

SINGAPORE AFIRE BEFORE IT FELL

'Island Was a Blazing Hell of Shell and Bombfire as I Left Just Before Surrender,' War

Correspondent Writes.

(Continued from Page One)

were women and a few were children.

Most of the rest were Royal Air Force men. I know they were the only fighting men evacuated up to then. They were evacuated because their lives were considered absolutely essential to the Allied cause.

Other of the Royal Air Force have arrived here since my ship sailed in Saturday night.

I MADE MY LAST visit to the front—if it could be called a front a few miles outside Singapore City, last Tuesday afternoon.

Officers and men, infantrymen and artillerymen, all said then that it was all over, that they had no hope of stopping the Japanese.

Ever since the Japanese landed a week ago Sunday on Singapore island they had kept up an incessant attack by artillery and dive bombing planes not only on the fighting lines but on Singapore City.

British Had No Planes

Hundreds of shell and bombs crashed into the heart of the helpless city.

It was a pyrotechnic display of unbelievable grandeur and terror. It kept up like that for 48 hours on end, without a pause.

The thunder of the bursting bombs made one deaf. You could not hear people talking at your side.

Up at the front, the troops were undergoing dive bombing day and night, but all they could do was lie in the mud all day and take it. There were no British planes.

Singing Chinese Lost?

The troops on the northwest island sector when the Japanese made their first landing, on that Sunday night, eight days ago, were compelled to leave their positions because it was impossible for anything to live under the Japanese bombardment. They had to leave all their own artillery.

Hundreds of Chinese volunteer troops who had gone singing to the front to meet the hated Japanese, were in this sector. Nothing has been heard of them.

Refugees arriving here described the Japanese landing on the east coast of the island at the Seletar airbase area.

(This landing never was officially admitted.)

Last of Air Power

I tried Feb. 7 to report that the airbase had been evacuated. It was under constant artillery and mortar fire, and untenable.

I saw the airbase and its buildings scarred or shattered, but empty.

Royal Air Force men were removing the last remaining stores and preparing to blow up the underground fuel reserves.

Only one airplane was there. It was a derelict Sunderland flying boat, an enormous seaplane which once was the pride of Singapore. It ended its career in the middle of the airbase, a lone thing, with the Japanese mortar shells popping down all around it and the rest of us.

Almost to 'Last Man'

I remember that I wondered what would have happened if a lucky shot from one of the mortars had struck one of the gasoline dumps.

The Tengah airbase on the west side of the island also was evacuated. Its ground staff were among those on the ship in which I left Singapore.

Some people who arrived here yesterday told me that of the 400 soldiers left to defend this airbase three remained alive.

By last Thursday the Imperial forces were holding a line running northeast across the island between the Tangleh barracks, a little outside Singapore City on the north-west side, and the naval base at the northeastern end of the island.

Destroy Oil Storage Tanks

The line was roughly 4½ miles from the center of the city at the nearest point.

That line, from the barracks to the base, was the strongest natural line which could be found.

The barracks are near the botanical gardens and adjoin an estate which the sultan of Johore owns.

The day before I left I saw the last preparations made to destroy all the oil on the island, and the demolition work was doubtless effective.

Great Clouds of Smoke

The night on which I left, Singapore was very dark.

Great clouds of black smoke rolled over the entire island. The smell of burning oil stung one's nostrils and brought tears to one's eyes.

There was not much food aboard. The captain, looking over the passengers, was somewhat disturbed to find there were only 20 women

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FUNK SAYS BLUE BROKE PLEDGES

Possible Rival in Primary Charges Graft by 'Same People at Same Stands.'

(Continued from Page One)

\$150 each for the two months, and Mr. Funk alleged that Mr. Blue "suddenly and strangely found need for" them when he discovered that there would be a \$3000 surplus in his office which would have reverted to the county general fund. "One of them," Mr. Funk asserted, "was a relative of the proprietor of a certain downtown tavern where you and your deputies for many months kept your sub-headquarters."

Who Made Shakeup?

Mr. Funk also asked "whether you (Mr. Blue) have been a prosecutor of Marion County? All of us recall that while you were in Florida early in your term, basking in the sunlight at the taxpayers expense, a wholesale shakeup was made in your staff. Who made that shakeup and why didn't you return before it was done? This presents an intriguing question, because the people elected you as prosecutor and the changes obviously were made when you weren't even here."

Although Prosecutor Blue, in his letter to Mr. Funk, wrote that he had discussed the "policy racket" and Indiana Ave. situation with the latter, Mr. Funk replied: "I call your attention to the fact that the conversation you have reference to occurred in the office of George A. Henry (attorney) during the week of Oct. 18, 1941. This was nearly four months ago. I was present at that conference. . . . At that time, Mr. Henry advised you of the situation on Indiana Ave. and elsewhere in the county."

Alleged Promises Cited

"He told you that he had persons who would supply you with sufficient evidence on which to base affidavits or grand jury investigations. . . . You admitted to him, in my presence, that graft and corruption existed on the Avenue and that you were of the personal opinion that a Mexican, who just had been found by the police in the canal, had been murdered in a joint but that there was nothing you could do about it."

"You confessed helplessness to make the necessary investigation and said you could not prove a case. You admitted that policy rackets were rampant but said you could get no convictions. It was then that Mr. Henry's offer to you, in my presence, was made. . . . You left the office with a promise to return and canvass the situation with him personally in the next week or few days."

Brings Up 2 Per Cent Club

"Nearly four months have elapsed and Mr. Funk advises me he has heard nothing further from you. . . . Now, on the eve of a primary, you write a letter to me. Why, I confess I do not know, except that perhaps you anticipate that I may enter the prosecutor's race against you this primary."

Mr. Funk charged further that the Prosecutor had broken a promise to "investigate and prosecute the Two Per Cent Club," and that despite recent revelations of "the great number of slot machines on which Federal taxes were being paid in this county, no one has heard of any steps being taken by you to correct the evil?"

"What about the shakedown made, and threatened, to violators of the law, by certain members of your own staff?" he asked. "Do you remember the incident about a certain downtown club where negotiations were being conducted for the replacement of certain slot machines?"

Warning that "there are many other questions that could be directed to you, and I suspect that they will be before the end of this coming campaign," Mr. Funk said that he had prepared his reply to Mr. Blue's Feb. 9 letter in two sections.

"Don't you think that these matters had better be straightened out before we go into the second section of my reply?" he asked.

Today's War Moves

By LOUIS F. KEEMLE
United Press War Analyst

Even before their occupation of Singapore has been consolidated, the Japanese have opened a full scale drive for Sumatra and Java and are attacking with renewed intensity in Burma.

The culminating phase of the battle for the southwestern Pacific now has been reached. The United nations face a showdown, the supreme test of their ability to maintain a foothold in the Indies.

The test is the turning point of the war. If they lose it, the Allies will have to give up their sole remaining base at Soerabaya on Java and

of the rich Indies to the enemy. The nearest Allied base would be Port Darwin on the northern coast of Australia, and that would be subject to bombing from Timor and New Guinea and by planes from carriers.

Should the Japanese make Port Darwin untenable, the Allies would have to operate from thousands of miles away, basing on Sydney and Melbourne.

Java Is Vital Point

It would make the eventual grand assault by the Allies against the Japanese a difficult and slow task. It is so vital to hold Java that it is likely to be the scene of the heaviest fighting of the war, probably very soon. Speed is the essence of Japan's plan of attack and her forces are not likely to pause to reorganize before striking.

Allies Lose Oil Supply

By capturing Singapore, the Japanese have gained control of the Strait of Malacca, with easy access to the Bay of Bengal. They can send unlimited reinforcements by sea to Burma, whose defenders already are hard pressed.

The danger to China's Burma Road becomes very real.

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Beamer Signs for Draft



About mid-morning, Attorney General George Beamer, 37 (left), tossed aside his law books, pulled on his raincoat and walked out of the State House and over to the Claypool Hotel to register. The registrar is Mrs. Mabel K. Moss.

It's 'Father-and-Son' Day As Uncle Sam Calls Again

(Continued from Page One)

an airplane machine gunner here. He said that this wife, whom he married in Municipal Court here on the day he was released, agreed to his plan.

This was "the second time up" for a number of veterans of the last war.

"I have one behind me, and I guess I can take this one," commented George Valt, 40, an employee of the Motor Vehicle License Bureau, as he registered at the Claypool Hotel. Mr. Valt enlisted in the Army during World War I at the age of 16.

Wisecracks were at a minimum. Over three-fourths of the registrants were heads of families and they saw nothing about the registration to joke about.

Most of what little conversation was pertained to the fall of Singapore and the stand of General MacArthur.

The 20-year-olds just kept silent in the presence of their elders.

Registrars reported that many men inquired: "How can I get this over right now? I'd like to enlist and have the training now."

They were advised to see the Army recruiting office.

Draft officials were surprised at the turnout during the early morning. Many men were in line when the registration places opened at 7 a. m. And they kept coming all morning, despite the rain.

Five girls were kept busy at the switchboard at State Draft headquarters answering questions.

If there is a question you want to ask about the registration which closes at 9 p. m. today, call LI-6501. These girls will be glad to help you.

men not previously registered who were born on or after Feb. 17, 1897, and on or before Dec. 31, 1921.

All aliens, including those who had declared their intentions of becoming citizens, were to register. Persons physically unable to register today should notify their draft boards. A traveling registrar will be sent to register them.

The registration was simple. Registrars asked registrants only nine questions—their name, address, age, place of business, employer's name, telephone, birthplace, mailing address if different from your residence and the name of the person who will always know your address.

Each Man Gets Certificate

Registrars were given a registration certificate which they must carry with them at all times. Failure to possess a registration certificate is a violation of the Selective Service law and makes one liable to prosecution by the Federal Government.

At registrars were urged by draft officials to register at a registration place in their own draft board area in order to avoid confusion in transferring cards from one draft board to another.

However, if it is impossible to register at home, a person may register at the closest registration place.

Registrants must notify draft boards of any change of address.

Registration is expected to be held within the next few months for the 18-20 and 44-64 age groups. These men will not be subject to call for military service but will be classified for civilian defense and war production activities.

Today's registration covered all

men registering today as this is information of a military nature. The new registrants will not be called to service, according to an announcement made by Selective Service officials at Washington Saturday, until after the 1-A men in the present draft board lists have been called.

A lottery will be held in Washington, possibly next month, which will determine the order numbers of the new registrants. Then the local draft boards will send each of the registrants a questionnaire.

From the information given on these questionnaires, the draft boards will classify the registrants. Those men whom the draft boards believe fit for military service, taking into consideration their dependents and type of jobs, will be placed tentatively in Class 1-A.

Then, the men placed in Class 1-A will be sent to the Army examining board for a physical examination. And if they pass they will be placed definitely in Class 1-A and it will be only a matter of days until they are called.

Register All Aliens

Registration is expected to be held within the next few months for the 18-20 and 44-64 age groups. These men will not be subject to call for military service but will be classified for civilian defense and war production activities.

Today's registration covered all

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U. S. ADDS NO. 19 TO BATTLESHIPS

Navy Must Control Seas, Knox Says at Launching Of 35,000-Ton Alabama.

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 16 (U. P.).—Secretary of Navy Frank Knox said today that the United States has passed into the "war era" in the production of supplies and ships which, in the end, will bring victory. Speaking at the launching in the Norfolk Navy yard of the 35,000-ton battleship Alabama—fourth of a class of the most powerful warships afloat—Mr. Knox said the Navy now is operating over three-fourths of the globe.

"Today we know beyond a doubt that the burden upon our Navy is the greatest it has ever had to bear," he said. "We must protect our shores and our coastal commerce."

"We must protect those strategic areas vital to our defense—Hawaii, the Panama Canal, the Caribbean. We must defend our good neighbors to the southward."

"We must protect the flow of supplies to Great Britain, that citadel of freedom. We must check as best we can the surging flood of Japanese aggression in the Antipodes, until we can muster our forces to send it hurtling back to whence it came."

When the \$80,000 Alabama and preceding new ships of her class are completed the Navy will have 19 battleships, the greatest battle force in the world. Eleven more battleships of still heavier classes are in the published two-ocean fleet program under contract.

Counting the Alabama, six new battleships have been launched in recent years.

The five others are the Indiana, the North Carolina, the Washington, the South Dakota and the Massachusetts.

Hero Hailed

Man Who Couldn't Find Swim Place, Saves 2 in Creek.

A YOUNG man from the East, who has been complaining that there is no place to go swimming in Indianapolis, today was hailed as a hero for saving two boys from drowning.

He is John Haufe, 24, of 2841 N. Delaware St., who came from New York last April to take a job as a tool engineer at the Curtis-Wright Corp. propeller division. He rescued Cecil Jeffries, 13, of 2345 Talbot Ave., and William Stanley, 14, of 2302½ N. Talbot Ave., from Fall Creek Saturday.

"The boys were paddling a leaky boat with wooden planks for oars. The boat suddenly filled with water and sank. The Stanley boy, who can swim, succeeded in holding his companion up in the deep water. But they could no longer stay afloat after their heavy clothes became soaked."

Numerous motorists drove by, paid no heed to the boys. Mrs. William Allen Wood, 2502 N. Alabama St., was the first to discover that they were about to drown. She tried to stop several cars, but they drove on.

Mr. Haufe recognized her signal of distress, immediately sized up the plight of the boys. He was tearing off his clothes as he opened the door of his auto.

When Mr. Haufe grabbed hold of the Jeffries boy, the other boy was able to swim to shore. Exhausted, the two young "mariners" lay on the bank for a while. Then they were wrapped in blankets and taken to their homes.

Fear 60,000 British Troops Are Prisoners at Singapore

(Continued from Page One)

fall of France, Britons demanded with increasing insistence a radical and immediate change in the direction of the war and a merciless purge of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's cabinet.

They received their first news of the surrender of the British garrison through Japanese communiques. Then Mr. Churchill, in a world broadcast, announced it in three words: "Singapore has fallen." For nearly a whole day, there had been no other official news of Singapore.

The British people knew that one of the few such surrenders in their history had come atop the humiliating cruise of a German battle fleet past the Dover coast within range of short guns.

Rescue 1300 Soldiers

Long after the Japanese had announced the surrender, the British Broadcasting Corp. heard the Singapore radio at 9:37 a. m. (Indianapolis Time) give a routine broadcast of world news. The announcer ended:

"Good night everybody. We shall be on the air as usual tomorrow morning."

It was not until 9 o'clock last night, London time, when Mr. Churchill made his speech, that the official announcement came that it was all over.

An Australian correspondent who reached Batavia from Singapore reported that an Australian warship had rescued 1300 soldiers from a burning transport which 40 Japanese planes were attacking seven miles off Singapore.

Churchill, Makes Defense

The Japanese planes attacked the warship savagely, the correspondent reported, and three of them were shot down.

By then the warship, drawn up alongside the transport, was filled to capacity.

Whaleboats were lowered and they rescued another 200 men, but they had to row back toward Singapore.

Mr. Churchill in his speech Sunday made a studied defense of his war direction, a foretaste of what he must tell the House of Commons when he faces it this week.

He reviewed the events since the fall of France, the Russian smashing of the Nazi legend of invincibility, the Japanese sneak attack and the American entry to the war.

He balanced one against another, emphasized the value to the Allied cause of Russia's gallant stand and the American declaration of war, and pointed out how Britain, for a long time standing alone, had been forced to distribute its relatively small supply of war materials over a vast area.

Mr. Churchill spoke of the gravity of Japan's attack, as coming from a warrior nation of nearly 80,000,000 people.

Makes Plea for Unity

Then he made his plea—for national unity, and reached his peroration. This, he said, was one of those moments when the British race could show its quality and its genius.

"This is one of those moments when it can throw from the heart of misfortune the vital impulses of victory," he said.

"Here is the moment to display that calm and poise, combined with grim determination, which not so long ago brought us out of the very jaws of death. . . . We must remember that we are no longer alone. . . . three-quarters of the human race are now moving with us. . . . let us move forward steadfastly together into the storm and through the storm."

The indication was strong still that Mr. Churchill's own position was secure provided he acted soon and vigorously to buck up the war effort, with special reference to the actual fighting. Newspapers generally called on the nation to criticize methods, not men.

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ARMY, NAVY SEEK MORE BLOOD GIFTS

The Army and Navy have requested in the last two weeks five times the amount of blood donations originally asked for, according to William H. Book, vice chairman of the Indianapolis Red Cross.

Mr. Book said that the Red Cross goal is now 1,000,000 units of blood, instead of 200,000. This means that Indianapolis donors must contribute at the rate of 100 a day.

Beginning this week the Mobile Unit of the Red Cross Blood Donor Center will increase its schedule of trips to Indiana cities, and will be out four days a week.

In stressing the acute need for blood, Mr. Book asked for more volunteers. He suggested that they call the Blood Donor Center, Lincoln 1441, to arrange an appointment. The center is on the fifth floor of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce Building.

CHIANG PROMISES REPORT

CHUNGKING, Feb. 16 (U. P.).—Gen. Chiang Kai-shek has promised President Roosevelt a "dedicated report" on the use planned for 600,000,000 America is lending China. It was made known today. He expressed gratification to the President for "having accepted my suggestion en toto with no conditions attached to the loan."

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