

南太平洋週報

東京通信 増産強化新機構愈始る

先週報所載の如く軍需省の新設農林商工両省及び鉄道逓信二省の合併企画院の廃止地方長官に増産^及防空に必要なりとせらるゝ絶大なる権限の附與等による戦時行政新機構が愈本月一日から実行を見る事になつたが之により内務其他各省関係の官吏四万三千二百廿九名の減少を見國策の線に沿ふものと認めてよいので

あるが樞密院あたりの法理論者中には勅令六十一の連発^{地方長官}権限増大に關し憲法抵触^{に非}ずやとの意見も抬頭し

ており又東條首相がこれ程の機構大改變をやるのに何等重臣側に事前^に承諾を求むるの道を講ぜず殆んど獨断で一から十までやてのけた事については重臣の間其由のより由むしる大政翼賛會の頭株^{あたまかぶ}の間に國內一致態勢^{せい}の立場から之を遺憾としてゐるものが多い。

戦局重大化に陸軍 國民に警告を發す

十月廿九日大本營陸軍報道部は特に國民に警告を發し印度^及セイロンよりする英軍のビルマ^及ジャバ^及奪還^{たつ}作戦も馬鹿にならねば同時に又米濠軍の勢力も日に強大オーストラリアより島づたひにブリッピンを第一目標に日本攻略戦を開始するの勢を示しおり北支に於ける共產軍重慶の殘存勢力に加ふるに在支米國空軍の虎視耽々たるあり而して其背後には米英の巨人的工業力の控へてゐる日本は眞の意味に於て未曾有の一大國難に直面しており従つて國民は猶一層増

産に勵み前線將兵の期待にそむかぬ様せぬはならぬ旨公式に慫慂す所があつた。
藤丸加茂丸襲はる 戦前沿岸航路船であつた藤丸加茂丸の二船は共に東支那海を航行中廿七日正子即ち十月廿六日夜十二時すぎ、國籍不明の潜水艦に襲はれ藤丸は沈没、加茂丸は損傷、幸に波おたやかであつたから死傷行衛不明と由に輕微ですんだが、関釜連絡船金剛丸の曳沈後問もなほ事として一時は相當騒がれた。因みに金剛丸遭難以來朝鮮から内地への旅行制限が一層

難しくなり、讀員師其他敏捷に半島と内地を股にかけ色々小さい乍ら相当ぼろい仕事をして居る連中は大弱りに弱てゐる。然して米國潜水艦による船舶沈没及び損傷は本年十月一日までに既に三百十三隻の多きに上つてゐるため船腹問題即ち本大東亞戦に於ける日本側一大弱点にかんし、又々憂慮が深まつてゐる。
南方前線基地特報
ラポール數次に亘り空襲
理が非でも日本軍を駆逐せぬはと懸命になつてる聯合空軍は十月十八日以來殆んど毎日の様

にラポールを空襲其度に空襲さるゝ方が当然蒙むるべき損害を受けてゐるが日本側反撃も相當烈しく、聯合側のあげた戦果は其発表によれば十八日から廿五日までに轟破墜合計二百四十六機、而して又日本側がベララベラ及ブーガンビルよりの撤退は聯合側空軍出勤地矣をラポールへ近々六百四十キロに近付けた結果となり、今後も同所は猛爆をまぬがれまゐるとナチドイツ軍事批評家あたりは云つて居たが果せる哉、又廿九日に大爆轟があり、ブナカナ飛行場に集中爆彈百十五

トンを投下、空中戦に於て廿五機地上にありしものにつき廿機の戦果をあげ、こゝ半^十月日本側南方における空軍損害は五百八十八機に上った。
テルナテ、ホメラア等

も亦空襲を受く、拾

月十七日、聯合國側爆夷機編隊がハルマヘラ諸島元ナテに來襲、港陸岸^及市街に火災を生じた。又廿二日廿六日の兩日、セシベスのホメラアにあるニケル鉱山へも空襲があつたが、火くとも往復三千六百キロ飛行の作戦であつたものであろう。

ブーオン半島地上戦景況
フィンシハーセンを撤退の日

軍はサテルブルグ附近の山岳地帯に集結、十月十七日未明前夜來の夜襲に成功、カチカ村を占領せるも、空軍の支援足りず、廿一日に至り聯合側よりの大空襲を受け、サテルブルグ、ワレオの如き約二百トンの爆弾投下を受くるに至り、同夜カチカを放棄した。次いで廿七日地上部隊の上空には彼我空軍の大戦闘が交へられ、地上戦も今尚續行中であるが、聯合軍側の補給が自由なるに比し、空軍の支援を欠く日本軍側のそれが甚だ制限されてある事は、何んと云つても一大弱味である事は

争へない事実である。又濠洲軍のラム河谷地域前進は、其後も繼續されてある。

ブーオン半島並にブーガンビルにも攻勢及ぶ

西南^及南太平洋方面聯合攻勢は、各方面とも着々進を示してあるが、十月廿六日から廿七日の夜にかけてモノに、廿八日には、ブイセウルにも上陸を敢行、上陸其ものは地上部隊よりの妨害をうけなかつたが、後有利の地奥に退却したる日軍と接觸、モノはブーガンビルの西南約四十八キロの海上にあるものだが、ブーガンビルには十月廿六日未明米軍大部隊が殆

んど無血で奇襲上陸に成功フィン及シヨートランド島日軍陣地の背後に進出した。

ストックホルム特電

モスコウ會談成功裡に

英米露三國外相の間に行はれてゐた本戦役戦後協調に関する折衝は大成裡に終了。中華民國政府を合して四國は其各、交戦中の國家に對する戦闘講和武装解除等に関し更に密接なる歩調を保ち且戦後平和確保機關の設置に関しても誓約する所があった。

露軍の攻勢益進展す

ロシア軍の広正面に亘る攻勢は今や最高潮に達しドニエール灣曲部に於て露軍は數

所の渡河に成功其爲十軍は總崩れとなりんとし此方面の要衝クリボイログの放棄をも決心せるが如く、又クリミヤ半島咽喉部も危くなりドニエール灣曲部に於て一團其南方平野に於て一團多ミヤ半島に於て一團と三方面に於て十軍は捕捉殲滅を受くるの危機に直面するに至つてゐる。

リスボン特報

イタリア方面戦況

伊太利亞方面戦局は目下行はれおる山岳地帯要衝イセルニアに對する西岸方面軍即ち米中五軍右翼と東岸方面軍即ち英第八軍左翼の合軍作戦進展を待て展開するのであるが

聯合軍現在の線は略ロイマの東南百四十キロの線である。又聯合空軍はイタリアに於ける十軍後方攪乱に加ふるにアドリア海をこえユーゴスラビア遊撃軍に有力なる支援を與へ居り其爲バルカン及ギリヤ方面に對し十軍は相當の兵力を割かざる可らざるに立至りおり、ロシア方面危機とあひまつて形勢は日にくく重大化してゐる。

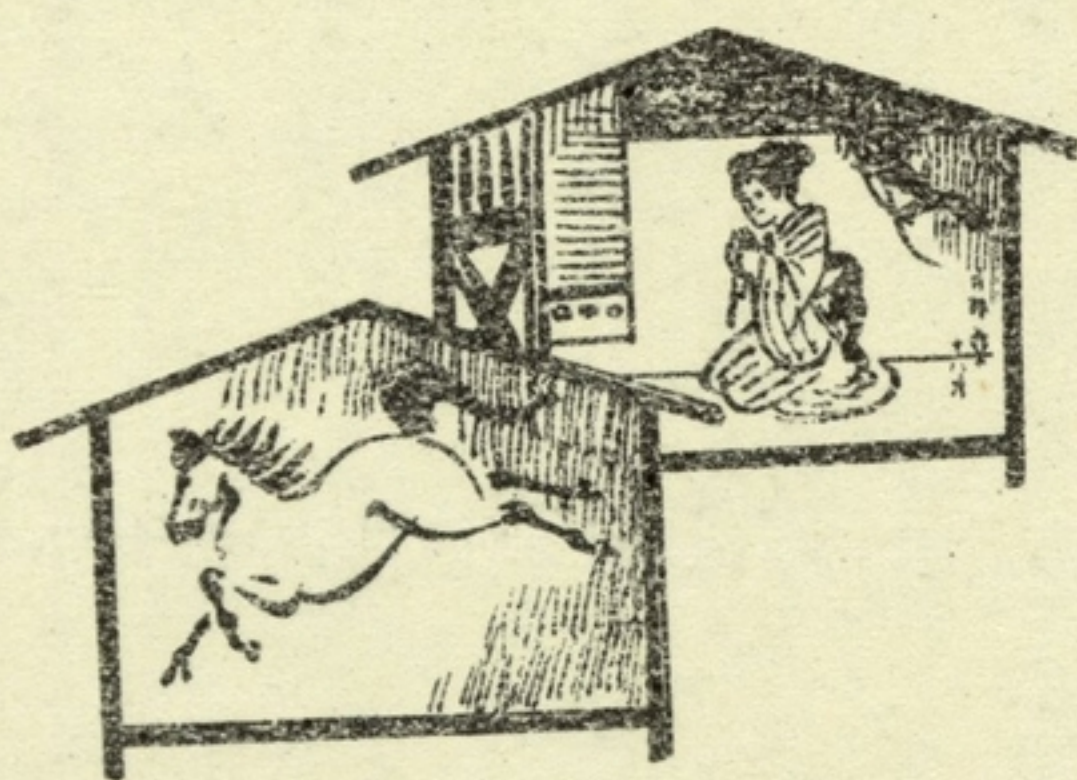
ほととぎす

繪馬

堂の上を

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かひま



昭和十八年十一月一日發行

SOUTH PACIFIC NEWS BULLETIN NO.23TOKYO - NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES GO INTO OPERATION.

The newly established war time administrative measures, whereby extraordinary executive powers to effect production increase and to strengthen air raid precaution measures have been granted to the regional governors, will go into operation on November 1. As reported in our last issue, a Munitions Ministry has been established the Cabinet Planning Board has been abolished, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been amalgamated with the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Railways with the Department of Communications.

It is expected that as a result of this reorganisation the number of government officials will be reduced by 43,229.

Although these measures seem to be in accordance with national policy Privy Council circles have been voicing doubt as to the legality of some of the proceedings of the present government. The issue of not less than 61 Imperial Orders in Council is a case in point. There is also uncertainty as to whether the transfer of special powers to the regional governors is not in conflict with the Constitution. Again in Yokusankai circles, even more so than amongst members of the Privy Council and elder statesmen, it is felt by many that Premier Tojo's almost dictatorial action in making these changes in national administration without previous consultation with ex-prime ministers and experienced statesmen has had a regrettably adverse effect on the spirit of national co-operation and unity.

ARMY SPOKESMAN WARNS THE NATION.

The general gravity of the war situation was emphasised by an Army spokesman on October 29. He said that people in Japan should never forget that strong British forces were based on India and Ceylon, in a good position to attack Burma or Java; that in Australia the increasing strength of American and Australian forces made attacks on the Philippines and bombings of Japan a possibility; and that nearer home the Chinese armies and the U.S. Air Force in China were a constant menace. He pointed out that the Allies had doubled their strength and efficiency since the beginning of the war and warned the nation that as a result of the overwhelming superiority of their productive power the Allies would be able to launch a tremendous attack and that Japan is facing an unprecedentedly grave situation.

SHIPPING NEWS - FUJI MARU AND KAMO MARU ATTACKED.

It is announced from Tokyo that on October 27 the "Fuji Maru" was sunk and the "Kamo Maru" damaged by an Allied submarine in the East China Sea. Before the war these ships were used in coastal traffic. Casualties were not heavy, but since this report came soon after the sinking of the ferry steamer "Kongo", it caused an additional sensation.

In connection with this ferry it is announced that in future travellers crossing from Korea to Japan will not be allowed to board the ferry unless in possession of a travel permit. This stricter control will make things difficult for the petty contractors and similar elements who are rushing back and forward between Japan and Korea, trying to profit out of the war situation.

Up to October 1, American submarines had destroyed 313 Japanese ships in the Pacific. This disquieting news has naturally given rise to even deeper anxiety about the shipping position, Japan's chief weakness in this amphibious war.

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CERTAIN BASE IN SOUTHERN REGIONS - AIR ATTACKS ON RABAU.

The important air and shipping base of Rabaul continues to suffer heavy attacks from Allied planes. During the period October 18 - 25, the Allies claim to have shot down not less than 246 Japanese planes and to have caused considerable damage to shipping and installations. Japanese interception was consistently heavy.

Commenting on these attacks, the Berlin radio drew attention to the Japanese evacuation of Vella Lavella and Kolombangara, and pointed out that Allied possession of these islands, only 640 kms. from Rabaul, made further heavy attacks on the base inevitable.

These predictions came true when on October 29, Allied planes again attacked Vunakanau aerodrome at Rabaul. 115 tons of bombs were dropped and considerable loss of planes on the Japanese side is reported. The Japanese side lost 25 planes in the air and 20 planes on the ground. The total of planes lost by the Japanese in the Southern areas in a fortnight has been reported as 588.

TERNATE AND POMELAA BOMBED.

On October 17 Allied planes bombed Ternate, in the Halmahera group of islands. Fires were started along the waterfront and in the town area.

On October 22 and 26 successful bombing attacks were made on the nickel mining centre of Pomelaa in Celebes.

These raids involved round flights of about 3,200 kms.

HUON PENINSULA FIGHTING. After the Allied capture of Finschhafen, Japanese forces withdrew to the hills around Satelberg. From here on the night of October 16/17 they launched a determined counter-attack with the object of recapturing the section of coastline north of Finschhafen. The whole of the Japanese local offensive air effort was focused on this front, with the result that an initial success was scored in the capture of the village of Katika.

On October 21, Allied air forces retaliated, and over 200 tons of bombs were dropped on Satelberg and Wareo. In consequence of this, during the night the Japanese lost Katika once more and withdrew to the hills.

On October 27 the Japanese made another attempt to give much needed air support to their ground troops. However their force was intercepted and turned back, after losing 6 bombers and 6 fighters. Fighting still continues, though the difficulties of getting supplies to the Japanese forces over long and tortuous inland trails become daily more formidable. Allied air superiority has reduced their own supply problems to a minimum.

The Australian advance up the Ramu Valley continues.

ALLIED AIR OFFENSIVE NOW EXTENDED TO MONO, CHOISEUL AND BOUGAINVILLE

The Allied offensive in the SW and S Pacific is continuing as planned. On the night of October 26/27 Allied troops landed on Mono Island. They were not opposed by the Japanese land forces, who retreated to vantage points in the north of the island. Contact has now been made and the battle has begun. On October 28 a further Allied landing was made on Choiseul.

Mono is 48 kilometres S.W. of Bougainville. An almost unopposed surprise landing in force was made by U.S. forces on Bougainville itself at dawn on November 1. By this landing the Allies have placed themselves in the rear of Japanese positions at Buin and in the Shortlands.

STOCKHOLM - SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THREE POWER CONFERENCE.

The Three Power Conference in Moscow between the United States, Britain and Russia has reached a successful conclusion.

Together with the Chinese Government the Three Powers pledged themselves to even closer collaboration in the prosecution of the war, and all matters pertaining to the surrender and disarmament of the enemies with which the 4 countries respectively are at war. It is also agreed that united action in the war shall be continued by these 4 nations after the war for the maintenance of peace and security. Machinery to implement these pledges is to be established.

THE RED ARMIES SWEEP ON.

Following the Russian break through on the Lower Dnieper front, a gigantic battle, described by German commentators as a super battle, is being waged between the Red Army and the fleeing Nazi forces. The Germans seem to have given up hope of holding Krivoirog, vital communications centre, and to have abandoned their forces there. Moreover the isthmus of the Crimea is in danger. Thus the Nazi forces in three areas, the Dnieper Bend, the plain south of it, and in the Crimea, are in danger of being enveloped and annihilated.

LISBON - STUBBORN FIGHTING IN ITALY CONTINUES.

A full scale battle in Italy will develop as soon as Isernia, key centre in the mountains, is captured by the Allies. It is now being subjected to combined operations of the left wing, formed by the U.S. Fifth Army from the west coast, and the right wing, formed by the British Eighth Army, operating from the east coast. The Allied lines are now roughly 140 kilometres S.E. of Rome. Meanwhile the Allied air forces are not only disrupting the rear of the Nazi forces in Italy, but also giving such support to the Yugoslav guerrillas, that the Nazis have had to divide their strength to maintain themselves in the Balkans.

ILLUSTRATION showing Japanese votive offerings, with the accompanying epigram:-

The cuckoo has passed across, high above the hall of votive offerings (and the cryptomerias).

(This epigram arouses a feeling of melancholy, of yearning after the unattainable and the ephemeral, in the Japanese mind. The cuckoo is a symbol of the transient things that will never return. This is implied in one of the ways in which the name of this bird is written, with the characters "as if not returning".

The height of the cuckoo's flight over the hall suggests that the wish made to the gods in presenting the offerings will not be fulfilled.

This literary item seems appropriate in South Pacific News Bulletin No.23 in relation to the season, and also to the unfavourable news it contains for the Japanese.)