

## Two Attacking B-29's Downed By Jap Planes

### Japanese Fighters In First Effort To Oppose Superforts

Washington, Nov. 22 — (UP) — Two B-29's were shot down by Japanese fighters during yesterday's attack on Omura in the largest air battle in which the fortresses have been engaged by the 20th air force today.

A communiqué added that these losses are the first due to enemy fighter interception since the inauguration of the 20th bomber command in June 15, 1944."

A third superfortress was reported missing "under circumstances which lead to the presumption that it is lost," the communiqué

said that none of the B-29's

had been shot down by enemy action at the secondary targets of Nanking and Hanoi in yesterday's raid.

The returning planes reported they destroyed 20 Japanese fighter planes, with 19 probably destroyed and 22 others damaged.

The communiqué deflated Japanese radio assertions that 63 of the American bombers had been shot down or damaged against a loss of six Japanese fighters.

It marked the first time that Japanese fighters in strength had come within range of the heavily-armed superfortresses, an indication that damage already

inflicted by American bombs and the threat of increasingly-heavy attacks on Japan proper had forced the enemy command to risk a dwindling air strength in an attempt to turn back the bombers.

The losses mentioned in the American and Japanese communiques raised the possibility that several hundred planes were involved in the air battle. Tokyo had 70 to 80 superfortresses were involved.

The latest Japanese communiqué asserted that 30 superfortresses, including 12 probables, had been shot down. Twenty-six were said to have been downed over Formosa, where they bombed the aircraft works, and the other four over Anhwei and Honan Province. Twenty-four were listed as damaged over Kyushu and nine over China.

A war department communiqué yesterday placed Japanese casualties at 20 planes shot down, 16 probably shot down and 19 damaged. The Japanese acknowledged the loss of four planes over Formosa and two over China.

In addition to Omura, the superfortresses also attacked docks at Nagoya and military storage and supply facilities at Shang-

hong. To Page 2, Column 4

## U. S. Bombers Hit Two More Jap Warships

### Jap Resistance In Limon Pocket Near To Breaking Point

Allied Headquarters, Philippines, Nov. 22 — (UP) — American Liberators scored damaging hits on two more Japanese warships, one of them a light cruiser, in a pre-dawn attack Sunday on the naval base at Brunei bay, Borneo, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

He also disclosed that Manila and the remainder of the Philippines had been brought within range of his land-based bombers for intensified raids through the use of expanded airfields on Leyte, refueling bases Heretofore, only carrier-based planes have been able to reach Manila, capital and main enemy stronghold in the Philippines.

Though he has announced no land-based attacks on Manila, MacArthur said Liberators from southern bases had refueled at Leyte over the weekend before going on to raid targets on Cebu, Mindanao and elsewhere in the central Philippines.

On the fighting front, Japanese resistance in the Limon pocket in northwest Leyte appeared near the breaking point, but the enemy was preparing a strong new defense line along the Leyte river to the southeast.

The bombing raid on Brunei bay was the third within a little more than three days. Earlier raiders scored direct hits on a battleship, a heavy cruiser and a destroyer.

A spokesman for MacArthur said the Japanese had a large concentration of shipping at Brunei, which they had been using as a stopover point on the north-south run between Japan proper and her

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