

# 31 MILLION MYSTERY BLAST

## FREIGHT TRAINS, SINKS SUB

STORY ON PAGE 10

# The Bremerton Sun

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

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## JAPS PUSHING NEAR BURMA OIL FIELDS

### Skipper of Navy Destroyer Tells of 'Wild' Sea Battle; Lauds Heroism of His Crew

(A graphic, human story of the battle of Java, an allied naval defeat that will go down in history as a game fight under hopeless odds, is told today by an American destroyer skipper who was there. It is the first description of the battle by a participant.—Editor.)

By BEYDON G. TAYES

MELBOURNE, Australia, March 26.—(UP)—"We were directly abreast of two Japanese cruisers, steering in the same direction," the commander of a navy destroyer said today, talking of the battle of Java.

"A Japanese destroyer was coming up on our quarter, eliminating us with its searchlight.

"Both cruisers were firing broadsides at us from 1,600 yards. We were zig-zagging to avoid the firing.

"As we swung our forward gun to fire astern I got too far over the corner of the bridge. A blast from the gun threw me to the deck. The executive officer was blinded by the flash.

"There we were, I was unconscious, the executive officer was temporarily blind.

"A second class quartermaster steered the ship with the salvoes dropping 15 yards on either side of us.

"Then another destroyer saw what was happening and came up astern of the Japanese destroyer and put out its searchlight.

"We got away from the cruisers in the darkness, but when you do things that way you are living on borrowed time."

**THREE MAJOR ACTIONS**  
THIS commander, just turned 40, his hair graying at the temples, but young looking, had fought three major sea actions in eight days.

His 21-year-old flush-deck destroyer was one of four of the type which came through the battle of Java, and are believed to be the only allied ships which lived.

"It was a story of an allied naval defeat, which he told, but which made it plain how glorious the defeat was. A little American, British and Dutch force had met a Japanese fleet of staggering superior power, fought for 48 hours, and succeeded finally to impossible odds after a fierce fight.

In the story, too, were incidents which showed that many men, like the commander and his crew, were living on borrowed time. There were scenes which seemed miraculous.

**SORERAZA A "RAT TRAP"**  
This officer brought the last allied warship out of Soreraza, the Java naval base, Feb. 28. Soreraza was a rat trap," he said. "There were only two ways out—the Bali Strait through the thunder draft, and the Java river in both.

"There was one American officer and four enlisted men waiting there to do a demolition job. They had to blow things up and get the last ship out. But this officer was a rat trap, he knew if I didn't make it then we would never make it at all, so we had to leave them behind.

"We came out through the Bali Strait with three hundred men, a Japanese destroyer shelling us. Fortunately he was a few minutes late. We used up all our torpedoes and one (Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

### 'Win or Die' Pledge Given By MacArthur

### Churchill Admits 'Turn for Worse' in the Atlantic

### By JOE ALEX MORRIS

United Press Feature Editor  
Gen. Douglas MacArthur met renewed Japanese offensives in the Philippines and in central Burma today with a pledge that "we shall win or die in a bloody crusade against the yoke."

The Pacific War supreme commander in the southwest Pacific was made at Australia's warrent home today, in conferences designed to make that country's navy and air force for future counter-attacks against the Japanese, who were putting still greater pressure on the island drives on both allied fronts.

In the Philippines, enemy headquarters in the Corregidor fortress for six hours, losing four planes in the process, on the first day of intensified attack and 64 bombers took part in an effort (Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

### 150 Must Move From Manette Area

### Housing Project Soon to Occupy 350-Acre Site

An estimated 150 property owners in a 350-acre tract of land north of Manette will be displaced by the construction of 2,000 homes for war workers, and they today began receiving letters asking them to make arrangements to move.

The Washington State Defense Council, through Dr. Manfred R. Kille, its executive director, has dispatched letters to the property owners asking them to begin making arrangements to vacate in order to save valuable time.

Land surveys are in progress, and Joseph P. Pierce, Bremerton Housing Authority property negotiator, is making a list of the displaced owners. The real estate is being negotiated by appraisers hired by the BHA.

"The BHA is looking for the widest channels of federal occupancy of land will be followed and, for the best interests of national defense, it is imperative that the complete work be necessary homes be as expedient as possible."

### Mass Meeting Set for Raid Wardens

All air raid wardens of Bremerton are invited to a mass meeting of the Civilian Defense Council today.

A meeting has been called for 7 o'clock in the high school auditorium, and 100 per cent attendance of wardens is essential to the welfare of the entire city, he said.

Throughout the state, 30,000 wardens will gather at their regular meeting places this week to hear final instructions for their regular meeting places this week, March 29 through April 5.

The time is set for 7 o'clock to view the new program, which will be broadcast over all Washington radio stations at that time. Producers for this purpose are being recruited at a high rate.

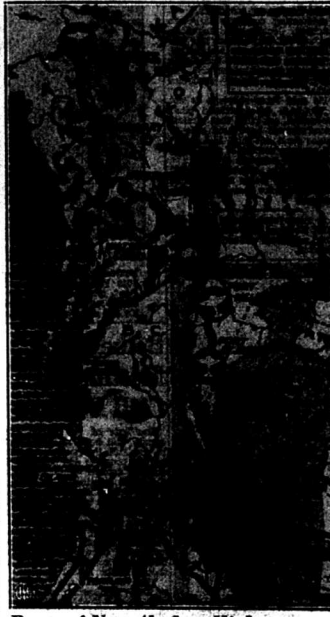
(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

### Lessons in Art of Jiu-Jitsu Prove Costly to Local Man

Moral of the art is that if you want to learn the art of jiu-jitsu, you should take lessons from a resident of a downtown hotel who had learned it down at least from a trusted friend.

City police today related the story of a resident of a downtown hotel who had learned it down at least from a trusted friend.

The salaried worker, the instructor of a few jiu-jitsu lessons as agreed, and then they took to the streets to call (slap) (Continued on Page 6, Column 1)



Route of new Alaskan Highway

Headquarters of the Alaskan Highway are working on the new highway, which is expected to be completed in approximately within a year. Map shows route of new road, which will be protected by air bases.

### May Defer Farmers Who Take Jap Land

Persons who take over operation of commercial farms owned by Japanese will be eligible for review of their selective service classification, but no blanket deferments will be made, Col. Walter J. DeLong, state draft administrator, said today at Camp Murray.

Col. DeLong said experienced farmers who are key men in the operation of commercial farms are given occupational deferment under existing rules and that any persons transferring from another occupation to farm land is eligible for this classification, but each case will be treated individually by local draft boards.

One man applied to the Bremerton selective service headquarters today for information regarding his status in the event he signed a contract to farm 10 acres of Japanese-occupied land on Bainbridge Island.

### City Board to Direct New Direct New Play Center

After a period of uncertainty as to whether the new city recreation center would be operated by the city or by a private organization, the UBO, Bremerton city commissioners yesterday passed a resolution vesting maintenance and operation of the building in the city recreation commission.

The \$125,000 recreation center will be constructed near Roosevelt.

The USO will be permitted to use the building for its various army and navy national programs, but the maintenance and operation responsibility will be retained by the recreation commission.

The recreation commission is responsible to the city commissioners. The city obtained the federal funds for the construction of the building and the municipality turned over the construction project to the Bremerton Housing Authority.

The resolution passed by the city yesterday was submitted by Mayor Walter J. DeLong, city recreation supervisor.

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### Explosion at Quarry Rocks Large Area

### Check Report of Planes Overhead Prior to Blast

EASTON, Pa., March 26.—(UP)—At least 21 men were killed today in the explosion of 30 tons of dynamite at a cement quarry at Easton.

James Glah, superintendent of the quarry, said that several homes and barns in the immediate vicinity.

The terrific detonation shook a 100-mile area of eastern Pennsylvania, injured 12 children in a school nearby, and leveled several homes and barns in the immediate vicinity.

The explosion occurred in crates of dynamite piled near the top edge of the quarry. At the bottom of the pile, several workers miraculously escaped serious injury. One was cut on the ear by flying stones.

A group of eight other workers had left the scene of the explosion a few minutes before the blast.

SIGHTED PLANES  
Glah told investigators that an assistant foreman, John Pevy, saw three planes circling over the quarry from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. before the men reported for work, until "a moment" after the explosion.

The superintendent said he believed the planes "dropped something," explaining that the boxes of dynamite had been opened but the fuses were not connected.

"Someone would be the only way to get off the charge," Glah said.

A company spokesman disclosed the names of 11 workmen who were killed, including the thirty-one men who were working at the scene of the explosion and one reported that some have been found alive.

"Some of the bodies were blown to bits," he said, indicating that positive identification of all but five was not possible.

A detachment of soldiers was sent to the scene from the Easton armory to guard a record of state police who set up a block-ade around the quarry.

**EATING LUNCH**  
The company spokesman said the explosion occurred while the men were sitting around eating lunch benches before getting ready to work.

Bodies of the victims were stored in the quarry, and a number of workmen's homes nearby were damaged by the blast.

"Arms and legs of the men blown to bits were scattered all over the quarry," he said.

The explosion apparently occurred in a power magazine at the quarry, which contained a quantity of dynamite, and was blowing and had just left a short time before the blast went off.

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It'll Be Thrill Try for Hedy

Spring in Hollywood and has blossomed for Hedy Lamarr and George Montgomery, actor. They announced their engagement but didn't set the wedding date.

### Boy Tells Court Howirate Parent Flogged His Teacher

LAFAYETTE, Ind., March 26.—(UP)—It was the children's hour for sixth graders in the Tippecanoe county courtroom.

William Arthur Burroughs, 10, sat with legs dangling a few inches above the floor and testified in the trial of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leslie, charged with whipping Miss Constance Davis, 30, fifth grade teacher, in front of her class at Langels school.

"Now, William, you know what it seems to be like on a bench?" asked Special Prosecutor Wm. F. Frazier.

"Just call me Bill," said William Arthur.

"Do you remember, Bill, anything unusual that took place at school while Mrs. Leslie was there?"

"Yeah, Miss Davis got best up one day," Bill looked at pretty Miss Davis who sat across the table from Mr. and Mrs. Leslie and their son, Danny, 11. The state charged that Leslie stood watch at the schoolroom door while Mrs. Leslie strapped the teacher because "Miss Davis was a good teacher."

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### This Day

Born  
William Henry Larson, 68, Shorewood Drive, at home, March 25.

Tides for Friday  
First high—3:03 a.m., 10.3 ft.; first low—9:03 a.m., 6.1 ft.; second high—1:33 p.m., 8.5 ft.; second low—8:00 p.m., 1.8 ft.

Sunrise and Sunset  
March 26—Sunrise, 6:20 a.m.; sunset, 7:30 p.m. March 27—Sunrise, 6:27 a.m.; sunset, 7:31 p.m.

Deaths  
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### THE ORIGINAL JOYBOYS

and Happiness Girls . . .



go funning and punning in RECLAR FELLERS

Soon Daily on THE SUN COMIC PAGE

Mutt and Jeff BY BUD FISHER

WATCH FOR THEM!

### BOX SCORE

PENNY-A-PLANE CLUB

## 4 JAP PLANES

DOWNED TODAY—GIVE THAT NUMBER OF PENNIES TO THE CLUB.

### Grocery Store Employs Vote on Contract Tonight

Special meeting food store employees affiliated with the Retail Grocers Union of America will be held tonight at 8 o'clock at the Teamsters hall, it was announced today by Fred H. Hays, union agent.

The main issue is in the midst of negotiating a new contract with grocery store operators, and the union's proposal will be considered tonight.

The union's proposal will be considered tonight, and the union's proposal will be considered tonight.

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### Join The Easter Parade . . .

IN AN ALL-WOOL SUIT OR ALL WOOL SPORT DUFF

MARK BELL'S MEN'S SHOP

"Where you always get the best for the least—ask your neighbor."

All-Wool Suits  
A guaranteed fit or we'll give you \$7.50 in cash.

SLACKS  
At the same price as our suits—\$7.50 in cash.

Shirts  
New spring hats from \$2.50 to \$5.00.

"Everything in Mark's Shop"  
Mark Bell's Men's Shop  
1212 N. Gallego St. (Between 1st and 2nd)  
Opposite Coast Theater

OPEN EVENINGS