

Big Japanese Forces On Move In Central New Guinea

NO CLASH YET WITH DEFENDERS Airfields In Markham Valley Sought

TWO MORE RAIDS ON PORT MORESBY

The Prime Minister issued a war communique today, stating that Japanese activity in the Salamaua and Lae areas of New Guinea was clearly extensive, but no clash between Australian troops and the enemy forces had so far been reported.

The communique added that there was unconfirmed information indicating that German missionaries in the Salamaua and Lae area were supporting the Japanese invaders.

It is believed that the enemy's first objective will be the capture of airfields in the Markham Valley, from which a heavy air assault could be launched against Port Moresby to pave the way for a land attack.

Two more completely unsuccessful raids were launched against Port Moresby by Japanese aircraft today. The first attack was a machine-gun attack only, and was carried out from a height of about 200 feet. It was undertaken by a small force of Japanese fighters, which appeared suddenly for a hit-and-run operation.

They made two runs over the target area and aerodrome, and were hotly engaged by AA fire. There was no damage, and no casualties have been reported.

A single heavy bomber made the second raid, which was launched about an hour after the machine-gun attack. Flying at a height of about 20,000 feet, it dropped six bombs. It was driven off by AA fire. There was no damage, and no casualties were caused.

Tough Task Ahead Of Enemy

From GOSKIN JOHNSTON PORT MORESBY, March 20.—The Japanese advance along the Markham Valley is the easiest portion of the Japanese plan to set themselves. Yet to be overcome are miles of malarial swamps and jungles, crude maps and precipitous ravines through the 12,000-foot peaks of the Owen Stanley Range. It is a tough, and almost dangerous country in the world.

Few Casualties In Darwin Raid

CANBERRA, March 20.—Two persons were killed, one seriously injured, and six or seven slightly injured, in yesterday's Japanese air raid on Darwin. The Japanese air raid on Darwin was a serious one, but it was not a serious nature. The raid on Darwin was a serious one, but it was not a serious nature.

STOP PRESS

British Withdrawal From Tharwaddy

CALCUTTA, March 20.—A.P.—The British have withdrawn from Tharwaddy towards Prome. The Japanese are massing at Taikgyi.

German Squadron Located

LONDON, March 20.—Aerial reconnaissance has located the battleship Tirpitz, the pocket battleship Admiral von Scheer, the cruiser Prinz Eugen, and several destroyers at Tromsø, Norway.

Russians Occupy Important Centre

LONDON, March 20.—A.P.—The Moscow radio announced that after a brief encounter the Russians occupied an important centre of resistance held by German units of the surrounded 16th Army at Staraya Russa. They also captured a German garrison commander and staff.

Japan Claims Complete Conquest Of Sumatra

NEW YORK, March 19.—E.I.A.—The Tokyo official radio today announced that Japanese forces have completed the occupation of Sumatra and have taken over the administration of the country. Asahi says that with the exception of a few wells, Sumatra's oilfields are undamaged.

Hotel In Heart Of Melbourne

MELBOURNE.—The Victoria Palace Hotel in Little Collins street next to Town Hall is being converted into a hotel.



General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Anzac Area, was in Adelaide yesterday. This picture of General MacArthur and his wife was taken at the Adelaide Railway Station yesterday afternoon on their arrival from Alice Springs. They left for Melbourne by train last night.

MACARTHUR CALLS ON ADELAIDE

Crowds Gather To Cheer As News Spreads

General Douglas MacArthur, his wife and son, and a party of United States officers, reached Adelaide last night on their way to Melbourne. They were cheered by crowds to whom the news of their arrival had quickly spread.

'I Came Through; I Shall Return'

General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Anzac Area, was in Adelaide yesterday. He declared that he would return to the Philippines.

RECEPTION PLANS IN MELBOURNE

General MacArthur will arrive in Melbourne tomorrow morning from Adelaide. He will be met at the airport by the Deputy Prime Minister and other officials.

PLEDGE BY U.S. WORKERS

'Unending Stream Of Arms For Australia'

The President of the American Federation of Labor, William Green, has pledged that the United States will supply an unending stream of arms for Australia.

HALS'S FAMOUS LEMONADE

HALS'S FAMOUS LEMONADE. Make best stand.

CUT IN HOTEL HOURS TODAY

No Bottled Beer After 2 p.m. Hotels in the metropolitan area will close between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. from today, and, from Monday, will not open before 8 a.m. under orders issued yesterday by the Premier (Mr Playford).

BATTLE IN BURMA SOON

Assault On Prome Sector Likely. All reports from Burma indicate that a big battle is imminent. It is stated that Japanese troops yesterday captured the town of Prome, which is a key position in the Prome sector.

EXCHANGE OF CABLES ABOUT MR. CASEY

Federal Cabinet To Issue White Paper. An exchange of telegrams in the past 12 hours between the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) and the British Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) upon the circumstances surrounding the appointment of the Australian Minister in Washington (Mr. Casey) as British Minister of State at Cairo will lead to the presentation of a White Paper to the Federal Parliament when it meets next Wednesday.

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State Controller.