

AMERICAN FORCES FOR MAY

JAPANESE CONTEST FOR MIDWAY

FR Warns U.S. May Use Gas Against Japs

Nipponese Have Resorted to Such Warfare Against China, He Says

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — President Roosevelt told today of official information that Japan was using poison gas against China and grimly declared that if the Japanese persisted in this form of warfare, the United States would make out "retaliation in kind and in full measure."

The reports that Japan on several occasions had resorted to gas warfare were described by the Chief Executive in his press conference as authoritative. He read a brief formal statement, which he said the State Department had prepared, making it unequivocally clear that the United States would consider the use of gas against China or any other United Nation as an action against the United States.

The text of the statement follows:

"Authoritative reports are reaching this Government of the use by Japanese armed forces in various localities of China of poisonous or noxious gases. I desire to make it unmistakably clear that, if Japan persists in this inhuman form of warfare against China or against any other of the United Nations, such action will be regarded by this Government as though taken against the United States, and retaliation in kind and in full measure will be meted out. We shall be prepared to meet out."

See F. R. GIVES on page 4

Reds Blast Nazis' Northern Air Bases

Strike To Guard Arctic Route for War Supplies From Allies

MOSCOW. — (AP) — Fighting to safeguard Russia's Arctic Ocean route for war supplies from Britain and the United States, the Red Air Force has hammered home three hard attacks on the bases from which German bombers have been ranging the far northern seaways, dispatches from Murnansk reported today.

At least 40 German planes were said to have been destroyed in addition to the damage to the Nazi-built landing fields, apparently in the Petsamo region of Finland and the frozen North Cape country of Norway.

The dispatches from Murnansk — landing port for much of the supplies coming to Russia from her Allies — said the attacks were made deep behind the German-Finnish lines.

PLANES SMASHED

Twelve planes were said to have been smashed in the first attack, and the second was said to have destroyed 25 more planes which the Germans had just brought to the northern front.

Say 8,000 Japs Killed

Report Fighting About Chinese Rail Center

CHUNGKING. — (AP) — The Chinese High Command announced tonight that about 8,000 Japanese troops had been killed in fighting around Chungking, rail center in western Chekiang Province.

That increased the number of Japanese casualties reported in two days of fighting for important strategic points.

Observers here said the Chinese announcement might indicate a decisive turn in the fierce battle for the western Chekiang air base area from which Japan might be bombed.

The Chinese said the importance with which the Japanese regarded the battle was reflected in that they had sent more than 100,000 troops into the assault.

EARLIER FIRE

Earlier Chinese war reports said the Japanese, closing in on Chungking from three sides, smashed to bits three miles of the town from the north before being checked by deadly defense artillery fire and counter attacks.

Pay Compromise Urged

Propose \$46 A Month For "Bucks" And \$52 For First-Class Privates

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — Senate conferees on the military pay increase bill proposed a compromise to the House committee today calling for \$46 a month for buck privates and \$52 for first-class privates.

The House group took the compromise under advisement and another conference may be held later in the day.

The compromise offer compares with Senate-approved figures of \$49 for buck privates and \$46 for first-class privates, and House-approved figures of \$50 and \$54, respectively.

Neither conference group had all of its members present, but a majority was on hand for each five-man

Two Jap Subs Sunk By Planes Of Allies

Third Probably Sent Down

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Australia. — (AP) — Allied planes, protecting vital shipping lanes over which United States war supplies are flowing into Australia, have sunk two Japanese submarines and probably a third off the east coast of this continent, General MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

This success brought to six, and possibly seven, the number of Japanese submarines destroyed by the defenders of Australia in the last five days, four enemy midget submarines having been reported sunk Sunday night in an abortive raid on Sydney Harbor.

Allied airmen also were reported to have struck yesterday at Japanese bases in the islands south of Australia, blasting airbases and shipping facilities.

The Allied aircraft credited with the latest submarine sinkings apparently were searching for submarines which only yesterday were reported to have attacked three vessels in the Sydney area, sending one to the bottom but failing to damage the other two.

TWO SUNK ON SURFACE

The official announcement said the planes, manned by Dutch and Australian airmen, spotted the submarines on the surface in different localities.

Headquarters issued the following communiqué:

"Allied Aircraft of one Netherlands and two Australian squadrons, on reconnaissance of the east coast located three enemy submarines on the surface in widely separated localities.

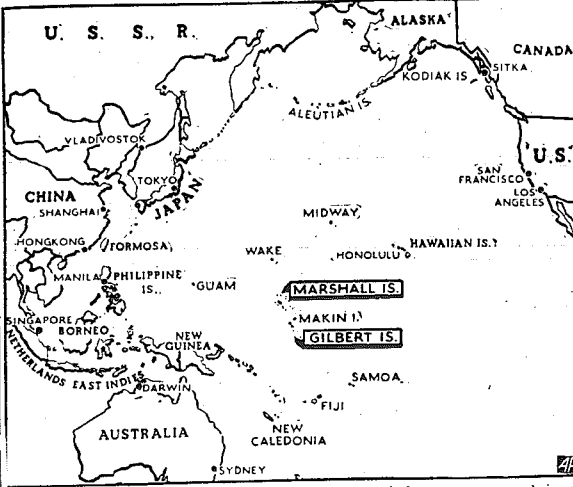
"In ensuing attacks, two submarines certainly were destroyed and a third probably sunk."

An eye witness account of the sinking of one of the submarines was given by a Dutch airmen pilot, a big American bomber carrying a crew of six men.

"I sighted the submarine suddenly on the surface," the pilot reported, "and opened my machine guns and sent down but my bombardier missed seeing the vessel."

"I pulled the plane down again."

See ALLIED PLANES on page 4



BATTLE RAGES IN PACIFIC—American naval forces are engaged in a great sea battle in defense of Midway Island, according to reports from the Pacific today. Strategic location of Midway is shown on the map above.

Marshal Rommel Names Food Committee

Secretary Wickard Chairman

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson today created a food requirements committee under the chairmanship of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard to control the production and allocation of all civilian and military food supplies.

Establishment of the new nine-member committee, within the War Production Board, is expected to be followed in a few days by an announcement of a combined British-American Food Board, with Wickard as the top American representative.

The new committee will determine civilian, military and foreign food requirements, Nelson said.

The committee will be final subject to approval of the WPB.

"Besides Wickard, the committee consists of L. S. Stinebaugh, State Department; Brig. Gen. Carl A. Harbord, War Department; Rear Admiral W. B. Young, Navy; W. S. Parker, Board of Economic Warfare; Dr. John Orchard, Office of Lend-Lease Administration; Roland S. Valle, division of civilian supply of WPB; Douglas C. Townsend, division of industrial operations of WPB; and F. L. Daniels, materials division of WPB."

Actual operations of the food committee will be carried on by existing agencies, with the chief role assigned to the Agriculture Department.

Troops at India Ports

Get Large Convoy of Reinforcements

NEW DELHI, India. — (AP) — As Japanese forces pressed to a point 45 miles east of India's Burma frontier, the British announced today that the largest convoy of reinforcements ever to come to the defense of India had been unloaded at eastern India ports.

The reinforcements included light and heavy anti-aircraft guns, British and American light and heavy tanks and a large number of both fighting and technical personnel.

The convoy put into Indian ports in May and was so big it could not be handled at any one port, it came through without loss.

Among the troops were some 10,000 soldiers trained in Britain and other troops with battle experience in France and Libya.

Crews for Hurricane fighters and American-built Kittyhawks now operating in India arrived on the convoy.

The number of troops and material was described as possibly the largest ever to leave the United Kingdom.

Japanese troops have reached Calcutta, 45 miles east of the Indian border, and are continuing to rush troops up the Chittagong River in Burma, a British spokesman said.

The spokesman declared the Japanese evidently planned at least to strengthen their forces holding that section of territory captured in Burma.

Humana is on the Chittagong River.

See TROOPS AT on page 4

All They Want Is A Chance

Frenchmen, recovering from the shock of defeat, are ready to fight again, will aid the armies of democracy, reports Foreign Correspondent Jean Gratie who has just arrived in America from internment in Germany. He agrees with the expressed opinion of Major J. W. Stuffer, Army Air Corps, that the French will fight again in a story in The News Wednesday. Turn to page 11-A.

Initial Round Of Struggle Won By U. S.

Strong Enemy Force Battled Around Last Outpost Before Hawaii

HONOLULU. — (AP) — American defenders, spurred by initial successes, closed battle today with a strong Japanese sea-air task force in what may be a finish fight for possession of Midway Island.

Already the island garrison had scored hits on an enemy battleship, an aircraft carrier and possibly other war vessels. Raiding planes were brought down in great numbers.

And, said Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, "our attacks on the enemy are continuing."

This latest assault on the tiny island outpost, last line of defense before Hawaii itself, began shortly after dawn yesterday.

It found the American forces, engaged today in one of the greatest battles of the Pacific as a result of the enemy's attempt yesterday to raid the strongly-garrisoned United States outpost on Midway Island.

Commenting on the communique issued at Pearl Harbor early today by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, naval experts here emphasized that Nimitz had said "attacks on the enemy are continuing."

This seemed to indicate, it was said, that the fight which started at dawn yesterday morning had continued for many hours with both American and enemy units maneuvering for advantage.

It may be a crucial engagement determining the enemy's ability to strike the vital point in the Southwest Pacific by taking the Pearl Harbor, the United States West Coast, Alaska and even the Hawaiian Islands.

The action off Midway involved not only Japanese aircraft carriers but battleships and heavy cruisers as well as a strong force of destroyers. As great as this force appeared to be, however, there remained a possibility that it was engaged in a diversionary operation and that a main force was developing an attack on the West Coast.

It was the first time that Japanese battlefleets have been reported east of home waters.

There was no immediate indication here whether a major portion of the enemy fleet was involved, but observers agreed that the presence of so large a force more than 2,000 miles from Yokohama indicated the Japanese were bent on reducing America's growth in the Pacific and possibly bringing the war within threatening distance.

See BATTLE MAY on page 4

Pacific Action May Be Crucial

U. S. and Jap Fleet Units Apparently Engaged in Great Clash

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WEATHER

Little change in temperature tonight.

Today's Temp.: H. 89; L. 68

Sunset Today 8:00

Sunrise Tomorrow 6:00

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 4.

Two More United Nations Ships Sunk To Boost Atlantic Sub Toll

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two more United Nations ships have been torpedoed in the Atlantic, the Navy disclosed today, bringing the announced losses there in two days to six merchant vessels and a Navy patrol boat.

Two teen-age British survivors of the latest sinkings said their ship was sunk in the Atlantic May 29 and they spent five days in open boats until they were rescued by a Dutch merchant ship.

Of the 48 aboard the Norwegian ship, at least fourteen survived.

Twenty-four hours later the Dutch ship met a similar fate and the boys spent three more days in a lifeboat before they were rescued. More than fifteen Chinese crew members were killed when the Dutch ship went down and there was no indication how many of the 80 other crew members were rescued.

As the Navy reported yesterday, the recent loss of the patrol boat and four merchantmen in the Atlantic and one merchantman in the War Pacific, Chennan Elender, Democrat, Louisiana, of a Senate Naval Affairs Subcommittee said in Washington that naval officers might be called in a public hearing "if we are not entirely satisfied that everything possible is being done to halt these sinkings."

Elender declared, "we are going into the whole matter in public."

The sinkings announced yesterday brought United Nations ships to twenty reported so far in the week, and boosted the total loss of the enemy fleet to 297 merchantmen sunk in Atlantic waters.

Besides the patrol boat—the U. S. S. Oyster, formerly the 602-101 yacht Agawa, owned by Mrs. Edith Hale Harkness of New York City—two American merchantmen were sunk.

See 2 MORE on page 4