British, Russ Talks Ominous to Japan and May Mean New Phase In Far East, Asserts Analyst

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
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Although American attention remains centered on the battle of Luzon, disclosure of Russo-British strategy talks in Moscow paralleling the Roosevelt-Churchill conference in Washington must be ominous news for Tokyo.

At what moment Britain's Russian ally may take a hand in the Pacific war to alter the whole pattern of the China sea struggle only the highest authority in the anti-axis camp knows. It seems certain that the crisis in the Far East, involving the immediate fate of both Manila and Singapore, concerned the Moscow conferees as much as it did those in Washington.

The twin meetings to rally American - British - Russian resources and map a coordinated war effort synchronized too closely for that to be doubted. The Singapore base and its gallantly defended Philippine outpost are so vitally important that joint measures to render both secure against Japanese aggressors must have been high up on the Moscow agenda.

The "complete accord" reported to have been reached between the British and the Russians in Moscow gives virtual assurance that at some predetermined moment the Russians will fall on Japan's flank in the rear. The timing of such an attack is apt to be influenced by developments both in the Philippines and on the Malayan peninsula within the next few days or weeks.

The grave menace on Luzon confronting Gen. MacArthur's outnumbered American - Filipino armies is conceded. His withdrawal to shorter lines north of Manila, where the main Japanese attack from Lingayen gulf landings is now fully developed, indicates that the first critical phase of the battle for manila is expected there.

The retirement to a defense line which is bolstered by rugged terrain and which appears to run about mid-way between the Japanese Lingayen beach landings and Manila would have a double advantage for MacArthur. There is more involved than the better defensive use he can make of his limited forces in holding narrow mountain defiles.

His own lines of communication at the rear, as well as his fighting front, are contracted. Those of the foe grow longer and more difficult with every mile of advance. Moving through bitterly hostile territory, the Nipponese must garrison every town and road or trail junction behind them against Filipino raiders, familiar with every by-path. The full weight of Japanese reinforcements cannot be brought to bear in action at the front.

The Japanese assault is now so well defined as centering in the Lingayen push toward Manila, supplemented by the diversion attack from the south through even more difficult terrain, that General MacArthur must be satisfied that he has fathomed the strategy of his foe. For the first time he is free to muster for full scale battle on ground f his own choosing, which tends to even the odds of numbers somewhat.

Council Acts On Blackouts

Downtown Lights Will Be Turned On; Raid Whistles Borrowed

(Continued from Page 1)

complete defense program, stressing policing, air raid alarms and fire protection.

A second resolution provided that the Portland General Electric company shall install, at an estimated cost of $625, control circuits for the downtown cluster lights and relay equipment so that the lights can be extinguished by a single switch at the power house.

They have been turned off for a week, since the army's order to douse all outside lightts which could not be put out within 60 seconds. At present they are controlled through a half dozen switches over town. Councilmen felt the resultant darkness was a hazard.

Installation of the equipment can probably be made within two or three days, said W. M. Hamilton, PGE district manager, who explained city policemen must continue to turn out the top lights of the clusters each night at midnight.

As provided by the resolution, the cost is to be added to the company's investment in other street lighting circuits on which the city pays rental under a one-year contract. The additional rental is about $6.25 per month. Hamilton declared the city would not be obligated for the remainder of the rent if the contract for lighting is not renewed.

If the city wishes the equipment removed within eight years, approximately the time in which it would be paid for by the rent, the investment could be written off, and the city would pay removal and salvage expenses.

The ordinance added to the blackout ordinance passed December 11 a new subsection, providing that "neon signs, flood lights, advertising signs, theatre signs" or other signs which can not be extinguished within 60 seconds after warning to the satisfaction of police or air raid wardens must be extinguished at all times.

A new section makes it "unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to refuse or neglect to comply with any subsequent orders, mandates or proclamations handed down by the civil authorities, army or navy of the United States during the national emergency."

Alderman LeGarie visited Portland Sunday to hear the test of new air raid signals and said they were not satisfactory. According to the Associated Press report from Portland, "Fifteen air raid warning horns tried out here Sunday were inadequate, Mayor Earl Riley said. More are to be obtained."

The steamship whistle was borrowed from Zidell & Steinberg, Portland machinery dealers who salvaged it from the steamship Evans, a craft which plied the Pacific coast from 1912 to 1933, when it was wrecked at the mouth of the Columbia river. Three feet long and ten inches in diameter, the whistle requires 180 pounds of steam pressure to operate it.

Until a more satisfactory signal can be found, especially for the city's outskirts, LeGarie said the warning would probably be all whistles and sirens available in one long blast.

Valley Army Camp Staff Set to Work

ALBANY, Dec. 29–(AP)–A staff of approximately 100 engineers and civilian aides has been approved for the projected army cantonment in the Albany-Corvallis area, Capt. T. E. Dittebrandt said Monday.

The army engineers have moved equipment into the Albany college campus quarters formerly used by the constructing quartermaster.

He said that although headquarters had been set up, he did not know when construction would be authorized.

Obituary

Gettings

Mrs. Ella Gettings, at her residence, 462 Hoyt street Monday, December 29. Survived by daughters, Mrs. Bertha Gould, Weston, Ore., and Mrs. Alice McNeff, Salem; and sons, Edward, Elgin, Ore., and Wilbur, Enterprise, Ore. Funeral announcements later by Clough-Barrick funeral home.

McKay Praises Spirit Shown At Honolulu

The excellent morale of all Americans in Hawaii at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequently was praised by Senator Douglas McKay as he addressed veterans of World War I who filled both floors of the American Legion building Monday night for a special meeting at which McKay and Coach "Spec" Keene related their experiences at the scene of the history-making attack and during the trip home on a liner which carried to the mainland several hundred wounded men.

Telling of the fine spirit shown by men seriously wounded in the attack and of the calmness with which civilian Americans in the islands went about the necessary emergency tasks, McKay said he was convinced of this nation's ability to "take it." He also mentioned some occurrences pointing to the need of thorough planning for civilian defense.

Coach Keene gave a chronological account of the trip including some amusing sidelights. He said he had been told Hawaii could not be attacked, but is now unwilling to believe that "it can't happen here."

Temblor Felt At Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 29–(AP)–A single earth tremor, apparently local in origin, shook lower Columbia river towns Monday but caused no important damage.

The tremor, lasting only a few seconds, struck about 10:35 a.m. Several windows were broken in the northwest section of the city, and residents reported that dishes rattled and light fixtures swung violently. Similar reports came from numerous communities along the Columbia river.

Today's War Summary

By The Associated Press

Main American-Filipino bodies withdrew some 35 miles to new line in northern Luzon theatre; invader's pressure is rising in south; Japanese planes beat at Manila bay defense for three hour; at least four invading bombers are shot down.

British concede that Japanese offensive has passed Ipoh in eastern Malaya, action is heavy in that area; Kuching in Sarawak, Borneo, falls to invader; Japanese losses are reported running 40-to-1 in some cases; reports of Japanese landings in Medan, Dutch Sumatra, now appear erroneous.

Russians smash nazi efforts to make a stand in new defense positions; British have all but isolated main surviving axis Libyan forces south of Bengasi.

RAF Showers Nazi Bases

Heavy Aerial Blows on Long Coastline Told; Commandos Active

(Continued from Page 1)

Adolf Hitler's military establishments was this score marked up officially in one of the most active weekend British offensives in months:

Eight enemy ships totalling 15,650 tons sunk, and oil tanks, ammunition stores and a Quisling-owned industrial plant destroyed by suddenly striking commands of the British army in a raid on Vaagso and Maaloy islands, 100 miles north of Bergen, Norway;

The entire garrison of Maaloy island killed or captured; a total of 120 nazi casualties and 95 prisoners taken in the entire operation;

Bomb hits on two German ships off The Netherlands.

In a stirring account of the raid carried out Saturday night on Vaagso and Maaloy by commands landing on the fog-shrouded islands, the British disclosed what was considered a perfect example of absolute coordination of land, sea and air forces.

It was the first time that all three arms participated in a joint action and it was declared to have gone off "absolutely according to plan from beginning to end."

Official quarters emphasized this was a small scale operation without bearing on major theatres of the war—an admonition regarded in some circles as an attempt to dispel the often-voiced idea that some such a raid or series of raids might herald the beginning of a continental invasion.

Despite the official tendency to de-emphasize the size of the raid, Britons hailed it as a heavy blow to German shipping which has used Vaagso as an assembly point for nazi convoys carrying supplies to the far northern front in Russia.

During the Vaagso operations British bombers attacked Herdla, the nearest enemy airdrome 100 miles down the coast. The British acknowledged loss of eight bombers and three fighters in day-long fighting after the raid.

While the RAF offensive again was on the upsurge after a period of virtual inactivity, aviation observers here estimated that German air losses in the Russian campaign have reduced the nazi air force to about 65 per cent of its peak strength.

One reliable commentator put it: "The German air force literally is worn out."

Canada Told Road Clear

(Continued from page 1)

through his conferences with President Roosevelt and American leaders in Washington, he then asserted that the salvation of the world lay in some organization which would have as its core the English speaking peoples. Churchill made no elaboration of his bare statement.

King, also speaking briefly, characterized Churchill as the embodiment of the determination and courage of the British people.

Canada, the dominion prime minister declared, has seen very clearly what lay ahead and nothing, he promised, would be spared in the way of effective aid to the mother country.

Senator Raoul Dandurand, government leader in the senate, thanked Churchill in French at the close of his address.

Lord Beaverbrook, who remained in Washington for continuing conferences on supply problems, and W. Averell Harriman, lend-lease administrator, were expected to arrive by plane Monday night to be present Tuesday when Churchill addressed the Canadian parliament.

The Canadian Broadcasting corporation's network will carry it to the people, and arrangements were made for facilities between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. PST. (The speech also will be broadcast over NBC, CBS, and MBS networks in the United States).

Luzon Crisis Declared Near

Rising Jap Pressure Causes US Forces to Shorten Battle Lines

(Continued from page 1)

in Western Malaya, heavy action was joined, but on the east coast there was no sign of Japanese progress.

Moreover, the invad was paying a high cost for such progress as he had made elsewhere. A British news agency dispatch reported that hand-to-hand fighting had in some cases inflicted 40-to-1 casualties upon the Japanese.

The British Singapore command likewise acknowledged the fall of Kuching, the capital of British-protected Sarawak, on the island of Borneo some 475 miles east of Singapore.

The outlook on the western side of the Malay peninsula however, appeared measurably lighter than before.

The Dutch East Indies command—which also reported that Dutch-operated American Martin bombers had squarely hit another Japanese transport off Miri harbor in Sarawak—made no mention of previous reports that the invader had landed at Medan on Dutch Sumatra, a strategic position across Malacca strait from which Singapore could be flanked to the west.

The Dutch communique, however, did speak of enemy air raids on Medan, as did the British, and it seemed clear either that there had been no Japanese landing at all, or that any landing that might have been effected was in such slight strength as to offer no present menace.

The British wireless, in fact, quoted Dutch officials as saying flatly that reports of Japanese parachute landings on Medan were erroneous, presumably a misunderstanding of initial accounts of the assailant's bombing attack.

There were Manila radio reports that 12 more Japanese troopships had been sunk by Dutch aircraft off Davao on Mindanao, the southern most Philippine island, but these had no official confirmation.

Confirmed by the US navy, however, were further successes in the far east for American submarines. They sank another Japanese transport and a supply vessel.

On Luzon, the Monday morning communique from the war department reported, Gen. Douglas MacArthur had materially shortened his lines in the north by consolidating the majority of his troops in Pampanga province. The northern frontier of that province is about 55 miles below the Gulf of Lingayen and an equal distance north of Manila itself.

Washington was informed also of heavy enemy reinforcements—several infantry divisions, tank regiments and horse cavalry—but stated that despite their long stand against heavy odds MacArthur's men were in high morale and offering stubborn resistance.

MacArthur's communique of mid-afternoon Monday direct from his headquarters spoke of the situation in the north as materially unchanged.

Of the south—where the Japanese were reported unofficially to have beaten forward from their Lamon bay beachheads to within 46 airline miles of Manila—this communique reported:

"The enemy continues to build up its forces and is maintaining steady pressure."

An American officer and a newspaper reporter returning Monday to Manila gave accounts indicating that the defenders' position in the north had been materially strengthened, but on the basis of other information it seemed that they had referred to earlier and now superseded action.

The officer reported that at the time of his departure from the northern front the invaders had appeared to be falling back from Tayug, 100 miles north of Manila.

The reporter told how young Filipino soldiers had fought with extraordinary gallantry, having for 48 hours, beginning on Christmas morning, beaten off the Japanese to give the American command time to reorganize its main troops for a stronger defense on more suitable terrain.

In Manila, which the Japanese in violation of all accepted international codes had mercilessly bombed after it had become an open and undefended city, it was plain that the Filipinos were filled not with fear but with an implacable anger. The Japanese had repeated over Manila the bloody errors in which the Germans persisted so long over London: They had unified and strengthened their thus far helpless victims.

The day's principal Japanese claims aside from the capture of Ipoh and Kuching included an assertion that Japanese submarines had sunk ten American ships aggregating 70,000 tons off Hawaii and the US mainland up to December 25 and had damaged eight others of equal tonnage.

The fall of Ipoh was not conceded by the British, who pointed out that it might have been bypassed.

GOP Meet Postponed

GRANTS PASS, Dec. 29–(AP)–Republican state chairmen have postponed their scheduled January 12 meeting in Washington, DC., to a later date, Niel R. Allen, Oregon GOP chairman, said Monday.

One-Time Jail Inmate Sends Sheriff Gift

A Christmas gift of $10 was folded into a greeting card Sheriff A. C. Burk received Monday from a Portland resident who wrote that he did not know the sheriff well enough to select the type of gift he would like to present as an appreciative remembrance.

The giver, who was a short-time county jail resident earlier this year when arrested on a drunken driving charge, was highly-recommended as a kind and generous man by business and professional men of his home city, Burk said, intimating that he might henceforth be able to join the chorus of praise.

Russians Roll Over Germans

Nazis Feel Weight of Smashing Offensive On All Sectors

(Continued from page 1)

that the anti-Hitler coalition "now joined also by the United States with its tremendous resources," would need to exert all its efforts to beat him and his allies.

War reports broadcast on the radio declared Moscow and Tula, 100 miles south, have now been freed of immediate danger as a result of crushing defeats administered to the Germans on both Moscow flanks.

The nazi wedge at Mozhaisk, 57 miles directly west of the capital, is now threatened as a result of Soviet gains to the north and south, it was said. The reports said the Germans were beginning to withdraw from areas around Mozhaisk and Maloyaroslavets, 65 miles southwest of the capital.

On the Kalinin front, northwest of Moscow, a new Russian success was said to have resulted in capture of headquarters of a German infantry regiment. The German troops, surprised at night, rushed into the snow wearing only their nightclothes and were mowed down, said the Soviet information bureau.

An Izvestia correspondent said a picked German division, "crammed with officers" made desperate counterattacks on the Leningrad front but was repulsed without gaining a yard and lost 1,500 men.

The newspaper Pravda reported from the southern front that Italian divisions encountered there put up a sorry appearance, although the Celare division had offered brave resistance before being ejected from one position.

Large groups of Italians, led by their own officers, often surrender in units, with their weapons in working order, the paper said. Many of them are without overcoats to protect them from the blizzards, and have wound themselves in blankets and shawls, it added.

Eight hundred Italians were killed in one action and nearly two battalions annihilated in another, it was reported, and 106 Russian villages were recovered by the red army in six days.

Seamen From Torpedoed Ship Saved

(Continued from page 1)

line between 1928 and 1933. Captain Larry Adams was her skipper at that time.

HONOLULU, Dec. 29.–(AP)–The number of seamen missing as a result of the torpedoing of the American freighters Manini and Prusa the night of December 17 was reduced to 14 Monday when the naval dis t headquarters at San Francisco announced a boatload of 19 from the Manini had been rescued. Nine were known to have been killed in the sinking of the Prusa.

Two lifeboats with survivors from the two vessels were picked up Saturday after spending more than nine days in the open boats. One of the lifeboats contained 12 survivors from the Manini. The other had 13 survivors from the Prusa.

County Gifts To Red Cross Nearing Goal

(Continued from page 1)

2:15 o'clock this afternoon over KSLM. Speaking on the Art Center hour, representatives of the war relief and disaster preparedness committees are to participate in the program.

Floyd Miller, chairman of the emergency fund committee, is to serve as master of ceremonies. Appearing with him are to be Dr. Ralph Purvine, chairman of the emergency medical services for the Red Cross disaster preparedness committee and the county defense council; Irl McSherry, disaster preparedness chairman, and Lowell Kern of the emergency committee.

Quezon to Take Oath of Office

Orders Money Printed Because of Hoarding; Dutch Forces Active

(Continued from Page 1)

Philippines. But the communique did credit the squadron of American-built Martin bombers which raided Miri with shooting down "probably" two Japanese fighter planes.

Though the communique gave a detailed account of the Japanese attack on the airport at Medan on Sumatra yesterday, in which 30 persons were killed, 70 wounded and the airdrome was damaged, there was no further official word on the Japanese parachute troops which were reported to have been landed simultaneously within ten miles of Medan.

Observers saw this official silence as an indication that the Japanese, in their first effort to effect a landing on Indies territory, had not been able to do so in sufficient force to constitute a serious threat.

(Quoting a Batavia communique as its authority, BBC announced that "the reports of a Japanese parachute landing on Medan in Sumatra are based on a misunderstanding from the Japanese air raid on this town.")

It was learned, however, that the Japanese had followed up the Sumatra attack by dropping leaflets over the northern part of the island. Crudely lettered in English and Malayan, they were said to be similar to those dropped on Singapore on Christmas day and read:

"Stand up hand in hand with one accord. Burn to death the white devils with the blazing, sacred fire of victory."

(Virtually all of Sumatra north of Medan is the province of Achin, whose natives resisted the Dutch colonial government longer than any others in the islands. As recently as 1901 to 1904 they still were in open revolt, and in the interior the natives never have resigned themselves entirely to Dutch rule.)

Eden Reveals Russ Accord On War Plans

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 30.–(AP)–Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden returned to London early today from two weeks of Moscow conferences at which Britain and Russia came to complete agreement on conduct of the war.

"Our talks in Moscow were full, frank and sincere," Eden said in a statement.

"I was lucky enough to see something of the military performance of the Russian armies, which are truly magnificent."

British Draw Libya Noose

Axis African Remnants Hemmed In as RAF Hits Fleeing Tank Columns

(Continued from page 1)

stubborn opposition, but the high command's communique said the Germans and Italians retreated to the west after losing six tanks.

"Northeast of Agedabia," the bulletin added, "our artillery successfully engaged an enemy motor transport column."

The RAF was active all the way to Tripoli, 400 miles to the west of the Cirenaican border, "damaging or destroying a considerable number of vehicles."

British planes also rained bombs on a small pocket of axis troops still holding out at Bardia far to the rear of the imperial columns which last week captured Bengasi.

Even if the Germans and Italians escape British encirclement at Agedabia it was believed they would run into considerable trouble to the west in Tripolitania. British patrols have been reported 150 miles inside that western half of Libya.

State Ration Board Meets

County Defense Unit Picks Tire Group; Situation Told

(Continued from Page 1)

ago," Camp declared, "and the situation was found to be serious. It was because of the acute situation that the rationing of tires was referred to the state agencies instead of being handled exclusively by the federal government."

Camp said that within a short time, probably 30 or 60 days, a part of the burden would be taken over by the federal government with ample funds available for rationing operations. He declared that if tire allotments were made to the states they probably would be based on past sales broken down by counties.

"In all cases where it is possible tires should be recapped," Camp continued.

Camp pointed out that O. L. Price, chairman of the Oregon rationing board, was a federal official under his appointment and that his traveling expenses would be paid by the federal government.

Camp said reports that there has been a heavy hoarding of new tires were erroneous but admitted that there probably had been some mass buying of used tires. He said that hoarders of used tires would be disappointed because of the price ceiling to be fixed by the government agencies.

Further action of the board necessarily must be deferred until the automotive trades report on the inspection station program and amended regulations relating to tire rationing have been received from Washington.

New tires will be restricted to certain emergency and commercial vehicles.

Camp indicated that tire recapping also might become a problem later provided the war continues for any length of time. There already is a shortage of some recapping materials, he said.