Tampa" by 1,000 service men stationed in and around that city. Miss Lorch is the first girl in the nation to be chosen in the spontaneous "Miss USO" elections held in more than 650 clubs and units operated by the organization. (Central Press)

Japs Claim Sea Power

German News Agency Says Two 45,000-Ton, Four 35,000-Ton Warships Launched.

Berlin (From German Broadcasts) May 15.—(AP)—A report that the Japanese navy launched two 45,000-ton battleships and four of 35,000-ton last week and will launch three more battleships of unspecified size this year was published today by DNB.

In a dispatch from Milan, Italy, the German agency quoted the Tokyo correspondent of the newspaper Del Popolo as saying on the basis of these figures that "the United States navy no longer has a five-to-three advantage over the Japanese navy" and "not even new construction of the next few years will influence the changing proportion."

(The figures quoted for Japanese construction are far in excess of those credited by United Nations authorities.)

(The latest editions of Jane's Fighting Ships, considered most authoritative of naval armaments, list five Japanese battleships of "over 40,000 tons" either newly completed or nearing completion.)

The dispatch went on to cite figures concerning the American program tending to show it was behind that of Japan in time "despite excellent dock yards."

ORDNANCE FACTORY GOES TO CHARLOTTE

Washington, May 15.—(AP)—The Navy department announced today that a large ordnance plant for the loading of anti-aircraft shells, costing millions of dollars, would be established at Charlotte, N. C.

The plant is expected to employ about 6,000 workers, approximately half of them women. It will occupy a tract of around 2,000 acres.

French Ships Are Being Demobilized

Washington, May 15.—(AP)—The work of demobilizing French warships is going forward at Martinique, Secretary of State Hull said today, and agreement thus has been reached on the vital phase of military questions under discussion at the Caribbean island.

The status and future usefulness of French merchant shipping now in the island harbor, of the French possession, he indicated, is

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Nazis Claim Army Storms Kerch Gates

Timoshenko's Armies Smash More Than 150 German Tanks in Two Days; Russians Only 20 Miles From Heart of Kharkov.

(By The Associated Press)

With American-made tanks blazing the way, Russia's armies were reported to have crashed through the inner defenses of Kharkov in at least two places today after sweeping seven miles beyond the Donets river and smashing more than 150 German tanks in two days.

London diplomatic quarters said they heard Adolf Hitler was so stunned by the unexpected power of the Soviet offensive that he had instructed his ambassador to Tokyo to increase pressure on Japan for an attack against Russia.

A British broadcast said Hitler's crack field marshal, Fedor von Bock, who "almost" took Moscow in the Nazi offensive last year, has been put in command of Kharkov's defense.

In the Crimea, Hitler's field headquarters asserted that Russian defenders of the heights before Kerch, short cut to the great Caucasus oil fields, had been driven back and that German-Rumanian columns were at the gates of the town.

The Nazi communique mentioned tersely that fighting was continuing in the battle for Kharkov.

Soviet front line dispatches said the Red armies steadily were pressing forward, crushing Nazi counter attacks, capturing a number of nearby communities, and advancing over roads littered with hundreds of German bodies, smashed tanks and cannon.

Red Star, the Russian army newspaper, said the battle was "another heavy defeat" for the Germans, who have held Kharkov since last October.

The newspaper said both sides threw in powerful tank forces and that Soviet tanks forced a water barrier, split the German troop concentrations and drove a wedge into the enemy defenses.

"Then our infantry moved into the breach and consolidated the occupied

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FDR Says U. S. Troops In More Action

Washington, May 15.—(AP)—Declaring that more transport planes are needed, President Roosevelt told a press conference today that we are getting into actual fighting more and more and at more places all the time. The Chief Executive spoke of increased American fighting in various parts of the world during a discussion of his order permitting the War department to take over control of all the planes of commercial air lines.

We need all the planes we can get, he said. Every kind is being taken over, he added, including what he termed puddle jumpers and one-or two-man ships. He asserted that almost anything that can fly is useful to the government.

The President did not elaborate on what new fronts American men might be fighting soon. Nor did he care to answer a question as to whether American troops had taken part in the British occupation of the French island of Madagascar near strategic United Nations supply lines on the Indian ocean.

Local Bonds Tax Exempt

House Committee Rejects Proposal to Tax Interest on Current and Future Issues.

Washington, May 15.—(AP)—The House ways and means committee rejected today proposals to tax the interest on outstanding or future state and local securities.

Chairman Doughton, Democrat, North Carolina, told newspapermen at the end of a morning session of the committee:

"We have voted not to tax the interest on state and municipal securities either outstanding or future."

Secretary Morgenthau of the Treasury had recommended repeal of all preceding tax exemption features on such securities to raise \$200,000,000 as

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RED 18-YEAR OLDS REGISTER FOR ARMY

Moscow, May 15.—(AP)—The Red army ordered 18-year old youths today to register May 17 for their regular period of military service.

This annual registration is preparatory to the autumn call to the colors. Besides the regular class of 1924, members of the classes of 1923 and 1922—19 and 20 year olds—who have not previously registered were ordered to do so.

Pelley Asks Court Stay

Raleigh, May 15.—(AP)—Council for William Dudley Pelley asked the North Carolina supreme court today for a stay of all proceedings against the Silver Shirts leader pending settlement of what they claimed was a "conflict of jurisdiction" between North Carolina and federal courts on charges against Pelley.

Pelley is appealing to the State supreme court a two-to-three year prison term meted to him in Buncombe county for violating North Carolina's blue sky laws and he was

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WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Showers and continued warm this afternoon and tonight.