

BRITISH REDUCE JAP INDIA THREAT

By PRESTON GROVER
Associated Press Foreign Staff
NEW DELHI, March 17.—The Japanese attack on the Arakan sector of Burma before the Bay of Bengal Port of Akyab creates a serious situation for the British in that area, but Marshall Wavell's army is in position for attack that could change the picture.

The offensive advantage lies with the Japanese because all waterways lead to the sea front on the south and penetrate inland to the north, giving the Japanese easier access to water traffic.

The fighting front is southeast of Calcutta across the bay and centers generally in the area north of Akyab, a little shallow-water port with a weller of deltas somewhat like the mouth of the Mississippi. The mountains are matted thickly with jungle which separate this sector from the main operations in Burma. Thus the battle can be carried on relatively independent of the main show in Burma involving British and Chinese troops elsewhere.

The Arakan sector is like a man's right hand with its fingers pointed southward. The little finger is occupied by the British, since it is part of India proper. It is separated from the ring finger of this vast "hand" by the Naf River.

Area Taken by British
This ring finger in turn was captured down to the extreme knuckle. Near the tip lies Oonbank, held by the Japanese. This finger is the Mayu Peninsula and is where most of the fighting occurred until last week-end. The ring-finger peninsula is separated from the "middle finger" to the east by the Mayu River. It was in the middle-finger Peninsula where the fighting occurred which compelled the British and Indian forces to adjust their position to protect their east flank which the Japanese are hitting.

The British had driven the Japanese southward along this peninsula as far as Rathedaung, 25 miles north of Akyab. Rathedaung is almost due east of Donbaik across the Mayu River.

Many Japs Slain
The Japanese attack was launched northward from Rathedaung in such violence that the battlefield, small as it is, was strewn with the bodies of Indian patrol counted 80 dead Japanese in front of them and it is presumed that the enemy carried away other bodies the night before. The Japanese attack was continuing northward along this middle finger with unabated violence to the hour of the latest report coming from the front.

The Japanese recently withdrew one regiment which the British had battered considerably and new troops are making the present attack.

The British until ten days ago held positions as far inland to the east as the Kaladan River. The Japanese, with an infiltrating attack, compelled them to withdraw toward the seacoast.

The whole sector from the Bay of Bengal to the point where the fighting is most intense reaches inland only about ten miles and it is the toughest sort of mountainous jungle country. A mountain ridge runs the length of the Mayu Peninsula, so the fighting even along this ring finger is divided into two sections. One lies on the shoreline of the Bay of Bengal and the other along the Mayu River.

Japs Pushed Back
Whatever the result of the present battle, the British have achieved their principal aims in this area. They have neutralized any possibility of the Japanese using Akyab as a base for a push-off against India, and pushed the Japanese considerably farther from the Indian frontier. Finally, they have kept a considerable portion of Japanese troops in Burma occupied, thus relieving Chinese and British forces further north in the Assam section of India and the Yunnan sector of South China.

The present operation gives little promise of developing into a big scale "battle for Burma."

Martinique Famine Hinted by Refugees

CASTRIES, Saint Lucia, British West Indies, March 17.—(AP)—The food situation in Martinique is growing worse daily and authorities predict a severe famine during the approaching dry season, refugees arriving from the French island said yesterday. Since January 1, approximately 125 men, women and children have reached here, some using small fishing canoes to cross the 24-mile Martinique Channel.

(Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles told a press conference in Washington March 8 that food shipments from the United States to the French islands were suspended in November. This action was interpreted as a move to force a showdown over the status of Martinique and some 170,000 tons of French shipping.

Engineers to See Film
Three motion-picture films showing the manufacture of various types of glass will be shown tomorrow noon at the luncheon meeting of the Engineers' Club in the Arctic Club, Third Avenue and Cherry Street.

FEMININE HYGIENE FACTS

Ladies, you have a right to know the physical facts of life. Thousands upon thousands of women should use a cleansing, deodorizing douche but do not know it. Guard your health. Why risk this offense which is so often avoidable? TAKARA HYGIENIC POWDER, a boon to womanhood, provides a thorough, cleansing douche which thousands of women depend upon for hygienic protection, ensuring freshness and cleanliness. Gives at once a soothing, cooling, refreshing feeling of well being. Get the GENUINE at drug stores.

—[Advertisement]

Waacs Popular in Africa, Doing Big Job, Says Lardner

By JOHN LARDNER
North American Newspaper Alliance
ALGIERS, March 16.—(By Cable) (Consored)—To this host of Americans abroad, which is fast displacing Broadway and 42nd Street, have come reports of a canard in circulation at home—a canard to the effect that Waacs are unwelcome or unpopular in this North African theatre.

Your correspondent, startled to hear these rumors, immediately polled six men in the street here on the subject of members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. I hope I do not violate a trade secret in confessing that we pollers frequently find our men in the street seated at desks playing cards or practicing on the tuba some distance from the street. We employ the phrase because we figure they would be in the street if not otherwise engaged.

All Six Enthusiastic
Military regulations make it difficult to identify members of the corps. Generally, suffice it to say that they ranged from an enlisted man to a high-ranking combat officer and included representatives of three branches of headquarters work and one member of the army of one of our allies. All six are not merely tolerant of the Waacs, but downright enthusiastic about them.

Local investigation indicates that the rumor at home may have originated in an interview with a handful of Army nurses who discussed the Waacs in their leisure hour and employed a surgical approach from a point of habit and environment. Actually, Army nurses do not, and have no reason to, resent the Waacs. The nurses are officers in the Army. The Waacs, with only five exceptions among 395 assigned to this theatre, have the status of enlisted personnel. They may not date or dance with officers, while the case of nurses is exactly the reverse. The Waacs receive enlisted men's pay — on the home-service scale, furthermore, and not on the higher foreign-service scale. The Waacs here must do postage letters addressed to home and they buy their own insurance if they wish to be insured.

Adjustment Due
These last three apparent inequities—pay on the home-service basis and the matters of mail and insurance—were the subject of a recent editorial in Stars and Stripes, the Army newspaper here, and are said to be in the process of adjustment.

They Dine and Date
Some of the Waacs in the city join the officers' mess at noon, the sole relaxation of the otherwise rigid distinction in rank. If at home there were scattered cases of officers leaving their insignia behind in order to dine with Waacs on leave, things are different here in the war zone.

The Waacs do go on dates with enlisted men when their chores leave them time, this being an Army composed almost exclusively of husbands. And by the same token, there are standard Waac jokes and the normal proportion of kidding at the expense of the women in uniform. But if the Waacs weren't here how in hell would we get all the work done? That's the question the last man I talked to asked me, and not being prepared with a ready answer I adjourned the poll and walked to my billet, narrowly escaping being taken over by a Waac in a motor-car on the way.

Tryst at Grave 47th Time On St. Patrick Day

READING, Pa., March 17.—(AP)—Shure and when the banishes wall in a graveyard high on lonely Neversink Mountain this midnight, 77-year-old Alvah Schaeffer will be there again to keep his 47th St. Patrick's Day tryst with the spirit of a laughing Irishman.

And shure a cornet quartet again will play "Lass o' Galway" and "Nearer, My God, to Thee" as the old man stands silent in his meditation.

Nearly half a century ago Schaeffer, then a church musician, and Tom Hannahoe, proprietor of the Stars and Stripes Saloon, made a strange pact. Said Hannahoe, his eyes sparkling:

"If I die, first you play the tunes over my grave on St. Patrick's midnight. If you die first I'll keep the grass forever green over your grave and put a shamrock there every year."

Hannahoe died a short time later, and Schaeffer has never broken the agreement.

Tonight, he said, there will be not one but two Schaeffers on Neversink Mountain—his son, grandson and great-grandson as well as himself.

Schaeffer is too old now to play the cornet himself, but a quartet of friends will do it for him. And thousands of curious again will line the edges of the cemetery, waiting and listening, at respectful distance.

4th Victim Dies In Powder-Plant Blast

MILFORD, Del., March 17.—(AP)—The death toll rose to four today in an explosion which blasted the roof off a powder-loading room in the Sussex Ordnance Company plant near here yesterday.

Latest victims were Mrs. Edith M. Mather of Georgetown and Mrs. Catherine Thoutam of Milford, both of whom died of burns. Miss Pauline Maloney of Georgetown and Mrs. Louise Hill of Milford died last night.

Six other employees remained in a critical condition.

WAKE UP YOUR LIVER BILE

Without Calomel—And You'll Jump Out of Bed in the Morning Ready to Go

The liver should pour out about 2 pints of bile juice into your bowels every day. If this bile is not flowing freely, your food may not digest and the decay in the bowels. The gas builds up your stomach. You get constipated. You feel sour, sunk and the world looks black.

Take these good, old Carter's Little Liver Pills to get this 2 pints of bile flowing freely in your bowels. They are the only pills that work up and up. Get a package today. Take as directed. Effective in making bile flow freely. Get Carter's Little Liver Pills, 10¢ and 25¢.

(Advertisement)

BRITAIN TO KEEP COLONIAL RULE

—Says Churchill

LONDON, March 17.—(AP)—The House of Commons cheered Prime Minister Churchill today when he declared that "the government is convinced that the administration of the British colonies must continue to be the sole responsibility of Great Britain."

By NAT A. BARROWS
Chicago Daily News Foreign Service
LONDON, March 17.—Britain's awakened interest in her West Indian colonies and in the entire Caribbean potentialities occupied the House of Commons for nearly five hours yesterday and so many members of Parliament wanted to make speeches about the West Indies that a second day's debate was asked.

Out of a long discussion about policy affecting the West Indies came the apparent fact the members of the House of Commons accept Col. Oliver Stanley's enunciation of colonial policy in his so-called "hands-off-our-colonies" speech dismissing international control. At least no one challenged Colonel Stanley's declaration.

The M. P.'s did not minimize the necessity for a good understanding with the United States as an essential factor of postwar cooperation in the Caribbean but the government was warned not to be misled by the utterances of a small minority in America.

Liberal Backs Stanley
The most vigorous support of Stanley's rejection of any scheme for international administration of the colonies came from the Isle of Ely's Liberal member, James A. de Rothschild who said:

"I am not disturbed by loose thinking and loose talk on the subject. We are not fighting against the tyranny of industrial rings of Central Europe in order to avoid the consent by any thralldom by Pan American Airways."

De Rothschild continued:

"To those who urged that the West Indies should be handed over to America in lieu of lend-lease payments, we should say: 'After three centuries of government, after liberating the slaves 100 years ago, we are not going to hand over these colonies as goods and chattels to anyone else.'"

Commission Praised
Colonel Stanley's review of the West Indies, highly praised the work of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission. He hoped that the members would be able to evolve a technique of international cooperation but he emphasized that colonial policy was directed toward the trustee spirit as an advance toward self-government.

Stanley said that West Indian dependence on single-crop economy, was unsound and unhealthy while, on the other hand, too great dependence on self-sufficiency could be equally disastrous.

War Factories Threatened By Power Strike

JACKSON, Mich., March 17.—(AP)—A threatened Consumers Power Company strike was called to the federal government's attention today with the management and Congress of Industrial Organizations unionists at an impasse over contract interpretations. The threatened walkout, set for Friday midnight, was an outgrowth of court suits now in progress whereby certain employees seek exemption from a dues check-off system in a company contract with the Utility Workers Organizing Committee.

A strike might cripple war production in industrial Southern Michigan outside Detroit and leave thousands of homes without light or gas.

Company and union heads disagreed over the extent to which the check-off system should apply, and a conference yesterday ended unsatisfactorily.

Herman R. Chadwick, president of the Michigan State Utilities Workers' Council, said he had telegraphed the Federal Conciliation Service and the War Labor Board of the situation.

Chadwick charged that the company had refused to "recognize the union-shop clause" in a contract signed December 5, 1942. He also accused the company of "inspiring" the employe court suits in "deliberate and flagrant violation of the contract."

On the other hand, the company insisted that the union was in error in contending that "all existing contracts" should be null and void. The company said it had "never intended to agree to such a requirement."

In a statement the company said "We could not overlook the fact" that many employes voted against representation by the union in the employe election last fall. It offered to leave the interpretation to an "impartial tribunal."

Groups of employes in Genesee and Kent County plants of Consumers Power have obtained Circuit Court restraining orders against the check-off.

Japanese-Americans Accepted by Army

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—A number of Japanese-Americans from the ten relocation centers already have been approved by the War Department as volunteers for the Army combat team to be composed entirely of American citizens of Japanese ancestry, officials disclosed today.

Induction of these men into the Army may have started, they said, but there are no reports yet that any of them actually are in uniform. However, large numbers have applied for service with the combat team and the applications are being reviewed as rapidly as possible.

Sabotage Law Too Rigid, Solons Fear

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—The House rules committee held up for further study today legislation to tighten the anti-sabotage laws and to impose the death penalty for offenses against the national safety.

At a preliminary hearing yesterday some rules-committee members expressed fear the legislation was so broadly drawn it could be used for persecution as well as for prosecution.

1,516,043 Retrained For War-Plant Jobs

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—Manpower Chief Paul V. McNutt today reported that government money and the school system had retrained 1,516,043 men and women for war jobs in a six-month period. Another half million or more now are winding up courses that will equip them for technical jobs on the assembly lines turning out planes, tanks, ships, and other tools of war.

McNutt, in a report to Congress, revealed that the retraining plan, started last July, required an outlay of \$79,918,637 by the end of the year. Another \$50,000,000 still is available for the work until June. The total allocation of \$139,000,000 was for the fiscal year 1943.

YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW—By Ficklen



"Hmimm, I wonder!"

State Regulation of Unions Approved by Kansas Solons

By Associated Press.
TOPEKA, Kas., March 17.—Kansas, the nation's testing ground for social revolution, has given her wary blessing to state regulation of labor unions.

The fight preceding last night's action in the heavily Republican Legislature was the stiffest in years, members conceded.

The state made only one previous venture into the field of labor relations: It set up an industrial court with the avowed aim of preventing strikes, in the early 1920's, under Gov. Henry Allen. A Supreme Court ruling pulled the foundation from under the court and it since has been inoperative.

Reed Opened Issue
Senator Clyde Reed tossed the sizzling labor-control issues unexpectedly into the placid governor's race last summer. He sought unsuccessfully the Republican nomination on a platform of "a fair and reasonable state labor policy, protecting all the rights of labor and protecting nonunion workers from extortion..."

Reed's campaign for state office failed, and he returned to the Senate to continue his term—but the issue remained alive in Kansas.

The shout of Representative Charles Vance that "this bill puts the governor and the Republican Party on the spot—neither labor nor industry will be satisfied," faded before the 56-to-42 vote of approval.

\$12,000,000 Asked In Power Suit

A verdict of \$12,000,000 today was asked for the distribution properties of the Puget Sound Power & Light Company in Snohomish County by attorneys for the company, as the six-week condemnation suit of the Snohomish County Public Utility District against the company drew to a close in United States District Judge John C. Bowen's Court.

Lowell P. Mickelwait, company attorney, said this would represent a fair market value of the property, as well as also carrying an additional \$3,000,000 for severance damages to the remaining property.

Prune Buying Urged

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—Now that the costly costs of prunes and raisins have been cut, the Office of Price Administration wants the public to hurry and get the stuff off grocery shelves because "with warm weather approaching it is in the public interest that the movement of these perishable fruits be accelerated."

Exposure Fatal to Man 80

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho, March 17.—(AP)—John Gasser, 80 years old, of Harrison, died yesterday of exposure after he broke through the ice on Coeur d'Alene Lake near the home of his son, John Gasser, Jr. The elder Gasser was alive and conscious but collapsed a short time later and efforts to revive him were futile.

Wife Sues Cain, Novelist

LOS ANGELES, March 17.—(AP)—Elina Cain has filed suit for separate maintenance from James Cain, author of "The Postman Always Rings Twice," and other books. Mrs. Cain charged her husband treated her in such a manner that she cannot live with him.

O. W. I. DENIES POLITICS CHARGE

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—Director Elmer Davis of the Office of War Information told his staff today that congressional criticism of Office of War Information output has no basis in fact, but "may be expected to continue until the election of 1944."

A memorandum from Davis to members of his staff was made public today at the request of newsmen who regarded it as Davis' first public reply to recent accusations by Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio, and Representative Taber, Republican, New York.

Taft charged in a statement that Davis had "commandeered" all United States radio stations for the dissemination of "propaganda" in his recently launched series of reports to the nation. Taber previously had screened some of O. W. I.'s movie output in his own office and charged it was "partly driven, partly insidious propaganda against Congress and for a fourth term."

Marriage Wait Repeal O. K.

SACRAMENTO, March 17.—(AP)—Repeal of the three-day waiting clause which has sent thousands of Californians to Nevada and other states to be married was voted by the Assembly, 54 to 16, yesterday. The bill amends the so-called gin-marriage act to eliminate the waiting period between the issuance of a license and the time a ceremony can be performed. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Fortress Crashes; 5 Bail Out; 5 Missing
BATON ROUGE, La., March 17.—(AP)—Five Army flyers of a crew of ten were rescued from a swamp about 15 miles west of here where they bailed out of a burning Flying Fortress early today.

One of the five suffered a broken leg. The four others were uninjured. Search continued for the missing men; all of whom bailed out.

Sergeant R. J. Byrnes, Portland, Or., was an occupant of the plane.

Silence Is Golden!

CONCORD, N. C., March 17.—(AP)—E. J. Sharp, 70-year-old chairman of the American Red Cross war fund drive here, raised \$250 by singing at a rally. He charged \$25 a song for four songs, then asked for bids to stop. The audience contributed \$150 more.

Royal Tailcoats Discarded

LONDON, March 17.—(AP)—There will be no more tailcoats and white ties for the servants at Buckingham Palace, official London residence of the royal family. King George has ordered the customary garb discarded for "battle dress" to save materials—and soap.

There's Lots in a Name

PAMPA, Tex., March 17.—(AP)—Technician John S. Cwiertniewicz, stationed at the Army Air Field, was worried because his name was so hard to pronounce. "Soldier, cheer up," said a note from Troy, N. Y.—signed by Miss Annabella Romisterwiczcoffwicz.

Hitler Depicted at Front

LONDON, March 17.—(AP)—D. N. B., German news agency, in a Berlin broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, reported today that newspapers in Berlin were publishing pictures showing Adolf Hitler near the front lines in Russia.

Oregonian Decorated

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The air medal for meritorious achievement in anti-submarine patrol during 1942 was awarded Maj. Ryder W. Finn, pilot, son of John Weldon Finn of McCoy, Or., the War Department announced yesterday.

Wanted! Men And Women Who Are Hard Of Hearing

To make this simple, no risk hearing test, if you are temporarily deafened, bothered by ringing buzzing head noises due to hardening or congested wax (cerumen), try the Quinine Home Method test that so many say has enabled them to hear well again. You must hear better after making this simple test or you get your money back at once. Ask about Quinine Ear Drops today at G. O. C. Bartel and drug stores everywhere. (Adv.)

as welcome as the first crocus... white lingerie on Navy Blue

(2-PC) SUIT DRESSES—featuring your first love, American Navy, frosted with sheer white frills. Peplum style sketched is just one from many, in sizes 12 to 18.

SIXTY * THOUSAND SUNSETS

Yes, almost 61,000 suns have set since our forefathers decided to fight for an ideal—a way of living that was then beyond the horizon. Today we struggle again for an ideal... but the sun will rise, some day, on a new, peaceful world... a world that will have been made by our sacrifices... a world which our children will proudly enjoy.

So that our promised land may quickly be reached, the Century Distilling Company urges moderation and thrift in all things excepting the vigorous prosecution of the war. Lend freely of time and energy to Civilian Defense, rationing programs and other patriotic endeavors. This is an "all-out" war. We must not be found wanting.

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