

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Navy Bares Battle Toll:

ALLIES LOS WEVE SHIPS, JAPS GHT IN NAVAL BATTLE OFF JAVA

Speed Limit of 40 Miles Urged By F.R.

Governors' Co-Operation Asked in Movement to Conserve Rubber

WASHINGTON, (AP) — President Roosevelt has asked state governors asking their co-operation to conserve rubber by limiting the maximum speed of all motor vehicles to 40 miles an hour and requiring frequent check of tires for possible repair or retreading.

Soviet Forces Roll Toward Smolensk

Law of Steel Trap Around German Armies Being Closed

By Associated Press. Russian troops were reported to have narrowed the jaws of Adolf Hitler's armies on the Moscow front to 20 miles today as the Soviet counter-offensive rolled toward Smolensk and crushed desperate German attempts to strike back.

Ships Begin Bank Move

London.—(AP)—Japanese forces in the British defenses of the Vyzma-Smolensk highway about 35 miles west of Vyzma. Russian troops had not been reported to have crossed the line, detouring down from Bely in the north and up from Dorogobuzh in the south.

Italy Disperses Axis Troops in Libyan Area

Rome.—(AP)—Artillery units in the Italian sector were reported to have dispersed Axis troops in the Libyan Middle East theater.

Report Details Of Jap-German Campaign Of World Domination

London.—(AP)—A responsible foreign diplomatic source today has disclosed information that Hitler's proposal to Tokyo, this source said, apparently involved three moves: 1. A Japanese attack on the African east coast.

Invasion Moves On Australia Continued

Navy Planes Attack Port

MELBOURNE, Australia.—(AP)—The Air Ministry announced today that Australian bombers had raided a Japanese airfield at Rabaul, New Britain, and heavily damaged grounded enemy planes.

Warns Americas May Face Attack

Curtin Says Our West Coast Would Be "Wide Open" if Australia Falls

CANBERRA, Australia.—(AP)—A grave warning that the Americas would be "wide open" if Japan reneged on Australia and a plea for the closest co-operation with Australia were broadcast directly to the people of the United States today by Prime Minister John Curtin, leader of his country's fight for life against Japan.

Ship Attack Reported

Rumor Arises About Queen Mary

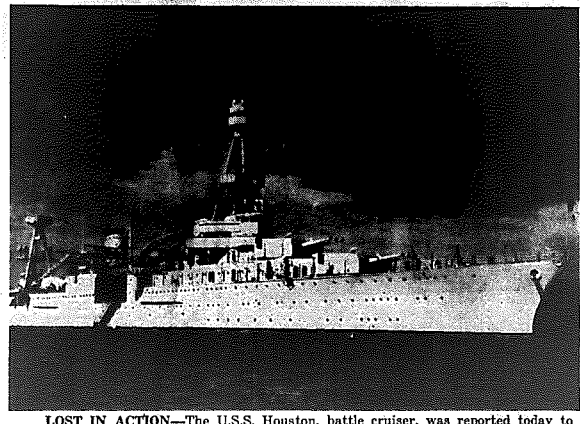
ROME (from Italian broadcast)—The Italian radio quoted "Argentine maritime circles" today as saying the great British liner Queen Mary had been torpedoed and badly damaged several days ago shortly after leaving Rio de Janeiro with 10,000 "North American" soldiers aboard.

FIA Requests Take Big Rise

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Federal Housing Administration reported today that it had received 22,947 applications for FIA mortgage, including 1,000 new homes involving \$125,293,395 in February.

Seven More Frenchmen Meet Death in Paris

VICHY.—(AP)—Seven more Frenchmen have been executed by German firing squads in Paris, it was disclosed by a French newspaper today. Announcement of the executions was made by the German commandant of Greater Paris, who said the seven had been condemned for acts of violence against members of the Nazi Army of Occupation.



LOST IN ACTION—The U.S.S. Houston, battle cruiser, was reported today to have been sunk in a naval battle off the coast of Java.

Claim Eight Nazi Planes Dogfights Follow

Raid on Cologne

London.—(AP)—British fighter planes shot down eight German Messerschmitts in repeated dogfights over the English Channel today in a mid-morning followup of overnight raids in which the Rhine industrial city of Cologne was hit hard by British bombers, an official announcement said.

Ex-Gov. Graves Of Alabama Dies

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—David Bibb Graves, 68, twice Governor of Alabama and a candidate for a third term, died unexpectedly at Sarasota, Fla., early today.

Government Buildings Blackout in Capital

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Washington government buildings were blacked out today for 30 minutes during the test.

Missions Evacuated From Australian Islands

MELBOURNE, Australia.—(AP)—Missions in Northern Australia, including those on Melville Island and Loyalty Islands in Darwin Bay, have been evacuated against possible Japanese landings, church officials said today.

Two More Ships Sunk And War Risk Insurance Rates Raised

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Two, possibly three, more merchant ships have been torpedoed, and war risk insurance rates for Atlantic coastal cargoes have risen 47 cents today, continued submarine menace in these waters.

Japs in China Battle

NEW YORK.—(AP)—The All-India Radio, heard by CBS, said a Chinese communiqué reported today that Japanese forces had suffered considerable losses in fierce fighting near Sinyang, in southern Honan province, on a rail line 100 miles from Hankow.

War Risk Rates on Shipments Between West Indies and East Coast of Mexico, Central America and the United States Were Raised From \$2.50 Per 100 to \$3.50 on other vessels.

The comparable increases in rates on shipments between the Gulf and West Indies and north coast South American ports and on other routes involving Atlantic Coast courses. The rate on tanker cargoes in the Pacific was moved up from 80 cents to \$1 per 100.

U. S. Cruiser And Destroyer Clash Victims

Houston and Pope Lost—British And Dutch Hard Hit

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The American cruiser Houston, the American destroyer Pope and ten other warships of the United Nations were lost in the Battle of Java, the Navy disclosed today, adding that thirteen Allied ships were reported beached and presumed lost.

LOSSES LISTED

The Allied losses made public in a joint British Admiralty and U. S. Navy Department communiqué which listed the Allied losses as:

Cruisers—The Houston, United States; Exeter, British; Perth, Australia; Java, Dutch; Deruyter, Dutch.

Destroyers—Pope, United States; Kortenaar, Dutch; Electra, British; Jupiter, British; Encounter, British; Stronghold, British.

Others were the Yorda, Australian sloop; and the Evertsen, Dutch destroyer, which was listed as beached and presumed lost.

The Japanese losses, according to the early reports obtained by the Navy, were one cruiser hit and burning, a cruiser sunk, a cruiser damaged, a destroyer sunk, a cruiser of the Mogami class on fire and possibly sinking, and three destroyers on fire and sinking.

WEATHER

Continued Mild tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 76; L. 59. Sunset Today: 7:30. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:04. Additional U. S. Weather service data will be found on page 4-B.