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Filipinos Smash Jap Invaders

Nazi's Reverses May Mark Turning Point In Europe War

Nazis Flee In Russia And Africa

Britain Announces Officially That Axis Front in North Africa is Shattered; Reds Say Invaders Fleeing in Chaos.

A great, perhaps decisive turning point marked Europe's war on two fronts today as Britain announced officially that the axis front in north Africa has been completely shattered and Russia declared that Adolf Hitler's invasion armies were fleeing in chaos.

A Soviet broadcast reported bitter hand-to-hand fighting against the axis forces, asserting that Russian cavalry in the Donets basin had re-captured recaptured German, Italian and Romanian troops when they fell to fighting one another.

The broadcast said Rumanian soldiers joined with the Italians against the Germans.

Exactly one month to the day after Britain's desert armies struck back into Libya in their second north African offensive, British Middle East headquarters announced:

"Axis forces in eastern Cirenaica (Libya) are now in full retreat, the enemy front has everywhere been broken yesterday, our troops relentlessly pursued the enemy for a distance of nearly 30 miles."

Thus, in staccato sentences the British command told the apparent beginning of the end of the African campaign, while on the Russian front the story of axis disaster was even greater.

Premier Josef Stalin was quoted as describing the ill-clad fleeing Germans as "resembling the forces of Napoleon" in their hasty retreat from Moscow in 1812.

Hayas (French news agency) dispatches said the German withdrawal in the Ukraine had brought the great industrial city of Kharkov, the Russian "Pittsburgh" into the battle zone once more.

Everywhere along the 1,200-mile front from Leningrad to the southernmost Ukraine the Germans were declared to be falling back in a retreat unparalleled since Hitler sent his armies smashing through Holland, Belgium and France more than 18 months ago.

Meanwhile, armies of revolt were on the march against the German occupiers.

A British broadcast said messages from southeast Europe reported that Yugoslav and Greek "French" armies had limped up across the mountains of southern Yugoslavia and northern Greece, and were fighting the Germans in a unified campaign.

ASSEMBLY SUMMONED

Lashon, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar summoned the Portuguese national assembly for an extraordinary meeting tomorrow afternoon. The premier said he would "make an important statement."

Sinking Toll Set At 500

Manila, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Approximately 500 persons apparently were lost in the sinking of the inter-island passenger steamer Corredidor in deep dark-infested waters near Manila bay yesterday, it was reported today.

The ship was carrying about 800 persons, including passengers and crew, and approximately 300 were known to have been rescued.

Destruction At Hickam Field



Shown here is one of the first photographs released by authorities of damage done by Japanese bombers in Hawaii in the sneak raid of Sunday, December 7, showing hangars and Hickam Field buildings set on fire by Japanese bombers.

Chinese Are Active In Kwangtung Area

Counter Drives Against Japanese Seige of Hongkong Island; Japanese Outposts Reported Captured.

Chungking, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The Chinese are maintaining three counter drives against the Japanese in Kwangtung province, facing British Hongkong on the south China coast, the Central News Agency announced today.

The zones of the Chinese actions, intended primarily to relieve the Japanese siege of Hongkong island, were outlined as follows:

1. The frontier region facing Kowloon peninsula, part of the Hongkong colony which the Japanese have occupied.
2. The vicinity of Swatow, big port city of easternmost Kwangtung.
3. North Canton, which in turn is northwest of Hongkong.

Highway Employees To Guard Strategic Bridges In State

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

Raleigh, Dec. 17.—As part of the State's effort to relieve the army from local guard duty without causing out of the State Guard, Governor Broughton, Chairman Len Pence of the Highway Commission and Attorney General McMillan have worked out a plan to use highway employees as guards for some sixty odd bridges in North Carolina.

The solution was not as simple as it might seem nor will it be completely satisfactory, all agree. However, it seems to be the best that can be done unless and until the federal government agrees to finance the State Guard.

Around 200 men, regular employees of the highway commission, will be taken off the job for which they were employed and put to work guarding the bridges 24 hours a day. Pence said that it will not be necessary to hire more men at this time as by "stretching out" the roadwork and taking advantage of the "slack season", the men can be spared. (So far this form of diversion of highway funds has not been attacked.) The bridges will be guarded 24 hours a day, the men being divided into three shifts. On most of the bridges there will be only one man on guard at a time, but on the longer ones there will be two.

Hero's Son Nominated To West Point

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—In an unusual token of appreciation of a deed of heroism, President Roosevelt has addressed a letter to the President of the United States—whoever he may be—in 1950, requesting the appointment of a West Point cadet of Colin P. Kelly III.

Now less than two years old, Colin P. Kelly III is the son of the late Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr., who scored three bomb hits and sank the Japanese battleship Haruma off Luzon December 2.

Captain Kelly, of Madison, Fla., lost his life in the action which destroyed the first Japanese warship in the war which began December 7 with the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

It was the second time in as many days that the President has cited the heroism of the Army aviator.

War Council Discussed

London, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Discussions are under way for establishment of a supreme allied war authority to direct high strategy against the axis, the authoritative British Press Association here tonight, and some quarters here believed that Washington should be its headquarters.

Informed opinion in London was divided on the desirability of Washington or London as the seat of the prospective allied grand council.

Appropriation Bill Signed

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today signed into law the bill carrying \$1,077,000,000 in appropriations and contract authority to expand the already huge program for the Army and Navy.

The measure, providing funds for huge increases in ordnance equipment, essential supplies for an army of 2,000,000 men, and funds and contract authority for naval patrol vessels, reached the White House only late yesterday.

It provides \$922,000,000 in cash and \$794,000,000 in contract authority.

CONTRACTS AWARDED TO 25 COMPANIES

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Navy contracts, totaling \$11,341,000 for antisubmarine projects, were announced today by James V. Forrestal, undersecretary of the Navy.

The contracts went to 25 different companies in the following 13 states: Michigan, Missouri, New York, Kansas, Ohio, California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Indiana, Illinois, Colorado and Connecticut.

Names of the companies and towns in which they operate were not disclosed.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Fair and not so cold tonight; temperature remaining above freezing.

5 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

DID YOU GET THAT SURPRISE FOR GUD?

Buy Christmas Seals

Draft To Be Used To Expand Army To Top Strength

All Voluntary Enlistments to be Halted as Soon as 'Present Rush Subsides,' Reserve Officers to be Called.

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Secretary Stimson announced today the War department was planning to expand the army to the greatest strength needed and would depend for the increase mainly on the selective service system.

"All voluntary enlistments are to be halted as soon as the present rush subsides," Stimson told a press conference.

An immediate increase of more than 150,000 men already has been recommended in a bill which Stimson said was on President Roosevelt's desk.

Stimson also announced: "All reserve officers not yet called to active duty have been ordered to take physical examinations," but he said this step did not mean they necessarily would be called out immediately.

After January 1, all graduates of officer candidates schools will be ordered to active duty. Previously those so desiring have been awarded certificates of capacity and permitted to return to their former civilian jobs.

Commanders of the four air force intercepter commands in the United States have been charged with organizing squadrons, air raid alarms, air check signals and electronic radio signals.

Meanwhile, that the government will become hard boiled about granting husbands whose wives are self supporting, was told to the Senate today, as military leaders, made known their view that this country must have an army much larger than 3,000,000 men.

A system of allowances for the families of married men inducted into service was advocated by Brigadier General Lewis A. Hershey, selective service administrator. He said the attitude of draft boards toward dependency and hardship cases must "inevitably" be modified.

However, about 1,000 farm boys turned to the farms this spring, he announced, adding that induction of many farm youths would threaten vital farm production.

Committee Would Unseat Sen. Langer

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

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—There were 120 men, women and children killed in North Carolina automobile accidents last month, the highway safety division reported today.

The monthly toll, which was 29 above that of November, 1940, brought the eleven-month death toll to 1,134 as compared to 851 killed during the first eleven months of last year.

In other words, the state's automobile death toll has climbed more than 35 percent during the year in which the State has spent more on safety, and used more men and women to teach and enforce it than ever before.

During the half-month in which it took the division to get final reports of the number of killed in November, it also received reports of 35 more killed this month, and that had not expected to be all inclusive.

But experience indicates that there may be more highway deaths during the last two weeks of this month than during any other similar period of the year. There is a little doubt but the number of broken bones, lacerations and other injuries on streets of North Carolina in the year 1941 will be record all past death records.

Dare was the only county in the state without a fatal 1941 traffic accident through November. Wayne county, in which it is located, the State's safety headquarters had the greatest number of automobile fatalities, 51, while Cumberland county, in which is located Fort Bragg, came next with 49. Although Mecklenburg came third with 45, its population, Charlotte, led all other counties with 19 traffic deaths within the city limits.

INDUSTRY-LABOR BOARD RECESSES

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—President Roosevelt's industry-labor conference recessed after an hour's session today so that representatives of labor, management and government could meet separately to deal with the President's request for a non-strike agreement for the duration of the war.

The recesses agreed to resume discussion at a 12:26 p.m. board at 2 p.m. Chairman William H. Davis said a report that each group would submit its own proposal at that time.

In the present general agreement, troop and equipment will be moved continuously. Colonel Richmond said, "and the only place they can travel is on the highways. It is imperative that the lines of trucks move without interruption."

Convoys will be routed whenever possible to avoid large cities and highways bearing heavy civilian traffic. When convoys do have to go through large towns, however, the strength of the line, ordinarily spread out on the highways, will close up to permit fast passage through congested districts.

Civilians were asked not to attempt to cross the convoy line when it is in progress, through cities. This is not only a safety measure but will speed up the movement of the troops.

U. S. Forces Under New Commanders

Tokyo Makes Fanciful Claims of Destruction of U. S. Ships and Planes; Philippine Troops Inducted Into U. S. Army.

(By The Associated Press.)

Filipino jungle fighters were officially credited with a smashing victory over Japanese troops in the 12-day old battle of Luzon island today as U. S. fighting forces in the mid-Pacific set out under fresh commanders to avenge Japan's treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor.

In Tokyo, the Japanese news command admitted that five "special type" Japanese submarines appeared early 41-odd hours in mid-Pacific, failed to return from the December 7 attack on the U. S. naval base at Honolulu.

The Japanese claimed, however, that aerial observation showed five U. S. battleships, two heavy cruisers and an oil tanker had been sunk in the 450 American planes had been destroyed on the ground and 14 others shot down in air duels. These claims appeared fanciful in the light of official U. S. reports.

Three "enemy" submarines were listed by Tokyo as having been sunk in the Pacific.

The Japanese also acknowledged the loss of 29 planes in the Hawaiian attack and said that a U. S. aircraft carrier, previously reported sunk, "now is believed to have escaped to the open sea."

A bulletin from Manila headquarters of Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur said Filipino troops, equipped with Japanese invaders in the Vigan area, 200 miles northwest of Manila, Monday and they then made many miles before darkness halted the fighting.

Army headquarters also announced that the entire Philippine army is being inducted into the United States Army of the Far East "in order to amalgamate all defense forces and effectuate the maximum cohesion and coordination."

A Manila dispatch, dated 4:40 p. m. Thursday, Manila time (2:40 a. m. EST) and Japanese aerial squadrons had resumed raids on Nichols and Zabala fields but had inflicted little damage.

Earlier, an Army communiqué said the situation in the Philippine theater "remains unchanged"—indicating that the Japanese invaders were making little or no progress in drives from widely separated headquarters in the north, east and south.

Private T. J. Kelly, headquarters, however, reported that Japanese troops, operating from Agaña, 250 miles north of Manila, had started a U. S. Army air base and were driving southward and while the Japanese reported that some 2,000 men, 250 miles southeast of Manila, was driving north in a last pinprick movement against the Philippine island.

In the Far East, Britain's struggle to halt the Japanese drive toward Singapore took a darkening turn as British and Indian troops were acknowledged to have withdrawn below the southern border of Kedah, apparently yielding the 115-mile long Malayan peninsula state to the Japanese.

Kedah state has strategic Penang island and London quarters said the withdrawal from Korea meant that Penang, second only to Singapore in importance throughout Malaya, was "gone." The island is about 85 miles south of the Thailand border, immediately east of the Japanese main island.

British headquarters said defense forces were being concentrated south of the Malay river on the southern border of Kedah, after abandoning Penang.

With Singapore itself admittedly in grave danger, the allies soon steps to block Japan's spreading thrusts into the south Pacific, landing troops on the Portuguese island of Timor between Java and Australia.

The announcement and Portuguese authorities in Timor had objected to the landing but that "Portuguese sovereignty remains intact." Combined Dutch and Australian forces apparently carried out the occupation of the island, which lies at the eastern tip of the Dutch East Indies.

In the siege of Hongkong, British number two official in the Far East, defenders of the island, city fully expected a second Japanese attack but surprised Japan a bit of

(Continued on Page Four)