

U. S. FLEETS BLITZ JAP BASE ON LUZON—SUBS GO INTO ACTION

Japan Risks Warships In Hawaii Raids

Attempt To Divert U. S. Naval Units But Fleet Hunts Bigger Game

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Japan, resorting to hit-and-run attacks near Hawaii, risked valuable warships today in an effort to divert some of the offensive strength of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, now at sea searching for the main enemy forces.

The tactics evidenced by the shelling of Johnston and Maui islands for the first time in the war, tended to belie Tokyo's claim that the bulk of the American Navy had been destroyed. They indicated that Japan was seeking merely a will-o'-the-wisp hunt for the main enemy force.

The Navy Department here, however, intimated that the fleet would not be distracted from its main mission, and reported tersely that operations against the enemy are continuing.

The attacks on Johnston and Maui, and a renewed assault on Wake Island were disclosed in a communique last night, which stated that the actions had taken place in the preceding 24 hours. A recurrence of the hit-and-run tactics appeared likely, but

Three Vital Centers of Britain in East Lashed

Japs Fighting Like Fanatics

LONDON—(AP)—The Japanese, widening their attacks still further in the Western Pacific, menaced the British in three vital zones girdling the China Sea today—Hong Kong, the Malayan Peninsula and the island of Borneo.

Fighting like fanatics they were hurling themselves into the teeth of British artillery and machine-gun fire. In the night the British said they might decide the fate of northwestern Malaya and its principal city and island base, Penang.

This still appeared to be the core of the Japanese master plan so far, aimed ultimately at Singapore, Britain's oriental citadel.

HONG KONG BESIEGED

But Hong Kong, second only to Singapore as a bastion of British strength, was under siege from the Japanese captured mainland area and a military commentator said air and artillery assaults on Hong Kong Island were increasing in severity.

Down the South China mainland reports 45 miles from Hong Kong, Japs were hard-pressed on the defensive in North Africa.

The extent of the German retreat along the whole 1,200-mile Russian front was highlighted by a British broadcast reporting that all communications between Moscow and Kopylovsk were cut, and that the Red Army was pushing the last remnants from Leningrad to the Black Sea, capturing hundreds of villages and towns in one week after another, and that in some instances the Germans were running without a fight.

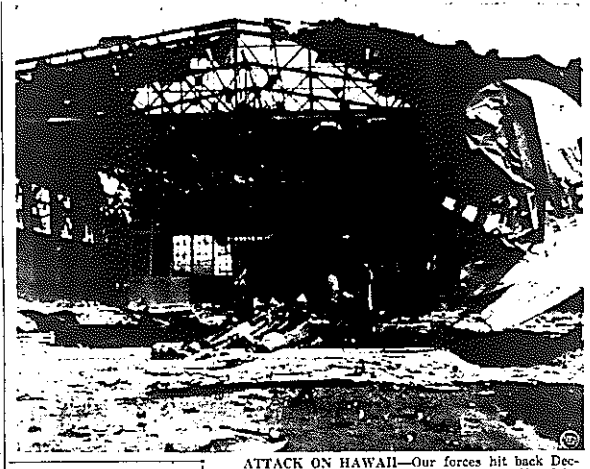
In perhaps the gloomiest moment in the course of the entire war, a communique of the German people at least as grim as that the tide of conquest has been thrown into reverse—the High Command reported.

"In the course of transition from aggressive operations to defensive warfare for the Winter months, necessary improvements involving the shortening of lines now are being systematically undertaken on various sectors of the Eastern Front."

But Soviet dispatches pictured the Germans in headlong flight, by no means effecting a strategic retreat, and the Moscow communique declaring:

"The firing enemy is being pursued and annihilated by our troops."

Red Army soldiers who reported.



Japs Using Nazi Planes

Messerschmitts in Air Battle of Malaya

LONDON—(AP)—The Air Ministry news service declared today that the Japanese are using both Messerschmitt 109's and 108's German fighter planes in fighter planes in the air battles of Malaya.

Me-109 is a single-engine plane and the Me-108 is the twin-engine. Both can be used as bombers.

The news service said an American pilot reported that he had seen a Messerschmitt 109 in the air over Malaya. The pilot said he had seen it in the air over Malaya. The pilot said he had seen it in the air over Malaya.

Warbirds Blast Japs

Heavy Attack on Enemy Beachhead on Luzon

MANILA—(AP)—U. S. Army bombers destroyed 28 Japanese planes and fired just supplies 25-6 heavy attack against the Japanese beachhead on Luzon today, the Japanese established last week at Vigan on the Luzon west coast, 200 miles from Manila, Army headquarters announced today.

The announcement followed today on an official disclosure that the U. S. Army had been ordered to take action for the first time in the seven-day-old war with Japan, scoring scores of details of which were not immediately divulged.

MANILA SITUATION UNCHANGED

The communique announcing the attack on Vigan, launched apparently to prevent the Japanese from establishing air bases necessary for conquest of the Philippines, said there had been no change in the land situation today.

The bulletin was issued at 4 P. M. (7 A. M. EST).

Of the Japanese planes destroyed, one was shot down in aerial combat and the remainder were shot down on the ground, the communique declared.

Reds Picture Nazis In Headlong Flight

Even German Command Admits That War Is Not Going So Well

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia proclaimed a series of smashing new victories in the war with Germany today, and for the first time Adolf Hitler's High Command wryly acknowledged that the German invader armies were "shortening their lines" along the Soviet front and

Plan Textile Ceilings

Price Maximums To Be Issued Soon

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Temporary price ceilings on a wide variety of textiles, including blankets, towels, bath cloths, sheets and pillow cases, will be issued shortly by the Office of Price Administration, it was learned today.

Price Administrator Leon Henderson said maximums for such items would be set at levels prevailing prior to Dec. 8, and would apply to all stages of production and distribution except retail sales.

Purpose of the action is to halt steady price increases and effect stabilization pending issuance of permanent schedule, Henderson added. It will mark OPA's first exercise of central over price of finished textile products.

Chinese Strike in Hong Kong Area

CHUNOKING—(AP)—Chinese forces were reported tonight to have defeated a Japanese force of 1,000 men at a battle near the town of Tsingchi, about 25 miles north of the mainland border of Hong Kong on Japanese-occupied Kowloon Peninsula, about the same distance east of the Canton-Kowloon railroad.

Crankless Nazis Cranky: Russian Boys Pull Off Neatest Trick Of War Against Germans

MOSCOW—(AP)—The Germans were caught without warning by the Russian boys who pulled off the neatest trick of war against the Germans today, "pulling in" a German tank "in a most natural manner," said an incident as it is funny, said the writer, Eugene Petrov, said the Germans then "had to run in a most natural manner," using a

Bridges Will Be Guarded

Highway Employees Picked for Patrol

RALEIGH—(AP)—The State Highway Commission will place guards on strategic highway bridges of the state beginning tomorrow, Chairman Ben Prince said today.

The guardsmen will be recruited from present employees of the commission and will serve for no additional pay, Prince added.

Governor Broughton announced recently that the state has designated approximately 100 highway bridges as of strategic military importance.

Prince said that such a force would be available to guard the bridges to prevent sabotage or sabotage.

He urged motorists to cooperate with the guards by slowing down at bridges and by refraining from loitering near them.

German Broadcasts Stress Great Difficulties In War In Russia

NEW YORK—(AP)—The difficulties confronting the German armies in Russia have formed the theme of several broadcasts by the official German radio, heard in New York.

The first broadcast by a German soldier was distinctly inferior to the German soldier and the "unbearable difficulties" encountered in the eastern campaign are stressed.

Other broadcasts by the German wireless quotes Lieut-Col. George Schuler, writing in Adolf Hitler's newspaper, the Volkischer Beobachter, as saying that the Winter war was "an extremely hard struggle."

He admitted that the great in-

Nipponese Forces Landed In Sarawak

SINGAPORE—(AP)—Japanese forces have landed in Sarawak, a British area on the northwest coast of Borneo, it was announced today as the Japanese threw their land, sea and air forces into a spreading offensive around the South China Sea.

The Japanese evidently were aiming for a quick knockout of British and Dutch strongholds, sources of vital resources and control of the sea lanes by which reinforcements could reach the Allies.

Their effort apparently was to strike heavy and scattered blows before resistance could be organized and co-ordinated, but this seemed to be at least partly frustrated.

The Nazi Lament: German Broadcasts Stress Great Difficulties In War In Russia

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American Subs Reported In Island Waters

Japan Sounds Alarm as Blockade Of Island Empire Tightened

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan took alarm today at the reported presence of 20 U. S. submarines operating in Japanese waters even as Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander of the Asiatic Fleet, announced that American submarines had gone into action for the first time in the eleven-day-old conflict and scored success in two out of three attacks.

U. S. Army headquarters in Manila reported also that at least 25 Japanese planes had been destroyed by American bombers at Vigan, 200 miles northwest of Manila, where the Japanese still maintained one of their three footholds on Luzon Island.

Admiral Hart's cryptical statement did not identify the victims of the American counter blows—whether Japanese warships on merchant craft—or the locale of the sinkings.

It seemed plausible, however, that the United States was tightening a blockade around the Mikado's densely-populated island empire.

Welders Plan To Quit Jobs

Los Angeles—(AP)—Paul Thayer, business agent for the United Welders, Cutters and Helpers Union, said today that 1,700 welders at the California Shipbuilding Yards on Terminal Island planned to quit their jobs today because of a new contract for failure to pay AFL-Betterment Union dues.

German Plot in Bolivia Nipped

BUENOS AIRES—(AP)—A German plot to halt the export of tin from Bolivia to the United States by sabotaging railway running to the Chilean port of Antofagasta has been thwarted, according to information received here today.

Marines' Brave Words Praised in Congress

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The House today praised the heroic Marines defending Wake Island during Congressional commemoations today.

Representative Cannon, Democrat, Missouri, said the House should honor the heroes of Wake Island.

"We have met the enemy and they are ours," and Dewey's "We can fight when ready, Grizzly."

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WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday, December 17, 1941: Partly cloudy with light rain; temperature 45 to 55.

For and other weather news, see page 4.