



Henderson Daily Dispatch



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

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

HENDERSON, N. C., MONDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 19, 1942

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY.

FIVE CENTS COPY

Tanker Sunk Off N. C. Coast Germany Confirms Reports Of Impending Move

Military Convention Is Signed

Germany, Italy and Japan Provide for 'Proper and Appropriate Distribution of Military Forces; Other War News.

(By The Associated Press.)
Hints and actual circumstantial evidence that Adolf Hitler is plotting a new move, which have appeared from time to time since his Russian offensive was thrown into reverse, were given official axis stamps today although what he has in mind is still obscure.

The German radio declared that a military convention signed yesterday by Germany, Italy and Japan provided for "proper and appropriate distribution of military forces in preparation for operations of great striking power which will be of outstanding significance."

Speculation, now as before, naturally turns to the Mediterranean zone, newly strengthened by the fact that Hitler's naval chief, Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, and Premier Mussolini's chief of naval staff, Admiral Ricciardi, talked high strategy last week at a Bavarian rendezvous.

Meanwhile, the Italians announced today that despite adverse weather, the German air force yesterday continued attacks against military objectives and airbases of Malta. It was noteworthy, perhaps, that the Italians claimed no Malta attacks by their own planes.

The British announced that their capture of the axis positions at Hattaya Pass, along with about 14,000 German and Italian prisoners and considerable war materials, was accomplished with the loss of fewer than 100 killed and 400 wounded out of the combined forces of British imperial troops, Free French and Poles.

Some 300 miles to the west of the Hattaya area, the allied offensive, was marking time in the El Agheila region at the inner curve of the Gulf of Sirte, where German General Erwin Rommel's forces have been making a stand on the road to Tripoli.

Russia's great counter drive on the Western front showed no sign of let-up, but the German high command made much of an apparent setback in the Crimea, where Feodosiya, on the southeast coast of the peninsula, was reportedly recaptured by a combined German-Romanian force.

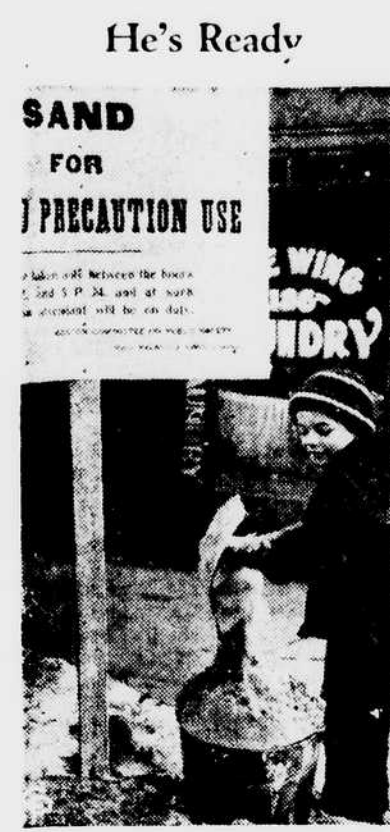
This "victory report" must have come as a surprise to the German people, for the Hitler command had never officially acknowledged losing Feodosiya. The communique said 4,000 Russians were taken prisoners at Feodosiya.

But the high command also found it necessary to report at the same time that the Russians had launched heavy attacks along the entire Donets river front. The communique said the fighting was still in progress but gave no indication of the trend.

Labor Peace Still Distant, Leaders Say

Washington, Jan. 19.—(AP)—A proposal by John L. Lewis that the AFL and CIO try once more to find a common ground for reunion failed to elicit immediate signs today that organized labor's two big houses, divided and warring since the fall of 1936, would agree on a way to close the breach quickly.

MALAY JUNGLE FAILS TO HALT JAP INVADERS



Richard Kuchinsky, 5, of South Boston, Mass., helps himself to a heaping bucket of sand, heeding the mayor's edict that citizens should prepare for raiders who might drop incendiary bombs. The buckets of sand are placed in convenient locations throughout the city.

Nine Bodies From Plane

Body of Carole Lombard Identified; 13 Victims Remain in Crashed Plane.

Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 19.—(AP)—The shattered remains of Actress Carole Lombard and eight other persons among 22 killed in a mountain top plane crash Friday night lay in a Las Vegas morgue today while men toiled through snow to bring the remaining 13 victims down from the crashed plane.

The dead included Mrs. Lombard and her mother and two other women, the actress's press representative and 15 Army fliers, in addition to the pilot and co-pilot.

Recovered from the plane wreckage late yesterday were the remains of two women and seven men.

Her blond hair and the "general contour of her face" served to enable Edgar J. Manning, vice president of MGM studios, to identify one body as that of Miss Lombard. A three-man jury conducting a special inquest decided that she died of injuries sustained in the crash of a TWA liner on route from Las Vegas to Los Angeles.

Cotton Prices Are Mixed

New York, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 10 cents a bale higher to 20 cents lower.

Mid-day prices were 10 cents a bale higher to 5 cents lower. March 15-20, 15 1/2-15 3/4; December 15 1/2.

Fierce Fighting in Progress or in Store for Singapore's Defenders; Britain Admits New Retreat on Peninsula.

(By The Associated Press.)
With the Japanese still advancing, Malaya's steaming jungle land, which the British had looked upon as a sort of natural Maginot Line for Singapore, has taken its place as another outworn defensive concept and the battle for Singapore today became purely a test of fighting men and their weapons.

Some of the fiercest hand-to-hand combat in the history of the war was in store, if not already in progress, along the narrowing, fluid line of defense in Johore state, well within 100 miles of the pivotal naval base which the British call their Gibraltar of the Orient.

The British acknowledged a 15-mile retreat in Johore's central sector and further Japanese infiltration along the western coast—facilities admitting that the offensive was between 90 and 95 miles of Singapore—while the Japanese claimed a thrust down that same coast to within 25 miles of their goal.

Soon, but no one knew when nor where, the British imperials must make their final stand if the Japanese thrust is halted short of Johore Strait. This is the water hazard which in the final analysis shields Singapore island with its invaluable naval installations.

Whoever is to hold Singapore may well control the course of the war in the southwest Pacific.

The official silence of the Dutch on land action indicated that the Japanese offensive from footholds gained in the Netherlands East Indies was marking time, pending outcome of the battle for Singapore.

Don't Japanese news agencies broadcast from Tokyo a report that the Japanese have captured Pontianak Besar, 25 miles from Singapore.

A gallant band of Americans and Filipinos was contributing materially to the united nation's defense of Singapore and the Indies by holding in check a large army of Japanese on Luzon Island, but there seemed no doubt that its situation was deteriorating.

Willkie Keeps Private Status

Washington, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Friends of Wendell L. Willkie said today the 1941 Republican presidential nominee apparently had decided to decline official position with the government because he wished to preserve his private capacity as a citizen and be free to utter constructive criticism of the administration's war effort.

Willkie already has rejected an offer of appointment as one of a panel of arbiters to aid the new war labor board in its effort to settle industrial disputes.

Willkie was reported to have been influenced in his decision by the possibility of a military appointment.

Spencer Tracy, a close friend of the actor, drove alone to Las Vegas Saturday and was expected to accompany him back to Hollywood. Studio officials in Los Angeles were making arrangements for a double funeral for Miss Lombard and her mother, to be held probably Wednesday or Thursday.

Singapore Behind Barbed Wire Defenses



The city of Singapore is seen through the barbed wire defenses surrounding the entire area. The Singapore River is shown, with the city buildings in the far background. Key to the far Pacific, Singapore is the plum Japan has been striving to pluck since its sneak attack on Dec. 7. (Central Press)

War Debate Is Demanded

Churchill Would Delay Report on Washington Conferences and Far East.

London, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Government critics today demanded an immediate parliamentary debate on Britain's reverses in the Far East in the face of Prime Minister Churchill's intention to delay the war strategy statement possible a week.

Reliable quarters indicated Churchill intended to delay a statement on results of his Washington conferences and the Far East until he has a chance to study fully every development of the political situation since his pre-Christmas departure for Washington.

The prime minister was reported engaged all day yesterday and today in conferences with high administrative officials which foreshadowed some changes in the war organization, although most quarters agreed no shakeup in the cabinet itself was in prospect.

Indicating disappointment that Churchill would not speak immediately, Edward Granville, liberal national member of parliament, served notice he would move at the next sitting of commons for an adjournment of the house "to discuss the urgent state of affairs with regard to the defense of Singapore, Malaya and to ask for assurances to the people of this country, Australia and in the empire that every thing possible is being done by the government to defend and secure this vital communication of the British empire."

VON BRAUCHTSCH UNDERGOES SURGERY

London, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Field Marshal Walther von Brauchtsch, former commander in chief of the German army, is undergoing an operation today at a hospital in Berlin, it was reported by the German news agency, DNB, as reporting today.

The field marshal, who was replaced as commander of the army by Adolf Hitler last month, was said to be recovering.

He will have to undergo a long rest, it was said.

Ochsenreiter Recommended As Successor To Anderson

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, By BOB THOMPSON.
Raleigh, Jan. 19.—Robert M. Hanes, chairman of the OPM's North Carolina advisory committee, and Governor Bragg, today have recommended that Gene Ochsenreiter of Asheville, recently put in charge of OPM's branch office in Charlotte, be made acting director of contract distribution by succeeding the late J. T. Anderson, killed in an automobile accident last week.

Ochsenreiter was not recommended for the permanent appointment, despite an effort to persuade Hanes to do so. He and the governor decided on a man with an engineering and executive background, it is understood, and when reached by telephone the man agreed to take it. His name is being kept a secret.

Mexico Proposes Anti-Axis Stand

Subs Thick 'As Catfish' In Atlantic

An East Coast Canadian Port, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Survivors of a Panamanian freighter, torpedoed somewhere in the western Atlantic, asserted on their arrival yesterday that enemy submarines were "almost as thick as catfish" in the water where they were attacked.

Seven in number, the survivors all were suffering from injuries or frostbite when they were hauled from a Canadian rescue ship. All were rushed to a hospital, where one died shortly after arrival.

Whether any other of the crew of 37 had been rescued was unknown.

The survivors declared they saw a light on the submarine after abandoning ship and signalled the raider with a flare in hope of obtaining aid. Instead the submarine fired on them, they said.

Burma Coup Frustrated

Premier Arrested, Charged With Plotting With Japs to Hand Over Country.

(By The Associated Press.)
London, Jan. 19.—Blatant street-wearing Premier U Saw of Burma, the Southwestern Asian Republic, today announced that he had been arrested by the British for conspiring with the Japanese.

An announcement today, today from No. 10 Downing Street, Prime Minister Churchill's official residence, indicated the arrest inverted an attempted coup by the disgruntled U Saw to hand over to the Japanese the so-called "Kingdom of Burma" of 47,000,000 people.

Since quitting London in a huff last November after failing to obtain duration status for Burma, the little Oriental has been breathing defiance at the British government.

Resolution Would Extend to All United Nations the Status of Non-Belligerency Now Given U. S. By Most Latin Americans.

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Mexico presented a proposal to the Pan-American conference today to extend to all the united nations the status of non-belligerents in their fight against the axis powers.

Led by Argentina, most of the Latin American countries already have declared the United States a non-belligerent. Among other things this means that United States warships can enter and leave their ports at will, free of the regulations forcing ships to limit their stays to 24 hours.

The proposal came as the foreign ministers of 19 American republics exerted pressure on Argentina and Chile to line up in a solid western hemisphere severance of relations with the totalitarian nations.

Argentine sources said their delegation wished to present a compromise proposal but was careful to ascertain whether any stand they suggested had a chance of success.

In advance of any actual voting showdown, observers expressed belief that the Argentine delegation and perhaps Chile would oppose outright severance of relations, which would isolate the 18 other American republics reportedly favored.

At Least Six Die In Traffic

Charlotte, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Automobile accidents at North Carolina over the week-end cost the lives of at least six persons.

James E. Mitchell of Goldsboro died early today of injuries received yesterday when the automobile in which he was riding left the highway, struck a telephone pole and overturned. Five other persons were injured.

Three persons were killed when two automobiles collided head-on on the Sanford-Charlotte highway, about 68 miles from Charlotte. They were Charles T. Russell, 25, of Troy, and Neal Pierce, 23, and J. T. Thomas, 44, both of near Lenoir Springs.

John Wilkie, 39, companion of Fletcher, was killed when struck by an automobile as he walked along the Asheville-Henderson highway.

Unidentified Submarine Sinks Ship

Thirteen Survivors, of Crew of 35, of Standard Oil Tanker Allan Jackson Brought to Norfolk Yesterday Afternoon.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 19.—(AP)—The Standard Oil tanker Allan Jackson, en route to New York, was torpedoed and sunk off the North Carolina coast yesterday afternoon by an unidentified submarine, the public relations office of the fifth naval district announced today.

Of the crew of 35, 13 survivors were debarked in Norfolk yesterday afternoon. There were six hospital cases and seven uninjured crew members rescued.

Four bodies were also brought in by the rescue vessel.

Details as to the location of the ship when it was torpedoed, the time and the name of the vessel which picked up the survivors were withheld by the naval public relations department for reason of security.

The Navy did not have the home addresses of any of the survivors. Every licensed officer on the ship was either injured or lost. The tanker was not armed and no attempt was made by the submarine crew to board the craft or take prisoners.

According to the stories told by survivors, an officer on the bridge sighted the first torpedo when it broke water about 150 yards from the tanker. A desperate effort was made to avoid the torpedo but it crashed into the vessel amidships. No one saw the second torpedo but a second terrific explosion was heard within a couple of minutes after the first crash.

HURLEY NOMINATED FOR ARMY RANKING

Washington, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Patrick J. Hurley, former secretary of War during part of the Hoover administration, is going into the Army as a brigadier general.

President Roosevelt sent his nomination to the Senate today, but the White House declined to say immediately what assignment Hurley would receive. He will not, however, be a line officer.

U-Boat Toll Three Ships

Battle of the Atlantic Reaches Toward American Shores in New Offensive.

(By The Associated Press.)
The battle of the Atlantic, a phase of the European war which has reached out toward the shores of the United States, brought over the week-end the U-boat sinking of the Standard oil tanker Allan Jackson, the third such victim in less than a week.

Thirteen survivors of the 6,000-ton tanker's 35-man crew were landed at Norfolk, Va., yesterday afternoon; six of them were hospital cases, the others uninjured. The rescue vessel also brought in four bodies.

The public relations office of the fifth naval district at Norfolk announced that the Allan Jackson was en route to New York and was unarmored when she was torpedoed.

WEATHER

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