

# British Stand at Hongkong Has Diverted Nippon Forces From Luzon, Asserts War Analyst

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
Wide World War Analyst For The Statesman

British personnel and ship losses in an attempted sea evacuation of Hongkong—if the Japanese invaders force such an effort—might prove a greater blow than loss of the China sea outpost itself.

Hongkong is an important but not strategically vital segment of the Anglo-American defensive triangle in that sea. While American-Filipino forces on Luzon hold out, as they have done so far, the Nipponese supply line for the main Japanese attack against Singapore is still potentially flanked.

Nor has Hongkong's valiant stand been without asset values. It has diverted Japanese army, navy and air elements from the Luzon operations. It has gained time for British and American sea and air reinforcements to be mustered which could reverse the battle balance before Singapore is even gravely menaced.

That Singapore battle also has served to bolster British fighting prestige throughout the Far East. Even heavy losses in men and ships, should a sea evacuation turn Hongkong into a Far Eastern Dunkirk, would not obliterate in oriental minds the evidence of grim British determination to fight it out to the bitter end. Hongkong like Wake already symbolizes that determination.

First fruits of Japanese conquest of Hongkong probably would be the shifting of Japanese naval and air units from that zone to intensify pressure on the Philippines. Manila reports of increased Nipponese air activity within the last 24 hours may be a prelude to that.

It is reasonably clear, however, that the Japanese attack in Luzon is designed primarily as a holding operation to engage all American forces on that front and prevent effective American reinforcement of Singapore with ships of war and battle planes. Anglo-American counter strategy, aside from the gallant and adroit defense of Luzon that General Douglas MacArthur is conducting, is still to be disclosed.

It is increasingly clear from cryptic Manila and Washington official war advices that MacArthur has not been lured into scattering his main forces to meet invasion threats distant from Manila. He has been content to contain those thrusts and batter at Japanese shipping and beach bridgeheads as effectively as his limited air force permits. His main armies are indicated to be mobilized for flexible use to take advantage of the inner communication lines at his command, ready to shift in any direction to meet a Japanese power invasion smash toward Manila, if and when it comes.

The Hongkong defense has contributed the vital element of time to that of Luzon. Full mobilization of American-Filipino troops before the test of a major battle could be thrust upon them has been possible, and a disposition of forces to take advantage of every natural barrier.

Somewhere both British and American relief forces are assuredly mustering. Singapore is too vital to be lost for lack of such an effort, and the Japanese know it.

## Speech Slated By Nazi Head

Entire Reich to Hear Propaganda Minister Goebbels' Address

(Continued from Page 1) discuss in some manner the wide-scale Nazi reverses in Russia and North Africa.

The German press itself of late has soft-pedaled reports from these two fronts, playing up instead accounts of Japan's initial successes in the Far East.

Until the Nazi drive bogged down in Russia the controlled German press spoke glowingly of the "invincible" German army.

But now its utterances have been chiefly about the weather in Russia, the "strategic" withdrawal to "stronger positions" and the hardships under which the army was fighting.

Emphasis also has been placed on the Russian tenacity and the high quality of their equipment, which the Germans admit now they under-estimated at the start.

There has been considerable conjecture recently that Germany might be getting ready to spring some big surprise, possibly a thrust through Turkey to get at the oil fields of the middle east. Support of this has been seen in increased German military activity in Bulgaria.

It was considered unlikely, however, that such a move would be announced by Goebbels since Adolf Hitler usually has reserved such disclosures for himself.

Goebbels' last important public pronouncement came early in November when he told the Germans they had hard sledding ahead.

Writing in the weekly Das Reich, he declared the axis powers were "fighting for bare existence, and the worries and distress which we all must bear in the war would pale in the face of the inferno which would await us if we were to lose."

Then he admonished Germans "not to ask when victory will come, but rather to see that it comes."

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## Russ Crushing Finns, Nazis

Axis on Run in Libya As British Campaign Speeds in High Gear

(Continued from page 1)

high command has been using them as a puppet power."

Finnish official reports Friday night confirmed the continuation of Russian attacks on the Svir river front between Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega, as well as on the East Karelian front. These attacks, described as weak, were declared to have been repulsed.

The Russians, however, contend they have broken the whole Finnish-German line between the two lakes, crossing the frozen Svir and advancing at three points.

These German claims were of course suspect and conflicted somewhat with Japan's own claims; nevertheless, Hongkong's peril was clear and imminent.

It was a sorrowful story—chiefly because so many men were dying and must die in a desperate delaying action, for the ultimate loss of the colony and base had been discounted—but the allied position in the Pacific generally was far from bad.

In the Pacific theatre, the situation apart from Hongkong was on balance apparently about a standoff.

Luzon in the Philippines, the American key point in the allied arch of the Far East, was by all accounts as firmly in American hands as ever. A war department report during the day of a marked increase in the past 24 hours in the enemy's air and ground activity against the island was no more than had been expected after his long inactivity.

Friday night, another war department communique stated in supplement that enemy patrols had increased their ground operations.

In the afternoon 24 Japanese planes attacked the United States naval base of Cavite on Manila bay—American planes not going aloft, according to Manila dispatches—and later nine more raiders flew across the bay. The second wave apparently dropped no bombs; smoke was seen rising from the Cavite area after the first attack.

At Wake island, more than 3000 miles from Manila, the American garrison underwent Friday morning a heavy attack but, said the navy department, Wake fought back as it always had.

Before Singapore, which perhaps in the long pull is the most important allied Far Eastern position of all, the position Friday appeared quite good.

The British reported not only that the Japanese offensive down from northwestern Malaya had been substantially halted but that the British Penang garrison—all its military personnel and equipment—had been brought out safely before that point off the west coast was out-flanked and were now taking their positions, probably to help hold the new British line along the Krian river some 300 miles above Singapore.

Japanese losses, the British stated, had been very heavy. It was certain that the invader, who appeared to have the tin center town of Ipoh as his next major objective, was going to find that 300 miles a very long stretch.

Too, Japanese efforts to seize areas of British or British-protected North and West Borneo, an area of great strategic importance because of its situation in the allied Philippines-Singapore-East Indies communications area—were running into strong Dutch counter-action.

It was officially announced

ELSHINORE Today—Nelson Eddy in "The Chocolate Soldier" with Rise Stevens, "The Gay Falcon" with George Sanders and Wendy Barrie.

GRAND Today—Betty Grable, Victor Mature, Alan Mowbray in "I Wake Up Screaming," Jane Withers, Bruce Edwards, Jane Darwell in "Small Town Deb."

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HOLLYWOOD Today—Billy Conn in "The Pittsburgh Kid," Roy Rogers in "Sheriff of Tombstone."

Special Xmas Dance Hazel Green Regular Time Tonight If Blackout Is Scheduled Dance Will Begin 8:30 Adm. 55c Per Couple

## Battle Raging As Japs Land

Fall of Hongkong Is Expected by British Despite Resistance

(Continued from page 1)

ending as yet unknown, but most likely a sad ending for the allies—a drama of a terrible splendor, of courage perhaps never excelled in all the history of British fighting men.

The exact immediate situation was in doubt, but there could not be much doubt as to how it must ultimately turn out, for there was no retreat and no prospect of reinforcement for the vastly outnumbered defenders.

Late accounts circulated by the British from Japanese sources gave what was tantamount to a Japanese admission that Hongkong was dying very hard and that the price in Japanese blood was very high.

The Germans, however, sent out reports attributed to Tokyo which claimed Victoria, the Hongkong capital and site of all government offices, had fallen; that most of the island was in Japanese hands, and that British troops had taken a last stand atop Victoria hill, 2000 feet above the city itself.

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## Committee to Be Enlarged

Roadside and Zoning Study Group Talks Protection Plans

(Continued from page 1)

the Polk, Linn and Benton commissioners on his committee that they are to head sub-committees in their own counties to study and recommend action, that any further appointments they may wish should be requested and that from these requests the original committee will be expanded.

Background of the four-county cantonment council, its relationship to the Oregon Economic Council and Cuthbert's position with that body were explained by Crawford as an introduction to the consultant's discussion of a proposed enabling act which would allow county courts, with specified restrictions, to zone sections of the county.

That passage of such an act should be sought in event a special session of the legislature is called is the consensus of opinion among persons interested in meeting problems arising around cantonments, defense construction projects and in protecting scenic beauty of the state.

How best to secure such legislative action should be a feature of the roadside committee's study, he suggested, asking also that it present suggestions for the bill's content so that if it should be accepted the law would be satisfactory.

The zoning enabling act would in no way meet the problem the four mid-valley counties must face should a cantonment be located. Cuthbert said, but would be effective only if put into use with a background of careful preparation. The council, he said, might serve as forerunner for zoning commission or separate county commissions to recommend unified action.

That the sample enabling act, basis on which the League of Oregon Cities has been working, was too broad to secure popular backing was suggested by Hayden, who declared that organized, paying opposition would secure support in sections where zoning might be neither required nor contemplated. If the act were drawn to apply only to counties with a certain minimum population, he said, it would stand greater chance of passage.

George H. Otten, landscape engineer with the highway department, explained that the organizations interested purely in highway beautification in the state have to-date fought an unsuccessful battle to have such a measure passed in the Oregon legislature, maintaining that "it is usually favorably reported out of committee but never actually reaches the floor."

As an emergency measure, he declared, it should stand a chance of coming to a vote and then it would have "every chance" of passing, he said.

Police protection, as far as undesirable types of enterprise along the highway might be concerned, should not be a matter for worry, Hayden said, outlining provisions for law enforcement.

Not just police protection but the salvaging of property values in the possible cantonment's area concerned the Polk county rural women's clubs when they asked im-

## County Court Visits Elkhorn

Importuned by residents along the Elkhorn road above Lomker's bridge and school bus operators in addition to logging operators in the region to take some action to keep the road in repair during winter months, members of Marion county court traveled into that area Friday afternoon to view the muddy thoroughfare.

Light vehicles are having even more difficulty in covering the section of the county road affected by slides than logging trucks, it was said.

What action they would take, court members did not declare Friday night following their return from the inspection trip.

## MacArthur Is Full General

Philippine Defender Second Field Leader To Get Coveted Rank

(Continued from page 1)

was Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur and he was born at a Little Rock, Ark., army post, MacArthur was graduated from West Point in 1903 with the academy's best scholastic record in 25 years.

He commanded an army division in France in 1917-18, but his military career seemed to have reached a climax with service from 1930-35 as chief of staff.

As a full general, MacArthur would have equal rank with any military officer Britain or other allies might assign to the far east.

Although Pershing is the only field officer to hold this rank heretofore in wartime, nine others have received it in peacetime, either in active service or after their retirement.

In recent years the rank has been enjoyed temporarily by the war department chief of staff while he held that post. General George C. Marshall, the present chief of staff, is the only other general.

With the probability of an attack on the law in the courts looming, it would be folly for the state to spend a large sum of money providing machinery for collecting the tax, Tax Commissioner Earl Fisher declared.

A formal statement from the commission was expected within the next few days.

The Grocers' association's position that "such a tax was a nuisance tax and should be submitted direct to the voters" was repeated by McPherson. He said the association would take whatever legal steps were proper to force a court decision on the referendum, and believed action would be direct before the state supreme court.

Other sponsors of the referendum said two actions were open—a mandamus action ordering the secretary of state to file the petitions, or an injunction against the state tax commission staying it from collecting the tax because petitions had been filed.

## Fag Tax Row Burns High

Snell to Keep Petition Off Ballot; Grocers May Go to Courts

(Continued from page 1)

tax placed before the voters would be continued.

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## FDR Gets New Draft Bill

Congress Agrees on Ages; Four Million Man Army Possible

(Continued from page 1)

making preparations to begin registrations within the new age limits. Registrations will be taken in age classifications at the discretion of President Roosevelt, with those subject to active service expected to be listed first.

Hershey said that men in the latter groups would be added to the list of those already classified under the 21 through 35 age limits and thus become subject to the draft along with them.

As finally approved, the legislation left within the selective service act a provision defining dependency grounds upon which potential selectees might be deferred from active service. The senate had sought to strike this out in order to give local draft boards more discretion in such matters, but conferees killed the senate amendment.

A clause in the new bill provides that elective state officials shall be granted deferment as long as they remain in office.

The bill extends for 120 days the time in which members of the armed forces may apply for national insurance. It provides payments of \$5000 to the survivors of all men who died or were totally disabled on active duty since October 8, or who die or are totally disabled within the next 120 days without obtaining such insurance.

Shortly after approval of the selective service measure, Chairman Walsh (D-Mass.) introduced in the senate a bill to increase the emergency strength of the navy from 200,000 to 500,000 men and to raise the marine corps limit from 60,000 to 104,000 men.

Additions to the navy and marine personnel are expected to be made largely through enlistments.

## River Rising, Oregon Coast Hit by Flood

(Continued from Page 1)

ed on the coast highway and had to be towed to safety by state trucks. The Wilson river highway was cleared of slides late Friday for one-way traffic. The Bayocean road was blocked by slides.

The Nehalem river, swollen by five inches of rain in three days, covered most streets in the business district of the town of Nehalem.

Portland-Astoria trains were blocked by three slides between Astoria and Rainier. Night freight schedules were cancelled and a passenger train was held up east of John Day near Astoria, where the worst slidepage occurred.

The Willamette river rose near flood stage at Albany, Salem and Eugene. Many roads in the Eugene area were covered by water and the Redford-Drain highway was closed for four hours before workmen cleared it of debris.

## Collections Top Tax Roll

Sheriff Warns Heavy Penalty Waits Those With Delinquent Bills

(Continued from page 1)

mandatory that the tax collector issue warrants to enforce payment of all delinquent personal property taxes," Brabec pointed out.

"This warrant may be served in the usual manner or by publication. Immediately after service of said warrant, if delinquent taxes, interest and costs are not paid, the warrant will be filed with the county clerk for entry in the judgment docket of the county. Thereupon the amount of the warrant so docketed shall become a lien upon the title to any interest in real property owned by the person assessed."

"This office therefore earnestly urges all persons having delinquent and unpaid personal property taxes to inquire or call at the tax department as promptly as possible for a statement in order to be in position to remit the correct amount and avoid having judgment recorded against them," he concluded.

## Censor Chief Starts Work

Clarification of US Requests First Task; Messages Pledge Aid

(Continued from page 1)

by an executive order Friday and gave its director "absolute discretion" over censorship of mail, cable, radio and other means of transmitting information outside the United States.

The director is authorized to take all measures which may be necessary or expedient to administer his powers, to utilize personnel of existing government agencies and to employ additional personnel as needed.

## Grand

20c Mat. 22c Plus Tax Night

HOLLYWOOD'S TWO "BLONDE BONSHIS" and BROADWAY'S NEW MATINEE BOY... in the year's most shocking drama!



"I Wake Up Screaming" with Betty Grable, Victor Mature, Alan Mowbray, and Alice Joslyn.

Continuous Daily from 1 P. M. 2nd Hit Feature



JANE WITHERS "Small Town, Big Deal" with Bruce Edwards.

## Graduating Midshipmen Get Memory of Pearl Harbor

By DAVE NOPPER ANNAPOLIS, Md., Dec. 19—(AP)—A new name—Pearl Harbor—was added to the United States "Rosary of Memory" Friday by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox.

Speaking before the 574 graduating midshipmen at the US Naval academy, Knox said "There are names which are fragrant in our memories whenever we think of American courage and American fighting spirit. Valley Forge and Belleau Wood, Bunker Hill and Mobile bay, Gettysburg and Chateau Thierry.

"Today we have a new pearl to add to the rosary of memory: Pearl Harbor."

## Ninth Corps Base Moved

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 19—(AP)—Transfer of the Ninth corps area headquarters from San Francisco to Salt Lake City was ordered Friday.

Hundreds of miles inland and nesting at the foot of the towering Wasatch mountains, Salt Lake City provides a factor that army officials said contributed to its selection—that it be no more vulnerable to enemy attack than necessary.

Major General J. L. Benedict, commandant of the area, will command the new base.

CAPITOL 15c Plus Tax. Starts Today - 2 Brand New Hits! "AMONG THE LIVING" with Albert Dekker, Susan Hayward, Harry Carey, Frances Farmer. "Two Men and One Girl Who Made Adventure Their Business!" with Gene Autry, Bruce Bennett, Anita Louise.

ELSHINORE THEATRE. STARTS TODAY. Continuous from 1:00 P. M. NEW LOW PRICES! 27c Any Time Plus Tax. "THE GAYEST MUSICAL!" Packed with laughs! Melting melodies! Impetuous love! Joyous is the word for M.G.M.'s big new musical fun show! "CHOCOLATE SOLDIER" with Nelson Eddy, Rise Stevens. "FALCON" with George Sanders, Wendy Barrie.