



# Henderson Daily Dispatch



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

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

LEASED IN THE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HENDERSON, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 17, 1942

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

## British Capture Halfaya Pass Tokyo Claims Australian Lines Broken In Malaya

### Crisis Near In Defense Of Singapore

**Japanese Report Breakthrough Only 50 Miles From Singapore; U. S. Defenders of Philippines Declared in Retreat.**

(By The Associated Press) An official Tokyo broadcast asserted today that Japan's invasion armies had broken through Australian defense lines in the Batu Pahat sector, only 50 miles northwest of Singapore, and it was apparent that a crisis was near in the fate of B. Linn's \$100,000,000 stronghold.

Another Tokyo broadcast quoting dispatches dated today with Japanese forces on Batan peninsula, Luzon island, declared that U. S. Army defenders on the Philippines were in general retreat toward the coast of Manila Bay, apparently hoping to find shelter on Corregidor island.

The Tokyo radio said Japanese observation planes reported American and Filipino artillerymen were abandoning battery positions and that large columns were forming in a general retreat toward Manila Bay and the west coast of Batan peninsula.

British headquarters in Singapore acknowledged that Japanese troops had gained a foothold on the south bank of the strategic Muar river, 90 miles north of Johore Straits which separate Singapore island from the mainland.

Singapore dispatches said a major battle was developing in the Malay-Java jungles to the northwest. In the Philippines, a War department bulletin reported that "a heavy Japanese attack is now in progress" against the right flank of General Douglas MacArthur's American-Philippine defenders on Batan peninsula.

"This attack is well supported by mortar and artillery," the comm- (Continued on Page S18)

### Churchill Arrives In London, Having Flown Atlantic



**Acknel Chain**  
A weary old man, Acknel Chain, 75, sits with his luggage as he arrives at New York, where he will live with his son. A native of Austria, he escaped the Nazis and went to Belgium, then fled to France. That country, too, partly occupied by the Nazis, he again escaped and went to Algiers, finally arriving at Casablanca, where he got passage for America.

**In Washington, the White House Announces 'Complete Understanding' Reached on Joint Military and Naval Operations.**

London, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill stepped prosaically from a train this afternoon, home from a history-making visit to the United States and Canada, after having flown the Atlantic from Bermuda to Plymouth.

It was expected that Churchill would broadcast a report to the empire soon, possibly tomorrow night. The prime minister, looking fit after his long flight, said the party had a comfortable trip and covered 3,287 miles in 18 hours in the flying boat.

His departure from Plymouth was held up about 20 minutes until a missing large black bag—contents secret—was found.

Washington, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The White House said today that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill had reached a "complete understanding" on joint planning for present and future military and naval operations during the British leader's visit of a little more than three weeks in this country.

Satisfied officially that Churchill had arrived safely back in London, Stephen T. Early, presidential press secretary, said the Chief Executive was perfectly delighted to learn of the prime minister's safe arrival home.

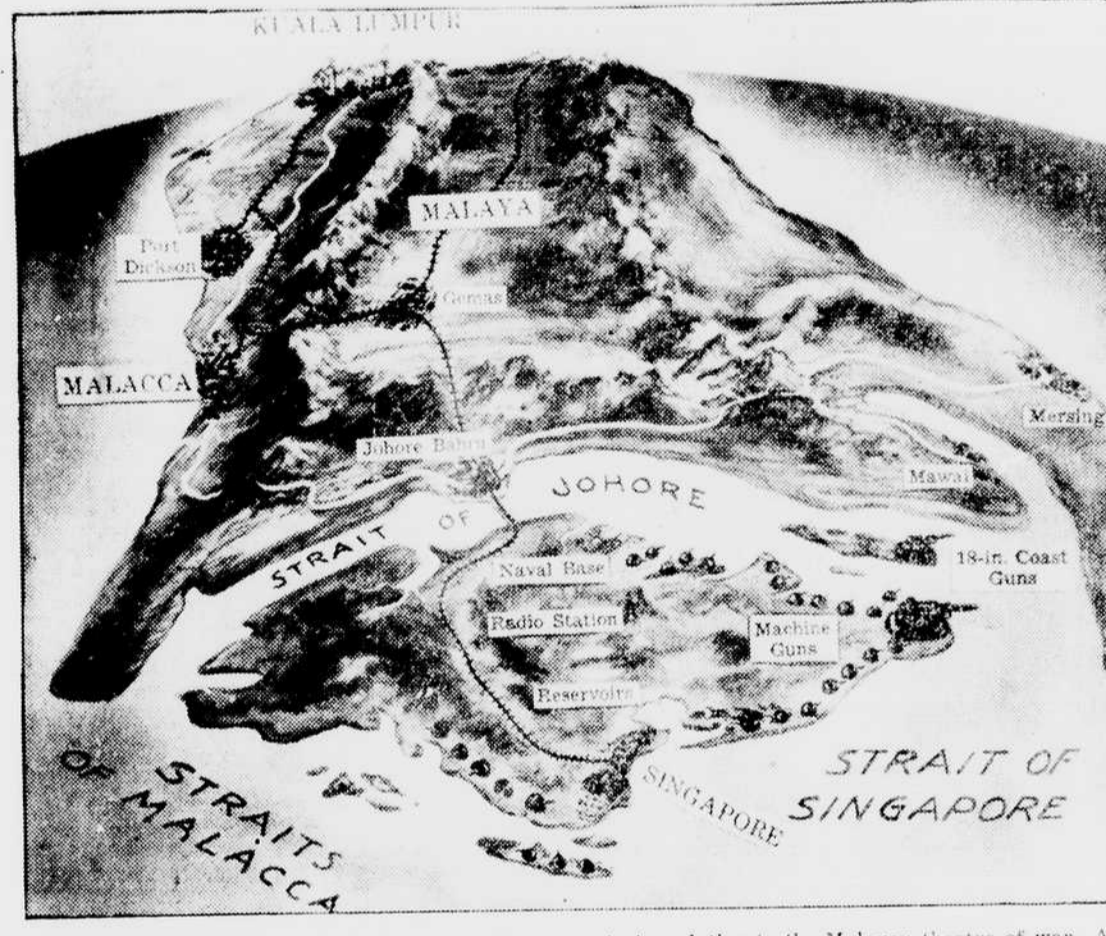
Early disclosed also that the prime minister spent about a week's vacation in Florida at the home of a friend during the latter part of his stay in this country, and that around the same time the President also was absent from Washington for several days.

Arrival of Churchill in England permitted the disclosures for the first time.

Where the prime minister stayed in Florida was not announced, nor was the place where the President spent a few days of relaxation from his conferences and other war preparations.

Early said the joint understanding on joint military and naval operations referred to the White House (Continued on Page Three)

### The Road to Singapore



This map shows the British island fortress of Singapore in its relation to the Malay theatre of war. At a moment's notice, should the Japanese drive down the Malay Peninsula, a button would be pressed and the lone railroad bridge across the Strait of Johore, connecting Singapore Island with the mainland, will be blown to bits. (Central Press)

### Surrender Comes After Long Siege

**Axis Garrison Hoists White Flag Amid Tempestuous Assault; Hitler Claims Successes on Soviet War Front.**

(By The Associated Press) British siege forces today captured the "Axis Tobruk" stronghold at Halfaya (Helfire) Pass, on the Egyptian-Libyan frontier 300 miles behind the main battle sector as the holdout garrison of more than 5,000 German and Italian troops laid down their arms in unconditional surrender.

Cut off from water and other supplies, the garrison hoisted the white flag amid a tempestuous assault by British dive bombers, artillery and guns of the British fleet.

The fall of the cliff-guarded outlet, headquarters of British Middle East command, wiped out the last axis resistance in the Libyan-Egyptian border area and gave the British access to the main coastal route of supply to their advance armies driving into Tripolitania.

While axis forces held the pass, the British had been compelled to re-route reinforcements and supplies over a hazardous desert trail almost 100 miles to the south.

Cairo military quarters, elated over the capture, pointed out that British troops engaged in the Halfaya siege now would be able to reinforce the main imperial forces pursuing General Erwin Rommel's axis armies along the Gulf of Sirt.

On the Soviet war front, Adolf Hitler's high command asserted that German and allied Rumanian troops had broken through Russian lines in the Crimea, and declared that their forces had also scored a head success east of Kursk, 300 miles southwest of Moscow.

Kursk is one of the main defense anchors on Hitler's new winter line. The high command said Russian casualties in the Semestopol front, in the Crimea, and that German coastal batteries had forced Soviet vessels to withdraw.

### Bombings Threatened

**Letters Received in Wilson Threaten to Blow Up Schools If Italians Are Not Released.**

Wilson, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Chief of Police C. P. Bournt disclosed today that a series of threatening letters sent here within the last month declared all schools in the county would be blown up unless the ten scammers of the Italian steamer *Veniamina*, now serving a sentence in the Wilson jail for sabotage, were released.

The letters were believed to be the work of a crank, but the county board of education ordered "all possible precautions" to be taken as a safety measure. The FBI found local officers in investigating the case.

The first letter was received by County Judge W. J. Woodard in December. Other letters were received by the Wilson Daily Times, Superintendent S. G. Campbell at the city schools, County Superintendent K. F. Egan at the Elm City schools.

The first letter set January 6 as the deadline for release of the prisoners, it was later advanced to January 12 and the latest letter makes it January 26.

**WEATHER**  
FOR NORTH CAROLINA  
Slowly rising temperatures tonight.

### Nazi Marshal Von Reichenau Dies Suddenly

**22 Presumed Dead In Airplane Crash**

Berlin, (Official broadcast recorded by AP) Jan. 17.—(AP)—Marshal General Walter von Reichenau has died of apoplexy. It was announced officially today. He was 57 years old.

Von Reichenau, who directed the German army's drive through northern France, was promoted to his rank of field marshal general at the conclusion of that campaign. At the start of the war in September, 1939, he held the rank of colonel general, and was commander in chief of an army on the southern front in Poland.

It was von Reichenau who commanded the operations which resulted in the surrender of the Belgian army.

During the first World War, Von Reichenau served with the general staff and came out of the war a major. By successive promotions he attained the rank of major general in 1934.

Death occurred while von Reichenau was returning to Germany from the Russian front, the broadcast said.

### Carole Lombard and 15 Army Fliers of Ferry Service Aboard TWA Plane Which Crashed Last Night Near Las Vegas, Nev.

Los Angeles, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Carole Lombard, fan-loving wife of Clark Gable, and 21 other passengers including 15 Army fliers, were presumed killed last night in the crash of a Transcontinental and Western Air transport near Las Vegas, Nev.

The Army air corps ferry command at Long Beach, Calif., said the Army fliers aboard the crashed luxury liner were members of a ferry command returning to the Pacific coast. TWA said they boarded the plane at Albuquerque where four other passengers were put off to make room for the fliers.

The Albuquerque Douglas Sky Club made a rescue run at Las Vegas and took off at 7:37 p. m. (10:07 p. m. EST). About 7:45 p. m. workers at the Blue Diamond Mine saw a flare and heard an explosion.

A few minutes later Pilot Art Gandy of Western Airlines saw a flash about 10 miles west of Las Vegas.

"I saw a fire and I can't find any other cause," Gandy said. He said he tried to discover whether anyone was missing about the wreckage.

The plane, crashed more than 3,000 feet up Table Mountain in the rugged High Uintas range. The ground is covered with several inches of snow.

Miss Lombard, 32, was returning from Indianapolis with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth K. Lombard, and Otto Winkler, publicity man for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio. She had some time to help sell defense bonds.

The plane, crashed more than 3,000 feet up Table Mountain in the rugged High Uintas range. The ground is covered with several inches of snow.

Miss Lombard, 32, was returning from Indianapolis with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth K. Lombard, and Otto Winkler, publicity man for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio. She had some time to help sell defense bonds.

The plane, crashed more than 3,000 feet up Table Mountain in the rugged High Uintas range. The ground is covered with several inches of snow.

Miss Lombard, 32, was returning from Indianapolis with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth K. Lombard, and Otto Winkler, publicity man for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio. She had some time to help sell defense bonds.

The plane, crashed more than 3,000 feet up Table Mountain in the rugged High Uintas range. The ground is covered with several inches of snow.

Miss Lombard, 32, was returning from Indianapolis with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth K. Lombard, and Otto Winkler, publicity man for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio. She had some time to help sell defense bonds.

The plane, crashed more than 3,000 feet up Table Mountain in the rugged High Uintas range. The ground is covered with several inches of snow.

### Free French Seize Ships

**Three Axis Merchantmen Reported Taken From Harbor of Spanish Island Port.**

Madrid, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Three axis merchantmen have been seized by a Free French destroyer in a raid on the harbor of Santa Isabel, in non-belligerent Spain's island of Fernando Poo, off the west coast of Africa, the newspaper *Arriba* asserted today.

*Arriba*, the official organ of the falange, the sole political party in nationalist Spain, indicated that Spain already may have made the seizure a diplomatic issue, and warned that Spanish armed forces hereafter would fight to prevent such incidents.

The newspaper gave neither the names of the ships nor the names of the Free French crew. (Continued on Page Three)

### Contracts Let For New Ships

Washington, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The maritime commission announced today it had negotiated contracts for construction of 632 additional merchant vessels.

These, it said, would bring its program up to President Roosevelt's request for 8,000,000 dead weight tons of shipping this year and 10,000,000 dead weight tons next year.

Captain Howard L. Vickery, a member of the commission, estimated the 632 vessels, all of the emergency type known as liberty ships, would cost about \$1,110,000,000.

All the vessels will be completed by the end of 1943, Vickery said. The new designs will be suitable for troop carrying. One will be known as the C-4, a cargo vessel in ordinary times, and the other as the PXR, a passenger vessel in peace times.

### Raleigh Debates Holding Sesquicentennial Festival

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

Raleigh, Jan. 17.—To sesqui or not to sesqui, that is the question in Raleigh.

The city, in fact the State itself, is in a quandary as to what to do about the sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the State capital, scheduled to be held next April.

With the aid of the governor, a Raleighite, the question is to be settled finally within a few days.

The matter was decided once, just before Christmas. The executive committee met with the governor. They took into consideration the fact that the legislature had appropriated \$20,000 to help put on what was hoped to be the biggest show in the state's history. They also took into consideration that the capital city, unlike a woman, could not postpone its birthday for the sake of convenience.

"Go ahead," was the verdict. The professional who was to direct the show, Russell L. Rowland, came to town and set up headquarters here in the Sir Walter Hotel. This and that civic-minded citizen agreed to head this and that committee. It was decided that patriotism, national defense and what have you would be the central theme. The whole business was to be up with the national emergency. That still is the case. It shows on the record. Raleigh will sesqui, according to the minutes of the last meeting.

But still there are people, members of the commission appointed by the governor, who don't think it's

a good idea. They doubt that it is the proper time to put on a show, even a patriotic show. Also they are not sure that even a good show will be very popular in this time and they don't want the capital city, in show language, "to be an egg."

So these people decided to wait on Governor Broughton upon his return from the Southern Governors' Conference in Miami and call to his attention the fact that all the big festivals from New Orleans, Miami, Mardi Gras on down had been cancelled off. Wilson was cancelled. The Tobacco Festival at Asheville, which as most did it without the war as an excuse last summer, has rung the curtain on what was left of the Rhododendron Festival. Other cities have acted likewise. In the light of those facts, do Raleigh and the State want to put on a show next April? That is the question which will be asked the governor.

Whatever says the announcement, if there is one it will be Broughton who will make the decision. The commission may be called together and vote but Broughton will make up its mind. Sesquicentennial Chairman Crawford Biggs, once Broughton's law partner, wants to go ahead and his opinion undoubtedly will have weight. But in the end it's the governor's decision whether he wants to make it or not. If he says "sesqui," Raleigh et al will sesqui. If he says "no soap," or the gubernatorial equivalent thereof, the show

(Continued on Page Three)

### Stewart Says French West African Port is Most Logical Objective at Present.

By CHARLES P. STEWART  
Central Press Columnist

Washington, Jan. 17.—An American Foreign Policy expert said today that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Charles P. Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

Stewart, who has been writing on the subject of the capture of a West African port, said that the most logical objective at present is the capture of a West African port.

(Continued on Page Three)

### Delegates In Unofficial Conferences

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Delegates to the third consultative conference of foreign ministers of the 21 American republics put their heads together today in many hotel room chats which probably will decide how far the rest of the Americas will go to help Uncle Sam whip the axis powers.

The day was officially listed on the party's calendar as "social" but most of the leading delegates took advantage of the full in business to exchange opinions and seek support for their points of view.

Eight resolutions submitted at the first business session yesterday included one which might make or break the conference—a proposal for unanimous rupture of relations with the axis.

### Income Tax Rulings Given

Raleigh, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The State department of revenue ruled today that out of state residents who are serving with the armed services in North Carolina do not have to pay a tax to the State on their 1941 incomes.

North Carolinians who are serving with the armed forces and are stationed within this state are subject to the North Carolina tax on their 1941 incomes.

North Carolinians who are stationed in other states will have to pay the tax. Heel income tax, unless the states in which they are stationed taxes them. If they pay a tax to the states in which they are stationed, they won't have to pay a North Carolina income tax.