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Final

NAZI OFFENSIVE IN CRIMEA FALTERS

JAP REINFORCEMENTS ATTACK CHINESE

Make New Assault on West China War Front

Rear-Guard Again Advances Guard

CHUNGKING, China.—(AP)—The Japanese have brought up reinforcements and are making a new attack on the Yenan front in western China, a Chinese communique announced today.

The followed an earlier report by a Chinese military spokesman that the main force of the Japanese invading column which had struck deep into Yenan had been driven back to the frontier town of Wanting but that heavy fighting with Japanese troops continued in the Chongming area, 20 to 30 miles inside Yenan.

Arrival of Japanese reinforcements apparently again converted the rear guard into an advance guard.

Other Chinese forces which had been bypassed in central Hsien, continued their advance in which they captured Maymyo and drove to the outskirts of ruined Mandalay, driving northward in an effort to block the Japanese retreat.

The spokesman said the Japanese had reached Kaliwa, 145 miles northwest of Mandalay after a northwardly advance from Mandalay. He said the Japanese were attempting to encircle Chinese forces in that section.

The British air commander based at New Delhi said they had thrown back a force of Japanese at Shwebo, just south of Nyaungshwe. The Japanese troops were advancing up the Chindwin River.

Jap Vanguard Troops Reported in India

LONDON.—(AP)—A German radio broadcast that Japanese vanguard troops had crossed the frontier into India from Burma was reported later today.

The German broadcast also said light Japanese forces also had taken control of the coastal zone between the Indian port of Akyab and the Indian port of Chittagong.

14 Seamen Trapped Apparently Went Down With Their Ship

MIAAMI, Fla.—Fourteen seamen including a gun crew, were trapped in their quarters when a medium-sized Dutch merchantman was torpedoed off the Atlantic coast. They apparently went down with their ship.

The Dutch gunners had no opportunity to throw their guns over deck, however, trapped below decks and had no chance to escape as the ship careered with flames sailing rapidly. It went down so quickly the lifeboats were unable to be raised and could not be launched.

The Navy revealed that twenty survivors of the Dutch ship, including Captain Johannes Peter Cuyten of Amsterdam, got into life boats and were saved by other craft.

SKIPPER LEAPED

The skipper leaped overboard just before his ship sank and was unable to swim. He was accepted by seven crewmen, but would not get aboard until the British came to his assistance.

There were exceptions, however. One Seaman said he didn't need much, and a Representative said he was trying to get into the water and get in the Marines.

See 14 SEAMEN on page 7

Tragedy Of Burma

British And Chinese Casualties Appalling In Hopeless Burma War

Editor's Note: Daniel De Luca has covered the Burma campaign for the Associated Press from the first, and the Associated Press' chief bureau of offices began fighting there, until the recent Allied reverse. Here is his dramatic story of the defeat and his escape in India.

By DANIEL DE LUCA

CALCUTTA, India.—(UPI)—A re-creation plane soared in a heat-shield through a smoky jungle swamps, hidden deep in black-leaved mud and the survivors of the British Air Force, which the Burma air fighting arm of World War II

was beaten by enemy fighters and of Imperial soldiers from two Indian divisions which had been overwhelmed supreme, stalled at from ambushed by blood-streaked bands of Chinese rebels who steamed the Japanese conquest for more than a year. The British observers have had nothing but trouble.

This was evident to do what almost seemed impossible. Their allies were appalled.

The majority of the stocky, slumped British Air Force, which had been taking into the Salween in January, and the British Chinese, who are now flying around Tonquon below Mandalay in March, were killed in their war as Singapore, Java, Manila and perhaps as available.

Some retreated out of the death pockets. Always there, perhaps the pitifully small handful

of every mortal apparently

was spotted and by an Australian bomber.

Allies Rain More Blows On Armada Of Japanese

Track Remnants Of Enemy Fleet

A L L I E D HEADQUARTERS, Australia.—(AP)—Japan apparently still was paying a disastrous price today for her defeat in the Coral Sea as General MacArthur's headquarters announced that Allied fliers tracking down the scattered, hiding remnants of the great enemy invasion armada had damaged two and probably three, more ships.

This raised the count of Japanese losses in the six-day battle in the sea gateway northeast of Australia and in its sequel, a ceaseless search of island hideaways, to 23 or 24 ships in the right days from the start of the Coral Sea battle through yesterday.

Nevertheless, Japan's plans have only been delayed and the threat still hangs over Australia that she will again smash southward, Air Minister Arthur B. Bradford warned.

TRANSPORTS HIT

Two more enemy transports, casualties numbers 22 and 23—were hit yesterday in the Solomon Islands, which enclose the Coral Sea, and the communiqué from General MacArthur's headquarters announced.

LONDON.—(AP)—The British Admiralty announced today that three British destroyers had been sunk by German bombs in the Mediterranean.

An Army spokesman said the destroyers, which were escorting a transport, had landed a few stores and supplies from boats and planes and apparently were en route to the southeast tip of New Guinea.

The spokesman said the transports attacked yesterday in the Solomons Islands at Kessa, apparently were a separate unit and not a part of the fleet involved in the Coral Sea.

SEPARATE UNIT

It was thought that the transports attacked yesterday in the Solomons Islands at Kessa, apparently were a separate unit and not a part of the fleet involved in the Coral Sea.

The presence of a later Japanese tanker in the treacherous waters of the Bessynes, the largest of which Panama is only about four feet above sea level, suggests that the Japanese invasion force may be seeking shelter from the Allies' sea.

All three were new, the lively 1920 hours, having been completed in 1940, and the other two, each 1920 tons, a year earlier. Not least, however, was the fact that the ships were 183 men, the lively's probably somewhat larger.

"Yesterday afternoon, a force of 100 men of our destroyers were heavily attacked by German aircraft in the Eastern Mediterranean," said the communiqué.

The lively's first hit and, when the remaining three destroyers were subjected to further attack, the Ripling was sunk.

The Jackal, also badly hit, was taken in tow, but had to be sunk by the British this morning, the Admiralty said.

During the attacks British naval fighters destroyed one of the Junker bombers and damaged at least seven, the communiqué said.

The Japanese did not see the plane until it was close. A bomb struck just a few feet from the long, black submarine, causing the outer hatch to close for the day.

An oil slick soon enveloped the struggling sailors who were unable to get ashore.

The other survivor was spotted and shot by an Australian bomber.

U. S. Naval Phumes Said To Have Sunken U-Boat

RIO DE JANEIRO.—(AP)—The newspaper A Noite quoted officials of the Brazilian navy that the 6,692-ton Brazilian steamer Paranaiba from Trieste last month had been sunk by British ships.

"There is no doubt that the waters which have been a theater of sinkings are being turned into a cemetery of the German pirates," A Noite added.

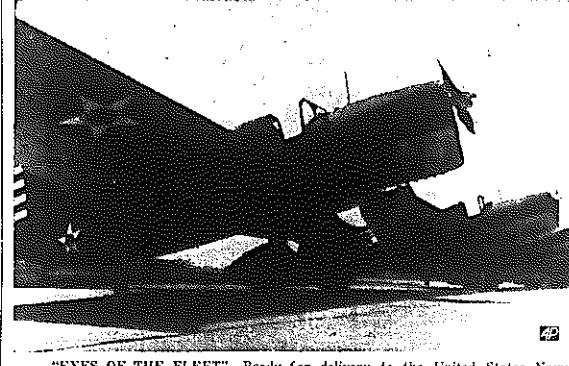
The newspaper said the British

had seized the steamer from the British

and that the British had

been sunk by British ships.

See BRAZIL AND on page 1



"EYES OF THE FLEET"—Ready for delivery to the United States Navy, these Seagull scout-observation planes (SO3C-1) are lined up outside the Curtiss-Wright Corporation plant at Columbus, Ohio. This is the first authorized publication of pictures of these planes which are designed to serve as "eyes of the fleet." Adaptable to wheels or floats, the Seagulls can be launched by catapult from cruisers or battleships.

Kerch Drive Dies Down As Quickly As It Began Ceases at Least Temporarily

MOSCOW.—(AP)—A German offensive against Soviet positions blocking invasion of the Caucasus died down overnight as quickly as it had flared up on the Kerch Peninsula of the Crimea, the Russians disclosed today.

The mid-day communiqué said nothing important occurred last night, indicating the Nazi push had ended at least temporarily.

Whether Red Army resistance halted the attack or the Germans reverted to their old tactics of hitting the road and resting by night must not be determined immediately.

This was in sharp contrast with the Soviet midday communiqué, which of sudden battles against a German offensive on the Kerch Peninsula.

MASS AIR RAIDS

While it was too soon for military dispatches to report development of the offensive, advances reached here said it was preceded by night mass air raids.

Red Berlin, April 29.—A German plane dropped thousands of bombs in the Crimea, particularly incendiaries, but without important results.

The German High Command, however, declared, "On the Kerch Peninsula German and Hungarian troops opened an attack May 8 supported by strong formations of the German Air Force. The battle front has been in full swing."

A Berlin military spokesman declared: "Hell has been let loose over the strategic positions in the Kerch Peninsula. The battle front has been in full swing."

"Squadron after squadron of German planes is racing over the Bohai front, where Ju 87s are carrying out dive-bombing attacks."

A British commentator in London said the Germans had driven the British back after four days of fierce fighting, but that the British had been forced to withdraw.

Major Fletcher, chairman of the British Compensation Committee, had been called to a preliminary meeting for the expected meeting with the Germans.

Laval was said to have brought France into the bulk of three big groups of negotiators. The American proposals for clearing the status of Martinique, the desire of the French to reach final decisions, it was reported today in foreign diplomatic quarters.

The communiqué stated that the French could refer to the Martinique negotiations as one of the great decisions, with a resultant great improvement in relations with the United States.

It was reported that Otto Abetz, Adolf Hitler's representative in Paris, and Laval met yesterday at Moulins, on the French demarcation line, and laid the groundwork for the expected meeting with the Germans.

Laval was said to have brought France into the bulk of three big groups of negotiators. The American proposals for clearing the status of Martinique, the desire of the French to reach final decisions, it was reported today in foreign diplomatic quarters.

All three were new, the lively 1920 hours, having been completed in 1940, and the other two, each 1920 tons, a year earlier. Not least, however, was the fact that the ships were 183 men, the lively's probably somewhat larger.

These were reported to have been the matters of "imperial concern" which Vichy announced yesterday. The American proposals for clearing the status of Martinique, the desire of the French to reach final decisions, it was reported today in foreign diplomatic quarters.

Other unconfirmed London reports asserted that operating who were serving in Paris, Major Fletcher, chairman of the British Compensation Committee, had been called to a preliminary meeting for the expected meeting with the Germans.

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