

Plenty Of Tobacco

Lawmakers Probe Cigarette Shortage

WASHINGTON (AP)—Without learning the reason for the current cigarette shortage, Congressional investigators heard testimony today that an 18-month supply of cured tobacco is backed up by a record 1944 crop.

The House Agriculture Committee listened as witnesses after witness presented evidence that this country now is producing more cigarette tobacco than ever before and that the civilian supply is nearly 50 per cent greater than before the war.

Only growers' representatives testified at today's hearing. Chairman Flannigan, Democrat, Virginia, said the committee would decide later whether to call in cigarette manufacturers and distributors.

George E. Powell of the Commodity Credit Corp. said the July 1 stock-on-hand of this-cure tobacco was 1,187,000,000 pounds, of which more than 1,000,000,000 are CIGARETTE on page 7

Capitol Cigarette Crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—A restaurant cigar stand in the Capitol looked like a bargain basement counter today when word spread that a shipment of cigarettes had arrived.

The smokers were received a few minutes before the House and Agriculture Committee opened hearings on the nationwide

shortage. Among those who crowded around the stand was House Speaker Sam Rayburn, Democrat, Texas.

One of the buyers got so excited he snatched the cigarettes behind the counter a dime and a quarter in payment for a 15-cent pack. He had to roll him back to give him his change.

Air Blitz Against Nazis Continues

LONDON (AP)—At least 1,000 RAF heavy bombers in pre-dawn raids today hurled some 4,000 tons of explosives on Neu-Sag and Freiburg, German supply centers just back of the Western Front, as the sustained 72-hour assault on Nazi frontline rail and supply centers continued.

Freiburg lies behind the Mulhouse-Kolmar sector where the French First Army and the American Seventh Army are pressing up to the western bank of the Rhine. American heavy bombers attacked German rail movements at Offenburg, north of Freiburg, yesterday.

BELGIUM RAIDED

Marquies raided Berlin during the night.

Strava is far to the north in the Dusseldorf area and is a junction point for rail lines to Aachen, Cologne and Gladbach where the British Second Army and the U. S. First and Ninth Armies are engaged.

The most recent series of raids on the intricate railway system in Western Germany began Saturday with an attack on Bingen, 15 miles east of Mainz in the Rhine behind the Saar area, when it became increasingly apparent that German armies had elected to fight it out west of the Rhine. Allied strategy was obviously aimed at cutting the Nazi forces, squeezed between the Rhine and the Allied armies, from their supply bases in the rear.

The incessant attacks on Germany's communications have reduced the efficiency of the Luftwaffe and immobilized much of Nazi transport.

Following on the daylight attack

Japs Raid Saipan Base

SAIPAN, Marianas Islands, Nov. 27.—(Delayed)—An attempt to retaliate for the 1943 B-29 raid upon Tokyo, Japanese fighters twice bombed and strafed the Saipan base today.

There was no announcement of American damage.

Rug, Gen. Haywood Hansell, Jr., commander of the 21st bomber command, said he had no comment because the defense of the island was not his responsibility.

But at a press conference before the first Tokyo raid he warned that the Japanese would react in kind and strongly to an attack on their mainland, inevitably inflicting some damage on this base.

The first attack was by two or three low-flying airplanes which bombed and strafed Saipan shortly after midnight today. The raid lasted only a couple of minutes.

The Japanese fighters, which the Japs called "Zeppelins," dropped a few bombs and strafed from as low as 200 feet. Anti-aircraft guns on the island fired back, dropping a few bombs and strafing from as low as 200 feet. Anti-aircraft guns on the island fired back, dropping a few bombs and strafing from as low as 200 feet.

Heavy Fall Comes After Sleet Storm

Hungarian City Reported Tense

MOSCOW (AP)—The heaviest snowfall of the year following a severe sleet storm slowed down action today in the battle for Budapest.

German and Hungarian troops were occupying defense positions along a 26-mile curve from the southern limits of Budapest to the rail junction of Aszod on the Danube, front of the city.

The Russian Command made no mention of progress on that front although reports here indicated that the Hungarian capital was under attack.

Many Perish In Blast

BURTON-ON-TRENT, England, Nov. 27.—(Delayed)—In yesterday's explosion of an RAF underground bomb dump situated near Burton, a former British Army officer declared "enough bombs for hundreds of major raids on Germany" were detonated in the blast.

Scores of persons "simply have disappeared and until we can check up on them we are unable to say where they are or how they were killed," a Burton policeman said. The British Press Association said the toll might mount to 250 or more.

One bomb burst and the rush of air apparently acted as a detonator for all the bombs in the dump, situated near Burton.

The detonating wave underground caused the earthquake effect felt several miles away, driving many persons to air raid shelters.

Hurley Named Envoy To China

WASHINGTON (AP)—Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hurley, soldier-statesman, was named today as the toughest assignment of an action-packed career as Ambassador to China.

Nominated by President Roosevelt to succeed Clarence E. Goss, Hurley's assignment will be to lead this nation's Pacific strategy with the crippled Chinese war machine.

Goss quit shortly after Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell was removed from his China-Burma-India Command at the insistence of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

Senate Chances To Pass Flood Control Better

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bare possibility that the Missouri Valley Authority issue may be left for the new Congress raised the chances today for Senate passage of postwar flood control legislation.

Senator Overton, Democrat, Louisiana, who said other controversies approached reconciliation, was doing all he could to dissuade backers of the proposed agency from insisting on its inclusion in the bill.

The million dollar flood control authorization was put aside until today because of the absence yesterday of Senator Austin, Republican, Vermont, who had announced his intention to resign from the Senate.



The Western Front Today

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

British Second Army: Cleared out the Grubbenvorst pocket, 3 1/2 miles north of Verdun.

U. S. Ninth Army: Reached the Roer at Kirchberg, 23 miles from Cologne.

U. S. First Army: Reached Inden, three miles from the Roer, after a one-mile advance.

U. S. Third Army: Captured a village ten miles from Saarbrücken and moved to within five miles of Saarbrücken.

U. S. Seventh Army: Took a village ten miles from Saarbrücken and moved to within five miles of Saarbrücken.

High Toll Taken Of Nippon Shipping

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor (AP)—The toll of Japanese ships sunk or damaged this month in relentless American carrier-plane raids on the Manila area stood at 151 today with upward revision of figures on Friday's strike which brought 48 ships and 87 airplanes.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in a communique added two ships on surface ships have downed 30 Japanese planes, in addition to 20 more destroyed and 23 probably damaged on the ground.

The fight for Leyte Island shifted to a virtual stalemate in the Manila area today, as the Japanese navy and air force made a last ditch effort to break through the American blockade.

Pass The Ammunition!

Saw Yank Shells Run Low

WASHINGTON (AP)—Twenty-five million rounds of small arms ammunition loaded in the front lines have been brought back from the front to inspire more production at home.

General Eisenhower sent them to a central council in the Department said today, and told them before they left the combat zone to be used in the front lines.

The men divided into five groups, each under an officer with complete authority to use the ammunition as they saw fit.

Undersecretary of War Patrick T. Hurley told a news conference that "ammunition is being issued as fast as we can but we believe the extra supply needed will be furnished when the front lines are reached."

Troops Breach Nazi Defenses Along Stream

3rd Army Heads For Saarbrücken; Germans Retreat In Strasbourg Area

LONDON (AP)—American troops on the drenched Cologne Plain reached the Roer River today and drove up to a mile into intricate German defenses along the flooded stream while infantry of the Third Army advanced within ten miles of Saarbrücken, arsenal capital of the Saar.

The German radio announced wholesale retreats both north and south of Strasbourg tonight. The enemy said it had evacuated "enough bombs for hundreds of major raids on Germany" were detonated in the blast.

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2 Members Of Former Vichy Militia Killed

LONDON (AP)—The Paris radio said two members of the former Vichy militia were executed at dawn today for the assassination of Senator George Austin, Republican, Vermont, who had announced his intention to resign from the Senate.

The radio said the two men were members of the Vichy militia and had been involved in the assassination of Senator Austin.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and colder today with lowest temperatures tonight ranging from 35 to 45. Partly cloudy and continued rather cold tomorrow.

Temperature at 3:30 today: 44. Low last 24 hours: 35. Sunrise tomorrow: 6:11.