

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)—The United States navy's devastating attack on the Japanese-controlled Marshall and Gilbert islands today destroyed a 17,000-ton aircraft carrier, four other warships, 11 auxiliary vessels and 41 merchant ships, serving today to lessen the danger of a second attack on Pearl Harbor and to increase the security of Allied shipping lanes in the southwest Pacific.

The Japanese, prior to the U. S. attack, had used the Marshall and Gilbert islands as bases for attacks on Wake Island and perhaps even for submarine assaults on 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 at the Marshall islands.

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

The announcement of the raid a week 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, cruisers and destroyers under the command of vice admiral William Halsey, Jr., traveled more than 100 miles from its Pearl Harbor base. The attacks were centered on Roi, Kwajalein, Wotje, Tarawa and Jaluit islands of the Marshall group and Makin island in the Gilbert colony.

The damage inflicted upon the Japanese fleet was as follows:

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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 communique 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 communique 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 communique 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 of the island.

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Plan Canvass For Defense Workers

All Homes In County May Be Canvassed

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

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

Tire Board Busy

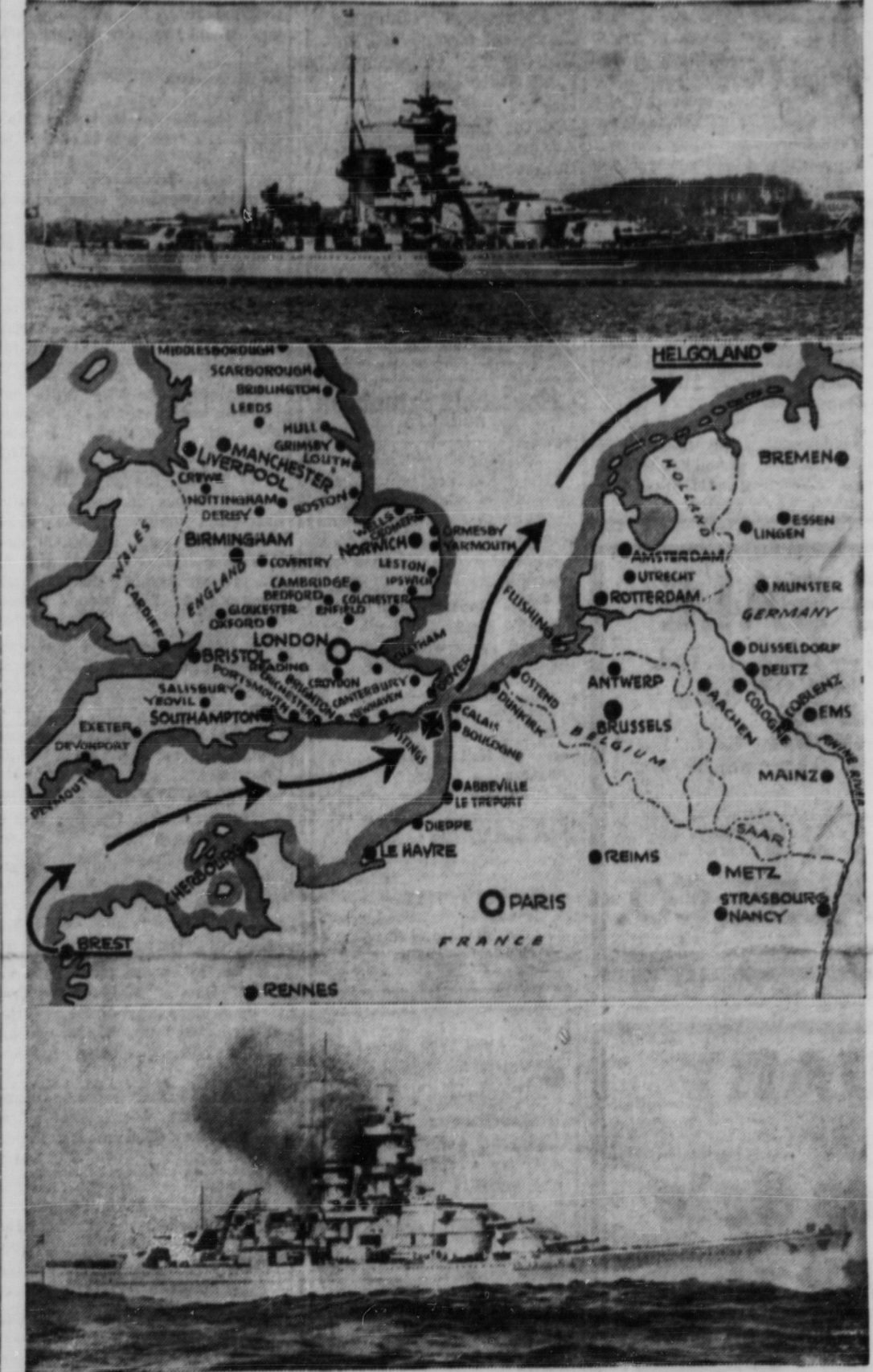
Glenn Hill, county tire rationing director in his report to the council last night, disclosed that the county tire board was unusually busy, due greatly to increased tasks from the board. Freezing of repairing and retreading tires on January 19 and new auto rationing are among the latest tasks assigned.

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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.

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 Heligoland 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, Oshtemo, 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. Finhouse, president of the Central States Development company in the Ohio field, testified the company was prepared to

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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 sunk.

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 super-ficially damaged.

American losses at Pearl Harbor:

Battleship Arizona and destroyers Cassin, Shaw and Downes destroyed.

Target ship Utah destroyed.

Mine layer Oclala, destroyed.

Battleship Oklahoma capsized, but can be repaired.

"Intensive damage to the army's land-based planes" and "some damage" to hangars.

(The navy said Japanese losses at Pearl Harbor were three submarines and 11 aircraft.)

Green's Condition Reported Unchanged

Practically no change was reported by hospital attaches in the condition of Lawrence Green, local highway worker who was seriously hurt in an auto-train crash on February 1. His condition remains critical, it was reported.

Liquid Air Uses Shown Students

The students of the Decatur junior-senior high school witnessed an unusual and scientific demonstration of liquid air uses this afternoon, presented by Elliot James. Guests were the Decatur Catholic school students. Principal W. Guy Brown was in charge.

Special Meeting Of Red Men This Evening

There will be a special meeting of Red Men at the lodge hall tonight at 7:30. All members are requested to be present.

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 ity and determine those employees who may be promptly released for employment in other agencies "more directly involved in the war."

Actual elimination of services

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Japanese Renew Patrol Activity On Bataan Front

Fighting Increases In Effort To Soften MacArthur Defenders

Washington, Feb. 13.—(UP)—Aggressive Japanese patrol action against Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces on Bataan, peninsula was reported to the war department today during which two enemy dive bombers were downed by our anti-aircraft batteries.

A war department communique on the military situation in the Philippines as of 9:30 A. M. EWT reported the increase in fighting on the Peninsula during the past 24 hours after a lull of several days.

The communique said that during active Japanese dive bomber assaults enemy pilots mistakenly bombed and machine gunned their own infantry with casualties.

"The victims of the erroneous attack were elements of the 122nd Japanese regiment of Gen. Akira Nara's 65th division," the communique said.

As in previous communique, the exact position of the fighting was not given. The resumption of dive bombing and patrol actions by the Japanese was construed as part of the program to "soften up" MacArthur's outnumbered forces in a determined campaign to wear them

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Strong Force Of Nazi Vessels Escapes Rain Of British Attacks To Reach Safety

London, Feb. 13.—(UP)—British pilots officially reported today that three or four torpedoes struck home against the German battle fleet that escaped homeward through the Dover Strait and that a big explosion was seen around one of the 26,000-ton enemy battle ships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. British aircraft and warships still searched the North Sea for crippled enemy vessels, but naval sources acknowledged that the greater part of the squadron must have reached the safety of Emden, on the German coast or a Heligoland bay port.

The successful dash of the strong enemy warship force from Brest through the Dover Strait despite a five-hour British air and sea attack touched off a blast of criticism of the cabinet of Prime Minister Winston Churchill and raised the threat that powerful German surface raiders might soon be turned loose again to strike at allied shipping.

The surprise dash for safety largely was successful and may be of tremendous importance in the struggle for sea power in both the Atlantic and Pacific, but British pilots expressed confidence they had struck damaging blows.

"The pilots of one of the squadrons escorting our torpedo bombers reported seeing what appeared to be torpedoes striking one of the battleships and saw an explosion around the ship," the air ministry announced.

"The coastal command Beaufort squadrons claimed three torpedo hits."

The statement did not specify what ships the Beauforts hit but it did tell of direct hits with 250-pound bombs on a 500-ton enemy ship which broke in two and sank and a smaller ship which was left afloat.

The German 10,000-ton cruiser Prinz Eugen and other strong air and sea escort forces protected the enemy battleships during their dash through the channel at a time when poor visibility interfered seriously with the British attack.

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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 Saylor, 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.

Victory gardens, first aid and other activities are also being planned by Mrs. Saylor and her city and township chairmen.

Scrap, Waste Drive Is Set For Feb. 23

County-Wide Cleanup Will Be Conducted

A city and county-wide cleanup is to be conducted February 23 for the purpose of gathering all scrap metal materials and cleaning out waste materials.

Plans for the county drive have been underway for several days under the guidance of L. E. Archbold, county agricultural agent and co-ordinator of farm groups.

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 ceilinged 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 Chi Xi sorority.

TEMPERATURE READING DEMOCRAT THERMOMETER	
8:00 a. m.	14
10:00 a. m.	21
Noon	28
2:00 p. m.	35
3:00 p. m.	36
WEATHER	
Little change in temperature this afternoon and tonight, except not so cold in extreme northwest portion tonight.	