



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday

ESTABLISHED 1888

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1941

18 Pages—Price Five Cents

Final

British Forces Recapture Bengasi Japs Driving Toward Manila Army Bomber Sinks Jap Submarine

Victorious Troops Find Coast Town Devastated

Third Change Of Hands

CAIRO — (AP) — British troops have occupied the devastated coastal town of Bengasi, virtually completing their clean-up of the eastern section of Libya, while other columns press on westward against retreating Axis forces. The city, captured once before by each side, is the most important center between Tobruk and Tripoli and is 250 miles west of Tobruk. Its capture yesterday marked an advance of 300 miles by road from the Egyptian frontier or an air distance of 200 miles from the starting point of the British advance.

TOWN IN RUINS

Royal dispatches were the first to enter and today's official communique said: "They report the town devastated."

Observers said all of Civilians could be considered in British hands although some pockets of enemy resistance are still being cleaned up.

The communique text:

"Our troops yesterday occupied Bengasi. Royal Dragons were the first to enter the town. They report the town devastated."

"Despite bad weather and heavy going after the rain our strong mobile columns are still striking at the retreating enemy everywhere in the area. Captured Bengasi and Agadabia and even further west inflicting casualties, taking prisoners and capturing quantities of enemy transport and material."

"Small bodies of enemy troops, believed to be Italian, still remain in the area northeast of Bengasi and are being dealt with."

ELIMINATED POST

"In the frontier area we eliminated yet another of isolated enemy posts near Bardia."

"Our air force yesterday maintained their very effective attack."

Found Hanged At His Post

STONINGTON, Conn. — (AP) — The body of Herbert Thompson Jr., 41, an air raid watcher, was found hanging at his observation post here yesterday. Medical Examiner Thurman P. Maine said he committed suicide.

Thompson, a retired New York banker, was to have gone off duty a short time before, but he volunteered to stand the watch of two women who were to have succeeded him at the post. His family could advance no reason for his act.

The Wake Island Wake:

378 Marines Outdid The Alamo In Their Heroic Pacific Stand

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A foreign flag ripped over Wake Island, but a bright new page was written in the annals of the United States Marines—the story of a siege that outlasted the Alamo.



LIVELY American school child knows this picture. It is Emanuel Leutze's "Washington Crossing the Delaware." Though it has been criticized on artistic and historical grounds, we reproduce it here because it tells a story of another Christmas Day, that of 1776. Driven back on the long retreat from New York, Washington's ragged Continental Army spent Christmas Day huddled over its fire on the bleak Pennsylvania side of the Delaware, while the triumphant British and Hessian troops made themselves comfortable in nearby towns. His army dividing, without proper arms, clothing, or the most needed supplies in the bitter cold of winter, Washington decided that his only hope lay in attack. Gathering all available boats, the Continental Army spent the night of Christmas Day perilously crossing the ice-dotted Delaware near Trenton, where Colonel Haly's Hessians were celebrating a triumph and joy Christmas. The road to Trenton was slippery with freezing sleet, and there were red marks in the snow where the American soldiers marched with rag-wrapped feet. Not until 8 in the morning was it possible to reach Trenton, seemingly too late for a surprise. But the Americans stumbled forward to the attack. They captured a thousand men, with equipment which was desperately needed. That was Christmas in the America of 1776.

Nine Die On Burning Bus

Explosion Follows Crash in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — (AP) — Trapped in a flaming bus which exploded after a collision with a motor car, nine persons burned to death and 21 others were injured, several possibly fatally.

Salomon George, 32, identified himself as the driver of the automobile, also was hurt critically.

Two witnesses, Edward James and Albert Paul Hammer, rescued many of the panic-stricken passengers who were attempting to fight their way from the blazing bus and were credited with preventing a larger fatality toll.

The bus swerved at the intersection of Ninth and Alder streets in an attempt to avoid a collision with an automobile. It struck a parked car and crashed through the wall of an apartment house into the bedroom of Mrs. and Mrs. James Fowler. The Fowler were not at home. Their bed was buried under the wreckage.

Mrs. Margaret Retheloff, who was sitting near the center of the bus, was the only passenger who managed to escape unaided.

See NINE KILLED on page 4

French Annex Atlantic Isles

De Gaulle's Move in Off Coast Of Newfoundland by Agreement

LONDON — (AP) — Warship-landed forces of the Free French have taken over the tiny fishing islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon off the southern coast of Newfoundland and have called the population to a plebiscite today on allegiance to Free France as opposed to Vichy.

The occupation was carried out yesterday.

Free French officials stressed that there had been no threat to the island by the Axis and declared that the occupation was dictated only by the desire of the inhabitants.

Gen. Charles De Gaulle, leader of the Free French, messaged Miquelon "my most sincere congratulations for the way in which you rallied this island to our cause with courage and dignity."

De Gaulle sent a telegram to Admiral Muselier saying "please convey to the population of St. Pierre that we do not intend to take any of their ships."

See FRENCH TAKE on page 4

Uncle Sam Strongly Disapproves Action

King George Sends Out Greetings

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The United States today described the seizure of St. Pierre and Miquelon, French islands near Newfoundland, by the Free French Government as the agreement of all parties concerned.

The State Department issued the following statement:

Japs Land On Borneo

Forces at Oil-Rich Sarawak's Capital

SINGAPORE — (AP) — Japanese forces evacuated landings yesterday at Kuching, Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, a British communique reported today.

It said that direct communication with Kuching was cut off late yesterday.

The situation on the northeastern Malaya front was reported unchanged.

British aircraft in attacks yesterday on Japanese shipping anchored near Kuching were announced to have scored one direct hit on the stern of a merchantman and at least six near misses against other vessels.

The text of the communique follows:

"On the Northwestern Front and Malaya" the situation remains unchanged. There has been some air-bombing activity by enemy planes. The bombing was very heavy.

See JAPS LAND on page 4

King George Sends Out Greetings

Axis Announce Loss of Steamer

LONDON — (AP) — King George VI in a brief Christmas message sent his "remembrance and sincere good wishes for you and for yours" to the people of the Empire.

He singled out for greetings those in the services and "those who are suffering."

Axis Raider Smashed in Attack Off California

Sneaking Craft Blasted to Bits

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Bombs which scored direct hits and filled "the air with debris" sank a Japanese submarine off the California coast, the Army announced today, thus serving at least in part to avenge interesting attacks on American merchantmen in that vicinity.

The Japanese sub had approached in some attacks within two miles of the California shore to attack tankers and other vessels.

Tenely Army communique said:

"An American bomber from General Heilwig's Western Defense command successfully attacked an enemy submarine off the California coast. Soon after the submarine was sighted it made an emergency dive. A bomb was dropped and the submarine emerged and then exploded. Two more bombs were dropped, apparently scoring direct hits and filling the air with debris."

Previous successes against submarines had been announced only in general terms. Secretary of Navy Knox revealed Sunday that up to then the Navy had "probably sunk or damaged at least four enemy submarines off the Atlantic coast."

The Army said the submarine had "effectively dealt with several Japanese submarines" in the Pacific.

PHILIPPINES—CALAMITY

The destruction of the submarine was announced as the fate of the Philippines revealed Sunday that the balance and President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill devoted most of their Christmas Day to work on war planning.

The Army communique said "intense fighting" continued on all important fronts on Luzon Island, in the Philippines, with counterattacks by American and Filipino troops resulting in "local successes, particularly in the vicinity of Angara and the vicinity of Baguio."

Enemy aerial activity continued heavy, the communique said.

The War Department made no effort to minimize the gravity of the situation in the Philippines, and the language of its communique implied that the capital would require further aid from the United States.

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See AXIS ANNOUNCE on page 4

Axis Announce Loss of Steamer

King George Sends Out Greetings

BERLIN — (Official Broadcast) — The German steamer Benno was sunk yesterday afternoon by British bombers in the North Atlantic. The ship was carrying a large quantity of war material. Her crew was rescued.

See AXIS ANNOUNCE on page 4

Advance Units Bearing Down From South

Pushing Forward on Main Road Just 110 Miles From Capital

By CLARK LEE
ON THE LINGAYEN FRONT, PHILIPPINES — (AP) — Japanese infantry and light tank forces were at Binalonan, 110 miles north of Manila, today, driving south toward the capital on the main highway.

Their offensive in the Lingayen area had developed into spearheads toward Manila from a number of points along the eastern coast of the Gulf of Lingayen where they made landings Monday after failing to penetrate defenses along the southern shore of the Gulf.

Other small attacking forces were pushing toward the Philippine Summer capital at Baguio, 35 miles northeast of Lingayen and possibly already are there.

Binalonan is 25 miles southeast of the Dagupan section of the Gulf of Lingayen front, where Japanese forces had been reported to have gained a landing, and is in the rolling valley leading south to Manila between mountain ranges.

Earlier, from a vantage point near Lingayen Gulf, could be seen the light of burning gasoline supplies which American forces had set afire to keep them from the Japanese.

At that time it was possible to count 95 Japanese ships offshore between Dagupan, Iwate and northward around the Gulf of Lingayen front, where Japanese forces had been reported to have gained a landing, and is in the rolling valley leading south to Manila between mountain ranges.

See JAPS DRIVE on page 4

Hong Kong Gives Up After Bitter Battle

Garrison Surrenders to Superior Force After Heroic Resistance

LONDON — (AP) — The British Colonial Office announced this evening that Hong Kong's resistance was ended. The announcement said that the military and naval commanders had notified the governor of the British Crown Colony, Sir Mark Young, that no further effective resistance was possible.

As a result, it added, the Governor was "taking action in accordance with that advice."

The text of the announcement follows:

"The Governor of Hong Kong reports that he has been advised by the military and naval commanders that no further effective resistance can be made and that he is taking action in accordance with that advice."

"It will be remembered that the Japanese effected landings in strength at several points on the island of Hong Kong on December 18. To many it seemed that the end must be near, yet for weeks under relentless artillery bombardment not one of the mainland troops on the island, the island's demands for surrender have been refused."

The water supply soon gave out for the island. The Japanese had cut the water supply. The Japanese had cut the water supply. The Japanese had cut the water supply.

See JAPS TAKE on page 4

Dutch Down Jap Destroyer

Axis Announce Loss of Steamer

BATAVIA, Java, Dec. 24 — (AP) — A Japanese destroyer of the 1,100-ton Anzai class was torpedoed and sunk today by a Dutch submarine which escaped depth charges of the destroyer's anti-submarine success. Axis officials will never admit a surrender.

Axis said that the U.S. Naval Command was informed that the attack took place in the Java Sea. The Japanese ship was not otherwise identified.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy tonight. Temperature 45 to 55. Wind light to moderate. Sea calm.

Today's Forecast: Partly cloudy. High 55, low 45. Wind light to moderate. Sea calm.