



# Henderson Daily Dispatch



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## U. S. Bombers Smash Jap Ships

### Axis Claims 823,200 Tons Of Ships Sunk In Atlantic

#### Italian Subs Raid British Squadron

Mussolini's High Command Says Torpedo Planes Score Hits on Three British Cruisers in Eastern Mediterranean.

Heavy new losses against the allies at sea were claimed by the axis today with the Germans asserting that 823,200 tons of shipping had been sunk in American waters and the Italians reporting success in attacking "a great British naval squadron" in the eastern Mediterranean.

Premier Mussolini's high command said waves of Italian torpedo-carrying planes scored hits on three British cruisers and probably sank one of them.

An Italian submarine was acknowledged missing.

The German version of the Mediterranean battle listed five British cruisers as damaged—three hit by Italian torpedo planes, another by German bombers, and the fifth hit twice by Nazi U-boat torpedoes.

Italian submarines were credited by the Berlin radio with sinking an additional 50,700 tons.

The German communique also reported that eight U. S. bombers were credited today with crippling at least part of a Japanese invasion armada sailing down the coast of New Guinea toward Australia, while in Tokyo Japan's Premier General Tojo boasted that allied sea power had been crushed in the far Pacific.

A 12:45 broadcast quoted imperial Tokyo headquarters as acknowledging that three Japanese ships had been sunk or beached and six others damaged, including a cruiser, including operations on New Guinea.

The Tokyo communique said the cruiser two destroyers and three other ships were damaged slightly.

"The main fleet of the United States and Britain has already disappeared from the surface of the Pacific," Tojo asserted in a speech celebrating the conquest of the Dutch East Indies.

In Washington, the Army reported that eight U. S. bomber groups dealt a staggering blow to Japanese ships Tuesday in New Guinea waters, dropping 13 tons of bombs which left two vessels sinking, four in flames, and another stranded on the beach. The American forces returned intact.

Other ships of a strong enemy convoy were reported moving down the New Guinea coast.

An Australian government spokesman declared the assault was "only the beginning of allied counter blows to smag Japan's threatened invasion of the vast Australian mainland."

However, twelve Japanese bombers raided Port Moresby, the capital and major port on the south coast only 300 miles from Australia's Cape York, and caused slight damage yesterday. There was an unverified report

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RAF Raids Moulmein

#### Navy Big Three See F. D. R.



The big three of the U. S. Navy are shown on their way to confer with President Roosevelt on the Far East situation. Left to right, are Admiral Ernest J. King, commander of the U. S. fleet, who has been placed in full charge of the navy, under Ernie; Secretary Knox, and Admiral Thomas C. Hart, retired commander of the United States naval forces in the Far East. (Central Press)

### Brazil Confiscates Axis Alien Property

#### HALF OF COTTON MILL PRODUCTION UNDER PRIORITIES

New York, March 12.—(AP)—Priority control would take about half the nation's cotton mill production and its transportation today by the confiscation of United States cotton.

The suggestion, made by the groups, was that the government will be asked upon the bill to state that the cotton will be used for military purposes.

W. Ray Bell, president of the association, predicted that confiscation of cotton would mean a reduction of cotton and more by the government of the war production program.

Chongking dispatch reported that the Japanese were constructing a network of trenches north of the railway junction town of Pegu, which lies 40 miles north of Rangoon.

#### METHODIST WOMEN CONCLUDE SESSION

Raleigh, March 12.—(AP)—The three-day meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the North Carolina Methodist churches ended here today with the election of Mrs. R. B. Hooker of Kinston as secretary.

All other officers were re-elected. The delegates decided to hold the 1943 meeting in Wilson.

### Tojo Reports Great Success For Japanese

Tokyo, (From Japanese Broad casts), March 12.—(AP)—Premier General Tojo told a special session of the Japanese diet today that Japan has captured more than 210,000 prisoners since the start of war in the Pacific.

He added that "Japan's defense position along the northern border (the frontier with Soviet Russia) is solid."

### Reds Break Smolensk Defenses

German Positions in Whole Region North of Smolensk are Threatened; Break-through Scored in Lake Ilmen Area.

(By The Associated Press.) Russian armies were reported today to have broken through German lines guarding the direct approaches of Smolensk, key rail station 233 miles west of Moscow, and from the 45-mile-long German positions in the south, just south of Smolensk, were now endangered by the Soviet counter-offensive.

Red army troops scored another important break through north of Lake Ilmen on the Leningrad front, it was reported, smashing strong German defense positions.

Soviet front line dispatches said the remnants of 96,000 German soldiers trapped in the Staraya Russa sector, below Lake Ilmen, were holding their demanding and supplies with loss and that suicides were increasing among the Germans.

#### LITTLE ACTIVITY ON LIBYAN FRONT

Cairo, March 12.—(AP)—A two-sentence British army communique reported today only potted activity and fighter plane operation on the Libyan battlefield. It said: "Our fighting patrols again were active throughout the day but reports no incident of importance."

"Our air forces carried out offensive sweeps in support of the land forces."

#### MINISTER ARRIVES

Wellington, New Zealand, March 12.—(AP)—Patrick J. Hurley, first United States minister to New Zealand, arrived here today to assume his post.

#### CONDEMNED RAPIST GETS COMMUTATION

Raleigh, March 12.—(AP)—Tomorrow—Friday, the 13th—was to have been execution day for Walker Blue, Hencombe county white man, but today Governor Broughton commuted Blue's death sentence to life imprisonment.

Blue was convicted of raping a ten-year old girl.

### Gasoline Rationing Recommended

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—Gasoline rationing cards threatened today to be next on war problem list for the east's 10,000,000 motorists, already worrying over the mileage left in their tanks.

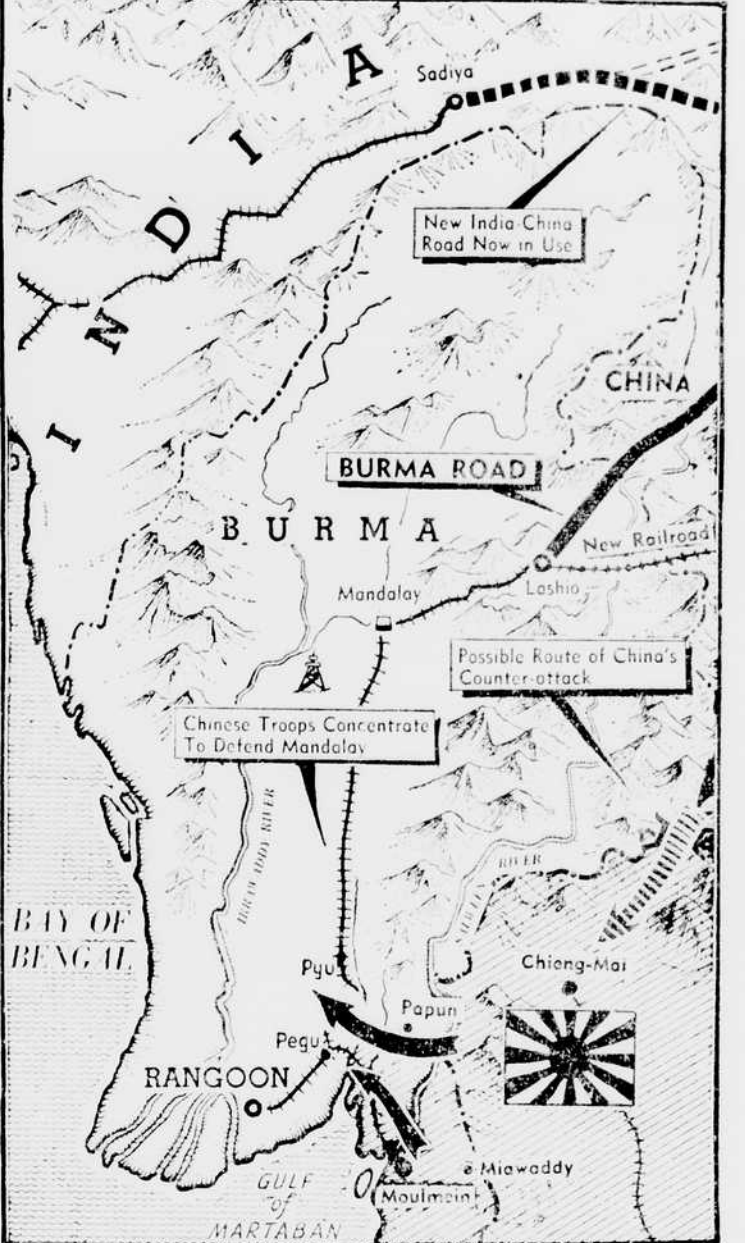
The oil industry proposed to Petroleum Coordinating Board that rationing be cut ones.

Recognizing that perfection of a card system might require weeks, the industry report recommended that rationing be put under an interim program, effective immediately, curtailing by 25 per cent the gasoline supplies for the area's 10,000,000 service stations, with each retailer apportioning the available fuel among his customers.

Moreover, the industry asked that all these service stations be put under a 7 p. m. curfew, that fuel oil deliveries be cut and that the world's largest pipeline system be built from the southwest to the New York-Philadelphia area.

#### WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

#### NEW CHINESE DEFENSE LINE



This map shows where the Japanese conquests of Rangoon swept forward toward the Irrawaddy oil fields of Burma. Chinese troops concentrated along the Pegu railroad to defend Mandalay. The Japs swept around Pegu. Allied strong point 40 miles north of Rangoon, in their haste to reach the capital. American drillers and engineers working for British oil interests are prepared to carry out the scorched earth policy. The wells would be smashed so thoroughly the Japs would require five years for repairs. (Central Press)

### Civilian Aviation Training Doubled

#### BRITISH MISSION TO U. S. IS CANCELLED

London, March 12.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill disclosed today that a projected production coordination mission by Lord Beaverbrook in the United States had been cancelled and that it was uncertain whether Beaverbrook would come to Washington.

### Australia Sends Food To Singapore

Canberra, March 12.—(AP)—Premier John Curtin announced today that foodstuffs were being sent from Australia to Japanese-occupied Singapore in an effort to insure the proper feeding of Australian prisoners.

"We were asked to send the staff," the premier said.

"It was put to us very straight that it had to be for everybody, including the native population. It goes into a common pool and the Japanese distribute it."

#### DRAFT INTERFERENCE CHARGED IN ARREST

Charlotte, March 12.—(AP)—Ed Scheidt, agent in charge of the Charlotte FBI, today announced today that the FBI had arrested Charles Abraham Kalat, 35, of Lumberton, on a charge of interfering with the functioning of a local draft board.

Scheidt said that Kalat was charged with having "interfered with the normal process of a local draft board in selecting and inducing 23 miles A. Kalat, Jr., 23, son of the elder Kalat, Scheidt said, is accused to have conspired with him."

### Tojo Boasts Allied Navy Is Crushed

Washington Reports Eight Big U. S. Bombers Sank Two Vessels, Set Four Afire and Beached One from Big Japanese Armada.

(By The Associated Press.) Heavy U. S. bombers were credited today with crippling at least part of a Japanese invasion armada sailing down the coast of New Guinea toward Australia, while in Tokyo Japan's Premier General Tojo boasted that allied sea power had been crushed in the far Pacific.

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### TWO VESSELS SUNK IN CARIBBEAN AREA

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—The Navy announced today that two ships, described as a medium sized British tanker and a small Swedish freighter but otherwise unidentified, have been torpedoed in the Caribbean area.

The Navy did not say whether the vessels were sunk and no details were available here.

### Gandhi Sees No Solution

Leader of India's Millions Say Britain Must Recognize and Undo Wrong.

Wardha, India, March 12.—(AP)—Despite the British government's announcement of plans for post-war dominion status for India, the supreme leader of Hindu nationalists, Mahatma Gandhi, professed today to see no sign of settlement for the Indian question.

"The trail little man who renounced the title of mahatma (saintly one) and even formal leadership of the All India Congress party, said in an interview that Britain must confess "the greatest crime against India"—which he defined as imperialism—and undo it.

Replying to the question, "What should the British government do immediately to settle the Indian problem?" Gandhi said: "In spite of my love for the British, I think their imperialism has been the greatest crime against India. The immediate thing therefore should do is confess the wrong and undo it.

"Of the undoing there is yet no sign visible in the Indian sky. Yet I cannot help thinking that before Britain can claim moral superiority she must take this first step."