

U.S. DUTCH BLOW ROCK JAPS

AMERICAN TROOPS REACH NORTH IRELAND

Ship Sunk Off N. C. Coast; 22 Believed Lost

American Ore Carrier Venore
Blasted by Torpedoes and Shells

NORFOLK, Va. —(AP)—Striking a sudden midnight blow with torpedoes and shells, an Axis submarine sank the American ore carrier Venore off the North Carolina coast Saturday morning and 22 crew members are believed lost, the Navy announced today.

Twenty-one survivors have been landed at Norfolk. They said the sub first sent a shell crashing into the port side of the ship and a torpedo followed a few minutes later.

The Venore's radio operator flung a distress call at 12:17 A. M. stating:

"Two crashes so far. Will keep informed. Think swimming soon." The last message crackled out at 1:22 A. M.

"Can not stay afloat much longer."

The survivors, all in the same lifeboat, were picked up after 38 hours in the water.

Their first comment upon reaching port was to bewail the fact that their ship was not armed.

Aussie Militiamen Fight To Halt Japs

Civilians Taken From Cities in
New Guinea and in Solomons

MELBOURNE, Australia. —(AP)—Civilians were removed today from cities in New Guinea and in the heart of the Solomon Islands as jungle-trained Australian militia battle invasion forces in the hills of New Britain and New Ireland and the Japanese hurried new landings forces into the arc of islands.

Lose Anchor In Malaya

Batu Pahat Surrendered
By British

SINGAPORE. —(AP)—Pounded for days by Japanese forces on the ground and in the air, British imperial forces have surrendered Batu Pahat, a town along with the British Malayan defense line 60 miles from Singapore, and have fallen back to new positions to the south, British Headquarters announced today.

The communique announcing the withdrawal indicated there had been no important change elsewhere on the irregular 80 to 100 mile front along which the British, Australian and Indian defenders of Singapore are deployed.

Sharp fighting was reported continuing in the vicinity of Kluang, which is situated 50 miles north of here on the central Malayan railway down which the Japanese have been trying to drive toward this vital naval base.

Little pressure, however, apparently was being exerted by the Japanese on the British right flank, where it was held by the invaders to the north.

The communique added that the British line east of Muntinich was holding firm against the Japanese invasion from Thailand.

American volunteer airmen with the Chinese Air Force added to their already long string of laurels on this Asiatic front by flying their Tomahawks into a Japanese fighter force over the Rangoon area.

Unofficial reports said they shot down three Japanese raiders, probably destroyed two others and damaged another. One American fighter plane was shot down.

Today's string of American air victories brought to at least 50 the number of Japanese planes destroyed in attacks on Burma since the start of the war and in Allied attacks on Japanese-controlled areas.

WAVEL VISITED RANGOON
Meanwhile, it was announced

First Army Units Make Arrival on British Soil

Size of Force
Not Disclosed

WASHINGTON. —(AP)—Arrival of American Army forces in Northern Ireland was announced today by Secretary of War Stimson.

Major General Russell P. Hartle, in command, it was announced, but the size of the force and other details were withheld.

Specifically withheld were designations of the units, their composition and strength, the points of embarkation, dates of sailing, and other details of the movement.

The force was the first to reach the British Isles since the war started aside from groups of technicians and staff officers, officials indicated.

The test of the War Department's communique, No. 77:

"1. Northern Ireland: Secretary of War announces the arrival in Northern Ireland of United States Army forces under the command of Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle."

"The Secretary of War declined to make public the designation of the units, their composition and strength, nor would he divulge the points of embarkation, dates of sailing, or other details of the movement from the United States."

"2. There is nothing to report from other areas."

General Hartle, 32, recently was commander of the 34th Infantry Division at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and is among the youngest officers to hold the rank of major-general.

His Army service of more than 11 years includes service in France in the World War and tours of duty in the Philippines and Puerto Rico. He is a native of Chewaucan, N. J., and a graduate of the University of Maryland.

German Planes Over Northern Ireland

LONDON. —(AP)—German planes were over Northern Ireland today, but apparently did no damage.

Secretary Stimson in Washington today said the arrival of United States Army forces in Northern Ireland.

Curran declared in a radio broadcast from Perth that "the enemy hammers at our very gates," that Australia's voice must be heard in the Pacific and pleaded:

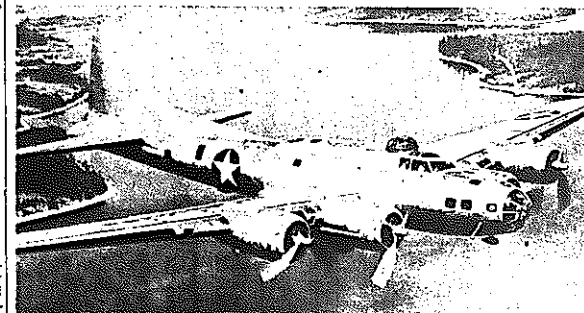
"Australia is for Australia. It is a white Australia. With the blood of our people we shall keep it so."

While the militia fought a delaying action, the War Cabinet ordered immediate full mobilization of working and fighting manpower. All men up to 60 years of age were required to register. Enrollment of women is expected to follow.

With the Japanese gaining beach within striking distance of the mainland, bomb-disposal squads were being formed in Australian cities and steps were taken to extend the present blackout to all coastal communities.

Army Minister Francis Forde announced that civilians were being taken from bombed Madang in Northeastern New Guinea and to Trugan in Florida Island in the Solomons.

There was no immediate indication whether the evacuation was prompted by fear of further bombing or indicated Australian preparations for a Japanese-controlled area.



FLYING TO VICTORY IN THE FAR EAST—America's Flying Fortresses (above) are proving their worth in the Far East. Powerful and fast they have taken a major part in smashing attacks on Japanese shipping and air bases. (War Dept. photo.)

British Knocked Back In Libya

Rommel's Forces Appear To
Be Trying To By-Pass Bengasi

CAIRO. —(AP)—The British acknowledged today they had been driven still farther back in Libya by General Erwin Rommel's counter-attacking armored columns and the Axis' forces apparently were aiming to by-pass Bengasi in a major comeback against Britain's Eighth Army.

The new center of the desert battle, placed by the communiqué north and northeast of Zoulet Mass, meant that Rommel had advanced more than 40 miles from the Agadabia-Antela-Saumy triangle where a big tank battle raged over the week-end.

Zoulet Mass is only 70 miles southeast of Bengasi, inland on the hump of Ghirafa, and fighting in the region means the British have been shoved back about 145 miles around the Gulf of Sirte from the highway mark of their drive at 23 April.

The Italian communiqué, broadcast from Rome, said the British lost 30 guns, 87 armored cars and tanks many of which were American-made, and large supplies of war materials and ammunition in the tank fighting yesterday.

The Axis gains were partly offset, however, by news that the British air force had dealt smashing blows to a heavily scored Axis convoy apparently bearing supplies to North Africa.

An RAF communiqué said bombers and medium bombers severely damaged and probably destroyed the Axis convoy.

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Fighting on His Birthday

General MacArthur

WASHINGTON. —(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur, the junior brass saboteur of an already historic Philippines campaign, celebrated his 52nd birthday today in the thick of the fighting on a crucial war front.

His personality, martial spirit and record as a soldier make it evident that he would prefer no other setting for the occasion.

MacArthur and his indomitable little army of American and Philippine troops made the birthday anniversary a doubly auspicious event by registering a spectacular victory yesterday in a counter-attack which shattered the lines of a heavily superior enemy.

The War Department, however, was fighting on on Page 8.

Sink Four More Axis Vessels

LONDON. —(AP)—Four more Axis ships have been sunk in the Mediterranean by British submarines, the Admiralty announced today.

The ships sunk, a large, fully-armed freighter, a medium-sized transport and the Italian salvage vessel Hampton.

The Hampton, the only vessel identified by name in the report, was a 30-ton craft normally in merchant service.

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Sea And Air Forces Lash Jap Armada

At Least 30 Ships Sunk or Damaged;
Jap Fleet May Be Annihilated

By CLYDE A. FARNSWORTH
Associated Press War Editor

United States and Dutch sea and air forces, locked in a great, running battle with a Japanese invasion armada in the Strait of Macassar, have sunk or damaged upwards of 30—and perhaps 33 transports and warships in the four days of fighting and may have shattered an attempt to invade Java, the heart of the United Nations defense in the South Pacific.

The next few days will tell in what strength if any the Japanese armada was able to negotiate the narrow shortcut to the inner arc of the Netherlands East Indies.

The Japanese, however, won at least one foothold on this sea road to Java—the Dutch oil port of Balikpapan, on the strait-side of the island of Borneo, but the size of the invasion fleet indicated that Tokyo was shooting for higher stakes to the south.

The Strait of Macassar is the most direct route between Japanese concentration points in the Philippines and the rich island of Java on which the United Nations have centered their command and much of their armed strength.

Sorobaja, the Great Dutch naval base, for example, lies less than 250 miles southwest of the southern mouth of the strait.

The score against the Japanese is heavy. The Dutch navy has lost at least 30 ships, including 10 transports and 10 destroyers, and the United States Navy has lost at least 10 ships, including 5 transports and 5 destroyers.

United States naval forces twice struck in the narrow 80-mile strait. A communique of the United States Navy today said that Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell said an attack by United States destroyers Friday night resulted in the sinking of one transport and probing of one transport and probing of one transport and probing of one transport.

The Japanese already had forced landings at Balikpapan, Borneo, all port on the west side of the strait within 500 miles of the Dutch island base of Sorobaja, and at Kendari on the Celebes, the sprawling island which flanks the strait on the east.

U. S. Planes Come Back Undamaged

WASHINGTON. —(AP)—The War Department reported today that seven American bombers, participating in the Jan. 24-25 attack on a Japanese convoy on Macassar Strait, sank an enemy transport, set fire to another, and shot down five enemy planes, and returned to their base undamaged.

The communique also reported that the Navy had reported yesterday from the Southwest Pacific headquarters of the United States Navy that the number of ships damaged by air and sea action at a minimum of seventeen.

The losses inflicted on this Japanese convoy, said the United Nations Command, "are the heaviest the enemy has suffered."

U. S. PLANES ON PAGE 8

WEATHER

Slightly
cooler
temperature
tonight

Today's Temp.: H. 64; L. 41
Sunset Today: 5:45
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:26
Additional C. & W. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 7-B.

Note to Readers
Disappears from Berlin
Roses, Tokyo and other news
revelations are published by
the news with the weather
they frequently contain
statements intended for
general consumption. The
news is taken from
reliable sources and is
credited to the news.

See FRAISE GIVEN ON PAGE 8

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