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MOSCOW "HIDING" U.S. AID, ENVOY CHARGES

New Setbacks for Axis in Tunisia

Japs Have Increasing Difficulty Supplying Island Bases—Knox

Washington—(AP)—Secretary of the Navy Knox said today that American forces are stronger than they ever have been in the Solomon islands area while throughout the south Pacific the Japanese are having increasing difficulty in supplying their island bases.

Such losses of shipping strength as the Japanese suffered in the battle of the Bismarck sea and as they have had throughout the war due to American submarine attacks, Knox told a press conference, are all a part of the process of attrition which he said is "a most serious factor" in Japan's military future.

Submarines Very Successful

Without adequate shipping, the secretary explained, the Japanese cannot maintain their south Pacific bases in many instances and he added in this connection that "our submarine campaign continues to be very successful."

He was asked whether it would be proper to say that the enemy is having extreme difficulty in moving supplies and replied that he would say the Japanese are having "increasing difficulty."

Meanwhile, Knox said in response to other questions, "we're growing stronger than we have ever been in the Solomons area."

He added that the United States is "not a bit" worried about the Japanese airbase at Munda on New Georgia island in the central Solomons and said that the purpose of bombing it almost daily is to keep the Japs from using it to interfere with American plans.

Declines to Discuss Plans

He declined to discuss what those plans might be, either in the Solomons or anywhere else, and he also declined to speculate on whether the Japanese might be planning to use Munda and other places offensively or defensively.

"Every Japanese base has potentialities of danger," Knox said. "If the Japanese were to come down against the southeastern Solomons again, I suppose Munda probably would be one of the bases they would use."

The Pacific situation generally, Knox said, is "in a state of suspended animation."

He said it is impossible to state the condition of Japanese shipping or to measure their losses more than speculatively, which he declined to do. The United States, he explained, has "only estimates" of what the Japanese had before the war started and of their ability to build new ships since then.

Stevens Point Airman Hawaii Crash Victim

Stevens Point, Wis.—Second Lt. Eugene B. Domaek, 21, a pilot in the army air force, was killed in an airplane accident in Hawaii last Friday, according to a message received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Domaek of Stevens Point, from the war department today. Details were not given.

The young flier had been in the army since October, 1940, when he left Marshfield as a member of a National Guard unit mobilized at that time. His parents then resided at Marshfield. He was transferred subsequently to the air forces and received his wings last December 15.

He was born in Stevens Point and graduated from high school in the class of 1939 here. Three sisters and a brother, all at home, also survive.

Youth Turns in Lost Gas Rationing Book

A Wisconsin Rapids youth, Chester Giese, 2211 Chase street, was praised today for turning in the first lost gasoline rationing book to be received by the local war price and rationing board.

Chester found the book, containing seven gasoline coupons, which had been issued to a motorist under "C" classification. Although numerous cases of lost books have been handled by the local board, the book handed in by Chester was the first of its kind here.

"This is the kind of cooperation that will appeal to any patriotic American these days," Fred W. Bushnell, chief clerk, said.

SENTENCE MEAT DEALERS

New York—(AP)—Seven independent meat wholesalers who pleaded guilty to selling beef at prices ranging from 5 to 10 cents a pound above OPA ceiling prices were sentenced today to six months imprisonment each and fined an aggregate of \$27,500 by Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard.

CANCEL GRID CLASSIC

Los Angeles—(AP)—One of the nation's greatest intersection football rivalries became a war casualty today when cancellation of the Notre Dame and University of Southern California game for 1943 was announced.

GERMAN ATTACKS FRUSTRATED IN THREE SECTORS

(By the Associated Press) Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was declared officially to have lost 50 tanks and fallen back into the hills along the Mareth line in southern Tunisia today after six violent but unsuccessful thrusts against the British 8th army, and axis setbacks were reported in two other sectors of the Tunisian battle theater.

In the north, an allied communique said, the Germans were forced to withdraw after launching an attack near Tamera, seven miles west of Sedjenane and 42 miles west of the big axis naval base at Bizerte. Take 200 German Prisoners

Allied troops captured about 200 prisoners before the Germans retreated, it was announced.

In lower central Tunisia, French troops operating near the Chott Jerid (salt lake) region 100 miles northwest of the Mareth line occupied the town of Tozeur, 50 miles southwest of Gafsa.

In the skies, allied fighters and bombers inflicted "considerable damage" on Rommel's retreating armor and transport, while other allied nations airmen shot down 17 axis planes out of a 50-plane formation on a sweep over the Mediterranean.

Despite powerful reinforcements of armor and troops, Rommel's fierce offensive thrusts were declared to have "completely failed" against the fire-power of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's artillery ranged on the approaches to the 60-mile-long Mareth defense works.

Reds Close In on Vyazma On the Soviet front, red army shock troops, battering the Germans into swift retreat along the old Napoleonic "escape corridor" from Moscow to Smolensk, were reported to have captured 20 villages and driven within less than 20 miles of the key Nazi stronghold at Vyazma.

Vyazma lies 135 miles west of Moscow and about 100 miles east of Hitler's 1941-42 headquarters at Smolensk.

Russian spearheads were pictured as thrusting at Vyazma from three directions, sharply threatening to outflank it, and London military quarters declared the city appeared doomed.

On the northern flank, Soviet troops were reported to have reached the upper Dnieper river northwest of Vyazma after driving on from newly recaptured Sychevka, where 8,000 Germans were declared killed in a two-day battle. Sychevka is 35 miles above Vyazma on the railway to Rzhev.

J. P. Morgan Stricken With Heart Trouble

New York—(AP)—J. P. Morgan has suffered a return of his former heart trouble while at Boca Grande, Fla., and the directors of his banking house said today, "we are anxious."

A statement authorized by the directors of J. P. Morgan & Co. with respect to the condition of the international financier, who is 75 years old, said:

"Mr. J. P. Morgan is ill at Boca Grande, Fla., where he had gone for a brief rest. He has had a return of his old heart trouble with complications. Because of his age, we are anxious."

Goodland Asks Assembly to Back His Stand on Surtax

Madison, Wis.—(AP)—Governor Goodland sent a message to the assembly today urging members of that body to stand with him for collection of the state's 60 per cent surtax on 1942 incomes.

To Vote Wednesday A bill to cancel the surtax payments, due March 15, was passed by both houses of the legislature but was vetoed by the governor. It since has been passed over his veto by the senate and comes up for consideration in the assembly tomorrow.

Commenting on the assembly's delay in taking up the measure he vetoed last week, Goodland said:

"This action could not have been prompted by any desire for further study because the matter has been thoroughly discussed and every member has formed his conviction on it."

The governor accused the "comparatively small number of large taxpayers" of using the great mass of small taxpayers as shock troops for "their selfish purposes."

"Why is it necessary for this small group to cause a delay of



COMMISSIONED—Lieut. Henry M. Ford, above, Wisconsin Rapids civil engineer, left Monday for active duty at Norfolk, Va., with the U. S. navy. Until joining the navy, Lieutenant Ford was on the staff of the Wisconsin state planning board.

RED CROSS FUND REACHES \$7,481

Chairman A. W. Zellmer announced today the total of the Red Cross war fund had reached approximately 65 per cent of the South Wood County chapter quota, with collections amounting to \$7,481.85, and he urged chapter fund workers to complete the drive this week.

Asks Reports Soon The chairman said the aim of the organization is to finish the solicitation of the \$11,600 quota by Saturday. He requested that all sub-chairmen of the drive report to headquarters as soon as possible. Office hours at headquarters in the Mead-Witter block this week will be from 12:30 to 4:30 p. m.

More than 100 women are cooperating in the residential solicitation work in Wisconsin Rapids, Mr. Zellmer said. In charge of the east side group are Mrs. E. B. Hurst and Mrs. Charles Holmes. West side solicitors are under Mrs. T. W. Olson and Mrs. Tom Utegaard. List Ward Workers

East side ward organizations follow: First, Mrs. Selma Rousseau, chairman, and Mesdames Earl Young, C. E. Bred, E. O. Karberg, Elliott Villeneuve, Claude Gardner, Earl Akey, Charles Natwick, J. N. Reiland, Henry Becker and Edward Philles.

Second, Mrs. W. A. Sprise, chairman, and Mesdames R. A. Peterson, See—RED CROSS—Page 7

Kyser's Draft Appeal Is Supported by OWI

Washington—(AP)—Band leader Kay Kyser's appeal to President Roosevelt for a 1-A draft classification is being supported by the office of war information.

Asserting that the 37-year-old Kyser probably would be given a band leading job in the army if he were inducted, OWI Director Elmer Davis said last night:

"We think he is doing more useful work now." Kyser is a consultant on OWI's radio advisory committee and is a leader in bond-selling drives.

Union Lenten Services Open Here Wednesday

Union Lenten services will again be held this year on Wednesday and Sunday evenings at the First Congregational church under the sponsorship of six local churches. The first of these services will take place tomorrow night at 7:45 o'clock when the Rev. E. A. Finn of Arpin will be the guest speaker. His subject will be "Ash Wednesday, Its Meaning Today." The Rev. Robert W. Kingdon will preside and the Congregational choir will sing.

At each of these Wednesday night services a pastor from a parish in the surrounding communities will talk and a local pastor will preside. The Sunday evening series will be addressed by local pastors on the general theme, "Candid Commands of Jesus." Sponsoring churches are First Baptist, St. John's evangelist Reformed, First Moravian, Trinity Moravian, Methodist, and First Congregational.

Let Puerto Rico Elect Own Governor—FDR

Washington—(AP)—President Roosevelt asked congress today to consider "as soon as possible" legislation to permit the people of Puerto Rico to elect their own governor.

The governor of Puerto Rico now is appointed by the chief executive, subject to senate confirmation.

FAIL TO BREAK PAY-AS-YOU-GO TAX DEADLOCK

Washington—(AP)—A number of house ways and means committees, perhaps a majority, appeared ready late today to vote for continuation of the present federal income tax system, without any tax abatement but with 20 per cent deductions—weekly, semi-monthly or monthly—against the taxable portions of pay envelopes and salary checks.

Washington—(AP)—Two compromise proposals to the Ruml skip-a-year income tax plan that would have abated lesser amounts of 1942 tax liability were rejected today by the house ways and means committee, thus failing to break the deadlock on pay-as-you-go taxation.

Reject Two Plans The plans rejected today were:

1. By Representative Robertson (D-Va.) to abate the 6 per cent normal and first bracket 13 per cent surtax on the first \$2,000 of 1942 income for all taxpayers. This would erase completely the 1942 federal income tax obligations for 70 per cent of the taxpayers; 90 per cent of taxpayers then would be put on a current payment basis through a withholding tax to be deducted from earnings. The 10 per cent in the higher income brackets would continue paying their taxes as usual.

2. By Chairman Doughton (D-N. C.), to apply the much softer 1941 rates and exemptions to 1942 income and let the taxpayers amortize the remaining 1942 obligation over a relatively short period of time while simultaneously remitting on taxes for the current year. This would wipe out the 1942 tax altogether for a large number of persons and reduce the obligation for others.

Future of Idea in Doubt The committee's action left in doubt the future of pay-as-you-go taxation. However, committee members indicated they would turn again to a proposal by Representative Disney (D-Okla.) and Gearhart (R-Calif.) to continue the present system of collecting taxes in one year on the basis of income the previous year, but with a 20 per cent holding levy against the taxable portions of wages and salaries through weekly or monthly deductions from pay envelopes and salary checks.

The committee yesterday rejected this proposal, 13 to 12. Two weeks ago it also voted down the Robertson and Doughton suggestions which were rejected again today.

To Carry Fight to Floor Regardless of what action the committee takes, it was certain that advocates of the plan by Beardley Ruml, New York banker, embraced in a bill by Representative Carlson (R-Kas.), would carry their battle for a full year's abatement to the house floor.

The issue cut across party lines, some Republicans describing the Ruml "skip a year" proposal as "the only practicable and fair" current tax payment method, and another saying it would create "war millionaires."

Before his press conference concluded, Welles was asked whether he cared to comment on Vice President LEND LEASE—Page 7

Name Milton Button Ag Dep't. Director

Madison, Wis.—(AP)—Milton H. Button was appointed director of the state department of agriculture today by the state board of agriculture, succeeding Herman Ihde, who died Friday night.

Button has been chief of the department's dairy division since last July. He previously was head of the administration division. He joined the department staff June 4, 1942.

Button is 46 years old. He was born on a farm near Lone Rock, Richland county. After being graduated from the Wisconsin college of agriculture he served as county agent of Washington county from 1920 until 1925, and of Dane county from 1925 to 1929.

From 1929 to 1933 he was secretary of the Holstein-Friesian association of Wisconsin, and from 1933 until he entered state service he was connected with the Farm Credit administration in St. Paul.

Gets Life Term for Slaying Ex-Fiancee

Madison, Wis.—(AP)—James W. Riley, 25, of Marshall, was sentenced by Circuit Judge Alvin C. Reis today to serve a life term in Wausau prison for slaying his former fiancee, Gladys Olson, 25, of Rio, while they sat in his car last October 14 discussing her plans to marry another man.

Riley pleaded innocent by reason of insanity but was convicted by a jury last week of first-degree murder. When Judge Reis asked if he had anything to say before sentence was imposed, Riley replied:

"I still say I had no intention of killing her."

He admitted at the trial that he shot the girl twice with a pistol, then debated whether he should commit suicide and finally took her body to the police station.

Russian People Not Aware of Extent of American Help

Says Ambassador Standley

Washington—(AP)—Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles said today that Ambassador William H. Standley's statement in Moscow that the Russian people were not completely informed of the American lend-lease aid to the Soviets, was made without prior consultation with the government in Washington.

Asks Text of Remarks Welles made this statement at his press conference and added that he had cabled Standley for a text of whatever remarks he may have made to the press.

No reply had yet been received, Welles said, adding that until the requested text is at hand he prefers not to comment in any detail.

Welles said, however, that whatever remarks were made by the ambassador were made without prior consultation with or reference to this government.

Says Complete Trust Exists The undersecretary said the understanding which existed between the united nations in the great enterprise in which they were joined for the purpose of defeating utterly the axis tyrannies and securing the security and liberties of the peoples of the united nations would not be worth very much if it were not based on complete trust and understanding between all of them.

In his opinion, Welles said such understanding and trust exists.

Concluding, Welles said he was sure that Admiral Standley's remarks could not have been intended to and did not cast any doubt on that trust and understanding.

"Very Unfortunate"—Bloom At the capitol, Chairman Bloom (D-N. Y.) of the house foreign affairs committee said in a statement that "it is very unfortunate if Admiral Standley said it the way he is reported to have said it."

Bloom explained that he had consulted with the state department on the matter.

"In looking up the Russian newspapers we find they have carried very full reports of American military assistance to Moscow," Bloom said. "They carried in full the statement of Lend Lease Administrator Stettinius of January 23 revealing our aid to Russia and it received wide publicity in the Soviet press."

"I am of the opinion that reports of our aid to Russia have been given out fully in Russia."

Silent on Wallace's Speech Before his press conference concluded, Welles was asked whether he cared to comment on Vice President LEND LEASE—Page 7

French Resist Axis-Imposed Labor Draft

London—(AP)—French patriots battled openly in the streets of Paris and other French cities as the collaborationist French government shipped 50 contingents of French workers from Marseilles to Germany, Fighting French and Vichy sources reported yesterday.

Heightening unrest was reported sweeping France as the Gestapo and Vichy police attempted to fulfill a promise of 400,000 French workers for Germany made by Chief of Government Pierre Laval to Adolf Hitler recently.

In Paris guerrillas overpowered corner sentries in the Rue de la Bourse and seized a garage which they held for more than an hour despite determined attacks before setting a fire which destroyed all vehicles, Fighting French quarters in London said.

Twenty-three German officers were killed by guerrillas at Lille and four other attacks have been made on German-occupied buildings in the past three days, the Fighting French reported.

The London Daily Express said Hitler had ordered that France be stripped of every able-bodied male between 18 and 40 who might join the allied forces in the event of a landing in France.

WILLKIE CRITICAL OF STATEMENTS

New York—(AP)—Wendell L. Willkie today characterized as "drastic and ill-considered" recent statements by government officials concerning United States relations with Soviet Russia.

"One government representative implies we may double-cross the Russians after the war is over," Willkie said in a statement. "Another indicates that the Russian government today is playing us two ways. Neither statement is wise, nor in my judgment is correct."

Willkie added: "Drastic and ill-considered statements are not the basis for the sort of discussion we need. They will only do harm. I know no one in America who wants to double-cross Russia now or in the future. I likewise know no Russian who is ignorant of the fact that we are helping her with materials and by our fighting on other fronts."

Although Willkie did not identify the government representatives, Vice President Wallace said in an address yesterday that another world war might result if the United States double-crossed Russia.

Admiral William H. Standley, U. S. ambassador to the Soviet, in a press conference in Moscow yesterday said Russian officials were withholding news of American aid from their people in an effort to create the belief that they were fighting the war alone.

Reds Bear Brunt of War Willkie said the Russians felt they were bearing the brunt of the war—"and in number of casualties that is and has been true for a long time." But America is sending supplies in increasing quantities, he contended, "and perhaps we are entitled to more credit than we are receiving."

"The Russians have long thought that we owe the duty to relieve them from pressure by presently opening a second European front," Willkie continued. "They have likewise thought it the best overall military strategy for the united nations to do so."

"Our military authorities have thought otherwise. Only history will decide which is correct."

Portage County Man Is Killed on Highway

Stevens Point, Wis.—(AP)—Herman Busholtz, aged Portage county resident, was killed last night when struck by an automobile driven by a farm youth.

The coroner ordered an inquest but set no date.

JAPS DRILL FOR RAIDS

New York—(AP)—Tokyo and Yokohama are having a large scale air raid drill Wednesday and to make the exercise more realistic captured British and American planes will be flown over the cities, the German radio reported today.

Moscow—(AP)—Admiral William H. Standley, United States ambassador to Moscow, told a press conference yesterday that the Russian people are not being informed of the extent of help they are getting from America and declared that the situation was unfair to the plain American people who are digging down in their own pockets.

"I have carefully looked for an admission in the Russian press that they receive material aid from America," he said. "Yet I have failed to find any real acknowledgment of it."

"No Political Motive" "I find no political motive to this. It is only an effort to create the impression with their own people that they are pulling themselves through by their own boot-straps."

Standley pointed out that a new lend-lease bill is now before congress in Washington and added:

"The American congress is big-hearted and generous, but if you give it the impression that its help means nothing there might be a different story."

"Getting Plenty of Material" When it was recalled to Standley that several Russian generals had told foreign correspondents recently that they were getting no American help at the front except trucks, the Ambassador said:

"They are getting plenty of other kinds of material. If it's not at the front I don't know what they are doing with it."

Among the things which the Russians are getting, Standley declared, are "planes by the thousands."

But, he declared, "the Russian people don't seem to know it."

"There's no question about the Soviets trying to create the impression abroad as well as at home that they are fighting the war alone," the ambassador asserted.

Standley said he planned to see Premier Stalin soon, but did not elaborate on the statement.

Send Many Tanks, Planes Capt. Oliver Lyttleton, British production minister, told a meeting at Newcastle Feb. 21 that the United States and Britain had together sent Russia nearly 6,200 tanks and 5,600 aircraft between October, 1941 and December, 1942. He said the United States had sent 3,200 tanks and about 2,600 planes, as well as most of a shipment of 85,000 trucks.

In addition, he declared, the British-American contribution to the Russian war front included 50,000 tons of rubber, \$31,000 deadweight tons of machine tools, metals, ammunition and small arms, and 70,000,000 rounds of small ammunition. Lots of Other Goods Sent

In Washington Sunday, E. R. Stettinius jr., lease-lend administrator, revealed that in addition to planes and tanks, this country has sent Russia 3,000,000 pairs of heavy boots, 18,000 tons of sole leather, 17,500 jeeps and armored cars, 1,300 military tractors, 75,000 tons of rails and 17,000 tons of other railroad equipment, 140,000 field telephones, hundreds of thousands of miles of field telephone wire, 268,000 tons of petroleum products, 560,000 tons of steel, 125,000 tons of toluol and other chemicals, and 161,000 tons of aluminum, copper, zinc and other metals.

Another Inquiry Into Absenteeism Ordered

Washington—(AP)—The house labor committee today ordered a general investigation of absenteeism in industry and called Secretary of Labor Perkins as its first witness at hearings to start late this week.

The house naval affairs committee already is conducting a separate investigation into the same subject.

THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: occasional light snow tonight and in south and east portions Wednesday forenoon; little change in temperature, except colder in northwest portion late tonight and tomorrow forenoon.

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 17; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 20; temperature at 7 a. m., 16. Precipitation .06.

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