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REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR! Don't Talk! Your enemy has large ears.

The Arizona Daily Star

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WAGE CEILINGS BEING STUDIED AT WASHINGTON

President Discloses That Administration Is Surveying Idea

CURB TO INFLATION

Congressional Group Is Advocating Halt on Over-Time Pay

WASHINGTON, Mar. 13.—(AP)—High administration circles are studying the delicate question of war time wage control, President Roosevelt disclosed today, and, independently, a bi-partisan congressional group is strongly advocating curbs on over-time pay in war industry.

Under the circumstances it appeared that the chief executive had only to indicate his approval or lack of opposition, and wage control would receive substantial backing in both houses of Congress.

The administration regards such control as purely an anti-inflation war step, supplementing the Price Control Law. Together with heavy income taxation it would be intended to prevent such an accumulation of public purchasing power as would exert an irresistible upward pressure on prices.

Question Studied

Roosevelt, telling a press conference only that the question was under study, declined to go into details. A little later he conferred with the Labor War Board, composed of three AFL and three CIO officials. They said later he gave them no indication of his views.

The labor unions are opposed to wage control and that is what makes the question a delicate one. All the members of the house and a third of the senate are up for election in November. Not many are anxious to court, deliberately, the opposition of organized labor.

However, informed observers at the capitol are of the opinion that in the face of war conditions, strength for such a move has been accumulating.

Nelson's Views Asked

Mealtime Senator Lee (D-Okla), an ardent supporter of the administration, has written to Donald Nelson, the director of war production, asking for recommendations for legislation on the subject, and for methods to bring more men to work.

It revealed that Nelson had said production was hindered by the reluctance of manufacturers to pay time and a half and double time for overtime work and to increase the number of shifts at work in their factories. "Proper legislation," Lee thought, could remove these hindrances.

Meanwhile, from the Republican side of the senate aisle, Senator Reed (R-Kan) has introduced a bill which would make overtime pay begin after a 48-hour work week instead of the 40 hours prescribed by the wage-hour law.

Committee at Work

The senate labor committee is at work on the whole problem of labor in wartime, and yesterday received Secretary of Labor Perkins' views in closed session. Members said she opposed any modification of the wage-hour law's restrictions. She was quoted as saying that at present overtime pay amounts to but three per cent of the wage paid for war production work and that both production and morale might be hurt by forcing the workers to work longer hours without higher pay rates.

She also said any change in the law would not affect most industries because they already have contracts with the unions, covering wages, hours and overtime. Such contracts call for overtime starting at various points in the work week, some prior to the 40 hour limit.

Before the house judiciary committee today, the United States Chamber of Commerce and the AFL expressed their views on pending legislation requiring labor unions and business or trade associations to register with the government and give details of their finances.

TRAIN CREW SHOT IN R. R. DISPUTES

PEORIA, Ill., Mar. 13.—(AP)—An assailant armed first from a clump of bushes with a shotgun tonight wounded three members of a train crew on the strike-bound Toledo, Peoria and Western railroad.

It is the latest outbreak of violence in the two and a half months old strike. E. C. Pittman, engineer; Carl Taylor, fireman, and Harold Kisling, chief special agent for the railroad, were injured in the head. Physicians said Taylor might lose the sight of an eye.

DEFENSE COUNCIL CALLS GATHERING

PHOENIX, Mar. 13.—(AP)—Home defense experts, heads of various divisions of the State Defense Council, and representatives of consumer groups have been invited to a meeting here tomorrow to formulate plans for carrying out the consumer interest program of the Defense Council.

The meeting was called by Dr. A. N. Harber, state chairman of the health, welfare and consumer division of the council.

Anti-Axis Rioting in Brazil Spreads Into Broad New Districts

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 13.—(AP)—Rioting against Axis business establishments spread to other cities of Brazil today after police dispersed a crowd of about 300 in front of German stores in Rio de Janeiro with shots fired in the air.

Popular demonstrations to protest against the sinking of Brazilian ships by Axis submarines were held in many cities and in some cases they developed into rioting, with the most violent demonstrations reported from Bahia, Recife and Curityba, where Axis establishments were damaged by angry groups.

In Bahia, seven former crew members of German vessels, were held by the police as a protection against violence.

Many persons were injured slightly here when a mounted crowd stopped traffic on a main street until police dispersed the crowd with riot clubs and shots in the air.

GERMAN SPIES ARE SENTENCED

Heavy Prison Terms Are Given Seven Members Of Nazi Ring

NEW YORK, March 13.—(AP)—Seven convicted Nazi spies—six stolcal men and a 26-year-old housewife with a cold smile on her lips—were sentenced today to federal prison to serve a total of 117 years for transmitting U. S. defense secrets to Germany.

The court wasted no sympathy in handing out punishment.

"I am not only punishing you for your treachery," said Judge Henry W. Goddard, "but warning others like you that such acts will not be tolerated."

The seven spies—two others who pleaded guilty are to be sentenced later—escaped the war-time penalty of hanging because their espionage took place before the outbreak of war, although the trial was held until last month.

Responsible for Sinkings

The government said the tight-lipped ring had gathered and passed abroad shipping data responsible for at least 12 Allied vessels being sunk by U-boats in the Atlantic last summer and fall.

A janitor at the German consulate who took a second look at the contents of his boiler grate and a taxicab driver who uncittingly knocked down a master spy first uncovered the ring. But it was Lucy Boehmler, an 18-year-old high school girl who joined the ring "for fun" and later tattled as chief government witness, who finished it.

Most important of those sentenced was cockey Kurt Frederick Ludwig, 38, a native of Fremont, Ohio, who grew up in Germany. The No. 1 man, who directed the ring's efforts as a trained Nazi spy, was sentenced to 20 years, the maximum possible penalty.

Former German Major

Next was Dr. Paul T. Borchardt, 56, German citizen and former German army major who analyzed data collected by the ring. Born a few, he later served in the German army and Mohammedanism in the interests of Germany's espionage services. He got 20 years.

The others sentenced were:

Rene Froehlich, 31, an army private when arrested, sold Ludwig magazines containing defense data and gathered shipping information; 20 years.

Mrs. Helen Pauline Mayer, 26, Long Island housewife opened her house to the ring and helped obtain information; mail explosive letters; 15 years.

Karl Victor Mueller, 36, a Long Island machinist, the ring's chauffeur, helped Ludwig collect some of the defense data; 15 years.

Frederick Schlosser, 19, former head of a Brooklyn German-American youth group sentenced to 12 years, and Hans Helmut Pagel, 20-year-old machinist who pleaded guilty during the trial, 15 years.

'Lots of Fun'

Miss Boehmler, who motored south at one time to help Ludwig gather data, and Carl Hermann Schuetter, a Miami, Fla., speed boat captain, pleaded guilty before trial. The girl testified that she got involved espionage "lots of fun"; her testimony implicated each of the defendants.

At the trial's start it was disclosed that a cab driven by Sam Lichtman had struck Ulrich Von der Osten, a master spy, here to direct the ring's efforts. From papers found in his pockets, the FBI got its first leads. Meanwhile, in a totally different case, Walter Mörrissey, a boiler engineer, so arranged the boiler at the German consulate that when the Germans burned consular papers last summer, most of the papers were not destroyed. The documents proved invaluable and helped to smash the spy ring.

MEXICANS RATION AUTOS AND TIRES

MEXICO CITY, Mar. 13.—(AP)—All new motor vehicles and tires are to be rationed in Mexico under a system similar to that in the United States.

The government issued two decrees today, effective in about 15 days, directing that all importers, assembly plants, retailers and manufacturers register with the ministry of national economy, giving full details of present stocks.

SUB STRIKES AT TWO SHIPS OFF WINDWARD ISLE

U-Boat Active Near Island On Which U. S. Bases' Are Located

VESSELS NOT 'SUNK

Sinking of Merchantmen Off Atlantic Told In Navy Report

CASTRIES, St. Lucia Island, Mar. 13.—(AP)—An enemy submarine damaged two ships here Monday night in an attack upon this Windward island, on which outposts of United States Caribbean defenses are located.

An official British announcement, withheld until today, said that neither was hit sunk and that casualties were slight.

(A German communique said yesterday that two ships were sunk at the quay in the inner harbor of Castries and that a third was sunk in waters around the island.)

The United States bases, part of the defense screen thrown about the Panama Canal, are located in another part of the island.

St. Lucia is in the northernmost of the Windward Islands, some 20 miles south of the Vichy-ruled French island of Martinique.

The U-boat attack was the first on British territory in this area since the war's start but two ships were damaged off British-owned Trinidad, 200 miles south of here, on Feb. 18, apparently by torpedo explosions as they lay at anchor in the Gulf of Paria, between Trinidad and Venezuela.

Before that attack, Axis U-boats

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SHELL STRIKES TALL BUILDING

Anti-Aircraft Gun Fired Accidentally in New York

NEW YORK, March 13.—(AP)—Police said today that "a direct hit" on an anti-aircraft battery which accidentally unloosed eight shells in the metropolitan area had knocked off a section from the Equitable building in the Wall Street district.

Lieut. James Pyke of the police bomb squad said he was convinced that "a direct hit" was made on the office building. Wide excitements resulted, in the financial area, with police emergency cars' and many fire trucks rushing to the scene.

Major General Sandeford Jarman, commanding general of the anti-aircraft artillery command, at Governors Island, said that an automatic anti-aircraft weapon in the metropolitan area accidentally discharged eight rounds.

Seven Shots in River

Seven shells, he said, were believed to have fallen into the East river and the eighth struck the Equitable building at 120 Broadway.

He said a preliminary investigation showed the accident "occurred through some mechanical failure in the firing mechanism of the gun." Further investigation was being pushed, he added.

Pyke said the shells travelled about 2,000 yards, and the one that hit the building did not explode until it hit "about 400 feet up."

"It chipped the stonework and went in about ¾ of an inch, then fell into the street," he said. "It was very fortunate that it did not go through one of the windows, as it would have wrecked any office that it entered."

Building Damaged

The "direct hit" caused some damage to the 40-story building. Part of the cornice on the 39th floor and one small piece of the wall on the 39th floor cracked off under the force of the explosion. These sections broke into minute particles and fell into Nassau street. Some pieces of steel which fell into the street were about two inches long.

Fragments also flew into open windows of the building on the 37th floor, but did no damage. No persons were injured. No one was reported injured.

Reports Made

Shortly after trouble in the building telephoned police that an explosion had occurred, members of an anti-aircraft unit reported to police that they had accidentally fired eight shells from one of their guns. The gun, they reported, was pointed in the general direction of lower Manhattan.

Pyke and Capt. R. C. Fall of the navy, who aided in the investigation, examined the pieces of steel that dropped into Nassau street and decided that they were from an anti-aircraft shell.

The cornice that fell from the building projection on the 38th floor was close to the Bankers club, located on that floor.

People who left the building talked of "explosions," and some persons walking in Nassau street reported they felt fine particles falling from the air and looked up into the sky for the source of the rain of tiny fragments.

Police could find no substantiation for an earlier report that a tri-motored plane had been observed flying over the financial area about the time of the explosions.

PRIEST DIES

REV. P. J. MURPHY, revered southern Arizona priest, who died last night at Casa Grande.

FATHER MURPHY TAKEN BY DEATH

Noted Southern Arizona Priest Dies at Home In Casa Grande

CASA GRANDE, Mar. 13.—(Special.)—Death came for Father Murphy tonight to take from Southern Arizona one of its outstanding and most greatly loved and revered priests. Seriously ill for the past several months, ill hope of Father Murphy's life was abandoned a few weeks ago.

Known and loved by people in every walk of life, of every race and creed, Father Murphy's last and most productive decade was spent in the Casa Grande valley where he built three churches and became an outstanding figure in the community life of the area.

Funeral services in the form of a pontifical high mass at which Rt. Rev. Daniel J. Gercke, bishop of the diocese of Tucson, will officiate, will be conducted at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning at St. Anthony's church. Burial will be in the Mountain View cemetery here.

Stricken in Prime

Father Patrick Joseph Murphy, who would have been 43 years old June 20, was one of Arizona's best known and active priests. His interests led him into the building of new churches, to civic activities for the betterment of communities in the area, to the little Theatre work for training novices for the aid of the state prisoners whom he taught to paint, provided athletic equipment, literary books and spiritual help.

He served in churches in Miami, Winslow, Tucson, Casa Grande, Eloy and Coolidge. He was state chaplain of Arizona for the Knights of Columbus for two terms, 1930-32, and chaplain at the U. S. Veterans' hospital. Tucson, and held services at the state prison chapel at Florence.

Praised by Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Daniel J. Gercke, bishop of the diocese, who ordained Father Murphy in 1923, praised the achievements of the young priest yesterday.

"Father Murphy was a hard and zealous worker and builder," said Bishop Gercke. "This can best be realized by his accomplishments at Casa Grande, Eloy and Coolidge. It was due to his own personal efforts, to a great extent, that the churches now stand in those communities.

"Through the hottest months of the year Father Murphy worked by the side of the working men constructing those churches. He was greatly loved by all who knew him. All I can say is that I am grateful to have known him, so young a man."

Last Communication

The last communication between the priest and his bishop was March 7, when Father Murphy had his nurse write to Bishop Gercke bidding him farewell and asking for his prayers.

Father Murphy was born at Dromina, West, Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, June 20, 1899, a son of John Murphy and Margaret Heraghan Murphy. He was the youngest of 12 children, several of whom are in this country including his sister, Sister Mary Pius of the Society of Charity, Incarnate Word, Houston, Texas. She has

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Admiralty Stakes All on One Good Whack at German Ships

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13.—(Special)—The appearance of the Nazi super-battleship Tirpitz off the Norwegian coast has brought about a concentration of British and American naval forces in that region to prevent any large-scale raiding by powerful German warships.

It is definitely known now that the German plane carrier Graf Zeppelin has completed her trial runs and is ready for action. As the Graf Zeppelin is a 33,550 ton high command, the ship was still in the Baltic a few weeks ago, but the possibility of her attempting to run the gauntlet of the British blockade fleet is not discounted.

Besides the Tirpitz the Allies believe there are three cruisers on the loose in the waters between th British Isles and Iceland. It is probable that the Nazis are bringing their ships out in small packages and have established a rendezvous somewhere, whence they could begin a damaging raid on Allied lines of communications.

Increasing Tempo

The apparent decision of the Nazi naval command to use its small but powerful fleet in the North Atlantic rather than to attempt to get it through into the Mediterranean is believed to have been impelled by the increased tempo of American supplies going to the Russian ports of Archangel and Murmansk.

With the spectacular escape of the German naval squadron from Brest in February naval strategists in Washington and London speculated on what the next Nazi naval move might be. The consensus was that the Germans, after refitting their fleet, would attempt another dash through the Straits of Dover and Gibraltar to reach the Mediterranean about the time it was supposed the Nazis would launch their spring offensive against British in the Near East.

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RAF AIRPLANES POUND AWAY AT FRENCH POINTS

British Squadrons Stage Biggest Raids of New Spring Offensive

ROUND-CLOCK ATTACK

Fiery Overnight Assault Waged Upon 26,000 Ton Gneisenau

LONDON, Mar. 13.—(AP)—Squadron after squadron of the Royal Air Force swarmed over northern France from the Belgian border to Paris today in the biggest daylight raids yet of the new spring offensive and at least eight German fighters were knocked down in one clash alone.

The round-the-clock assault continued without let-up tonight and the coast from Boulogne to Ostend was alight with exploding bombs and anti-aircraft gun flashes. Clusters of searchlight batteries fingered the sky above Cap Gris Nez.

The British announced the loss of five of their own fighters which swept to the attack "in force" following a fiery overnight assault upon the 26,000-ton Nazi battleship Gneisenau. No British bombers were lost today.

The biggest scrap of the day occurred over Hazenbrouck, about midway between Armentieres and St. Omer, where the railroad yard was the target of RAF bombers.

Ace Has 26 Total

The RAF's ace squadron leader Paddy Finucane, just out of the hospital with wound stripes, led the attack, bagging two German planes for a war total of 26.

Other bombers and fighters made daylight assaults upon the Boulogne and Calais coastal areas and reconnaissance planes scouted the Paris industrial region.

The size of the British attack and the increasing Nazi opposition they are encountering was indicated by today's fighting which brought to 13 the number of planes failing to return from the day and night attacks.

Bombs loosed by the night raiders started destructive fires muskrooming among installations of the Kiel naval base where the already powerful battleship Gneisenau lay in dock, the air ministry announced. Bombs also fell on submarine and additional areas northwest of Germany and strewed mines in Nazi sea lanes.

Calais Attacked

Without a pause, squadron after squadron of RAF craft swept over the channel today and heavily attacked the Calais and Boulogne areas.

The roar of their bombs and the hum of their machine-gun craft guns rolled back across the sun-necked waters to the continent coast.

Thus with rising fury the RAF was putting into action the words of its chief, Sir Archibald Sinclair, secretary for air, last month that "we must take Germany by the throat and shake the strength out of her; we must start not in 1944 or 1943, but in 1942."

Casualties At Kiel

The Germans acknowledged that the attack on Kiel caused some casualties. They also said the RAF was over central France during the night, but the air ministry said no British planes were in that area.

From Vichy came the announcement that RAF reconnaissance planes flew over Paris during the day forcing suspension of the horse racing at the Vincennes track. During a 45-minute alert in the occupied French capital the French radio intercepted messages passing between the southwestern workers district.

No bombs were dropped by these craft, which apparently were gathering information on bombing raids recently on the German-commandeered French planta turning out equipment for Hitler's war machine.

PARIS EXECUTIONS

VICHY, France, March 13.—(AP)—German authorities in Paris announced tonight that seven Frenchmen had been executed there for repeated "acts of violence" against the Germans.

Japanese Fleet Moves Into Solomon Islands; Australian Ships Lost

Curtin Warnings Given America in Report On Fighting

CANBERRA, Australia, Saturday, Mar. 14.—(AP)—Prime Minister John Curtin warned the United States in a broadcast today that "Australia is the last bastion between the west coast of America and the Japanese."

If Australia goes the Americas are wide open," he said.

Stressing that attack is the best defense, Curtin asserted: "I want to you that saving Australia is saving America's west coast. If you believe anything to the contrary you delude yourselves."

The prime minister's latter statement was prompted by what he said were reports going the rounds that the Japanese would by-pass Australia and that they could be met and routed in India.

Tide of War

"The tide of war flows madly," he said. "For you in America, for us in Australia, it is flowing badly. Let me then address you as comrades in this war.

"I am not speaking to your government. We long have been admirers of Mr. Roosevelt and have the greatest confidence that he understands fully the critical situation in the Pacific and that America will go right out to meet it. . . . It is to the people of America that I now am speaking."

Reviewing the progress made by Japan, Curtin continued:

"It therefore is but natural that within 20 days after Japan's first treacherous blow I said on behalf of the Australian government that we looked to America as the paramount factor on the democracies side in the Pacific."

England Praised

He hastened to explain that he was not belittling England "who with your help has now risen to be vital battle of the Atlantic" but that "you, as I have said, must be our leader; we will pull knee to knee with you for every ounce of our weight."

"We looked to America," he went on, "among other things for counsel and advice and therefore it was our wish that the Pacific war council should be located in Washington.

"It is a matter of some regret to us that even now after 95 days of Japan's staggering advance around and over our north we have not obtained first hand contact with America."

Envoy Ready

Curtin said Australia proposed sending H. V. Evatt, attorney general and minister of external affairs, to Washington not as a mendicant but as a representative of a people "who, while somewhat impoverished and overwhelmed by

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U. S. AIRPLANES ATTACK ENEMY

New Bases Bombed When American Pilots See More Action

WASHINGTON, March 13.—(AP)—A joining new blow by American army heavy bombers against Japanese bases in New Guinea, possible of a people "who, while somewhat impoverished and overwhelmed by

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(Continued to Page 5, Column 1)

Zero Fighters Blast At Port Moresby Is Story From Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia, March 14.—(Saturday)—(AP)—Japanese zero fighters attacked Port Moresby, New Guinea, with machine guns today, the Port Moresby correspondent of the Sydney Herald reported.

Japanese planes also attacked at a point 60 miles to the west along the coast near Yule Island mission, it was reported. One member of the RAAF was wounded during the attacks.

RUSSIANS TELL OF SUCCESSES

Action of Past 15 Days Reviewed in Report From Moscow

MOSCOW, March 14.—(Saturday)—(AP)—A special Russian announcement today listed 14,000 Germans killed on the northwestern front in 15 days, making a grand total of 63,700 Nazis officially reported slain between Leningrad and Moscow within a month.

Today's announcement said the latest recorded toll was inflicted on Hitler's invaders between February 22 and March 10 on the northwestern front below Leningrad. In this area the Red army liberated 84 towns and villages, the Russians announced.

It followed by two days another special communique telling of the killing of 49,700 Germans on the Kalinin front, stretching north of the Smolensk area toward Lake Ilmen, from February 8 to March 5. Vast quantities of booty fell into the hands of the victorious Soviet forces, and 91 German planes—including 60 big three-engined transports used by Hitler in a vain effort to reinforce his trapped 10th army at Staraya Russa—were declared destroyed.

Booty Listed

Listed as captured were 226 horses, 5 armored cars, 3 tractors and 14 cars loaded with equipment, 2,500 assorted guns, 14 tanks, more than 900 motor vehicles and 22 fuel and provision dumps.

Matching the achievements in the north were continued advances in the south.

Marshal Semeon Timoshenko's massive Ukrainian offensive was slowly beating forward today, a week of the enemy's calendar spring to Russia, and in every other sector of the front Soviet troops were simultaneously hacking their way westward.

Offensive Tactics

The official publication of the Russian armies, Red Star, declared yesterday that Russian arms had so firmly seized the initiative that the new season would be only the long threatened German counter-offensive but rather a continuation of the aggressive action against Hitler's "worn out army."

Somewhere in the south (where Timoshenko was reported by Russian sources in London to be attacking with more than a million men on a vast front extending from the Sea of Azov northward to the upper Ukraine) military dispatches announced two Nazi fortified areas had been smashed and spoke of toe-to-toe fighting in the streets of Donets basin towns.

Nazi Reports

(The German high command admitted the Nazi forces were on the defensive in the Donets basin of the Ukraine, nevertheless spoke of "strong enemy forces." British military observers assumed that Timoshenko was trying to recapture the whole of the Dnieper river bend. His advanced troops already had been reported within 10 miles of the bend in the area northeast of Zaporozhye (Stalin).

Still farther north, yesterday's mid-day communique of the Soviet command announced, several thousand of the invaders fell before the Russian Leningrad forces on the Ilmen front as well to the west.

Somewhere in that northern region—and presumably at Lake Ilmen—the Russian air arm was in strong offensive action, reporting the destruction of a groups of eight German planes before they could leave the ice on which they stood.

Returning to that same improved Nazi airdrome later in the day, Soviet airmen again caught the grounded planes. Moreover, three German fighter craft were shot down in the resulting fight and four more were crippled and forced to land.

PARKER DAM BILL

WASHINGTON, March 13.—(AP)—Legislation has been introduced by Sen. Ernest W. McFarland of Arizona to provide for the acquisition of rights-of-way on Indian lands for erection of transmission lines at the Parker Dam area in Arizona and California.

Enemy Rushes Work on New Guinea Bases, Airmen Report

MELBOURNE, Saturday, Mar. 14.—(AP)—Apparent loss of the Australian cruiser Perth and sloop Yarra with their 833 men in the withdrawal from Java was announced by John Curtin, prime minister, today as the Japanese pushed new naval forces into the Solomon islands northeast of this continent.

Curtin said the ships, both noted for operations last year in the Middle East, had fought successfully and without damage in the battles of the Java sea but had not been heard from since they left a Java port for home. Their fate is not known, but they are presumed to have been sunk.

Navy sources said possibly some of the 682 men of the Perth and 151 of the Yarra had reached land.

Japanese Claims

(The Japanese claimed March 3 that they had sunk 23 United Nations warships off Java on the week-end of March 1, including the Perth and her sister ship, the Hobart.)

The 6,980-ton Perth was damaged by German bombs last summer when she participated in the British evacuation of Crete. She was built in England in 1934.

The Yarra, nearly 1,000 tons, was hailed by all Australia last October when she and a merchant cruiser escorted seven Axis ships in the Persian gulf.

Announcement of the presumed losses came as the Japanese were pushing into the Solomon Islands, in the Melanesian groups which shelters Australia and New Zealand on the east and north. This is the Southwest area of Japanese positions on New Guinea and New Britain by American and Australian bombers.

Supply Line Menace

Apparently it is directed at guarding the right flank of any Japanese venture against east Australia, increasing the danger to supply lines from the United States, and threatening the outpost-islands which curve southward to New Zealand.

An Australian air force communique said a Japanese naval force had been sighted three days west off Kessa, on the Solomon Island of Buka. A landing was not definitely announced, but such an intention subsequently was indicated.

Japanese planes scouted and bombed sporadically in the Solomons in January and February, and there were reports that a Japanese seaplane crew Jan. 23 entered the deserted town of Lae, on Bougainville Island, largest of the group.

Bases Building

Australian reconnaissance fliers reported the Japanese were moving at feverish speed to establish fighter plane bases on New Guinea's northeast coast.

One such field, at Gasmata, on the south coast of neighboring New Britain, was subjected to a smashing bombardment yesterday, the RAAF reported. It said all bombs fell in the target area, from which columns of black smoke rose.

The raiders returned safely after fighting off Japanese pursuit craft, one of which was downed.

Both on New Britain and New Guinea the Australian and American raids were said to have dashed Japanese plans for speedy control of the islands and creation of big bases for the battle of Australia.

Lack of Roads

Australians said the big island's lack of roads to connect the Japanese beach-heads with other points, the vast mountains and cliffs, its dense rain, forests and valley jungles would slow down the invaders.

An overland drive to the south toward Port Moresby, Australian mainland across Torres strait, would be harder than the advance down the Malay peninsula, some observers said.

As for sea assault, an air force spokesman said the only Japanese fleet known to be in striking distance was that at Salamaua on the east New Guinea, which lost at least seven ships in an air attack Tuesday.

Both Australia and the United States took credit for that raid, a matter of official confusion which cannot now be fully explained.

The cabinet decided to enforce a national security regulation requiring any resident of Australia to register his arms in relation to his occupation.

This could mean a complete ban on strikes during the war.

Australian casualties in the Malayan and Singapore campaign were announced as 287 known killed and 16,744 missing.

HENDERSON IN RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 13.—(AP)—Leon Henderson, United States price administrator, arrived here today by airliner from Miami. He said he intended to take a few days' vacation in Rio De Janeiro, but declined to say whether he was continuing on to other South American countries.

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