

OTTAWA, Feb. 19 (3 p.m.)—The Mackenzie King government was struggling with two critical problems today.

In the House of Commons it faced an acutely embarrassing vote on conscription.

Within its own council chamber it faced the necessity of altering its entire plan of war.

By the time both these questions have been settled Canada will be concentrating for the next few months anyway on its own defense, the general staff will have overhauled its big overseas army plan and simple conscription for overseas service will have become a rather academic issue.

A significant event here was that Eastern Canada newspapers are for the first time acknowledging the need of Pacific Coast defense. Toronto's Globe and Mail led the awakening.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION MOTION

The sudden embarrassment of the Government in Parliament on a motion directly opposing Overseas conscription is important, but only for the moment. J. F. Pouliot has moved an anti-conscription motion on which he hopes to secure the support of many Quebec Liberals and break severely into the Government's majority.

The Government was striving this morning to find a rule of Parliament by which the Pouliot motion could be declared out of order and this may be its fate. Most observers believed that Mr. King, abetted of all Parliamentary strategists, would find a way out of this conundrum.

The manoeuvres in the House may be regarded properly as a sham battle.

The real battle is going on in the government and the Liberal party itself. Apparently it has been won by those forces which are determined that Canada shall defend itself. The basic decision now being made is to accept the threat of a Pacific Coast attack as a real possibility and to guard against it. The basic policy of the government up to a few days ago was to regard a Pacific Coast attack as almost impossible, and to assume that there could be nothing more than air raids.

OVERHAUL OF PLANS

The earlier assumption, based on the advice of the General Staff, was blasted by Japan's successes in the South Seas and finally destroyed by President Roosevelt's staggering statement that any and all attacks on Alaska could not be repelled. When the war committee of the Cabinet sat almost all yesterday, undoubtedly the Roosevelt warning was before it. And undoubtedly that warning will be implemented by the complete overhaul of Canadian war plans.

The only question left today, in fact, was the amount of manpower and equipment that Canada could move to the Pacific Coast to guard against Japanese landings either in

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Re-Tread Ban Likely

Gas Ration to Be Less Than First Expected

By B. T. RICHARDSON
Vancouver Sun Ottawa Bureau
OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—New restrictions coming in the next few months will mean that all pleasure motor cars in Canada will have to be laid up for 3 1/2 days soon as the tires on them now are worn out, it was learned today.

Changes in the gasoline supply situation will also mean that motorists will get smaller amounts when rationing starts on April 1, than previously expected. The gasoline coupon unit will probably start at four gallons instead of five.

Retreading of tires will be prohibited entirely, it is expected except for the eligible list. Private passenger cars, numbering nearly a million and a quarter, are not on the eligible list, so that the average motorist will have only the tires he now possesses and when these are gone, his car must be laid up.

More drastic rubber restrictions are now in the making, and they will affect many articles. An official announcement is expected this week on manufacture of synthetic rubber in Canada, but the production will be entirely for war purposes.

Reduction of the gasoline ration, even before rationing has started, is due to a combination of factors including sinkings of tankers, that limit the supply. For "A" category motorists, the annual allowance will be 200 instead of 240 gallons, reducing the potential mileage from 5400 to 4200 for one season. Other categories will be reduced in proportion.

At the same time, to prevent avoidable hardship, the classifying of individual motorists in different categories will be reviewed. Necessary cases may be switched from one category to another to allow greater gasoline allowance.

War consumption of gasoline has been rising steadily.

heavy casualties on both sides raged all along this front about 50 miles east of Rangoon's railway link to the Burma road.

The Japanese crossed the northern reaches of the Billin and ran into a heavy British counter-attack. An attempt to turn the British left flank failed and the Japs were driven back into the river.

FURIOUS BATTLE

The American Volunteer Air Group roared into the battle, blasting heavily at Japanese dive bombers supporting the Japanese attack.

Fighting continued furiously in the battle after 36 hours of ceaseless attack and counter attack.

The Japanese driving toward Rangoon, which has been partly evacuated, apparently had been forced out into the open paddy lands of the Billin front after a long period of attack by infiltrating through the jungle.

(Observers in London were pessimistic over the possibilities of holding the Billin River line, and predicted that the defenders would be forced to fall back to the Sittang River, only 20 miles from the railroad.)

(Some of these observers saw in reports that new United States bombers and fighters were based with Chinese troops in Burma hope that sufficient air strength has been gathered to halt the Japanese on land and thwart possible sea landings.)

The Imperial Air Force has smashed with heavy damage at the Japanese Chinglang base in Thailand and there are indications that the heaviest battle for Burma might be developing.

United Nations forces now are holding a front which appears to extend from the Gulf of Martaban, 75 miles northeast of Rangoon, for some 230 miles due north and possibly another 250 miles beyond that, northeast. In the Billin River area they are fighting on plains, with the last reported positions about 50 miles east of the Burma Road.

Chirase Defeat Siamese in North

By ROBERT MARTIN
Special to The Vancouver Sun
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CHUNGKING, China, Feb. 19.—Chinese forces have met and defeated Thailand troops in northern Burma and the Thailanders are retreating on Cheungmai, an important base 80 miles on the Thailand side of the frontier, it was announced officially today.

Japs Must Have Permit to Lease Or Buy Land

Special to The Vancouver Sun
OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—No person of Japanese origin can purchase or lease land in Canada except under special permit from the Minister of Justice.

This ban was announced by Premier King in Parliament today after the City Council of Kelowna had protested that coast Japanese were pouring into the Okanagan Valley trying to buy land and acting in a "troubling and insolent manner."

Public indignation was rising, the council said, and must lead to violence. Mr. King pleaded for moderate language in dealing with the Japanese problem.

Pullet Lays 131 Eggs In 136-Day Period

MONMOUTH, Me., Feb. 19.—A Rhode Island Red pullet owned by the Harco Orchards poultry farm, South Easton, Mass., has laid 131 eggs in 136 days, with 126 of them classed officially as "perfect."



Lt. Cdr. Hubert G. Shadforth, well-known former Port of Vancouver pilot, lost with his corvette, HMCS Spikenard, which was torpedoed by a German submarine while on convoy escort work in the North Atlantic.

Lt. Cdr. Shadforth, in naval service during the First Great War, rejoined the Navy in the first year of this war.

This picture of him, taken on his last ship, was sent to Mrs. Shadforth, 4613 Bellevue, at Christmas, 1940, with the cheery greeting: "Thumbs Up!"

The cane he showed in the picture was presented him for being the first naval officer to bring a ship into No. 5 Jetty of an unnamed port, he wrote. The cane handle was in the shape of a number five.

Corvette Commander Well-Known City Pilot

Lieut.-Cdr. Hubert Shadforth, believed lost with HMCS Spikenard, had been a well-known pilot out of Port of Vancouver since shortly after returning from naval service at the end of the last war.

He rejoined the navy in the first year of this war. A brother, Percy, is also a veteran pilot out of Victoria and still lives there.

Mrs. Shadforth, who resides at 4613 Bellevue with her daughter, Wanda, told The Vancouver Sun today that she received word of her husband in a telegram from Ottawa, Wednesday.

The wire said: "Missing and feared lost." Before going overseas during the last war, Commander Shadforth was with the Canadian Pacific Steamships in Port of Vancouver.

He was a member of the Empire Masonic Lodge, the Merchant Service Guild, and the Marine Drive Golf Club.

Commander Shadforth was born in Durham, England, and besides his wife and daughter

and a brother in Victoria he is survived by three other brothers, two in England and one in Australia.

He was in his fifty-eighth year.

Teachers' Strike

MOOSE JAW, Sask., Feb. 19.—The strike of local school teachers remained deadlocked here today after an effort to reach a settlement at a meeting Wednesday failed.

JAP REMOVAL URGED

Immediate removal of all Japanese to a point 500 miles inland from the coastline is demanded in a resolution passed by the Vancouver Council of United Commercial Travelers.

A copy of the resolution is being sent to each member of the House at Ottawa.

uan navy, and 22 ratings, "are missing and must be considered lost" with the Canadian corvette Spikenard believed to have been torpedoed in the Atlantic, it was announced today.

Eight men, four of them wounded, were saved.

In the typically terse form common to all navy announcements, Hon. Angus Macdonald, Naval Minister, made known the loss today.

The Spikenard's commander, Lt. Cdr. Hubert G. Shadforth of Vancouver, and all of his officers, went down with their ship.

HMCS Spikenard, third Canadian corvette to be lost since the Second Great War started, was believed to have been "torpedoed by a German submarine while she was on convoy escort work in the North Atlantic."

It was thought the vessel broke in two after being hit.

Loss of life on the Spikenard, including her commander, who was particularly well-known in Canada's West Coast peace-time mercantile marine operations, brought the total Royal Canadian Navy dead and missing in this war to date to 522.

"Four of the survivors, reported to be slightly wounded, are in hospital in England," said the statement from Naval Service Headquarters.

POPULAR OFFICER

HMCS Spikenard had spent many weeks at sea throughout the winter in company with other ships of the Royal Canadian Navy, guarding the life-line to the United Kingdom.

"The fact that only eight men survived suggests the corvette broke up and sank within minutes after the believed torpedoing," said the Navy.

"They were rescued by a corvette of the Royal Navy and taken to a British port."

The navy gave no other details of the loss.

But of the ship's captain, the naval statement added:

"As a naval officer he was one of the most popular in the ships identified with east coast ports."

The navy quoted him as saying on several occasions:

"It gives me a great satisfaction to be able to help in the protection of the ships in which are serving the great men who were my colleagues in peace time."

The navy announcement was headed simply:

"Hon. Angus Macdonald, minister for naval services, regrets to announce that HMCS Spikenard, a corvette, has been sunk by enemy action. All five officers and 52 of the 60 ratings are missing and must be considered lost. The next of kin have been informed."

Men from nearly every province were among those lost with the Spikenard. There were men from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan.

(Casualty List on Page 2)

Has the King Intervened?

British Cabinet Crisis Grows

By NED RUSSELL
Special to The Vancouver Sun
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LONDON, Feb. 19.—Reports circulated tonight that King George intervened in the British Government crisis to suggest that Prime Minister Churchill speed up cabinet changes demanded by his parliamentary critics.

There was no confirmation of the reports but it was generally understood tonight that Churchill will announce shortly creation of a small inner war cabinet in which Sir Stafford Cripps will have a leading role.

Cripps, it was said, may act as Churchill's deputy, speaking for him in Parliament in the Prime Minister's absence.

Some government changes had been expected as a result

of the criticism directed against the government's war effort but until the reported intervention of the King it had not been expected that Churchill would announce them until immediately before opening of the parliamentary war debate, presumably next week.

It was understood tonight that the war cabinet will include Cripps, Ernest Bevin, Labor Minister, and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

Lord Privy Seal Clement R. Attlee and Minister of State Oliver Lyttelton also may be included.

Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Production, would be dropped from the war cabinet under this arrangement but would retain his broad powers.

Beaverbrook, it was understood, plans to spend the bulk of his time between Washington and London.

The war cabinet at present includes Churchill and seven others.

Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Arthur Greenwood, Minister without Portfolio, probably will be dropped.

Air Minister Sir Archibald Sinclair may be given another post, according to the Press Association.

The predictions came after Churchill had agreed to a two-day war debate in parliament but without lessening criticism of the cabinet's conduct of the war. The debate will probably be secret.

United Nations Send More Troops for Defense of Java

BATAVIA, N.E.I., Feb. 19.—Expeditionary forces of the United Nations, including a "relatively small number of Americans"—both ground troops and bomber and fighter pilots from the United States—have arrived in Java to help defend this island stronghold against the inevitable Japanese assault, it was announced today.

The combined expeditionary forces, known previously also to include Australians, it was said authoritatively, are "by no means large enough yet" but "their arrival serves as an indication that the Netherlands Indies do not fight alone."

(The Sydney Sun, in a dispatch from Batavia today, said that virtually all of the Royal Aus-

tralian Air Force men who were in Singapore were removed before the fall of that stronghold, inferring that they had arrived in Batavia.)

The Japanese, meanwhile, continued their aerial harassment, and reconnaissance of Java and other parts of the N.E.I., but at a heavy cost.

The communique, released through the news agency Antara, also reported an enemy air raid today on an air field in Western Java which caused "some damage."

Simultaneously with Wednesday's attack on the United Nations naval base at Surabaya, in which the Japanese lost five bombers of a force of 24 raiding planes, an air field in East Java was machine-gunned; the communique said.