

# NAZI BATTLE FLEET ESCAPES BRITAIN

# U. S. NAVY BATTERS JAPANESE SHIPS

Devastating Blow  
On Japanese Navy  
Destroys 16 Ships

Thrilling U. S. Raids  
Compensate Well For  
Pearl Harbor Losses  
At Opening Of War

Washington, Feb. 13.—(UP)—United States navy's devastating attack on the Japanese-controlled Marshall and Gilbert Islands, Feb. 11, destroying a 17,000-ton aircraft carrier, four other warships, 11 auxiliary vessels and 41 aircraft, served today to lessen the danger of a second attack on Pearl Harbor and to increase the safety of Allied shipping lanes in the southwest Pacific.

The Japanese, prior to the day's thrilling raids, had used Marshall and Gilbert bases as headquarters for attacks on Wake and perhaps even for submarine assaults on intracoastal shipping along the Pacific coast of the United States. It was considered likely that the bombers which attacked Pearl Harbor Dec. 7 were based on carriers stationed in the Marshall Islands.

The raid on the Japanese islands was announced on Feb. 1, but no ships were available then. Last night in a special communiqué the Japanese announced the results of the attack which heralded the first major offensive by the U. S. fleet in the Pacific.

The announcement of the raid two weeks ago was hailed here as excellent news, but no one had expected that the extent of the damage inflicted on the enemy was as extensive as now revealed.

The navy announced that in addition to the warships and auxiliary craft destroyed, several ships were damaged. Severe damage was done to hangars, ammunition dumps, fuel supplies, industrial buildings and a radio building.

The well-balanced American fighting force of aircraft carriers, battleships and destroyers under the command of vice admiral William Halsey, Jr., traveled more than 500 miles from its Pearl Harbor base. The attacks were centered on the Kwajalein, Wotje, Taraw and Jaluit islands of the Marshall and Makin Island in the Gilbert colony.

The damage inflicted upon the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE)

Canvass For  
Defense Workers

All Homes In County  
May Be Canvassed

The possibility of a house-to-house canvass in the city and country in an effort to enroll each home in civilian defense was raised today, following last night's meeting of the Adams county civilian defense council, held at the high school.

First impetus was given to the program, whereby each home which enrolled 100 percent in civilian defense work would be given a flag to be placed in the residence window.

Members of the county council conducting the canvass pointed to the success of the program in Fort Wayne and other cities, asserting that such a plan would act as a stimulus to civilian defense preparations. Thousands of the stickers are now being displayed in Fort Wayne, they asserted.

State civilian defense regulations regarding the issuance of such stickers are being studied by defense

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

British Forces  
Continue Bitter  
Singapore Fight

Furious Japanese  
Pressure Bearing  
Down On Defenders

London, Feb. 13.—(UP)—British defense forces today were reported fighting with aid of airplanes and warships at two key points on Singapore island about three miles west and north of Singapore city.

Furious Japanese pressure was exerted against the defense forces about Ang Mo Kio village, near the reservoirs three miles north of Singapore city, and at Pasir Panjang, which lies west of the city and on the south coast of the island, a communiqué said.

"Enemy shelling today was frequent against our forward areas and on Singapore town," it added.

"Severe enemy pressure" was maintained on the western front during the last 24 hours and his attack is being supported by increased air and artillery forces," the communiqué reported.

There was no mention of British air action over the island but British planes were said by the Singapore radio to have defeated a Japanese air fleet over the Malayan mainland in an attempt to break up enemy communications.

British warships were reported to have joined in the battle by shelling enemy tanks and troops, presumably on both the island and Johore coast while British heavy artillery still was firing from the island forts.

"The enemy carried out low level and dive bomb attacks in the forward areas and there have been many high level bombing attacks on the town area by large formations of aircraft," the communiqué said.

"Fighting is now taking place about Ang Mo Kio village (Macritchie reservoir) and Pasir Panjang."

Both points are several miles west of Singapore city, indicating that the British still were holding their main position outside the town and on a line that extends from the south central coast through the center of the island to the area of the naval base. This was in contrast to Japanese claims in the last 48 hours that their troops had "entered" Singapore city.

Authoritative quarters awaited anxiously detailed reports from British general headquarters, but it was believed that for the moment the Japanese, despite their savage and ceaseless attacks and frightful casualties, had failed completely to break the imperial line extending through the middle.

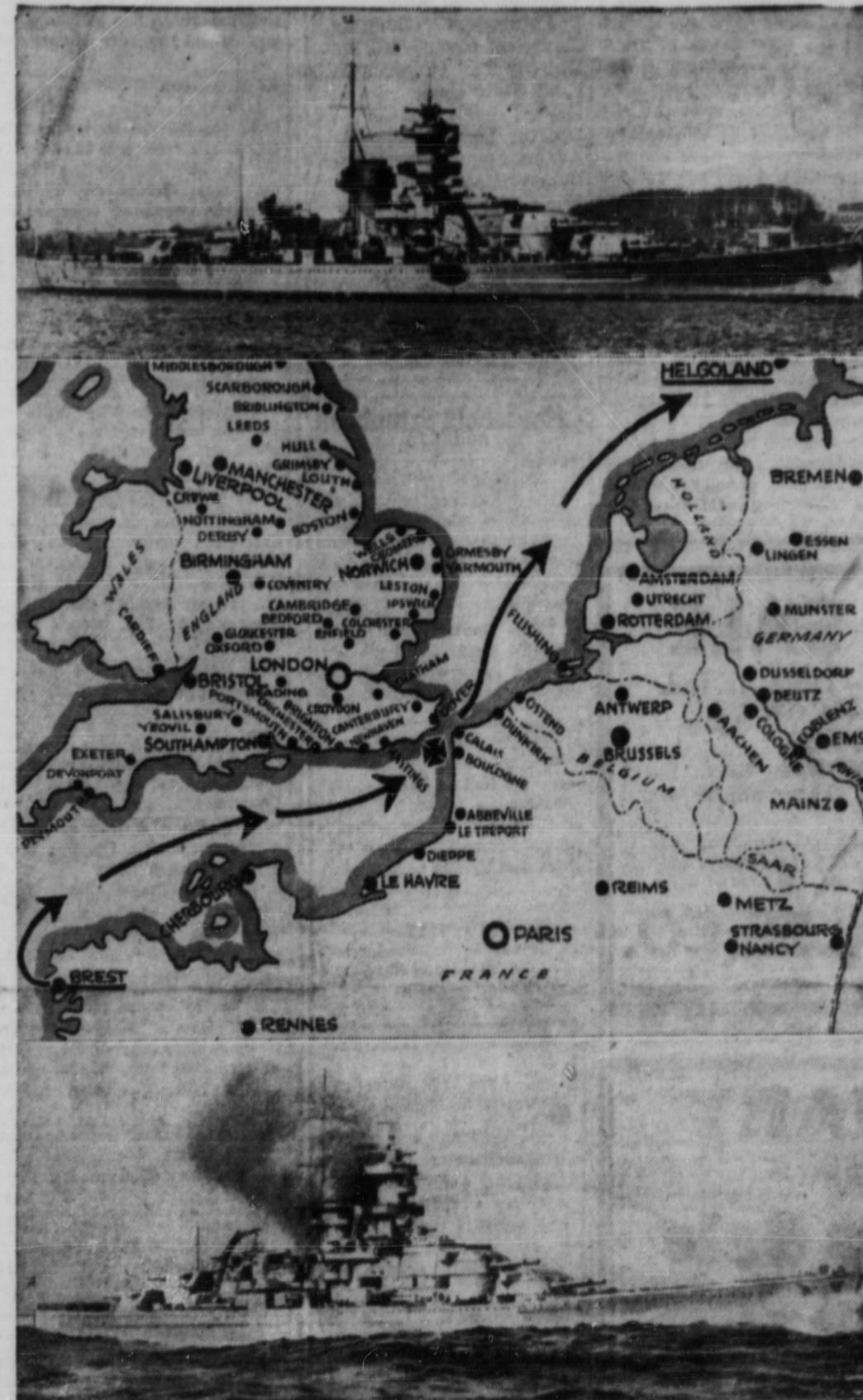
The petition, filed on behalf of gas consumers in Columbia City, Decatur, Bluffton, Huntington, Osian, South Whitley, Preble and Fort Wayne, asked a complete investigation of natural gas and pipeline contracts in the Fort Wayne area. The Northern Indiana Public Service Co., which serves the area with natural gas, buys its gas from the Michigan Gas Transportation Co., which in turn gets its supply from the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline company. The Panhandle concern now holds a controlling interest in Michigan gas transportation.

At the hearing yesterday, D. H. Mitchell, Hammond president of Northern Indiana Public Service Co., testified that reduction in consumer rates probably could be effected if the company could obtain gas from the natural gas field in Ohio. W. L. Finshouser, president of the Central States Development company in the Ohio field, testified the company was prepared to

Tire Board Busy  
Glen Hill, county tire rationing director in his report to the county last night, disclosed that the county tire board was unusually busy due to increased tasks of the board. Freezing of repairing and retreading tires on February 19 and new auto rationing are among the latest tasks as

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

German Battleships Escape In Channel Blitz



The 26,000-ton battleships Gneisenau (top) and Scharnhorst (bottom) figured in the fiercest channel fighting since the evacuation of Dunkirk when they attempted to pass through the Strait of Dover under a heavy aerial escort in a dash from Brest, France, where they had been bottled up for almost a year. The cross on map indicates where the main assault occurred. Arrows point to Helgoland Bight where the ships succeeded in heading after downing 42 British aircraft, biggest single loss of any naval-air encounter of the war.

See Possibility Of  
Reduced Gas Rates

Petition Hearing  
Is Held Thursday

Fort Wayne, Feb. 13.—(UP)—Examiner Edwin B. Marsh, of the federal power commission, at the close of a hearing here yesterday on a petition by the Indiana Public Service Commission, set March 5 as the date for filing principal briefs and March 16 for reply briefs.

The petition, filed on behalf of gas consumers in Columbia City, Decatur, Bluffton, Huntington, Osian, South Whitley, Preble and Fort Wayne, asked a complete investigation of natural gas and pipeline contracts in the Fort Wayne area.

The Northern Indiana Public Service Co., which serves the area with natural gas, buys its gas from the Michigan Gas Transportation Co., which in turn gets its supply from the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline company. The Panhandle concern now holds a controlling interest in Michigan gas transportation.

At the hearing yesterday, D. H. Mitchell, Hammond president of Northern Indiana Public Service Co., testified that reduction in consumer rates probably could be effected if the company could obtain gas from the natural gas field in Ohio. W. L. Finshouser, president of the Central States Development company in the Ohio field, testified the company was prepared to

New Registrants  
Fill Out Blanks

The Adams county draft board has requested that all men between 20 and 44 years of age, who have not previously registered for selective service, fill out the blank found on page four of tonight's Daily Democrat and bring this blank with them Monday when they register at the Legion home. All information is to be printed in a clearly legible manner. The blank is to be presented to the registrar on Monday. From this blank the registrar will fill out the official registration card and then hand it back to the registrant for his signature after he has ascertained that all information has been correctly transferred.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

Raid On Japanese Far More  
Damaging Than Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Feb. 13.—(UP)—Comparative damage done by the American raid on the Marshall and Gilbert islands and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor:

Japanese losses: Fifteen to 17 ships known to have been sunk or destroyed, including a modern cruiser and a 17,000-ton liner.

Five to eight ships beached or heavily damaged and possibly sunken.

Thirty-eight planes known to have been destroyed and an undetermined number of others probably destroyed.

Five hangars destroyed. Four airfields damaged. Four radio stations destroyed. Three fuel and gasoline storage places set afire.

Two munitions dumps set afire. An undetermined amount of coast artillery silenced.

One administration building destroyed.

One living quarters area set afire.

One compound of six buildings destroyed.

One parking area bombed.

American losses on the Marshall and Gilbert islands raids were 11 planes, one ship damaged by a light bomb hit and one ship superficially damaged.

American losses at Pearl Harbor:

Battleship Arizona and destroyers Cassin, Shaw and Downes destroyed.

Target ship Utah destroyed.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

Successful Dash Of Powerful  
German Fleet Through Dover  
Strait Hard Blow To Allies

Radio Industry  
Told To Convert  
To Defense Jobs

Facilities Ordered  
To Be Converted To  
War In Four Months

Washington, Feb. 13.—(UP)—The war production board today ordered all radio manufacturers to convert their facilities to war production within four months.

R. R. Guthrie, assistant chief of the WPB bureau of industry branches, told 55 radio set manufacturers that if they have not converted within "three or four months from now," the government might have to break up their plant, equipment, labor and management, and shift them "to other parts of the economy where they could be mobilized for war production."

Guthrie said it is expected that a major part of the conversion will be accomplished by May.

Orders Survey

Washington, Feb. 13.—(UP)—President Roosevelt today directed heads of non-military government agencies to determine at once how many men they can release for war work.

He said that excess personnel must be "effectively channeled" into defense jobs. But he placed on congress the responsibility of eliminating the functions of non-military agencies which may be considered unessential.

Mr. Roosevelt told a press conference he had sent a directive to "survey" every operational activity heads ordering them to it and determine those employees who may be promptly released for employment in other agencies "more directly involved in the war."

Actual elimination of services

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

Plan Registration

Rally For Women

Date Tentatively  
Set For March 12

Preliminary plans for a volunteer registration rally to be held by the women of Adams county in conjunction with civilian defense preparations were announced last night by Mrs. Leonard Saylors, women's division chairman of civilian defense at the regular meeting of the county defense council.

The rally will likely be held at the Decatur Catholic high school auditorium and the date has been tentatively set for March 12.

At least one or two prominent defense leaders and club women of the state will headline a brief speaking program preceding the actual registration, under the plans now being formulated for the meeting.

All women attending the rally will be asked to volunteer for civilian defense registration.

Kind of work which they desire doing in aiding the defense set-up is to be designated by each lady.

Mrs. Schwartz Named

Mrs. C. W. R. Schwartz of Monroe was named last night by director V. J. Bormann as nutrition chairman of the county civilian defense. This phase of civilian defense is one of several being delegated to the women's division.

American losses at Pearl Harbor:

Battleship Arizona and destroyers Cassin, Shaw and Downes destroyed.

Target ship Utah destroyed.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

Scrap, Waste Drive  
Is Set For Feb. 23

Rangoon, Burma, Feb. 13.—(UP)—British army headquarters reported tonight that a new and heavy battle is raging in the critical Pa-An sector of the Salween river front and that the situation is obscure.

The new battle is being fought in the area where yesterday the army reported Japanese forces had been badly defeated and put to flight by British troops which inflicted heavy casualties on the invaders.

A meeting of committeemen from the six northern townships is to be held in the Lincoln school tonight to discuss plans for the drive, while a meeting will be held Monday night for those from the southern half of the county.

Farmers are to be asked to state when and where they can deliver scrap materials and how much they will have. This will be sold to dealers at prices ceiling by the federal government.

A similar plan will likely be followed in this city. The program will be furthered next Wednesday night at the meeting of the city civilian defense council.

Endorsements of the county health nurse program reported to the council last night included those from the Union Chapel church ladies aid and the Psi Iota Xi sorority.

WEATHER

Little change in temperature this afternoon and tonight, except not so cold in extreme northwest portion tonight.