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REINFORCEMENTS ON WAY TO SINGAPORE

Heavy Battles Rage In Sector About Smolensk

Nazi Forces Thrown Back Along Front

Germans Fall Back Under Assaults of Powerful Russian Counter Offensive; In Africa, Rommel's Forces Near Derna.

(By The Associated Press) Soviet front line dispatches reported today near several key towns in the Smolensk sector, 220 miles west of Moscow, with the Germans falling back under the assaults of a powerful Russian counter offensive.

Smolensk is the main anchor of Adolf Hitler's winter defense line in the central front.

While none of the "key towns" was reported to have been taken, the Russians have been driving close upon Yelnya, only 35 miles southeast of Smolensk, in a bid to cut off the escape of German armies retreating along the old Napoleonic road from Moscow.

Fierce fighting also was reported on the Leningrad front, where a British broadcast said the Germans had been thrown back 18 miles south of the one-time czarist capital by heavy Russian attacks.

The Russians announced officially that counter attacks by reserve-battled German divisions around Smolensk and Dnepropetrovsk, in the Ukraine, had been smashed.

Soviet troops were reported sharply threatening Dnepropetrovsk, site of a \$100,000,000 hydro-electric power dam which the Russians destroyed before it fell into German hands last year.

On the north African front, the sweep of Field Marshal General Erwin Rommel's axis forces encroached upon Derna, only 95 miles west of Tobruk, after driving the British 160 miles northeast of Benghazi.

British military quarters in London acknowledged that Derna had been abandoned after a crucial Indian paratrooper "complot" of their movement from their last covering positions and rejoined the main British columns.

London quarters, however, declared flatly that the main British force had not yet clashed with General Rommel's army.

CONVICT STRIKE IS INVESTIGATED

Raleigh, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Prison Director Oscar Pitts and Highway Chairman Ben Plance were scheduled to go to Goldsboro this afternoon to investigate a convict strike which occurred Monday.

COMMISSIONED

Washington, Feb. 4.—(AP)—The War department announced today that the following North Carolinian had accepted an appointment as second lieutenant in the air corps reserve:

L. J. Rux, of Henderson.

Free Insurance For Soldiers Next Question

Washington, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Senate passage of the \$1,000,000,000 war damage bill giving property owners free insurance up to \$15,000 damages raised the question of providing free life insurance for members of the armed forces.

Although such a proposal has not been presented to Congress, Senator Ford the Senate yesterday during LaFollette, Progressive, Wisconsin, debate on the war damage corporation bill that Congress might as well face the "next logical step"—free insurance for the men who fight.

Men in the armed services already are provided government war risk insurance, but they must pay premiums in relation to the amount of insurance they obtain.

The new war damage bill would not require premiums from property owners until a damage ceiling of \$15,000 had been reached.

Freighter Sunk By Sub Off Maryland

Lewes, Del., Feb. 4.—(AP)—The freighter San Fil, owned by the United Fruit Company, was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine off the Maryland coast last night with the loss of two lives, it was disclosed with the landing of survivors here today.

Thirty-nine other members of the crew and one officer were saved. Four of the crew were injured.

The ship was struck first by a torpedo on the port side, an official spokesman for the fourth naval district said. The two missing members of the crew apparently were killed by an engine-room explosion.

The crew launched two lifeboats and the submarine then shelled the ship. All but four of 15 shells hit the target, the captain reported.

A second torpedo struck the ship as it sank by the stern. A coast guard cutter picked up the survivors after they had been seven hours in the lifeboat.

Lend-Lease To Increase

Appropriations Now Total \$23,400,000,000; Procedure to be Changed, Speeded.

Washington, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Official sources said today that lend-lease appropriations now total \$23,400,000,000 and probably would be increased by several more billion dollars in the next few weeks.

At the same time, they revealed fundamental changes in lend-lease procedure designed to simplify and speed up the pooling of the resources of the United Nations in line with President Roosevelt's recent announcement concerning joint raw material, munitions and shipping arrangements.

Direct appropriations to lend-lease total \$16,000,000,000 and officials pointed out that provisions were inserted in recent military, naval and maritime appropriation, earmarking additional large amounts for lend-lease.

Under new procedure, the direct lend-lease appropriations will be used in the future, only for food, raw material and other non-military items.

The last direct appropriation to lend-lease, for \$6,000,000,000, was approved nearly a year ago and will be nearly all allocated by the end of this month. A supplemental request is expected from the White House in a few weeks.

Work Begun At Fontana

Fontana, N. C., Feb. 4.—(AP)—A skeleton crew of 450 men was at work today on the Tennessee Valley Authority's latest dam project, designed to generate electricity to produce 100,000,000 pounds of aluminum annually.

After a checkered career before Senate committees and in office in Washington and at the Aluminum company of America, foundations are being prepared for the lofty dam on the Little Tennessee river. The dam was first projected by Alcoa, later abandoned and then taken over by the TVA.

Workmen here will number 1,000 by midsummer and 2,000 by the time peak production is reached.

GOLDSBORO MAN NAMED TO BOARD

Raleigh, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Earl Rosenthal of Goldsboro was appointed by Governor Broughton today to a nine-man board of trustees for the Fayetteville State Teachers College.



Released by the Navy Department, this photo shows the actual bombing of the U. S. S. Arizona by Japanese warplanes in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7th. The great control tower of the mighty battle wagon is heeling over after repeated hits with heavy bombs. Dense smoke is rising from the waist of the ship, where bomb explosions had blasted into her vitals.

House Okays Navy Funds

Appropriation Measure Sent Back to Senate for Approval of Conference Report.

Washington, Feb. 4.—(AP)—The House agreed today to accept Senate increases in the Navy appropriations bill, boosting the total to \$26,495,265,474, largest in history.

The conference report then went to the Senate for approval.

House action on the bill came only a few minutes after Representative Deter, Republican, Pennsylvania, took the floor to object that the Republican minority had appropriated wholeheartedly in steering the big measure through Congress.

He made that statement, he said, because of a charge "made within the past few days" that the report was not cooperating, apparently a reference to a radio address by Edward Flynn, chairman of the Democratic national committee, in which Flynn urged against election this fall of a Congress hostile to President Roosevelt.

French Deny Aiding Nazis

Vichy, Feb. 4.—(AP)—An authorized French source today denied reports, which he said were of British origin, that German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's African armies had been getting reinforcements of men and material from French Tunisia.

The BBC said yesterday that French Vice Premier Darlan had agreed to send two shipments of supplies weekly.

He said neither French Tunisian territory nor Tunisian territorial waters had been used by the Germans and Italians.

Tunisia is on the western border of Libya.

AMSTERDAM PLACED UNDER REGULATIONS

London, Feb. 4.—(AP)—A Reuters dispatch from Stockholm said today measures approaching a state of siege had been imposed by Nazi authorities upon Amsterdam as a result of demonstrations and sabotage.

No civilians may go out doors after 8 p. m. and street cars stop running at 7.

HOUSE APPROVES LOAN FOR CHINA

Washington, Feb. 4.—(AP)—With little debate the House unanimously passed and sent to the Senate today an authorization for a \$500,000,000 appropriation to aid China.

Bus Shortage Is Critical

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

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—There already is a shortage of buses in North Carolina and it is growing more serious. Bus travel is expected to increase as private citizens travel. There is a great demand for more buses around military camps. But the vehicles are just not available in the number needed.

Recently the State Politics Commission decided to award franchises to bus service for the new Army camp being built near Creedmoor—a post planned for 37,000 soldiers. It was decided to give the franchise to Durham and the camp to be Camp Trailways and to give the Oxford-to-camp franchise to D. V. Hunt. That is still the commission's intention but the order was held up until a third route from Raleigh to the camp via Creedmoor could be awarded. They gave the order.

In the first place, the only applicant for the route from Raleigh withdrew his petition. Then Creedmoor said that such a service, even if the company and the buses could be found, would not be enough for its needs as the buses from Raleigh would be filled before they reached Creedmoor. So a fourth franchise, allowing operation between Creedmoor and the camp, is being considered. The Camp Trailways says:

(Continued on Page Two)

NEW CABINET POST FOR SIR STAFFORD

London, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Appointment of Sir Stafford Cripps, Britain's former ambassador to Moscow, to a cabinet post, which will come as a complete surprise, was mediated today by the Daily Star.

It said Sir Stafford had declined to become minister of supply, succeeding Lord Beaverbrook, who is believed to be slated for the new appointment as minister of production.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Considerably warmer tonight with scattered showers in mountains.

California Aliens Under Restrictions

Daylight Time Next Monday

Washington, Feb. 4.—(AP)—The clocks will move up an hour next Monday—but everything else will go on as before.

Unlike summer "daylight time" when some cities have it and others don't, every railroad, bus line and radio station will be running on the same schedule after the national time shift as before. The only thing changed will be the relationship between your watch and the sun.

Sugar Stamps To Be Issued

Washington, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Sugar "stamp" to be issued by the government to rationed consumers, will be required to be purchased in any case within the next few days.

Each stamp will permit an individual to buy 12 ounces of sugar-free candy.

Reuter Named Kanzler Aide

Detroit, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Appointment of Irving J. Reuter, former head of the Old Motor Works and of the Buick Motor company, as associate of Ernest C. Kanzler, chief of the automotive division of the war production board, was announced today.

Reuter, whose name is in Baltimore, N. C., will take over his new post February 6.

His task, as Kanzler explained, will be to assist in getting the automotive industry on a total war production basis.

Wavell Says Great Force Is En Route

British Defenders of Island Base Rain Shells on Japanese Concentrations Across Johore Strait; Other Pacific War News.

(By The Associated Press) General Sir Archibald P. Wavell, allied generalissimo, announced today that the United States and Britain were sending "great reinforcements" to the far Pacific battle theatre, while in the five-day old siege of Singapore British gunners rained shells into Japanese troops massed across the mile-wide Johore strait.

"Our plan is to begin soon for great reinforcements which we and our American allies are sending to the eastern theater," General Wavell said in a special order of the day.

"We are in a similar position to the original (1914) British expeditionary force which stopped the Germans and saved Europe in the first battle of Ypres."

Japanese bombers blasted anew at the beleaguered Singapore defenders, inflicting some damage but few military casualties, British headquarters reported.

Bombes still smoldered in the wreckage from yesterday's aerial assault in which the total was 90 officially as 22 killed and 90 wounded.

On other fronts in the far Pacific conflict:

Dutch East Indies—Dutch and Japanese troops were locked in heavy fighting on Ambon island, site of the Indies second biggest naval base, 695 miles north of Australia, an NEI communique reported.

British North Borneo—Berlin quoted Japanese Tokyo headquarters as saying Japanese forces captured the Celebes support of Tawau, on the southeast coast of British Borneo.

Burma—A Tokyo broadcast said Japanese bombers, attacking by moonlight, bombed an airport at Rangoon and twice heavily bombed an airfield at Fongshing, between Rangoon and Mandalay on the Burma road to China.

Philippines—A war department bulletin said General Douglas MacArthur had fighting troops sharply beat off another Japanese attack of the American left flank on Balabon peninsula, the night of January 3.

Alaska—A War Department bulletin said a direct hit on a Japanese ship in the harbor of Japan-occupied Rorua, N. B. British.

Beaverbrook To New Post

Trusted Aide of Churchill Elevated to Position Similar to Donald M. Nelson's.

London, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill created the new cabinet post of minister of war production today, an assignment aimed specifically at peak cooperation between Britain and the United States, and entrusted it to Lord Beaverbrook, one of his most valued aides.

The new ministry roughly parallels the office of Donald M. Nelson in directing the United States war production.

Lord Beaverbrook is succeeded as minister of supply by Sir Andrew Ross Duncan, until now president of the board of trade.

Colonel J. J. Llewellyn, who was parliamentary secretary to the ministry of a recent production, stepped up to Ross' post as minister of trade.

Other new responsibilities were: Parliamentary undersecretary of state for colonies—Harold MacMillan.

(Continued on Page Two)