

Comments, Interpretations and Opinions

DALLAS HISTORY—Civic Leaders Learn Big News

—By Jack Patton and Sam Acheson

Japan Unm...

By Hallett Abend.
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With their motherland overrun by Germany and her government living in dangerous homeland cities being wrecked by the East Force, the Dutch in the Netherlands lost two thirds from May of 1940 until Dec. 7 feared Japanese armed invasion of their second they feared that such an invasion same reason that the invasion of Holland vance co-operation by the highest author threatened by an aggressor nation.

Thinking Out Loud

A straight line is the shortest distance between two points.—EUCLID
By LYNN W. LANDRUM

The Welders' Plight

AN ILLUSTRATION of what is bound to happen when you try to force men into a union which they do not wish to join is given us in the strike of the welders on the west coast of the United States.

These welders are not anti-union men. They want a union. They want a union of their own—not a company union, but a genuine craft union. Yet the set-up is such that they are discharged from work if they do not pay off to a union to which they do not properly belong.

To say that a welder is ipso facto a boiler maker is just plain foolishness. He may be one and he may not be one. But welding within itself is a trade and nowadays a very useful trade—absolutely essential, in fact. Yet the American Federation of Labor is so blind to its own best interests that it is trying to force these welders to take out a card on a job in a given union with the prospect that when they move over to another job they will have to take out a card in an entirely different union. And then on a third job the process may be repeated.

Initiation Fees

THE WELDERS say that they are subjected to a racket by which they have to pay over a large part of their earnings to various local unions in the form of initiation fees and stiff dues. They don't mind paying reasonable dues to a welders' union. But they say it is not right to have to submit to being initiated to union after union just because they get pretty, high wages.

As to the racket part of the situation, in some cases it probably is no better than a racket and in others there may be some justification on both sides. But the war situation is so grave that it is time for the statesmen in the labor movement and out of it to get together on this thing.

Nobody can afford to hold up war production over an absolutely unnecessary quarrel of this sort. It would be better for the unions to suffer a monetary loss than to have men working under the rankling animosities of what they believe to be an injustice. It would be better for the welders to agree to some stipulated annual charge, even if pretty stiff, rather than to lose work altogether and at the same time imperil the best interests of the country. But above all, the country itself cannot afford this sort of foolishness.

Sidney Hillman's Job

A LARGE PART of the country has no confidence in Sidney Hillman whatever. Mr. Hillman is charged with some of the work of ironing out such situations, apparently, and seems to have taken over much of the rest of it. Moddom Perkins is such a double-riveted, aluminum-plated dud in her official position as Secretary of Labor that she can be relied upon only to muddle things wherever she lands. It is up to Mr. Hillman.

Mr. Hillman sometimes acts as if he were out to preserve unionism instead of being out to preserve Americanism. Maybe it is unjust to say that. But, if he can and will do a good job of keeping these jurisdictional strikes down and maintaining peace and good will within union labor's own ranks he will do much to redeem the reputation of union labor and he will do much to redeem the reputation of Sidney Hillman himself.

It is a mistake to attribute to prejudice all disgust at this sort of labor quarrelling-within-the-ranks. Open-shoppers are disgusted about it, of course. But so are many sound, sane, patriotic union leaders. It is injuring the cause of labor greatly. Every true friend of the workingman ought to use his influence to make it possible for every good workman to work and do his full best for his country in this time of danger. We need the ships and the guns, the tanks and the planes. Arguments can wait.

BOARD OF TRADE: STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD THAT SECRET WILL SAVE DALLAS

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TO BUSINESSMEN WHO WANT BIG-TIME DAILY.

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GENTLEMEN, THE NEWS AT GALVESTON WILL PRINT A NEW PAPER HERE IN YOUR OWN CITY.

WITH PLANS FOR PUBLISHING THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

Camouflage Aid

By Henry McLemore.

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Feb. 1.—Even deceit has its virtues. For years the Hollywood art directors have been flim-flaming the movie public.

They staged the Battle of Trafalgar in a pool of water no bigger than a bathtub, but did it so realistically that the loge customers were seasick before it was over.

They produced blizzard scenes that, despite the fact that the snow was untoastable cornflakes, were so real that patrons seated as far from the screen as the tenth row were frost-bitten.

Remember that scene in Sergeant York where the Sergeant, accompanied by his faithful dogs, climbs on a peak in the Big Smoky Mountains and meditates? Well, that scene was shot on an indoors stage. There is hardly a college halfback worth his subsidization who couldn't have run over any of the mountains and knocked them down.

Did you see Ladies in Retirement? You know, the horror thriller laid along the marshes of the Thames River? Well, those marshes were as phoney as a \$3 bill and were created from such odds and ends as roosters' combs, old lace, tap water, rubber heels, no parking signs and plain California. It was all a matter of magic—the sort of magic that Hollywood's art directors have been working on the public since John Bunny was the Clark Gable of his day.

Now that trickery has come to the aid of the government, the art directors, and the lesser magicians who work under them in creating flim-flam for the movies, are welded into a Motion Picture Camouflage unit.

It was only a few hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (an attack, by the way, that proved the vulnerability of uncamouflaged targets), that Hollywood masters of confusion volunteered their services. Their services were eagerly accepted by the United States Army Engineers. Today more than 400 men, representing six major studios, are devoting much of their time to concealing key defense works.

The projects are outlined by the art directors and the work carried out by sketch artists, model makers and draftsmen. These babies are the same ones who design and create the sets for the Hollywood pictures. You have seen enough movies to know how skillful they are. In talking to Lionel Banks of the Columbia Studios, who is in charge of the camouflage unit, I discovered that what a bit of this, a bit of that and a knowledge of shadows and colors and perspective can do.

All of the Washington scenes of Mr. Smith Goes to Washington were done right in Hollywood. The entire shot showing the Lincoln Memorial and the vast sweep of the Reflection Pool was done on a stage. In Only Angels Have Wings the ocean and an airport were shot on a medium-sized indoor stage. You can imagine what these fellows are able to do in the way of disguising defense projects.

Mr. Banks naturally did not say what projects his unit had undertaken, but, say it was an airplane factory. By the time his boys get through with it the Japanese bombers, when and if they come to this coast, won't be able to tell it from a bobsled run, a skating rink, a sanctuary for widowed bison, or George Raft's swimming pool.

Japs Will Be Fooled. They'll come over to knock out a factory, say, and wind up wasting precious bombs on nothing more substantial than a bunch of netting, paint, leaves and optical illusions.

The Germans have given camouflage a full try. The RAF re-

Word Stories

By W. Worthington Wells.

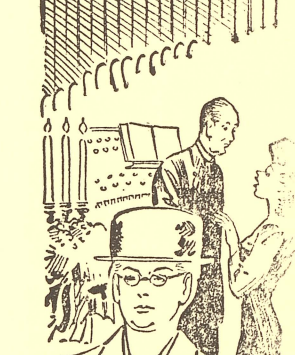
The expert news analysts predicted that the Far East would be the next war zone for the United States. With that prospect, words like Australia, Australasia, Austral-English and Australasian, are appearing in the news daily.

All of us know where Australia is and how to pronounce it; but how many know what the word means? You should remember that AUSTRAL means something that is to the south, something Australasian means an inhabitant of the southern Asian island regions. Australasia, southern Asia. Austral-English means the language spoken in Australia and New Zealand with the special developments that sets it apart from our English.

Australasian is pronounced austral-A-sian with the accent on (a) as that in Asia. It means the language of Australasia as well as an inhabitant of that area. Their language is called Austronesian, with the accent on (ne), and is composed of no fewer than twelve agglutinative languages.

AUNT HET

BY ROBERT QUILLEN



"I've got a lot to answer for, but I never included him in the lowdown about his segregation."

would so confuse an enemy that he would be likely to down his rifle and sit on a fresh set of road maps.

This would often result in capture, don't you think? don't you think?

War Analysis

BY EDWARD E. BOMAR, Wide World War Analyst.

Going into action for the first time, so far as has been reported, the big guns of Manila Bay's fortifications have smashed an enemy sneak landing force and served notice that the amazing Philippine defenders are as alert against surprise as they have been stalwart against mass attack.

Almost every day jolts the Japanese with an unpleasant new reminder of the strength of General MacArthur's Gibraltar. Only the uncertain factors of food, shells and fatigue restrain hopes that the little American-Filipino army can hold out for many months if need be.

Forced backward slowly in the last three weeks, the defenders of Batan Peninsula may have yielded as much as half that rugged area, retaining territory not much larger than Greater...

For Fort Mills can hurl heavy shells possibly fifteen miles onto the peninsula as well as over the South China Sea. They are supported by smaller fixed batteries and numerous mobile 155-millimeter guns such as MacArthur's...

Week's News As Presented by Harry C. Withers, Manager of The News, Over Radio Station WT

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Japan has won the battle of Malaya and has launched the battle of Singapore.

Saturday Britain announced that its defending troops had been completely evacuated from the mainland and had taken up positions on the island of Singapore.

Lieut. Gen. A. E. Percival, commanding Britain's defending army, announced the withdrawal, saying:

"Today we stand beleaguered in our island fortress. Our task is to hold this island fortress until help can come, as assuredly it will come. This we are determined to do."

Singapore is an island with an area twenty-seven miles east and west and fourteen miles north and south. Its major fortifications are located on the northern and eastern shores. The city of Singapore is on the southern shore. It has a population of around 750,000, mostly Chinese.

The island lies approximately one mile south of the mainland of Malaya from which it is separated by the waters of Johore strait. Until the British withdrawal Saturday it was connected with the mainland by a causeway, sixty feet wide. This causeway was breached by the British after their retreat Saturday.

No estimate of the size of Britain's defending army is possible. It is certain that compared to the Japanese force it is extremely small and is at a serious disadvantage because of Japanese superiority in the air. Estimates of the Japanese army have ranged all the way from 100,000 to 500,000.

The superior Japanese air strength is expected to be released with merciless fury and to be aided by sea attacks from Japan's superior naval force in that area. Important Defense Post.

Singapore, the strongest fortress in the Far East, has been regarded as Japan's primary objective, and the one bastion above all others which it is essential for the United Nations to hold.

Allied determination to hold Singapore at all costs explains failure to send help to General MacArthur in the Philippines. It explains the presence of Admiral Hart's Asiatic fleet in Malayan waters. It explains the sending of American troops to Australia and Java instead of to the Philippines. For its sake MacArthur has been forsaken and the Philippines all but abandoned.

Events in the next few days should disclose whether or not the Allied joint command, under General Wavell, still is determined that Singapore must be defended at all costs or whether, like MacArthur, it will be left to shift for itself and new defense bases will be established farther south.

If the decision is to hold Singapore then such American fighting forces as have reached that theater of war will be thrown into battle. Combined with British, Australian, Malayan and Netherlands troops they should be able to hold the fort for many weeks if they follow the valiant example of MacArthur and his men.

Until the issue is decided Singapore will be of little value to the United Nations as a naval base. Concentration of battleships there would invite a repetition of the fate of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse. Japan's present vast superiority in the air gives its navy an overwhelming advantage which cannot be successfully met until the United Nations ap-

proach equality in air strength that area. Reinforcements Expected. General Percival speaks confidently of reinforcements. It be hoped that they may prove be neither too little nor too late.

As the situation stands in Japan has added another victory to Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, and the conquest of Malaya gives it possession of the important rubber resources so vital to modern war.

Some measure of revenge on Pearl Harbor has been obtained in the battle of Macassar Strait. This battle, still in progress, been described as the greatest naval engagement since July in the first World War.

It began on Friday, Jan. 16, when Dutch planes discovered a Japanese armada in the waters between Celebes and East Timor. The discovery was not made to prevent a Japanese blow on Balikpapan, the site of an oil field.

The Dutch immediately went into action and sank eleven ships, transports and supply vessels. They were joined at once by American flying fortresses which immediately sank seven Japanese ships.

The fighting continued incessantly through the week with the score of Japanese vessels mounting. The figures are confusing, the total number of ships which have gone down in this battle, Dutch and American claims may overlap, but case it seems reasonable that a minimum of 15 Japanese vessels were destroyed. A probability that the Japanese losses may be as high as thirty-eight Allied Losses Light.

Dutch and American losses have been amazingly light. They were greatly outnumbered in the air. They have given that ship for ship and man they are superior in thing the Japs can offer.

It is too early yet to call the Macassar engagement an outright Allied victory. Reports indicated that the waters there with 150,000 Japanese troops. This force evidently is being used in the attempted invasion of the East Indies naval base. Batavia fleet of four transport cruisers and six destroyers being used in the assault.

Although Japan's surprise attack, its superior numbers, and disregard of losses have important objectives, it has terrifically high toll in ships. Saturday Batavia announced that the Dutch navy had sunk or damaged 15 Japanese ships in fifty-four hours or an average of one a day. Dutch list includes one battleship, ten cruisers, six destroyers and twenty-five transports.

Washington Army and Navy communiques have listed two ships definitely sunk in war began, four list include battleship, four submarines, destroyers, two cruisers, twenty-two transports.

It is possible the two Japanese losses far exceed those inflicted upon the Dutch Americans. If the ratio of continued Japanese superiority will disappear. It cannot ships as fast as they are sunk.

Despite the loss of Manila the defeats that preceded

to surrender the Japanese and dy planted switches. The Jr fineries tane g; Borneo l the harb there are if the J. effect a Dutch B will go t be heard of Maca docks left could tie be smok lines int them sev have been a score wells th dynamite flaming of the B choked to ish have plan in Borneo. There these...