



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., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 18, 1942

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

23 Jap Ships Sunk Or Damaged

Red Forces Reported Storming Kharkov Suburbs

'MOST SUBSTANTIAL' AEF IN AUSTRALIA

Great Battle Now Raging For City

On Central Front, Stockholm Advises Declare 200,000 Germans Surrounded in Great Pocket West of Moscow.

(By The Associated Press) Marshall Semyon Timoshenko's Ukraine armies were reported storming today into the suburbs of Kharkov, the Soviet "Pittsburgh," and Stockholm advised declared that Russian troops on the central front had surrounded 200,000 Germans in a great pocket west of Moscow.

A Reuters (British news agency) dispatch from Stockholm quoted Moscow reports that Soviet parachute troops had been dropped in the Smolensk area, 230 miles west of Moscow, and destroyed nazi fortifications during a snowstorm.

Front line dispatches said the Russians had captured five more communities in a gigantic encirclement movement to cut off the "escape corridor" of German garrisons at Rzhev and Vyazma. Latest reports said the gap had been narrowed to a bare 20 miles.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, said the Germans fled after a vain counter attack in that sector, leaving 1,200 killed and wounded on the battlefield.

More than 4,500 nazi were declared to have been slain in the last few days as the Russian counter-offensive surged forward along the entire front.

A Moscow radio broadcast quoting Moscow reports said heavy fighting raged in the suburbs of Kharkov, one of the key bases in Adolf Hitler's winter defense line.

Other Soviet gains were reported in the Orel-Kursk area, midway between Moscow and Kharkov, with the Russians recapturing eight more communities.

Bucharest dispatches said the Russians were making a supreme effort to crack the German-Rumanian line across the neck of the Kerch isthmus of the Crimea, striking incessantly with tanks and artillery along a 20-mile front.

Three Subs Sink Ship In Atlantic

Norfolk, March 18.—(AP)—Three enemy submarines, one large and two small ones, pocketed a medium size American merchant ship off the Atlantic coast early Sunday and sent her to the bottom with two torpedoes placed accurately in the engine-room.

Six members of the crew lost their lives in the attack, the fifth naval district said in announcing the sinking today. Thirty-three survivors landed at Morehead City, N. C., after being drift on life rafts from three to nine hours.

The loss of life resulted from the second torpedo which struck just below one of the lifeboats as it was lowered into the water.

The submarine that fired the second torpedo was about 200 yards

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Floral Tribute to MacArthur



Mrs. George C. Marshall, wife of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, is shown with a bouquet of "Douglas MacArthur Sweetpeas" presented to her by David Burpee, who developed the new flower, and named it to honor the hero of Bataan. Mrs. Marshall came from Virginia to receive the bouquet at the opening of the National Flower Show in New York.

Uruguayan Students In Anti-Axis Riots

Beaverbrook To America

London, March 18.—(AP)—Lord Beaverbrook, former British minister of war production, will go to the United States, it was announced officially today. A spokesman, dispelling recent doubts as to whether Beaverbrook would continue in work for the government since his removal from the cabinet, said the publisher would carry on efforts in connection with the pooling of United Nations resources.

Champion Loses Appeal To High Court

Raleigh, March 18.—(AP)—The North Carolina supreme court today dismissed the appeal of Charlie Shaw who was sentenced in Currituck county last September to death for rape and first degree burglary.

Unless Governor Broughton intervenes, Shaw will be executed at Central prison April 2.

In a case from Hertel county, the court held that Myrtle Jordan was correctly tried and convicted on charges of violating the prohibition law. The woman's home was searched by officers who gained admission through a search warrant sworn out by her husband.

The court reversed a decision of the Vance county superior court ordering the Vance county board of health to pay workman's compensation to Horace M. Champion.

The reversal, however, may not mean necessarily that the case is closed. The court ruled, merely, that the mandamus action brought by Champion failed to prove that there were funds available to pay his claim.

Japanese Would Face Hard Fight

Odds Still Heavily in Favor of Jap Invaders, Allied Experts Say; Brett Commands Allied Air Forces in Area.

(By The Associated Press) With General Douglas MacArthur in supreme command, the developing battle of Australia presented a grimmer aspect for Japan's invasion armies today as "most substantial" American forces were officially reported helping to man the vast commonwealth defenses.

Allied military experts cautioned against too great optimism, pointing out that the odds still were heavily in favor of the enemy, but they declared that the Japanese would be in for the fiercest campaign of the war if they attempted to storm Australia as they did Singapore and the Dutch East Indies.

"The arrival of General MacArthur in Australia is the healthiest and most welcome sign we have had," said Major General Henry Gordon Bennett, Australian commander in the Malayan jungle campaign.

"MacArthur's stand in the Philippines stamped him as a man with the fighting spirit which will soon be needed."

Coming with General MacArthur's dramatic shift from the foxholes of tiny Bataan peninsula to Australia, Prime Minister John Curtin

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PRESIDENT SIGNS NAVY MONEY BILL

Washington, March 18.—(AP)—A bill appropriating \$495,290,000 for the Navy, of which \$130,000,000 would be for additional ordnance manufacture, and activities, was signed today by President Roosevelt.

SURVIVORS REACH PORT AFTER SINKING

Charleston, S. C., March 18.—(AP)—The sixth naval district public relations office said today a merchant ship was torpedoed by a submarine off the Atlantic coast at 1:22 a. m. EWT last Sunday after being lit up by red and green lights.

Thirty-six crewmen, including the master, were brought here after the sinking.

The ship carried a crew of 36 including the master.

Four Army Planes Crash

Lima, Ohio, March 18.—(AP)—Four Army planes crashed in flames six miles east of Lima shortly before noon today. There apparently were no survivors.

Byron Heffner, farmer, said he saw one plane fall on his farm and burst into flames.

Two other planes fell about 100 yards apart a half-mile east of the Heffner farm.

The fourth plane, landed in a woods a mile south of the Heffner farm and also burst into flames.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Much cooler tonight.

FIRST WARTIME DRAFT LOTTERY IS COMPLETED

Bobs for Their Bucks



Twenty-one dollars a month turns into something quite different when payment is made in pounds, shillings, and pence as these American soldiers in North Ireland find as they change their dollars into British money. The soldiers are Pvt. Warren Slettemark, of Minneapolis; Sgt. John P. Coffey, of Dubuque, Iowa, and Pvt. Leo Parker, of Dubuque.

(Central Press)

Danger Zone Established

British Admiralty Issues Warning to Shipping in 160,000 Square Mile Area.

London, March 18.—(AP)—The admiralty issued a warning today that all of the Bay of Biscay, except for a 20-mile strip along the Spanish coast, and thousands of square miles of the Atlantic ocean southeast of England "are dangerous to shipping."

In defining the danger area, the admiralty said that any vessel disregarding the terms of its notice would do so "at its own risk and peril."

Such a notice usually would mean that the defined zone has been mined or that Britain is planning to carry out unrestricted submarine warfare in these waters.

The new danger zone takes in roughly 160,000 square miles.

EIGHTEEN SURVIVORS OF DEC. 9 SINKINGS REACH FIJI ISLANDS

Suva, Fiji Islands, March 18.—(AP)—Eighteen survivors of two ships torpedoed by enemy submarines on December 9, two days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, reached safety today with harrowing tales of how 58 others were killed by shellfire, exposure and starvation.

Only seven persons reached land of the crew and passengers of the Donceel, the other 33 having perished.

There were only eleven survivors of the 34 aboard the tanker Pease.

12 Warships Included In Total

United States and Australian Air Force Credited With Smashing Off New Guinea; Only One Plane Lost.

Washington, March 18.—(AP)—The Navy announced today that a Japanese invasion force concentrated near Salamana and Lae, New Guinea, had been smashed by American and Australian air forces with the sinking or damaging of 23 Japanese vessels including twelve warships.

"The heavy losses inflicted on the enemy by the combined American and Australian forces were accomplished with the loss of but one plane," said Navy communique No. 57.

The same communique, reporting on activities in other areas, disclosed that the American submarine Shark has been overdue in the western Pacific for more than a month and "must be presumed to be lost."

Further, the communique disclosed that the American submarine Sea Lion had been so damaged at Cavite, in the Philippines, as to necessitate her demolition to prevent her use by the enemy in event of capture, and the U. S. destroyer Stewart, a 1,190-ton World War type ship, was demolished at the Dutch Indies base of Soerabaya to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. There were no personal casualties in the cases of the Sea Lion and the Stewart.

In the American-Australian raid on the Jap forces at New Guinea, the Navy reported, ships "son" and "probably sunk," were two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, five transports or cargo ships, one gunboat, one

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ROOSEVELT ASKS \$17,579,311,253 APPROPRIATION

Washington, March 18.—(AP)—President Roosevelt asked Congress today to appropriate \$17,579,311,253 more for the War Department with \$8,515,861,251 of the total going to the Army air corps.

Japs Scoff At Transfer

Propagandists Picture MacArthur's Flight from Bataan.

(Editor's note: President Roosevelt warned yesterday that axis short wave propagandists would try to make capital of General Douglas MacArthur's transfer to Australia by picturing it as abandonment of the Philippines. Following is the first Japanese reaction to the transfer to be broadcast.)

Toyko (From Japanese Broadcasts), March 18.—(AP)—Domei circulated this dispatch today: "Observers, commenting upon (General) MacArthur's abandoning his own forces and fleeing to Australia declared his flight is fatally

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