

I N F O R M A T I O N D I G E S T

The War Front

Army Communique No. 53, the situation as of 9:30 a.m. today, said "Intensive patrolling and artillery duels characterized ground operations on the Island of Luzon yesterday. Heavy enemy reinforcements are being brought to the front and other indications point to a resumption of an offensive drive by the Japanese... The reappearance yesterday of a considerable number of enemy vessels off the coast of Mindanao indicated the probability that additional Japanese landings will be made on that island."

Navy Communique No. 26, the situation as of January 9, reported the SS Ruth Alexander, an 8,000-ton American President Lines vessel, was attacked by an enemy plane in the Netherlands East Indies waters, and was abandoned and declared a total loss. The Communique said one of the crew was killed and four were injured, and the balance of survivors are safe in a friendly port.

Navy And Army Production

The Navy Department announced approximately 600 new firms were added to the Navy's sources of supply during the week ending January 3. As an example of the expansion, the Navy said OPM has located 40 new sources for ship's rigging, and 23 ship builders not previously producing for the Navy are bidding on construction of one class of small craft. Under Secretary Forrestal said the Navy will display currently needed items of manufacture, many of which are suitable for subcontracting, at OPM permanent exhibits in Dallas, Tex.; Cleveland, O.; Chicago, Ill.; and St. Louis, Mo.

The Navy also announced contracts were awarded 1,358 firms during November, of which 457 received contracts of \$50,000 or more. The Bureau of Ordnance alone had 1,794 prime contracts outstanding among 800 contractors as of December 6. The Department said a total of 5,088 subcontracts have been sublet by firms holding 524 Navy prime contracts. The Department announced the Bureau of Ordnance flag and the Navy "E" pennant will be presented to the Doehler Die Casting Company and the New England Auto Products Corporation, Pottstown, Pa., January 19, for outstanding production of Naval ordnance material. The War Department said the Army within the last week purchased more than 700,000,000 board feet of lumber and 240,000 kegs of nails in preparation for increased defense construction activities. The lumber was acquired under the "auction system" established by the Army nearly a year ago for central purchasing of large quantities of defense materials. The Department said more than 800 lumber concerns are doing business in this manner with the Army, which, owing to defense construction needs, has become the sole source of orders for lumber in large amounts. The announcement said total lumber bought by the Army during the last year was 2,000,000,000 board feet.

The Department also announced the first of a number of large troop-carrying gliders being constructed for the Army Air Corps has been delivered to Wright Field, Dayton, O. The gliders were designed and built by various manufacturing concerns during the past nine months. They will be used to carry infantry men with all fighting equipment and necessary supplies, and have wing spans of more than 80 feet.

Production

The Office of Solid Fuels Coordination reported bituminous coal produced exceeded the half-billion-ton mark -- 502,860,000 tons -- in 1941 for the first time in 13 years. The office also reported production of Pennsylvania anthracite was the highest since 1936. A preliminary estimate shows the bituminous coal was dug in 16,000 mines and hauled to 30,000 coal-receiving destinations in the U. S. and Canada. In 1940, 453,000,000 tons were mined while in 1929, 534,989,000 tons were mined. The announcement said although statistics on 1941 coke production are not complete, previous reports indicate a large increase over past years.

C. E. Adams, Chief of the OPM Iron and Steel Branch, announced a comprehensive program to increase the production of steel plates, vital for shipbuilding, by the following steps: (1) all steel companies are requested to operate plate-making facilities 168 hours a week; (2) daily reports on plate shipments to the Army, Navy and Maritime Commission be made to the Branch; (3) weekly reports on total production; (4) greater use of continuous strip mills for production of plate; (5) each producer to name a liaison man to contact with the Branch on plates; (6) improve and simplify plate orders for greater production; and, (7) conferences with individual producers to iron out local production problems.

Regulations Of Communications

The FCC, at the request of the Defense Communications Board, ordered all amateur radio operation to cease immediately.

Chairman Fly of the Defense Communications Board invited labor to participate in the work of the subcommittees on aviation, cable, domestic broadcasting, international broadcasting, radio communications, telegraph and telephone problems and thus "aid more effectively in the formulation of basic plans affecting communications systems in the emergency." The invitation was addressed to Robert J. Watt of the AFL, Paul E. Griffith of the National Federation of Telephone Workers, and Joseph P. Selly of the American Communications Association (CIO).

Censorship Of Correspondence To Foreign Countries

Rules governing private correspondence to foreign countries were issued by Byron Price, Director of Censorship. Postal communication with enemy or enemy-occupied countries is illegal and will not be permitted except through the Red Cross, Mr. Price said. Communication with prisoners of war is permissible, he said.

The following rules were listed in regard to correspondence with persons in foreign countries, other than enemy or enemy occupied countries:

"The name and full address of the sender must be stated both on the outside of the envelope and in the letter itself. Correspondence should be in English if possible; the letters should be legible, clear, and brief. Avoid use of abbreviations, nicknames, phrases or codes in place of customary reference or descriptions of any person, firm, location, or other information. If English is not used the name of the language should be written in English on the face of the envelope.

"No mention should be made of defense matters, shipping, or weather conditions. Firms employed on munitions or other Government work should not mention that fact in writing abroad. Firms and individuals, except as indicated below should refuse to act as intermediaries or agents for the receipt and transmission of postal correspondence on behalf of persons in foreign countries. A member of the Army corresponding with foreign countries will not give the name of his post, camp, or station, but should give as his address the Army post office number of his unit in care of Postmaster New York or San Francisco or the address of a friend or relative in the United States, to whose care a reply can be sent for forwarding."

Failure to comply with these rules, the order stated, may lead to delay in transmission or to the return of correspondence to the sender.

Selective Service

Selective Service Director Hershey, speaking before the National Press Club, said "The great mass of our people" must be made to realize that Selective Service is attempting to place each man in the job where he can best be used. Actual war, he said, has created "not a new situation but a different situation...not a revolution in Selective Service, but a development..." Gen. Hershey said the manpower of the nation is not inexhaustible. The armed services, he said, must have all the men they can use "but must delay their plans until they can be met without disrupting production." Every bit of individual skill must be utilized, and there must be no jobs where men can go to avoid military service, Gen. Hershey said.

Army Substitutes For Critical Materials

The War Department announced the Quartermaster Corps in a campaign to conserve critical and strategic materials in the past six months has introduced substitutes for 800 articles previously used. The Department defined "critical" materials as those available in this country, but in insufficient quantities to meet emergency needs, while "strategic" materials are those which must be imported. The Department eliminated bronze finishes from 174 products, brass from 116, zinc from 93 specifications; nickel from 78 items, copper from 66, bronze from 68, aluminum from 58, linen from 24.

The Department said substitutes were also found in many types of equipment for cork, chromium, cadmium, nickel, steel, rubber, manila fiber, magnesium, silk, lead, asbestos and paper. Some of the substitutes are: for brass — plate glass, soft annealed steel, malleable iron, galvanized iron, cast iron, ceramic ware, cast bronze and steel; for copper — sheet

lead, steel, galvanized iron, ceramic ware, black iron, and bronze; for galvanizing (to save zinc) — paint, porcelain enamel, synthetic enamel and black japan; for zinc — galvanized iron or steel; for nickel plating — paint or synthetic enamel; for monel metal — bronze or porcelain finishes; for cadmium plating — oxidizing, clear lacquer, brass or copper plating, and Parkerizing; for aluminum — steel, cast iron and malleable iron; for steel — concrete, gypsum, wood, plywood, ceramic ware and galvanized iron.

Rubber Products And Batteries

The OPM Priorities Division granted manufacturers preference rating A-3 for RUBBER PRODUCTS — other than tires, tubes and foamed latex — needed to complete January production quotas of automobiles and light trucks. They include fan belts, motor mounts, running board parts, hood and cushion molding, steering wheels, pedal covers and shock absorbers. In an effort to halt a flood of groundless rumors, Civilian Supply Director Henderson made a public statement "There is no intention of interfering with the free sale of batteries or spark plugs for replacement purposes for passenger cars and trucks. Likewise, there is no intention of rationing these products."

The War Department announced, "Care and Maintenance of Pneumatic Tires," an Army manual issued today, contains timely suggestions to guide automobile owners who plan to store their machines for the winter or for the duration of the rubber shortage. The manual, prepared as a textbook for use by students at Quartermaster Motor Transport Schools, includes both the present practices of the Corps and the methods employed by various rubber manufacturers. The issuance of the manual is restricted to military personnel. It states "vehicles in storage should be placed on blocks so that weight does not rest on the tires, and the air pressure should be reduced to a few pounds"; if vehicle cannot be blocked up, normal air pressure should be maintained; if kept outdoors, tires should be coated with synthetic rubber paint or covered with heavy canvas; new or dismantled tires should be covered with tarpaulin or other heavy tightly-woven fabric and kept in a dark place at 70 or 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

The manual suggests tire dealers handling recapped as well as new tires should pile stored casings flat, directly on top of one another, "to avoid kinking the wire beads and distorting the tire." Before storing, used tires should be cleaned and repaired and all oil and grease removed; air pressure in tires mounted on rims but removed from the vehicle should be reduced to a few pounds; tires should not be stored more than three years. The manual states tubes not in casings should be deflated and folded, then covered to protect them from air, moisture, grease, and oil; they should not be creased or stored for more than two years; they should not be inflated in storage.

Sugar Situation

A. E. Bowman, Chief of the Sugar Section, OPM Food Supply Branch, announced the Government order restricting sugar deliveries will be revised to provide additional supplies for areas where population increases have created artificial shortages, and to provide a more equitable distribution

of sugar for businesses that have either begun or expanded since 1940. The amendment will provide for 1942 deliveries at 1941 monthly levels instead of 1940 levels as at present.

Price Administrator Henderson revised price ceilings on refined and other "direct consumption" cane and beet sugar, raising the level by 20 cents per 100 pounds to compensate for a recent Government-approved increase in raw cane sugar prices. The increases are directed only to refiners and other primary distributors -- not retailers. Mr. Henderson said the increase, however, should not be passed on to consumers at this time because supplies sold by retailers at present were purchased at lower prices.

House Passes Daylight Saving Bill

The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill providing for mandatory daylight saving time -- advancing clocks one hour throughout the country -- for the duration of the war, to begin 20 days after enactment of the bill and end six months after termination of the war.

Boy Scouts And Civilian Defense

OCD Director LaGuardia and Chief Scout Executive West in a joint statement defined the relationship between the Boy Scouts of America and the OCD for the duration of the war. The statement said Boy Scouts -- organized into 49,000 units in the U. S. and its Territories -- can immediately be utilized in the following enrolled volunteer groups for civilian defense protection: (a) assisting emergency medical units; (b) fire watchers; (c) leadership in the development of adequate locally trained messenger service in which members of the Boy Scouts will have special designation, supplementing their uniform, indicative of their special training. Mr. LaGuardia and Mr. West said when a particular mission is assigned to the Scouts, they will become part of the civilian defense organization during performance of the mission, and will work under supervision and direction of the defense council.

Commerce On 44-Hour Week

Acting Secretary Hinckley directed Commerce Department employees, both in Washington and in the field service, to go on a 44-hour work week effective January 19.

Conservation Of Natural Gas

The OPM asked all consumers of natural gas in nine States, mostly in the middlewest, to cut consumption as much as possible during the current cold wave to make gas available for war production plants by the following methods: (1) keeping room temperature as low as possible by proper adjustment of gas thermostats; (2) closing off heat in all unoccupied rooms; (3) using all gas appliances as little as possible; and (4) any other method which will diminish the use of heating gas. The States are Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Western New York, Michigan, Kansas and Missouri.

Priorities And Allocations

The OPM Division of Priorities ordered tung oil -- obtained chiefly from China and subject to uncertainties of shipping from the Far East -- under strict priority control. Present stocks are relatively low, he said, and arrangements are being made for Defense Supplies Corporation to purchase all existing supplies and all future imports.

The Division announced use of lead in the manufacture of golf clubs, caskets, jockey saddles, decoys, toys and many additional civilian items will be prohibited as of April 1. Until that date, use of lead will be restricted to 50 percent of amounts used to manufacture less essential items in the last six months of last year. Supplies of lead will be available, the Division said, in manufacturing plants where corrosion necessitates use of the metal, and for scientific and industrial laboratories and hospitals.

Prices

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' daily index of 28 basic commodities, led by a 2 percent increase in prices for basic foodstuffs, rose 1.1 percent from January 2 to 9 to a new high, 162.6 percent of the August, 1939 level. The price movement was confined to 13 of the 28 commodities included in the index, largely agricultural products, as prices for most of the other series are controlled by the Government, the Bureau said.

Labor Supply

OPM Associate Director Hillman, speaking before the Federal Security Advisory Council, said the nation's force of workers in war industries must be doubled or tripled to fulfill President Roosevelt's new armament production program. Mr. Hillman said the hiring of millions of workers would be more difficult than ever before, but said the most efficient use of manpower resources would be accomplished. He said during the conversion of plants from peacetime to wartime uses, "a temporary displacement of workers is inevitable." These workers must be reemployed as quickly as possible, he said, and there will be no unemployment when full war production is attained. "In the future," he said, "we might even run into manpower shortages."

Mr. Hillman issued a request to employers asking them not to bar aliens in war industries except in plants turning out secret weapons.

Census Of Women Workers

The Census Bureau reported, as of April 1, 1940 when the last Census was taken there were 50,357,892 women 14 years of age or over in continental United States, including 12,846,565 who reported themselves as "in the labor force." Of the more than 12,000,000 working, 11,148,946 were employed in regular work, not including public emergency work such as WPA, NYA, etc., and 432,087 on public emergency work. A total of 1,265,538 reported themselves as "seeking work" -- 950,904 were experienced workers

and 314,634 were "new workers" entering the labor market. Women who reported themselves as outside the labor force numbered 37,511,327, including 28,551,680 engaged in their own home housework; 4,455,971 in school or college; 2,266,440 "unable to work"; 430,758 in institutions; and 775,018 classified as "other."

The 1940 Census showed that 25 out of every 100 of the 10,000,000 persons employed by the 184,000 factories were women; and that 34.1 percent of the 4,600,217 employees of the 1,770,000 retail stores were women, an increase from 30.5 percent five years earlier.

The Bureau reported approximately 2,100,000 of the 4,681,408 women in the 21 to 24, inclusive, age group were in the labor force on April 1, 1940, and the next highest ratio was shown in the 25-29 group where 1,992,648 were at work out of a total of 5,636,943.

Grocery Advisory Committee

The OPM announced 80 representatives of the grocery industry meeting in Washington have established a 22-member advisory committee to study problems facing the nation's food purveyors. Subjects under discussion, OPM said, were re-use and curtailment of use of paper bags wherever possible; pooling of deliveries to conserve tires and delivery trucks; and elimination of use of tin cans for tobacco, dog food, coffee, oil, anti-freeze and other items which could be delivered in other than tin containers.

Labor Disputes

The U. S. Conciliation Service reported settlement of the following labor disputes: Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Barberton, O.; Armstrong Cork Co., Pensacola, Fla.; North American Aviation Co., Inglewood, Calif.; American Bridge Co., Trenton, N. J.; and the Horton Wiping Materials Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Appointments

ANDREW STEVENSON was appointed CHIEF OF THE OPM TRANSPORTATION AND FARM EQUIPMENT BRANCH and ERNEST KANZLER, CHIEF OF THE OPM AUTOMOTIVE BRANCH — the two new industrial branches created from the former OPM Automobile, Transportation and Farm Equipment Branch. Mr. Stevenson was Chief of the combined Branch. Mr. Kanzler is President of the Universal Credit Corporation.

Director of DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION Eastman named the following key executives to his staff: VICTOR V. BOATNER, Chicago, Ill., as HEAD OF THE DIVISION OF RAILWAY TRANSPORT. Mr. Boatner is director member of the executive committee and representative of the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad. JOHN L. ROGERS, Washington, D. C., as HEAD OF THE DIVISION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT. Mr. Rogers is a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. JOHN R. TURNEY, Washington, D. C. as HEAD OF THE DIVISION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENT. Mr. Turney has been engaged in general transportation practice in Washington since 1935. G. LLOYD WILSON, Philadelphia, Pa., as HEAD OF THE DIVISION OF RATES. Mr. Wilson is a professor of transportation and public

utilities, University of Pennsylvania, OTTO S. BEYER, Washington, D. C., as HEAD OF THE DIVISION OF TRANSPORT PERSONNEL. Mr. Beyer is a member of the National Mediation Board, serving as chairman. JOSEPH L. WHITE, Montclair, N. J., as EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. Mr. White was Assistant Director of the OPA Transportation Division. FAYETTE B. DOW, Washington, D. C., as ASSISTANT ON PIPE LINES, TANKERS, TANK CARS, TANK TRUCKS. Mr. Dow has practiced before the Interstate Commerce Commission, and made special studies on petroleum transportation. A. T. WOOD, Cleveland, O., as ASSISTANT ON GREAT LAKES CARRIERS. Mr. Wood is President of the Lake Carriers Association, Cleveland, Ohio. JACK G. SCOTT, Washington, D. C., as GENERAL COUNSEL. Mr. Scott is Chief of the Legal and Enforcement Section, Bureau of Motor Carriers, Interstate Commerce Commission.

FRANK M. BREWSTER, Bradford, Pa., was appointed CHIEF OF NATURAL GAS AND NATURAL GASOLINE SECTION, OFFICE OF THE PETROLEUM COORDINATOR for for a 17-state area, with headquarters in New York. Mr. Brewster is President of the Belmont Quadrangle Drilling Corporation, Bradford, Pa.

JOHN J. HALL, Pittsburgh, Pa., was appointed ASSISTANT TO THE OPM DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PRIORITIES. Mr. Hall is Vice President of the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation, Pittsburgh.

(All information herein is from official sources.)