

U. S. WEATHER BUREAU		
Maximum temp., F.	55	58
Minimum temp., F.	46	50
Humidity, 8 a. m., pct.	86	94
Humidity, 5 p. m., pct.	88	95
Rainfall, inch.	.75	.77

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U. S. GRIMLY JOINS WORLD WAR LINEUP

JAPS INCREASE STRENGTH FOR LUZON BATTLE

But Two Battleships Of Kongo Class Are Hit And One Sunk

DEFENSE IS HOLDING

Several Attacks Beaten Off as Fifth Column Is Hunted

MANILA, Friday, Dec. 12.—(P)—The Japanese have improved their strength in northern Luzon, but "the situation remains unchanged materially," the U. S. Army stated in a communique today.

The army said it had received an unconfirmed report that a small force had landed at Legaspi, a port of the Albay Gulf on the southeastern coast of Luzon, the main island of the Philippines.

The situation which was declared materially unchanged overnight found the American defenders of the Philippines apparently having evaded every Japanese effort to land invading forces firmly ashore, save possibly for one new thrust by paratroops.

The communique, issued shortly before 8 a. m. (5 p. m. Thursday, M.S.T.) said:

Communique Quoted
"The enemy has improved his strength in northern Luzon. However, the situation remains unchanged materially. A small force is reported to have pushed ashore at Legaspi, but further reports have not been confirmed and further details are lacking."

Manila was under air raid alarm for an hour and 40 minutes early this morning—from 2:50 to 3:30 a. m.—but no raiders were reported.

The communique came at the beginning of a new day after the American defenders had had a series of successes, including the burning and sinking by army planes of a 29,000-ton Japanese battleship off the north coast of Luzon.

Battleship Damaged
(The navy announced in Washington the bombing and serious damaging of a second, 29,000-ton Japanese battleship, also off Luzon).

At Aparri, on the northern tip of Luzon, where one of the strongest invasion attempts was made, unofficial, but reliable, reports tonight said the Japanese were being driven back to the seacoast, and the region around the port was again in American hands.

The one exception to the United States' successes was an airport six miles from Ilagan, which was said to have been seized by aerial invaders. Units of the Philippine constabulary were organizing to quell the parachutists.

Mopping Up
At all other points, a United States army spokesman announced shortly before the parachutists' reported descent, "the situation is completely in hand" and "mopping up operations are proceeding" to dispose of the invaders.

The sinking of the 29,330-ton Japanese battleship by air attack followed quickly upon yesterday's crippling of a troopship convoy of six vessels off the Luzon west coast, in which at least one of the ships was sunk.

The warship, either the Haruna or one of her three sister ships, was set afire by United States army bombers and sank yesterday while supporting the landing operations.

15,000 Japanese Fall In Chinese Offensive

Heavy Blow Dealt by Chungking Army in Two-Day Drive Along Kwantung Front Aimed to Relieve Pressure on Hong Kong, China Radio Reports

CHUNGKING, China, Friday, Dec. 12.—(P)—Chinese troops attacking all along the Kwantung front to relieve Japanese pressure on Hongkong have inflicted 15,000 casualties on the Japs in a continuing two-day offensive, the China radio announced today.

Heavy blows were dealt to the Japanese especially on the northern and western anchors of the battle front, the account stated.

The central sector of the front was in the Shichow area about 130 miles north of Canton.

Approximately 1,000,000 Japanese soldiers still are in China, and about 400 Japanese planes are based on Hainan Island 200 miles southwest of Canton, the radio said.

Troops Withdrawing
But Japanese troops were reported here as withdrawing from Manchuria and Hankow on the Yangtze river, possibly to reinforce operations against the Malay peninsula and the Philippines.

A Chinese army spokesman said 30 trains bearing about a division had left Manchuria and private foreign sources said Japanese troops and civilians had started to leave Hankow.

Planes Leave Hankow
Not one of the hundred Japanese airplanes in Hankow were left in this important Japanese-occupied city which was captured in October, 1938, it was reported.

Evacuation would necessitate the withdrawal of all Japanese troops westward up to Ichang.

Some observers said it represented the all-out character of Japan's effort in Malaya and other southern territory.

The spokesmen told a press conference there had been no important engagements in China in the past week since the Japanese were fully occupied elsewhere. He refused to comment on reports of an all-out Chinese land offensive against the rear of Japanese troops in the Hongkong-Canton area.

(Singapore reported yesterday that the Chinese were already attacking about Canton.)

South to Burma
Other sources said Chinese troops would be sent south to the Burma road.

An appeal to Russia to declare war against Japan was circulated today by the official Central News Agency and published in all Chungking newspapers.

"If she misses this opportunity Russia may rue it later," said the appeal. It expressed the conviction that Japan was using her neutrality pact with Russia in the same way that Germany used the Russian-German nonaggression pact.

REDS TO SPURN PEACE FEELERS
Pledge of No Separate Pact With Axis Is Made By Soviet

KUIBYSHEV, U.S.S.R., Dec. 11.—(P)—A Russian peace pact with Germany would be made only by joint agreement with Britain and the United States, Soviet officials declared tonight in announcing that Germany had put out peace feelers to the Soviet Union.

The official Communist newspaper Pravda said of the situation: "The Hitler gang is ready any day to sign a peace with Russia if our government would talk with them."

Liquidation of Hitler
David Zaslavsky, Pravda's chief editorial writer, said, however, that a prerequisite of peace was liquidation of the "Hitler criminals."

"The Hitler gang dreams of peace with us," Zaslavsky said, "because the whole of Germany longs for a cessation of the war, foreseeing catastrophe, Hitler promised the Germans victory and deceived them. Now he promises peace, and he also is deceiving them."

Only by Agreement
Peace with Germany, this writer said, will come only after the German people banish Hitler and his followers, and added: "But this peace will be only by agreement with Great Britain and the United States."

Meanwhile U. S. Charge d'Affaires Walter Thurston informed the Soviet vice commissar for foreign affairs, S. A. Lozovsky, that the United States was at war with Japan. The formal message from Washington was received by Thurston at 1:30 a. m. today, although it was sent December 8.

(This dispatch was filed before the U. S. was at war with Germany and Italy.)

WASHINGTON PLEASED AT RED ATTITUDE
WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(P)—The declaration of Soviet officials that Russia would never make peace with Germany except by joint agreement with the United States and Britain cheered this capital, though there was no immediate comment from the state department or White House.

Among members of Congress (Continued to Page 13, Column 2)

BOMBERS POUND JAP FORCES IN MALAY JUNGLES

Hitler Tells of Pledge For Battle to Finish With United States

LAYTON IN COMMAND

Weary Survivors of Two Sunken Battleships Reach Singapore

SINGAPORE, Dec. 11.—(P)—Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton took temporary command of Britain's Far East fleet tonight in the place of Admiral Sir Tom Phillips who is among 595 officers and men still missing from the sinking of the battleship Prince of Wales and the battle cruiser Repulse.

Missing also is the Prince of Wales commander, Captain John Leach.

Weary and many of them wounded, some 130 officers and 2,200 men saved from the China sea reached this powerful British bastion after destroyers and other fleet units had worked at the rescue all last night.

Among the survivors were Captain L. H. Bell and Fleet Captain W. G. Tennant of the Repulse.

Layton to Remain
Vice Admiral Layton, former commander of the China station who had been superseded by Admiral Phillips, immediately gave up plans to return to London for a new post.

Even with the survivors here, the full story of what happened off the east coast of Malaya yesterday morning when the Prince of Wales and Repulse went down under a torpedoes was not available.

Some members of the crews said the first Japanese bomb smashed the airplane catapult of the Repulse. After that, under incessant attack, gunners died in bomb blasts and others manned their stations, keeping up the firing until hope for both ships was gone.

Seven Planes Downed
Seven planes were reported officially to have been shot down. Among the first of the rescued brought to shore were Cecil Brown, of the Columbia Broadcasting System, former Arizona newspaperman, and O'Dowd Gallagher, correspondent for the London Daily Express.

British planes, meanwhile, kept watch off the coast of Malaya for further Japanese transport movements, while big bombers blasted at the foothold Japanese landing forces gained in the sweltering jungle to the north.

A communique declared that British defenses there were holding and that "there are no reports of further attempts to land in the Kuantan area, nor were any enemy ships seen in that direction by air reconnaissance."

Airfields Bombed
The war bulletin announced that the Japanese bombers had hit heavily at British airfields in northern Malaya and said some of these were made temporarily unserviceable. Penang, off the west coast, was bombed heavily, also.

A night communique declared that "in Kedah (the northernmost Malay state) British units are in contact with the enemy near the Thailand border where local patrol encounters occurred" and said "in the Kuantan area where the Japanese landed yesterday morning the British are holding their original positions."

Hong Kong Holds Out
Reports from the British crown colony of Hong Kong indicated defense forces there also were holding out firmly against Japanese attack.

The British headquarters reported that Japanese siege troops were being trapped between impregnable fortresses as large Chinese units closed in on them from the rear and left flank.

Evacuation Orders for Part Of Coast Bring Wild Rumor

SANTA CRUZ, Calif., Dec. 11.—(P)—Santa Cruz was blacked out tonight and several large eucalyptus trees mysteriously burst into flame within more than 1,000 persons were being evacuated from the beach area fronting the Pacific ocean.

The evacuation was reported as a comprehensive test by the army, but several trees on a high cliff in an area inhabited by Japanese strawberry growers suddenly burst into flame.

At least two persons were reported detained at the police station. Women fainted at wild, unverified rumors that planes had been sighted approaching from sea, and that vessels were 150 miles offshore.

The fire department quickly extinguished the flaming trees. Soldiers went from door to door and ordered residents to put out their lights, lock their doors and hurry from the entire waterfront area.

Series of Naval Successes Is Cheering to Washington After Solons Answer Nazi Challenge

War Fronts at a Glance

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Germany and Italy declare war on the United States; Congress declares war on Germany and Italy without ceremony and without opposition.

Churchill tells parliament the English-speaking world would rather perish than be conquered.

Russia scorns German peace feelers and tells of new successes.

Japanese seize a Luzon airport but U. S. forces are mopping up.

U. S. Army announces destruction of Japanese battleship; navy announces Wake island defenders sank Japanese cruiser and destroyer in repelling four attacks, and scored hits on Japanese battleship off Luzon.

Japanese claim destruction of U. S. submarine, destroyer and 81 planes in attack on Philippines and claim 350 Americans captured at Guam.

Chinese, attacking in Kwangtung, report 15,000 casualties inflicted on Japanese.

British report 2,330 rescued from Prince of Wales and Repulse.

U. S. Navy Secretary Knox arrives in Honolulu.

Registration for U. S. Man Power Is Sought

All Men and Women to Be Listed if Hershey Plan Is Put in Effect; Immediate Increase in Armed Forces Believed Possible

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(P)—Registration of all men and women from 18 to 65 years of age may be asked by the government in an all-out mobilization of the nation's human resources for the war with the Axis.

Brig. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of selective service, disclosed today that this plan was under study as the army called for 10,000 volunteer nurses and Congress swiftly passed legislation removing prohibitions against service of selectees outside the western hemisphere.

"We undoubtedly are soon going to consider the registration of women," Hershey told a press conference.

He estimated that 20,000,000 could serve by replacing men in factories, enlisting in civilian defense or with the armed service in non-combatant capacities.

Registration Asked
The general proposition of registering and classifying all able-bodied men and women aged 18 to 65 was described by Hershey as the "No. 1 project at this time."

This would require new legislation. Emphasizing that the idea still was in the study stage, Hershey said he thought Congress should enact legislation presenting the people with "a broad liability for registration and a narrow liability for service."

"I don't visualize five or six million men marching off to war, but we must try to be ready through a measured approach to the problem," he said.

"There is something to be gained by registering and classifying a broad group of the people."

Under the present Selective Service Act, men between 21 and 35 inclusive were registered. About half of the present 1,600,000 men in the army were drafted under this act.

More Ready
Hershey estimated that 1,000,000 more were immediately available from the registered group, though he said this might mean lowering the standards for acceptance.

And he made clear that the first calls would go to men in this group. "Let's use what we've got first," he said. "I believe we should use the group 21 to 28 now to the limit of efficiency."

Congress wrote into the Selective Service Act last summer a restriction against dispatch of drafted men for service outside the Western Hemisphere.

With Japan's attack on the United States, the administration asked for removal of this restriction.

Duration Clause
In addition to removing restrictions on the area where selectees may serve, the legislation passed authorizes the war department to hold them and all other army personnel in service until six months after the end of the war.

Not all the 10,000 volunteer nurses asked by the army would go into immediate service. It asked enlistments also in the reserves subject to call to active duty. To be eligible, a woman must be a graduate of an accredited nursing school, unmarried and from 22 to 30 years old.

AMERICA FIRST IS ENDING ITS WORK
CHICAGO, Dec. 11.—(P)—General Robert E. Wood, national chairman of the American First Committee, announced tonight that the group would be dissolved and urged persons who had followed its lead to give their full support to the nation's war effort until peace is attained.

IL DUCE LAUDS 'HEROIC JAPAN'

Roosevelt Denounced By Mussolini in Speech Announcing War

ROME, Dec. 11.—(Official Radio Received by AP)—Premier Benito Mussolini today linked Fascist Italy's destiny with that of "heroic Japan" by declaring war on the United States in a five-minute speech from the balcony of the Palazzo Venezia.

"I say to you, and you will understand," he told party members below him, "that it is a privilege to fight with them (the Japanese)."

"Italians! Once more arise and be worthy of this historic hour! We shall win!"

Roosevelt Assailed
A propaganda ministry broadcast quoted the Fascist ruler as saying that President Roosevelt was "a real tyrannical democrat," who "wanted the day and had prepared for it day by day with diabolical obstinacy."

"Thus Italy joined her fortunes with Germany and Japan in a world struggle precipitated by the tripartite Axis alliance (a pact which provided, however, that Italy and Germany were to go to Japan's aid only if Japan were attacked)."

Almost an hour before Mussolini appeared on the balcony at 2:50 p. m. (5:50 a. m. MST), Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano summoned the United States charge d'affaires to the Chigi palace and informed him that King Emperor Vittorio Emanuele had declared Italy at war with the United States as from today.

Rates Crows Cheer
Vociferous crowds surged through Rome's streets demonstrating Axis solidarity with Japan, and cheered in front of the Japanese embassy.

Japan's ambassador was on hand to thank them.

For the first time since last summer, conspicuously a block or two from the U. S. embassy, but there were no demonstrations.

(A Bern dispatch from Rome reported arrangements probably would be made shortly for a special train to take the U. S. embassy staff to Lisbon for an exchange with Italian personnel allowed to leave the United States.)

(Those permitted to leave Rome, it was said, totaled about 200 persons, including 50 members of their families, 10 Catholic priests, and nine newspaper correspondents. All were under police surveillance.)

POSITION IS HELD BY 80,000 SERBS

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 11.—(P)—A Yugoslav army of 80,000 Serbs under Gen. Draja Mihailovic "continues to hold its positions" south of Belgrade despite heavy Axis pressure, the Yugoslav command announced tonight.

These Serb troops who took to the hills after the defeat last spring were reported fighting seven Axis divisions in the Morava river valley near the towns of Kragujevac and Knjazevac.

Ceremony Is Lacking as Congress Votes to Fight All Axis

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(P)—A series of hammering and destructive blows at Nippon's navy were announced today as Congress took up Hitler's gage of battle and put the United States formally into the war against Germany and Italy.

Official communique said that:

1. Japanese bombers sank the 29,000-ton Army battleship Haruna off the northern coast of Luzon, Philippine Islands.

2. The American forces protecting Wake Island, tiny stepping stone halfway between Hawaii and the Philippines, repulsed four enemy attacks, sank a light cruiser and a destroyer from the air.

3. Navy patrol planes scored bomb hits on a Japanese battleship off Luzon, and in the words of Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander of the Asiatic fleet, left her "badly damaged."

This battleship was unnamed, but was of the Kongo class, the same class as the Haruna. There are four ships in this category. All were built before the last World War. They were rebuilt during the period of 1926-30 and made more formidable, however.

No opposition. Without a single vote of opposition, both houses of Congress today passed resolutions making the United States a full and formal participant in the world-wide fight against Axis domination.

President Roosevelt, who had asked for the declaration immediately upon learning that Germany and Italy had declared war on the United States, signed the war resolutions as soon as they were received at the White House.

Thus the tremendous line-up of the world's powers for the prosecution of World War No. 2 was complete except for one major exception. Russia, which is at war with Germany and Italy, has yet to declare herself against Japan, but Secretary of State Hull expressed confidence that she would do so.

Hull Speaks
Just before going into conference with Maxim Litvinoff, the Soviet ambassador, Hull told reporters:

"We for our part have no doubt that the government and the people of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics will do their full part in standing side by side with all liberty loving people against the common menace."

The navy department announced that the garrison on Tinian, Wake Island, about half way between Hawaii and the Philippines, had repulsed four separate enemy attacks, and in the process had sunk a light cruiser and a destroyer from the air.

"Despite the loss of part of the defending planes and the damage to material and personnel," the announcement said, "the defending garrison succeeded in sinking one light cruiser and one destroyer of the enemy forces by air action."

Attacks Expected
"A rupture of the attack and a probable landing attempt is expected. The marine garrison is continuing to resist. The above report is based on information received up until noon, December 11."

The navy's report quickly spread excited jubilation throughout a capital which earlier had learned that army airmen operating in the Philippines, had sent a Japanese battleship, the 29,000-ton Haruna, to the bottom.

Secretary of War Stimson who made this announcement also said Japanese attempts to land in the Philippines were meeting determined opposition, and had been confined to the extreme northern tip of the island of Luzon.

Manila Dispatches
Although Manila dispatches told of the Japanese seizure of an airport in eastern Luzon, they also quoted army officials there as saying the situation was "completely in hand," that "enemy detachments that landed on the Luzon coast are being disposed of" and (Continued to Page 4, Column 1)

GERMANS PILOTING MANY JAP PLANES

LONDON, Dec. 11.—(P)—A large percentage of the Japanese planes attacking the Malay peninsula are piloted by Germans, the News Chronicle Singapore correspondents reported tonight.

"Enemy plane losses from which the pilots were captured or killed establish that a large percentage of the pilots are Germans," the correspondent said.

The main British land forces have not yet engaged the Japanese who have gained a foothold north of Singapore, he added.



Shopping Days
Till Christmas