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ium for Ranger's Merchants.

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## BUSINESS HAS ABSORBED THE SHOCK OF WAR

DALLAS, Jan. 31.—Business and industry in the Southwest quickly absorbed the shock of the nation suddenly going to war and closed out 1941 with impressive gains, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas said today in a monthly business review.

"Developments in business and industry in the 11th Federal Reserve District during December and the first half of January reflected readjustments to new conditions created by the outbreak of war," the review said.

Some business and industrial establishments, it continued, were affected adversely by the war, principally through curtailment of supplies, but most firms directly or indirectly associated with the production or handling of war materials either speeded up their operations or prepared to do so.

The business picture, broken down, showed:  
Department store retail sales—"Daily average sales for December were 12 per cent higher than the previous all-time peak established in December, 1940." Also, sales during the first half of January averaged about 25 per cent higher than a year ago.

Wholesale merchandise distribution—"With the exception of sales of tobacco and tobacco products, which showed virtually no change, each of the reporting lines of wholesale trade participated in an average gain of 22 per cent in sales as compared with 1940."

Business failures—Commercial failures in December numbered 19, as compared with 26 in the comparable month a year earlier and for the entire year were 273, 15 per cent fewer than in the preceding year.

Agriculture—Higher prices helped Texas farmers during 1941. The aggregate value of all crops produced in the state last year was estimated at \$547,400,000, a gain of 37 per cent over 1940 cash values.

Finance—"Financial developments during 1941 were closely associated with the marked expansion in business and industrial activity. The investments of member banks reached a new peak and loans rose to the highest level in more than a decade."

Construction—"Building activity in this district reached an unprecedented high level during 1941, reflecting chiefly the marked expansion in the construction of publicly-financed projects." Although December saw a sudden slackening in construction activity, the year's total of \$450,000,000 was 63 per cent greater than the amount spent on building in 1940, which itself was a record construction year.

## Crude Output Is Down For Week

HOUSTON, Tex., Jan. 31 (UP)—Daily average crude oil output in the United States plunged downward sharply for the week ending today and averaged 8,873,600 barrels, off 437,200. The Oil Weekly Magazine reported.

Texas oil wells were shut down three days during the week, compared with one last week, and the State's output dropped 444,500 barrels daily, the publication said.

The week's trend:  
Texas, 1,273,600, off 444,500;  
California, 636,400, up 6,200;  
Oklahoma, 408,850, off 8,300;  
Illinois, 376,750, up 9,250;  
Louisiana, 368,300, up 2,250;  
Kansas, 251,200, off 3,000;  
New Mexico, 120,200, up 1,700;  
Eastern States, 95,500, up 400;  
Mountain States, 118,000, up 7,600;  
Michigan, 49,000, off 1,150;  
Indiana, 16,400, off 4,700;  
Arkansas, 74,100, up 700;  
Mississippi, 79,550, up 4,450;  
Nebraska, 5,150, off 700.

**ATTENTION MOTORISTS:**  
Tomorrow, February 2, is the deadline for use of the public highways by automobiles or trucks, or motorcycles, not having a Federal use tax stamp affixed to them. Stamps may be purchased for \$2.09 at any post office or office of collector of internal revenue. Owners or operators of motor vehicles to which a stamp is not affixed by February 1 are liable for a penalty as provided by law.

## Does He Mean It?



Dr. Atuz Guinazu, foreign minister of isolation-leaning Argentine government, joins Rio conference delegates in applauding agreement for all-American front against axis. Guinazu's hold-out threatened solidarity.

## Precautions Have Delayed Blackout Over East Texas

HENDERSON, Tex. (UP)—Defense precautions, the more vital, has delayed a test blackout of the vast East Texas oil field and will continue to delay the test for perhaps two months, oil men believe.

There are four counties involved—Rusk, Smith, Gregg and Upshur. They are packed with producing wells, refineries and storage facilities, and a small accident—much less sabotage—might bring disaster.

Accordingly, as soon as war broke out, oil men combined on means of protection. The field was divided into four zones, with Overton, Kilgore, Greggton and Gladewater the focal points. The Midcontinent Oil and Gas Association and the East Texas Defense Council merged facilities and set up a 15-man committee to oversee defense work.

They began inventories of fire-fighting equipment; first aid supplies, motor vehicles; manpower; communications. The oil field is a prime military target for the enemy.

While defense mobilization continues, the county judges are willing to delay the call for a blackout. So is the Texas Railroad Commission which has given permission for refineries and leases to extinguish flares that light up the area.

Putting out the flares even 30 minutes is a hazard that has not been solved completely. Most refineries are discussing plans for building furnaces, in which the gas will burn without being seen from the air. To let the gas roar unburned may form pockets in low-lying areas and provide an enormous explosion, or death to humans.

Other ideas for the flares would be to provide hoods for them, and proper policing.

All major companies will want their full manpower on hand during a blackout for protection. Traffic control thus will fall upon the Texas Defense Guard and civil police authorities. Fire-fighting equipment and first aid facilities will have to be strategically located over the four counties. A central communications office must be set up. Traffic and communications must be arranged for the blackout period.

It's not just a problem of closing valves and pulling switches. An oil field can't be handled so easily—safely.

## Bicycle Riders Get Tickets For Violation Of Traffic Laws

GAINESVILLE, Tex. (UP)—Eighty women, children and men parked their bicycles in front of the city hall and went into the police court.

There City Recorder L. V. Henry, Jr., reminded them that the traffic violation tickets they received were warnings against future infractions to which they were subject as well as motorists.

He took cognizance of the increased use of bicycles and said the riders must operate with headlights and reflectors at night, must buy licenses and obey traffic laws.

Then he urged the riders to use every caution, for their own safety and to guard against theft of bicycles which can be altered to defy identification.

The 80 persons called into court represented those cited by police in a 10-day safety drive in Gainesville.

## JAP-EQUIPPED CHINESE ARMY HAS DESERTED

By F. M. FISHER  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
CHUNGKING, Jan. 31.—An entire division of the Japanese-equipped Nanking Army, spurred by United States participation in the war, has deserted the Japanese-sponsored Wang Ching-Wei government, joining the Chinese Army with its arms and equipment, the official Chinese Central News Agency said today.

Desertion of the 15th division to the Chinese side was regarded as presenting an important problem for the Japanese, who had counted on Wang Ching-Wei's "Peaceful National Salvation Army" to hold vast areas of occupied China for them while Japanese troops were campaigning in the South Seas. Other Nanking forces were expected to follow the 15th division into Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's Army.

The 15th division was stationed on the Tientsin-Pukow railroad linking Peking with Nanking. Central said they left their stations in Northern Anhwei Province.

The division, totaling 10,000 men, was equipped with new rifles and other arms provided by the Japanese.

Central News said the division was led back into the Chungking Army by its chief of staff, Gen. Chang Wei-Hsiang, a native of Manchuria. He was said to have waited for an opportunity to doublecross the Japanese ever since they occupied his home province in 1931.

"With the outbreak of the Japanese-American war the best opportunity has arrived for us to return with our arms to the army of our fatherland and to fight the enemy," Chang was reported to have said in a telegram to other commanders announcing that he had led his division into Chiang Kai-Shek's Army.

## Mrs. McNabb To Be Buried On Sunday

Funeral services for Mrs. Rebekah McNabb, a pioneer resident of this part of the state, were conducted at the New Hope church Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, with burial in the Macedonia Cemetery. Killingsworth's had charge of arrangements.

The funeral services at the church were conducted by Rev. John Henry Littleton of Abilene. Survivors include four sons, J. P. McNabb of California, E. L. McNabb of Lubbock, J. F. McNabb of Fort Worth and Clark Nabb of Ranger, with whom she made her home. Also surviving are 18 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Active pall bearers were Robert Jackson, Mack Cook, John Gray, Roy Herrington, Frank Bargesley and Audie Templeton.

## Woman's Family Is All Out For U. S.

SAN ANTONIO.—"All out for defense" means just that to Mrs. Dorothea Parsons, 218 Avant St. Every member of her household is engaged in war work, typifying San Antonio's 100 per cent defense families.

Mrs. Parsons is secretary to Lieut. Col. W. W. Sterling, liaison officer between the Regional Office of Civilian Defense and the Eighth Corps Area.

Her oldest son, Bill McRoberts, is employed at Duncanson Field in the aircraft instruments division. Her two younger sons, Louis and Gordon McRoberts—11 and nine years old, respectively—have a Victory Garden. They are helped to produce the food which is needed to win the war, and also have collected more than 800 pounds of waste paper.

Mrs. Parsons points out that the opportunity to do something toward winning the war exerts a tremendously helpful effect upon the morale of children who are too young to fight or to work in war industries.

**THE WEATHER**  
WEST TEXAS—Temperatures in the El Paso area will be about the same as during the past 24 hours. Elsewhere there will be moderating temperatures.

## Snow Soldiering: Out of the Skies on Skis



"Somewhere in Utah" these para-ski troops of the 503rd Parachute Battalion learn kick turns from instructor Hugh Bauer. Such are snow men as Dartmouth's Walter Prager and Dick Durrance will teach U. S. bird men to fight efficiency on "sloped" feet.

## DUTCH NAVAL BASE OBJECT OF AIR ATTACK

By JOHN R. MORRIS  
United Press Far Eastern Mgr.  
BATAVIA, Jan. 31.—Armed forces of the United Nations under direction of the Supreme Command today were reported fighting a heavy battle against a new, full-scale Japanese invasion attack on the important Dutch air and naval base of Ambona in the Molucca Islands.

Counter-measures were understood to have been launched against the enemy attack by powerful air and naval forces, paving the way for direct assault by marine units from transport ships, but details of the operations were withheld except for an official statement that fighting is "raging everywhere."

The Dutch defenders of Ambona destroyed all installations that might be useful to the enemy but official sources said that the most furious opposition was being presented to Japanese attempts to storm the coast under a blanket air and naval bombardment.

The communique failed to indicate definitely that the Japanese forces had succeeded in landing but destruction of Dutch installations indicated a grave situation due to superior numbers of invasion troops.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 31.—Army headquarters said today that a heavy rainstorm recently saved an Allied convoy of troops, planes and material, proceeding to Singapore, from what might have been a heavy Japanese air attack.

"Sixty Japanese planes appeared and the menace was so great it appeared the convoy was doomed," the army said.

"Just as the Japanese were ready to swoop down in an attack the heaviest rainstorm in weeks broke and the ships were blotted out."

## Funeral Rites For W. E. Williams 2:30 p. m. Today

Funeral services for W. E. (Wyatt) Williams, 61, who died Thursday night at an Eastland hospital following a long illness, will be conducted from the Hammer Funeral Home in Eastland at 2:30 this afternoon by Rev. J. Daniel Barron, pastor of the Eastland Methodist church, officiating.

Burial will be in the Eastland cemetery.

## She Remembers



Pearl Harbor is more than a site and a slogan to Fern Evans, among 60 widows and one mother of Oahu's heroic dead to take aptitude tests for jobs at Vega Aircraft Corp., Long Beach, Calif.

## Woods Funeral Conducted Friday

Funeral services for Timothy Woods, who died at his home in Ranger Thursday, were conducted Friday afternoon, instead of Saturday afternoon, as previously reported in this paper.

The mistake in the date for the services was made in transmitting and receiving information about the funeral over the telephone.

Burial was in the Old Ranger Cemetery Friday afternoon, following the services. Killingsworth was in charge of arrangements.

## Large Number of Birth Certificates Approved By Judge

County Judge W. S. Adamson examined and approved 526 birth certificates for the month of January. In the preceding month of December he examined and approved 269.

Indications are that February and other months to come will see as many or more birth certificates filed than in any previous month since so many people are entering applications for employment in which a birth certificate is necessary.

## December Term of Court Is Ended

Judge Geo. L. Davenport of the 91st district court Saturday closed the December term of that court and Monday will open the new January term.

## R. N. WILSON IS NEW HEAD EASTLAND C. C.

Organization To Affiliate With U. S. Chamber of Commerce; Approves Higher Oil Prices.

R. N. (Norris) Wilson, local manager of the Community Natural Gas Company, was chosen president of the Eastland Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting of that organization's board of directors at the Connelley Hotel last Friday at noon.

Wilson succeeds Albert Taylor of the Eastland National Bank. Other officers elected were: W. B. Picketts and W. T. Lucas, vice-presidents, and Albert Taylor, R. A. McDaniel, C. J. Rhodes, Earl Woody, K. B. Tanner, Norris Wilson, Carl Johnson, J. U. Johnson, Samuel Butler were named directors.

H. J. Tanner, present secretary manager, was re-elected.

A resolution was passed favoring an increase in the price of crude oil. Copies of this resolution were sent to Harold Ickes, Petroleum Co-ordinator for National Defense and to Leon Henderson, Federal Price Administrator.

The directors also voted to take out membership in and affiliate with the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The first Thursday in each month was designated as regular meeting days of the Chamber of Commerce.

## Big Naval Bill Is Given Approval In Senate Committee

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The Senate Appropriations Committee today approved a precedent-smashing \$26,500,000,000 naval appropriations bill, which includes about \$8,000,000,000 for naval aircraft and \$8,000,000,000 for new ships.

Sen. John Overton, Democrat, Louisiana, chairman of the subcommittee in charge of the measure, told reporters that the full committee action on this largest bill in history was unanimous.

An amendment was approved which limits the president's powers to lease or transfer to the Allies and ships built under authority of the measure. Only convoy and landing vessels could be transferred.

## Postal Receipts For State Take a Jump

AUSTIN.—It must have been a good Christmas, when gift mailings boosted postal receipts in 41 major Texas cities past the \$2,000,000 mark.

Chamber of Commerce reports to the University of Texas Bureau of Business Research showed \$2,313,503 passed over post office counters in December, up 55.4 per cent over the preceding month and 16.6 per cent higher than in December, 1940.

Soldier mail may account for the gain in postal receipts during the last year—\$18,444,357 for 1941 as compared to \$16,775,406 for 1940.

## JAPANESE MAKING NEW GAINS IN SOUTHWEST; MAKE ISLAND THRUST

### Survivors From U. S. Tanker Are Safe In Norfolk

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 31.—Thirty survivors from the tanker Rochester told today how a yellow-trimmed, light-blue German submarine sank their vessel with torpedoes and shells at short range.

Three of their shipmates, in the engine room at the time of the attack, apparently were lost. The survivors escaped in two lifeboats. One of the lifeboats approached so close to the Axis raider that an oarsman had to take his oar from its lock and fend their craft off from the submarine.

Floyd H. May, of Galveston, Texas, a seaman, explained that it took about 15 minutes to abandon ship. He said he was in No. 2 lifeboat, and that the boat "stayed near the sinking ship to see if the men in the engine room would ever come up."

"The submarine also stayed around for about 30 minutes, all the time on the surface with the men out on deck," he said. "They made no attempt to get any closer to us. As a matter of fact they seemed to pay no attention to us. We saw no machine guns."

A. D. Lewis, seaman from Beaumont, Texas, said he was knocked out of his bunk by the first torpedo. He said he went on deck and decided he had time, ran to the fore-castle for his clothes and papers. When he returned, he said, the first lifeboat already had been lowered "but I made the second."

"We also were within close range of the sub," he said. "I heard the gunners shouting to the other lifeboat to get out of the way as it was rapidly bearing down on them."

Survivors disagreed on where the shells hit or how many there were. Some said 11 were fired, others said 13. Some said the German gunners seemed to be aiming at the radio room, others said the shells landed in all parts of the vessel.

Willard Shingleton  
Will Be Buried In  
Ranger On Sunday

Funeral services for Willard Shingleton of Freer, who died Thursday, will be conducted at the Rocky Point Pentecostal Church, three miles north of Ranger, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. Collins, pastor of the church. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, with Killingsworth's in charge.

The decedent was born in West Virginia, Oct. 3, 1892, and had lived in Freer but a month and a half.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Alice Shingleton, Ranger; one son, Junior Shingleton, Ranger; three daughters, Pauline Shingleton, Caddo; Mrs. Nora Trussell, Caddo; Mrs. Opal Heflin, Grand Falls; three brothers, Bruce Shingleton, Oklahoma; W. R. Shingleton, Gladewater; and Melvin Shingleton, Odessa; one sister, Edna Heflin, of Arkansas, and five grandchildren.

## Eastland Men's Relative Dies At Abilene Home

Relatives in Eastland received information early Saturday of the death in Abilene of Rupert Harkrider, 61, Abilene business man who died at his home there at 10:00 Friday night. He had been ill for some weeks. Funeral services are to be at 3:30 this afternoon, but where they would be held was not known at noon Saturday.

The decedent was one of Abilene's outstanding business men and a longtime resident of that city. His entire adult life had been spent in the employ of the Radford Grocery Company of which he had been the vice-president and general manager for the past several years.

Harkrider was a first cousin of James and Noble Harkrider of Eastland.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The Paris radio broadcast a claim tonight that the Japanese had established a bridgehead at Singapore Island. It was emphasized that this report was not confirmed.

By JOE ALEX MORRIS  
United Press Foreign Editor  
Japanese fighters in the southwest Pacific drove the British back to Singapore Island today, assaulted the important Dutch East Indies Naval Base at Amboina and unleashed a heavy aerial attack on Australia's New Guinea.

Everywhere from the Moulmein sector in Burma to Borneo and the Islands north of Australia the armed forces of the United Nations were battling against superior numbers as the enemy ruthlessly pressed costly but still unyielding thrusts toward key defense communications lines and bases.

The most critical situation developed at the tip of the Malaya Peninsula as the Japanese completed a 475 mile advance, forced the British to evacuate from the mainland and fall back to Singapore Island where they "breached" the causeway from Johore Bahru and promised to fight to the death or until aid arrived.

Thus the real battle for Singapore—the 100,000,000 British naval base—was joined in earnest.

The enemy was blasted by British naval guns, artillery and airplanes as the defense forces withdrew in good order from the mainland under a plan calling for the Imperials to inflict the heaviest possible casualties and delay the Japanese as long as possible. United Press Correspondent Harold Guard, who was slightly wounded by shrapnel in the final stage of evacuation from the mainland, reported that the withdrawal was carried out as scheduled and without serious enemy interference.

The Causeway across the Strait was "breached," presumably merely broken by engineers in a way that would prevent the enemy from crossing as it is built of granite and would be extremely difficult to blow up entirely.

A British broadcast reported that reinforcements were arriving in that area, one convoy of 60 ships had arrived, presumably in Australia, after escaping a Japanese air attack.

The new enemy thrust into the Dutch Islands centered on the Moluccas, lying about 140 miles west of New Guinea, south of the Philippines and 600 miles north of Port Darwin, the main allied base in north Australia.

Japanese forces, including three cruisers, six destroyers and four transports, supported by heavy air squadrons have been blasting at the Dutch defense forces at Amboina naval and air base for 24 hours and were last reported storming the coast.

The Dutch destroyed all installations at the base and were fighting strongly against the attack, but again were outnumbered.

The Dutch reported that they had sunk another Japanese submarine, bringing their toll of enemy ships to 10.

(Continued on page 3)

## Cisco Railroad Being Abandoned

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The Cisco & Northeastern Railway Co. was authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission today to abandon its 65.5 mile line from Cisco to Throckmorton, Texas.

The Arkansas Valley Railway, Inc., Wichita, Kan., applied for authority to abandon its interurban line in Kansas from Wichita to Hutchinson with a branch between Van Arsdale and Newton.

## War Veteran Solons Offering Services

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UP)—Missouri's two Democratic senators, Bennett C. Clark of St. Louis and Harry Truman of Independence, both have offered to serve in the United States army.

Both Clark and Truman were in the last war, Clark served as an officer in the 140th Infantry, 35th Division, and Truman commanded Battery O, 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division.

Both senators now hold the rank of colonel in the Officers Reserve Corps.