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U. S. Subs Score Against Japan Reverses Admitted In Russia By Nazis

German Communique Is Gloomy

German People Given Inking That Tide of Conquest Has Been Thrown Into Reserve; Russians Claim Great Successes.

(By The Associated Press.) Russia proclaimed a series of smashing new victories in the war with Germany today, and for the first time Adolf Hitler's high command acknowledged that the German invasion armies were "shortening their lines" along the Soviet front and were hard pressed on the defensive in north Africa.

The extent of the German retreat along the whole 1,200-mile Russian battlefield was highlighted by a British broadcast reporting that all communications between Moscow and Leningrad had been re-established.

Soviet dispatches said the Red army was pushing a vast counter-offensive from Leningrad to the Black sea, capturing hundreds of villages and towns in one sector after another, and that in some instances the Germans were running without a fight.

In perhaps the gloomiest Nazi communique of the entire war—giving the German people at least an inkling that the tide of conquest has been thrown into reverse, the high command reported:

"In the course of transition from aggressive operations to stationary warfare for the winter months, necessary improvements involving the shortening of lines now are being systematically undertaken on various sectors of the eastern front."

But Soviet dispatches pictured the Germans in headlong flight, by no means effecting a strategic withdrawal with a Moscow communique declaring:

"The fleeing enemy is being pursued and annihilated by our forces."

Red army forces who re-captured strategic Kalinin said they found that German troops had built four-footed plank beds in houses throughout the Kalinin zone, "evidently intending to spend the winter there."

Moreover, the official Berlin radio

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Japanese Use Nazi Planes

London, Dec. 17.—(AP)—The air ministry news service declared the Japanese are using both Messerschmitt 109's and 110's—German fighter planes—in the air battle of Manila.

M E-109 is a single-engine plane and the ME-110 is the twin-engine. Both can be used as bombers.

The Japanese previously had been reported manufacturing fighter planes based on Messerschmitt models but there had been no indication before that they possessed planes made in Germany.

Two Trains Are Wrecked

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 17.—(AP)—The westbound Katy Flier, passenger train of the M.K.T., crashed head-on into the standing eastbound Flier four miles north of here early today, killing three trainmen and injuring five other railroad employees.

No passengers were hurt seriously. A FBI agent said he believed the wreck the result of a clear accident.

Dalhart, Tex., Dec. 17.—(AP)—Six cars of the westbound Rock Island passenger train derailed at Naravasa, 56 miles southwest of Dalhart today, injuring four persons.

The train was the California on the Chicago to Los Angeles run. It left Dalhart at 11:25 p. m. CST and derailed more than an hour later.

Railroad officials said eight cars of the 14-car train carrying approximately 400 passengers passed safely over what apparently was a trestle road. The remaining 15 left the tracks and one car turned over.

Heads Jap Fleet



Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto

In command of Japan's combined fleet is 57-year-old Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, a strong advocate of combined air and sea power. A veteran of the Russo-Japanese War, he was spokesman for the Tokyo Naval Command at the London Naval Conference of 1931.

(Central Press)

Labor Meet Convenes

Labor, Management and Public Represented in Effort to End Work Stoppages.

Washington, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Men representing labor, management and the public met here today in an effort to work out an agreement to prevent all work stoppages in war-vital industries.

Some government quarters forecast creation of a new mediation agency, patterned on the 1918 war labor board.

In calling the conference in an endeavor to end strikes during the war emergency, President Roosevelt made it clear that he would be satisfied with nothing short of unanimous agreement.

The conference convened with definite instruction from the President. They were told that there should be no hesitation on the part of either labor or industry to accept as a basic condition of their agreement that there should be no interruption of production by labor disputes for the duration.

The conference also had before it a new labor peace offer from the American Federation of Labor. In a declaration of wartime labor policy, the AFL extended the olive branch to the Congress of Industrial Organizations in a brief paragraph which did not directly mention the CIO but which said that labor rivalry had no place in the wartime picture.

CIO officials indicated that they would answer this appeal soon after today's conference convened.

Pelley Trial Continued

Asheville, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Superior Court Judge Zeb V. Nettie continued today until January 19 a hearing in the case of William Dudley Pelley. Silver Shirts leader who faces judgment in one case and revocation of suspended sentence in another.

Pelley, who appeared in court with his counsel, was convicted in 1935 of violating the state's securities law and of making fraudulent representations. He was sentenced to one to two years in the securities law violation case but the judgment was suspended upon payment of a fine and upon condition of good behavior.

In the other case, prayer for judgment was continued for three weeks.

Compromise Draft Bill Predicted

Measure Expected to Provide for Men From 20 Through 44, Inclusive, to be Liable to Call for Military Service.

Washington, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Well informed congressmen said today that pending draft extension measures in the House and Senate might be compromised to provide for active military service for men from 20 through 44 inclusive.

Legislation scheduled for House debate today put a floor of 21, below which men could not be inducted, but a similar Senate bill would permit the selective service system to dip down to those 19 or older—as requested by the War Department.

Many members expressed the opinion that the two chambers would pass the bill in those divergent forms and that a joint Senate-House conference committee would compromise at 20.

Strong administration pressure, springing from a strongly worded letter from President Roosevelt endorsing the 19 through 44 age limit, was being exerted, however, in behalf of the Senate bill.

Both measures call for the registration of men from 18 through 64 inclusive, already including the 17,500,000 already registered, would affect an estimated 41,000,000 men.

There were indications that the major light over the legislation in the House would involve the age limit for active service. Other amendments may be offered, however, which would preclude active military service for men under 20 unless they had been trained for at least twelve months.

Still others were designed to direct the War Department to induct married men whose wives or other dependents are not entirely dependent upon them.

Tire Sale Ban Is Extended

Washington, Dec. 17.—(AP)—OPM officials said today that the prohibition of manufacture and sale of automobile tires and tubes, except to fill top defense orders, would be extended until the first week in January.

The original order, effective December 11, was to have expired December 22, and was described as preliminary to direct rationing of tires to civilian consumers.

NAZI SABOTAGE PLOT THWARTED

Buenos Aires, Dec. 17.—(AP)—A German plot to halt the export of Bolivian metals to the United States by sabotaging railways running to the Chilean ports of Arica and Antofagasta has been thwarted, according to information received here today.

It also was learned that the Bolivian government has imposed a rigid censorship, but whether this was connected with the reported Nazi plot was not clear.

Embezzlement, Laxity Charged In State Revenue Department

Raleigh, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell said today that a warrant charging embezzlement had been sworn out at Hendersonville against Carl Felmet, a deputy revenue collector.

An audit, Maxwell said, disclosed a shortage of \$3,954.70 in Felmet's accounts.

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, By BOB THOMPSON

LATIN NATIONS ACT TO EXTEND TANGIBLE AID

Aids Chinese in Air



Lieut. Col. Chennault

Lieut. Col. Claire L. Chennault, noted U. S. army pilot, will direct a Chinese aerial offensive against Japanese bases which, military sources declare, might now be expected "any time." The 51-year-old Texan became air force adviser to Gen. Chiang Kai-shek early this year.

Censorship Plan Talked

Early Says Outline of Plan Expected by Time War Powers Bill is Passed.

Washington, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Stephen Early, White House secretary, said today that the government hoped to have the rough outline of a censorship plan ready for President Roosevelt's approval by the time the war powers bill reaches him from Congress.

Early said an advisory committee composed of Vice President Wallace, Attorney General Biddle, Postmaster General Walter, and Lowell Mellett, director of the office of government reports, had been working on various plans for some time and that they would be submitted to Bryon Price, newly appointed censorship director.

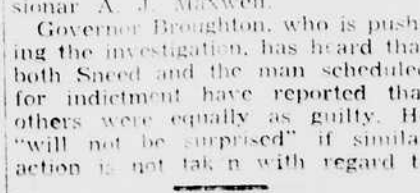
Price is expected here Friday to take over his new duties. He had been granted a leave of absence as executive editor of the Associated Press.

The censorship setup will be different from that created in 1914 under George Creel, Early said. Government departments and agencies will continue to issue press releases, as at present, but the bearing on the war will be approved first by

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Fair and colder tonight.

6 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT



(Continued on Page Two)

State of Siege Declared in Argentina; Mexican Congress Considers Request to Aid Defense Troop Movements.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 17.—(AP)—A state of siege in Argentina and quick moves in Mexico and Central America to give the United States tangible aid to war today marked Latin America's contributions to hemisphere solidarity.

Argentine police, formally notifying newspapers and news agencies of the government's decree of a state of siege, ordered them to abstain from comment on the decree or make biased publications which may perturb the political tranquility of the country.

The announced purpose of the decree was to carry out "international promises contracted by the republic in recent Pan-American conferences."

In Mexico, congress considered President Manuel Avila Camacho's request that foreign troops be allowed to pass through Mexican territory and foreign ships and naval planes be stationed in Mexican waters and ports. An official announcement made it clear that U. S. troops, ships and planes were meant. The United States already has granted Mexico permission to pass troops through its territory to guard Lower California.

Representatives of the Central American foreign offices were invited by the Cuban Ruman foreign office to meet and work out a united Central American program to be presented at a later meeting of American republics in Rio de Janeiro.

Southeastern Coast Cities Have Blackout

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 17.—(AP)—Three southeastern coastal cities turned off their lights last night and civilians took make-believe precautions against a simulated air raid.

On order of the third interceptor command, actual raid conditions were carried out as realistically as possible, sirens screamed on the approach of planes and, like fire fires falling into a dark abyss, lights in the three cities—Charleston, Wilmington, N. C., and Savannah, Ga.—went out.

Four plate glass show fronts were smashed in Wilmington and a front window was smashed here, apparently, police said, by over-zealous citizens. A taxi driver was arrested here on a charge of disorderly conduct. Police said he failed to stop his cab during the blackout.

Jap Sub for Three



Here is one of the tiny submarines used by the Japanese in the sneak raid on Pearl Harbor. The submersibles are built to be operated by three men. Secretary of the Navy Knox said three Japanese submarines were sunk at Hawaii.

Chinese Hinder Japs

Successful Attacks North of Hongkong Compel Shift of Reinforcements.

Chungking, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Chinese forces were reported tonight to have delivered successful attacks north of besieged Hongkong, compelling the Japanese to shift reinforcements to cope with a Chinese threat to their rear in the Tamshui area.

Tamshui is about 28 miles north of the mainland border of Hongkong on Japanese-occupied Kowloon peninsula about the same distance east of the Canton-Kowloon railroad.

Chinese dispatches said Japan's conquest of Kowloon was at a high cost in mechanical equipment which had been destroyed by British gunfire.

These reports said the Chinese also had increased their pressure on other mainland Japanese positions, particularly in Cheung province, just south of Shanghai.

90 PERSONS KILLED IN FORMOSA QUAKE

Tokyo (Official radio) passed up by AP—Dec. 17.—One hundred and thirty persons were killed and 194 injured this morning in an earthquake in southern Formosa, the overseas affairs ministry announced.

A total of 612 houses were razed and there was some damage to railways and other communications, the ministry added. It said the principal damage to communications was expected to be repaired during the day.

Japan Has Plentiful Food Supply

Washington, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Japan opened war on United States and Great Britain well supplied with food and—because of the simple diet of her people—with little fear of starvation from naval blockades. Agriculture department officials said today.

Japanese live mainly on rice, wheat and fish. Reports of rice shortages have appeared in the past two years, but there are indications these were circulated to accustom the nation to a ration system and to permit government accumulation of reserve stocks for an emergency.

Reports of rice in 1940 were the lowest on record. This year's crop, estimated at 510,000,000 bushels, was only slightly smaller than last year's harvest.

Sub Attack News Gives No Details

Japanese Alarmed at Reported Presence of Submarines in Japanese Waters; 26 Jap Planes Downed at Vigan.

(By The Associated Press.) Japan took alarm today at the reported presence of 20 U. S. submarines operating in Japanese waters, even as Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander of the Asiatic fleet, announced that American submarines had gone into action for the first time in the eleven-day-old conflict and scored success in two or three attacks.

U. S. Army headquarters in Manila reported also that at least 26 Japanese planes had been destroyed yesterday at Vigan, 200 miles northwest of Manila, where the Japanese still maintained one of their three footholds on Luzon island.

Admiral Hart's cryptic statement did not identify the victims of the American counter blows—whether Japanese warships or merchant craft—or the locale of the sinkings.

It seemed plausible, however, that the United States was tightening a blockade around the mikado's densely-populated island empire.

In Washington, a War department communique dismissed the Japanese shelling of Kohabun, on the Hawaiian island of Maui, as having damaged only a concrete loading platform of a pineapple company. About ten shells were fired, the communique said, without a single casualty.

In the Philippine theatre, the War department reported "no discernible enemy activity during the past 24 hours," and said there was "nothing to report from other areas."

Meanwhile, British headquarters in Singapore acknowledged that Japanese troops have landed in Sarawak on the northwest coast of Borneo, British-protected domain of the "white rajah." Sir Charles Brooke, within 300 miles bombing range of Singapore itself and 600 miles from Manila.

Japanese warships, bombers and land batteries also were reported recently pounding siege—around Hongkong, Britain's second greatest stronghold in the Far East, and a Reuters dispatch said Japanese forces had seized the Portuguese island of

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Allied Plans Coordinated

London, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Government spokesmen told the house of commons today that all steps had been taken to coordinate British, American and allied war plans in accord with President Roosevelt's call for "world wide strategy" but that Britain had not asked Russia to declare war on Japan.

These statements were made by Richard Law, undersecretary for foreign affairs, and Lord Privy Seal (Clement B. Attlee, in a session largely devoted to the question of cooperation among anti-axis allies.

Law said that China had full legal status as a British ally.

Nazis Active In Bulgaria

Bern, Switzerland, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Considerable German military activity in Bulgaria, of concern to Turkey, coupled with plans for a French-German conference on African colonies, was reported in European press dispatches today.

French Colonial Secretary Rene Platon is planning to go to occupied France, then to Berlin with an expert of the French African administration toward the end of the week, informed sources in Vichy said.

Vice Admiral Jean Darlan is expected to follow to assist in the talks, a Swiss newspaper reported. Presumably these conferences were connected with Darlan's recent visit to Italian Foreign Minister Count Ciano.