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Jap Island Bases Blasted By Fleet In Feb. 1 Assault

Navy Department Reveals Details of Assault; 16 Ships Sunk, 41 Planes Destroyed, Military Bases and Radio Stations Wiped Out.

By EUGENE BURNS.
 Pearl Harbor, T. H., Feb. 13.—(AP)—The United States Pacific fleet destroyed four military air bases, sank 16 ships and wiped out two modern military villages in a devastating assault on the Japanese February 1.

At least 34 airplanes, including four-engine bombers, also were destroyed and four radio stations left in ruins.

Press statements were made by naval officers today in their first detailed account of the attack on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands—the initial major offensive aimed at driving the Japanese from the Pacific.

The islands, some 2,000 miles west of Hawaii and about 1,000 miles from Australia, lie on the most direct route of supply between the United States and the western Pacific war theatre.

The Navy communique February 1 announcing the attack said that enemy auxiliary ships were sunk or damaged, many enemy planes destroyed and installations

ashore heavily battered, but gave no figures of enemy losses.

It was estimated that enemy naval and merchant shipping sunk exceeded 100,000 tons. Probably an additional 50,000 tons were damaged.

Naval officers were jubilant as they described the success of the sudden raids over an area of 350 to 400 miles. But they spoke prosaically.

"We struck precisely two minutes to seven—and by noon we were on our way, having completed the raid."

There was no estimate made of casualties to enemy personnel.

The attack was described as a complete surprise and entirely successful.

Hitting with full power, the fleet blasted these bases.

Tarawa, an Marshall Atoll, "with an air base as modern as any in the United States" accounted for at least 42 bombers and fighters.

Kwajalein, where nearly a group

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Putting Up 'Stout Resistance Against Great Odds,'

Singapore Still Stands

Reds Advance Into White Russia

RAF Hunts Mightiest Nazi Ships

Russian Breakthrough Into Republic Bordering Poland Threatens Nazi Flank; German Warships Escape From Brest.

(By The Associated Press.)

Russia's triumphant armies reached White Russia today, striking into the German-held republic bordering old Poland, while at sea, RAF bombers pursued three of Germany's mightiest warships which escaped daringly yesterday from their battered haven at Brest, France.

Soviet front line dispatches said that Russia's ski troops, pushing across heavy snow, had penetrated German lines into White Russia.

The locale of the penetration was not given, but Russian forces expecting to meet the Wehrmacht north of Moscow were known to have reached Troskopsk, 65 miles from the White Russian border, more than two weeks ago.

White Russia lies west of Simonsk, key German base on the Dnieper river 230 miles west of Moscow.

The great Soviet breakthrough might jeopardize the German north flank around Leningrad.

While the Red armies hurled Adolf Hitler's battered legions back toward their starting point, England sought to block the escape of the powerful German sea raiders, who ran a gauntlet of air, sea and shore bombardment in the misty Strait of Dover yesterday.

London dispatches said it was believed that the RAF's biggest bombers were making a desperate effort to destroy the Nazi squadron before it could reach the Heligoland light and the freedom of the North Sea.

The German high command said more than 600 planes were fighting at times in the running chase. It said and listed a British destroyer, a submarine, a minesweeper and 45 RAF planes shot down.

Only seven Nazi planes were acknowledged lost.

Authoritative London dispatches today contradicted the German claim, asserting that no British surface ships had been lost in the battle.

These quarters and the fleeing Nazi squadron dashed through the narrow Dover strait, at 23 to 26 knots—three times faster than they could be brought to Heligoland before dawn today.

Dramatically, the 26,000-ton battleship Schernhorst and Gneisenau and the 19,000-ton cruiser Prinz Eugen challenged the British on a 700-mile voyage toward German North sea bases from the Atlantic repair yards at Brest, where they had been the targets of 66 raids.

The Germans probably hoped to return them to surface raiding.

Axis advances from Brest said the first contingents of Russian workers to be used in the Nazi exploitation of Europe's labor resources—miners from the Ukraine—had arrived in Germany Tuesday.

U. S. Agencies On War Basis

Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—As a means of further converting the government itself to a wartime basis, President Roosevelt disclosed today he had told the heads of all federal agencies that it was "imperative" that manpower released by increasing the work week be "selectively channeled into defense work."

He transmitted to the department executives a "directive" which noted that practically all government departments and services had lengthened the work week voluntarily to 44 hours. In most instances it had been 39 hours.

It is necessary, the President said, to capitalize on this increase, since it would release experienced employees for war work and would help relieve the shortage in housing for individuals and government offices and help keep people from crowding into the national capital.

Radio Industry Mobilized

Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—The war production board announced today it had ordered the \$200,000,000 radio manufacturing industry to convert its entire facilities to arms production within the next four months.

If the conversion is not accomplished within that period, the board declared in a virtual ultimatum, the government will take over unconverted plants, break up their organizations, and give their equipment and labor "to other plants of the economy where they could be mobilized for war production."

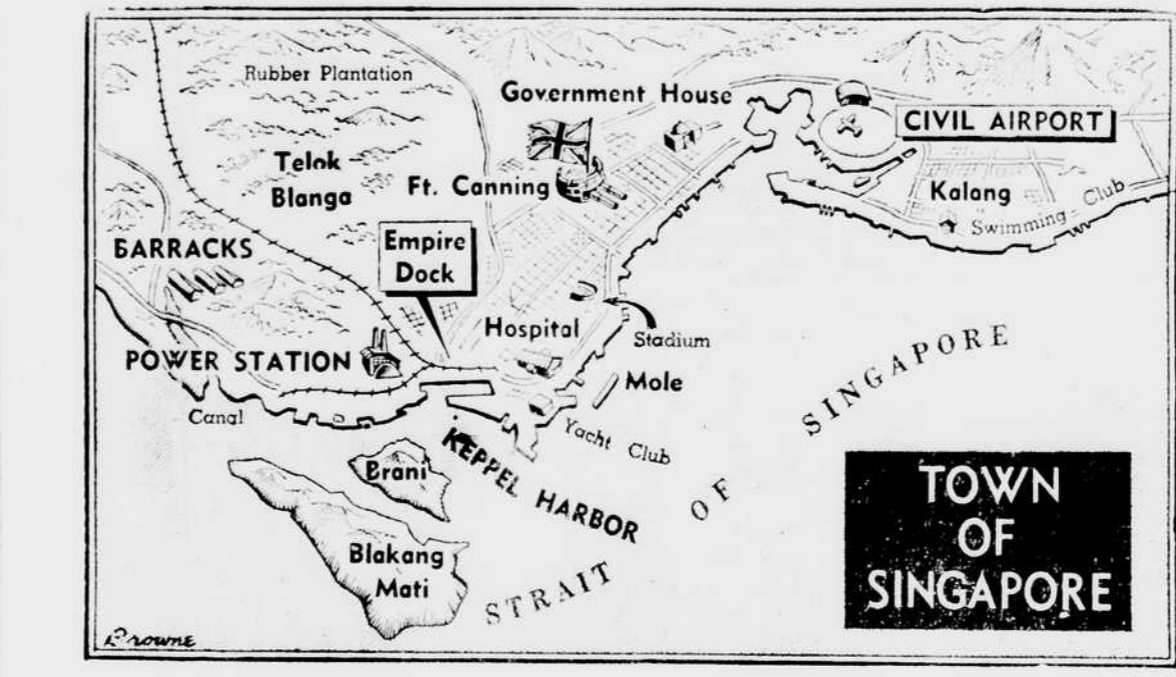
The civilian output of the industry recently was ordered cut 40 per cent under the 1941 production.

Churchill Faces Storm

London, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Many political observers predicted today that the government of Prime Minister Churchill had only a slim chance of riding out the storm of popular indignation which followed the escape of three German ships.

Churchill might explain the defects in Africa and in the Pacific, these sources said, but the humbling of two of Britain's fighting services without sight of the English coast "cannot be explained away by orators."

The Japs Pour in on Singapore



This map shows a closeup of Singapore City, where British forces are fighting a game, if hopeless, battle against Jap invaders. With Japanese shock troops swarming toward the city from three directions, military experts look for swift termination of the battle for the island fortress. The defenders are making the invaders pay dearly, but lacking air support, they can do little to halt advances.

Willkie Favors Advancement Of MacArthur

Boston, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Promotion of General Douglas MacArthur to a post was supreme command of the nation's entire armed forces, responsible only to the President, is advocated by Wendell Willkie as a move to wipe out "dead wood and red tape" in the Army and Navy.

A throng of 1,500 diners rose to their feet, cheering as the title "The Philippine hero" name last night.

"Keep bureaucratic and political hands off him," said Willkie. "Give him responsibility and the power of coordinating all the armed forces of the nation to their most efficient use."

Ingalls Trial Nears End

Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Launa Ingalls was pictured by the prosecution as "an enemy of the country" and by the defense as "a bit of a crackpot" today in closing arguments at her trial on espionage charges that she failed to register as a non-resident agent.

D. E. Baker, special prosecutor of the justice department, told the jury he would not follow Adolf Hitler's technique in an effort to "save the American people."

"Each episode of 'obscure' conspiracy by the defendant because she had her prestige against the American people to describe them at the trial directed at the German government," the prosecutor indicated.

Ingalls' attorney, that she had been a German secret spy, saying her activities constituted "a premeditated offense."

James F. Reilly, Miss Ingalls' attorney, said the activity was "a woman of courage, ambition and a tremendous amount of egotism."

King Carol Unwelcome

Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—King Carol, deposed monarch of Romania, would not be welcome in this country as a leader of a free Romanian movement, acting Secretary of State Welles said today.

Welles was asked at a press conference about reports that Carol, at present in Mexico, was planning to come to the United States to organize a free Romanian movement.

The undersecretary replied unhesitatingly and emphatically that in the opinion of this government, such a move by Carol would not be conducive to the war effort.

MRS. CLYDE R. HOEY DIES AT HER HOME

Shelby, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Mrs. Clyde R. Hoey, wife of the former governor, died suddenly at the Hoey home here early today of a heart attack.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. tomorrow at Central Methodist church here.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Continued cold tonight.

President Defends FSA As Essential

Admiral Hart Holds Title

Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—President Roosevelt declared today he had always been opposed to a poll tax and he added that the Farm Security Administration had not been paying any such taxes.

He informed a press conference that FSA tenants have a budget, which includes every necessity of life—food, clothing, a bed to sleep on and taxes of all kinds. And these budgets, he said, allow the tenant to put down an item for a poll tax.

At a press conference Tuesday the Chief Executive was told that C. B. Baldwin, FSA administrator, had admitted before a joint congressional committee on non-essential expenditures, that the FSA had paid poll taxes in Alabama.

That, Mr. Roosevelt said, was not a statement of fact, and he declared that an erroneous premise had been established both on Capitol Hill and at his Tuesday press conference.

At that conference, he said he did not think the FSA would pay poll taxes, and at the same time he declared the agency as extremely essential to the whole food situation for the war's duration.

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JAP DIVE BOMBERS STRAFE OWN TROOPS

Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Destruction of two Japanese dive bombers by American anti-aircraft guns during increasing fighting in the Philippines was reported today by the War department.

The dive bombers, actively supporting aggressive enemy patrol action, mistakenly bombed and machine gunned their own infantry, with heavy casualties, a communique said.

Victims of the mistake attack were identified as elements of the 122nd Japanese regiment of the 8th division.

NOTHING TO REPORT FROM LIBYAN FRONT

Calcutta, Feb. 13.—(AP)—There was nothing to report today on the Libyan front save British patrol action, according to the British Middle East communique. There were no details on these.

British Airplanes BOMB SICILY BASE

Rome, (From Italian Broadcasts), Feb. 13.—(AP)—British air raiders attacked Catania, Sicily, last night and the night before with high explosives and incendiary bombs, but there was little damage, the Italian high command announced today.

No Poll Taxes Paid by Farm Agency, President Declares; Opposition to Poll Tax System is Reiterated.

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Norris Wants Act Repealed

Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Senator Norris, Independent, Nebraska, proposed today that the Senate take immediate action to repeal "trills" from the existing defense effort and to repeal congressional pension legislation—two points of controversy which he said were disrupting the war effort and disturbing civilian morale.

Norris, who is the dean of Congress by virtue of his 29 years in the Senate and ten years in the house, said he was amazed at the public indignation which he said had been aroused by the controversy over the employment of entertainers to direct certain activities of the office for general defense.

Likewise, he said, he seldom had received such violent and sustained protest as had been occasioned by Congress' action in voting to open government pension rolls to its members. Norris said he never would accept a pension from the government.

Negro Pays For Murder

Raleigh, Feb. 13.—(AP)—A "brave and cheerful" Negro who winked at witnesses as he was led into the execution chamber was applauded at Central Prison here this Friday the 13th, and he exhorted the dead to go for exactly 13 minutes before he was pronounced dead.

The Negro was 28-year-old Robert Starks, convicted in Anson county of murdering his wife with an axe.

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Washington, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Admiral Thomas C. Hart, who was relieved earlier in the week of the command of United Nations sea forces in the southern Pacific because of illness, is coming home, President Roosevelt announced today, with the title of commander in chief of the Asiatic fleet.

He told a press conference that this designation still existed for a section of the fleet, although for purposes of cooperation with the United Nations, the American sea forces in the Pacific battle area had been called the American forces of the southwest Pacific.

Jap Hordes Press Near City's Heart

Even Tokyo Radio Speaks of 'Firm Resistance' at Singapore; Wavell May Move Supreme Command Base to Australia.

(By The Associated Press.)

British imperial defenders fighting the "lost battle" of Singapore were reported holding grimly on a line within two miles of the city's heart today and a broadcast at 10 p. m. Singapore time (11 a. m. EWT) declared with a touch of proud defiance: "There is ample evidence that the Japanese forces are not having everything their own way."

The broadcast said there had been "no great change" in the general line. The Tokyo radio asserted that Japanese tanks had battered their way into British "camouflages" along the Singapore race track just outside the city.

(By The Associated Press.)

A terse, dramatic message by Lieutenant General A. E. Percival disclosed that British defenders of Singapore still were putting up "stout resistance against great odds" today as Japan's siege armies pressed within two miles of the city heart.

Army Minister Francis Ford of Australia said he received the message from General Percival at 1:30 p. m. Singapore time (2:30 a. m. EWT).

Even the Tokyo radio spoke of "firm resistance" at Singapore.

Domei, official Japanese news agency, conceded that the invaders were still two miles from downtown Singapore, but while the British fought a manning action it was apparent that "the net was steadily drawing tighter."

In Australia, Prime Minister John Curtin summoned parliament to meet a week from today "because of the continued deterioration of the situation in the Pacific."

In the Dutch Indies, the NII command reported a temporary slackening of the many-pronged Japanese drive aimed at Java amid ominous hints that the United Nations high command might be preparing to fall back to Australia.

Dispatches from Batavia said the Dutch, fully aware that the fall of Singapore would open the flood gates for all the Japanese as well as the Dutch, were determined to resist against any odds.

A spokesman said the Dutch would never abandon their main base island without a fight even if General Sir Archibald Wavell's supreme allied command decided the best strategy would be to surrender Java.

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