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JAPS SMASH AT CORREGIDOR FORT NAZI PLAN FOR NEAR EAST PUSH REPORTED

Now It Can Be Told:

Tiny "Pt" Boat Justifies MacArthur's Faith, Speeds Him Through Jap Cordon

Narrow Escape In Wild Ride

By C. YATES McDANIEL

U. S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Australia.

(AP)—The full story of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's hazardous voyage from the Philippines was told today by the Supreme Commander's spokesman, who explained that MacArthur did not "come through to a greater task" in compliance with a Presidential order.



Col. Landon Diller told newspapermen that MacArthur's fighting pace against time, darkness and Japanese warplanes and warships was a vindication for the General's long fight for recognition of motor torpedo boats.

URGENT TO THE BUREAU

Some advance, Diller said, urged MacArthur to use a submarine to make his way to Australia but the General and United States Navy Lt. John D. Bulkeley, commander of six PT boats which reached the Philippines shortly before the war, planned their faith on the speedy craft.

Strong opposition was based on fear that the attempt was too desperate.

This was Diller's story:

The sun dipped into the China Sea and past Corregidor on March 11, 1942, the scene of a desperate battle, the forms of torpedoes moved slowly through the darkness toward the entrance of Manila Bay.

Bulkeley, who had won the distinguished service cross for his work in the Philippines—the sinking of a 5,000-ton Japanese ship—was at the wheel of the leading craft as the little cruiser started the hazardous trip which some advisers had warned was a "suicidal venture."

But the General said, "We go with the fall of the moon. We go during the low of the moon."

It seemed strange after living in blackouts for three months to see automatic light houses operating along this shore (Japanese) against lights were seen, flashing the warning of the approach of what was the "fall of the moon."

DASH IN THE NIGHT—The Navy's small, but fast motor torpedo boats played a major role in General MacArthur's trip from Bataan to Australia. The picture above is an artist's conception of the boats in action at night.

Nelson Asks Time On Labor Issue

Wants 30 Days in Which To Seek Voluntary Double Pay Suspension

WASHINGTON (AP)—War Production Chief Donald Nelson asked Congress today to give him a 30-day time limit to obtain voluntary suspension of double pay for overtime through agreement with leaders of organized labor before enacting legislation on the matter.

He pointed the House Naval Committee that he would ask legislation himself then if he was unable to obtain that agreement, but simultaneously entered opposition to suspension of Federal maximum hour legislation and a ban against closed shops in industries handling Army and Navy contracts.

WORKERS PATRIOTIC
The men at the bench are not as patriotic as you or I," he told Chairman Vinson, Democrat, Georgia, of the committee, who with Representative Smith, Democrat, Virginia, drafted the far-reaching measure.

"The present law," he said, "does not prevent men from working more than 48 hours a week. It has not set the pattern for the length of our work week in our war industries. It governs wages rather than hours in which a man may work."

He told the committee that men in the "highly strategic machine tool industry now were working an average of 55 hours, that there in the shipbuilding industry averaged 50 hours."

"Defensive lines do not, however, mean that the men in the shipbuilding industry averaged 50 hours."

Claim Hits On Convoy

Claim Damage to 19 British Vessels

ROME (From Italian Broadcasts)—The Italian High Command claimed today that a total of 19 British warships and merchant vessels were sunk, damaged or at least hit in an attack on the Mediterranean.

On the Russian front, Soviet dispatches reported heavy scattering of German armor, tanks and heavy weapons, with 2,500 Germans killed, and the transport ship, "Gottfried," 120 miles below Leningrad, was burning its load and sailing toward the sea.

A bulletin from Hitler's field staff said the German High Command listed three merchant ships sunk and three others damaged. It said the attack was carried out by Nazi and Italian planes, and located the British convoy as sailing toward Malta.

British sources acknowledged last night that some of their ships had been hit, but none was lost.

Listed as damaged were three merchant ships and three merchant vessels, by German bombers. Italian planes were said to have scored hits on one cruiser and two destroyers, while a "merchant ship" was torpedoed by an Italian submarine.

Of this action took place in the Gulf of Sirte, the High Command said. It asserted that in the eastern Mediterranean a British naval squadron "probably returning from the battle area" was attacked last night by Italian planes which hit a cruiser with two torpedoes and destroyed one of them.

The order brings all British airships troops into one unit, a step which is expected to be started by playing elder troops under the new command.

Rumbles Heard in European Capitals

Nazi Reserves Go Into Russian War

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rumbles of an impending German offensive in the Near East, presumably against Turkey, came from European capitals today as Adolf Hitler threw masses of hastily-trained reserves and fresh levies from the Balkan states into the battle with Russia. Simultaneously, Britons were officially warned anew of a possible German attempt to invade the British Isles this spring.

SWEDEN ON ALERT

Sweden, too, was on the alert. The Soviet news agency, reported in a dispatch from Istanbul that the German and Bulgarian troops were massing on the Turkish frontier, and that German engineers had supervised the construction of 24 new airfields and 24 landing fields in Bulgaria near the Turkish border.

They said Bulgarian ruling circles were taking advantage of a certain Turkish territory and would willingly become tools of German aggression in the Near East.

Trustworthy sources from Stockholm said Hitler was planning a Scandinavian advance may be ended by a Soviet force-up in the Near East, which would render defense force under arms.

These sources denied that the calling of additional troops for maneuvers at the end of February had reached the proportions of complete mobilization and said the move was a precautionary measure.

There were reports that the German High Command had ordered the evacuation of all German civilians from the Near East.

In London, a Government spokesman disclosed that a Russian communiqué had been acting up in many parts of the Soviet Union to combat any Nazi propaganda.

It said that the Russian High Command was taking steps to prevent any possible German advance into the Near East.

BURNING DEAD
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Heavy Air Raids On Port Moresby Made By Japs

Two Waves of Bombers Protected By Fighter Planes

MELBOURNE, Australia.—(AP)—Japanese airmen made their second big attack in two days on Port Moresby, outer island outpost of Australia's northwestern defenses, sending over two waves of bombers protected by fighter planes today.

The bombers first centered their attack on the New Guinea port's airfield in a persistent effort to rob out combined Australian and American air forces which have made Japanese positions in this area so costly to maintain.

Then they attacked targets near the town while navy Zero fighters sought to drive off defending planes.

ONLY ACTION
Prime Minister John Curtin, who announced this, the only military action on the whole Australian front today, said no damage or casualties so far had been reported from the raid and added that one of the raiders was damaged by antiaircraft shells and probably was unable to get back to its base.

Following yesterday's strong attack, which destroyed heavy bombers dropped 21 bombs about the Port Moresby airfield, it appeared the Japanese were concentrating their remaining air strength in the northern island area in knocking out this objective.

(German broadcasts of Japanese reports declared Port Moresby Harbor had been made useless for embarking purposes by yesterday's bombing.)

Three transports leaving the harbor were declared to have been sunk, two capital ships.

See PORT MORESBY on Page 2

U. S. Subs Take Toll Of 25 Jap Ships

Ten More Probably Sunk and Six Others Damaged

WASHINGTON (AP)—Far-ranging United States submarines were credited in naval records today with having sunk 25 Japanese ships, probably having sunk ten more and done damage to six others.

This was the latest tally for the U. S. Navy's Pacific fleet, which reported last night that it had sunk or damaged in Japanese waters.

Previously a total of 22 enemy vessels had been reported sunk by submarine action in the Western Pacific and last night's report raised this total to 25.

Nine had been reported probably sunk and last night's one added to the tally.

Four had previously been reported damaged and this figure increased to a total of six by last night's report.

THE LATEST CLAIMS
The latest claims were that three Japanese merchant ships, a 2,000-ton tanker, a 6,000-ton ship, and a 5,000-ton freighter, were sunk, an enemy destroyer, a 2,000-ton tanker, and a 2,000-ton freighter were damaged.

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See U. S. SUBS on Page 2

Also Bomb American Positions In Bataan

Sharp Encounters Take Place

WASHINGTON (AP)—A heavy bombing attack on the fortress of Corregidor and American positions in Bataan by 51 Japanese heavy bombers was reported today by the War Department, which said only slight damage was inflicted.

Several sharp encounters occurred in Bataan as fighting was resumed there. The Department said. Three of the enemy bombers were shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

HEAVY U. S. FIRE
American artillery also laid down a heavy fire on enemy positions in Bataan, and the Department said Japanese losses were believed to be considerable.

The bombing of Corregidor was the first large-scale aerial attack since early January. In fact, since the Japanese heavy bombers against the island fortress at the entrance of Manila Bay and on the American-Philippine ground forces in Bataan during the last few months, but the last raid directed specifically against Corregidor was on Jan. 13, two of the attacking planes being shot down.

The last attack comparable in size to the one reported today occurred on Jan. 7, when the Department said at least 45 bombers participated in an attack which lasted several hours.

The text of the communication, which was received at 10:30 A. M. Eastern War time.

The Japanese fleet of Corregidor and other positions in Bataan were heavily bombed (thundering) by 51 Japanese heavy bombers of a new type. Damage inflicted on our military installations was of slight consequence. At least three enemy airplanes were shot down by our anti-aircraft artillery.

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Diller Safe In Australia

Wife of MacArthur Aide Gets Word Here

Mrs. L. A. Diller, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Clara A. Wells of Charlotte, received word today from her husband, Lt. Col. Diller, who is safe in Australia.

Mrs. Diller has been at the home of her parents on Beverly Drive since she returned to the United States from the Philippines in several months ago. Colonel Wells is Army recruiting officer for the Carolinas.

Victory Gardens
The first of a series of three articles by an expert. Turn to page 3.

Mighty House Work:
Free Lunches For Morale

CLEVELAND (AP)—The "Associates" who man the machines in a war plant that paid them \$20,000 in Christmas bonuses wondered today if they would have to start paying for their lunches.

For several months employees of Jack A. Heintz, Inc., makers of aircraft parts, have been free lunching in the new plant's free lunch cafeteria.

This was part of a morale building program which President H. Jack, 51-year-old former machinist, inaugurated to obtain peak production.

"The men need good, hot food to maintain efficiency," Jack recently told an interviewer. "We told them we would increase their wages three cents an hour and charge them for lunches, or give them free food without the three-

cent value. They decided in favor of the free meal."

This, he said, was one of the worker benefits which made Jack A. Heintz production efficiency 20 per cent higher than in any other plant in the country.

Investigation by the House Naval Committee at Washington into the company's alleged free lunch program was reported today.

Special Corps Formed For Air-Borne Troops

LONDON (AP)—A special Army order announced today that a new corps of airborne troops would be formed from the Army Air Corps.

The order brings all British airships troops into one unit, a step which is expected to be started by playing elder troops under the new command.

Chinese & American Defenders In Burma Confident Of Victory

By DANIEL B. L'VE
CHINESE FIELD HEADQUARTERS IN CENTRAL BURMA.—(AP)—Chinese and American defenders of Burma are confident they can whip the Japanese out of the country.

PAWN OF WAR
Pawnee of war changed hands twice in 48 hours but the drive was halted and Chinese now are entrenched in the riverine jungles, bare brown paddies and fire-blackened ruins of Burmese towns ready with machine-guns and mortars for the next Japanese thrust.

choice of the Tungoo sector under orders from Stilwell which are being followed through General Frank C. Striber, a powerful 31-year-old United States Army infantry expert who is on his first tour of duty in the Orient.

It was the Chinese generalissimo, a professional soldier for 21 years, who expressed his men's conviction that they would win the war with a few more months of fighting.

He is a quick, aggressive fighting man, the senior officer of Chinese troops, Chiang Kai-shek's PREDICT ATTACK on page 2

WEATHER

Continued moderate rain with scattered showers tonight.

Today's Temp.: 71-78
Sunset Today: 7:13
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 8-B.

Notes To Readers
Dispatcher Robert Berni, Toledo and other country are published by The News with the caution that they are not intended to be taken as news. This should be kept in mind when reading the stories credited to Associated Press.