



Henderson Daily Dispatch



ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THIS SECTION OF NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

HENDERSON, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 19, 1941

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY.

FIVE CENTS COPY

Fall Of Hongkong Imminent Retreating Germans Abandon Finn Allies Contact

All Troops Hurriedly Withdrawn

Finnish Lines Reported Shattered Between Lakes Onega and Ladoga; Germans Suffer New Reverses in Russia and Africa.

(By The Associated Press.) Adolf Hitler's battered invasion armies, reeling in retreat in Russia and north Africa, were reported to have abandoned their Finnish allies today as Soviet dispatches announced huge new gains in the 17-day old counter offensive on the central front.

Reports from Helsinki (the Finnish capital) this morning say that all German troops have been withdrawn from Finland in a great hurry, the Finnish radio declared.

The broadcast said Finnish lines had been shattered between Lakes Onega and Ladoga by a Red army drive in the vicinity of the Leningrad-Murmansk railroad.

On the Libyan desert battlefield, British troops were officially reported to have captured Derna airport, 100 miles northwest of Tobruk. Derna itself was said to be still in axis hands.

British forces were reported advancing "in all directions" west and north of Mekk, 40 miles below Derna, with the Germans and Italians fleeing in two bodies—one heading toward Derna and the other toward Benghazi on the Gulf of Sirte.

The thrust to Derna airport meant that the British had fought their way approximately 195 miles across the desert from the Egyptian frontier since November 18, when the new campaign was launched with American-made tanks and planes.

A British spokesman said imperial troops had captured Gazala, 40 miles west of Tobruk, on Wednesday morning.

In axis counter blows, Premier Mussolini's high command asserted that Italian torpedo planes and German fighters had hit five British cruisers in the Mediterranean—three in attacks on a major naval formation off the coast of eastern Libya.

The German high command said a Nazi U-boat had sunk one of the five, a cruiser of the 7,270-ton Leander class off the Alexandria, Egypt, naval base.

AGREEMENT DENIED

Vichy, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Authorized French circles today said they had no knowledge of a naval agreement having been reached between the French high commissioner of Martinique and the United States government.

Convoy Plan Under Study

Navies of Western Hemisphere Nations May Convey Shipments Among Americas.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Employment of North and South American navies in a hemispheric convoy system to insure deliveries of strategic materials between the Americas is expected to be discussed, and possibly ratified, at the conference of foreign ministers to Rio de Janeiro.

The convoy question, diplomatic and maritime officials said, would be raised under the general study of protection of the western hemisphere at the January 15 meeting.

Eleven Latin American nations having navies, ranging from the larger ones of Argentina, Brazil and Chile to those of smaller nations having only gunboats, would shoulder convoy duties with the United States.

Release of suggestions made by various Latin American governments for the conference agenda showed that two nations—Chile and Venezuela—proposed that the subject of protecting American merchant shipping be brought up.

New Commanders of Hawaiian Defense



A sweeping shakeup of the Pacific High Command following Secretary Knox's report on the Pearl Harbor disaster resulted in changing commands of the Navy, Army and Air Force. Lieut. Gen. Delos C. Emmons (left) was given command of the Hawaiian Department, relieving Lieut. Gen. Walter C. Short. Rear Admiral Chester V. Nimitz (center) became head of the Pacific Fleet, replacing Admiral Husband E. Kimmel. Brig. Gen. C. L. Tinker (right) was given command of the Army air forces at Hawaii, replacing Maj. Gen. Frederick L. Martin.

Draft Compromise Reached

30-Minute Warning At Hawaii Would Have Made 'All The Difference,' Knox Declares

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Secretary Knox, asserting that 30 minutes' warning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor would have made "all the difference in the world," disclosed today that the third and final wave of enemy bombers met with a devastating barrage that it turned away without hitting a single objective.

The Navy secretary, speaking at graduating exercises for the naval academy's class of 1942 said Japan's assault on the great Pacific naval base was a "damaging account of infamous treachery such as was never recorded in the history of the world."

"There is no question at all, in the light of what transpired," he said, "that had an hour's warning of the approach of the Japanese planes would have made all the difference in the world."

"I say this with considerable confidence, because that assault was divided into three attacks. The third assault came two hours after the first one. With all of the resources that were left, we were ready, and that attack never got home."

"It encountered, as it approached Pearl Harbor, such a barrage from every gun and every ship that the enemy plane, had to sheer off, and not a single torpedo found its mark or did the slightest damage to our ships or to our equipment ashore."

But the attack did serve a useful purpose, he continued, because it drove home "with frightful force upon the minds of our military leaders the importance of guarding against surprise, the importance of never under-estimating the boldness and resourcefulness of the enemy, and upon the civilian population, it drove home with a sense of horror the treachery of the foe we have to defeat."

Senate leaders said they would ask that chamber to approve the report immediately thereafter and the measure was expected to go to the President later in the day.

At the morning session the conference group broke up in disagreement when the Senate members insisted that the age for induction be lowered to 19 years and the House members refused to yield on that point's vote to make men 21 through 44 subject to active service.

Administration leaders had encouraged the compromise 20-year proposal.

Both chambers agreed to expand the present upper age limit for military service to take in men through 44 years, rather than through 35.

Although the Senate voted three times to keep the minimum age of 19, as recommended by Army and selective service officials, one Senate conferee said there was no doubt he and his colleagues would accept a compromise fixing the limit at 20 years.

Similarly, House conferees reportedly have been urged by leaders to accede to the compromise in the interest of speeding final enactment of the measure.

Brigadier General Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, has said that final passage would be the signal for prompt enrollment of men in the under-21 bracket and through 35 through 44.

The Senate approved the legislation by a vote of 79 to 2 yesterday after six hours of debate, with only Senators Downey, Democrat, California, and Johnson, Republican, California, opposing it on the final roll call.

REPUTATED
London, Dec. 19.—(AP)—King Zog, exiled ruler of Albania, repudiated today a declaration of war on the United States by the Italian puppet government at Tirana.

Anti-Axis Powers Plan Conference

Preliminary Sessions Expected to be Held Next Month in Washington; All Nations to be Represented at Parley.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Authoritative reports that anti-axis powers would meet here soon to coordinate all their strength against the aggressor nations overshadowed the actual war developments in the capital today.

While there was no official announcement of the impending conference, a reliable source indicated that the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia had taken the lead in making arrangements, and that all nations with independent forces fighting the axis probably would take part in the deliberations.

Stripped of detail, the aim would be to channel all their military and economic strength into striking power with which to hammer the axis at the most effective times and places, anywhere in the world.

Diplomatic discussions, already under way, are being speeded because of the rush of world events, and it was considered probable that at least preliminary sessions could be held next month.

The information obtained here tied in with reports from London that military and political experts of the nations arrayed against the axis were discussing creation of a supreme war council. One London source declared that "announcements of great importance are expected soon."

Laura Ingalls Held In Jail

Washington, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Laura Ingalls, holder of the women's non-stop speed records for flying both ways across the continent, was held in the District of Columbia jail today on a charge of failing to register as a paid agent of the German government.

Despite her protestations that her mission was a one-woman counter espionage venture, a U. S. commissioner ordered her detained yesterday in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the federal bureau of investigation, charged that the 38-year-old aviator, "received a specified salary from an agent of the German Reich for her efforts in spreading the propaganda which they furnished her."

He added that she frequently visited Washington to see Nazi representatives.

Miss Ingalls contended that she merely "over-reached herself" in an attempt to secure information which she thought might be valuable to the United States.

Her arraignment was postponed until December 26, to permit her to secure counsel.

Motorist Must Prove Need To Get New Tire Or Tread

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

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—When the retail tire market opens again on January 5 the only way a man can get a new automobile tire, or even have his old tires recapped, is to go before a special board, prove necessity and get a certificate allowing him to make the purchase.

Moreover, it probably will be years rather than months before the situation changes.

The explanation of the seriousness of the situation was made by Lee Grady of Rocky Mount, who is field representative for the office of administration from North Carolina to Louisiana. Here is the situation in brief:

The Japanese fleet lies between the United States and the previous sources of 98 per cent of the United States rubber supply. There is a considerable quantity of rubber in the

country but the armed services will need the greater part of it. So, whereas this country has been using 36,000 tons of rubber a month for civilian uses—40,000 of that going into tires—there will be only 10,000 tons, a month available for civilian use during the emergency. And 2,500 tons is necessary for insulation and uses other than in tires.

That means a decrease of more than 80 per cent in the rubber available for civilian tires. In rationing out the remainder, necessity rather than convenience will count. The public welfare will come before business and business, in turn, will come before pleasure.

It looks like there's going to be more Sunday afternoon walking than riding for quite a time to come.

The rubber rationing authorities will be set up by the OPA through the state defense council and, in

Spain Keeps Old Status In New War

Madrid, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The Spanish government announced today Spain was a non-belligerent in the Pacific war between Japan and the United States, Britain and other powers.

A latest decree, signed by Generalissimo Francisco Franco and Foreign Minister Ramon Serrano Suñer, said:

"In view of the extension of the present conflagration through the state of war which exists between Japan and the United States of North America and the participation in the same of other European and Hispano-American nations, Spain maintains, as in the earlier phase of the conflict, her position of non-belligerence."

Within the past 24 hours, Serrano (Continued on Page Four)

Taft Urges Full Probe

Republican Declares Pearl Harbor Investi- gation Should Include Hull and Knox.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Senator Robert A. Taft, asking for a congressional investigation of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, said today, "perhaps the fault at Hawaii was not entirely on the admirals and generals."

In an address prepared for delivery before the Executive Club of Chicago, the Republican leader from Ohio said he believed the inquiry should not be left entirely to the executive department.

"We must investigate whether Secretary Hull, and Secretary (Continued on Page Four)

Job Agencies To Be United

Washington, Dec. 19.—(AP)—President Roosevelt said today he had asked governors of the states and territories to transfer immediately to the federal employment service all separate state and territorial employment agencies.

Mr. Roosevelt added that the governors were giving full cooperation to the war effort.

The requested transfer he told a press conference, is designed to bring about utilization in the fullest possible extent of all man and woman power to increase the output of war materials.

Last week, he said, he had considered summoning all the governors to Washington, but there was such complete cooperation and understanding that this would be waste motion.

Motorist Must Prove Need To Get New Tire Or Tread

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

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—When the retail tire market opens again on January 5 the only way a man can get a new automobile tire, or even have his old tires recapped, is to go before a special board, prove necessity and get a certificate allowing him to make the purchase.

Moreover, it probably will be years rather than months before the situation changes.

The explanation of the seriousness of the situation was made by Lee Grady of Rocky Mount, who is field representative for the office of administration from North Carolina to Louisiana. Here is the situation in brief:

The Japanese fleet lies between the United States and the previous sources of 98 per cent of the United States rubber supply. There is a considerable quantity of rubber in the

country but the armed services will need the greater part of it. So, whereas this country has been using 36,000 tons of rubber a month for civilian uses—40,000 of that going into tires—there will be only 10,000 tons, a month available for civilian use during the emergency. And 2,500 tons is necessary for insulation and uses other than in tires.

That means a decrease of more than 80 per cent in the rubber available for civilian tires. In rationing out the remainder, necessity rather than convenience will count. The public welfare will come before business and business, in turn, will come before pleasure.

It looks like there's going to be more Sunday afternoon walking than riding for quite a time to come.

The rubber rationing authorities will be set up by the OPA through the state defense council and, in

Contact With London Is Broken

British Admit Communications Broken This Morning; Japanese Unleash Heavy New Offensive Against Luzon Island.

London, Dec. 19. (7:27 p. m. EST p. m. EST)—(AP)—British sources acknowledged tonight that they have been out of communication with Hongkong since early this morning and cannot tell what, if any, new progress the Japanese have made in their assault on the British crown colony.

(By The Associated Press.) Japan's sea-borne invasion armies were reported to have unleashed a heavy new offensive against Luzon island in the Philippines today, while 600 miles distant on the China coast, the fall of the great British stronghold of Hongkong appeared imminent.

Greatly outnumbered, the Hongkong garrison apparently was still holding out late today.

A Reuters (British news agency) dispatch from London quoted a German broadcast of Tokyo reports acknowledging that the British still held key positions on the island.

A U. S. War department bulletin reported "a marked increase in the enemy air and ground activities" in the Philippine theatre during the past 24 hours.

The War department gave no details of land operations but presumably the Japanese were striking out with new fury from their three main beachheads at Aparri, 250 miles north of Manila; Vigan, 200 miles northwest, and Lingsay, 250 miles southeast.

"There was heavy bombing over Manila and over the city of Iloilo on the island of Panay, south of Luzon," the communique said.

Outlining the military situation as of 9:30 a. m. EST, the War department said there was "nothing to report" from other American-defended areas of the Pacific seaboard.

A short time later, the Navy department announced two new Japanese aerial attacks on Wake island, about halfway between Hawaii and the Philippines, where a tiny band of U. S. "send us more Japs") marines have been standing off assaults for nearly two weeks.

"Wake island continues to counter these blows," the Navy's communique said.

In the siege of Hongkong, a city of 1,000,000 population, fortified at a cost of \$10,000,000, Tokyo reports said the Japanese troops in a violent night assault had captured half the 32-square mile island.

Without confirmation elsewhere, the Japanese-controlled Saigon radio broadcast a report that Japanese troops had captured "the fortress of Hongkong."

Tokyo reports, however, broadcast by Reuters of British resistance in Hongkong was collapsing and that capture of the city, Britain's number two island in the Orient, was only a matter of days.

A Berlin radio broadcast said that Sir Mark Young, governor and commander in chief of Hongkong, had escaped from the colony to an unknown destination.

The colonial office in London, however, denied that Sir Mark had fled the besieged colony, declaring that it had been "in telegraphic communication with the governor this morning."

London military sources acknowledged a Japanese landing in considerable force on the island, reported tersely.

"Heavy fighting is going on and the position is serious."

Only a comparatively small garrison of British and imperial Indian troops was reported defending the 100-year old British crown colony, once famed as a pirates' hideaway and in modern times one of the world's major seaports, visited by 50,000 ships a year.

The island, with its capital city of Victoria, lies off the China coast at the head of the South China sea.

Dispatches broadcast from Tokyo said Japanese forces storming across the mile-wide channel of the colony, opened the attack at 10 p. m. Hongkong time last night.

Striking in the darkness, the first

(Continued on Page Four)

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Partly cloudy, not much
change in temperature tonight.

4 SHOPPING
DAYS LEFT

