

# MacArthur's Forces Smother Jap Infiltration Thrusts

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# BRITISH RETREAT TO SINGAPORE ISLAND; ABANDON BURMA PORT

## U. S. General Spurns Call To Surrender

### Deaf Ear Turned to Japanese Attempts To Make Forces Stop Fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—General Douglas MacArthur reported today his American-Filipino defenders of the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines had frustrated determined enemy attempts at infiltration through the lines in the past 24 hours.

The War Department said in a morning communique that some Japanese prisoners were taken.

FIGHTING SPORADIC

Fighting on the peninsula, where fresh enemy troops have been arriving, said apparent Japanese preparations for resumption of a large scale offensive, was said to be in progress.

The communique, No. 86 of the war, based on reports received up to 8:30 A. M. EST, said:

"There was sporadic fighting on

## Japs Open 5th Front In Battle For Indies

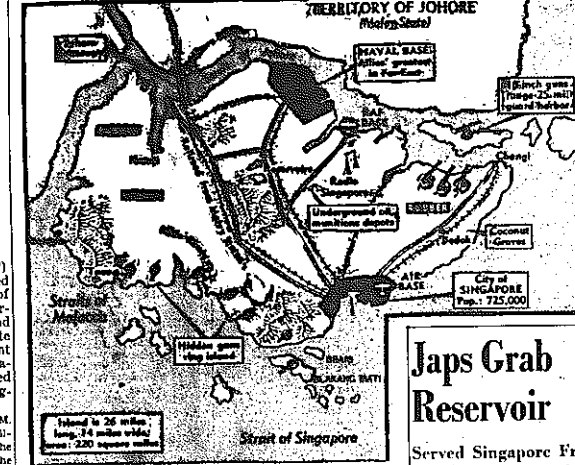
### Start Attack on Amboina Island

BATAVIA, N.E.I. (AP)—The Japanese have opened a fifth front in the battle of the East Indies with a surprise assault from the air and sea on Amboina Island, site of the second most important naval base in this Archipelago, and the Dutch declared today the fighting was "raging everywhere."

"There is nothing to report from other areas."

"Continuously ignoring a demand for surrender, the General held his American and Filipino troops alert for a great new Japanese offensive. He gave no indication of where he expected the full weight of the attack, but his

See WAR NEWS on Page 2



CROWN JEWEL OF THE EAST BESIEGED — British forces in Malaya were in Singapore today, prepared to fight to the last to save the city from hordes of attacking Japanese. The map shows a general layout of the city.

## Malaya Fight Ends, Battle For Base Is On

### Short Causeway From Johore to Island Breached by Defenders

SINGAPORE (AP)—The siege of Singapore began today with the withdrawal of weary British Imperial soldiers to the island under cover of darkness, and the British commander in Malaya called on every man and woman in Singapore to help defend "this fortress until help can come."

"Today we stand beleaguered in our island fortress," declared a statement by Lieut.-Gen. A. E. Percival, the British commander who rose from the ranks to command the army defending this stronghold.

The British Far East Command announced that the short causeway from the island to the mainland was breached, with the aid of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, after the withdrawal of the British, Australian and Indian soldiers had been effected last night.

The front yesterday had extended across the peninsula roughly eighteen to 40 miles above Johore Strait.

The half-mile causeway ran from Johore, Bahru, the first railway station on the peninsula after leaving the island, to the northern shore of the heavily fortified stronghold.

JAPS HANG BACK

The British said the Japanese made little effort to reinforce with the withdrawal to the island.

The statement by Lieut.-Gen. Percival declared the Battle of Malaya has come to its end—the Battle of Singapore has started.

"For nearly two months we

See SINGAPORE on Page 3

## Reds Hit Weakened Nazi Winter Lines

### Smash On in Donets Basin, in The North and in Center

MOSCOW (AP)—Red Army troops striking against newly ruptured German Winter lines in the Donets Basin after deep Soviet penetrations through the north and at the center claimed today recapture of 46 more villages and towns.

## Says Full Time Man Needed In Defense

### City Manager Urges Hiring Of Executive To Direct Work

Charlotte's defense effort has attained such proportions that a full-time co-ordinator with no other duties to interfere is imperative, City Manager K. W. Flack declared today.

## The War On All Fronts

By ROGER D. GREENE

Associated Press War Editor

Britain's weary Malay defenders withdrew onto Singapore Island today, destroyed the half-mile causeway to the mainland, and swore to battle Japan's siege armies "until help can come."

Thirteen back 350 miles in two months of bloody jungle fighting, the out-numbered Australian, British and Canadian imperial troops fled to the island fortress under cover of darkness. It was announced officially.

"The battle of Malaya has come to an end and the Battle of Singapore has started," Lieut.-Gen. A. E. Percival, British commander in Malaya, announced last night.

Japanese front-line dispatches said the Malayan army had been forced to a mainland water reservoir serving the island of Singapore.

where seemed little immediate danger however, that Singapore, like Hong Kong, would be forced to surrender. With dense, water-clogging jungles blanketing the northwest section of the island, Singapore has two big impounding reservoirs as well as hidden underground supplies.

## British Suffer Reverse In Burma

### Moulmein, Across Bay From Rangoon, Evacuated by Imperial Forces

By Associated Press

Britain suffered two grave reverses in the Far Pacific today as Imperial defenders of Malaya fell back into Singapore Island and far to the north British troops evacuated Moulmein, across the bay from Rangoon, Burma.

## No Change At Bengasi

### Indian Troops Rejoin Main British Forces

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—The British Middle East Command said today there was no change to report in the situation around Bengasi, but that two columns of the Seventh Indian Brigade, out of the Asia detachment, were rejoining the main British force.

## Admit Japs "Held Back"

### BERLIN (From German Broadcast)—Japs Disparaged

from Tokyo said today that the Japanese would force the British to surrender. The Japanese were unable to bring heavy artillery or mortars into the island in this direction, but were making headway in night attacks.

## Reinforcements?

The question of reinforcements for the beleaguered island colony was obscured by military secrecy, Prime Minister Churchill disclosed today in a House of Commons statement.

He said that fresh troops and supplies had already arrived in Malaya, with others en route, and that the British were holding a large Allied convoy "carrying troops, planes and a water airdrop" had been attacked by 60 Japanese planes when a violent rainstorm broke over the island.

No official explanation was forthcoming, but presumably after exhaustion of the half-fighting "Aussies," British Tommies and Indian troops prompted the decision to fall back to the island rather than be isolated in the eight-week

## Think All Withdrawn

### British Pulled Back To Singapore

LONDON (AP)—All Indian troops are that British Imperial forces who operate on the northern section of the now abandoned Malayan front have been withdrawn successfully to Singapore Island, a military commentator said today.

## On The Inside

Editorial ..... Page 4  
Radio ..... Page 4  
Building ..... Page 8  
Churches ..... Page 10  
Theaters ..... Page 12-13  
Sports ..... Page 14-15  
Social ..... Page 16-17  
Classified ..... Page 18-19  
Financial ..... Page 20

## Survivors Of Torpedoed Tanker Call Nazi Crewmen "Bum Shots"

NORFOLK, Va.—A story of "bum shooting" on the part of unusually polite-German U-boat crewmen was told by the 30 survivors of the tanker Rochester when they were landed today at the naval operating base here. The tanker was sunk in broad daylight off the Virginia coast yesterday.

## Numerous Factors Will Decide Do-Or-Die Singapore Struggle

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The hour of test of one of the mightiest strongholds in the world of the Rising Sun was with the start of the Battle of Singapore, marshy little island covered island at the southern tip of Malaya where some 40,000,000 has come to create a southern island Gibraltar.

Manila's Japanese garrison was massed at its beachheads in a grim defense force of undisciplined soldiers, British Infantry, Scottish Highlanders, Australian, Sikhs, Gurkhas, Malayan militia and Modern rifle men, outnumbered in the eight-week

## Weather

Showers this afternoon and colder tonight

Today's Temp.: 71-85; Sunset Tomorrow: 6:15; Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:45; Additional 12-14 showers; data will be found on page 5-B.

Dispatches from Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and other sources are being received. News with the London and they frequently contain the latest news. Please pay attention to the news which is being received from the London and they frequently contain the latest news.

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