

# WAR NEWS AS SITE FOR BIG AIRCRAFT PLANT

## Soviets Crack Inner Lines Of Kharkov

Hitler Reported Trying To Get Japan To Attack Siberia

LONDON.—(AP)—Sweeping across the Donets River on a 50-mile front, Marshal Semeon Timoshenko's mechanized Red Army was reported tonight to have crashed through the inner defenses of Kharkov in at least two places, driving the Germans before them.

Diplomatic sources in London said they had heard that Adolf Hitler was so taken aback by the unexpected power of the Soviet attack that he had instructed his ambassador to Tokyo to increase pressure on Japan for an attack on Russia.

The argument to Japan was said to have been that the European front had so much on the European front that she could offer little resistance to an attack against Siberia.

German Soldiers Forced Into Retreat

MOSCOW.—(AP)—The Red Army drove ahead against Kharkov that she could offer little resistance to an attack against Siberia.

## Britain's Burma Forces Safe Now

Remnants of Army Reported To Have Crossed Into Eastern India

NEW DELHI, India.—(AP)—British forces retreating up the Chindwin River valley of Burma toward the Indian frontier have extricated themselves from their dangerous situation, it was said officially today.

## Harbin Pact Is Reported

TOKYO.—(From Japanese Broadcasts)—(A) Ratification of an agreement between Manchukuo and Outer Mongolia to end the border dispute which flared into open warfare in the Summer of 1935, has been announced in a communiqué issued simultaneously today in Hsinking and Ulan Bator, capitals of the two countries, and published by Domei.

The agreement was signed by a mixed border commission at Harbin last Oct. 15.

Although the dispute ostensibly was between Manchukuo, Japan's puppet, and Outer Mongolia, under the protection of Soviet Russia, the latest news in the communiqué belatedly revealed that between forces of the two protecting powers, a battle around Nomonhan, on the Manchukuo-Mongolia border, lasted several weeks and Japan admitted suffering 18,000 casualties.

The Japanese, apparently to foster the impression that her intentions toward Russia are peaceful, have given wide publicity to the agreement.

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## Rationing Starts

### Many Motorists Rush To Turn In High Allotment Gas Cards

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rationing of gasoline on the East seaboard became effective at 12:01 A. M. (EWT) today amid a flurry of predictions and suggestions regarding its far-reaching ramifications.

Chief feature of the third annual day of ration-card registration yesterday was a wild rush by motorists to exchange previously-obtained unlimited or high allotment tickets for those calling for smaller allowances.

Recognition of honest mistakes by patriotic drivers who had over-estimated their needs was advanced by rationing boards as the main reason for voluntary surrendering of many liberal cards, but a possible factor was realization by some that a stiff jail sentence or a \$10,000 fine might be the penalty for misrepresenting their gasoline requirements.

Conversion of home heating plants from oil to coal wherever possible and Federal subsidizing of gasoline transportation on railroads were urged at New York today as ways to ease the shortage in petroleum products.

In a letter to company employees, President W. S. Parish of the Standard Oil Co. (N. J.) asked them to "set an example of unselfish compliance with the regulations" and added:

"Wherever possible the employee should convert his heating plant from oil to coal, remembering that every barrel of oil burned for heat means practically a barrel less of gasoline for essential car use."

## Nazis Claim U. S. Cruiser & Destroyer Sent Down

Air Force Hits In Arctic Sector

BERLIN (From German Broadcasts).—(AP)—The German High Command announced today that its air force, flung into battle on the Arctic supply line to Russia, had destroyed a United States cruiser and destroyer as well as a 3,000-ton ice-breaker and a 2,000-ton merchant vessel.

The special communiqué also said that a 10,000-ton freighter was set afire from stem to stern in a connected action while at a Southern English port bombers destroyed four British merchant ships totaling 7,500 tons.

The communiqué said the cruiser was of the 9,100-ton Pensacola class (which normally carries 650 men) and identified the naval formation as an American squadron operating between the north coast of Norway and the Arctic circle of Spitzbergen.

The details of the action—apart from the German claims, which might have been drawn to gain information on disposition of United States Naval power—was the first indication that American fleet units were operating so deeply on the supply route to Murmansk and Archangel.

NO DETAILS

The communiqué gave no details. DSB, the news agency, however, said that the cruiser was bombed on Thursday, took fire and sank at midnight last night. One of several accompanying destroyers was hit and sunk, the agency reported.

DSB said that the icebreaker and the 2,000-ton merchant vessel were bombed in a fjord near Spitzbergen, where the High Command gave no locale.

This might be taken to suggest some move pivoting on the large Norwegian Island, 600 miles off northernmost Norway, which Canadian, British and Norwegian shock troops raided last September.

## Sub Brought Gold From Philippines

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—A submarine which carried ammunition to the embattled fortress of Corregidor was revealed officially today as the vessel which brought out a vast amount of gold silver and securities from the Philippine Islands last February.

The story was told today by the Navy, but the value of the wealth thus saved from the Japanese invaders was not disclosed in the official release. The Navy saying merely that it represented a large part of the negotiable wealth of the islands.

This property being in both the hands of the United States and the banks, mines and residents of the islands.

## Sub Brought Gold From Philippines

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The work of demolishing French warships is going forward at Martinique, Secretary of State Hull said today, and agreement thus has been reached on the vital phase of military questions under discussion at the Caribbean Island.

The status and future usefulness of French merchant shipping now idle in the island harbors of the French possession, he indicated in a brief, but not an economic question than a military one.

This and other questions relating to the economic life of French possessions, he told his press conference, is continuing under discussion and may take some time to conclude.

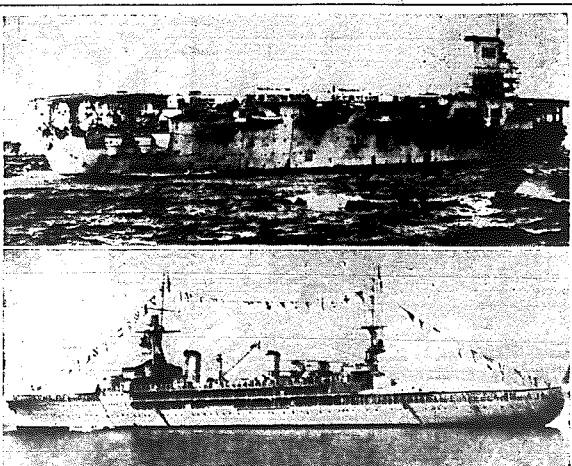
Other questions of a military nature, Hull added, also are under discussion. He did not mention specifically in this connection the question of bases, the leasing of which to the United States was understood here to be involved.

Asked to explain how the French warships were being demolished—whether they simply were rendered incapable of putting out to sea or whether they also were dismantled—Hull said the technical questions of demobilization or immobilization were something which could be better explained by a Navy spokesman. He said he preferred not to go into the technical aspects of the job himself.

## Japs Claim Staggering Defeat Handed Chinese

TOKYO (From Japanese broadcasts).—(AP)—Japanese forces have inflicted a staggering defeat on the main body of the 22nd Chinese Division in a great battle seventeen miles northwest of Kulsienchen in central Hupei Province, Dorn reported today.

Other Japanese units were said to have wiped out approximately 300 Chinese troops southeast of Anping on the same front.



FRENCH WARSHIPS AT MARTINIQUE IMMOBILIZED — Aircraft carrier Bearn (above) and Cruiser Jeanne d'Arc (below) are included in the group of French warships which are being immobilized under an agreement between naval officials of the United States and Martinique. The U. S. has been dealing directly with Admiral Georges Robert, French high commissioner on Martinique, on these and other highly important matters.

## More Jap Planes In Anzac Area

25 Planes Take Part in One of Two Raids on Port Moresby

By VERN HAUGLAND

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Australia.—(AP)—A notable increase in Japanese land-based strength on New Guinea and New Britain was indicated today with disclosure that 25 planes participated in one of two raids on Port Moresby yesterday and that Allied attacks on the Japanese bases were meeting considerably stronger opposition.

## Working on French Ships

Immobilizing Job at Martinique Pressed

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## First Sailors Back In Australia From Great Coral Sea Battle

SYDNEY, Australia.—(AP)—Three sailors at a hotel bar drank slowly, thinking of things far away.

Suddenly, glass tinkled. The men had broken their drinking glasses in union.

"What did you do that for?" he suddenly asked the hotel keeper.

"You'd better go away. We're taking comrades who didn't come back."

That terse reply ended the incident—and disclosed that the first men who fought the battle of the Coral Sea were



MRS. HOBBS

## Woman Army Head Named

Mrs. William Hobbs Of Houston Appointed

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Mrs. William F. Hobbs Houston, Texas, today was appointed director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to-day by Secretary of War Stimson as President Roosevelt directed that the new organization be limited to 25,000 members now.

The President signed the legislation passed this week by Congress, authorizing a corps of up to 150,000 women volunteers for non-combatant service.

He simultaneously issued an executive order directing that as a first step toward its organization units not to exceed 100 in number be established and that the enrollment be not more than 25,000.

Secretary Stimson said that local recruiting offices now being set up would be ready to receive applicants.

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## Anti-Aircraft Shells To Be Loaded Here

Millions To Be Invested; Over 6,000 Persons To Be Employed

WASHINGTON.—The Navy Department said today that an ordnance production plant will be constructed at Charlotte, N. C., by the Federal Government for operation by the U. S. Rubber Co.

The brief statement said:

"The Navy Department confirms that a loading plant will be built near Charlotte, for loading anti-aircraft shells under Government contract and will be operated by U. S. Rubber Co."

## Monthly Payroll To Be \$1,000,000

Engineers Already Here and Ready To Begin Work on Vast Project

By J. A. DALY  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Preparations for locating a far-stretching Navy shell-loading plant near Charlotte have been known here several weeks, but military considerations requiring withholding until today publication of details of this tremendous development.

The investment of Federal funds will amount to millions of dollars. Many structures will be erected on the approximately 2,000 acres included in the site, which already is under option. The plant, when in full operation, will provide employment for upward of 6,000 persons. The monthly payroll will be around \$1,000,000. More than half of the employees will be women.

The Navy Department's statement today was notable for war-time brevity and restrictions on vital military information. Yet that statement, made known publicly for the first time one of the outstanding industrial developments in the history of not only the Charlotte area but also of the Carolinas. Thus, this community was placed on the map of the Nation's major war production centers.

Investment of the millions of dollars in this authorized construction will place the plant at the top of the list of this area's single great industrial developments. The Duke Power Company's investments, of course, far exceed the costs estimated for the shell-loading project, but the units of the power company's chain of plants were brought into operation over a long period of years.

Aside from the tremendous economic importance this plant will attain and hold for the duration of the war against the Axis powers, the project is particularly attractive from the local viewpoint because, it satisfied with conditions, S. Rubber Co. undoubtedly will convert it, when peace is restored, to large-scale production of goods for civilian consumption.

The New York firm of Sanders & Porter, architects and engineers, was engaged to supervise this great construction job. This firm leased the entire nineteenth floor of the Liberty Life Building here, and already has established offices. A number of the firm's technical experts already are hard at work on details of the blueprint.

Activities of the construction contractors will be directed and supervised by the firm. The identity of the principal contractor and the numerous sub-contractors who will have charge of the construction have not yet been announced.

The Federal Government's Defense Plant Corp., which will represent the Navy in financing the development, has established a district office here in the Wilbur Building.

The good news for the Charlotte area also was communicated by the Navy Department to Congressman A. L. Bulwinkle, who immediately telegraphed The News.

"As soon as informed by public relations section, Navy Department, that the Navy Department was planning this project, I immediately telegraphed The News."

See NAVY TO BUILD on page 4

## WEATHER

Showers and continued warm this afternoon and tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 77; L. 66  
Sunset Today: 8:19  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 4.

Note To Readers

Dispatches from Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and other enemy countries are published by The News with the caution that they frequently contain false statements intended for propaganda purposes. This should be taken into consideration when reading the German Building.