

U. S. WINS MAJOR NAVAL ENGAGEMENT OVER JAPS



Field Marshal Sir John Dill, British representative with the United Nations' combined chiefs of state, sits beside the driver as he rides a U. S. Army jeep for the first time during a tour of inspection at Fort Bragg, N. C. In the rear seat are Gen. George C. Marshall (left), U. S. Army chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Rene E. DeR. Hoyle of the U. S. Army.

British Take Diego Suarez, Negotiate Surrender Terms

Victors Hopeful Entire Island Will Capitulate Without Fight

By NOLAND NORGAARD LONDON, May 7.—(P)—British troops and warships took possession today of Madagascar's great naval harbor of Diego Suarez after two days of brisk fighting and began negotiating the terms of a surrender by which they hoped to obtain the peaceful capitulation of all that Vichy French island.

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Warship Sunk After Hits By Enemy Torpedoes In Attack On Convoy

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Move Opened For Building Drydock Here

Representatives Clark And Hiers Press Matter Before Navy Department

COSTS \$2,000,000

Lack Of It Prevents Locally Built Ships From Leaving With Cargo

By HOWARD SUTTLE (Star Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Plans are underway whereby the Navy Department may soon authorize construction of a drydock at Wilmington to round out facilities that will enable loading in the New Hanover port of ships constructed by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company.

Need Drydock

The maritime commission had lined up some shipping business for the Port of Wilmington, the congressman added. "Safeguards were being taken for protection against submarine attacks. Then it was discovered that we had no drydock closer than Charleston and Norfolk." Now our job is to get this drydock as soon as possible, Mr. Hiers and I have discussed the matter with the navy's bureau of yards and docks and they encouraged that the interest shown by Admiral (Ben) Moreell, (Yards and Docks Chief) may be.

CONFESSIONS READ AT GODWIN TRIAL

Four Youths Standing Trial At Whiteville For Murder Of Brunswick Merchant

WHITEVILLE, May 7.—Testimony on which the state expects to send the four confessed robber slayers of Ira L. Godwin Brunswick merchant, to the lethal gas chamber, was begun this morning as the most sensational trial this county has had in two decades moved into its second day.

Secretary Of Board Tender Resignation To Chief Casteen

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Spurned

Testifying in Los Angeles, Mrs. Florence Gilbert Burroughs, wife of Tarzan's papa, said that her author-husband, unlike his fictional brainchild, preferred to live alone. A decree was granted.

WEATHER

Table with weather forecast for North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wilmington, including temperature, humidity, and precipitation data.

U.S. To Ration Travel Aboard Trains, Buses

Cities Over 10,000 Gets Instruction On Efficient Use Of Transportation

SUNDAY RIDING GOING

Motorists Having More Than Five Tires Asked To Sell Their Extras

WASHINGTON, May 7.—(P)—Rationing of passenger travel on railroads and buses was described officially today as "definitely in prospect" while the government sent every city of over 10,000 population a blue-print for efficient use of public and private transportation.

Candidate For Governor

Chauncey Sparks of Eufaula, one of five candidates for Democratic nomination for governor of Alabama, listens to returns from the primary May 5. With the count incomplete, he had a slight margin over his four opponents.

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Eight Ships Sunk, Four Damaged Off Solomon Islands

Subs Bag Three Other Jap Craft; Americans Lose Only Three Planes

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, May 7.—(P)—An American naval force, intercepting a Japanese squadron apparently striking at the flank of the life line to Australia, sank eight enemy vessels, damaged four and destroyed six planes at a total United States cost of only three planes, the Navy announced today.

The furious battle, authoritatively regarded here as possibly the first in which strictly American forces have engaged the Japs in a general naval encounter, occurred last Monday in the vicinity of the Solomon islands, lying northeast of Australia and northwest of the supply route bastions of New Caledonia and the New Hebrides islands.

The Naval communicate reporting the results of the battle also disclosed that U. S. submarines operating in the Western Pacific had sunk three more Japanese ships. Thus, the enemy's total ship losses announced today were eleven, including seven warships, and four damaged, as follows:

The Toll Sunk—one light cruiser, two destroyers, four gun boats and one supply vessel. Damaged—one 9,000 ton sea-plane tender, one light cruiser, one cargo vessel and one transport.

In U. S. submarine operations: Sunk—one medium sized cargo ship, one medium sized tanker, and one small cargo ship. The sinkings raised the unofficially tabulated total of Japanese ship losses due to United Nations operations to 250, including 195 warships of all types and 55 commercial vessels. They also raised the bag of Japanese ships successfully attacked by far ranging U. S. undersea raiders to 39 sunk, 12 probably sunk and eleven damaged.

Not since the combined Australian-American bombing of an enemy ship concentration off Lee and Salamaua, New Guinea, had such a United States success been reported by the Navy.

That action, carried out mostly by American forces, resulted, the Navy announced March 18, in the sinking or damaging of 23 Japanese ships including 12 war vessels.

The Solomon Islands action compensated to a considerable extent for the American-British-Dutch losses in the great battle of the Java sea in late February when the Allies lost 13 warships and the Japanese had seven sunk or damaged.

The exact nature of the battle in the Solomons was not shown by the Navy's communicate, which was restricted to a relation of results obtained. A fuller account, officers said, must await later reports from the Pacific.

Large Scale Battle But on the basis of what the communicate indicated, Naval experts said that the Solomons action appeared to have been a large scale sea battle between strictly American and Japanese forces and since results were so clearly known to the Americans it may have occurred in daylight. The use of the term "Naval engagement," it was said, definitely meant that American surface ships as well as aircraft had participated.

The battle was regarded as having high strategic importance because of its relation to the vital necessity of keeping open the supply line to Australia.

Bulkeley completed his mission; Toll Is Four Japanese Ships

Cruiser Among Victims Of Fleet Torpedo Boats Off Philippines

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7.—(P)—Lieut. John D. Bulkeley and three fellow torpedo boat officers, who spirited General Douglas MacArthur away from Corregidor, reported in person today that their mission to the Philippines had been completed at a cost to Emperor Hirohito of four ships, including a cruiser, four planes and two armored landing boats.

The Long Island City, N. Y. hero of the dashing little PT boats related in a matter-of-fact way how on one occasion they came upon a heavily armored cruiser in the dead of night. Results: "The ship sank completely in approximately 20 minutes."

The lethal boats found Japanese armored landing boats attempting to sneak up behind General Jonathan M. Wainwright's men. Result: "We lost 50 Japanese down after one boat sank because they opened fire first and wounded one of our officers."

"We took two prisoners, a Japanese captain and a private. The captain was on his knees, his hands in the air, crying: 'Me surrender me surrender!'"

Bulkeley did the reporting at a press conference with Lieut. Robert Kelly, New York city, Ensign George E. Cox, Watertown, N. Y., standing around him.

The four, youthful appearing and tanned and hardened by their strenuous work in the Philippines, were flown to the United States. They left almost immediately for New York and Washington.

The dark-haired, husky Bulkeley, commander of the speedboat squadron in the Philippines, said his mission had been to operate under MacArthur and "attack hostile shipping in Philippine waters wherever we might find it."

Mission Completed "When our usefulness was at an end and our mission completed, (Continued on Page Four; Col. 5)

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