

U-BOAT RAIL IN JAP WATERS

JAPS GIRL FOR PHILIPPINE ASSAULT

Leningrad, Sevastopol Sieges Said To Be Over

Say Tables Have Been Turned

LONDON — (AP) — The six-month siege of Leningrad and the two-month encirclement at Sevastopol were declared virtually broken today with garrisons of the two ports taking up the offensive, and the German siege troops themselves beset from both sides.

Russian reports indicated that the hemmed-in garrisons and attacking forces driving to their relief would effect a juncture soon—or might already have done so.

AIR FORCE HELPS

Military dispatches said that the army's determined efforts to shatter the Nazi siege lines were being aided by hard-hitting units of the Red Air Force and by increased guerrilla operations wiping out German units and dismantling supply trains.

German troops which tried for weeks to smash through Crimean mountains near Sevastopol were described as retreating to the north before a storm offensive launched by the Soviet air force and supported by the Red Army.

Henry C. Cassidy, Associated Press correspondent, said that the Soviet army's offensive was made possible when the Germans were forced to divert siege forces in an attempt to stem the drive of other Russian troops landed on the Crimea near Kerch.

Driving inland, these Red Army troops threatened the German line of communications and supply.

A British broadcast, heard by CBS, said 100,000 German and Russian troops in the Crimea were in a choice of death or surrender unless they were able to withdraw before the Russians completely cut their lines back to the narrow neck connecting the peninsula to the mainland.

Cassidy's dispatch said the Sevastopol garrison had won back many of the German positions in hills around the city from which seven divisions had tried time and again to fight their way into the big port and naval base.

Information reaching London from the northern Russian front indicated that the Nazis, since being driven back from Tikhvin, had lost almost all of their armor in four months and now were attempting to reorganize in defensive positions taken as long ago as last August.

Ground-attack attacks by Russian planes operating despite the fact that the most pressing war problem facing the country—reorganization of the bombing and head-on attacks—was being made.

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Minor Skirmishes Only Operations Taking Place Now

Air Activity of Enemy Limited To Reconnaissance

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The War Department said today combat operations have dwindled to minor skirmishes in the Philippine battle front, with the Japanese continuing to move troops up in apparent preparation for a heavy attack.

The department's morning communique, based on reports received here up to 9:30 A. M. Eastern Standard Time, said that air activity by the Japanese yesterday was limited to reconnaissance.

The text of the communique:

"In the Philippines theater: Continued operations have developed to secondary skirmishes in various sections of the front. The enemy continues to move troops into the forward area, apparently in preparation for a renewed attack in force. Hostile air activity yesterday was limited to reconnaissance flights.

"There is nothing to report from other areas."

The outlook continued dark for the United States and British forces battling to hold the Philippines and the Malay Peninsula.

FOUR MEN IN

In the Philippines the Japanese, pouring in a steady stream of reinforcements to multiply their numerical superiority, massed for an all-out attack against the remnants of General Douglas MacArthur's weary army north of Manila.

On the Malay Peninsula the new JAPS (J) on page 4.

Tank-Paced Jap Troops Strike for Singapore

All-Day Battle Is Fought

By C. YATES McDANIEL

SINGAPORE — (AP) — Waves of Japanese infantry and tanks attacking on the main Singapore road less than 300 miles north of the British stronghold fought a severe all-day battle with British and imperial troops in the Slim River area yesterday, the British Eastern Command announced today.

Casualties on both sides were reported heavy.

The decision was not given in the communique but earlier reports said the British were "holding fast" on newly-formed lines on the Slim River, 60 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, crude rubber capital of the world and Japan's immediate objective.

RAID CASUALTIES

Simultaneously, the British announced they had repulsed a surprise night raid on Singapore island and said British planes scored several hits on two enemy vessels in Malayan waters and the China Sea, and also narrowly missed a smaller vessel.

In the Slim River action, the communique said "our troops were heavily engaged with the enemy all day yesterday."

"A preliminary infantry assault, the enemy attacked down the main road with tanks followed by infantry in trucks."

Reports to date indicate that the fighting was "severe and casualties on both sides were heavy."

Kuala Lumpur is 240 miles north of Singapore.

The British had nothing to report from the eastern Malay coast, where the Japanese have been obscure for several days since the British announced they were withdrawing from Kuala Lumpur, 100 miles north of Singapore.

Apparently seeking to soften the new JAPS (J) on page 4.



DEATH PLUNGE OF A JAP BOMBER—Hit by U. S. Navy anti-aircraft fire, this Japanese bomber plunges in flames toward Pearl Harbor. Official Navy photograph from NEA.

War Carried To Doorstep Of The Enemy

Nippon Gets Foretaste of Possible Blockade of Empire

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan got a preview taste today of the thing she dreads most—a possible blockade of her densely-populated island empire—as Imperial Headquarters acknowledged an Allied submarine raid within 100 miles of Tokyo in which the 2,325-ton freighter Unkai Maru No. 1 was torpedoed and damaged.

The nationality of the attacking craft was not given. Previously, a U. S. Navy bulletin reported that submarines of the American Asiatic Fleet had sunk a 10,000-ton Japanese transport and three 10,000-ton Japanese supply ships.

The Navy communique was the first report in many days from the sizeable undersea force operating in Far East waters at the start of the war, a month ago, but naval officials emphasized that the dangerous missions of the submarines made prompt reports foolhardy while operations are proceeding.

Imperial Tokyo Headquarters said the attack in Japanese waters occurred early yesterday morning off the Izu Schichido Islands, 100 miles south of Tokyo and Yokohama.

BOAST OF U. S. CONQUEST

Official acknowledgment that the war has been brought to Japan's own doorstep came as the victory news was being broadcast here, and the possibility of outright conquest of the United States.

"The contention that the United States cannot be invaded is as much a myth as that the Magellan Line could not be taken, or that Singapore and Pearl Harbor are impregnable," said the government-controlled Japan Times and Advertiser.

Exulting over the Pearl Harbor "sneak punch," the capture of Manila and steady approach Singapore, the newspaper giddily envisioned the possibility that the armed forces of this country will land on the American continent.

The newspaper said the British invaded the United States in 1812 because "the American Navy was not strong enough," and declared "it is inevitable again."

"Once Japanese effected a landing in this country, the paper said, the United States would be swept westward before it."

THREAT TO HAWAII

It was not before the Tokyo threat was published here, that Gen. Delos C. Emmons, new U. S. Army commander in Hawaii, told newspapermen yesterday that a new attack on Hawaii "may happen any time."

"But we will not be surprised again," he added, "and we will hold the islands."

Army officers said Pearl's ship, in which he was a lone occupant, stated shortly after a take-off and landed on the ground. His body will be shipped today to North Carolina.

Axis Move To Aid Libyan Army Fails

RAF Blasts Attempt by Sea To Give Supplies to African Corps

CAIRO, Egypt — (AP) — With its land supply routes under almost incessant assault from the air, the Axis has attempted by sea to give supplies to the Libyan army, but the coastwise ships drew a storm of direct hits from the RAF.

"Our air forces operating in support of our mobile columns over a wide area, had a particularly successful day, destroying a number of enemy aircraft in aerial combat," said a General Headquarters communique.

ATTACK LINES

"Enemy lines of communication west of El Agheila also were repeatedly attacked. A number of direct hits were obtained on transport vehicles and also on coastal shipping which was being used to bring supplies forward from Tripoli to beachheads at various points on the Gulf of Sirte."

The supply effort of the Axis indicated that the Axis, falling back onto El Agheila, at the innermost curve of the Gulf of Sirte, might try to make a stand there if supplies could be assured.

His main force was moving from the Agheila area toward El Agheila, 70 miles to the southwest, ahead of a stubbornly resisting Egyptian force which was attempting to supplement the harassment of mud in hampering the progress of the British offensive.

ROYAL NAVY IN ACTION

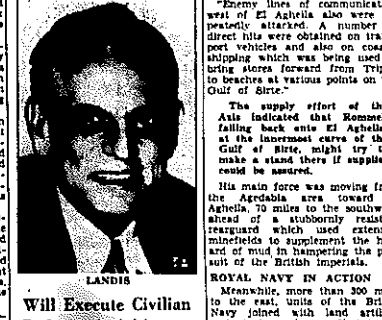
Meanwhile, more than 300 miles to the east, units of the British Navy joined with land artillery and air forces in an effort to destroy Axis hold-out forces in the Italian (Hafid) pass area, along the Egyptian border of Libya.

Without specifying the type of naval units, the communique merely said:

"In the Italian area, units of the Royal Navy in close co-operation with our artillery and air forces carried out a continuous heavy bombardment of enemy defenses throughout the day (yesterday)."

At the other side of Cirene, Eastern Libya, the warship-shielded new JAPS (J) on page 4.

Landis Gets Defense Job



Will Execute Civilian Defense Activities

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Dean James M. Landis of Harvard Law School was assigned the task today of executing civilian defense activities, OGD Director Florence La Guardia told the press in announcing Landis' appointment throughout the country.

Presidential Secretary Stephen Early announced Landis' appointment, saying the educator would have the title of "executive," that Landis and La Guardia, new JAPS (J) on page 4.

Volunteer Airmen Get 7 Jap Planes

Americans Guarding Burma Road Bomb Enemy Airport in Thailand

BANGKOK, Burma — (AP) — A small squadron of the American Volunteer Group roared across the jungle wastelands of Thailand yesterday and bombed Meshod-Airdrome, near Bangkok, destroying at least seven grounded Japanese bombers and probably wrecked an eighth.

This was the latest reported stroke of American flying force under the command of a "city" lieutenant, Colonel Claire L. Chennault, who at 31 left a life of retirement to defend the Burma Road even before Japan launched her great December offensive in the Pacific and Far East.

The assault appeared to have cost the American Volunteer Group one plane, for it was missing somewhere between the AVG's operating base and the bomb-bombed airport of Meshod.

A combined communique of the British Army and Air Command said:

"AVG aircraft raided Meshod on Thursday. They destroyed seven enemy light bombers on the ground and probably eight. One AVG aircraft was lost."

See ATTACK MADE ON PAGE 4.

U.S. Not To Grab Cars

Commandeering Fears Mistaken

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Price Administrator Leon Henderson issued a formal statement today assuring the nation the Government has no plans to commandeering private automobiles and explaining that fears of commandeering undoubtedly arose from his own answers to questions at a press conference Jan. 2.

At that time Henderson said commandeering of automobiles was "one of the gloomy possibilities" that a prolonged war might bring about.

Henderson said today the Government "presently is well supplied with automobiles and does not have any occasion for citizens to offer their cars for public use."

A program to expand the agricultural output of the islands in progress, and equipment is on hand to convert sugar—principal product of the islands—into motor fuel for the territory's war effort.

"For the time being it is imperative in the coastal waters of Japan and the Philippines and British Borneo."

See U. S. WILL ON PAGE 4.

Tokyo Talk Just Wind

US Not Worried About Invasion Possibility

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Talk in Tokyo about the possibility of Japanese invasion of the United States stirred not a ripple of apprehension in American circles today.

Japan, it was noted, has been engaged in a military game, but the United States is not concerned about the entire Southwest Pacific before a coalition of powers invades the United States. The United States is not concerned about the possibility of invasion of the United States. The United States is not concerned about the possibility of invasion of the United States.

Japs Forming Ship Company

TOYKO — Official broadcast reported by AP: The Southern Region Steamship Co. is being formed by a group of Japanese shipping companies with the object of facilitating marine transportation in waters surrounding the occupied areas and also coping with war developments in East Asia.

Don't announce today that the time being it is imperative in the coastal waters of Japan and the Philippines and British Borneo."

See U. S. WILL ON PAGE 4.

N. C. Aviator Dies in Crash

PENSACOLA, Fla. — (AP) — Second Lieutenant Charles G. Bell Jr., 28, died at Fort Benning Hospital yesterday from injuries received when his Army plane crashed at Edin Field Wednesday.

Army officers said Bell's ship, in which he was a lone occupant, stated shortly after a take-off and landed on the ground. His body will be shipped today to North Carolina.

Hawaii Ready For Any New Jap Attack, Gen. Emmons Declares

HONOLULU — (AP) — Hawaii, vital American outpost in the troubled Pacific, may be on the way to near self-sufficiency.

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"For the time being it is imperative in the coastal waters of Japan and the Philippines and British Borneo."

See U. S. WILL ON PAGE 4.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By Dr. W. Pearson & Robert S. Allen

WASHINGTON — Behind the scenes, the big question churning official Washington is when and what the President intends to do about the most pressing war problem facing the country—reorganization of the bombing and head-on attacks—was being made.

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