

Week of Torture Ends for 7 at Sea

Navy Men Rescued From Disabled Plane Tell
How Albatross Hovered Over Them.

(Continued from Page One)

half days before we could get a message out.

"We had only three-quarters of a can of food daily for each man and the labels had been washed off, so we never knew what we were getting. We rigged a salt-water condenser from a glass windshield wiper and were able to get enough fresh water for one swallow each. The most we got was three-quarters of a pint of water, and that was on a good day.

"The impact of landing smashed a large hole in our port hull and our clothes, gear and much of our apparatus were washed out. We expected the plane to sink any minute so we prepared our rubber rafts and ourselves for getting away. Two of the men had to bail all the time. We plugged the rivet holes with pencils and that helped keep the leaks down.

"A heavy wind was blowing all the time and we were being sent through the water fast enough to make a white wake. We drifted for 400 miles or more before we were picked up on the night of Jan. 17. Our plane was in such a broken and damaged condition that we had to patch it with wire, and even then the sides bulged and bent with every canon."

Albatross Keeps Vigil

From a stance on the port engine of their half-sunken plane, an albatross fixed a beady eye on the men. Hour after hour he perched there, dispassionately watching their fight against the death they knew would come if they could not patch up their broken, water-soaked craft. Never once shifting its position, never once taking its eye from them, the great bird immortalized by "The Ancient Mariner" rode the wildly pitching wreck. To the seven, his presence was like an evil spirit foretelling an inevitable destiny.

As they bailed with never a halt, racked their brains to contrive some way to repair the radio and stood by ready for instant escape from their broken plane, the Navy fliers found enough breath to recount bits of poems. It helped to lighten their plight and their realization that nothing short of a miracle would ever bring rescue before they died from thirst and hunger, or disappeared under the seas.

"Water, water everywhere and only one sip a day to drink," they paraphrased trying to laugh a little

at the pathetic trickle of fresh water from their condenser.

"No painted ship upon a painted ocean—this one" they joked as the plane was endlessly pounded and tossed by the great combers. And always the albatross spied upon them, his cold, terrible eyes following them as they rode the plane's wings like monkeys or bronco fighters in a struggle to set up a transmitting set there.

By the end of the first day they had revised the ancient symbol of the albatross and made it into an omen of good fortune. Before he flew away the end of the second day and gave his place to another of the same species, the albatross had become their mascot.

Each morning, when the terrible sun turned the bitter chill night into a torrid blast furnace, all seven stopped bailing or repairing long enough to offer prayers. Some on the wings, some inside, waist-deep in the water of the compartment they knelt or bowed and prayed—each in his own way.

Recall Bedside Prayers

Beside prayers half-remembered came to their lips. The voice of mother's prayers of their childhood returned.

"... Our Father Who art in Heaven... The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

"We all feel it was just faith that pulled us through," said Lieut. Sutherland. Official word of the rescue was released here yesterday noon. The men had landed at Balboa Tuesday and were taken to Coco Solo for the night. They will be given extra leave—and then they will be back in the air again, flying over the same area that nearly became their grave.

Refused to Be Downhearted

Ensign Lahodney recalled some of their lighter moments as the crew struggled to keep up their spirits while the hole in the plane's side hourly grew larger.

"After about four days we were ready to settle for a nice job in the salt mines of Siberia," he said. "We talked of what we would have to eat when picked up and then when we were rescued all we wanted was water and coffee. We took an oath never again to pass a drinking fountain anywhere without taking a drink—if we got saved."

War Moves Today— RUSS DISPELL NAZI FICTION

German Withdrawal Not
Orderly as Claimed,
But a Retreat.

(Continued from Page One)

It seems that a large German army, estimated at about 100,000 men, is in serious danger in the Mzhaisk-Borodino area. Two Russian pincer arms are closing in from Rzhev on the north and Orel on the south, threatening to meet behind the retreating Germans, while their center smashes directly towards Smolensk.

The mystery of why the Mzhaisk bulge in the German line, so close to the capital, stood for weeks while the Russians were making notable advances in other sectors, has been cleared up.

The Russians allowed it to stand while they perfected their flanking operations to the north and south. They were shooting for bigger game than a mere German retreat. They sought to pocket and trap a formidable enemy force, and ensuring days will show whether they succeeded.

Nazis Not Yet Beaten

It is impossible to predict how far the German retreat will be carried but it seems increasingly probable, as previously predicted, that it will fall back to the line of the Dnieper. The Russians, flushed with success, are even talking of driving the Germans entirely off Russian soil. Even with the bitter winter weather in favor of the Russians, this would be a feat which few military observers would care to bet on. Hitler's powerful army has suffered a serious reverse, but it is not yet beaten.

3 DIE IN TRAIN-AUTO CRASH NEAR INGALLS

Times Special

ANDERSON, Ind., Jan. 22.—The death toll in a railroad crossing accident near Ingalls late last night mounted to three today when Harry Roland, 15, of Greenfield, died in St. John's Hospital here.

His brother, Russell, 17, driver of the auto that was struck by a Big Four passenger train, and Miss Bonnie Smith, 16, also of Greenfield, were killed outright.

Miss Virginia Wiggins, 15, also of Greenfield, was in critical condition today at the hospital. Another Roland youth, Robert, 21, suffered minor injuries.

Falls 8 Floors



Chicago police today were investigating the death of Dorothy Sullivan, 27, (above), who fell eight floors to her death, her clothes aflame. Miss Sullivan was to testify in a narcotics case.

200,000 JAPS ATTACK LUZON

Fierce Attempt to Blast
McArthur Off Bataan
Is Made.

(Continued from Page One)

South from the secondary naval base at Olongapo toward Moron and Bagac on the western Bataan shores while other Japanese forces seek to crash the strong mountainous positions held by MacArthur across the waist of the narrow Bataan peninsula.

Plans MacArthur Tap

Success of these drives would put the Japanese behind Gen. MacArthur's very strong eastern Bataan positions and might well force him to withdraw to Corregidor fortress in order to avoid being cut off from his communications port of Mariveles.

It was evident that the small American and Filipino group—despite Gen. MacArthur's astute generalship—could not continue to battle indefinitely against such vast and growing odds.

The exact size of the Japanese attacking force was not revealed. However, the communique reported that the entire 14th Japanese army under Gen. Homma, bolstered by a number of other units and the constantly arriving reinforcements, is engaged in the attack.

Outnumbered 10 to 1

A Japanese army is believed to comprise up to 12 divisions of about 15,000 men each. This would constitute a force of 180,000 and with reinforcements and other troop units it was believed that the Japanese assault troops may well number as high as 300,000.

The size of MacArthur's force is not known but it was evident that he is outnumbered by something greater than 10 to 1 although it is probable that not all the Japanese troops are actually engaged on the narrow Bataan front.

Seek to Trap Defenders

The Japanese attack was only lightly supported by aircraft, the communique said, but an attack by 17 Japanese bombers on the city of Cebu, principal city of a centrally located Philippines island of the same name, was revealed.

American military circles described Gen. Homma as a very able commander. At 54 he has a long record of important assignments, many of which have brought him into close contact with the western world.

He has long served on the Japanese general staff and four years ago headed the "second bureau" of the staff—a section roughly like the G-2 section of the U. S. general staff, the intelligence section.

He has a good command of English and acted as public relations officer of the Japanese war office early in the 1930's. He was the Japanese army representative at the Geneva Disarmament Conference in 1931 and accompanied Prince Chichibu, brother of Emperor Hirohito, on his trip to London in 1937.

FIRE ON 8TH FLOOR OF LINCOLN HOTEL

A cigaret, apparently dropped on a bed, caused a fire that destroyed the mattresses of twin beds in Room 827 at the Lincoln Hotel today.

The room was occupied by David Hughes of Chicago. Mr. Hughes notified a hotel watchman when he discovered the fire at 1:30 a. m. Firemen under Battalion Chief Charles Gregory threw the smoldering mattresses out of a window, dropping them to the Kentucky Ave. side of the hotel. Hotel employees emptied three fire extinguishers on the burning beds and firemen emptied three more.

Chief Gregory praised the employees for telling guests in rooms opening on the smoke-filled hall to open their windows and to keep calm.

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JAPAN THRUSTS NEAR AUSTRALIA

Fleet Near New Britain;
British Planes Smash
Foe in Malaya.

(Continued from Page One)

defense forces in the Philippines, where the entire Japanese 14th Army was on Luzon island, with heavy fighting in progress along the American defense lines on Bataan peninsula.

Stubborn Fight in Burma

In Malaya, the Japanese apparently were meeting stronger resistance and British forces were fighting stubbornly in Burma, where enemy spearheads were pushed through the mountains toward Moulmein in an effort to strike at the Burma Road supply line to China.

Japanese invasion troops reeled back from a mass British imperial ambush on the eastern Malaya front as rocket-fast Hurricane fighter planes, freshly thrown into action over Singapore, shot down five Japanese bombing planes and damaged one fighter in smashing a fresh attack on the city.

A terrific blast of gun fire from all over Singapore island met a second wave of Japanese planes, estimated to number at least 30, and drove them off before they could drop more than a few of their bombs.

Leave Trail of Death

A strong attacking force of British bombing and fighting planes, in possibly their biggest attack of the war, wreaked devastation on Japanese transport, trucks and staff cars, on the areas behind the Japanese lines.

The bombers left a trail of wrecked vehicles behind them and racing fighters, following up the attack, swept down and raked the roads with machine gun fire. A communique issued by British General Headquarters in Singapore revealed the mass ambush on the east coast of Johore Sultanate and the smashing of the airplane attack on Singapore by the Hurricanes, which had moved down German attacking craft in the Battle for Britain and now had arrived in Malaya to challenge the enemy.

Crisis Point Is Near

The Japanese had pushed down the east coast from the Endau area, 75 miles above Singapore. Strong imperial forces, perfectly camouflaged, awaited the enemy in the area north of Mersing, which is 64 miles above the strait which separates Singapore Island from the mainland.

As the Japanese approached, the imperial troops, adopting the tactics which the Australians had used against the Japanese on the western front, aimed their guns at point blank range and poured bullets and shells into the attackers.

On the western Malaya front the Australians were reported unofficially to be fighting heavily against the Japanese in a battle which meant that the crisis point was approaching.

Heavy Jap Losses

Dispatches asserted that the Japanese were suffering frightful casualties but continued persistently their attempts to cut inland toward the main railroad and highway leading down to the southern tip of the peninsula.

These developments aroused speculation as to whether sufficient Allied reinforcements, especially airplanes, had arrived to hold the enemy back over a long period and permit a general counter-offensive. The Japanese apparently continued to hold superiority in all branches of war weapons.

The London press, however, reported that Allied warships were operating off the Malaya west coast, blasting at Japanese lines and breaking up new landing parties.

Northward, in Burma, the Japanese appeared to have enlisted Thailand troops in a new thrust designed to endanger the Burma Road supply line to China.

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600,000 Troops Moved West; Pacific Defense Bolstered

(Continued from Page One)

erations in the Far East and agreed not to fortify the Philippines or other far Pacific outpost, in return for Japan's agreement to respect the integrity of China, and other concessions.

He charged that the Japanese, violating their pledges, immediately began fortifying their mandated islands, invaded Manchuria in 1931, China proper in 1937 and then went into the southwest Pacific and Indo-China.

He said that the purpose of the conference thus had failed with the consequence that the United States was at a disadvantage in the Philippines and the Pacific.

The Japanese had a great advantage because of the surprise of their attack, the size of their Navy and their proximity to the scene where they struck without warning.

He said the one thing that played into our hands to balance that situation was that he United States was just getting into full production of big bombers. As the situation grew more acute last summer, the Army

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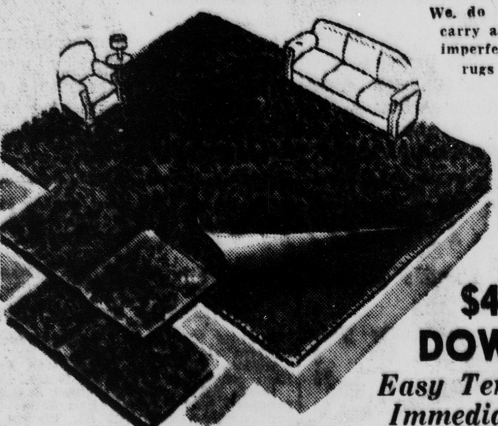
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