

SINGAPORE FIGHTS TO 'LAST DITCH'

Japs Reported at Approaches to City as Women and Children Are Evacuated by Naval Units; Fierce Battle Goes On.

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was not true that the strait causeway to Johore had been repaired and that the Japanese were using it.

The loss of Singapore will be a blow to the united nations comparable to the defeat of France in the early stages of the European conflict.

Singapore was at one time the hub of what has become the allied defense line in the Far East. The British spent some \$400,000,000 on the Singapore naval base on the north shore of the island.

On other Far Eastern fronts the Japanese offensive continued slow but steady gains.

Break Up Raid on Java

In Burma, the British acknowledged that enemy forces had crossed the Salween River and it was reported that they had taken the town of Martaban, about 160 miles by railroad from Rangoon. Official sources in London said, however, that they had no confirmation that large enemy units had been able to break through the Salween barrier.

Severe fighting was reported in progress north of Martaban, a key defensive point on the Gulf of Martaban.

Drop Bombs on New Guinea

In the Dutch East Indies, the Netherlands air forces intercepted and broke up two enemy attacks on the big naval base at Soerabaja.

Japanese forces on Celebes and Borneo island rapidly were gaining control of the southern coastlines in preparation for a direct thrust at Java, base of the united nation's supreme command.

Enemy seizure of Macassar, Bandjermasin, Balangnipa and Djene-ponto was either complete or imminent, dispatches said.

Four-engine Japanese flying boats dropped bombs early today on the city of Salamaua on the Huron

gulf in New Guinea, 425 miles from the Australian mainland.

Japanese planes also bombed the New Guinea island of Samarai.

In Australia, War Minister F. M. Forde, announcing a new mobilization of manpower for Australia's defense, said today the war position had become so serious that "everything must be subordinated to the safety of the nation."

The additional mobilization, ordered by the war cabinet last night, will involve single men between the ages of 35 and 45 and married men between 18 and 35. Mr. Forde said these groups were "largely untouched" by previous conscriptions.

On other fronts, there was no important change.

In Russia, the Red Army continued its attacks, putting tremendous pressure on the encircled city of Rshew, northwest of Moscow, and breaking through some sections of the German defense lines at Kharkov.

Little Change in Libya

The recapture of about 25 more towns was reported in Russian dispatches despite the arrival of fresh German troops on the most important sectors.

In Libya, there was little change in the desert fighting west of Tobruk. The Axis reported that a British attack east of the communications center of Mekili, 100 miles east of Benghazi, had been repulsed.

The Germans said their bombers had damaged a British light cruiser.

Off the American coast, according to claims in the British propaganda broadcast, German submarines have now sunk a total of 61 ships.

BARBARA BENNETT WEDS

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 11 (U. P.).—Barbara Bennett, sister of actresses Joan and Constance Bennett and former wife of singer Morton Downey, disclosed today she was married last June to Addison Randall, cowboy film actor.

CONTINUE DIES PROBE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (U. P.).—The House Rules Committee today voted to continue the Dies investigation into American activities investigation for another year.

New Naval Chief



Vice Admiral C. E. L. Helfrich... new commander of naval forces in Far East.

HART ILL, QUILTS POST IN PACIFIC

Dutch Admiral Replaces American as Chief of Far East Fleet.

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relinquishing of his command, said the Japanese were pouring reinforcements into the battle lines of Bataan Peninsula for a probable early resumption of their big offensive.

The "savage fighting" of the last few days and the Japanese smashing aerial bombings of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's lines lessened appreciably overnight, the communication said.

Knock Out Jap Planes

Gen. MacArthur in his latest report described in detail "one of the most spectacular" air battles of the 66-day-old Philippine struggle, waged Monday over the Japanese-held Cavite region where six Japanese planes were destroyed by American P-40 pursuit fighters.

One of the American planes is missing.

The Navy's announcement of the retirement of Admiral Hart—director of the dramatic four-day battle of Macassar Straits that began on Jan. 27 does not mean that Admiral Hart is retiring from the U. S. naval service, although he passed the usual retirement age last year, a spokesman said.

The Navy also said that Admiral Hart actually had been exercising the United command in the A-B-D-A area since Jan. 17, although the formal Navy announcement of his command was issued only last Saturday.

Born in Java

The senior American admiral now in the Far East is Vice Admiral William A. Glassford Jr., commander of the U. S. naval forces, Southwest Pacific. These forces formerly constituted the U. S. Asiatic fleet and were under Admiral Hart's command until he became the supreme commander of all the Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific.

Admiral Glassford will operate under Vice Admiral Helfrich, who is also the supreme commander of the Netherlands East Indian Navy.

The 55-year-old Helfrich, who has spent most of his life in command of Dutch naval forces in the Far East, was named commander of the East Indies Navy—a small but fiercely effective fleet—in January, 1940, after the fall of Holland.

Sponsor Dinner, Supper — The Women's Aid Society of St. Mark's English Lutheran Church will sponsor a dinner and supper tomorrow at the church. Mrs. Charles P. Frazier will be in charge. Dinner will be served from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. and supper will be served from 5 to 7 p. m.

Wilson May Urge Parasite Cards for Tardy Girl Clerks

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proposing a curfew for women workers—so they could get up and get to work of a morning.

"That," he admitted, "was an honorary curfew. Naturally, nobody is going around ringing any bells. It served to dramatize a most disgraceful situation."

The effect, however, he described as salutary.

NAVY'S BLIMPS JOIN SUB HUNT

Writer Allowed to Make Flight as Balloon Keeps Its Vigil.

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He turned to one of the sailors: "We fly today."

"Aye, aye, sir," the sailor responded and went out to spread the word that the airship patrol would go out despite wind conditions.

A few moments later, the sound of sputtering engines came from the hangar. Officers, all young, hurried into fur-lined flying clothes.

I was zipped into a roomy pair of flying pants, coat and shoes.

A serious, square-jawed young lieutenant, whom I had seen pull on a heavy blue sweater with a big block letter "N" was introduced.

"This is Lieut. Antrim—Bob Antrim. You're flying with him today."

He Was All-American

I recalled the name. It was familiar to thousands of football fans only a few years back—Bob Antrim, one of the Naval Academy football team's all-American backs.

An officer whom I had met earlier said:

"I hope you get one of those today. We've been crowding them and there's a chance one might show up on the surface to charge batteries."

In the hangar, the blimps were already attached to mobile mooring masts. Crews made ready for the flight. Up forward in the cockpit sat two officers, one with his hands on the elevator control wheel; the other at the rudder controls.

A moment later, there came a flashlight signal from the undocking officer. A reply was flashed from the cabin and the mast began tugging. We moved gracefully onto the field.

Head Toward Sea

Another blinker light flashed, someone said "Here we go" and the buoyant ship suddenly nosed upward. At the same time, an aviation machinist's mate pulled the throttles and the idling engines roared to life. The ascent was at a sharp angle. In a few minutes, we leveled off, heading toward the sea.

The cold glow of daybreak showed in the eastern skies as the ship floated along. Breakfast smells filled the cabin. An enlisted man was frying bacon and eggs and brewing coffee on a small electric grill. Another crew man went to the rear of the cabin to set up the machine gun.

Convoy Parades Below

The radioman touched the skipper and after a brief conversation the ship was headed up the coast.

Ten minutes later, the forward lookout called attention to a rusty tanker plowing along our course. Challenge lights blinked from our ship. The tanker's signal lights flashed back a brief identifying message and our blimp sailed on.

The trim outlines of another surface ship could be seen ahead; then another, and still another. It soon became apparent that we had overhauled a convoy, heading toward a nearby port. Destroyers knifed

GUN UNDER PILLOW WOUNDS OWNER

An automatic pistol, put under the pillow of the man whom it was intended to protect, today wounded him.

The victim, John Chaney, 49, of the Roosevelt Hotel, received a flesh wound in the right thigh. The .22 caliber bullet was found in the floor by Lieut. Arthur Huber of the Detective Bureau. Mr. Chaney, a mechanic, attempted to treat the wound himself, but finally went to City Hospital.

More Housing Futile

Rep. Wilson contended building more housing facilities in the nation's capital was hopeless as long as employees kept streaming in at the rate of 3000 a week. He suggested that Congress crack down on existing personnel and "get some work out of them."

He has asked the appointment of a Congressional committee to investigate efficiency in the new defense bureaus. He showed a letter he got from a Washington landlady to illustrate what he meant by inefficiency.

The letter charged that two girl Government employees after staying out late, reported off sick the following day and went out for a big time the following evening.

"That kind of thing," said the Congressman, "has got to stop."

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along both sides of the procession. Ahead there were more destroyers. More blinker signals were exchanged.

The blimp began circling around the convoy, every man alert for submarines. We circled that convoy to the harbor entrance.

This job done, the blimp veered out to sea and out of sight of land. A member of the crew looked down.

"Whitecaps," he observed. "It's going to be harder to spot them today."

Another chimed in:

"Now, it won't make no difference. Remember that day we got—"

He cut himself short, remembering there was a stranger aboard. A wisp of smoke appeared ahead.

The blimp headed for it. It turned out to be a dirty white-painted freighter bearing the flag of a nation now under German domination. Satisfied that it was operating in the services of the Allies, the blimp resumed its set course.

Steaks for Lunch

It was time for lunch. The cook reached into a metal pantry. The machinist's mate inquired about the menu. The cook displayed a can of vegetable soup, a can of sweet potatoes and a stack of steaks.

Enlisted men relieved the officers at the controls. The lunch was served in paper plates.

Lieut. Antrim shed his fur-lined jacket with a summons to hand-bomb practice. A member of the

crew went to the back of the cabin and returned with a small case containing the bombs. They are about the size of grenades and have fins. A window was opened in the cockpit and another in the rear of the cabin.

Lieut. Antrim pointed to a frothy silver patch on the water. The ship banked and as it crossed over the spot, about 1000 feet up, the skipper dropped two bombs. Below we could see two columns of smoke close to the patch. Then came the turn of the machinist's mate from the rear window. Another patch on the sea was chosen and he dropped his bombs. One scored a direct hit; another landed close by.

In actual action against a submarine, big depth charges secured in the bomb bay underneath the

cabin would have been dropped.

Bombing practice over the ship headed on a new course toward shore. About five miles off the coast, we spotted two Navy patrol seaplanes flying high above us. They dipped their wings in recognition and soon disappeared from view.

We headed down the coast for our base. Twelve hours after our take-off, our base came into view. Lights blinked and we started down. As the ship swung down ground crews seized ropes hanging from the nose and tail.

A barely imperceptible jar, and the ship was moored. The crew climbed out.

"Any luck?" they were asked. "No," came the reply. "But there's always a next time."

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Linen finish wide stripe cover! 70% carefully selected small duck feathers and 30% real duck down! ... Each

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