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BRITISH, GERMAN IN SEA-AIR BATTLE OFF DOVER

British Continue To Hold Singapore City Two Battleships And Cruiser Are Attacked Heavily

5 Jap Warships, 11 Auxiliaries Destroyed

U. S. Navy reveals heavy damage to enemy in recent raid on Japanese Bases.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—(AP)—The United States Navy Department announced tonight that the recent Pacific fleet raid on Japanese bases in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands had resulted in destruction of five enemy warships, including a converted aircraft carrier, and 11 auxiliary vessels and that numerous shore installations had also been destroyed.

Jap airplanes destroyed were two large seaplanes, 15 fighter planes, 11 scout bombers and ten additional bombers.

In addition to those which the navy described as having been destroyed in the main actions in the Gilbert Islands, the announcement also disclosed that at Makin Island in the Marshall group American forces destroyed two enemy patrol planes and badly damaged one auxiliary vessel while a third enemy patrol plane was destroyed at sea.

The raids were conducted against Makin, British Island which the Japanese occupied Dec. 7, and the growing islands in the Gilbert group which Japan originally obtained under mandate after the First Great War.

Janit, Wotje, Kwajalein, Roi (in the Kwajalein atoll) and Taroa in the Marshall atoll.

In summarizing destruction to shore establishments the navy said that at Roi two hangars, ammunition dumps, fuel storage, all buildings and warehouses and the radio building were laid waste.

At Wotje the entire shore installation was turned into wreckage. It had consisted of two hangars, oil and gas storage, shops and store houses, two anti-aircraft batteries and five intermediate coastal guns.

At Taroa, the navy said, two hangars, fuel tanks and industrial buildings were destroyed.

At Janit, the raid was conducted in a heavy rainstorm. The communiqué, No. 39 for the navy, said the war started disclosed that, despite this handicap American aircraft attacked two enemy auxiliary vessels and badly damaged one of them.

The forces attacking Makin Island, the navy said, destroyed enemy patrol planes and badly damaged an auxiliary vessel. The indication was that the patrol plane destroyed at sea also was wrecked by these same forces.

Another disclosure was that the fleet units which participated in the raid were under command of Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., 59, of Washington, D.C. His force was described as a well-balanced group of aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers.

Vegetable prices to be kept in line

MONTREAL, Feb. 12—(CP)—The Montreal Board of Trade Board is not going to let vegetable prices get out of line with the price ceiling, Donald Gordon of Ottawa, chairman of the board, said here today.

Fresh fruits and vegetables had been released from the price ceiling because of their seasonal price fluctuations, and because sales of perishable goods could not be spread over a period of time to level the price, he said in an interview.

He said the board had already moved to re-establish onion and potato prices after they had started to climb.

EXAMS FOR PRISONERS

OXFORD, England — (CP) — Oxford University has decided, as an experiment, to conduct examinations for British prisoners of war in enemy countries.

Coming Events

- Leading Hogs every Monday (at day) at South, George Dingwell. L-301-12-31-1-2-Thu-Fri-Sat.
Racing New Glasgow River, Saturday, Feb. 14. L-221-2-12-21.
Box Social and Dance at Coronian Ball February 16th. L-244-2-13-11.
Buying little pigs every day 28 lbs. \$9.00 per pair. 23 lbs. \$7.00. G. C. Green. L-546-1-20-Tue-Fri-Sat.
Buying pigs Friday at the Market Square in Charlottetown. Knud Jorgensen. L-219-2-12-21.
Leading hogs as usual Albany Thursday afternoon, Emerald Friday until noon. A. G. and G. C. Green. L-2-13-11.
Require a quantity of well-finished beef cattle, (steers and heifers) to dress 600 lbs. or over Island Cold Storage Co. Ltd. L-746-1-24-11.
P. E. I. Hospital cake sale Rogers Hardware, Saturday, February 14th by Ladies of St. Paul's Church. L-251-2-13-21.

Enemy pressure Intensified on Northern flank

Invaders Are Within Two Miles Of City Itself; Fierce Fighting Continues.

BOMBAY, Feb. 12—(CP)—British authorities tonight reported an intensification of Japanese pressure on the northern part of Singapore Island and announced that the invaders were within two miles of the city of Singapore itself.

(This dispatch, delayed in transmission from Bombay, although confirming earlier indications of the British position on Singapore Island brought the first official announcement of this position.)

Tonight's regular Singapore communiqué, relayed here by radio stated that "heavy fighting continues in the western and northern sectors" of the island, and indicated that British forces still held the naval base in the north.

The British line, said the communiqué, runs from this base to Tanjong in the south. Tanjong is a point just two miles northwest of Singapore city.

The British command also reported successful counter-attacks on the Japanese left flank, presumably at the north of the island.

At 7:30 a.m. today Japanese military bombers with a fighter escort fought an unsuccessful engagement against our air force in Malacca.

Heavy fighting continues in the western and northern sectors. In the north of the island enemy activity has been intensified.

"Enemy air activity ceased during the night, but was resumed early this morning. The enemy attack was supported by dive-bombing and machine-gunning as well as by medium tanks.

"The British line extends from the naval base in the north to the centre of the island to Tanjong in the south.

Heavy fighting continues in the north. Counterattacks by our troops have been successful on the left flank of the Japanese."

Hore-Belisha, two Others quit Liberals

LONDON, Feb. 12—(CP)—Leslie Hore-Belisha, former war secretary, and two others resigned today from the Liberal National party after attending a caucus which censured two members for failing to vote on the motion of confidence in Prime Minister Churchill's government Jan. 29.

The resignations included those of Hore-Belisha and Sir Henry Morris-Jones, both of whom were retained from the roll call in the House of Commons.

Hore-Belisha's withdrawal came as a protest against the party's censuring of the other two. He said he would become an Independent but it was understood he will continue to support the government.

Believe Red Army Launches New Drives

Seek to rock Nazis back before advent of milder weather.

By Eddie Gilmore Associated Press Staff Writer

MOSCOW, Feb. 12—(Friday)—The Russians announced today their troops have captured a strongly fortified hill above Sevastopol and foreign military observers expressed belief the Red Army had launched, behind the cloak of recent secretiveness, new offensives designed to bang the Nazis back on their heels before the advent of milder weather.

These persons pointed out that spring now is on the way at the south end of the great battle line and that even in the north and west of the cold weather probably has passed.

Today's mention of Sevastopol was one of the few times in some days that the definite locale of an action has been named and it tended to give substance to the theories of those who believe the Russians are trying to beat the spring.

Sevastopol, principal port of the Crimea at the far southern end of the line, has been long under siege of the Germans who have overrun most of the peninsula without being able to take the city. The army newspaper Red Star said marines took part in the action.

Other dispatches report that the Germans still are being forced back but indicate they are fighting a long line they would like to hold at any cost until good weather gives them a chance to try their anticipated spring offensive.

War Situation Last Night

(By KIRKE L. SIMPSON, Associated Press War Analyst)

Singapore may be lost, and the proud emblem of British Empire swept from the China Seas where so long it has waved unchallenged; but that flag comes down amid scenes of derring-do by the sons of Empire that thrill British hearts everywhere.

Whatever the recriminations that flow from that imminent and seemingly inevitable disaster, as gallant and hopeless a gesture of defiance to Japanese foes is being enacted on that far-away island as the brave annals of a thousand years of British fighting manhood afford.

"The Singapore radio told its Empire listeners today—with music—that radio communications were still in British hands," said a London bulletin.

Surely the spirits of Britons who have died gallantly on many a lost battlefield during the years were murmuring "well done" to the brave of another generation keeping the faith of Singapore. It was theirs, as it was the mission of Britons who died in that storied charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava, not to question why, "theirs but to do and die." They have not failed, be their fate what it may.

It is certain that lost Singapore must inevitably bring bulky-shouldered, strong-chinned, indomitable Winston Churchill again before Parliament to renew his promise of blood, sweat and tears to come before victory. The dire fulfillment at Singapore of that Churchill prophecy demands a new war accounting. Its impending fall cast gloom over all the Empire and over its embattled allies.

It could bring him to a critical hour of his war leadership. There is little he can say to soften the shock of that new blow without revealing military information of utmost value to the foe. There is little he can promise for the immediate future, perhaps for many long, weary months, but more blood, sweat and tears.

There are faint tinges of silver lining to the pall of battle smoke and destruction that hangs over Singapore, however. It has cost the Japanese two months and more in time to take it, and unknown but certainly terribly heavy losses in life and expended war reserves.

This is a war of grim attrition on all fronts. To what extent the battle of the Malay Peninsula and of Singapore has sapped Japanese resources can only be conjectured.

But a cumulative aggregate of Japanese war wastage is building up behind the ever-extending conquest front, now thousands of miles from home bases. That must ultimately prove the crack in Japanese armor if the will to fight on among the United Nations remains as unbroken as is that of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his men of Bataan or of the last-ditch British rearguard at Singapore.

Enemy Line Breaks In Salween River Area

Best news in days comes from Burma front; Proof what British can do with air support.

By Daniel De Luce Associated Press Staff Writer

RANGOON, Burma, Feb. 12—(AP)—The Japanese attack on the Salween River line wavered and broke in the Paan area today before a stout British Empire defence and a bayonet charge in another vital sector sent the invaders scrambling for cover, abandoning their weapons.

It was the best news in many days from the lower Burma front. The situation in the lower Salween was regarded in well-informed circles as definitely bettered, if still serious.

Indian infantrymen, who had been encircled, fought their way out of dangerous pockets and then savagely counterattacked. Simultaneously, square shouldered, hard-fighting "Koyls"—the King's own Yorkshire Light Infantrymen—who had been waiting impatiently for 11 days at the Matatapan gulf-side for chance at action were thrown against the Japanese at a crucial moment.

"If encircled—charge!" has become the common tactic of the British Empire troops.

The British command felt able to say that the violent enemy attack in the important Paan area of the river front, 20 miles above Maraban was "successfully defeated after heavy fighting, and the Japanese temporarily have abandoned operations."

The enemy had fought steadily and skillfully to throw a bridgehead across the Salween in the jungles of Paan, but the British positions have held fast with constant aid from the air.

Churchill to Review war

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill's broad-cast review of the war, scheduled for Sunday, will be relayed in the United States by the NBC CBS and MBS networks starting at 5 p.m. A.D.T. It will be heard in Canada through the CBC.

SHIPSHAW, Que., Feb. 12—(CP)—Ralph Larette, of Abitibi, Que., was killed, and Isaac Page of Victoria, N. B., was seriously injured in a dynamite explosion in this Chicoutimi district town today. Verdict of accidental death was returned at a coroner's inquest.

BLOSSOM CANADA FLOUR EXCELS IN THE KITCHEN

Chief Justice Sir Lyman Duff To head probe

Will Investigate Canadian Troops Sent To Hong Kong.

OTTAWA, Feb. 12—(CP)—Chief Justice Sir Lyman Duff will head a Royal Commission to investigate the circumstances under which Canadian troops were sent to Hong Kong, Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced today in the House of Commons.

Sir Lyman had been assured that the government would place no restriction whatever upon him with respect to the scope of the inquiry or any phases of it, Mr. King said.

He interrupted a speech by Rev. T. C. Douglas (C.P.E. Weyburn) to make the announcement. An order-in-council confirming Sir Lyman's appointment would be tabled in this House tomorrow, Mr. King said.

Dr. Douglas had complained of delay in arranging for an inquiry, and had placed particular emphasis on a Jan. 21 statement by Defence Minister Ralston that from 139 to 148 of the 1,885-man

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Long Creek Seamen Aboard Corvette In rescue work

OTTAWA, Feb. 12—(CP)—Able Seaman Eldon MacEachern of Long Creek, P.E.I., was aboard the Canadian corvette Orilla when it bucked stiff North Atlantic winds to go to the rescue of the torpedoed British tanker A Tahchee which was lost near Iceland, navy sources said today.

Rescue of the enemy-damaged tanker and her \$1,000,500 oil cargo was announced from a British port yesterday.

MacEachern, 22, and now stationed in the naval mail truck service here, said the Orilla was on convoy duty off the coast of Iceland when the A Tahchee was torpedoed. From the stricken vessel the Orilla picked up 95 survivors.

Lt.-Cmdr. W. D. S. (Ted) Briggs, former Ottawa and Halifax radio announcer, commands the Orilla.

Millview Man Is Wireless Graduate

One of the largest classes in the history of the school graduated today from the No. 4 Royal Canadian Air Force Wireless School here. Australia and Newfoundland as well as every province in the Dominion were represented in the graduation class.

Among the graduates were: New Brunswick: E. J. Ramey, Fredericton; E. F. Russell, Doaktown.

Nova Scotia: G. G. Fanning, Guys County; E. N. Irving, South Brookfield; E. H. Levy, Halifax; R. G. G. Mills, Chester.

Prince Edward Island: F. E. Jenkins, Millview.

Struggle On Dutch Islands Is Obscure

Silence unbroken from hard-contested fronts; Change in Naval Command widely welcomed.

(By Witt Hancock, Associated Press Staff Writer)

BATAVIA, N. E. I., Feb. 12—(AP)—Netherlands troops fought bitterly today to prevent extension of Japanese lodgments which already were menacing this key island of Java, but the progress of their struggle was obscured by unbroken silence from the hard-contested fronts.

"No further report," said the Indies command in its afternoon communique, "has been received from the various parts of the archipelago where the fight against the invader is being continued."

Word from authoritative but less official sources was similarly inconclusive as to the turn the fighting was taking, particularly on Celebes and Borneo islands.

On Celebes, the enemy was seeking to consolidate footholds centering about Macassar, the principal port on the west side of the island, and at Balangnipa, just across the southern arm of the island. From beachheads held above and below Macassar and just to the east of the Gulf of Bone enemy troops were developing a

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Two Battleships And Cruiser Are Attacked Heavily

Long-refuged Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen slip out of Brest and make for German ports.

(By D. E. Burritt, Canadian Press Staff Writer)

LONDON, Feb. 13—(Friday)—(CP)—The long-refuged German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau slipped out of Brest with the cruiser Prinz Eugen and a large surface and air escort Thursday and were engaged by combined British land, sea and air forces in the greatest battle off the Dover coast since France fell.

After the furious encounter to which even the shore batteries on the cliffs of Dover added their thunder the German ships escaped behind the misty atmosphere and their own smokecreens and were last sighted heading for ports in the Heligoland Bight.

The British assault was launched largely from the air. Whether units of the Royal Canadian Air Force took part was not immediately disclosed, although it was recalled that they had participated in raids on the vessels while they were tied up at Brest on the French southwest coast.

Cost to both sides in the gamble to free the 26,000-ton battleships and the cruiser, the latter a survivor of the Hood-Bismarck engagement, was great. The Admiralty and Air Ministry said British air forces lost 42 planes, including 20 bombers. It said: "casualties in our destroyers were not heavy."

The joint communique placed the enemy's losses at 18 planes, 15 shot down by British fighters and three by bombers. Observations through the muggy weather indicated bomb hits were scored by aircraft on the main enemy units and that a torpedo had been made on a destroyer.

The Nazi vessels, which had been pounded for months as they lay at Brest, were first sighted steaming eastward into the strait. Reports had persisted for several days that the ships were being prepared to slip from Brest where they have been pinned for almost 12 months by repeated R.A.F. attacks.

In all more than 110 air attacks have been made on the ships during which some of Britain's most powerful armor-piercing bombs have been dropped on or near them from great heights. In at least two of the attacks the ships were hit and on many occasions there have been near misses.

Last July the Scharnhorst slipped away to La Pallice but she was bombed heavily there and returned to Brest.

Today's announcement of the battle, detailing casualties, said Britain lost 20 bombers, 16 fighters and six other aircraft, but she was bombed heavily there and returned to Brest.

It could not be learned immediately whether Canadian fliers had participated in the engagement.

On the tally from their oft-bombed anchorages on the occupied French coast, the three big

(Continued on page 3, Col 3)

SAINT JOHN TO BUY BONDS

SAINT JOHN, N. B., Feb. 12—Announcement was made today that the municipality of the city and county of Saint John had decided unanimously to buy \$50,000 worth of second Victory Loan bonds. The municipalities subscribed \$50,000 to last year's Victory Loan.

It's A BAD POLICY NOT TO HAVE A GOOD ONE

OTTAWA, Feb. 12—Minimum and maximum temperatures:— Dawson 6 5, Victoria 32 30, Edmonton 29 39, Winnipeg 8 25, Toronto 20 21, Ottawa 6B 15, Montreal 3 14.

Synopsis: The weather has been fair and cold in Ontario and comparatively mild in the Western Provinces.

High tide this morning at 9:25 and tonight at 8:54. Sun sets this afternoon at 5:24 and rises tomorrow morning at 7:04.

New moon, Feb. 15, 5:02 a.m. Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

BORDEN - CAPE TORMENTINE SERVICE

Leave Borden 9:25 A.M. 1:00 P.M. Leave Cape Tormentine 11:00 A.M. 3:20 P.M.

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