



NEW COMMANDERS OF HAWAIIAN DEFENSE

A sweeping shakeup of the Pacific High Command following Secretary Knox's report on the Pearl Harbor disaster is changing commands of the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Reds Smash Nazi-Finn Line; Axis Routed In Libya Zone

POLICEMAN SHOT BY ABC OFFICER

Henderson Sergeant Killed By Friend In Cafe Argument Over Politics

HENDERSON, Dec. 19.—(P)—Police Sergeant J. H. Langston said he was shot and fatally wounded here tonight while eating a bird supper at a cafe.

Langston said Reid and Champion were seated in the cafe and that a political argument brought heated words and the shooting followed.

EX-SERVICE MEN TO AID DEFENSE

Former Soldiers Listen To Judge Burney's Plea For Preparedness

"With God on our side, we cannot lose this war," Judge John J. Burney told 250 ex-service men of Wilmington and New Hanover County at a meeting in the courthouse Friday night.

The veterans had gathered to offer their services in the defense of Wilmington and America and, following Judge Burney's speech, they flocked to the table where they signed cards offering to serve as air raid wardens, rescue men and other agencies of the defense council work.

'Remember Pearl Harbor,' Knox Urges Naval Grads

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Dec. 19.—(P)—A new name—Pearl Harbor—was added to the United States "Rosary of Memory" today by Secretary of the Navy Knox.

Russians Claim Tremendous German Losses; Tank Units Hard After Fleeing Troops

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 20.—(P)—The Russians have opened a major offensive along the entire Finnish front, taking advantage of weakened opposition caused by the German army's withdrawal of three-fifths of the troops it originally deployed there, British reports said today.

"Dense waves" of Russian cavalry and ski-troops were reported thrown into the assault with the support of guns and tanks especially designed for rigorous warfare on this frozen front.

A Stockholm dispatch to the News-Chronicle said Finnish lines buckling under the impact of the initial thrusts had been withdrawn to the north bank of the Svir river at some points between Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega.

Other dispatches said the Germans left the Finns ill-prepared to meet the slashing Red army offensive and that the Nazis remaining there "are feeling the anger which has enforced Finnish contempt as the Finns realize to what extent the German high command has been deceived."

LABOR CONFEREES UNABLE TO AGREE

'No-Strike' Discussion Re-cesses Until Monday In Capital

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(P)—President Roosevelt did not get the thrill tonight that he had asked his war labor conference to give him, for the industry and worker representatives broke off their discussions temporarily without working out a formula insuring no strikes during the war.

And, as it has been in numerous recent labor disputes, the union-shop issue was said to be the chief stumbling-block to reaching an agreement. The negotiations will be resumed Monday, however, and William H. Davis, conference moderator, expressed hope that they would be successful.

Mr. Roosevelt had told the conferees when they opened their discussions three days ago that they must reach an agreement, and added that it would be a "thrilling thing" if a unanimous agreement could be worked out by Friday night. Davis informed the President of the conference's failure to agree by the deadline, and told reporters the President asked that negotiations continue.

Davis gave official credence to the negotiations.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Dec. 19.—(P)—Nicaragua, already at war with Germany, Japan and Italy, declared war today against Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

WEATHER

FORECAST: NORTH CAROLINA and SOUTH CAROLINA — Partly cloudy and continued mild Saturday, probably a few degrees cooler in the mountains.

CONGRESS PASSES 18 TO 64 DRAFT ACT; 20 TO 44 SUBJECT TO ACTIVE SERVICE; HONG KONG FEARED LOST TO JAPANESE

Last-Stand Garrison Reported In Bitter Clash With Invaders

British Officials Silent On Probable Fate Of Ancient Crown Colony; Communications Broken

NO HOPE FOR REINFORCEMENTS

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—(Andi Agency To AP)—A Domei dispatch from Tokyo said tonight that the Japanese flag was flying over Hong Kong harbor and that Japanese forces were breaking the last British resistance on the island. Final occupation is only a matter of a short time, it was stated.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—(P)—A last-stand garrison of British, Canadian and native troops was believed tonight to be fighting on at separate strongpoints on Hong Kong island against an overpowering force of Japanese invaders.

There had been no word from the defenders of the century-old Crown colony since early morning, and officials refused to confirm or deny Japanese reports that it substantially was in Japanese hands.

The British embassy at Chungking, China, which has been receiving regular reports from Hong Kong, said communications had ceased today. Contact between Hong Kong and the Chinese headquarters in Kwangtung also was broken.

The garrison fought without hope of reinforcement or retreat. Its force had been split and dispersed in several areas to cover separate landings of Japanese assault troops, and the battle, apparently, was going on over a considerable terrain.

"Heavy fighting is going on and (Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

Bladenboro Man, 63, Killed By Car While Asleep On Highway

W. M. McKee, 63, of Bladenboro, was killed instantly Friday night about three miles east of Bladenboro when a car driven by Thomas Vance Finger of Valdese ran over him.

Patrolman W. E. Ebert, of Elizabethtown, who investigated the accident said Finger stated that McKee was lying in the road when he hit him.

Witnesses who saw him before the accident occurred said he was in an advanced state of intoxication.

A coroner's inquest was begun Friday night, but was not to be concluded until Saturday morning. Finger was not being held by police, Ebert said.

Only Five Days Remain To Make A Child Happy

More generous Wilmingtonians Friday joined hands with the hundreds of others who have aided the Empty Stocking Fund and, as a result, the fund was nearly a hundred dollars nearer the goal last night.

With only five more days left in which to make sure that unfortunate children, are insured against disappointment Christmas day, our citizens seem de-

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Parents of children who have applied for aid from the Empty Stocking Fund are warned that TODAY is the last day to return to the Star-News office the identification cards certified by school teachers, Sunday school directors or ministers. It is absolutely necessary these cards be returned to this office TODAY if your children are to receive their gifts from Santa Claus.

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County Defense Unit Moves Into C. Of C.

Chairman R. B. Page of the County Defense Council announced Friday night that temporary offices will open Monday morning on the mezzanine of the Chamber of Commerce bldg. at Market and Front sts. All persons desiring to register for defense work are asked to call at the new address. Permanent quarters will be obtained later. The present move, Mr. Page said, is occasioned by the Army's taking over all available space in the post office, former headquarters.



WAR DEAD

Herbert Franklin Melton, formerly of Masonboro Sound, Friday was reported killed in the Dec. 7 attack on Hawaii. He was stationed aboard a U. S. battleship at Pearl Harbor. He is shown above with his wife, a native of Long Beach, Calif. He is New Hanover county's first known war casualty.

MASONBORO BOY DIES IN ACTION

Message To Parents Says Herbert Melton Killed In Hawaii Attack

According to a message received from his wife, Mrs. Violet Melton, of Long Beach, Calif., Herbert Franklin Melton, 25 year-old former Masonboro Sound resident, died at his post aboard a U. S. vessel in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

He is believed to be the first New Hanover man killed in action since the outbreak of hostilities with Japan, Dec. 7.

The message was received Thursday by Melton's mother, Mrs. George Melton, of Masonboro Sound. Melton was 25 on December 7, the day of the Pearl Harbor attack.

He enlisted in the Navy on May 19, 1936, after graduating from New Hanover High school, and held the rating of boatswain's mate at the time of his death.

Melton has a younger brother, L. A., who is now training in a Naval Air school.

Surviving are his wife and young son of Long Beach, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Melton; two brothers, G. W. Melton, Jr., and L. A. Melton; and five sisters, Mrs. D. T. Sutherland, Mrs. Earl Brock, Kathleen Melton, Bessie Melton and Betty Lou Melton.

U. S., Mexican Airmen Patrol Pacific Coast

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 19.—(P)—Mexican Army aviators, cooperating with United States airmen, already have begun to patrol the Pacific coast, it was announced today.

Government sources said the patrols were created to safeguard Mexican waters from exploration by Japanese "fishermen."

4 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT



4 Million-Man Army Seen; Registration Will Begin Shortly

2,215,000 Expected To Be Made Available For Armed Duty In Next Few Months Under Compromise Measure

EXEMPTIONS LEFT TO LOCAL BOARDS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(P)—Congress cleared the way today for a 4,000,000-man army by approving and sending to President Roosevelt legislation requiring the registration of all men from 18 to 64 years old, inclusive, and making those from 20 to 44 inclusive, subject to military service.

Officials at Selective Service headquarters said the registration probably would not begin before "several weeks." Although the new draft bill makes possible an army of at least 4,000,000, there is no way of telling whether that many men will ever be called to the colors. Secretary of War Stimson has said increases in the army would be ordered "in the light of the strategic situation as it develops."

Both Houses agreed speedily on compromise amendments to the Selective Service act which War department officials said would make a total of 2,215,000 men available in the next few months.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

GALLANT MARINES AT WAKE REPULSE 2 MORE ATTACKS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(P)—Wake island's indomitable little garrison of United States Marines still clung tenaciously to their scarred and battered atoll tonight after beating off two more Japanese onslaughts.

This good news, with word of an intensified enemy air attack upon the Philippines summarized the day's operations in American-held territory, as revealed in the communiques of the Army and Navy.

It was supplemented, however, by an announcement in Manila that defending forces were in complete command of the situation there, except for three small areas on which the Japs established landing parties very early.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

USO ASKS ROOMS DURING HOLIDAYS

Many Relatives Of Soldiers Unable To Be Home For Christmas Expected

Wilmingtonians Friday night were requested by the USO clubs of the city to extend the hospitality of their homes to the relatives of soldiers at Camp Davis and other military centers in this area during the Christmas holidays.

The announcement that leaves at Camp Davis for the Christmas holidays are limited to three days means that many soldiers will not be able to travel to their homes elsewhere and are expecting their parents and relatives to visit them here.

No estimate was made by USO officials of the number expected to be in town for the holidays. The housing plan, which the USO clubs are sponsoring, was drawn up today.

Jap Bombs Set Swedish Ship Afire At Hong Kong

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—(P)—The new 6,079-ton Swedish motorship freighter Nippon was hit by bombs from Japanese planes and is aflame in Hong Kong harbor, the American Swedish news exchange said today.

The agency said the vessel had gone into Hong Kong for repairs after suffering damage from striking a mine near Singapore.

Poisson Stresses Need For Red Cross Campaign

At a meeting Friday morning with a group of the workers in the American Red Cross chest campaign, Louis J. Poisson, general director of the drive, urged that everybody who will have a part make it clear to all persons asked for subscriptions that this is not a continuation of the annual Red Cross roll call, but an independent crusade to raise at a minimum of \$50,000,000 with which to start the organization's work of relief and mercy, now that war has come to the United States.

"It is particularly important that (Continued on Page Two; Col. 6)