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Far Pacific Battlegrounds



In the Philippines (1) Gen. Douglas MacArthur is reported to have stopped all Japanese attacks in fierce fighting on Batan Peninsula. Patrolling the Macassar Straits, (2) between Borneo and Celebes, Dutch bombers continue to blast Jap warships and transports. Japanese troops are reported making attempts to penetrate into British Borneo (3). At Singapore (4), Imperial forces throw full strength into the Malay struggle as the Japanese continue their advance. Superior Jap forces compel British withdrawal east of Moulmein in Burma (5), but Allied fliers wreak a heavy harvest of enemy planes.

U. S. Army Forces In North Ireland

Secretary Stimson Announces Arrival of Troops, But All Details Regarding Units Are Withheld by Censorship.

Washington, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Arrival of American army forces in northern Ireland was announced today by Secretary of War Stimson.

Major General Russell P. Hartle is in command, it was announced, but the size of the force and other details were withheld.

Specifically withheld were designations of the units, the composition and strength, the ports of embarkation and dates of sailing.

The force was the first to reach the British Isles since the war started, aside from groups of technicians and staff officers, officials indicated.

Rio Charter Is Approved

Pan-American Conference Committee Adopts Proposal of Non-Belligerency for United Nations.

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 26.—(AP)—The political committee of the Pan-American conference adopted today a proposal to declare the United States and all her American allies non-belligerent, and approved the principles of the Atlantic charter which embodied the war aims of the United States and Britain.

Action on both resolutions was unanimous.

Also approved were resolutions calling for an immediate meeting of the general staffs of all American nations, and proposing that no American nation represent the interests of a warring government not on this continent in any other American nation.

This last resolution on representation of foreign interests was redrafted in a subcommittee to get around objections by Argentina to its phrasing.

The proposal for a meeting of general staffs suggested that there should be formed at once a "commission" composed of military and naval technicians named by each government to study and suggest measures necessary for defense of the continent. The commission would meet in Washington.

Through the committee moved swiftly through its last business before the final general session of the conference tomorrow.

The approval by the 21 American nations of the principles of the Atlantic charter was expressed in a new "charter of Rio de Janeiro" drawn up by the committee.

It was stated, however, that the approval was expressed as the united action of the Americans and not as a declaration aligning the nations with any non-American power.

FOUR MORE AXIS SHIPS ARE SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN

London, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Four more axis ships have been sunk in the Mediterranean by British submarines, the admiralty announced today.

The ships sunk, a communications boat, were two large, fully-laden tankers, one medium sized transport and the Italian salvage vessel Rampano.

Record Sum For Navy

Appropriations Measure Asks \$17,722,565,474 for Ship and Plane Building.

Washington, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Congress received today a \$17,722,565,474 appropriations bill, largest in the nation's history, to finance the Navy's war objective of attaining unquestioned supremacy above, below and on the seas through a gigantic ship and plane building program.

In outlining the huge outlay proposed to the House for debate the appropriations committee dealt in superlatives—"stupendous" and "staggering"—to describe its aims, but expressed full confidence in their accomplishment "with unbelievable dispatch."

An accompanying 313-page transcript of testimony before the committee by Secretary of Navy Knox and ranking naval officials disclosed their conviction that 1942 would prove the critical year in the battle for victory.

"If we can hold our own, and even advance a little, then we will be ready for whatever the expanded production will enable us to do in 1943 and 1944," said Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the fleet.

Dividend Increased

New York, Jan. 26.—(AP)—George W. Hill, president of the American Tobacco company, told stockholders he would recommend an increase in the dividend on the common and common "B" stocks to \$1 a share for the first quarter of 1942 from the 75 cents paid in the last quarter of 1941. A dividend meeting will be held January 28.

Despite a 25-cent boost in the dividend, the rate would still be below the \$1.25 a share the company paid

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WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Slightly lower temperatures east portion tonight.

At Least 27 Japanese Ships Sunk, Damaged

Bengasi Threatened By Axis

Full Scale Offensive Under Way

British Admit Their Forces Driven Back 40 Miles Since Yesterday and 145 Miles From Westernmost Advance.

(By The Associated Press.)
Bengasi in north Africa again was threatened today by axis forces which had developed their "reconnaissance in force" of last week into a full scale offensive. The British admitted the main battle was now in the Zouat Maus area, which meant they had been driven back 40 miles since yesterday and 145 miles from the westernmost point of their advance in the El Agheila area.

Zouat Maus is only about 70 miles southeast of Bengasi, where the British captured an Christmas Day in their second Libyan offensive.

That the axis if it was a month puzzled by its own success was indicated by a Rome spokesman who spoke of the axis "improvised counter attack" and said "it is not quite clear what has happened to the powerful British army. While it is true that the nature of the terrain in Cyrenaica calls for long range operations, this would not be a sufficient explanation for the retreat."

The Italian high command claimed huge losses had been inflicted, including the destruction or capture of 250 tanks and armored cars and 158 guns.

The Germans said 1000 had been bombed heavily, seven and eight British fighter planes shot down. They said their bombers also intercepted a British fleet near Tobruk and hit a light cruiser.

Russian soldiers fighting their way forward in the coldest weather in decades were reported mopping up vast areas of the Russian front, it was widely reported in the winter line of Adolf Hitler.

Russian reports said clean up operations were in full swing in the

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New Taxes Necessary

Senator George Says Bulk of Nine Billions in Added Revenue Must Come From New Sources.

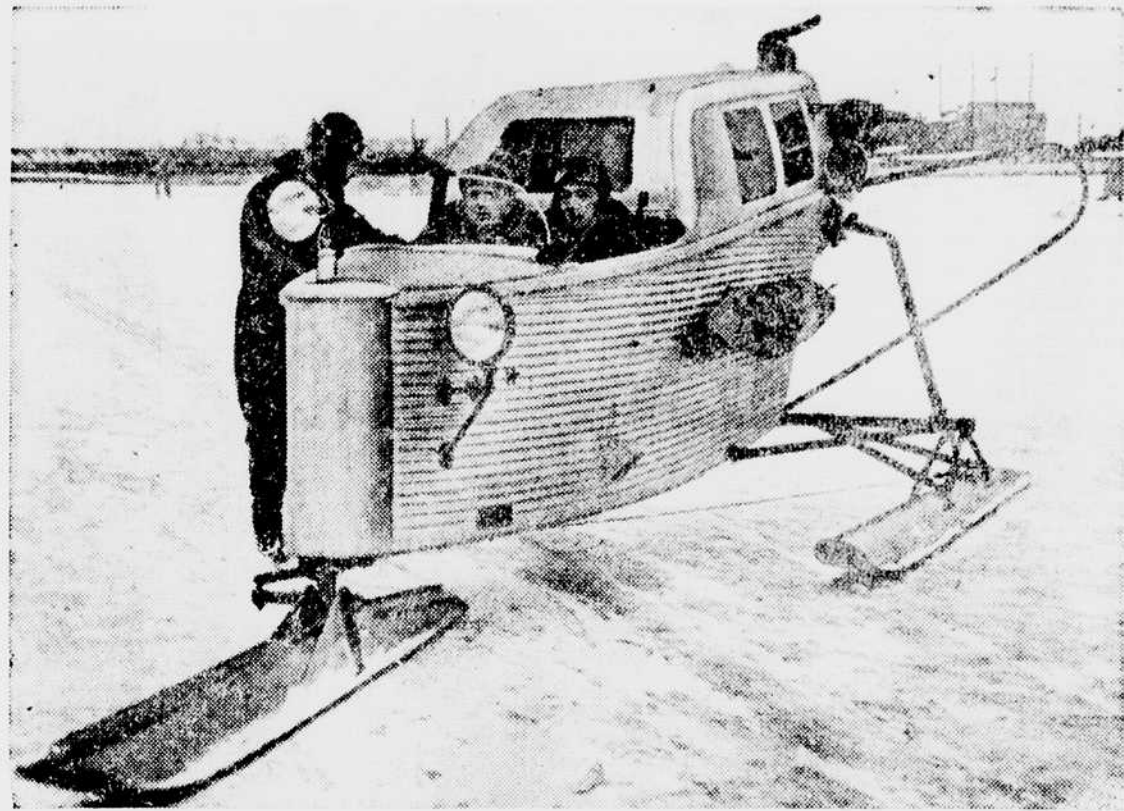
Washington, Jan. 26.—(AP)—A month's intensive study has convinced most congressional fiscal experts that the bulk of a proposed \$9,000,000,000 addition to federal revenues will have to be raised by some new form of taxation, Chairman George Democrat, Georgia, of the Senate finance committee said today.

"The great problem," he declared, "is to determine whether this should be a sales tax, a withholding tax on payrolls of some other system. There has been no definite decision made on that point."

George told reporters, however, that "satisfactory progress" toward the formation of a new tax program was being made in daily conferences between Treasury officials and representatives of the joint congressional committee on internal revenue.

Nevertheless, he believed there were weeks of work would be necessary before definite recommendations could be agreed upon and presented to the House ways and means committee which then will start public hearings on the new tax structure.

The Soviet Army's Aero-Sled



This is the type of all-metal aero-sled used by the Soviet army to speed troops to new positions over the deep snow which has covered the East Front. Driven by propellers, the sleds skim over terrain impassable to heavy German mechanized equipment and played a big part in the Russian capture of the city of Moshaisk, key point in the Moscow sector. (Central Press)

MacArthur Is Honored On Birthday

Washington, Jan. 26.—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur, heroic defender of the Philippines, was honored in the United States today on his 47th birthday.

Representative McArthur, Democrat, Missouri, filed a cheering House that MacArthur was an "outstanding leader and a brilliant strategist."

"Douglas MacArthur is one of the outstanding Americans of all time," McArthur said, "in honoring him today when he is wearing the greatest light of his career's reputation, also every officer and enlisted man of his command."

Representative Fish, Republican, New York, said MacArthur's leadership and decision to fight in face of great odds was an inspiration to the American people.

Tanker Sunk 35 Miles Off Jersey Coast

Sea Isle City, N. J., Jan. 26.—(AP)—Striking without warning, an enemy submarine sank the Norwegian tanker, Vervangeren, in a pre-dawn attack only 35 miles off the Atlantic coast yesterday, but the crew of 42 was saved.

Three torpedoes, carried by the 305-ton motorship within twelve minutes in the close to U. S. shores of enemy attacks on shipping, but the first time no lives were lost. The explosion shook houses in several south Jersey communities, including Atlantic City, 20 miles north of here.

The survivors escaped in two lifeboats which were hoisted in 194 by two fishing boats about 3:30 a. m. EST, 35 miles southeast of here.

Cotton Prices Turn Higher

New York, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 10 to 30 cents higher today.

Mid-day prices were 55 to 60 cents a bale higher, March 1942, July 1942, December 1942.

Congressmen Demand Clean-Up In Command

Tanker Sunk Off East Coast

Washington, Jan. 26.—(AP)—The Navy is demanding stringent action that the 100,000-ton tanker Vervangeren was hoisted, sunk off the Atlantic coast late Sunday morning.

It was reported by the Congressional committee on New York, that the tanker was sunk and the death of 42 crew members along the Atlantic coast in the past few days.

All members of the House voted to demand that the Navy should clean up its command.

All members of the Senate voted to demand that the Navy should clean up its command.

Nine Killed In Accidents

Highway Fatalities Lead in Week-End Accidental Deaths in North Carolina.

Chapel Hill, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Expressway accidents on the new highway between Durham and Raleigh, N. C., were the cause of nine deaths and 100 injuries in the past 24 hours.

George H. Blount, 50, died at the Duke Hospital in Durham after a head injury when he fell from a high machine and was crushed.

Senator Henry L. Wheeler of Port Hope was killed and Sergeant W. T. Thomas and Private F. C. White were injured when their car left the Lumberton-Fayette highway.

Private Paul Roy Caswell of Bonham, Boone, was killed when struck by an automobile between Fayetteville and Fort Bang.

Clayton E. Potts, 25, of Central, S. C., was killed in a fire which destroyed the village in which he lived near Jacksonville, when he had been employed as a minor woman.

White House, 25, of area Whitesville, was killed when he was hit by a freight train at a mile west of Whitesville. He was walking along the

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U. S., Dutch Sea And Air Forces Take Heavy Toll

Four-Day Battle in Strait of Macassar May Have Shattered Attempt to Invade Java; Only One United Nations Ship Damaged.

(By The Associated Press.)
United States and Dutch sea and air forces, locked in a great running battle with a Japanese invasion armada in the Strait of Macassar, have sunk or damaged at least 27 transports and warships in the four days of fighting and may have shattered an attempt to invade Java, the heart of the United Nations defense in the southwest Pacific.

The next few days will tell in what strength if any the Japanese armada was able to reach Java, the narrow shortcut to the main area of the Netherlands East Indies.

The Japanese, however, won at least one foothold on this sea road to Java—the Dutch oil port of Balikpapan, on the straitside of the island of Borneo, but the size of the invasion fleet indicated that Tokyo was shooting for higher stakes to the south.

The Strait of Macassar is the most direct route between Japanese concentration points in the Philippines and the main island of Java, where the United Nations have centered their supreme command and much of their armed strength.

Serendipity, the great Dutch naval base, for example, lies less than 350 miles southeast of the southern mouth of the strait.

The battle started on Thursday afternoon when Dutch aircraft, rounding out from their jungle-shielded bases, scored twelve direct hits with heavy and medium caliber bombs on enemy ships.

The damaged ships, hit by bombs or torpedoes, included at least five transports, probably sunk and a cruiser, which may have gone down. The submarine which torpedoed it was also damaged, it was reported, but it was impossible to determine the result of the hit.

United States naval and air forces, based on the attack on the following day and the hot, tropical waters of Macassar Strait, were charged by bombs and torpedoes from flying fortresses, light and heavy bombers, submarines, cruisers and destroyers.

Slight damage to one United Nations warship was the only naval damage acknowledged so far as the cost of the attack.

The losses inflicted on the Japanese were the heaviest of any counter action since the Japanese launched their grand offensive on December 7.

The attack on the Japanese in the Macassar Strait, as their report in the newspapers, Batavia and Washington, follows.

Destroyers—Nine transports, one destroyer.

Damaged—A warship, unclassified as to type, five cruisers, two destroyers, five transports.

The increasing attacks by American-Dutch air and naval forces have sent at least one more Japanese destroyer and another large transport to the bottom in the Macassar Strait, latest dispatches announced today.

These were only the minimum claims of the Dutch and United Nations southwest Pacific command.

American fighting forces, besides sinking a big British San transport, also scored a bomb hit on a cruiser, and Dutch planes cooperating in the same action scored a total of four direct hits on two Japanese cruisers and another transport, allied headquarters said.

American aviators scored another brilliant action in the west-coast Pacific—what the U. S. War Department officially called "the smashing success of General Douglas MacArthur's soldiers in a counter attack."

As if setting up a birthday anniversary.

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