

SINGAPORE HOLDS DEFENSIVE LINE

Invaders Kept at Bay 3 Miles From City, British Report.

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Their huge fort at Changi is resisting strongly.

This contrasted strongly with the Axis reports that the Japanese already had raised their flag in the center of Singapore town.

Tokyo propaganda changed its tune somewhat today, expressing amazement at the "inhuman sense of duty" of the British at Singapore which compelled them to fight on despite the hopeless odds.

The Vichy radio claimed that British Warships were aiding in shelling Japanese positions and that heavy fighting is in progress in the rubber plantations north and east of Singapore.

The German radio asserted that 16 ships of a British evacuation fleet have been sunk by the Japanese.

Elsewhere on the World War fronts the Russians were driving forward again in their winter offensive and were reported to have broken back into White Russia, the westernmost province overrun by the Germans. Desultory fighting was reported in Libya.

Stem Burma Advance

In Burma the Japanese advance was temporarily stemmed by a defeat in the Paan area, but a new battle was reported raging today.

In the Dutch Indies the Dutch admitted that the fall of Macassar—already claimed by Tokyo—is apparently imminent.

Spain and Portugal agreed to maintain close contacts for mutual benefit after a meeting of Gen. Francisco Franco and Dr. Antonio Salazar at Seville.

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CRISIS FACED BY SYMPHONY

Local Organization Needs \$95,000 to Operate Through 1943.

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realizes the value of music in maintaining civilian (as well as military) morale; and that everyone who has heard this great symphony orchestra, under the direction of its distinguished leader, Fabien Sevitzky, has derived pleasure from it.

The orchestra is confronted with a financial problem, he added, because the public mind is concerned chiefly with concrete problems of national defense.

"It is only later," he warned, "when our lives have adjusted themselves in the war groove, that we will realize, as they have eventually realized in all warring countries, how indispensable is music in the scheme of civilized life.

"But we must fight to keep everything we now have—our country, our governmental theories, our culture. If we in this state lose such a cultural asset now, we shall regret it later. And we would find it more difficult to replace in the future than continue in the present."

Kept Ticket Prices Low

Franklin Miner, manager of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, said that in view of what Mr. Sevitzky and the orchestra have done "to raise the national cultural reputation of Indiana . . . we have been the state's least expensive cultural asset."

"We have to keep our ticket prices low enough to fit the public purse," he declared. "Our expenses are necessarily higher, at least once again higher, than the largest sum we can possibly earn under such restrictions."

"The fact that we face a deficit of \$25,000 this year is accounted for by the much smaller total sum pledged to our maintenance fund this year."

CAROL IS UNWELCOME

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (U. P.)—Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles today bluntly declared that former King Carol of Rumania is not welcome in the United States as the head of a proposed free Rumanian movement.

FDR. GRUENING CONFER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (U. P.)—Gov. Ernest Gruening discussed with President Roosevelt today military and naval problems of Alaska, commenting afterward that "we are thinking in terms of offensive warfare rather than defensive warfare."

BYRD ASKS FEE PROBE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (U. P.)—Senator Harry F. Byrd (D. Va.) today called for a War Department investigation of entrance fees charged by labor unions for workers seeking construction jobs on war projects.

Admiral Halsey's citation, signed by President Roosevelt, said: "For distinguished service in duty of great responsibility as commander of Marshall raiding force, United States Pacific fleet, especially his brilliant, audacious attack against Marshall and Gilbert islands Jan. 31, 1942. By his great skill and determination, this drive inflicted heavy damage to enemy ships and planes."

Admiral Halsey is a veteran of 41 years of sea going naval service, most of it on destroyers, but more recently in connection with the naval air arm.

Eye-witnesses of the attack on the eight Japanese-mandated islands in an area of about 140,000 square miles said that the three weeks the fleet spent at sea had indicated its ability to strike even as far away as Japan.

The attack was a simultaneous air and naval blow at eight islands in an area 400 miles long and 350 miles wide.

American Planes Superior

Various combatant ships bombarded two islands, supported by an airplane carrier on which the planes that made the other attacks were based. Some of the islands were a tacked twice.

American carrier-based planes proved superior to the Japanese land-based craft in both speed and armament.

In the attack on Tarao pilots snickered at the enemy's wide misses as the air and the flight leader and his wing man scored a brilliant success by downing four of 12 enemy planes which engaged them," one witness said.

The flight leader was a tall, blond youngster from Milwaukee who said that "luck was riding with me that day."

His comrades, however, said that he had shown great skill as did one of his wing men. After recovering from a first dive, they returned at low altitude to machine gun and found themselves facing a dozen enemy fighters.

at KIRK'S 215 W. WASH. ST.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Ominous Choice



NAVAL DEFEAT SHAKES BRITAIN

German Channel Fleet Adds Peril to Allied Ships in Atlantic.

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may be able to invite general fleet action in the North Atlantic.

British aircraft and warships still searched the North Sea for crippled enemy vessels, but naval sources acknowledged that the greater part of the squadron must have reached the safety of Emden, on the German coast, or a Heligoland Bay port.

The official naval statement did not specify what ships the British fleet met, but it did tell of direct hits on a 500-ton enemy ship, which broke in two, and on a smaller ship, which was left afloat.

But the communiqué of the Admiralty and Air Ministry claimed the British lost 42 planes against 18 which, it was said, the Germans lost. The Germans claimed the British lost a destroyer.

The German 10,000-ton Prinz Eugen and other sea escort forces protected the two enemy battleships during their dash through the English Channel at a time when poor visibility interfered seriously with the British attack.

Press Is Indignant

The German fleet, led by the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, and including destroyers, torpedo boats, and mine sweepers, escaped in the 14 hours of darkness after British warships and planes lost sight of them at dark yesterday.

This morning's editorials were more critical of Churchill than any since he took office the day Hitler invaded the low countries in May, 1940.

Typical was that of the Daily Mail, conservative independent:

"The confidence which has been accorded Mr. Churchill survived Dunkirk, Greece, Crete, the German successes in Libya because all the reverses of 1940 and 1941 were accepted as the legacy of the shortsightedness and incompetence of the previous government. The same story continues."

Must Do Something

"But we are now in 1942. The disaster of Singapore can not be placed on any other shoulders than those of Mr. Churchill and his colleagues."

The independent conservative Evening News said:

"There is no use in Mr. Churchill standing up, half defiant and half in a white sheet borrowed from Lord Baldwin (a former 'muddle through' premier) and saying, 'I am the man to blame' and doing nothing to improve machinery or methods."

Review Many Disasters

Reviewing bitterly an "endless chain" of British disasters, the Evening News attacked the government and the chiefs of the fighting services.

The German warships have been at Brest for months. They have been attacked 110 times by the Royal Air Force which repeatedly has claimed bomb hits and severe damage inflicted on the vessels.

They have been under constant close observation and for a number of days the British have been expecting them to emerge from their harbor.

Air Raid Diversions

Picking a cloudy misty day when visibility was at a minimum, the German ships slipped out of Brest yesterday morning under a heavy protective escort of surface craft and fighter planes. Simultaneously German bombers plastered British east coast air bases with the heaviest bombardment in months.

Not for some time was the German flotilla discovered by British reconnaissance aircraft. When it was picked up, the British ordered out planes in force—bombers, fighters, torpedo planes—for an all-out attack.

British destroyers from channel ports steamed out to join the attack and when the German warships entered the waters off Dover British coastal guns opened up against them.

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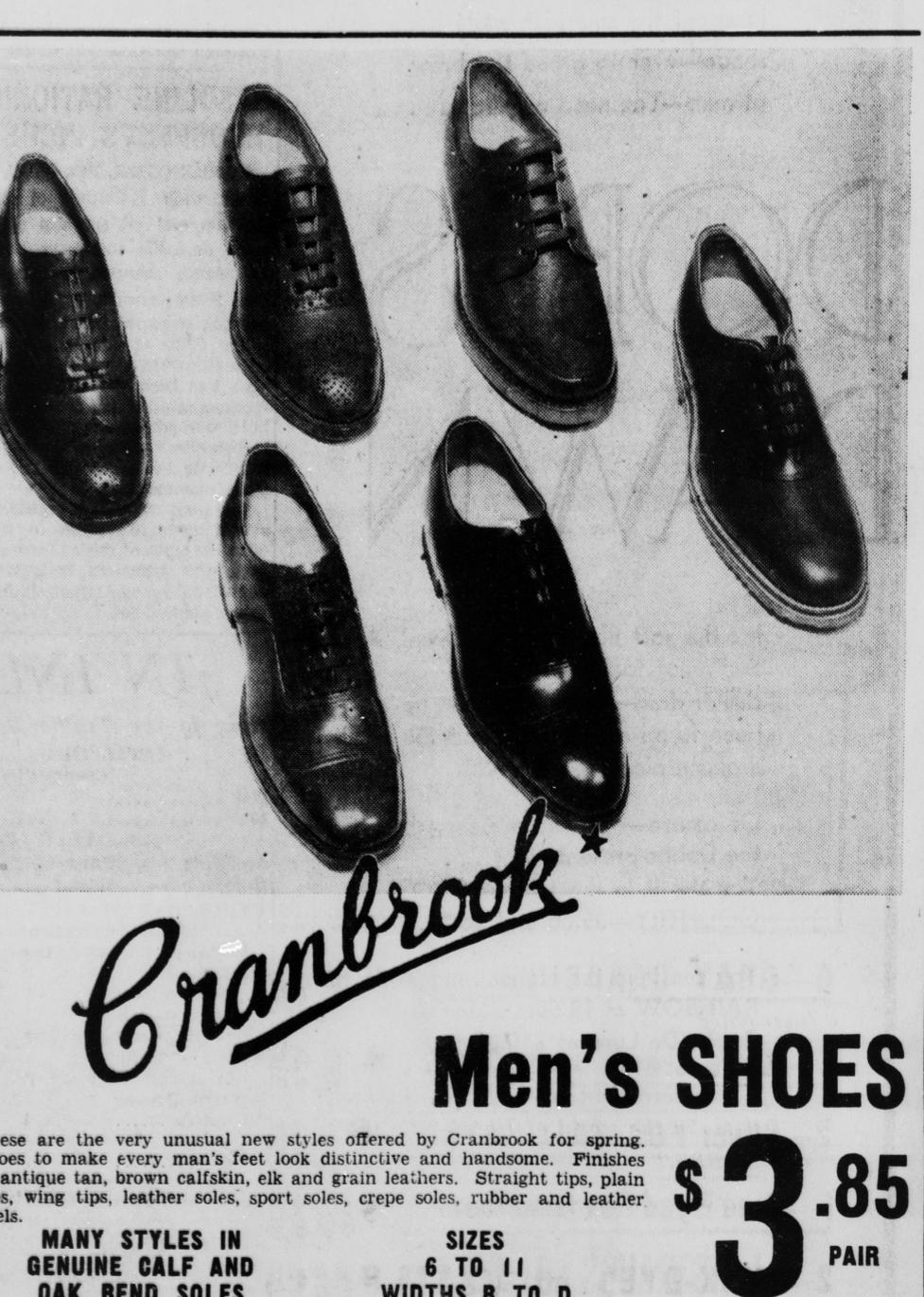


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