

## TWO MORE JAP SHIPS DAMAGED

Luzon Invasion Area Is Pounded Fiercely by U. S. Fliers.

(Continued on Page Two)

Bombing technique was deteriorating and in raids yesterday many sticks of bombs were discharged harmlessly into the sea and Manila Bay.

### Express Confidence

A review of the first week of the war by U. S. headquarters in the Far East, announcing the situation well in hand, added to the atmosphere of confidence.

"The situation both on the ground and in the air was well in hand as the first week of operations came to a close," the communique said.

"The resume of operations last week follows:

"The enemy carried out 14 major air raids on military objectives in the Philippines but paid dearly in loss of transports, planes and troops.

"At least two battleships were badly damaged as the result of the action of our air and ground forces.

"An enemy landing was attempted in the Lingayan area but was repulsed by a Philippine army division.

"The enemy effected unopposed landings in limited numbers in the Vigan, Legaspi and Aparri areas but there is only local activity in those areas. Enemy naval units, troops and material on the ground were bombed effectively in the Vigan and Aparri areas, hampering landing operations.

"Four enemy transports are known to have been sunk and three others seriously damaged by our air force in northern Luzon.

"Individual deeds of heroism and bravery on the part of American and Filipino ground troops and air units marked the week's operations and accounted for the destruction of 11 enemy planes in the air and on the ground Thursday.

### Morale Is Splendid

"The total enemy air losses from all causes during the week are not less than 40 actually accounted for and probably many more which could not be verified. As no reports have come in it is assumed that casualties and property damage have been negligible.

"Gen. MacArthur (Lieut. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander-in-chief) has expressed favorable comment upon the splendid morale which exists not only throughout the military forces but throughout the entire population, he states."

## Pacific Air Scout



Admiral Walter S. Anderson is commander of the Scouting Fleet in the Pacific, whose job it is to scout for and detect an enemy approaching. It is believed he was on duty when the Japanese struck.

## STATE SALUTES ITS FIRST HERO OF WAR

FT. WAYNE, Ind., Dec. 15 (U. P.).—Indiana today saluted its first hero of World War II, Lieut. Lewis M. Sanders.

He was one of six fliers cited this week-end for bravery during the attack on Oahu last Sunday. The special War Department communique said:

"First Lieut. Lewis M. Sanders, of Ft. Wayne, flying at an altitude of about 3000 feet, saw a dog fight between an American and a Japanese plane. As he banked to join the fight, he saw the American plane go down in flames. He immediately engaged the Japanese plane in furious battle and shot it down."

Lieut. Sanders, 34, formerly was employed in an Elkhart factory. He spent week-ends in Indianapolis learning to pilot a plane and in 1937 was awarded a commission in the Army Air Corps Reserve.

He later moved to Ft. Wayne, where he was employed by Standard Oil Co. In 1938, he was called to active duty at Selfridge Field, Mich., and later at Randolph Field, Tex.

His wife, Madge, is serving as an ambulance driver in Hawaii. His father, Charles Sanders, lives at Bristol, Ind., and his mother, Mrs. Fred Rapp, resides in Florida.

## JAPAN REPORTS NEW ADVANCES

Claims Philippine Army Barracks Destroyed, Gains in Malaya.

TOKYO, Dec. 15 (U. P.).—(Official Japanese News Agency dispatches recorded by United Press)—Japanese imperial headquarters asserted today that Japanese troops had attacked a United States army headquarters at Tarlac, 70 miles northwest of Manila, and destroyed an army barracks.

The Japanese troops penetrated to Tarlac on the main Lingayen-Manila railroad, after marching 40 miles inland from the West Luzon coast port of Iba, it was asserted.

The communique said that in the Aparri sector on the north side of the island, Japanese planes had shot down a Curtiss plane and said "Japanese troops are overcoming enemy resistance according to plan."

### Take 'Important' Point

In another communique imperial headquarters asserted that Japanese troops had taken an "extremely important" point on the west coast of Malaya and were advancing rapidly.

The Japanese had announced a full scale attack on Hongkong and claimed deep penetrations into Malaya as the imperial diet met for a two-day extraordinary war session to hear speeches by government leaders and to vote a special \$658,000,000 war credit.

Imperial headquarters asserted that on the Singapore front Japanese troops had advanced along the east coast of Malaya to within 155 miles of Singapore after "wiping out" a British armored division and capturing 20 tanks, 60 trucks and 16 anti-tank guns. News papers reported that Japanese forces marching down from the Thailand frontier now had mechanized equipment.

### Raid British Airdromes

A communique said Japanese planes were heavily raiding British airdromes, especially on Penang Island, off the West Malaya coast, and in southern Burma.

It said mass raids had been made on Victoria and Mergui air fields, Burma, and Kuantan air field off the Malay peninsula. It was asserted that two transports had been sunk and one damaged in the Penang attacks.

This communique reported a U. S. submarine sunk Saturday off the Philippines and said that in air-plane attacks on Luzon one American plane had been shot down and 43 destroyed on the ground against a loss of two Japanese planes.

### Bomb Singapore Area

A Japanese airplane attack was reported on Cebu Island, 400 miles southeast of Manila.

Newspapers said Japanese planes were intensively bombing the Singapore area, including the great naval dock, and alleged that the British command had called urgently for reinforcements, especially in planes and tanks, from the Netherlands East Indies.

From Thailand, the Thai command was reported as announcing fierce fighting on the Burma frontier between Japanese and Thailand forces and Burmese and Indian troops who had crossed into Thai in the Chaiengmai district.

### Deny Lexington Sunk

Various dispatches reported that civilians were being evacuated from key areas in Burma and blackouts had been ordered for the Calcutta and Bombay districts.

The Tokyo newspaper Nichi Nichi reported that since fighting started the United States fleet had lost 270,000 tons of ships and the British fleet 80,000, damaged or sunk.

(Tokyo "denied" reports, which previously had been circulated by the Japanese throughout the world, that the United States aircraft carrier Lexington had been sunk. Such reports, and subsequent details, are frequently disseminated by the Axis in hope of eliciting a statement by the navy concerned giving information as to the whereabouts of warships).

Mile by mile, the imperial forces had retreated through the mainland sector of Kowloon under plans made in 1938 by which the great stand was planned to be made in strong trenches on Hongkong island.

Now the British forces were in these trenches, backed by 2000 civilian volunteers.

The front extended along the world famous Hongkong waterfront, facing the mainland across the half-mile strip of heavily mined harbor.

In their present positions, the Empire troops were less vulnerable to flanking attacks and they had better protection from their artillery.

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By LOUIS F. KEEMLE  
United Press War Analyst

## War Moves Today

Hitler's reverses in Russia make it increasingly probable that the main German war effort will be turned elsewhere this winter.

However, as long as Russia adheres to her present intention of hammering at a retreating foe, Hitler will not be able to dig in with a holding force while he transfers the bulk of his offensive power elsewhere. As Maxim Litvinov, the Soviet Ambassador, put it in Washington, Russia does not propose to let Hitler sit down or "hibernate."

Russia's continued offensive against the Germans is therefore of the utmost importance to Britain and the United States in their struggle against Japan as well as Germany, even though Russia has not yet declared war with Japan.

That may come later, if the Red Army is able to inflict a major defeat on Germany. It is to be noted that Litvinov referred to Japan as the "common enemy."

Apparently Russia's plan is to devote her entire effort in the west for the present and throw her weight against Japan later, if all goes well.

Reds Chief Brake on Nazis

The Soviet view, as expressed by Litvinov, is that Hitler after all is Enemy No. 1 of all the Allies and if he is beaten his partners in the "gang" will go down with him.

There has been so far no outward sign that either Britain or the United States are inclined to dispute this view. In fact, London reports that Britain and Russia plan a conference in Moscow to map out common strategy among Britain, Russia, the United States and their allies and to co-ordinate the efforts of all.

Russia, then, stands as the chief brake on Hitler's expected next move in Europe, Africa or the Middle East.

There have been various guesses as to where he will attempt to strike. The most common one is in North Africa through the French colonies to offset the Axis reverses in Libya.

Other Possible Moves

If this is accompanied by requisitioning of the French fleet, increased forays in the Atlantic might be expected, with the object of preventing American reinforcements being sent from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In this connection, some observers see the possibility of a German move through Spain into North and West Africa, Spain, while neutral, is tied in deeply with the Axis.

Another possibility which has been repeatedly discussed and still exists is that Hitler, having been frustrated in southern Russia, may try to find an easier route to the Caucasus and the Middle East through Turkey.

The latter, which has been under German pressure, is plainly uneasy. It may be significant that Turkey has chosen this moment to notify the United States that she intends to remain neutral.

## PASTOR RESIGNS AGAIN OVER WAR

Head of Community Church in New York Says He Cannot Bless It.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (U. P.).—The trustees of the Community Church today held the resignation of John Haynes Holmes as the pastor—the second he has submitted in 25 years because of his pacifist ideals.

They were expected to ignore it, as they did the one he submitted in 1917 when the United States entered the first World War.

He announced his resignation to a congregation of 1200 yesterday, saying he could not use his ministry to "bless, sanction or support war."

The resignation was undated, and he instructed the trustees to accept it at any time.

"I thought through my pacifism more than a quarter of a century ago," he said. "It was tried by fire in the last war. It is in conformity to conscience and obedience to the high counsel of God."

"I will be loyal and obedient to my government, and loyal and obedient to my God; and when these loyalties conflict, I will choose, as did the apostles, to obey God rather than men."

Mr. Holmes, who is president of the American Civil Liberties Union, became minister of the Unitarian Church of the Messiah in 1905. In 1919, it became the Community Church, without sectarian ties.

RED CROSS CHAPTER TO MEET TOMORROW

The 25th annual meeting of the local Chapter of the American Red Cross will be held at 3:30 p. m. tomorrow at the chapter headquarters on the second floor of the Chamber of Commerce Building.

Twelve directors will be elected and annual reports will be given. William Fortune is chairman and Miss Agnes Cruse secretary of the chapter.

## MEASURE FOR DRAFT EXTENSION SPEEDED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (U. P.).—The House Military Affairs Committee today is expected to complete work on a War Department proposal to draft men 19 to 45 years old for military service.

The measure would require the registration of all men between the ages of 18 and 64 to classify their abilities for work essential to the war effort.

Some objection to registering men below 21 years for military service has risen among committee members while others believe that registration of men over 45 for non-military duty is unnecessary. However, it was believed the measure would be approved in substantially the form recommended by the War Department.

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