

JAP WARSHIPS RUN FROM U. S. FLEET

Leathernecks Fight To Hold Wake Island

The Man in the Street Gets Chance To Be Proud of Arms

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation, elated by three smashing blows at the power of the Japanese Fleet, kept its eyes today on the savage fight of a "devil dog" garrison to hold Wake, and on the increasingly fierce battle for the Philippines.

The naval successes announced in the past 24 hours—three enemy warships sunk and a fourth badly damaged—were especially sweet to the man in the street. They represented the first thumping down payment on the Pearl Harbor score, and they provided a fighting answer to the Berlin-Rome declarations of war.

Beside this, there was a definite optimism over the attitude taken by Britain in rejecting German peace feelers and announcing that no peace would be concluded without the acquiescence of the United States and Britain.

JAPS FEAR BOMBINGS

Although the Russian attitude toward Japan remained indefinite, that fact was considered not with-

Reds Spurn Feelers of Peace From Hitler Gang

Army Continues To Make Gains

KLIBYSHEV, Russia (AP)—Ousting of "The Hitler gang" and a joint Moscow-London-Washington agreement are listed here as prerequisite of any peace between the Soviet Union and Germany, for which feelers have been reported from Berlin.

David Zaslavsky of Pravda, the official Communist Party newspaper, cited these conditions in an editorial saying: "The Hitler gang is ready any day to sign a peace with Russia if only our Government would talk with them."

At the same time, the Soviet Government received, from United States and Japanese diplomatic formal notification that the United States and Japan are at war.

The United States notification, made by embassy counselor Walter Thurston, was received in what was described here as a "cordial atmosphere."

HITLER SPEECH HEARD

Adolf Hitler's war declaration speech also was heard here by radio. There was no immediate official comment.

New Army gains on both the southwestern front and at the center before Moscow, where Germany's High Command is declared to have substituted Field Marshal Sigmund List for General Fedor von Bock, was announced by the Soviet Information Bureau in a Moscow broadcast today.

A Pravda report also broadcast today from Moscow said Soviet cavalrymen of Lt. Gen. Kozlov had recaptured an area containing about 100 German prisoners in the Orla area south of Moscow.

"Germans are hiding in attack, critics and in the German newspaper declared, "in the hope that they will be able to rejoin their units under the cover of darkness."

London commentators expressed belief that local operations were developing into a full scale counter-attack along the whole front against the front-bitten German troops maneuvering west, by Berlin accounts, to dig in for the winter.

If there was a truce in the German announcement that large-scale operations would be resumed until Spring, they said, the new SOVIETS APEN on page 18.

German Subs Report Four Ships Sunk in Atlantic

BERLIN (Official Radio Report)—Official Radio reported by AP—German submarine operating in the Atlantic has sunk four merchant ships totaling 27,000 tons, including one large tanker, the High Command announced today.

The war bulletin identified the ships as British and said a smaller tanker and two coast vessels were damaged seriously.

It said two British bombers were shot down yesterday night during RAF raids on Heigoland and northwestern Germany.

"On the contrary," it said, "the weather has favored the Germans as the advent of winter this year has been late and slow. It is not the terrible frost but our valiant Red Army that now inflicts defeat on the German Fascist invaders while fronts, rear Russian fronts, are still ahead."

The Berliner Tagblatt article containing the peace feeler asserted that Moscow was ready for peace if Germany indicated an intention to occupy Russia and abandon the Berlin-Tokyo pact.

When attacked by five shuttles from the air, the ship was destroyed.

See NAVY FLIERS on page 18



WAR DECLARATION—His teeth clenched, President Roosevelt signed the declaration of war against Germany with a pen that scratched angrily shortly after both houses of Congress voted for war against Germany and Italy without a dissenting voice.

WAR DECLARATION—His teeth clenched, President Roosevelt signed the declaration of war against Germany with a pen that scratched angrily shortly after both houses of Congress voted for war against Germany and Italy without a dissenting voice.

British Withdraw Troops In Malaya

Chinese Forces Put Pressure On Japanese Rear at Hong Kong

LONDON (AP)—Japanese troops have been infiltrating into the Kedih frontier area of Northwest Malaya and British troops have withdrawn to prearranged positions, a British official said today.

The Japanese activity there was limited to patrol operations, he said.

Reports that the Japanese had made landings at Dungun, 100 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, and at Kuala Trengganu, 50 miles farther north, were unconfirmed here.

This source said that a heavy air attack had been made on Penang Island, off the West coast of Malaya, but that it had caused no military damage.

At Hong Kong, where British defense forces were said to be under heavy Japanese pressure, some British advanced forces have withdrawn toward Kowloon, in the mainland section of the colony, this source said.

He added that Chinese forces were reported operating "in the vicinity" of the British crown colony.

The China Radio report from Chungking said that a powerful Chinese radio reported today that the Kwangtung front to relieve the Japanese pressure of Hong Kong.

This broadcast said the attack started two days ago and Japanese casualties already had mounted to 15,000.

Allies Bomb Jap Air Base

LONDON (AP)—The Chungking radio reported today that Netherlands East Indies planes had bombed a Japanese air base in the Southern Philippines.

A communiqué issued in Batavia yesterday said that Australian airmen based in the Dutch Indies had attacked a Japanese island base between Japanese Papua and Dutch Celebes.

Admiral Hart Reports Foe Dodged Fight

Japs Fled Under Cover of Darkness When Two Fleets Met in the Pacific

MANILA (AP)—Japanese warships fled from American surface ships in the first encounter of the two fleets since the war began and darkness prevented the Americans from renewing the action, it was reported today.

Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander-in-chief of the U. S. Asiatic Fleet, said ships from his command have had only one encounter with the Japanese warships but that ended without result. The size of the fleets involved was not stated.

However, he acknowledged that the Japanese Air Force had scored heavily in the "successful" raid Wednesday on the Cavite Naval Yard off Manila and that the raid caused a "considerable loss of life."

In a lengthy report on the naval actions thus far, Admiral Hart announced that a naval flier trailed a Japanese battleship, the Kongo or a ship similar to her, off northwestern Luzon until other naval planes could come up and "seriously cripple" the vessel with bombs.

The Japanese attack on the Manila-Cavite area was made by a large number of planes flying high above the anti-aircraft gun range.

Admiral Hart said the technique and efficiency of the Japanese were of a very high order and that in all it must be considered that the Japanese raid was successful from the Japanese standpoint.

The Admiral said that the raiders did "very great damage" at Cavite and damaged some small ships tied up at naval docks. Other small ships were pulled away and escaped damage, he said.

There was considerable loss of life, more among

See JAP WARSHIPS on page 18

British Sweep 50 Miles From Tobruk

Make Bid for Decision in Libya After Command Shifted

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Britain's desert army, driving through a two-day sandstorm, has partly encircled Tobruk and swept on to the west, 50 miles or more beyond Tobruk and perhaps 100 miles deep into Libya, the Middle East headquarters declared today.

The hard-driven bid for a decision in the campaign now in its fifth day apparently was touched off as one of the first moves of Major-General Neil Methuen Ritchie, who replaced General Sir Alan Gordon Cunningham in a shift of the Libyan field command announced by Prime Minister Churchill yesterday.

The communiqué indicated that British and Indian advance forces are within 50 miles of the Axis supply port of Derna, which the Italian High Command said was under bombardment by British naval units, while British bombers crashed into the harbor west and battered at Bengasi.

The Middle East headquarters account of the push said New Zealand forces stabilizing west from Tobruk yesterday reached a point just east of Benghazi, 100 miles west of Derna.

British planes on page 18 of this issue were reported to have bombed the harbor from the southeast except

Batavia Has Air Raid Alarm

BATAVIA, N. F. I. (AP)—The Dutch colonial capital of the Netherlands East Indies today had a four-minute raid alarm of the war at 10:35 P. M. at 10 A. M. EST today.

Polish Exile Government Declares War on Japan

LONDON (AP)—The Polish Government in exile declared war upon Japan today.

President Roosevelt signed the declaration at the recommendation of the Polish Cabinet.

Yank Fliers Show Skill

Uncle Sam's Naval Air Arm Goes Into Action In Philippines Area

MANILA (AP)—A United States naval flier who trailed a Japanese battleship for a long time in the face of frequent anti-aircraft fire and other naval planes could not see and "seriously cripple" the huge ship was officially cited today for his work.

The story was told in the report of Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander in chief of the Asiatic Fleet, on the attack on the Kongo or a ship just like her off northwestern Luzon Island.

CAPTAIN WALTER KILLER

At the same time, the Far Eastern Army Command announced

Strong Air Forces Raid Philippines

Air Force Supporting Determined Effort To Gain Island Foothold

MANILA (AP)—Japan hurled fresh attacks, supported by widespread air raids, upon the Philippines today in an attempt to establish a foothold on the island.

The Far Eastern Army Command announced that Jap planes had raided widespread sections of the islands and an Army spokesman said a small Japanese force apparently had landed at Legaspi, 250 miles southeast of Manila.

The Japanese attacked Olongapo, 30 miles west of Manila, one of the most important naval installations in the Philippines; the Province of Batangas, and Clark Field, 100 miles north of Manila.

The spokesman also declared that the Japanese had impounded the ships at northern Luzon but that the "situation remains unchanged materially."

OVER 100 BOMBERS

The announcement at the headquarters of Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of the Far Eastern Army, said 112 enemy bombers were counted in the morning raids and that eleven were reported shot down.

The announcement said the raiders were dispersed, partly due to the action of the anti-aircraft fire.

One plane was shot down near Clark Field and fell in the mountains.

"Some time later a group of maintain planes brought in three Japanese airplane engines and up the animals," the communiqué added.

Six Filipino pilots attacked two Jap formations of 27 planes each as they roared over the airfield in Batangas and accounted for two ships before the Japanese broke formation and fled into the clouds.

The Army was silent on progress of the hunt for Japanese parachute troops who were said yesterday to have captured an airport six miles from Ilocos, 80 miles south of Aparit, on the northern tip of Luzon.

Philippine constabulary was reported organizing to mop up the parachute troops.

BEATEN BACK IN NORTH

Unofficial but reliable reports last night said the Japanese were being forced back to the northern shore of Luzon around the port of Aparit was in American hands again.

With the Japanese thus taken nearly all around Luzon, the Navy disclosed it was taking a leading role in the de-

U. S. To 'Take Over' Eritrea

CAIRO (AP)—The United States will virtually take over Eritrea for the duration of the war and convert it into an area of the democracy in the Middle East.

It will be the purchase of the island combat troops in this part of the world.

WEATHER

Light to moderate rain tonight and Saturday.

Clear to light rain tonight and Saturday.

Light to moderate rain tonight and Saturday.

Light to moderate rain tonight and Saturday.

Light to moderate rain tonight and Saturday.

Light to moderate rain tonight and Saturday.