

BRITISH FALL BACK TO NEW LINE AS MALAYAN FIGHTING GROWS IN FURY

Axis Forces In Libya Refuse To Give Battle

Fall Back Even Further West

CAIRO — (AP)—Axis Libyan forces, failing to give battle at Agadabia, are falling back even farther west along the road to Tripoli under cover of a swirling sand storm and desert-laid mines, but with the British Imperials slashing heavily at their rear and flanks.

(British sources in London said that the offensive into Libya was now 600 miles from the starting point along the Egyptian border. It meant that the British had cut around far to the rear of the main German-Italian force in the vicinity of Misurata. Mediterranean port only 150 miles east of Tripoli, or 400 miles from the Italian city 210 miles southwest of Tripoli.)

MAY BE AT FLANKS

(If the longer highway and caravans trail distances were meant, it was probable that the British advance was still no farther than the flank of the retreating Axis African corps.)

(Frontiers of 28 to 40 miles into territory previously held by the enemy were reported south of Agadabia. Their some 300 vehicles march within Libya on the highway to the Gulf of Sirte.)

The Axis forces had stood for days in the Agadabia region after a fighting retreat from the Bengasi region before finally choosing withdrawal as a wiser tactical bet.

Surging tank attacks developed at their rear.

"Taking advantage of a heavy sand storm which continues severely to restrict visibility, the enemy withdrew from Agadabia, covered by strong rearguards," said the General Headquarters communiqué.

"Our mobile columns of all arms are moving forward in pursuit over a wide front. Progress, however, has been slow, owing partly to weather conditions and also to the use of the enemy of extensive mine fields."

MAKE CONTACT

"Shortly after mid-day yesterday the Goldstream Guards and the Scots Guards established contact with portions of the enemy rearguards about seven miles southwest of Agadabia.

"Pursing British, the King's Dragoon Guards and South African armored fighting vehicles penetrated country previously held by the enemy to depths of twenty and 40 miles, pressing the enemy back in front of them.

"In the Hailaia area (along the Libyan-Egyptian border) in spite of continuing dust storms, our forces penetrated and successfully attacked enemy positions throughout the day.

"The informant declared that the Axis hold-out forces in the Hailaia-Salum area were being 'closely invested.'

Declares Britain Has Not Tried To Buy French Fleet

LONDON — (AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden today told a House of Commons debate that Britain Government had not offered to purchase the French fleet for the future.

Nor was he aware that the United States Government have done so, either," he added.

National & International Affairs:

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By Dr. W. Pearson & Robert S. Allen

Japanese Warplanes May Wreck Allied Plans For Guerrilla Campaign in Philippine Islands

WASHINGTON—Many safe remarks have been quoted in the wake of Winston Churchill, and one of the most significant was announced in regard to future Allied strategy against Japan.

Asked what the United States and the British could do to check Japan, Churchill replied:

"The Japanese have been eating away the table. They

1941	1942	1943
PLANES 19,000	60,000 45,000 Combat	125,000 100,000 Combat
TANKS 7500	45,000	75,000
GUNS Anti Aircraft 3000	20,000	35,000
SHIPS Merchant vessels 1,000,000 TONS	8,000,000 TONS	10,000,000 TONS

CHARTING TROUBLE FOR THE AXIS—Planes, tanks, guns and ships—U. S. war industries will turn them out with skyrocketing increases in 1942 and 1943. Chart compares production predicted by President Roosevelt with 1941 estimates.

Soviet Reserves Pour Into Battle

Drive Has Pushed Nazis Half Way Back to Smolensk

LONDON — (AP)—The Red Army was reported reliably tonight to have poured powerful reserves of newly-trained troops into its westward drive south of Moscow which already has shoved the Germans half way back to Smolensk from the high mark of the Nazi invasion.

The new troops were said to have supplemented their own arms with weapons abandoned by the Germans in their forced retreat.

"The Russians still have untouched reserves of manpower which they are tapping as fast as they can be armed," a reliable informant asserted. "The Red Army now is on an offensive largely powered by troops trained in the six months since the war started—and this training is going on at a rate that more than makes up for battle losses."

ADVANCE IN NORTH, SOUTH

Russian advances in frozen Kazakhstan and in the Crimea also were reported, along with the steady Moscow front push which recaptured Mtskhovsk, deep in the German center.

Bodies of nearly 400 German officers and men were found in one of the recaptured points, the Soviet Information Bureau said, and submarine riflemen annihilated a boat of 200 others in a fight for a village identified only as "P."

NEAR "WINNER LINE"

Moscow has 120 miles southward of Moscow and only 40 miles short of the Vyazma-Bryansk line on which the invaders were cut off.

See REDS HERE on Page 11

U. S. Gets Criticism Comes Up in British House of Commons

LONDON — (AP)—Fear that the British Isles might become an American outpost was openly expressed today by two members of the House of Commons in commenting on results of the Washington conference.

Labourite Richard Happer Stokes said "I hate to think of the island of Great Britain being turned into a military center of control shifting to Washington. It gives me a nasty feeling—have had it for many months—indeed I might say for years—that we may find ourselves reduced to what I term occupying the position of American Heligoland off the coast of Europe."

Louis Granville, Liberal, said:

"We may have to choose between whether this island shall be a western outpost of totalitarian Europe or the eastern outpost of an American controlled civilization."

The United States preparedness for the war in the Pacific also came in for criticism.

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FLEET CRITICISM

After remarking that American vessels were "supplied" by the Japanese when "they ought to have been on the other side of the world."

See U. S. GETS on Page 11

New Navy Campaign Seems Very, Very Slow

LOS ANGELES — (AP)—The Navy is pushing a "serve with silence" campaign, designed to discourage gossip about its activities.

Posters reminiscent of Great Britain early in the war are being going up throughout the Los Angeles harbor area.

Catch phrases also are being circulated, such as:

"A slip of the lip may sink a ship."

"That friendly chap may tell a Jap."

"Can you keep a secret? OK, keep it."

Japs Worry About the Location of U. S. Fleet

Put Out Feelers To Get Word

WASHINGTON — (AP)—The whereabouts and intentions of the United States Pacific Fleet apparently were causing renewed concern today in Tokyo.

There was evidence in this in the enemy's recourse to the Axis gauding technique—the circulation of vague reports designed to elicit valuable information.

Both the Tokyo radio and a German-controlled station operated in broadcasting the initial feelers. Tokyo was heard reporting an engagement between the Japanese and American fleets in the Western Pacific. The Navy story, aired from a station in the Netherlands, had the Japanese attacking two U. S. battleships en route to Australia, and sinking one of them.

NO TRUTH

The Navy Department here declined comment on Tokyo's sea battle might and denied the Navy report as something containing "not an iota of truth."

It was noted, however, that the reports hardly bore out the repeated Axis claims that the Pacific Fleet had been "crippled," "knocked out" and "finally—as one Japanese source had it—"annihilated" by the Pearl Harbor attack.

The fog of war has shrouded most of the naval operations in the Pacific, but the concentration of a strong Japanese naval force at the southern tip of the Philippines recently had been reported here as an indication that the enemy was preparing to launch major operations against the East Indies.

SEEK INFORMATION

The Japanese attempt to obtain information about the U. S. fleet, some observers thought, might be motivated by the necessity of planning a possible attack as soon as possible, but only after the High Command assured that it had immediate naval superiority.

See JAPS WORRY on Page 11

Prepare for Big Attack

U. S. Forces Gird for Philippines Battle

WASHINGTON — (AP)—The War Department today said that the United States forces in the Philippines were preparing themselves for a large-scale attack by the Japanese invaders.

General Douglas MacArthur, Far East Commander, personally directed the fighting forces drawn together north and west of Manila Bay, ready under his moral and determination of the United States and Filipino forces to meet the Japanese invaders.

General MacArthur declared they will "continue their resistance with skill and courage."

He said that his men were preparing to meet the Japanese invaders with their strength for a vital blow.

It's Censorship: Sh-h-h-h, But --- And --- Are Making Going Tough For Autos

By TOM FERRERMAN
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Too much information shouldn't be spread about the activities of everybody who left the warmth of his home this morning and set their feet on the cold ground. It's a bit of a shame, but the band and before anybody got up and about this morning the streets and yards were white as snow.

Very pretty it was, but this morning's snow was a wolf in sheep's clothing. Underneath lay a dangerous thin sheet of ice which caused people's feet to defy the law of gravity and set them abruptly on their heels in the middle of the streets.

Cars had an awful time warming up to the new turn of Yanketown, and the buses were running late because the streets were so slippery. Cars got awfully red, and the disconsolate people waited on the corners for twenty minutes, some of them, but despite the wave and the snow on the streets, they were grateful for safe bus routes.

John J. A. Turner, City Manager, said that the city wouldn't put on the snow because the snow was enough on the streets. The buses had no accidents.

The police said the city didn't have any snow on the streets, reported few people or none at all. But they did have a few slippery walks and streets. Of course, some folks naturally have been slipping and falling, but that was to be expected.



CARRIES ON—Dressed in a Red Cross uniform, Mrs. Colin P. Kelly Jr., widow of American hero of World War II, helped launch a campaign for war relief funds in Des Moines, Ia.

Counter-Blow Is Struck By British

Great Fires Left Raging as RAF Makes Attack on Bangkok

RANGOON Burma — (AP)—The RAF left huge fires blazing amid military objectives at Bangkok, capital of Japanese-occupied Thailand, in the first British counter-blow of a rising fury of air war over the storied road to Mandalay.

Flames were visible for miles as the British airmen returned from their attack, which a British airman said was made last night and indicated was in retaliation for repeated Japanese attacks on Rangoon, capital of British Burma. All British planes were said to have returned safely.

(However, a Bangkok dispatch broadcast by the Berlin radio placed the attack at 4:15 A. M. local time, Thursday—4:15 P. M. Wednesday.) RAF—said that British bombers crashed in residential districts.

SEVERAL KILLED

"The Axis latered the Thailand hospital, the French church and the Bank of Indo-China as damaged by bombs, and said several British airmen were killed. Three fires resulted from incendiary bombs in the raid, the Bangkok dispatch said.

Moulmein, east of Rangoon, was reported bombed Wednesday afternoon and Rangoon itself underwent another air alarm, although no raiders appeared.

The Japanese advance in the Kluang area is famous in the Kluang area as the place where a Burma girl waited for her British lover in the shadow of an old pagoda, smoking a "wackin' big cheroot."

The Japanese say that six British Spitfires were downed and bananars and other military equipment set afire in Japanese attacks since Saturday on the Moulmein Airfield, ten miles north of Rangoon.

(Japanese attacks on the Rangoon area were reported Sunday and Monday, according to Axis reports.)

Nazi in Budapest

BERLIN — (Official Broadcast)

Secretary Reich, the patronus of the German people, today announced that there was "no immediate prospect" of gasoline rationing as it was necessary.

He suggested that his previous statement, however, that great quantities of rubber, gasoline and other equipment could be obtained through setting up of a national speed limit as an immediate measure. It announced such a limit was being established at once in all the national parts under his jurisdiction.

The rubber shortage, Reich said, would postpone the rationing, but he had estimated that the rationing would result in civilian gasoline consumption in 1943.

Gas Will Not Be Rationed

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Withdrawal In Perak State Acknowledged

Japanese Pressure Increases; New Stand May Be Imperiled

By C. YATES Mc DANIEL

SINGAPORE — (AP)—The British acknowledged tonight that they had withdrawn from Perak Province on the west coast of Malaya, falling back under heavy Japanese pressure to a new line in northern Selangor Province, guarding Kuala Lumpur, capital of the Federated Malay States and second city of British Malaya.

A communique which announced the withdrawal said it was made necessary by a Japanese penetration of the lower Perak defense line.

It added that "we suffered some losses in guns and transport" in the withdrawal.

The new defense line was south of the Slim River, a Bernam River tributary dividing Perak and Selangor provinces. The Slim River is 50 miles north of Kuala Lumpur and 200 miles north of Singapore.

Even this stand, the communique

Malay City Menaced

Reports from Klang, west of Kuala Lumpur, have said that the British had been successful in causing casualties in Japanese air attacks.

British bombers were said to have carried out a new raid on Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaya, on Tuesday.

China was reported the spokesman of the new drive down the Malay coast of Penang and Singapore, 120 miles north of the British capital.

(The Japanese news agency, the Asahi, broadcast a report that a fierce battle had been fought between the British and Japanese along the border between the Malay states of Perak and Selangor. Donald said the Japanese "lightened an extraordinary" bombardment of Kuala Lumpur.

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WEATHER

High and slightly foggy; by middle of night; lowest temperature about 45 degrees.

Today's Forecast: Sunny; temperature 45 to 65.