

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 Soerabaya.

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 Nations' supreme command.

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

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

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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 un-American activities investigation for another year.

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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.

(Continued from Page One)

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 communiqué said.

On other fronts, there was no important change.

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

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 Tripoli. 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 sunk a total of 61 ships.

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-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 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

(Continued from Page One)

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

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

NAVY'S BLIMPS JOIN SUB HUNT

Writer Allowed to Make Flight as Balloon Keeps Its Vigil.

(Continued from Page One)

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 slipped 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 people 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 conservation 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 overtaken a convoy, heading toward a nearby port. Destroyers knifed

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along both sides of the procession. 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.

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