

BRITISH OPEN OFFENSIVE IN MALAYA RED SKI TROOPS STAB AT NAZI FLANKS

U. S. Speeds Men, Planes To War Zone

Fast Overcoming Advantage Gained
By Japs on Dec. 7 Sneak Attack

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A high Government official reported today that since the Pearl Harbor attack the Army had been able to fortify Hawaii and the Pacific Coast more firmly than ever before, while starting a stream of reinforcements to the South-West Pacific.

The advantage Japan gained over the Navy by the Dec. 7 surprise attack was declared to have been largely offset by the mounting flow of American long range bombers. Continuing details which might convey damaging information to the enemy, the official said had been termed "miraculous" by a railroad president.

Continental Drive British Army Goal

Main Task Is To Organize an
Offensive in Europe

LONDON—(AP)—The British Army's main task is to organize a continental offensive, Air Minister Sir Archibald Sinclair told the House of Commons today in opening debate on the adequacy of British airfield defense against invasion of the British Isles.

He said that the RAF's new air defense regime would be "second to none." In British usage the word "second" is not a fixed number of men but includes a variable number of battalions. The new airfield defense units are spoken of as a regiment.

Sinclair, as Government spokesman in the debate, said that the Army's chief job now was to organize "the greatest possible striking force for offensive operations in the European Continent."

But Sinclair's description of the newly conceived defense units which would be managed by the RAF under Army direction apparently failed to satisfy critics who recently have been crying alarm over losses of airfields in the war so far.

"The new scheme is commensurate and based on sound military thinking," declared Colonel Arthur Evans, Conservative, who said the scheme was "a masterpiece of military planning."

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Pursue Foes Retreating After Loss Of Mozhaik

Nazis Withdraw
Toward Vyazma

LONDON—(AP)—Russian ski troops, carried on propeller-driven sledges, were reported tonight to be operating west of Borodino, the old Napoleonic battlefield a dozen miles west of recaptured Mozhaik, in stinging pursuit of German troops trying to fight their way back out of the Mozhaik salient.

Skimming the countryside over waist-deep snow, these Red Army forces were said to be pursuing German troops who had been reported to be retreating toward Vyazma which was regarded as the site of the next German stand against the Russian central front offensive.

The Germans were said to be seeking cover also from the bitter winter of Russia's winter so far.

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COSSACKS RIDE HARD ON HEELS OF GERMANS—Dashing through deep snow, a Cossack cavalry troop (top) rides out to fight, pursuing Germans on the "Mozhaik Front." Because of the snow, the cavalrymen were sent into battle where mechanized units found it difficult to move. Bottom: These Cossacks have dismounted from their horses and are deploying through the woods in a counter-attack.

Face Rationing Of Electricity

Curtailment This Year Looms—
May Even Dim Private Homes

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Congress received from Government power officials today a blunt warning that the nation faces a rationing of electricity—possibly this year—that may even dim private homes to conserve power for the defense program.

The possibility was voiced by the Federal Power Commission, and O. D. Whelan, acting power manager for the Tennessee Valley Authority, in testimony during House Appropriations Committee hearings on the independent Offices Supply bill approved today.

The rationing of electricity for homes, offices, night clubs and other civilian purposes, O. D. Whelan said, "is going to be done, and a survey to determine the power supply of the various areas is being made 'to determine just what loads can be cut off without materially interfering with the normal life of the community.'"

O. D. Whelan said he believed the emergency would call for power rationing in many regions by the end of this year.

While it is hoped and planned, he added, that curtailment will be made in a planned manner.

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Plebiscite Announced

Canada To Vote on
Overseas Service

OTTAWA—(AP)—A Canadian plebiscite on raising troops for overseas service was announced today at the opening of Parliament.

The plebiscite was announced in the speech from the throne read by the Earl of Athlone, Governor General of Canada, who said the Government would ask to be released from any obligations arising out of past commitments restricting the raising of men for military service.

The "past commitments" referred to the pledge of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King given in the House of Commons before the war that his Administration never would initiate legislation to compel Canadians to fight outside of Canada.

NO DETAILS
The Earl of Athlone gave no details as to the date of the plebiscite or other plans for an all-out fight, but promised the details would be made public later.

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Get Hurricane Warplanes To Batter Japs

Foot Soldiers Counter-Attack,
Heavily Engage Nipponese

SINGAPORE—(AP)—Hurricane reinforcements swelled British air power for the Battle of Malaya today and counter attacking ground troops heavily engaged Japanese divisions in the Bukit Payong area below the Muar River.

Even before the arrival of the heavily-armed Hurricanes was officially announced, a resurgence in aerial activity of the defenders was evident.

The big land battles for southern Malaya were being fought roughly 70 miles from Singapore near the east and west coasts of Johore.

On the east, the British reported falling back from Endau, 85 miles from Singapore, and announcing the Japanese advance somewhere north of Merong, 20 miles down the coast.

On the west, the main battle has developed in the hills around Bukit Payong, inland and some miles northeast of Batu Pahat, which is 60 miles northwest of Singapore.

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Jap Ships In Australian Waters— May Be First Move For Invasion

MELBOURNE, Australia—(AP)—Rabaul, capital of New Britain, reported today that eleven ships, including three battleships, had been sighted off neighboring Western Island, and immediately following this report communications with Rabaul ceased.

It was presumed here that the Japanese had been evacuated by military forces in anticipation of a prospective Japanese landing.

The last word from Rabaul came at 4 P. M. (1 A. M. N.Y.).

If the implications of the Rabaul message are fulfilled the Japanese are in the process of their first invasion of Australia territory. The island of New Britain, of which Rabaul is capital, is mandated to

also had raided the Solomon Islands, southeast of New Britain.

The Japanese fleet was sighted 20 to 40 miles off Western Island, which is fifteen miles northwest of Rabaul, about half an hour before the Rabaul radio sent its last message.

It was assumed here that the radio and telegraph stations had been demolished by British forces before evacuation in pursuance of a scorched earth policy.

The Australian broadcast recorded in New York by the Australian Associated Press said it now was believed like the Japanese would try to effect landings on Friday.

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