Japs Take Hong Kong

City Gives Up After Heroic Resistance

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ment. The public works department struggled bravely to effect a remedy but the enemy destroyed the pipes again and again.

"Two days ago there remained but one day's supply. Military and civilian casualties were heavy, but under the inspiring leadership of Sir Mark Young the morale of all was admirable.

"So ends a great fight against overwhelming odds. The courage and determination of the Royal Navy and troops from Britain, Canada and India as well as local volunteer units, including many Chinese, will long be remembered."

"Christmas Present" Says Tokyo's Radio

TOKYO—(Official Broadcast Recorded by AP)—Imperial Headquarters announced tonight that the British Crown Colony of Hong Konk had fallen and within the hour the news heralded by a fanfare of martial music was broadcast to the Japanese people by radio as a "Christmas present" from their armed forces.

The announcement was brief. "The enemy at Hong Kong, no longer able to withstand our continuous attacks, surrendered at 5.50 P. M. (3:50 A. M. EST) Dec 25. Consequently Imperial troops were ordered to cease firing at 7.30 P. M. (5.30 A. M. EST)."

Domei reported a short time later that high representatives of the Japanese Army and Sir Mark Young, British governor of Hong Kong, were meeting at the Peninsular Hotel in Kowloon, across Victoria Harbor from Hong Kong Island.

Domei said that five hours before the surrender two British non-combatants brought the Japanese a message from the British governor declaring he would not yet give up resistance.

A Domei broadcast of the surrender described Hong Kong as "a glowing Christmas present to the Japanese nation" and said the capture "could have been achieved in much shorter order had it not been for the stubborn disregard by the British garrison for repeated Japanese advices to abandon resistance in the interests of the safety of residents of the island."

Although the hour was late on a holiday night newspapers rushed out extras which have been reserved for the biggest war news.

NOT REAL CHRISTMAS

(The day is not celebrated as Christmas in pagan Japan, but rather as the thirteenth anniversary of the accession of Emperor Hirohito. Actually the day is the anniversary of the death of the old emperor, Taisho, rather than the actual accession.)

Domei declared that the fall of Hong Kong "marks the banishment of the last vestige of British imperialism on Chinese soil and brings to an end a century-long exploitation."

Hundreds See Sub Attack

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sunk except for the load of lumber, which floated her.

Meanwhile, the Navy announced that two other ships had been in some kind of trouble and that a third, previously listed as missing and probably sunk, had arrived safely at a port.

The four-masted schooner Dorothy Phillips was disclosed as entering a California port last night under her own power despite a hit to the stern. The nature of the damage was not announced, but the Navy earlier had received a report that a schooner had been disabled by a submarine not far from the Absaroka torpedoing.

The Navy also heard a report that another lumber schooner, the Barbara C., was fired upon near the Absaroka. The ship's officers reportedly were uncertain whether the shots, which went wide, were from a submarine or were being fired at a submarine by shore batteries.

NEWSPRINT ARRIVES

The safe arrival was the Canadian freighter Rosebank, two days overdue with a cargo of newsprint.

Captain Thomas Hill, skipper of the Standard Oil Tanker H. M. Storey which was attacked by a submarine Monday, disclosed upon safe arrival in port that the Storey had been attacked twice but escaped damage.

Thirty-three men escaped from the Absaroka into lifeboats and were rescued by Coast Guard and Inshore Patrol boats which rushed to the scene. Several survivors were injured, none seriously.

LUMBER SPEWED

Said Seaman Herbert Stephens, 30, of Portland, Ore.:

"I was in the forecastle when the torpedo struck. It was a terrific impact, and the ship seemed to spin around.

"I heard a dull, boomish sound, and as I raced to the deck and fell the noise was horrifying, with the lumber load on the after deck spewed into the air in every direction."

Joseph Scott, 46, also of Portland, said it was his fifth torpedoing experience. The others were during the First World War—and his easiest.

"Why, mate," he grinned, "we were in plain sight of land, there were rescue boats on the way, we weren't in any danger and we weren't even afraid."

"Say I saw it in The News. Thank you."

He Had Santa Claus In Back of His Mind

BONNVILLE, Ind.—(AP)—H. F. Metz, Bonneville farm machinery dealer, is ready to nominate for most unexpected remark of the year that of ten-year-old Denny Williams—who squeezed between two brick walls less than a foot apart and then couldn't get out.

When Metz went to the boy's rescue, Denny said:

"Hurry, I don't want to be late for school."

Japs Drive For Manila

Advance Units 110 Miles From Capital

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Lingayen, and Baguing, twelve miles farther north.

American officers declared that for days the Japanese have been bombing and strafing us but without damage.

"We have one special pal flying a Messerschmitt who used to come real low and wave to us," one officer said. "Sunday he started doing tricks, so we guessed something was up. Monday morning he came back with planes of every description. We have been shot at and bombed by every kind of plane and gun.

"Nearly every Japanese of the landing forces has a baby machine-gun. Our green Filipino troops were somewhat nervous at the sound of our own eight-inchers and especially at the enemy planes, but those with six months or a year of training did okay.

"We saved all our guns, supplies and ammunition but left our food and clothes. The Japs probably are feasting right now."

U. S. Spokesmen Say Yanks Holding Own

MANILA—(AP)—Defenders of the Philippines are "more than holding their own on all fronts" and U. S. submarines have accounted for two and possible four more Japanese naval craft, Army and Navy spokesmen said today.

A spokesman for the United States armed forces of the Far East announced a brightening outlook for land forces of the Philippines at 4:25 P. M. (3:25 A. M. EST), saying that from all reports being received they were giving better than they received from reinforced invasion legions of Japan.

Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander-in-chief of the Asiatic Fleet, told in an interview of the victories at sea, a followup to two submarine successes reported last week.

A large Japanese transport and a mine-sweeper are known to have been destroyed, he said, and another transport and a seaplane tender were regarded as probably sunk.

OPEN CITY?

In the land fighting, however, a U. S. Army spokesman told of fresh Japanese reinforcements and there was evidence that belligerents already regard Manila as an open city.

"Fighting continues on all fronts," the Army spokesman said. "There has been no material change in the situation. The enemy continues to be reinforced."

United States and Filipino troops skirmished overnight with advance guards of the invaders without a decisive action, the spokesman said.

While it was officially reported that no decision had been made on a proposal to declare Manila an open city and silence its defenses voluntarily to spare civilians and their property from further attacks, an uneventful cruise of three formations of Japanese bombers above the capital and Manila Bay fortifications for an hour today was regarded by observers as of significance.

The planes neither dropped bombs nor drew anti-aircraft fire from the ground batteries that had hurled shells into the air at every previous approach of enemy squadrons.

The main threat against the outpumbered American and Filipino forces still appeared to be in the Lingayen sector, 125 miles northeast of Manila, with a landing in force at Atimonan, 75 miles southeast of the capital, as a pincer direction.

General Douglas MacArthur, commander-in-chief of the United States armed forces of the Far East, was in the field himself to chart strategy and seek to relieve handicaps of the defense.

BATTLE FOR CITY

"It was a very quiet night," said a Manila communique, "but there still was Japanese pressure from both north and south. Practically the only activity overnight was small skirmishes by patrols."

Japanese troops, however, were landed in such numbers there was no doubt that the battle for this capital itself was underway.

Manila had an air raid warning at 1:40 A. M., but the U. S. Army spokesman said this nocturnal followup to four alerts yesterday was believed to have been a false alarm.

There was no word here overnight concerning the battle of Davao, where the Japanese seek a Mindanao Island base for production of their attacks upon Borneo, about 500 miles to the west across the Sulu Sea.

The absence of a report from Davao, 600 miles south of Manila, was attributed here to Japanese aerial activity against radio and wire communication systems.

A traveler from Batangas, 60 miles due south of Manila, said he saw a United States destroyer rout two Japanese destroyers in a brief offshore battle Sunday. The Japanese warships, which fled after an exchange of shots, apparently were on reconnaissance of the Verde Island passage.

Plane Sinks Jap Sub

Blasts Preying Craft in Pacific

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sion assaults in the past week, however, showed that the Mikado's warlords were committed first to an all-out effort against America's island bastion in the Far East. And apparently they were driving to secure a decisive victory on the main island of Luzon by New Year's Day. That is the greatest of all Japanese holidays, and the nation prefers to have victories fall on such occasions.

Besides the ominous news from the Philippines, there was the bold raiding of enemy submarines within sight of California's shore to keep the nation mindful of the war. And there was the keen, almost personal feeling over the final fall of the valiant little Marine garrison on Wake Island.

But the first war Christmas in 24 years had a different aspect, too. There was no holiday in numerous plane factories, munition plants and shipyards as the relentless battle of production went forward.

Extra precautions were taken throughout the country in all vital industries and installations, lest there be a concerted enemy attempt to sabotage important facilities. On the Pacific Coast the Navy declared a double alert against surprise attacks.

PRESENTS TO THE NATION

The nation's drive for armament was reflected in the Christmas presents it received. The New York Navy Yard commissioned the new 6,000-ton cruiser Atlanta and sent her off on Christmas Eve to join the Fleet. And in Detroit the first paid of 40 mm. Bofors anti-aircraft gun barrels rolled off the Chrysler Corp. assembly line.

Highlighting the Christmas Eve calendar were the addresses which President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill made to the nation, bidding the United States and her Allies to be of good cheer and strong in the confidence that a final victory would be won for a free and decent world.

Churchill, it developed later, will have something more to say to the American people, through their representatives in Congress. Majority Leader Barkley, Democrat, Kentucky, announced that Britain's Prime Minister would address an informal session of the senate tomorrow. Members of the House, the Supreme Court, Cabinet secretaries and other high officials have been invited to attend.

The occasion for the Roosevelt-Churchill speeches last night was the annual ceremony of lighting the national community Christmas tree—festooned this year with lights of red, white and blue.

President Roosevelt spoke first. The nation's strongest weapon in the war, he said was the "conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies."

"Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practice them," he went on, "we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere."

Churchill spoke in the deliberate, confident tones that have become familiar to the world since Dunkirk.

STRANGE CHRISTMAS

It was a strange Christmas, he observed.

"Almost the whole world is locked in a deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other.

"It would it be for us this Christmastide if we were not sure that no greed for lands or wealth of any other people has led us into the fight; that no vulgar ambition, no sordid lust for material gain at the expense of others has led us to the field."

But it was not all, for Churchill said "we have the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every heart." And he gave his listeners the firm assurance that the children of the English-speaking world would not be "robbed of their inheritance or denied the right to live in a free and decent world."

French Take Over Isles

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so precious and so loyal to France, the great happiness which the nation experiences at its liberation.

"St. Pierre is valiantly taking up again with us and our brave allies struggle for liberation of our country and the liberty of the world.

"To you personally in my name and that of the French National Committee my most sincere congratulations for the way in which you rallied this island to our cause with discipline and dignity.

"Long live France."

St. Pierre and Miquelon, the largest islands of tiny groups lying fifteen miles off the southern coast of Newfoundland, are French New World outposts having a total area of only 93 square miles and a total population of about 5,000.

They are under command of Admiral Georges Robert, French proconsul for Western Hemisphere colonies, who, with headquarters on the Caribbean Island of Martinique, on Dec. 16 was disclosed to have reached an agreement with the United States providing that all French colonies in the Western Hemisphere would maintain their neutral status.

The status of St. Pierre and Miquelon has been a subject of discussion ever since Canada went to war, lying as they do definitely within Canadian defense waters.

The islands are mostly barren rock and are unsuited to agriculture. The chief industry is cod fishing.

Willie Won't Mind—He Can Fight Japs

DENVER—(AP)—Willie Chin, 24, Chinese extra post office worker, was feeding letters and cards to a canceling machine.

A card fluttered from the machine's mouth to the floor. Mail Superintendent Tom Hill picked it up, read the addressee's name and said, "It's all yours, Willie."

It was a selective service notice to Willie Chin to report for physical examination.

Draft Boards Get Orders

Will Re-Classify 1-B Registrants

Selective service boards of Charlotte will begin tomorrow, resuming activities after the Christmas holiday, to prepare for re-examination of all Class I-B registrants, who are men physically able to perform limited military service.

Orders for this move to increase the available manpower possible early induction into service were brief and the draft board's officers were not informed definitely whether or not Class I-B registrants will be called to the colors. Another heavy task before these boards is the prospective registration of men between the ages of 18 and 65 years, which, it is expected, will take place late in January.

Recently enacted amendments to the Selective Service Act provided that men, though required to register, between the ages of 18 and 19 and 44 and 65, will not be called into military service. This law, however, establishes a pool of manpower between the ages of 20 and 44 years that will be available for service, if other requirements are met.

378 Marines Outdid Alamo

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after almost daily bomber assaults and heavy casualties, most of the Marines' planes were gone and all the five-inchers were out of action, along with every other piece of ordnance save one battery of the three-inch weapons. The Japanese came "in great force," the Navy said, "but two enemy destroyers were put out of action by the Marines." Then word was flashed that the Japanese were ashore; "for many hours" the outcome was in doubt—finally communication ceased.

The brown-skinned men paid dearly for Wake Island. They had lost a total of three destroyers, one light cruiser, several warplanes and an unknown number of lives. The naval units bombed to the bottom aggregated probably 7,000 tons at least, as Japanese warships are rated, and had crews totaling around 700 men.

BY SEA AND AIR

The information that three previous landing attempts had been made was not given in the Navy's communiques, but came from an informed source. The first apparently was at the outset of the siege. A Navy communique told of four aerial assaults within 48 hours starting Dec. 9 and said a landing attempt was expected. The unexpected fury of the resistance apparently caused the Japanese to withdraw until they had mustered overwhelming superior strength.

The two-week struggle by a sleepless band of Marines, fighting on an exposed coral atoll without even the cover of a tree, gave luster to the name of the commander, Major James P. S. Devereux of Washington, D. C., and his men.

Besides the thirteen officers and 365 devil-dogs, there were one medical officer, six medical men and, an unstated number of construction workers on the clipper plane stop.

The fifteen-day siege was two days longer than that of the Alamo, which is believed to have begun on Feb. 23 of the leap-year 1836 and ended on March 6, when 4,000 Mexicans under General Santa Ana assaulted the fortress and killed every one of the 183 defenders.

And the nation's capital, saddened by the loss of the tiny bit of American soil 2,000 miles west of Honolulu, today set down the names of Wake Island's fighting men in the same bracket of heroism with Davy Crockett and his comrades of the Alamo.

British Back In Bengasi

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against enemy columns of troops and motor vehicles destroying a large number of vehicles including petrol tankers and troop carriers.

"When our ground forces occupied Benina Airdrome yesterday a large number of enemy aircraft, which had been destroyed on the ground by our air forces, were found."

An RAF communique said: "During yesterday aircraft of the RAF and SAAF continued their attacks on enemy motorized convoys retreating westward into Tripolitania. Many vehicles were destroyed or damaged and casualties were again inflicted on enemy personnel."

Births

To Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Beal of Asheboro, a son, Dec. 23, Mrs. Beal is the former Miss Fay Jean Smith of Charlotte.

War Shrouds Christmas

World Breathes Heavily Under Strain

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ver! Today is just six months since the start of your six-week march on Moscow."

WASHINGTON—Christmas as a day of work is accented at the White House, in the first war Christmas there in 24 years, following Christmas Eve ceremonies in which both President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill spoke.

The President said: ". . . when we make ready our hearts for the labor and the suffering and the ultimate victory which lie ahead, then we observe Christmas Day — with all its memories and meanings—as we should."

CAIRO—In unusually cold desert weather, British Imperials continued their pursuit of broken remnants of Axis forces in Libya.

Beer and other luxuries were flown to some units for Christmas celebrations. Behind-the-lines formations had full Christmas dinners—including plum puddings—in some cases gleaned from captured war booty.

CALLANDER, Ont. — It's a French yuletide for the seven-year-old Dionne quintuplets—which means that most of Pere Noel's big surprises will come New Year's morning.

For today's big Christmas dinner with the family, Cecile expressed one wish: to pick a bone.

"It isn't proper," she said, "but it tastes better that way."

MANILA—The wartime blackout snuffed gay Christmas lights.

Because of the war, gift packages for Americans failed to arrive from home.

The shipping shortage also prevented the transportation of Christmas trees and fighting to the north halted the shipment of pines from the Baguio district.

LONDON—King George VI, prior to his usual Christmas broadcast, set the pattern for following the tradition of Christmas-at-home by spending the holiday in the country with Queen Elizabeth and their daughters, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose.

JERUSALEM—William C. Bullitt, President Roosevelt's special representative in the Near East, marked down Christmas in the Holy Land as a memorable experience.

Reminiscing, he recalled another unusual Christmas spent years ago in a desert with his daughter.

"Our Christmas tree was a small shrub," he said, "and the only trimmings were three dead lizards."

SINGAPORE—Churches echoed to the ring of tramping feet today as soldiers trooped for special Christmas services, placing their tin hats on the floor.

Chinese, Indians, Malays and others of the Polyglot peoples of the Malays joined in holiday celebrations.

But a principal attraction at Asiatic festivities—firecrackers—has been banned for the duration of the war.

Annual Yule Party Is Held

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Der Yuen of Providence Road entertained friends and relatives from California and Charlotte and their employees at their annual Christmas Eve dinner last night at the Oriental Restaurant here.

About 30 persons, including out-of-town guests, were present. Among them was Mrs. Alice Cheng of Pasadena, Calif., who is spending the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Der Yuen. Mrs. Cheng is the mother-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Der Yuen's son, Frank, of Pasadena, an aircraft engineer and designer who is now engaged in important work in California on bombing aircraft. She was accompanied to Charlotte by Frank's brother, Philip, who also has been in California for some time.

Japs Land At Kuching

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haphazard, causing little damage and few casualties.

"There is nothing to report from Western Malaya.

"Yesterday our aircraft attacked Japanese shipping anchored off Kuching. They scored one direct hit on the stern of a merchant vessel and at least six near misses against other vessels.

"Reports received from Kuching yesterday afternoon indicated that enemy landings were taking place. There has been no direct communication with Kuching since late yesterday."

Mrs. K. O. Knox Claimed by Death

Arrangements were incomplete today for the funeral services for Mrs. K. O. Knox, age 58, whose death occurred late yesterday at a hospital here. She had been ill several weeks.

The body will remain at the McEwen Funeral Home until the final services.

Mrs. Knox is survived by her husband and one daughter, Mrs. D. K. Robertson of Atlanta.

PAYSCHNEER NEXT YEAR
90th to 1st WEEKLY
DIAMONDS · WATCHES
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Just Like Rings on A Merry-Go-Round

DES MOINES, Ia.—(AP)—A woman waited to cross an intersection when the rear bumper of an automobile swooping around the corner hooked the handle of her purse.

While patrolmen unsuccessfully chased the car a half a block, it suddenly here into sight again, having circled the block, and the lady plucked her purse off the bumper to continue her shopping.

Her purse contained more than $100.

Mr. Passage Dies Here

Former Manager of Store Succumbs

Ira D. Passage, age 53 years, former manager of Woolworth store here, died shortly after midnight today at his home, 515 N. Church Street, after a four-year illness of heart trouble.

During his active years he was prominent in affairs of the retail industry. Excelsior Lodge, the Mystic Shrine and the Presbyterian Church at Charlotte.

Mr. Passage, a native of Albany, N. Y., is survived by his widow; two sons, George W., of Concord, and Lieutenant John T. of the U. S. Air Corps; two sisters, Mrs. Charles Sauerwein of Stratsburg, N. Y., and Miss Marian Edith Passage of Albany, N. Y., and one brother, George E., of Burlington, Vt.

The body will remain at the funeral home of J. M. Harry & Bryant Co., until the private funeral services there, arrangements for which were incomplete this afternoon.

Nine Killed In Bus Fire

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She said there was an explosion at the front of the bus after the collision.

"The front burst into flames. Passengers screamed and started stampeding for the exits.

"I don't know how I managed to escape. One minute I had hold of my son's hand and the next thing I knew I fought my way to the seat. Apparently I was the first to reach the rear exit.

"I don't remember getting out, but I did and then the door slammed shut and the others trying to get out couldn't open it.

"I'll never forget those agonized faces that clamored for escape from that flaming bus." She suffered only minor injuries.

James and Hammer were unable to batter the door open and kicked their way through the windows and dragged many of the frantic, panic stricken passengers to safety.

Less Than A Year Old . . .

But we've made so many friends in this short time that we take this opportunity to wish them a

Merry Christmas!

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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