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

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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U.S. & JAPANESE BATTLE  
IN FATEFUL BATTLE

Rationing  
Figure Set  
By Federal  
Price Chief

Pleasure Riding  
Will Be Hit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Price Administrator Leon Henderson said today that motorists on the eastern seaboard, using their cars for non-essential driving, could expect no more than three gallons a week under a Government rationing system.

am going to say, two, with the supply of gasoline above three," Henderson told newsmen just before going before the House Interstate Commerce Committee to testify on the rationing of gasoline and oil.

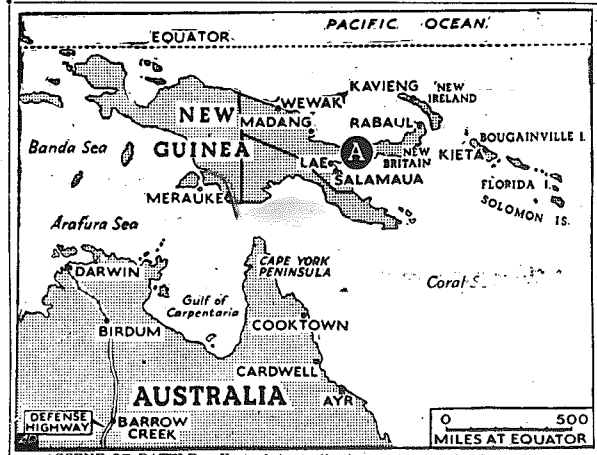
Henderson said that the rationing program for use between May 15 and July 1 involved three groups—A, B1, B2 and B3, with the basic group, A, getting an average of two gallons a week, although he said the exact amount would not be determined.

Effects Many  
Henderson asserted that "this might be the seasonal limit" but that it would affect about one-third of all passenger cars in the rationing area, and that the rationing would apply to those cars that are not used for vocational or necessary purposes.

Free THREE GALLONS on page 4

WEATHER  
Little  
change in  
temperature  
tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 69; L. 53  
Unseasonable Today 8:14  
Unseasonable Tomorrow 6:24  
Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 12.



SCENE OF BATTLE—East of Australia the greatest sea battle of the war is raging today with the result still undetermined. The Japanese located the struggle in the Coral Sea southeast of New Guinea. Allied reports indicated it was raging over a large area of ocean south of the Solomon Islands and extending into the Coral Sea.

Say Nazi Spring Offensive Halted

Russians Report Drive Intended To Smash Across Karelia Repulsed

MOSCOW. (AP)—A German Spring offensive intended to smash across the Soviet Karelian frontier from Finland at three points has been repulsed, battlefront dispatches reported today.

A dispatch to Pravda from the state border said the Germans withdrew from Russian territory with heavy losses.

This was the second enemy attempt to drive into this sector of the front since the outbreak of the war, a Finnish battalion of 1,200 men supported by two German companies crossed the frontier in the same general region but were driven back to Finland by a Russian counter attack.

Smash at Spearheads  
Moving From Burma  
CHUNKING. (AP)—Claiming a smashing defeat over two Japanese columns driving into China along the Burma Road, the Chinese High Command declared tonight that one force of 1,000 Japanese was "wiped out" and that half of another unit 1,000 strong was killed and the rest were trapped.

Swamp Air Blows  
In Mediterranean  
ROME (From Italian broadcast)—British warplanes raided the Mediterranean coast of Sicily last night and Axis air formations continued their attacks on Malta, but adverse weather prevented any important land operations on the Libyan front, the Italian High Command reported today.

Flight To Lac  
Lardner Rides With Tar Heel Pilot  
In Smashing Attack On Jap Field  
By JOHN LARDNER  
North American Newspaper  
SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA (By Wireless)—The communication, "New Guinea—Lac: In a brilliant attack on Air Force command and machine gunned the Japanese heavily. Many direct hits were scored on a line of 20 planes. The Japanese were observed in the air." Your correspondent was on the night flight in an American bomber which blasted the Lac from

10 Missing In Bomber

MacDill Field Officers Make Report

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A MacDill Field heavy bomber with ten Army men aboard, two of them passengers, was listed as missing today by MacDill Field officials.

The plane left MacDill Wednesday morning on a routine training flight. When no word was heard from the plane, due back at the field at 7 P. M. (EWT) Wednesday, searching planes were sent out. So far no trace has been found of the bomber.

Eight members of the crew were: Second Lieut. Hugh W. Mills, 23, pilot, Houston, Texas. Second Lieut. Charles E. Thomas III, 23, co-pilot, son of Col. C. E. Thomas, Macon, Ga. Staff Sgt. Wilbert M. George, 21, wife, Caroline C. George, Tampa, son of Mrs. Katie George, Lehigh, Pa. Pvt. Robert R. Pigman, 22, Beres, Ky. Pvt. Raymond S. Lynch, 20, Lumpkin, Ga. Pvt. Nelson L. Teal, 21, Bunkie, La. Pvt. Elmer E. Mathauer, 23, Burwell, Neb. Pfc. Charles R. Phillips, 20, Walke, Wis. Two passengers were: Pvt. Gordon J. Howard, 29, Green Bay, Wis. Sgt. Eugene L. Kaxmer, 23, Chicago, Ill.

Quezon Reaches San Francisco  
SAN FRANCISCO. (AP)—The Army announced today that Manuel Quezon, President of the Philippine Commonwealth, has arrived in San Francisco. He was accompanied by his family and executive staff.

After resting here President Quezon will proceed to Washington, D. C., to meet President Roosevelt. Quezon, his family and his staff found heavy rain in Australia as the Japs were hammering at Philippine defenses.

Allies Get In Position For Indian Ocean Test

Reinforcements Reach Ceylon

By DREW MIDDLETON  
LONDON. (AP)—The prospect of a swift cleanup of Vichy-ordered resistance in Madagascar and the arrival of strong Imperial reinforcements in strategic Ceylon put the United Nations in a better position today for a rapidly nearing test with the Japanese on the Indian Ocean supply lanes to India, China and the Soviet Union.

As weary British land forces in western Burma held back the invaders, already close to the Bengal border, long-range United States bombers lashed out anew this morning at Rangoon, Japanese won stepping stone for the westward drive.

Major General Lewis H. Brereton's big warbirds plunged through Japanese fighter plane opposition for their eighth attack on the port and returned safely to their bases in India, a New Delhi communique reported today.

THIRD ATTACK  
It was the Americans' third attack on Rangoon in four days. British military quarters, meanwhile, conceded that the Japanese probably had won another base for operations in the Indian Ocean the west Burma port of Akyab, 300 miles from Calcutta.

The said they had no information, however, to confirm Berlin broadcast reports that the Japanese had crossed the Kaladan River and penetrated into India west of Paletia, within 70 miles of the eastern Indian port of Calcutta.

The announcement of the British reinforcement of Ceylon, off the southern tip of India, and "battered fighters who took part in the Ethiopian campaign of 1940-41" had been sent to the island from Rhodes, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, Zanzibar and northern Rhodesia.

There was no immediate information as to the extent of resistance on Madagascar after the collapse yesterday morning of the main French stand at the northern tip of the 1,000-mile Indian land, watchdog of the Indian Ocean from the west.

It was apparent that the British would not rest, however, with control of the big Diego Suarez Naval base, but would continue to push French air bases further south in Madagascar, French defense force came to terms.

The British offered to repatriate any Frenchmen on Madagascar who did not wish to co-operate with the United Nations and pledged restoration of the island to France simultaneously with the first landings.

By TOM YARBROUGH  
AN ADVANCED ALLIED BASE, Australia. (AP)—If the Japanese should try to invade this area they'll find more than man-made defenses for nature has given the country everything from mosquitoes, which bite on you like dive-bombers to accreting spear grass.

10 Jap Ships Sunk And Six Damaged

Japs Claim U. S. Battleship and 2 Aircraft Carriers Sunk—British Deny Any of Their Battleships Hit

By C. YATES McDANIEL  
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Australia. (AP)—The greatest naval battle of the war is in progress in the seas directly east of Australia, with the immediate fate of this continent depending on the undetermined result.

Allied headquarters announced that already ten Japanese ships had been sunk and six badly damaged, as follows: Sunk: An aircraft carrier, a heavy cruiser, a light cruiser, two destroyers, four gunboats and a supply vessel.

Damaged and believed a total loss: Another aircraft carrier and a transport. Heavily damaged: A heavy cruiser, a light cruiser, a 9,000-ton seaplane tender and a cargo vessel.

Allied bombers were credited with destruction of still another Japanese transport in a raid on the Louisiade Islands northeast of Australia. The Japanese countered with a claim that an American battleship of the Coral Sea, saying it began Wednesday, which a powerful "Anglo-American combined fleet" was "discovered and caught."

Sea Struggle Of Great Importance

Won't Decide War but Will Determine Immediate Tactics

CANBERRA, Australia. (AP)—Prime Minister John W. Curtin told the House of Representatives today the great naval battle in the Southwest Pacific was of crucial importance to the whole conduct of the war in this theater.

Battle for Australia

British Have Little To Do With Fight

LONDON. (AP)—Naval and military experts agreed tonight that the great sea battle raging off the Solomon Islands was the beginning of the battle for Australia and that the result would have a tremendous bearing on the whole course of the war.

The immediate objective of the British warships appeared to be to sever the commonwealth's lifeline to the United States. The naval battle had been a leading role. The Admiralty's denial that the Warship or any other British battleship had been sunk or damaged appeared to bear out what already was assumed—the collapse of the main British Fleet units were operating in that area with the United States.

CONVOY INTERCEPTED  
London naval observers declared that from the information at hand the battle apparently resulted from interception of a Japanese invasion convoy bound from Rabaul, in the Solomons, south to the New Hebrides or New Caledonia.

One source expressed belief that the present battle represented a final judgment and much deliberation on both sides. "The Japanese recently have been building up naval strength at Rabaul," he said. "There is no doubt about it."

By TOM YARBROUGH  
AN ADVANCED ALLIED BASE, Australia. (AP)—I was told after a bout with dengue fever and taken a new post, as I was told for a unit a few miles from this base. "The files in camp were so bad," he said, "that I walked right alone to see what was causing them." The files in camp were so bad, he said, that I walked right alone to see what was causing them. "I went about half a mile, and then I realized I was lost. I had no water, no compass, no matches, no knife and I was wearing shorts and a sleeveless shirt." The next eighteen hours were the most terrible I've ever experienced.

Neither side reported losses of its own, but the British last night promptly denied the Japanese claim that the battleship "Warship" or any other British battleship had been sunk or damaged in the battle. (The Japanese located the battle in the Coral Sea southeast of New Guinea, saying it began Wednesday, which a powerful "Anglo-American combined fleet" was "discovered and caught.") OVER BIG AREA Allied Headquarters did not specifically have the location but successive communiques indicated it was ranging over a wide expanse of ocean south of the Solomon Islands and extending into the Coral Sea. If actually in the Coral Sea, the battle indicates the Japanese have broken through the outer line of defense and are shield the Australian continent on the east at a distance of about 1,000 miles. The strategic importance of the gigantic conflict was apparent. See BATTLE VERY on page 4 See GREAT BATTLE on page 4 Allied Silence Shrouds Sea Fight In Mystery fight against an invader, or that he was preparing the ground for later announcements of bad news. For the week, the Allies had a reputation of victory, especially with regard to the Japanese claim that the battleship "Warship" or any other British battleship had been sunk or damaged in the battle. The only way from the available picture lay in the reliable British Admiralty's denial that the Warship or any other British battleship had been sunk or damaged in the battle. The Japanese claim of three capital ships sunk, one damaged and possibly sunk and a smaller damaged or sunk would, if verified, cast a grave shadow over Allied hopes in the second phase of the battle, were recouping. The Japanese claim of three capital ships sunk, one damaged and possibly sunk and a smaller damaged or sunk would, if verified, cast a grave shadow over Allied hopes in the second phase of the battle, were recouping. The Japanese claim of three capital ships sunk, one damaged and possibly sunk and a smaller damaged or sunk would, if verified, cast a grave shadow over Allied hopes in the second phase of the battle, were recouping.