

CHINESE OPEN THAI INVASION

Japs Still Advance Upon
Burma Road; Tighten
Pincers on Indies.

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unofficially described at Rangoon as "serious," but not yet broken. It was admitted the enemy had crossed the Bilin River.

The problem of Indian defense still was of paramount importance as the Japanese forces, estimated in some reports at 70,000 troops, pushed across Burma toward the gateway to India, but it may be solved at least partly by a meeting of Chinese, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and Mahatma Gandhi at Calcutta this week.

In the Japanese pincers invasion drive closer to Java the Japanese took Macassar, but the Dutch were still fighting on Celebes Island. Enemy planes raided Timor Island again.

Australia Fears Attack

Expecting an invasion attempt at any time, the Australian government intensified its total mobilization. Lieut. Gov. H. J. Van Mook of the Netherlands East Indies, conferring with Australian government, said the United States is rushing all possible reinforcements to the southwest Pacific.

The British reported scoring air and submarine hits on two or three Axis cruisers and a destroyer in the Mediterranean, in a three-day battle to save an allied convoy. Two British merchant ships were lost.

R. A. F. Bombs Benghazi

The R. A. F. bombed Benghazi in Libya and Tripoli as British patrols covered a wide area of the Libyan desert without meeting the enemy.

In Russia, the Red Army smashed through the German defensive line, apparently on the central front, and was battling to break through the enemy defenders in the Vyazma sector, on the road to Smolensk.

In London, the ministry of economic warfare renewed warnings of an imminent German invasion, asserting that the Nazis were concentrating on production of gliders and other materials for an over-water offensive.

TOLL IN SINGAPORE 2170 BEFORE FEB. 3

LONDON, Feb. 18 (U. P.).—Air raids on Singapore up to Feb. 3, killed 2170 persons and injured 3955, it was announced officially today.

Other European civilian casualties to Feb. 14 were 15 killed or died of wounds, 17 wounded and 73 missing, of whom 35 are known to have been taken prisoner.

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Symbol of Humility



Ashes of the palms used in Palm Sunday services last year are blessed by the Rev. Fr. Bernard Sheridan, pastor of St. John's Catholic Church. The ashes, symbolizing humility and repentance, were put on the forehead of Catholics who went to churches throughout the city as a 40-day period of fasting, abstinence and devotions preceding Easter was opened with Ash Wednesday.

START OF LENT OBSERVED HERE

Older Churches Downtown
Take Lead in Ancient
Services.

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Palm Sunday is observed by passing out palms, the traditional token of honor to ancient heroes.

The palms that are left are saved, to be burned the next year in the observance of Ash Wednesday.

The two churches have long stood near the center of Indianapolis, becoming almost lost from sight in the swift building up of the city's commercial buildings.

Christ Church was originally founded by the Rev. J. B. Britton, on July 4, 1837. It was received into the Episcopal diocese Nov. 20, 1838. The original church was sold and moved and the present structure was built in 1857.

The chimes of Christ Church, which serve alternately to play hymns of rejoicing for happy feasts of the church, and threnodies during times such as these, are played every noon by Frederick Weber, assistant organist.

The Rev. Powell has been rector of the church since the summer of 1931.

Goes Back to 1850
The first St. John's church was built in 1850 on the present site. That church faced Georgia St. The present building has been standing since 1867, and until the erection of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, was known as the "pro-cathedral" of the diocese of Vincennes.

Father Sheridan is pastor of St. John's. Both churches offer services every day at noon throughout Lent.

All Saints' Cathedral, 16th St. and Central Ave., will hold services throughout Lent several days a week.

The Rev. Robert C. Kuebler, pastor of the Friedens Evangelical and Reformed Church, will conduct services at 7:45 o'clock tonight, and the choir, under the direction of Harry Michaels, will sing.

**SINGAPORE CALLED
'CITY OF PRISONERS'**
TOKYO, Feb. 18 (Japanese broadcasts recorded by U. P. in New York and San Francisco).—Japanese land and sea forces have completed the occupation of Singapore, which "has been turned into a city of war prisoners," Domei News Agency said today.

A "powerful" Japanese fleet entered the Singapore naval harbor, the dispatch said, and simultaneously Japanese land and air forces arrived.

Sixty thousand imperials—15,000 British, 13,000 Australian and 32,000 Indians—have been interned.

Japan celebrated the fall of Singapore officially today. Premier Tojo warned that the war "has only begun" and said the nation must "bend all its efforts with Italy and Germany until all our enemies are brought down to their knees."

'Chinese Doll'

Yank Flier Meets Her
At Airport in
Kunming.

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best looking. She really had what it takes. Ed suggested showing them the control room but I thought they'd rather have tea at our barracks. They only had a half hour so Ed growls, "Well, make up your minds." The smart one with me decided on the tea and Ed drove like mad to the barracks.

"I thought the ladies might want to freshen up first so I brought some towels and soap. My rival Chinese doll asked me to hold her hand-bag while she washed her hands. We were getting along fine and brother, she sure did have what it takes. I felt like I was getting my first real break in this war.

"Then we sauntered back to the others and some Chinese air officer asked my new Chinese lady friend: 'Would you care for some tea now, madame?' And the way he said madame, knocked me right between the eyes. I took a deep breath and looked at Ed and Ed looked at me. We both felt kinda sick for a couple of minutes.

"But Mme. Chiang Kai-shek just seemed to be having a wonderful time. She even told the Chinese colonel, 'Lieut. Mickelson and Lieut. Leibolt have taken splendid care of us.'

"WELL, WE HAD to drive them back to their plane and of course that lonely fellow in the long, black coat and muffer—the one we didn't have room for, who got all our dust as we drove off—of course he was waiting. Ed and I hadn't been able to see his face so how were we to guess that he was Generalissimo of all China!

"Boy, we sure put our necks out that time.

"But let me tell you, Mme. Chiang is a knockout all right. And I've still got that towel she used. I'm going to take it home to Fergus Falls with me some day, no kidding."

FRESH JAP TROOPS BLAST MACARTHUR

(Continued from Page One)

The Japanese aerial and artillery assaults against General MacArthur's outnumbered forces and the arrival of still more Japanese troops in Subic Bay.

There were strong indications that the Japanese were about to go "all out" in their attempts to drive General MacArthur from Luzon and back into Corregidor fortress.

For the second day, General MacArthur reported, Japanese fliers bombed helpless women and children in an undefended refugee camp at Cababalan on the southeast coast of Bataan Peninsula.

The Japanese, according to the best estimates available in Washington, have between 400,000 and 450,000 men in action on the fronts stretching for more than 4000 miles from the Philippines to the Indian ocean, but not including China.

More than 200,000 of these troops, including some of the best shock troops of the Japanese war machine, are in the Philippines. So long as the fighting rages on Bataan peninsula the Japanese cannot divert many men or weapons for their big thrust at the Burma Road, at Sumatra and Java 1500 and 2000 miles to the southwest across the China Sea.

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Today's War Moves

By LOUIS F. KEEMLE
United Press War Analyst

If Australian fears of a Japanese invasion are realized, and if Japan tries to attack India and push across the Indian Ocean to Madagascar, a suggested possibility, the ambitious Nipponese may be sowing the seeds of their future undoing.

There is a limit to Japan's ability to stretch out her resources over about one-third of the globe.

Japan already is spread rather thin, in an attempt to do everything at once before the might of the United States and Britain make themselves felt. If this extension is continued too far, Japan will have exposed an Achilles heel to the united nations.

Operate Over 6000 Miles

To sum up the present Japanese position: They are operating over about 6000 miles from Burma to their own mandated islands.

They are heavily committed in China, which they have not been able to subdue in four and a half years. They are engaged in a major operation in Burma. They are trying to overwhelm Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes and Java. A large part of their forces are involved in Manila.

Sticking Neck Out?

Under the circumstances, an attempted invasion of Australia and India might be equivalent to sticking her neck out. H. J. Van Mook, lieutenant governor of the Dutch Indies, observed in Sydney today that a large scale invasion of Australia would mean such a drain on Japanese forces and shipping that he does not think they will try it.

The Indian Ocean naturally offers a tempting prospect to Japan. Her naval forces now have unimpeded access to it past Singapore through the Strait of Malacca. The line of supplies from Britain and the United States flows past Capetown to Suez, the Persian gulf, India and China.

Japanese submarines undoubtedly soon will be operating in the Indian Ocean.

To occupy Madagascar, with



Vichy's connivance, as a base of operations closer to the Middle East shipping lanes would be a more ambitious project.

To take Madagascar and hold away over the Indian Ocean would require considerable use of the Japanese fleet and air force. It is a question whether Japan has enough to spare for that and still dominate the western Pacific.

It would require a large Japanese force, continuously in operation, to break off the supply line which the United States has established to New Zealand and Australia.

Whittle Them Down

If the Pacific fleet is weakened too much for Indian Ocean operations, the United States Navy has a chance to whittle down the Japanese outposts in the western Pacific one by one in a steady process of reconquest. The Navy's raid on the Marshall and Gilbert islands suggested the pattern.

If Hitler tries to drive through to Suez and Japan across the Indian Ocean to meet him, Japan's rear might be exposed to the United States.

FDR WORKS ON SPEECH

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (U. P.).—President Roosevelt began work today on the important address he will make to the nation Monday night. The White House said Mr. Roosevelt kept his schedule for today virtually clear except for a noon conference with Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles.

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