

Clothes maketh the man about town until the bank breaketh him.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

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SEE AXIS MOVE TO EMBROID SPAIN IN CONFLICT

Japs Take Stepping Stone To Singapore

Where Japs Besiege Britain's Far East Fort Stronghold

Menacing enemy Troop movement Gets underway

Battle Across Johore Strait Steps Up In Intensity; Some Nipponese Guns Silenced.

SINGAPORE, Feb. 8 (AP) - Japanese shock troops established themselves unopposed today on Palau Ubin Island, a potential stepping stone for the attack on Singapore Island, and started a menacing troop movement at the rear of that forward position.

While the enemy thus gained a land foothold in Singapore's water defence belt—the Strait of Johore—his dive bombers continued their heavy bombing of the British defences and the big batteries of the British artillery repaid in kind.

Shortly after noon, artillery action across the Johore Strait stepped up appreciably. The roar of disappearing guns interspersed with the sharper crack of field pieces, could be heard plainly in Singapore city, 14 miles away.

The Japanese were believed attempting to shatter road communications. British guns were trying to silence enemy batteries.

Anti-aircraft batteries peppered a large formation of Japanese bombers at about noon, and the incoming planes fled without dropping bombs on the city area.

The British communiqué said that enemy patrols were reported to have landed "on the island of the centre of the eastern entrance of Johore Strait" and a military spokesman said there were no defenders there.

At points, Palau Ubin is only half a mile from Singapore island's northeast shore.

British artillery thundered at Japanese troop movements on the island behind Palau Ubin, and it appeared that the little fighting men of the Rising Sun might make their main thrust from that direction.

The Japanese in that sector were being their forces at Masati, east of Johore Bahru, and it was soon that point that the great

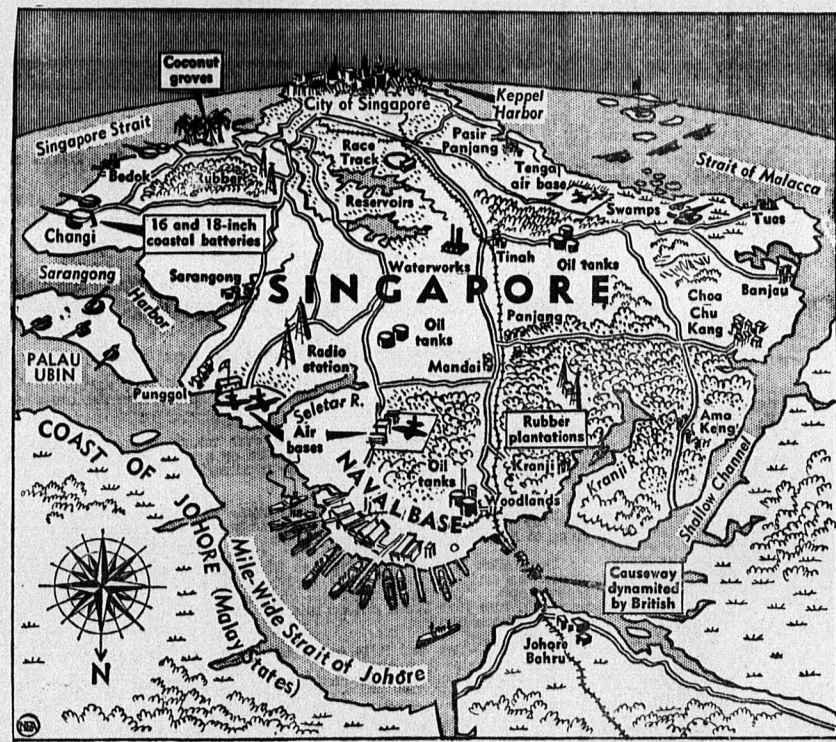
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Here's how Singapore looks to the Japanese lining Johore Strait while preparations go ahead apparently for an all-out attempt to take the stronghold by storm.

Such a move seen as logical sequel to new reserve army set-up.

May Extend Compulsory Age From 26 To 35

(By James McCook) (Canadian Press Staff Writer) OTTAWA, Feb. 8 (CP)—Extension of compulsory military training to men up to 35 years of age instead of 26 as at present was seen by informed quarters tonight as a logical sequel to announcement of a military reserve army set-up which restricts voluntary enlistments to men under 19 and over 35.

In the new voluntary enlistment regulations for the reserve army authorities noted what they called a "significant gap" in the ages covered. Highest age class now required to give compulsory military service is 28 years and the lowest of the older age brackets eligible for voluntary enlistment in the reserve is 30.

Extension of the call for compulsory military training for home defence to embrace single men and childless widowers up to at least 30 years and possibly to 35 was forecast as early as last Nov. 15 in authoritative quarters. At that time war services minister Thorson said it appeared likely any extension of

Partridge are Wintering well

Hungarian partridges in this province "are wintering well," it was learned over the weekend by Specialist Constable Spurgeon Jenkins, R. C.M.P., Game Warden. These popular game birds are not minding the winter and appear to be getting plenty of grit. Bare spots in numerous fields throughout the province facilitate matters for the "Huns" enabling them to dig up something to eat.

One of these partridges was found lying on the ground somewhere along the Murray Harbour railway line by one of the trainmen last week. The bird had been killed by hitting the telephone wires above. On examination it was found that the "Hun" was in excellent condition. It was covered with a fine layer of fat and was as good, it not better, than during the hunting season in the autumn.

It will be recalled that these partridges, which were imported to Prince Edward Island in 1927 by interested sportsmen, suffered heavily during the nesting season last year. As a result only about half the usual numbers were reported in the fall by hunters. However, since then it is believed they have made a good comeback and apparently are thriving at present.

Of course there is still the problem of the wintering of these partridges, which were imported to Prince Edward Island in 1927 by interested sportsmen, suffered heavily during the nesting season last year.

One woman Injured in fall On sidewalk

Citizens turning out for their morning worship yesterday had difficulty in reaching their churches because of the very slippery conditions of the sidewalks.

One woman, Mrs. Frank O'Donnell, formerly of Avondale but now residing with her daughter in the City, suffered a broken wrist when she lost her footing enroute to church. The accident, which was the only serious one reported, occurred at the corner of Great George and Richmond Streets.

She was taken to hospital but later in the day was able to return home. It was a common sight to see people sprawled on the sidewalks because of the treacherous condition of the walks. Only by proceeding slowly and paying strict

Chinese join Defenders of Singapore

(By Sgt. Ian Fitchett Official Correspondent with the Australian Imperial Force.) WITH THE A. I. F. ON SINGAPORE ISLAND, Feb. 8 (AP to CP)—Hundreds of newly trained Chinese troops enlisted here but under 12 leaders sent especially from Chungking, have taken up battle stances to help in the British Imperial defence of Singapore.

British and Australian troops gave their Chinese comrades a warm welcome when they took their places. The Chinese troops are known as "Dalcoes."

Traffic on the island's roads has lessened considerably now that the troops have settled down. British and Australian provost troops (military police) have worked for days without sleep to control the huge troop movements around the island.

Digging, wiring and mining have been going on without stop. Now the next move is left up to the Japanese.

Singapore's first week of siege passed swiftly and apart from air raids there was little outward indication in the city that a state of siege exists. Normal life is proceeding as far as possible between the alerts.

Britain to buy More tobacco From Canada

(SIMCOE, Ont., February 8 (CP)—J. K. Perrett, secretary of the Ontario Free-cured Tobacco Marketing Association, speaking at the weekly meeting of a Simcoe service club, announced that the British Government has released enough additional foreign exchange for British manufacturers to purchase 5,000,000 pounds of Canadian tobacco of all types.

This amount, with the Canadian tobacco purchased under the foreign exchange release last September, makes a total of 13,500,000 pounds which British buyers have been permitted to purchase in the past five years. He added that all the 1939 crop has been sold and he expected the 1940 crop would be entirely sold by the middle of this month.

Nazis lose Famed Military Engineer

(LONDON, Feb. 8—London circles are buzzing with the reported death yesterday of Dr. Fritz Todt, close friend of Chancellor Adolf Hitler, in an airplane accident. The incident is ranked as the most disturbing happening since the flight of Hess. Just how the people of Germany will react to the death of their most famous engineer is an unanswerable question at the moment, but it is observed that the scap rationing announced in Britain yesterday has nothing to do with the amount being passed out in Germany with above news.

Germany once more loses one of its big name leaders through accidental death. This time it is Dr. Fritz Todt, famous engineer and architect responsible for the development of the great Autobahn network of two lane motor roads. He also drew the plans and supervised the construction of the Siegfried line and later built huge fortifications in Holland, Belgium and occupied France against possible invasion of the continent from

Death Announced Of Dr. Todt, Builder Of Siegfried Line.

(LONDON, Feb. 8—CP)—Five children burned to death last year today when fire believed to have started from an over-heated furnace swept through a two-storey frame dwelling occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schouten and their family of six.

The youngest child, one-year-old Patricia, was saved by Mrs. Schouten as she and her husband ran from the burning building. The other five children perished as flames quickly gutted the house. Dead are: Mary E. John E. Frank S. Arlene S. and Herman T. Markham is 15 miles northeast of Toronto.

Axis drive Said stopped

CAIRO, Feb. 8 (AP)—Sun-baked British troops stopped the Axis drive across Libya in its tracks at the distant approaches of Tobruk today and swept unopposed through a wide area west of Ain El Gazala.

Further, British headquarters said that Axis-claimed Ain El Gazala, 40 miles west of Tobruk, is still in British hands and that the British forces are holding a "series of points" round that sand-swept coastal point.

It appeared that at long last, the African Corps of Field Marshals Edwin Rommel was faced with the main British forces, although no large scale battle has yet been joined.

Heavy attack On big Dutch Naval Base

(By Witt Hancock) (Associated Press Staff Writer) ROTTERDAM, N. L., Feb. 8 (AP)—Japanese planes, striking at or reconnoitering half a dozen sectors of the 3,000 mile chain of Netherlands islands, made an attack in force today on Surabaya, the only important naval base in the Indies and Malaya remaining fully available to the United Nations.

The damage to naval establishments at that Java port was, however, "of only slight importance," said the Indies communiqué.

The raiders made a reconnaissance over Batavia, capital of the Indies, for the first time and appeared in the vicinity of Netherland's military headquarters in western Java, where they machine-gunned tea pickers.

Many fires were started, 36 persons were injured and others killed in renewed attacks on the tin island of Bangka, off the Sumatra coast, where they bombed Muntok. Some Netherlands fighter planes were destroyed on the ground when they caught fire from bombs dropped by six large planes escorted by fighters in the oil centre of Palembang, in southern Sumatra.

Will Purchase Five Million More Pounds Here.

(ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Feb. 8 (CP) Cable)—Several Canadian officials are in Newfoundland conferring with the colonial government on the extension of Trans-Canada Air Lines service to Newfoundland.

The officials here are J. A. Wilson, Canadian director of civil aviation; Major R. Dodds, Capt. R. F. Dodds and E. M. Griffiths.

No statement was issued here on the progress of the development. It was announced at Ottawa some time ago that the T.C.A. service would be stretched to Newfoundland as soon as facilities became available.

British Planes Torpedo Two Loaded Axis Ships

(LONDON, Feb. 8 (CP)—British naval planes torpedoed two fully loaded Axis supply ships in the central Mediterranean Friday night, the Air Ministry news service announced tonight.

The news service said pilots who carried out this attack had accounted for two large Axis supply ships in a previous assault, but did not say whether all were in the same convoy.

In the Friday night attack, the pilots said two torpedoes struck one ship and that fire broke out aboard the second when it was hit. Both had destroyer escorts.

Polish Book Purge

(NEW YORK (CP)—Word here is the Nazis have purged book stores in Poland of all books dealing with national life—no book having the word "Poland" or "Polish" in it may be sold or circulated.

Events Point To Preparations For New Nazi Push

Enemy propoganda active and shows surprising information of events before they happen.

(By Carl Cranmer, Associated Press Staff Writer) NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (AP)—A chain of mysterious incidents which may have been deliberately engineered to embroil Spain in the war and which certainly bear the imprint of German propoganda pointed sharply today to serious Axis preparations for a push in the Mediterranean.

The latest incident involving Spain, whose territory used by Hitler as a springboard would permit a direct assault on Gibraltar and a move into northwest Africa to threaten South America and the South Atlantic, occurred at Tangier, a former international zone of about 225 square miles about 50 miles southwest of the British fortress rock.

This development coincided with reports from Bern, Switzerland, today that Marshal Petain of France would go to Spain tomorrow—presumably to confer with his old pupil, Gen. Francisco Franco.

In Vichy, however, a semi-official denial said the reports originated in a confusion over the scheduled visit to Spain of Marshal Petain, who will be accompanied by the Marshal's chief civilian collaborator, Demoulin de Labarthe.

Tangier an explosion in a taxi loaded with British diplomatic bags on a crowded pier killed 14 persons and wounded 36, a number of them British subjects. The explosion occurred Friday

Prairie Bonuses Reduced If Wheat Price Increased

(OTTAWA, Feb. 8 (CP)—An increase in the initial wheat price from 70 cents to \$1 a bushel, if decided upon, will almost certainly be accompanied by a reduction in payments to prairie farmers under other assistance programs, The Canadian Press learned tonight.

The prairie farm income assistance payments, made under order-in-council passed in 1941 to increase the prairie producer's income in a year of low returns, will total about \$20,000,000 in 1941. This would equal an increase in the initial payment of about 10 cents a bushel on 200,000,000 bushels.

If the price were increased to \$1 by federal authorities it appeared likely that these income payments, made on an acreage basis and designed to carry the farmer over an emergency period would be discontinued. Even with their assistance wheat this year was worth only 80 cents a bushel compared with the \$1 requested by farmer spokesmen as the first payment of the season.

May extend T.C.A. Lines to Nfld.

(ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Feb. 8 (CP) Cable)—Several Canadian officials are in Newfoundland conferring with the colonial government on the extension of Trans-Canada Air Lines service to Newfoundland.

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Germany short Of shells on Soviet front

(MOSCOW, Feb. 8 (AP)—Severely rationed on shells and tampered by lack of guns, German artillery has been almost cancelled out as an important factor in the white drifts of Russia, and the Red Army continues to advance after meeting fresh reserves and smashing repeated counter-attacks, Soviet war dispatches said today.

Heavy fighting was reported in virtually all sectors, but the most determined action was northwest of Moscow beyond Kalinin and in the south in the Donets Basin.

Coming Events

Kinkora Hall final bingo and dance, Thursday evening, Feb. 12th. Orchestra. If stormy, Monday, 18th.

Box social and dance, Pleasant Grove Hall, Wednesday, Feb. 11. If not fine the following night.

Last Dance St. James Hall, Sumnerfield, Tuesday, February 10th. Orchestra. L-125-2-9-11.

There will be a congregational meeting of the St. Columba Presbyterian Congregation of Marshfield in the Church, February 10th, 8.30 P.M. Large attendance requested.

Garden seeds. All the latest and best varieties. Send for free catalogue. Arthur Vesey, L-778.

War—25 Years Ago Today

FEB. 9, 1917—Austrians captured Italian trenches in fighting east of Gorizia. British made successful raids on German positions southeast of Ypres and south of Arras. Old-type British torpedo-boat destroyer sunk by mine.

Five Children Burned To Death In Ontario

MARKHAM, Ont., Feb. 8 (CP)—Five children burned to death last year today when fire believed to have started from an over-heated furnace swept through a two-storey frame dwelling occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schouten and their family of six.

Jap invaders of Burma checked

(By Daniel De Luca) (Associated Press Staff Writer) BURMA, Feb. 8 (AP)—Staunch British defenders of treasure-laden Burma and its vital gateway to China have checked the Japanese advance along the Salween River to the east. The United Nations commander, Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, who visited the front a second time recently.

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