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# The Waterbury Democrat

Home Edition
Late Sport News
1:15 Stock Prices

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# DAMAGING FIRE STRIKES CENTER OF CITY; 2 BANK STREET BUILDINGS DESTROYED

# Gen. MacArthur's Troops Face Terrific Blow

## As Ice-Coated Firemen Battled Devastating Blaze

Smoke is seen pouring heavenward in the above photo as firemen, working in sub-zero temperatures, this morning battled a blaze that badly damaged four buildings on Bank street, only a stone's throw from Exchange Place. The photo, taken in the early stages of the fire, shows smoke gushing forth from the building housing the A. S. Beck shoe store. The fire, described by Chief Thomas F. Cavanaugh as the worst which local smoke-eaters have had to battle in years, caused damage estimated officially at from $250,000 to $300,000. The four buildings hit by the flames are owned by the J. R. Clayton estate. In addition, stores and offices in other nearby buildings suffered smoke and water damage.

# Quarter Of Million Damage Is Caused By Tricky Blaze

## Japanese Hordes Are Ready For Last Smash

### With Odds of 5 to 1 Against Them, Americans, Filipinos Will Fight to Last Man; Only Time Can Save That Brave Little Army

BY HARRISON SALISBURY
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, January 8. — (UP) — General Douglas MacArthur reported today that his forces stand ready to meet "with skill and courage" a final grand Japanese assault which appears about to start with the aid of strong enemy reinforcements. MacArthur, coolly awaiting the Japanese blow which may fall at any time, reported that morale of his U. S. and Philippines forces is high.

He indicated plainly that he and his men are ready to fight to the last to hold off the attacking enemy.

Already they have exacted a fearful cost in casualties and war material upon the Japanese. A War Department spokesman said today that American casualties, in contrast have been comparatively light.

That indicated MacArthur, employing all the tactical skill for which he is famous, has marshalled his small army virtually intact into its strong final positions in Bataan Province and Fortress Corregidor awaiting all-out Japanese attack.

**Jap Reinforcements**

Today's official communique reported that the Japanese, who probably outnumber MacArthur's command at least four or five to one, were rushing heavy reinforcements up to the front "probbaly preparatory to a large-scale general attack."

As each side jockeyed for position preparatory to the decisive battle

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## RUSSIA MAKES MORE PROGRESS

### Pursuing, or Killing All Axis Forces That Attempt to Block Them

By ROBERT DOWSON
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

London, Jan. 8 — (UP)—Stockholm reports asserted today that a powerful Russian drive threatened the entire German position in the Crimea peninsula and that Red army forces had intensified their attacks on German lines all the way north to the Finnish front.

The Russian noon communique, heard from radio Moscow, gave no details of the fighting, saying that "in a number of sectors Soviet troops occupied several localities, inflicting heavy losses on the neemy in men and material."

(A British radio announcement, heard in New York by NBC, said the Russians had captured "new and

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## Flames Spread Rapidly as First Firemen Arrive; Alarm Brought Others; Several Firemen Hurt

**The most damaging fire Waterbury has suffered in years, this morning virtually destroyed two buildings on Bank street near Exchange Place, badly damaged two others, and caused damage estimated at from $250,000 to $350,000. Firemen of all but three of the city's companies battled the blaze in below-zero temperatures that caused water from hose lines to freeze almost as it landed. Four firemen suffered minor injuries and Chief Thomas F. Cavanaugh and eight other firemen narrowly escaped serious hurts when the display window blew out on them as they were making an entrance into a store.**

**Worst Blaze Since 1936**

It was the city's most disastrous fire since August 1936, when flames razed the Smith lumber-yard and the W. L. Hall warehouse at West Main and Commercial streets.

Firemen got the blaze under control at mid-morning, after it had mushroomed through thin partitions separating the buildings located at from 42 to 56 Bank street They clambered up slippery ladders and poured tons of water on the blaze from ice-covered roofs, as spectators held their breaths.

**First Alarm Turned In**

The first alarm for the three-alarm blaze was turned in at 5:48 a. m. by Patrolman James Stack. Seeing the windows of the A. S. Beck shoe store covered with steam, he became suspicious and went to the rear entrance on Burrall court. Seeing smoke seeping out through the door, he registered an immediate alarm. Nine companies answered the alarm.

The flames were spreading rapidly as firemen arrived, and at 6:10 two more companies were sent to the scene. Later at 7:08, Chief Cavanaugh telephoned for more help, and two more companies dispatched. This left only Engines 7 and 11 and Truck 2 available for duty.

**Injured On Duty**

The injured firemen were:

Private John Burns, who suffered a severe laceration of the nose from flying glass.

Private William Mulligan, who suffered a chin laceration. (He was also injured in the recent Rose Shop fire).

Private Timothy Dowd, who sustained a back injury.

Private Charles Delaney, who had a severe finger injury, suffered in a recent fire, reopened when hit by flying glass.

Damage to the four buildings, all owned by the John R. Clayton estate, was estimated by Fire Marshal Dennis J. Lahey at $100,000. Damage to stock, fixtures and equipment was estimated at from $150,000 to $200,000.

**Clayton Front Blew Out**

The front of the C[illegible] store blew out as Chief Cavanaugh and eight aides were entering. [illegible] were hurled to the ground but they escaped injury aside from cuts and bruises.

"It's the worst fire we've had to fight in years," said Chief Cavanaugh at the height of the firemen's battle to stem the flames.

Several stores in buildings adja

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## Fire Sidelights

**Locked in a desperate struggle with the worst fire Waterbury has seen in many years, firefighters this morning waged a battle against numbing cold, ice and suffocating clouds of smoke that enveloped the flaming Bank street buildings as well. Frozen hands, faces and legs hampered the efforts of the firemen. Many walked about with frosty layers of ice clinging to their coats, occassionally seeking momentary refuge in cups of coffee distributed by volunteers.**

**An anonymous visitor from New York stood forlornly on the sidewalk opposite the burning buildings, sadly contemplating a suitcase he held in his hand. Questioning revealed that the disconsolate individual was a Knickerbocker window - decorator employed by the A. S. Beck shoe store chain, who had arrived here intending to trim the windows of the local Beck store. His comments on the blaze were few but interestingly pointed.**

**A much smaller crowd than would ordinarily be attracted to a blaze of such proportions witnessed the four structures being consumed by the flames. The paralyzing cold kept many away, the remains watched from vantage points on Bank street, shivering**

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## Firemen Were Bitter While They Fought Fire In Zero Temperature

## LINDBERGH GETS TO WASHINGTON

### Nothing Definite Yet as to Why He Arrived at Capital

Washington, Jan. 8. — (UP) — Charles A. Lindbergh arrived here today, presumably in connection with his offer to serve in the army air corps.

Lindbergh was observed talking in the lobby of a Washington hotel. An attache confirmed that he was there but said that Lindbergh had not registered.

Asked at his press conference this morning whether Lindbergh's service offer had been accepted, Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy said he knew no more about the flyer's informal application than was disclosed by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson last week.

"Is Mr. Lindbergn on active duty in the war department now," he was asked.

"I know that he is not," McCloy replied.

Air corps officials said that he had not appeared at any of the services' offices here up to noon.

One air corps officer said there was

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**BEST TIME TO BUY A HOME**

**Here are some of the reasons why it is advisable to buy a home NOW, rather than next Spring:**

1. **Know how the heating plant works; what the house looks like in Winter bleakness:**
2. **Be settled in time to enjoy early Spring planting:**
3. **Get redecorating done — while building trades are slack, before material costs go up:**
4. **Make a better bargain by buying before the Spring demand:**
5. **Avoid the possibility of higher prices later.**

**Turn to today's Classified Real Estate Ads.**

## Taxpayers' Assn. Members Were Not There to Do Any Work

"Where's the Taxpayers Association today?" asked dozens of Waterbury firemen today as they fought, in sub-zero temperatures, against the Bank street blaze which for a time threatened to level a whole square of business buildings near the Center. This was only one of the many bitter references that the smoke-eaters made to the association as they carried ice-crusted hose up slippery ladders.

The firemen's bitterness was occasioned by a bulletin of the Taxpayers Association, issued two days ago, in which the organization claimed much of the credit for defeating a proposed pay increase for firemen, along with other city workers.

Some of the remarks were made within earshot of Mayor Vincent A. Scully, who was on hand through most of the morning.

"Would the big shots in the Taxpayers Association like to be doing this for 42 cents an hour?" asked

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## JACK DEMPSEY TO BE DISAPPOINTED

New York, January 8. — (UP) — Jack Dempsey, who tried to join the Army last Tuesday, didn't have a chance to get in, Captain Herbert Chase, publicity relations officer of the Second Corps Area Recruiting and Induction Office, revealed today.

"When Dempsey volunteered his services to the Army," Chase said, "he was told that the age limit was 18 to 35 at the present time and he could not be accepted. He was examined physically and found to be fit as a fiddle but it was distinctly understood that the recruiting office could not accept him at this time."

Today Dempsey said he still was under the impression that he might obtain a waiver from Washington and be admitted despite his 46 years, 11 over the age limit.

"I thought they might let me in because I'm as fit as any man 15 years my junior," Dempsey said. "I've been waiting to hear from Washington — and I'm still waiting. I'm ready to go any time and do anything they want me to."

Nevertheless, Dempsey's status remains a private citizen "too old to fight," the Army said here.

## JAPANESE DRIVE AHEAD IN MALAYA

### Smash Back All British Opposition; Japan Challenges U. S., British

BY STANLEY JONES
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Singapore, Jan. 8 — (U.P.) — British forces in Malaya fell back on the lower Perak front following penetration of defense lines by Japanese tank attacks, a communique said tonight.

The British retirement was to positions south of the Slim river, teh communique said.

"There are indications of enemy infiltrations east of the Selangore area (north of the key city of Kuala Lumpur) but otherwise the situation is unchanged," the communique said.

The infiltrations to the east indicated that the Japanese were attempting to work through the jungles in the middle of the Malayan peninsula in an effort to envelop or flank teh British lines.

The town of Slim is on the railroad approximately 50 miles north of Kuala Lumpur.

The withdrawal in the Slim river sector was a continuation of retirements almost every day this week in an effort to establish a strong front in defense of Kuala Lumpur, an poeration which the Japanese had been attempting to prevent by flanking attacks.

**Heavy Pressure**

"The enemy infantry and tanks maintained heavy pressure throughout Wednesday on the lower Perak front," the communique said. "At one point tanks penetrated our defenses. Our forces were then withdrawn to south of the Slim river.

"We suffered some losses of guns and transport.

"In the Selangore area there are indications of some enemy infiltration eastward. Otherswise the situation remains unchanged."

The new attack had come after a brief lull during which Japanese planes bombed ferociously on the west and east coasts, apparently in preparation for new attempts to land troops behind the British lines.

On the west the Japanese bombings centered on Port Swettenham, 200 miles up the coast, but on the east side they were concentrated in the Mersing area only 75 miles north of this island.

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## BRITISH TROOPS PURSUING NAZIS

### Gen. Rommel Has Abandoned Last Libyan Hold; Finish of Axis Forces

BY WALTER COLLINS
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Cairo, Jan. 8—(UP)— Imperial troops pursued the main Axis North Afrcian forces today fater Gen. Erwin Rommel abandoned his last hold in Cyrenacia and under cover of a dense sandstorm retreated into Tripolitania, leaving rear guards and mine fields to protect his withdrawal.

Rommel, his Afrika Korps and tattered remnants of a defeated Italian army were moving from Agedabia, 90 miles south of Benghazi, into territory already penetrated by British imperials. British general headquarters for the middle east said in a communique. The withdrawal of the axis troops started the British on the second lap of a drive which, it was hoped, would carry them through to the Tunisian border before Rommel again can make a stand.

Coldstream and Scots guards led the pursuing forces.

Military experts believed that even more inportent than Rommel's abandonment of his Agedabia posi-

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## SKIING STARS IN SPY RING TRAPS

### Two of Them Married to American Heiresses; One Wife Indignant

Salt Lake City, Jan. —(UP)—The wartime alien roundup was swept at least three Austrian skiing stars—two of them married to American heiresses — from America's winter playgrounds into custody.

Weeks after rumors began circulating in the mountain region that prominent German and Austrian skiers had been arrested, the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington confirmed last night that three were being held. They are:

Frederick Friedl Pfeifer, director of the Sun Valley, Ida., ski school and husband of the former Hoyt Smith, daughter of Fred Smith, prominent Salt Lake City banker.

Joseph Seep Froelich, husband of the former Natalie Rogers, daughter

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## ITALY RUSHING TROOPS FOR HOME

### Invasion By British Expected Any Time; Hungary Holds Balkans

London, Jan. 8—(UP)—Italy is returning troops to the Italian mainland in fear of an imminent British invasion from North Africa, the anti-Nazi newspaper, Die Zeitung, published in London, will say tomorrow.

Adolf Hitler is arranging to turn over responsibility for Balkan occupation to Hungary to Free German troops for dispatch to Italy, according to the newspaper. Troops cannot be spared from the Russian front and must be taken from the Balkans, the newspaper will say.

Die Zeitung claimed that German Foreign Minister Joachim Vno Ribbentrop had gone to Budapest to close negotiations with Hungary.

"Hungary will receive political compensations for the risk it will run in occupying the unruly Balkans, especially Serbia and Greece," according to Die Zeitung. "Hungary for years has been seeking Balkan

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## GRAVE MISTAKE TO FORCE IRELAND

### Pressure of United States for Bases Would Be Very Bad Blunder

BY JOHN A. REICHMANN
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Jan. 8 — (U.P.) — The use of pressure by the United States to induce Eire to give naval and air bases to the Allied forces would be a "grave mistake", Robert Brennan, Irish minister to the United States, said today in an interview with the United Press.

"If President Eamon De Valera were to agree to grant the bases tomorrow I don't believe it would do any good," he said. "It would only disunite the Irish people. It would be almost certain to put Eire right into the war.

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## TREASURY BALANCE

Washington, Jan. 8—(UP)—Government expenses and receipts for the current fiscal year through Jan 6th, compared with a year ago:

| | This Year | Last Year |
|---|---|---|
| Expenses | $11,994,169,605.03 | $5,388,674,360.28 |
| War Spending | $ 8,547,516,639.26 | $1,863,911,464.40 |
| Receipts | $ 4,292,799,933.56 | $3,012,538,828.99 |
| Net Deficit | $ 7,630,979,121.47 | $2,341,225,731.29 |
| Cash Balance | $ 3,384,788,643.25 | $1,833,513,932.83 |

## 1 Plane Every 4 Minutes, 1 Tank Every 7 Minutes, 2 Ships Every Day Is Program

New York, Jan. 8—(UP)—The United States must turn out one airplane every four minutes, one tank every seven minutes and two ship every day to meet President Roosevelt's war production schedule for 1943, the national association of manufacturers estimated today.

The president called for 125,000 planes, 75,000 tanks and 10,000,000 tons of shipping by the end of 1943.

The enormity of the program is best emphasized in the aircraft production schedule, the NAM pointed out. It estimated that 140,000,000 square feet of space would be needed to produce 125,000 planes, an area of more than 1,000 city blocks or almost a third of the area of Manhattan Island. In 1940, the total floor space used in the aircraft industry as 13,115,421 square feet.

In 1937, the nation's manufacturers turned out 949 military aircraft, 1,800 in 1938, 2,404 in 1939, 5,800 in 1940 and approximately 18,000 in 1941.

"Some idea of the size of this program is shown by the fact that to produce 60,000 airplanes a year, with plants working 365 days a year and 24 hours a day, one plane could be turned out every nine minutes," the association said. "To turn out 125,000 planes would call for the production of one plane every four minutes."

A tremendous increase in employment in the aircraft industry will be necessary to achieve the president's objective. From 193,000 total workers in the industry in 1940, the average estimated for 1943 will top 1,392,000, or approximately one-fifth as many workers as are now employed in all defense factories.

"To meet the president's estimate of production of 8,000,000 deadweight tons of merchant shipping during 1942, it would be necessary to sustain a rate of approximately two ships a day," the NAM said. Completion of 8,000,000 deadweight tons would compare with actual production of 13,627,311 deadweight tons under the old shipping board program during the entire period of the last world war, when we were preparing to transfer 4,000,000 troops overseas."

The association said that at the end of 1941 shipyards of the nation had under construction 833 sea-going merchant vessels of which more than 700 would have to be completed to maintain Mr. Roosevelt's schedule for 1942.

It was estimated that at present 2,800 tanks of all types are being produced each month, or 33,600 a year.

"The president's program will increase this quota to 45,000 a year for 1942 and to 75,000 a year in 1943," the association said. "In other words, in 1943 we will be producing more than twice as many tanks as we are now turning out. This means that we shall be producing tanks at the rate of one every seven minutes."