

Allies Marshaling Forces For Great Blow At Rabaul

Preparing to Strike at Keystone of Japan's Crumbling Southwest Pacific Defense

Washington, Dec. 15, (UP)—The allies today were believed marshaling powerful air, sea and ground forces of an early assault on Rabaul, keystone of Japan's crumbling southwest Pacific defense line.

Military experts anticipate the campaign for that formidable enemy base on New Britain island will be undertaken soon, perhaps even before American troops complete the conquest of nearby Bougainville island.

The campaign for Rabaul, which bars the way to the more vital strongholds in Japan's inner defense rings, will be the biggest, and no doubt the toughest yet undertaken by the allies in the Pacific.

The forthcoming drive will be preceded by an intensive, sustained aerial assault such as that which forced the Japanese to quit Kiska in the Aleutians. Land and ship-based planes will participate, the former presumably from the newly developed air base in the Empress Augusta bay area of Bougainville.

In the opinion of military experts, it may first be necessary to seize enemy airfields on New Britain island before attempting a frontal assault on Rabaul itself. This would necessitate landings in the vicinity of Gasmata and Cape Gloucester, secondary enemy bases on the island. At the same time, enemy airfields on New Ireland island, which lies athwart Rabaul, would have to be immobilized.

The allies are now understood to have the men, the ships and planes needed to do the job. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said as much yesterday when he told newsmen, "We are getting ready to drive home some hard blows. . . we now have the equipment and trained men to do a complete job."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who would direct the combined forces in the drive on Rabaul, has at his disposal the American Sixth army commanded by Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger. Comparatively few army troops have participated in any of the recent campaigns in the southwest Pacific. The current New Guinea drive has been entrusted largely to Australian soldiers. The marines represent the main force on Bougainville although some army troops are with them.

Hollywood Is Suffering From Cold And Sniffles

Warner Brothers Have 300 on Sick List—From the Prevailing Maladies

Hollywood, (UP)—Hollywood was one big snuffle today, with many a multi-million dollar epic wheezing to a halt because the high priced help had colds in the heads.

Most of those movie stars still on the job either had just recovered or were beginning to feel ticklish in the nose. As Bob Hope reported—between sneezes:

"You're lucky if you can find a doctor at all; they're all down with the flu, too."

More than 300 workers at Warner Brothers, from top star to the lowliest carpenter were nursing their ills at home. Barbara Stanwyck, who had tried to play a glamorous gal with a mustard plaster on her chest, finally gave up the struggle and took to her bed for three days. Jack Benny's film shut down for a week, because his nose was dribbling; when it reopened, the Misses Dolores Moran and Alexis Smith were red of eye and stuffed of nose.

Bob Hutton and Dane Clark, co-starring in a film about the Hollywood canteen, were out and the picture was closed. Bette Davis, who took a week off to sit in the desert sun, was back at work, with a supply of handkerchiefs.

The Seznick production, "Since You Went Away," was closed with not one, but two of its stars, taking cold medicine. Claudette Colbert first reported sick; Jennifer Jones followed her.

The new Dr. Kildare movie was down with Drs. Lionel Barrymore and Van Johnson unable to prescribe successfully for themselves. Ronald Colman, playing Marlene Dietrich's boy friend in technicolor, was home, coughing. So was Maria Montez.

Betty Hutton, the incendiary blonde, scheduled to do a dance in as few clothes as the law allows, was bundled in shannels.

Al Hall, directing Cary Grant and Janet Blair in a movie about a dancing caterpillar, went to bed, while his actors, including the worm, collected their salaries for doing nothing.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH - Plattsmouth-Louisville Road

Sunday, December 19th
Close of Sunday School
11 A. M.—Services
2:00 P. M.—Practice for Christmas program.

Wednesday, December 22nd
The ladies aid will hold their Christmas party at the church parlors. Mrs. Henry Parnoff and Mrs. Jake Kraeger, committee.

Friday, December 24th
6:30 P. M.—Christmas Program
Saturday, December 25th
11 A. M.—Christmas services
No service on Sunday, December 26th.

Vivian Blaine, the new musical comedy star with the red hair at 20th Century-Fox, worked a week with a nurse standing by, then gave up the struggle. So did William Bendix.

Roy Rogers was so seriously ill with influenza that his current Horse Opry was postponed until the first of the year. Paramount's movie about the Hitler gang closed for two days because director John F. Farrow and most of his actors were sick. Robert Hitler Watson was so ill, he could not say hell, in more than a whisper. Alan Ladd, making his picture since returning from the army, still hadn't made it. First day's shooting found him home with his feet in a hot bath.

Virginia Bruce's adventures in Arabia with George Sanders halted when she went to the hospital, seriously ill. She's at home now under care of a physician, while Sanders bites his fingernails.

Bonita Granville, who also went to the hospital with influenza, returned to work, shaky in the knees, while dozens of other performers trying to hide their red noses with yellow grease paint, wondered how long they could hold out before the cameras.

Nation Exhausts Reserves Of Its Transportation

Necessary to Have Replacement Programs Launched If Collapse Is to Be Avoided

Washington, (UP)—The Truman committee warned the nation today that it has coasted to the limit on its prewar reserves of transportation facilities and that replacement programs must be launched immediately if a disastrous collapse is to be avoided.

"If we act now, an impending crisis may be avoided by means more satisfactory than any measures which could be taken once the crisis is actually upon us," the senate's special war investigating committee declared in a report on transportation problems.

The report paid high tribute to the transportation job so far accomplished, and said it couldn't have been done if there hadn't been prewar reserves as well as splendid war-time conservation and utilization.

But, it added, the transportation is increasing. Equipment is wearing out. Manpower is growing scarcer.

"An indication of the seriousness of the situation lies in the fact that experts forecasting the 1944 transportation burden have based their figures, not upon estimated demand, but on estimated maximum capacity," the report pointed out.

Point by point, the committee reviewed the situation affecting all types of transportation facilities—rail, highway, air, barge and pipeline.

It found the rail, highway and air transport outlook most critical. The barge program, conceived in emergency, was found to have been

Nehawka

By Journal Field Representative

Leonard Born of Plattsmouth, was looking after business in Nehawka on last Friday, and visiting friends. He brought 288 discs to have sharpened by H. Kuntz.

Jack Wunderlich, who has been at Fort Benning, Ga., has been promised

"so delayed by endless conferences" that its benefits were negligible. Only the pipeline program received plaudits.

"Pipeline transportation of petroleum was early and properly visualized by the petroleum administration for war as a solution to some of the major domestic petroleum-transportation problems," the report said. "As a result, the petroleum-transportation problem has been greatly alleviated."

The committee found that railroads have received during 1942 and will receive during 1943 only a fraction of their estimated equipment requirements.

It blamed war production board priority ratings for the fact that locomotive production reached only 615, instead of the scheduled 724, in the first nine months of this year. WPB since has lifted delaying restrictions.

Freight cars present a similar problem, and the committee lashed out at the WPB for stopping without notice, freight car production on April 14, 1942. The WPB order restricted freight car production to only two types. The committee said "production was delayed several months before railroads discovered which builders would be permitted to build what types of cars."


As for the future, the committee was pleased to note that material inventories have now reached the stage where WPB has authorized a return to all-steel construction "so a substantial increase in the number of freight cars of better quality, is now possible."

As for passenger cars, the committee said the public "will have to accept the discomforts of rail passenger travel as one of the burdens of war and should plan to travel as little as possible."

The committee found steel rail and other equipment problems definitely improved but suggested test checks occasionally to minimize unceremonious routing which place an unnecessary burden on rail facilities.

"Meet the People..."

(Each week in this space will be presented a picture and word portrait of someone whose name is news.)



Calvin B. Baldwin

- Upon the shoulders of a youthful, energetic, good natured American named Calvin B. Baldwin may rest some of the responsibility for shortening World War II. He was selected by Secretary of State Hull to direct the rehabilitation of Italy.
- Baldwin is 41 years old. He was born in Radford, Va., and his first professional experience was as a shop inspector for a railroad. By 1933 he became the manager and owner of the Electric Sales and Service company, East Radford, Va.
- In 1933 Baldwin became a member of the New Deal family as an assistant to Henry Wallace. He has remained active in governmental posts since and is well known for his work as administrator of the Farm Security Administration.
- The organization Baldwin now heads is charged with feeding, clothing, and providing medical care for needy Italians. Our treatment of Italy, the first Axis country to surrender, will probably be closely watched by other Nazi satellite nations. If the impression is favorable, they also may decide to surrender.

ed a furlough the latter part of the month, hoping to be able to celebrate the holidays here with his parents.

Frank Linder was visiting his friend, Walter J. Wunderlich, and looked after business at Nehawka's bank.

John Chriswiler and his son and daughter, were visiting in Nehawka last Sunday. Mr. Chriswiler with his mother, Mrs. Cattie Chriswiler, and the children with Orah and Louis Jentz. They returned to Lincoln in the evening.

Herbie Kuntz and wife were at Nebraska City Saturday where they enjoyed a visit with friends and attending to business matters.

Avoca Wins Games

The first and second basketball teams of the Avoca school were at Nehawka Friday night for two games with the locals. The visitors were able to take both games from the Nehawka players.

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The Journal

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This space is a contribution to America's all-out war effort by