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BRITISH PREPARE FOR BATTLE OF SINGAPORE ISLAND

250 Dead, Missing In Ship Torpedoing Order Civilians From Mile-wide Area Before Base

Threat Of New Political Party Over Plebiscite

Liberal Anti-conscriptionist will propose own amendment to Draft Address.

OTTAWA, Jan. 28—(CP)—Formation of a new political party "which takes birth here today" was announced this afternoon by Ligouri LaCombe, Independent Liberal member of the House of Commons. Mr. LaCombe ended an anti-conscriptionist speech with the announcement of a "Canadian party" pledged to the defence of Canada, higher pay for sailors, soldiers and airmen and promotion of the best interests of the country in the economic and social spheres.

13 Canadians Are survivors From cruise ship

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Jan. 28—(CP)—Thirteen Canadians and six Newfoundlanders were among the 71 survivors of the Lady Hawkins, Canadian National Steamship line, torpedoed 11 days ago in the Atlantic. The survivors were brought to San Juan today.

Pair convicted On seven charges

OTTAWA, Jan. 28—(CP)—Rudolph Brule and Capt. J. A. P. Dwyer of Ottawa were convicted by a Ontario Supreme Court jury tonight on seven charges of demanding or obtaining money on the pretence they had influence to obtain war contracts from the government.

Shatter Japs East of Rangoon

RANGOON, Burma, Jan. 28—Without a casualty, United States volunteers of the Air Force shattering Japanese raiders east of Rangoon today, shooting down six, probably destroying six more and damaging nine others as they streaked for home.

Coming Events

Talkies—Souris Thursday, L-797-1-27-31.
Talkies—Montague Saturday, L-797-1-27-31.
Special play—Mt. Stewart, Friday, L-797-1-27-31.

Report Germans Begin Huge Defence System

Russians reiterate determination to strike death blow at Hitler this year.

33 tough British Seamen rescued

AN EAST COAST CANADIAN PORT, Jan. 28—(CP)—Thirty-three tough British seamen rescued from their torpedoed freighter rested in a Navy League hostel here today and feelingly cursed the German U-boat commander who wished them a sarcastic "good-night" before he disappeared in the winter night, leaving them tossing about on the chill Atlantic for 33 hours.

War Situation Last Night

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

Fortresses Continue To Take Toll Of Jap Ships

One big Transport sunk, another left in flames; Cruiser straddled by bombs.

War Situation Last Night

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War Situation Last Night

(Continued on page 9, Col 6)

Cruise ship Lady Hawkins Sinks quickly

71 Survivors Picked Up After Five Days In Tossing Lifeboat; Vessel Smashed By Two Torpedoes.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Jan. 28—(AP)—Two hundred and fifty persons were reported dead or missing tonight after their ship (identified officially in Montreal as the 7,988-ton Canadian National cruise ship Lady Hawkins) was sunk 11 days ago in the Atlantic by an Axis submarine attacking without warning.

Seventy-one survivors, who had prayed and sung hymns in their tossing lifeboat, were brought here today by Captain Helgesen aboard the New York-Puerto Rico steamship Coamo. Helgesen found them last Friday night, five days after their vessel was smashed by two torpedoes.

What few details were available tonight indicated this was by far the heaviest loss of life yet in the Axis submarine offensive off the United States and Canadian coasts.

A resident of St. Joseph, Mo., David Schoonover was one of five persons who died from exposure in the lifeboat before the Coamo reached it. Seventeen Americans were among those rescued.

Survivors said the first torpedo smashed into No. 2 hold on the port side forward on the bridge. The second wrecked the engine room and doused all lights.

The ship went down so quickly there was no chance of sending an SOS, they said. Aboard were 321 persons—a crew of 109 and 212 passengers.

Chief Officer Percy A. Kelly, believed to be of Halifax, Edward Manion, Murray, McNeill, Leo Thomas, all of Halifax, George Hards, John Simpson, Montreal, Ralph Curwin, Bathurst, N. B., Robert Clayton, Hantsport, N. S., William Burton, Hamilton, Ont., Benjamin James, Banquet's Cove, Ont., Edmund Reilly, Kentville, N. S., James Rozer, Halifax, Charles Bolivar, Upper LaHave, N. S.

The Newfoundlanders:—Clarence and Joseph Squires, Con Bay. (It was probable Conception Bay was meant.) John Anthony, St. John's, Ernest Rice, Kenneth Rowsell, Pilley's Island, Clarence FitzGerald, Bonavista.

OTTAWA, Jan. 28—(CP)—Export articles of wool or hair has been prohibited from midnight, Jan. 27, except under special permit. Trade Minister MacKinnon announced tonight.

"This prohibition was made necessary by unusual conditions recently in the buying of woollen goods for export and a threatened shortage of this material," the Minister said.

The order is effective in respect to "all fabrics composed wholly or in part of yarns of wool or hair." Issuance of permits is in charge of the Export Permit Branch under the Trade and Commerce Department.

Mackenzie King Urged to Resign

Chamberlain's Example Cited

OTTAWA CITIZEN SUGGESTS PRIME MINISTER THUS VOID ANTI-CONSCRIPTION PLEDGE AND SAVE THE COUNTRY GOING THROUGH A PLEBISCITE.

OTTAWA, January 26—Following is text of leading editorial which appeared in The Ottawa Citizen yesterday:

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY FORWARD

In the speech from the Throne last Thursday, the Government disclosed the unsoundness of Canada's position. In the Government's own words, at this time of gravest crisis in the world's history, the freedom of the Government of Canada "to act in accordance with its judgment of the needs of the situation as they may arise" has to be restored.

No external power imposed this disabling limitation on the Government's complete freedom to govern in accordance with the needs of the situation. Cabinet ministers did it themselves. Especially in the last general election, but even since the collapse of France, Prime Minister King tied the Government's own hands by declarations against conscription for service overseas.

The Government's "past commitments restricting the methods of raising men for military service" are producing dismal results. The speech from the Throne has disclosed the situation to the people of Canada, and to the world. The enemy is at the gates, both east and west. When Australia is threatened with invasion, Canada is threatened. When the British Isles are threatened with invasion, Canada is in terrible danger.

After nearly two and one-half years since Canada's declaration of war on Germany, with the war situation becoming steadily more grave, it is a heavy responsibility on the Prime Minister. He made a pronouncement of freedom need have been imposed by election statements in 1940. After the loss of France as an ally, however, the disappearance of the French army into German prison camps, and the huge expansion of German military power, Mr. King's declaration, so fraught with negative consequences—operating to deprive the Government of Canada of "freedom to act in accordance with its judgments in the needs of the situation as they may arise"—were actually reiterated.

ANOTHER FALSE STEP

The Prime Minister's error of impairing the freedom of responsible government in Canada may be made worse by another false step, as announced in the speech from the Throne—to depart from the principle of responsible government. The proposed plebiscite would be a devious dangerous and humiliating departure at the very time of gravest crisis when the people of Canada have never been in greater need of forward leadership in responsible government.

There is no manifest demand anywhere in Canada to hold the Government to any obligation arising out of any past commitments restricting the methods of raising men for military service. No demand is being made by any perceptible number of members of Parliament on either side of the House, to maintain a discredited restriction on the Government's freedom to act. The nation-wide demand is for immediate, effective action, by responsible government. The Canadian people have long been taught to have respect for the British practice of responsible government. But the Prime Minister is moving to substitute government by plebiscite.

The false impression is being given out that there is no other way—excepting by another general election. But there is another possible way, namely, the unselfish way taken by Mr. Chamberlain in 1940. The Prime Minister could resign, to allow a new Government to be formed by a trusted colleague. Mr. King's view is, apparently, that he is

War Situation Last Night

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

Dramatic happenings in the Pacific, Mediterranean and Atlantic war theatres have overshadowed developments on the Russian front, but it is in Russia that another serious crisis is looming for Hitler.

Potentially, the situation north of the Moscow front is more menacing to the Nazi warlord's projected spring offensive in Russia than the loss of the Moshaisk bulge before Moscow. It could out him from Russia proper in the north and drive him behind the Dnieper in the centre.

The situation elsewhere in Russia has not changed materially in some days. Hardening German resistance is generally indicated in the Ukraine, the Donets area and the Crimea. There are intimations of further retreat down the Napoleon road beyond Vyazma toward Smolensk, however, which the indicated Russian advances north of the Moscow area explain.

It is in the Valdai Plateau region, between the Moscow front proper and Lake Ilmen, that Red army gains are strategically significant. They are beginning to overlap the Moscow battle zone to threaten the rear of the German retreat.

War Debate Continues in British House

Clement Attlee Answers Critics Of Government.

By Harold Fair
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Jan. 28—(CP)—The critics of Prime Minister Churchill and his cabinet colleagues were given free rein in the House of Commons today, but at no time did the debate on the conduct of the war get out of hand and at no stage did the government find it necessary to put up its best debaters.

Clement Attlee, Lord Privy Seal, both opened and closed the day's debate for the government. He was able to tell the House that reinforcements drawn from troops "most readily available" had been sent to the Southwest Pacific at the earliest possible moment after Japan's entrance into the war and that additional forces are being dispatched.

To Conclude Today

The three-day discussion of the war will be concluded tomorrow night, when the House will divide on a motion of confidence in the government. Towards the end of today's proceedings in the crowded House, the Independent Labor Party, represented by John McGovern and Campbell Stephen, tabled yet a further amendment to the confidence motion.

It appeared, however, that tomorrow's vote would be a straight one of confidence. The Speaker of the House, Capt. E. A. Fitzroy, announced that, subject to what was said in the debate, he did not propose to call any of the various amendments for a division.

The I.L.P. amendment expressed no confidence in the government, it declared that "only a socialist government, which would establish social equality in Britain and grant independence to the occupied territories of the Empire, can secure the co-operation of the common people of all lands and end the war with the destruction of both Nazism and Imperialism."

Former Naval Man Bitter

Many of the day's speeches dealt with the situation in the Far East. Perhaps the bitterest criticism directed at Mr. Churchill came from a fellow Conservative, Cmdr. Sir Archibald Southby, R.N., retired, member for Epsom, who revived the question of responsibility for the loss of the battleship

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To Report On St. Pierre-Miquelon

OTTAWA, Jan. 28—(CP)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King today told the House of Commons he would make a statement on the St. Pierre-Miquelon situation as soon as he was in receipt of full information from London.

He was replying to a question from Mr. J. Goldwell, Acting C.C.F. Leader based on a New York Times story to the effect that a plan has been completed in London for protection of the French Islands by Canada, and for the withdrawal from the islands of the Free French forces which occupied them last Christmas Eve.

R. A. F. Active In Bright Moonlight

SOUTHEAST COAST OF ENGLAND, Jan. 28—(CP)—The Royal Air Force blasted at Boulogne and other German-held ports in France early tonight, crossing in a brilliant moonlight and losing bombs whose explosions could be seen by observers on this side of the Channel. German long-range guns opened up briefly on the Dover area.

Fortresses Continue To Take Toll Of Jap Ships

One big Transport sunk, another left in flames; Cruiser straddled by bombs.

minimum of 30 ships sunk or badly damaged, presumably with the loss of thousands of Japanese sailors and soldiers. (The T-3C heard by CBS quoted estimates that between 25,000 and 30,000 Japanese perished.)

Nineteen of these ships were transports and 11 were warships. Of the latter, the Indies believed their bombers had sunk one Japanese battleship, and a U.S. submarine was credited with torpedoing and probably sinking a Japanese aircraft carrier.

(Washington's communique Wednesday said eight bombers sank a big Japanese transport and scored a direct hit on a cruiser Tuesday. One bomber was lost. This version differed enough from the latest Batavia announcement to cause belief that each may have described a separate action.)

By Netherlands accounts the Japanese now have suffered a known

From Mile-wide Area Before Base

Picked Japanese Troops are within 50 miles of Singapore — Fierce fighting rages.

(By C. YATES McDANIEL)
(Associated Press Staff Writer)

SINGAPORE, Jan. 28—(AP)—The British command cleared the terrain tonight for the battle of Singapore Island, ordering complete evacuation of civilians and livestock from a mile-wide strip along the southern tip of Johore State, directly opposite the north shore of the island.

This evacuation of the area across a single mile of water from the first defences of this fortress was described as a "purely precautionary measure." The civilians and their chattels must be out of the area by Friday noon.

While this order was being issued the British, Indian and Australian troops in Johore fought another furious round in their struggle with the picked Japanese troops who have been thrown into the struggle between 40 and 50 miles north of Singapore.

Across the Johore line the British communique said the situation was this:— "On the west: 'Heavy fighting has taken place around Rengit, south of Senggarang.' Here, 40-odd miles north of this fortress, Japanese imperial guards were in action.

"On the centre: 'In the Kualaung Ayer Hitam area there is no change in the situation, but enemy air activity continued day and night.' This is about 50 miles from Singapore.

"On the east: 'Throughout yesterday contact was maintained with the enemy in the Jema Luang area (55 miles from Singapore). There have been no reports of further enemy landings at Endau (above Jema Luang).'

The most cheering news in the communique was at the end: "A considerable number of British and Indian troops who were cut off in the Batu Pahat area now have rejoined the main bodies."

Census figures Are revealed In Commons

OTTAWA, Jan. 28—(CP)—Sometime before the calling of the next federal election it need not necessarily be before 1945—membership in the House of Commons is to be redistributed on the basis of 1941 census figures with a reduction from 245 to 238 members.

Trade Minister MacKinnon made this known today. He said that Manitoba, now with 17 seats in the Commons, will be reduced to 14 and Saskatchewan's 21 will be reduced to 17.

Basis for this redistribution is the population of the Dominion at June 30, 1941, of 11,410,896 compared with 10,376,788 in 1931 and the relation of the 1941 Manitoba and Saskatchewan populations of 722,447 and 887,747 respectively to the 1941 Quebec population of 3,519,640.

Under the British North America Act is granted 65 members in the Commons and this representation is made the general basis for determining the number of seats the provinces shall have in the federal house.

The number of citizens in Quebec

(Continued on page 9, Col 3)

To give details On gasoline Rationing plan

OTTAWA, Jan. 28—(CP)—Munitions Minister Howe tonight was preparing a statement on Canada's gasoline rationing system, which is to go into effect next April 1, and the expectation was it will be made public sometime tomorrow.

In the meantime officials declined comment on reports the plan will limit a motorist's travel to 5,000 miles a year, on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Howe may make his statement giving details of the scheme when the House of Commons meets tomorrow afternoon but there was a possibility it may be given out earlier in the day.

Says Federal Gov't considers Prohibition

TORONTO, Jan. 28—(CP)—Premier Hepburn said today the federal government is "considering a measure of prohibition which may mean closing of beverage rooms" throughout Canada.

Mr. Hepburn said he had been informed by Hon. J. T. Thorson, War Services Minister, that representations had been made to the federal government urging closing liquor stores to be open only from 3 to 8 p.m. daily and the closing of wet canteens for the armed services.

"They are now considering a measure of prohibition which may mean closing of beverage rooms and a further drop in revenues if they continue to invade the liquor field," Mr. Hepburn said. "I have asked Finance Minister J. L. Halsey to state whether he is going to invade the liquor field, which will further affect our revenues in conjunction with agreements to be made with the Dominion."

MANY A BREEZY SALESMAN'S PROPOSITION IS JUST HOT AIR



TORONTO, Jan. 28—Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson 38-42, Victoria 38-42, Edmonton 15-24, Regina 21-29, Winnipeg 20-29, Toronto 23-25, Ottawa 25-28, Boston 25-28.

BOSTON, Jan. 28—(CP)—Forecasts for Maine: Colder Thursday, much colder near the coast.

Synopsis: The weather has been fair and considerably colder today in Ontario while it continues mild in the Prairie Provinces with light snow and drifting in southern districts of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

High tide this morning at 9:16 and tonight at 8:05. Sun sets this afternoon at 5:03 and rises tomorrow morning at 7:23.

Full moon Jan. 2, 10:42 a.m. Summerisle 1-d. 18 minutes later than Charlotteville. BORDEN - CAPE TORMENTINE SERVICE. Leave Borden 9:25 A.M. 1:00 P.M. Leave Cape Tormentine 1:00 A.M. 3:20 P.M.