

JAPS SINK TWO BRITISH BATTLESHIPS

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Final

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1941

28 Pages—Price Five Cents

ESTABLISHED 1838

U. S. FORCES SCORE IN PHILIPPINO BATTLE

Mighty Royal Navy Ships Hit Off Malaya

Prince of Wales, 35,000 Tons, and Repulse, 32,000 Tons, Are Gone

LONDON—(AP)—Britain lost two of her mightiest capital ships today—the powerful new 35,000-ton battleship Prince of Wales and the 32,000-ton battle cruiser Repulse—both sunk by the Japanese off Malaya in the most disastrous single blow struck to the British Navy in the whole war.

Their loss was announced by the Admiralty without word of how they were sent to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean or of the fate of their crews, together more than 3,000 men.

British Minister Alfred Duff Cooper announced in a broadcast from Singapore that there had been considerable loss of life on the Prince of Wales and the Repulse.

A Japanese communiqué said they were destroyed by air attack. The communiqué said they were the first known sinkings of any warships on the either of the Prince of Wales or the Repulse by aerial bombardment.

Prime Minister Churchill made public the announcement in a statement before the shocked House of Commons.

He gave the news bluntly: "I have bad news for the House which I thought I should impart to them at the earliest possible moment," he declared. "The result has been received from Singapore that HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse have been sunk."

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Japs Claim British Far East Fleet Wiped Out

Proud of Landing in Philippines

TOKYO—(Official radio picked up by AP)—Loudspeakers shouted Japan's most tremendous news of war successes so far—the sinking of two of Britain's mightiest capital ships and the landing of Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands—today to jubilant throngs of war-stirred Japanese.

Announcing that Britain's new 35,000-ton battleship Prince of Wales and battle cruiser Repulse had come down in the Pacific off Malaya under bursts of Japanese air bombs, imperial headquarters declared the British Far Eastern fleet has been obliterated.

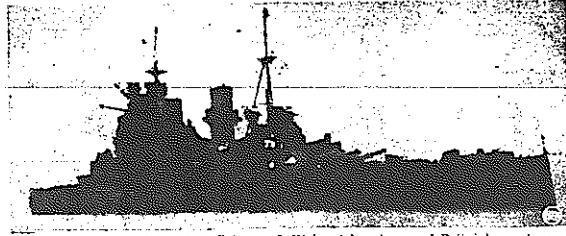
NOT PROVEN

"The loss of the two ships was announced by British radio but was no indication of other losses to substantiate the Japanese claim that Britain's newly raised naval strength in the Far East had been nullified."

Japan already had claimed naval supremacy of the Pacific after her Sunday air smash against the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Imperial Headquarters today proclaimed her prepared to seize the Pacific patrol area and water of the Pacific, Indian and Antarctic Oceans.

In a virtual broadcast of remonstrances which Brit crowds gathered in front of radio and newspaper bulletin boards, the Army and Navy sections of the Imperial Headquarters today proclaimed her prepared to seize the Pacific patrol area and water of the Pacific, Indian and Antarctic Oceans.

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BOMBER VICTIM—HMS Prince of Wales (above) one of Britain's most powerful sea-fighters has been sunk by the Japanese. The powerful cruiser Repulse was another victim of powerful Jap air attack.

Turn Back One Of Forays But Japs Gain Hold

Hot Fighting Blazes in American Outpost in Far East

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

United States Army and Navy forces have blasted a sea-borne Japanese attack against the west coast of Luzon Island in the Philippines, the War Department said today; but other Japanese troops have effected a landing on the north end of the island in the first full-fledged enemy landing on American soil since the War of 1812.

Dispatches from Manila quoted the Philippine Constabulary as saying Japanese parachute troops had captured Vigan, on the coast 200 miles northwest of Manila, Manila time.

Two waves of Japanese bombers raided Manila and its suburbs, pounding military centers including Nichols Air Field, Fort McKinley and the Nielson airport, districts. This was shortly after noon, Wednesday, Manila time.

The repulse of the Japanese landing attempt on the west coast of Luzon, between Vigan and San Fernando, was announced by the War Department in Washington. The Japanese landings in northern Luzon, in the region of Aparri, were reported in a communique of the American command in Manila.

All indications were that they were approximately simultaneous actions, but in quite different areas. Both occurred Wednesday morning, Manila time. There seems

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Japanese Parachute Troops In Action

Sea-Borne Troops Also Reported To Have Landed in Philippines

BY R. P. CRONIN JR.

MANILA, 1:15 P. M. Dec. 10—(12:15 A. M. EST)—(AP)—Japanese parachutists were reported to have captured the northwestern Luzon port of Vigan today and to have effected a landing on the northern part of Aparri in the first full-fledged landing on American soil since the War of 1812.

An Army communique said the Japanese fought their way ashore from Aparri under the protective fire of their warships and bombing by American planes which sank one of the American planes and damaged two of five others.

While the battle in the north still raged, few waves of Japanese bombers raided Manila and its suburbs shortly after noon, Wednesday, Manila time. The Japanese centers including the Nichols Air Depot, Fort William McKinley and Nielson Airport districts.

The port of the sea and Clark Airfield were reported to have been bombed at the same time.

Philippine constabulary reported the parachute capture of Vigan, only 200 miles northwest of Manila.

The first landing was said to have been made at Pangasinan, close to Aparri.

MANY LANDING PLACES

Philippine familiar with the region said that although there were no larger harbors nearby placed along the coast were favorable for such landings. They declared that for 200 years Japanese fishing boats had been seen along the coast, but they were not allowed to land.

American and Philippine troops were being sent to the region to repulse the invaders.

The U. S. Army Headquarters communique said that the enemy had been driven from the northern coast of Luzon, extending from Vigan to Aparri and had landed at several points.

TRANSPORT BOMBED

Six Japanese transport planes were engaged in landing operations off Vigan about 10:30 a. m. Three were shot down and two were damaged. The remaining two were seen to have landed.

See NOT KNOWN on Page 13

30th Division's Released Revoked

FORT JACKSON, S. C.—Post Headquarters announced today that the release of 1,738 members of the 30th Division had been cancelled. The men were about 28 years of age and scheduled to get their releases today.

In addition, it was announced that all furloughs for the Christmas season would go through on schedule. Veterans' train left today with soldiers headed for points north.

War Map

A full-page map of the Pacific war area is on Page 13 of this edition. The map shows the progress of the war and the positions of the Japanese and American forces. It includes a key to the symbols used on the map and a scale of miles.

Berlin Reports: Naval Battle Off Manila

LONDON—(AP)—The German radio said today that a battle between United States and Japanese fleets was in progress off Manila, but gave no indication of the source of the information.

Possibly catching its own report on the rebound, the station later quoted the Boston radio as saying a "great naval battle" was raging near Manila.

F. R. Says Navy Still Has Edge

President Warns That War Will Be Long and Hardships Lie Ahead

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt claimed continued supremacy for the United States Navy in the Pacific today, despite the serious losses the fleet suffered in the surprise outbreak of the war.

He dismissed as "fantastic" Japanese claims that they had gained the accuracy and all kind of rumors circulated by enemy sources for propaganda purposes.

But within a few hours the situation score, another smashing double blow against the Anglo-American naval strength in the Pacific by sinking one of Britain's newest 35,000-ton battleships, Prince of Wales, and the 32,000-ton British battle cruiser, Repulse.

London confirmed the loss somewhere off Malaya of the Repulse and the Prince of Wales, the warship on which President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill held their historic Atlantic meeting.

These new reverses served to underline the words the President used last night when he told the American people in his first war report that the United States would not be defeated before it can win the war and the peace that follows.

Nazis Take Winter Line

Withdraw in Many Sectors in Russia

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adolf Hitler's invasion armies, thwarted in their violent ten-month-old drive against Moscow, were officially acknowledged today to have withdrawn to Winter Line in many sectors along the Russian battlefield.

Stirring speculation that Hitler may go to some new for the Germans had been known in Berlin, news and radio announced.

See NAZI WITHDRAW on Page 14

Enemy Planes Over Dutch Isles

BATVIA, Netherlands East Indies—Enemy planes flew over the Netherlands East Indies coast of Singapore without dropping bombs tonight, an air force spokesman said today.

The announcement indicated that the enemy was doing patrol work over the island.

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Courageous Americans Won't Let Japs Catch Them Off Guard Again

MANILA, P. I.—(AP)—American pilots and anti-aircraft gunners declared today that because of the withdrawal of the Japanese assault had given the raiders an initial surprise, they were determined to be "better defensive positions" than the Russians.

It was possible that the Russians had been taken by surprise at the center, 110 miles southeast of Leningrad.

MAY BE RUSSIA

Soviet quarters in London were reported to hint out that the German admission might be an artifice to hide other plans, and that the Russians declared they had no intention of letting the Germans have been known in Berlin, news and radio announced.

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Weather

Forecasting and other weather information for the region. It includes a table of high and low temperatures, wind direction and speed, and precipitation.

Jap Drives Balked In Malayan Areas

British Appear To Have Lost Air Base But Are Giving Invaders Hot Time

SINGAPORE—(AP)—The British apparently have lost Kota Bharu, the northern Malaya air base where the Japanese have landed strong forces just inside the Thailand frontier, but a communique indicated tonight they have balked Japanese drives in that area and at Kuantan, only 200 miles north of here.

The communique mentioned Japanese tanks for the first time, and said they had destroyed yesterday in the Kedah area along the Thailand border by a British Punjabi motorized unit.

EXCELLENT SPIRITS

British troops, after acquitting themselves splendidly here, are in excellent spirits after heavy fighting over a wide area yesterday, the communique said. "Our casualties remain comparatively light," it added.

See JAP ADVANCE on Page 11

Navy Gets Destroyers

ROSTON, N. H.—The destroyer being launched today at the Navy Yard will bear the name of a rear admiral who organized the North Sea mine barrage in the World War and an enlisted man wounded while cutting a Spanish cable at Cienfuegos in 1898.

The launches of the vessel, the Earl and the Doran, are the first to be announced here by the Navy since the United States and Japan went to war.

One destroyer will honor Rear Admiral Ralph Earle, U.S.N., late president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and chief of the Navy Bureau of Ordnance during the World War. The sponsor is Admiral Fore Hines, of Ardmore, Pa., his daughter.

Pan American Airways Evacuates All Personnel From Wake Island

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—Pan American Airways has successfully evacuated all its personnel from Wake Island, it was learned today, but an undetermined number of construction workers may still be on the island.

"I can't say about the construction workers," said George Gardner, Pan American spokesman.

The evacuation of the construction workers. They may still be there.

The construction crews were comprised largely of Idaho youths, recruited by a contracting firm for work on Wake, Midway, Palmyra, and other mid-Pacific islands.

He said his information, sent because of censorship, was confined to what happened to the company personnel.—They were taken to Honolulu from Wake.

"There were more than twenty of them, and they are all safe," he declared.

—In New York it was learned that the Philippine clipper reversed its course to make the rescue at Wake Island.

The Anac Clipper, which had been approaching Honolulu at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, began work as captain to proceed on a previous trip.

See PAN AM on Page 10

Heavy Cargo of Defense Materials Consigned to China, was Wreathound From Wake Island.

Capl. Hamilton wheeled about. On reaching Wake he found that Japanese bombers had completed an attack and disappeared. He took aboard all company personnel and flew to Midway Island, to the east, then proceeded to Hawaii.

The Anac Clipper, which had been approaching Honolulu at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, began work as captain to proceed on a previous trip.

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