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WAVES OF JAPS HAMMERED BACK BY U. S. FORCES IN PHILIPPINES

Hitler Drops Army Leader, Takes Helm

War Nears Turning Point as Ouster of Von Brauchitsch Comes

BERN, Switzerland.—(AP)—Field Marshal General Walther Von Brauchitsch, who led the German armies victoriously through France, across the Balkans and into Russia, was tumbled from a hero's pedestal today by Adolf Hitler's momentous decision to assume personal command of his legions.

Sees Nazi Blow In Mediterranean

Would Try To Salvage Libyan Campaign and Offset Retreat in Russia

LONDON.—(AP)—A source which often has had remarkably accurate behind-the-scenes information said today that Adolf Hitler's assumption of full command of the German Army and new Axis movements indicated the Germans were preparing for a swift attack to close the Mediterranean.

New Danger For Germans

Reds May Cut Force Off in North

NEW YORK.—(AP)—A Russian broadcast said today that a break through came in a breakthrough with tanks fifteen miles southeast of Leningrad has put the Red troops in danger of being cut off, said a British broadcast, heard by CBS today.

Steamship Samoa Gets Away When Attack Made

Another Vessel Sent Down

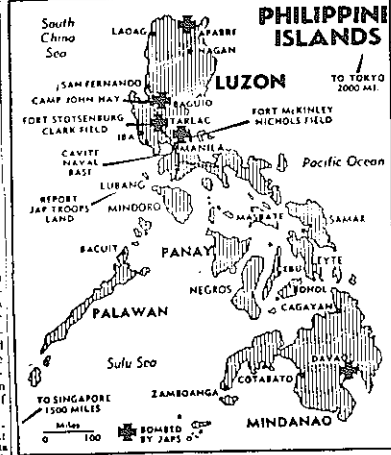
WASHINGTON.—(AP)—A third submarine attack on American shipping off California over the week-end was disclosed by the Navy today along with word that 30 sailors were rescued and four crew members lost in the sinking of the steamer Lahaina between Hawaii and San Francisco in the first week of the war.

The text of the communique: "Atlantic Theater—There are no new developments to report. Eastern Pacific—The S. H. Samoa was attacked by an unknown submarine off the coast of California during the night of Dec. 20. The attack was made at close range and consisted of the dropping of a torpedo. All shots missed. The torpedo exploded in the vicinity of the ship. The vessel was damaged and is being towed to the nearest port. The crew is being treated for shock and other injuries. The vessel is being repaired and will be ready to sail in a few days." See NEW NEWS on Page 18

Traffic Bureau To Be Set Up

Beasley Says Plans Are Completed

The plan was cleared today for the establishment of a traffic bureau whose cases of minor infractions of traffic laws could be handled by the minimum of trouble to the violator and the arresting officer, said today Mr. Beasley said this afternoon.



SMASH AT THE PHILIPPINES—Thousands of Jap soldiers were trying to gain a foothold in the Lingayen area of the Philippines today, attempting to land in the San Fernando area.

British Make Stab Into Tripolitania

Invade Western Section of Libya as Axis Forces Flee

CAIRO, Egypt.—(AP)—A patrol far out in front of Britain's rapidly advancing army in Libya has made a bold, surprising stab against an Axis garrison 150 miles into Tripolitania, British general headquarters disclosed today in a communique which, for the third successive day, indicated that the main British forces were pressing westward at top speed.

Hong Kong Holding Out

Defenders Beat Off Japanese Attacks

LONDON.—(AP)—The Japanese were "being held" at Hong Kong up to late afternoon Sunday, British general headquarters said today in a communique. The Colonial Office said today.

Island Army More Than Holding Own

Fleet of 80 Japanese Ships Unloads Mass Of Invaders as Grand Offensive Opens

MANILA.—(5:05 P. M., 3:05 A. M., EST)—(AP)—Hard-fighting American and Filipino soldiers are more than holding their own against a swarm of thousands of Japanese soldiers unloaded from 80 transports off the Lingayen gateway to Manila, it was announced officially today.

Great Jap Force Making Assault

War Department Estimates That From 80,000 to 100,000 Men Striking

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The War Department estimated today that from 80,000 to 100,000 Japanese troops, comprising six to eight divisions, were taking part in the new onslaught on the island of Luzon in the Philippines.

Explosions Offshore

Mystery Blast Heard In Maryland City

OCEAN CITY, Md.—(AP)—Four explosions offshore rattled windows and slightly shook houses in the resort city today and were heard in Berlin, Md., eight miles inland.

Japs Claim 47 Warships Sunk

LONDON.—(AP)—Domei, Japanese general headquarters today in a broadcast heard here by Reuters that since the start of the war in the Pacific the Japanese Navy had sunk, damaged or seized 47 enemy warships, captured 28 merchant vessels and more than 300 smaller craft and shot down 114 planes.

Attack Jap Base In East Thailand

RANGOON, Burma.—(AP)—The RAAF attacked a Japanese air base in eastern Thailand, destroying grounded planes and gasoline tanks yesterday in the first aerial attack on the enemy forces there. It was announced today.

Further Instances Of Bravery During Pearl Harbor Attack Given

HONOLULU.—(AP)—Graphic first-hand narratives of what happened at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7 were told with dramatic coolness today by the officers of the fleet, who had taken part in the titanic defense of the island against a 30-fold force of Japanese planes that poured on them, suddenly "from out of nowhere."

Named Navy Press Officer

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Lieut. Comm. Paul C. Smith of San Francisco became press relations officer of the Navy Department today. He is on leave from the position of editor and general manager of The San Francisco Chronicle.

It's the War: The News To Publish On Christmas Day

The Charlotte News will be published on Christmas Day as usual. The News is suspended on the day of the celebration. The Christmas Day issue will be published by a small staff of employees. The News will be published on Christmas Day as usual.

WEATHER

Clear and somewhat... with rain tonight.

