

ea-Borne Jap Attack On Port Moresby Awaited

Not War—Only Defeat—Destroys the Freedom Of Men And The Privileges Of Democracy

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ESTABLISHED 1888

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1942

24 Pages—Price Five Cents

ast-Minute India Accord Hope Arises

Counter-Proposals Expected To Be
Offered by Congress Party

By H. R. STIMSON

NEW DELHI, India. — (AP) — Both Sir Stafford Cripps, special British envoy to India, and the All-India Congress Party indicated today a willingness to negotiate a compromise solution of the Indian independence problem.

The executive committee of the India's most powerful political organization, was expected tonight to draft a rejection of a British offer of post-independence status in return for participation now under guidance.

It was understood that the Cripps offer also was drafting counter-proposals to be submitted to the British War Cabinet as soon as possible.

LEFT ASAR — Cripps' departure for the Congress Party in the night of the evident state over Britain's take-it-or-leave-it offer, Cripps seemed to have left the door ajar for negotiation on counter-proposals.

Before he did this and before it became known that the Congress Party Committee was drafting a counter-plan, virtually all hope for the success of the Cripps mission had vanished.

The All-India radio said that Cripps received the Congress Party's reply to his proposal this afternoon when he was visited by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, party president.

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azi Navy Blasts Norwegian Ships

At Least Two Craft Trying To
Escape Are Sent Down

STOCKHOLM. — (AP) — German warships blocking the Baltic Sea were declared today to have sunk at least two and possibly four of eleven British-chaired merchant ships which risked a dash to the coast of Norway, Sweden, and although several were reported turned back the possibility was held that some might get by at large and racing toward the coast.

The HBC, quoting a message from Sydney, reported that United States and Australian planes have "destroyed or crippled 36 Japanese planes with a loss of twelve of their own."

On March 18, the HBC said that the crews of five of the Allied aircraft were saved. The Australian radio broadcast a report from Darwin that the red cross in the insignia of U. S. aircraft had been changed to white to avoid any possible confusion with the solid red emblem of the Japanese.

The reorganization of the Australian Army, rapidly being completed, was reported by the Australian government.

LONDON. — (AP) — The British Air Force bombed industrial objectives and communications in west and northwest Germany and the environs of Paris last night in five separate raids, according to the Air Ministry.

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Movements Of Enemy's Ships Cause Speculation

Balked by Allied
Air Strength

MELBOURNE, Australia.

(AP) — The Japanese, halted in their attempted overland drive in New Guinea by torrential rains and robbing temporarily of air superiority by the rising Allied strength, soon may launch a sea-borne attack on Port Moresby, it was predicted today.

The likelihood of such a move against the key position on New Guinea's south coast, which lies within 200 miles of the Australian continent, is "suggested by recent movements of enemy ships, which are constantly being attacked at Lae and Salamaua by the Allied air forces," said the Sydney Sun.

DISLOCATE JAP PLANS

At the same time, newspaper reports that the Japanese are obtaining "aerial reinforcements which must be described as 'concentrated.'" Because of this, the Sun declared, "the air supremacy we have gained may not be permanent and at most will dilute the Japanese plans only temporarily."

The Japanese kept up their air attacks, giving Darwin its eleventh raid of the war this afternoon.

ONLY ACTION

A brief communiqué on this, the only action reported from the Anzac war zone during the day, said the raid was carried out by seven bombers, escorted by fighters, but that there was no damage or casualties.

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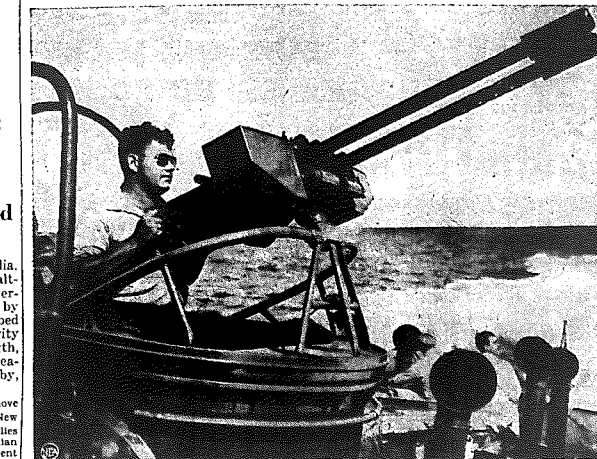
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MAN'S JOB—It takes a good man to handle .50-caliber machine guns on a mosquito boat and Charley Kiefer looks as if he can do the job. He's pictured on maneuvers off the Panama Canal Zone. His assignment is to keep enemy planes from strafing the small but potent boat.

Sharp Skirmishes Occur On Bataan

Jap Artillery and Dive Bombers
Assault U. S. Forces

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — The War Department reported today sharp skirmishes on the Philippines' Bataan Peninsula in the wake of the latest large scale Japanese attack on the American Filipino defenders there.

Enemy artillery and dive bombers shelled and bombed the defenders' positions but no general action followed yesterday's battle, a communiqué said.

Meanwhile intermittent air attacks continued around the clock on the Manila Bay harbor defenses, but the War Department said the Japanese bombers were forced to fly at such altitudes their bombing was ineffective. At the same time the big guns of Fort Mills on Corregidor Island engaged in a duel with Japanese batteries on the south shore of the bay.

The communiqué said neither bombing nor shelling inflicted damage on the forts.

American - Filipino Commando troops have raided two Japanese bases on the island of Mindanao, and military observers predicted that the invaders would be attacked frequently by the thousands of native fighters hidden in track and every forest of the island.

One raid was on the hamlet of Digos, 23 miles south of the main Japanese base at Davao. A small force of U. S. troops burned twelve warehouses of food, gasoline and ammunition, destroyed military equipment, and escaped to the forest of Cotabato, some ten miles to the west, without losing a man.

The supplies were believed to be part of the stores the Japanese are accumulating for the drive against New Guinea and the Philippines.

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Troops Landed At West Burma Port Of Akyab

British Lines Protecting Central
Burma Oil Fields Threatened

LONDON. — (AP) — A Chinese spokesman in Chungking said today that Japanese troops, covered by a force of cruisers and destroyers, had landed at the chief west Burma port of Akyab, bringing the war within 100 miles of the Indian frontier and posing a new flanking threat to the main British lines guarding the central Burma oil fields.

There was no official confirmation of the statement in London. But British observers did not minimize the threat, and predicted that any Japanese flanking attack from such a base soon would make the present British positions, based on the town of Promé 180 miles southeast of Akyab, untenable.

At the same time the Nazi-controlled Paris radio broadcast reports that powerful enemy forces sent up the Sittang River to land at Yedahle, some eighteen miles north of Tounsgoo, were threatening anew the Chinese lines centered on Nangung, only twelve miles above Tounsgoo, along the Mandalay-Bangon rail line.

PRESS AIR ADVANTAGE

Communications by both the British and Chinese headquarters told of a raid on north Burma yesterday as the Japanese continued to press the advantage of their air superiority.

The British said the raid was directed at an airfield. Chinese headquarters said the Japanese hurled 27 bombers and fifteen fighters at a north Burma airfield, but that they were repulsed by anti-aircraft fire.

Some casualties were reported but the Chinese said damage was negligible.

At the same time the western coastal Akyab, separated from the Irrawaddy River basin by the Arakan Yoma mountain range, but 50 miles from the coast, was the target of a raid by the Japanese. The raid was directed at a trail leading from Akyab across the mountains to the town of Promé, 180 miles north of the town.

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Gibraltar Raid Made

Italian Aircraft in
Attack on "Rock"

ROME. — (From Italian Broadcasts) — (AP) — The Italian High Command reported today that a light Italian patrol vessel had been lost in torpedo attack by a submarine.

"A great part of the crew was saved," the High Command announced, identifying the "Rock" as the Italian patrol vessel.

German fighters shot down two British planes in the continued day and night attacks upon Malta, the High Command's communiqué declared.

Gibraltar was raided by Italian aircraft, it said.

A dispatch from Gibraltar said high-flying enemy planes had dropped bombs on the British fortress rock during bright moonlight before dawn yesterday, but were driven off by anti-aircraft guns. An official announcement said there were neither casualties nor damage.

The High Command had said two British planes had been destroyed in Libyan operations and "on the coast" of the Mediterranean.

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Bomb Paris Outskirts

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Leningrad Men Strike

Successful Operations
Effectuated by Defenders

MOSCOW. — (AP) — The Soviet Government said today Leningrad front troops had effected a number of successful operations in the last two days, annihilating about 3,000 German officers and soldiers.

Twenty-four German planes were reported to have been destroyed Tuesday, against a loss of thirteen Russian planes.

Recent differences among Axis junior partners in the Balkans were apparently submerged again in the interest of Adolf Hitler's Spring military operations.

Although traditionally a friend of Russia, Bulgaria was reported by German sources to be joining her Army of hundreds of officers with Soviet sympathies through transfers and arrests.

Axis accounts say King Boris has pledged some 200,000 Bulgarian troops for the Western front.

Foreign Minister Mihail Antonescu of neighboring Rumania declared his nation intends to carry on the war against Russia to the end because "we are fighting for a new state and a new human being." Antonescu described the statement as an answer to foreign reports that Rumania wished to withdraw her soldiers.

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Ship Sinks Off Coast Amid Hail Of Shells

Gloucester, N. J. — (AP) — Battered and set afire by torpedoes from an enemy submarine, a medium-sized Norwegian motor tanker sank today in a hail of shells off the Atlantic Coast.

The ship, the *Gloucester*, was seen on the morning of March 27, the Fourth Naval District announced today.

Eight of the crew of 27, including most of the ship's officers, are missing and believed dead. The survivors were picked up by a Portuguese freighter after spending about seven and one-half hours in the lifeboats and were brought here March 31.

The 58-year-old chief engineer of the tanker said the attack came without warning about 2:30 A. M. The ship was struck by two and perhaps three torpedoes, he said, and immediately began to sink.

The first torpedo struck just forward of the bridge on the port side, setting the bridge afire. The submarine then struck just behind the amidships section, the chief engineer said.

The crew abandoned the ship within a few minutes after the second hit. The submarine then rose to the surface and shelled the burning hulk until it sank five hours later.