

U.S. Airmen, Entering Battle For Singapore, Bag Nine Jap Planes

Successful Assault Carried Out Saturday In Netherlands Indies

TWO BOMBERS LOST

MacArthur Says Fighting In Philippines Slackens To Patrol Work

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—A fierce aerial battle in which American fliers shot down nine Japanese interceptor planes at a cost of two American bombers was reported tonight by the war department which also disclosed that United States army air forces had entered directly into the fight to save Singapore.

The air battle took place Saturday, near Menado in the Netherlands Indies island of Celebes. Besides the two U. S. bombers lost, another was damaged and four of its crew members were injured.

The first reported appearance of American air forces in the struggle for Singapore was a smashing raid two days earlier in central Malaya on the Japanese-held Sungai Papani airfield near Penang, and some 300 miles northwest of Singapore.

Successful Attack

Describing the attack as successful, the war department said three large fires were started among Japanese aircraft on the ground and in a hanger in the area, and all American planes returned safely to their bases.

The announcement of the bombers' blows overshadowed earlier reports that the General Douglas MacArthur's intrepid little American-Filipino army was digging in for further stubborn defense of the peninsula after parrying the latest Japanese attack in the Philippines.

The bases from which the bombers operated were not disclosed but they presumably were out of the range of enemy raiders or well hidden. Testifying to the vast aerial front on which the U. S. forces are operating, Manado is some 1,800 air miles from the raided Malayan air base.

The aerial battle between Japanese interceptors and American bombers occurred after five of the latter had raided a flying field at Menado in northeast Celebes, a strategic point dominating the Molucca passage for shipping between Australia and Japan.

The communique, describing this episode, said: "On January 17, five American bombers attacked an enemy flying field at Menado in northeast Celebes. After several bombs had been dropped on the field with undetermined result, our planes encountered a formation of Japanese interceptor planes. In the ensuing fight, nine enemy planes were shot down, two of our bombers are missing, and a third was damaged with four members of the crew wounded."

A Heavy Blow

The loss of the bombers was a heavy blow, despite the numerical victory, inasmuch as they presumably were long-range heavy four-engine craft such as have been employed most successfully in the vast far eastern theater.

The war department's morning communique said that following the repulse of the third major enemy assault in the Philippines in two weeks, General Douglas MacArthur had reported that ground operations had dwindled to fighting of a desultory nature, chiefly between patrols.

11.4 Billion Program Is Laid Down

Staggering Total Reached As Roosevelt Asks 28 Billions More

WILL GO FOR ARMS

Planes, Ships, Tanks And Other Vital Equipment Provided For

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The United States war program jumped to the astronomical total of \$114,000,000,000 today when President Roosevelt recommended new expenditures of \$28,500,000,000 for planes, ships, tanks and other vital military and naval equipment.

The \$114,000,000,000 includes all appropriations, authorizations and requests made since June 30, 1940. Officials indicated that the war spending figure of \$56,000,000,000 for the next fiscal year, as mentioned in Mr. Roosevelt's recent budget message, was not changed by the new recommendation. Part of the requested funds will be spent prior to that fiscal twelve-month, part will be spent after it, and the rest was taken into account in making up the \$56,000,000,000 total.

Mr. Roosevelt proposed to Congress today that \$15,962,645,921 in cash and contract authorizations be made available to the Navy department for use in the next 18 months and that \$12,525,372,474 in cash be given to the War department for the next six months.

The Breakdown

The President gave few details on how the money actually would be spent but included in his recommendations these major categories:

War department: Air Corps, \$9,041,373,090. Ordnance service and supplies, \$1,547,948,529.

For expediting production and supplies, \$933,000,000. Signal service, \$680,242,180. Chemical warfare service, \$323,308,675.

Navy department: Construction of 150,000 tons of combat ships and 800,000 tons of auxiliaries, \$1,402,500,000. General construction and machinery, \$1,665,000,000. Ship ordnance and stores, \$1,161,274,000.

Scores of other categories for the Navy would provide funds or authorizations for the Marine Corps, research, training stations, payrolls, medicine and related work.

Under the President's recommendations for the Army, \$4,000,000,000 of the total could be used for lend-lease purposes authorized under the original lend-lease bill. That measure put a \$1,300,000,000 top on the value of materials already appropriated for which the President could dispose of under the basic law.

Mr. Roosevelt also asked \$7,000,000 for an inter-American highway and \$5,950,000 to finance recently expanded work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

U. S. Forces Occupy Dutch Atlantic Isles

BALBOA, Canal Zone, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Army headquarters announced tonight that the United States, in cooperation with The Netherlands government, has sent air forces to the islands of Aruba and Curacao "to assist in protection of those vitally important oil centers."

The islands are off the coast of Venezuela. With Dutch Guiana where the United States sent a protective force in November, they constitute the principal Netherlands possessions in the Western Hemisphere.

For the Russians it was a familiar maneuver, for it was over Ladoga's ice that they had stormed and flanked vital Finnish positions in the war of 1939-40.

Along the Moscow front, the day before reports that Russian forces had entered both Moshaisk and Orel, the former 57 miles west of the capital and the only German salient surviving from the second Nazi offensive, and the latter 200 miles below Moscow.

NAZI SUBMARINES BLAST AT SHIPS OFF N. C. COAST; ONE SUNK, SECOND STRUCK

Did Not Ignore Duty, Accused Officer States

Charged With Criticizing U. S. For Sending Planes To Allies

SAID PUBLIC 'GOATS'

First Army Officer To Face Court Martial Since Declaration Of War

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 19.—(AP)—A veteran air corps officer in a public speech blamed the Pearl Harbor disaster on the American public's sanctioning of a policy of sending aircraft to Axis foes, witnesses testified at his general court martial today.

Col. H. C. Kress Muhlenberg, first high ranking officer summoned before a court martial since the U. S. declared war on the Axis, denied he disobeyed orders by discussing the foreign policy of the United States.

Under the lend-lease act the United States was authorized to ship fighting planes to England, China and Russia.

In charging that Colonel Muhlenberg violated the 95th and 96th articles of war, the Army quoted him as saying on Dec. 17, "ten days after the Pearl Harbor attack by the Japanese—in a speech before the Curtiss flying club here: 'Public the Goats'.

"The American people are going to be hunting for 'goats' to blame, but they are the 'goats' because they wouldn't let the air corps have the planes."

Keneth Turner, president of the flying club, testified he recalled Muhlenberg saying "you can't send

OFFER MADE FOR SCHUTT PROPERTY

County Tenders \$11,000 For Land Needed To Complete Airport

County commissioners at their regular meeting Monday afternoon voted to offer the owners of the Schutt property, needed to complete the north runway of the Wilmington airport, \$11,000 for the ten acres involved.

Situated on the property are a two-story frame residence and two five-room frame dwellings. The property had been valued at \$15,650 by an appraisal committee of the Wilmington Real Estate board, but this report was rejected as being entirely too high at the meeting of the commissioners on January 12.

Before setting the \$11,000 figure the commissioners read a new valuation of the property made by three experienced building contractors.

City, County To Collect \$250,000 In Back Taxes

City government of Wilmington and New Hanover County agreed yesterday to set up immediately a joint back tax department to collect an estimated quarter of a million dollars in delinquent city and county taxes.

The agreement was formally ratified by the county commissioners with a unanimous vote accepting a tentative agreement made by City Manager James G. Wallace and Commission Chairman Addison Hewlett last Tuesday at a meeting in which John A. Orrell, auditor and treasurer, and W. C. Nichols, tax auditor participated.

The agreement in writing sets out six items of procedure already agreed upon, but reserved decisions on four other matters.

The matters definitely agreed on were (1) for the immediate establishment of the back tax office, (2) that office space for the department be provided at City Hall by railing off part of the collector's office, (3) that a back tax collector and stenographer be employed, (4) a check be made immediately of all back taxes, block by block

Flame-Covered Waters Claim 22 U. S. Seamen Off Carolina Coast

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 19.—(AP)—Flame-covered waters were believed today to have claimed the lives of 22 crewmen of a United States tanker sunk in a torpedo attack off the Atlantic coast while others of the crew of 35 brought ashore accounts of a grim fight with "the strength born of the knowledge of certain death if we failed."

The tanker, the 6,635-ton Allan Jackson, of the Standard Oil company, survivors said "seemed to be parting in the middle and there was fire everywhere" a few moments after a torpedo struck amidships as the vessel was enroute to New York yesterday off the North Carolina coast.

The sinking of the tanker was announced by naval authorities late last night, but details were withheld until today.

Seven of the 13 men known to have survived the sinking told of battling desperately to keep from being sucked into the propeller of the ship which continued to churn as the vessel sank. They were brought here on an unnamed vessel after spending six hours in an open boat. The rescue ship also brought in hospital cases and four bodies.

It was a defiant seven men, in spite of their harrowing experiences, who spoke of the "lousy" attackers who "stab in the dark." One of the survivors, O. M. May, an able seaman from Panama City, Fla., said he was going to join the Navy and "get a crack" at the enemy.

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Tanker Allan Jackson Destroyed And Malay Badly Damaged

WAR AT SEA RAGES

Navy Is Believed Tracking Down Daring Raiders All Along Seaboard

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—An Axis submarine struck at another tanker off the Atlantic coast of the United States today, damaging but failing to add the vessel to the known toll of three ships sunk along the coast in the past six days.

A Navy department announcement said the 8,206-ton tanker Malay, under charter to the Gulf Oil company, was attacked early today but was nearing the safety of an Atlantic port tonight and her crew was believed safe. She normally carries a complement of 34 men.

The Navy, which already had come to grips with Axis undersea raiders along the Pacific coast, long has been on the prowl in Atlantic waters.

Calling attention to the sinking of other tankers on both coasts, Ralph K. Davies, deputy petroleum coordinator, urged oil companies to increase the use of railroad tank cars for movement of petroleum products from producing fields.

The extent of the deadly game of hide-and-seek between the enemy undersea craft and American planes and vessels along the Atlantic seaboard was hidden behind a veil of censorship required by the necessities of keeping information from the foe.

But the spread of known submarine activities, from off Long Island to North Carolina—led to general belief that the Axis had sent its skulking pigboats in considerable numbers to prowl American waters.

Navy Answers Challenge

And there could be no doubt that the Navy, though grimly silent, had taken up the challenge, and

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COLE BLEASE DIES AFTER OPERATION

Former Governor, Senator Was Colorful Palmetto Political Figure

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 19.—(AP)—Cole L. Blease, former governor and U. S. Senator and long a political figure in South Carolina, died in a hospital here tonight, after undergoing an operation yesterday.

Blease was 73 years old. A perennial candidate for office since the 1890's, Blease was governor from 1911 to 1915, and was U. S. Senator from 1925 to 1931.

Blease shot into the national limelight in his first administration as governor because of his issue of nearly 3,000 pardons.

He bitterly attacked America's entry into the World War, and President Wilson's policies. In 1917 President Wilson made a direct appeal to South Carolina voters, asking the former governor's defeat in his race for the Senate.

While he was in the governor's office Blease disbanded the entire State National Guard, as the result of a dispute with the War Department over civilians.

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Auto Dealers Study Suggestions For Aid

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The nation's automobile dealers, with their stocks of new cars frozen by federal order and subject to rationing in the future, today considered suggestions for government aid.

Directors of the National Automobile Dealers association, representing 42,000 car dealers who are facing a struggle for survival because the motor industry is to be shifted to war production, agreed to present these proposals to the association's convention:

1. The government should be asked to pay full retail prices for any automobiles purchased or requisitioned from the frozen stocks of dealers.
2. Relief may be necessary for dealers who have leased large

showrooms, which will be unnecessary under the rationing program. Legislation might be asked to provide a moratorium on the leases or methods of adjustment.

Provision should be made for the government to buy any new automobiles offered by any dealer after July 1, 1942. This would permit liquidation by dealers who find themselves unable to continue business on the income from used car sales and service departments.

"The automobile retailing business has received a hard blow," L. Clare Cargile, president of the association said. "We dealers are here, however, not to protest but to salvage what we may from the wreckage"

Served By Leased Wire Of The ASSOCIATED PRESS With Complete Coverage Of State and National News

Malayan Front Stabilized After Attack By Japanese Reported Beaten Off By Aussies

NOVOY RELINQUISHED

Singapore Defenders Confronted As They Ride Away To Give Battle

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SINGAPORE, Jan. 19.—(AP)—British battalions drawn across a conical ridge of Maylan rubber trees, jungle and rice paddies, were reported today to have met Japanese infiltrations but the Australians thrown into the fight for Singapore three days after they had stabilized the front zone.

The Australians reported they were beaten off after attack everywhere were holding their ground.

British communique said the Japanese progressively enlarged their foothold south of the Maur which by the infiltration tactics which they have reached in numerous west Malayan coastal towns and byways. As a result, the British lines were readjusted southward to meet the menace to the flank.

Segamat Front

Along the central Malayan railway, where the Australians clashed with the Japanese on Friday, the communique for the first time mentioned the "Segamat front."

Segamat is 15 miles south of Johore on the border of Negri Sembilan and Johore states where the first clash took place.

It was thus along a front not more than 90 to 95 miles from Singapore island that the Australians claimed to have arrested the Japanese advance, at least for the time being.

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LEWIS' PROPOSAL PASSED TO BOARD

President Transmits Labor Reunion Plan To His Executives

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—(AP)—With slightly skeptical allusion to the negotiations which ended at the Harbor, CIO President Philip Murray today passed on to the CIO executive board the proposal of C. L. Lewis for a resumption of peace conferences.

"If a peace conference should ensue," Murray told newsmen, "there would be no Pearl Harbor in the annals of the labor movement."

Blacking it clear that he and not Lewis, who is president of the United Mine Workers of America, was the author of the CIO, Murray declared a statement that any negotiations looking toward an end of labor strife would "necessarily have to be handled through the office of the president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations."

The Lewis proposal for a reunion of the labor family was directed to both Murray and William Green, AFL president, in letters made public last Saturday. Green already has said that the AFL peace committee stood ready to meet with a similar committee from the CIO at any time.

In a letter to Lewis, Murray said that the latter's peace plan would be presented at a meeting of the CIO executive board in New York on Jan. 24 and he expressed belief that the board would be pleased to have him attend and present his views.

Nelson Drafts 4-Point Plan To Speed Output

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Donald M. Nelson, working 12 to 14 hours a day since his appointment as war production chief, was reported tonight to have drafted his four-point general plan for speeding arms output:

1. Appointment of a one-man " czar" for the automobile industry to supervise the conversion of virtually its entire output to military purposes, and weld its competitive companies into a single pool of productive capacity.
2. Creation of a war requirements board to determine exactly the needs of the Army, Navy, marine commission and others and to decide how critical materials shall be divided among them.
3. Revision of the present OPM organization by eliminating some agencies and divisions, combining others, and generally simplifying the Washington machinery to reduce red tape and duplication of effort.
4. Placing civilian procurement experts—responsible to Nelson—in Army and Navy procurement offices to guide and advise on the purchasing of weapons, munitions and supplies for the armed forces.

These proposals were described by officials as "tentative but probable." Definite details of the imminent shakeup may be made known Wednesday, when Nelson has scheduled his first press conference since President Roosevelt named him war production director last week.

The appointment of an overlord for the automobile industry was expected to be one of the earliest moves. Who might get the job was a matter of wide-open speculation. OPM's present automotive chief is Ernest C. Kanzler, president of universal credit corporation.

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Government Asks Oil Firms To Use Rail Tank Cars

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The government tonight called on oil companies to increase use of railroad tank cars for movement of petroleum products from producing fields to both coasts.

The request was made by Ralph K. Davies, deputy petroleum coordinator, almost simultaneously with announcement by the Navy that another tanker, the S. S. Malay, had been attacked by a submarine off the Atlantic coast. The Malay survived the attack, but three other tankers have been sunk since last Wednesday.

Davies, in announcing his request, commented: "Tankers have been sunk on both coasts. Others have had to be assigned to military service. Ocean hauls are now complicated by obvious hazards.

"This means that overland movement has become more important than ever."

SOVIETS SMASH INTO KONBROVO

Reds Also Cracking At Forward Anchor Of Siege Line At Leningrad

LONDON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The Russian army of the north was smashing tonight at the forward anchor of the German siege line before Leningrad in attacks of rising power synchronized with the Soviet central offensive driving on the apparently crumbling Nazi positions of Moshaisk and Orel on the Moscow front.

The regular post-midnight communique issued in Moscow Tuesday (Russian time) told of the recapture of Konbrovo "in the Smolensk district" far west of the capital, and confirmed the retaking of Vereya, 13 miles southeast of Moshaisk.

Konbrovo, not listed on available maps, apparently was somewhere west of Kirov in the direction of Ladoga against Schlusseeburg, the German-held lake fortress 25 miles east of Leningrad, by sledge and ski troops. One of a series of their running attacks was said already to have broken through between Schlusseeburg itself and the main Leningrad-Moscow railway.

Fighting was rising in intensity, it was said, and it thus appeared that a major offensive to turn the German line at Schlusseeburg was being developed against the German Field Marshal Ritter von Leeb, one of Hitler's best known experts in defensive warfare.

Premier Joseph Stalin was described here as strongly interested personally in the operation, believing that to smash the German arc before Leningrad would have not only its obvious military effect but a strong effect as well upon a German public already worried by the failure of Hitler's campaign at the center.

For the Russians it was a familiar maneuver, for it was over Ladoga's ice that they had stormed and flanked vital Finnish positions in the war of 1939-40.

Along the Moscow front, the day before reports that Russian forces had entered both Moshaisk and Orel, the former 57 miles west of the capital and the only German salient surviving from the second Nazi offensive, and the latter 200 miles below Moscow.

WEATHER

FORECAST: NORTH CAROLINA—Colder east and central portions Tuesday. SOUTH CAROLINA—Colder Tuesday.

(Meteorological data for the 2 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday): (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Temp.: 63; humidity: 68; wind: 1:30 a. m. 63; 7:30 a. m. 60; 1:30 p. m. 68; 7:30 p. m. 60; maximum 70; minimum 56; mean 63; normal 49.

Humidity: 1:30 a. m. 81; 7:30 a. m. 94; 1:30 p. m. 77; 7:30 p. m. 85.

Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 0.03 inches; total since the first of the month, 1.26 inches.

Tides For Today: (From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey):

Wilmington	High 7:14a.	Low 12:43p.
Masonboro Inlet	High 7:40p.	Low 1:20a.

Sunrise 7:16a.; sunset 5:30p.; moonrise 9:45a.; moonset 9:45p.

Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville at 8 a. m., Jan. 19, 10.05 feet.

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