TO CAIRO FROM LIBYA come these Axis troops, not as conquerors but as prisoners. They are some of the thousands of German and Italian prisoners captured by Gen. Ritchie's 8th Army in Cyrenaica. Escorted by Scottish troops and Egyptian mounted police, these men are seen marching through the City of the Caliphs on their way to the citadel, or El-Kala, in the background, which was built by Saladin in 1166. Within the citadel stands the Mosque of Mehemet Ali, flanked by tall minarets.
The United Nations Declare for Freedom

The United Nations Declare for Freedom

On the first day of January the Grand Alliance of nations against the Axis powers was concluded at Washington, when the representatives of 26 nations signed a solemn declaration of mutual support and agreed to fight the war together to a successful finish.

The "Declaration by the United Nations," as it was officially styled in the published text, although historians may prefer to call it the Declaration of Washington, was signed by a list of the Governments signatory thereto. Then it goes on, "Having subscribed to a common programme of purposes and principles embodying the Common Will of the United Nations, and being convinced that complete victory over their enemies is essential to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands; and that they are now engaged in a common struggle against savage, brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world; declare:

1. - Each Government pledges itself to employ its full resources, military or economic, against those members of the Tripartite Pact and its adherents with which such a Government is at war.

2. - Each Government pledges itself to cooperate with the Governments signatory hereto, and not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemies.

The foregoing declaration may be adhered to by other nations which are or which may offer material assistance and contributions in the struggle for victory over Hitlerism.

No special ceremony attended the signing of what Mr. Cordell Hull, the U.S. Secretary of State, described as "one of the greatest documents in history." After President Roosevelt had signed for America and Mr. Churchill for Britain, the representatives of the other signatory states proceeded to the White House, and, with their overcoats over their arms, passed into the room of Mr. Berle, Assistant Secretary of State, where the document lay ready for their signature. Mr. Litvinov, the Soviet Ambassador, signed for Russia, and Mr. T. V. Soong, just reappointed Chinese Foreign Minister, for China. Dr. L.oudon, Queen Wilhelmina's Minister in the States, signed for the Netherlands, and the British Dominions were represented by Mr. Leighton McCarthy for Canada, Mr. R. G. Casey for Australia, Mr. Frank Langston for New Zealand, Mr. Bajpai for India, and Mr. Ralph Close for South Africa. Then, one by one, the envoys of the other nations added their signatures—of Belgium, Luxembourg, and Greece, of Norway, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, of Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Swift on the heels of the publication of the Declaration of Washington came the announcement of the first major decision of the new Alliance. On January 3 it was announced in Washington that, as a result of proposals put forward by the United States and British Chiefs of Staffs, and on their recommendations to President Roosevelt and to Prime Minister Churchill, and with the concurrence of the Netherlands Government and the Dominion Governments concerned, the system of a unified command was to be established in the south-western Pacific area. Henceforth, all the forces in this area—the area was not precisely defined, but it was authoritatively stated to include Singapore, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and the Philippines—would operate under one Supreme Commander; at the suggestion of the President, in which all concerned have agreed, General Sir Archibald Wavell has been appointed to this command.

Major-General Sir H. Brett, Chief of the Air Corps of the U.S. Army, was appointed Deputy Supreme Commander, and General Sir Henry Powell was appointed General Wavell's Chief of Staff, while Admiral Thomas C. Hart of the U.S. Navy was given command of all the naval forces in the area. At the same time, went on the announcement, His Excellency the Generalissimo, Chiang Kai-Shek, had accepted supreme command over all land and air forces of the united nations, which were now or might in the future be operating in the Chinese theatre.

Within a few hours General Wavell was on his way to take up his new command. "I am fully conscious that it is a great responsibility which rests on me," he said on January 4. "The sudden and treacherous attack by Japan has given her forces an initial advantage. This is the advantage which a murderer, thief or cheat can always gain against an unsuspecting ordinary and decent citizen. The situation might become worse until the tide turned, and in any case it would not be possible to reverse it at one blow. "We must hold on with what we have until we can collect our forces for the return blow," he added. "The combined forces of Britain, the United States, China, the Netherlands East Indies and Australia cannot fail in the long run to throw out the Japanese freebooters from the places they have temporarily seized."

History has known other Grand Alliances—none of the most famous, perhaps, than the one against Louis XIV of France, in which Mr. Churchill's ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, so distinguished himself—but never has there been any alliance to be compared with this tremendous "instrument of war," which is just as tremendous a forger and wielder of the peace that is to follow. At the conclusion of the Declaration of Washington, the Axis and the Tripartite Pacts look small enough. On our side there are now ranged four-fifths of the world.

This was made outstandingly clear on January 6, when Mr. Roosevelt delivered the most historic of all his vital messages which have been brought about in our name. "The United Nations," he declared, "has achieved the first milestone in its total war effort against our common enemies is being achieved. That is the purpose of the conference which has been held in the past two weeks in Washington, Moscow, and Chungking..."

"We shall not fight isolated wars—each nation going its own way. We of the United Nations will do our part to see that we can strike at the common enemy wherever the greatest damage can be done. The militarists in Berlin and Tokyo started this war, but the masses angered by forces of common humanity will finish it."

In these circumstances it is almost difficult to realize that this time last year we of the British Commonwealth were alone, with no ally in arms beside us. America was in the war but not in the fighting war; Russia—marvelous thought when we think of the six months of struggle along the road to Moscow and back—was still Hitler's ally. The Chinese were fighting the Japanese, whom we were still trying to appease... What, or rather whom, have we to thank for the tremendous triumphs that have been achieved? First and foremost, Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt; but perhaps our thanks are due almost equally to Messrs. Roosevelt and Hitler had learnt the lesson that Napoleon never learnt—when to stop; if Tojo had never thought what a wonderfully clever thing it would be to catch the Yanks unprepared—then we might still have been sustaining the struggle alone, or almost alone.

What a vast difference, then, has been in our situation and in our prospects by a brief 12 months! An even greater difference may be brought about before we have torn out last leaf of 1942's calendar—that is, if we work as we ought to work, and if we fight as we can fight and must. The armies of the Axis will be crushed on the field of battle, their navies will be sent to the bottom or driven to surrender at another Scapa, and their air fleets will be brought down. Germany will at last experience all the woes and wrongs which she has inflicted upon so many innocent peoples. These things will all come. They will proceed inevitably, inexorably, from the Declaration signed in Washington on January 1.

Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, Supreme Commander of the forces of the United Nations in the South-West Pacific, being helped into parachute equipment before leaving Malaya after an inspection of Singapore's defences.

Photo British Official

E. ROYSTON PIKE
Malta Had 60 Raids in Christmas Week

Maltese Shelter dug deep beneath the island rock. Malta has thirty long underground galleries of great antiquity which have been adapted to serve as shelters against air raids.

**KING'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO MALTA**

Malta, the Indomitable sent the following Christmas message to King George VI:

"Please convey to His Majesty the King the loyal and devoted Christmas greetings of the people and garrison of Malta and all parties in the Council of Government. Now, as ever before, Malta stands determined to play its part in the Empire struggle until the day of victory comes."

In his reply to Lt.-Gen. Sir William Dobbie, Governor of Malta, His Majesty said:

"Please convey to the Government, garrison and people of Malta my sincere thanks for their Christmas message. I send them my best wishes, in confidence that the coming year will find them as undaunted and resolute as ever in the defence of the island."

Maltese Families have endured a thousand air attacks—there were 60 air raids on the island during Christmas week. Fortunately the workable island rock has provided safe shelters and civilian casualties have been relatively small. These young Maltese are seated outside a shelter entrance.

VALETTA HARBOUR is, naturally, one of the main objectives of Axis raiders, and this photograph was taken at the height of a raid. But air attack on Malta has proved very costly to the enemy, enormous numbers of enemy planes having been brought down by the island’s defences—A.A. guns and the indomitable fighters of the R.A.F. And Malta hits back, for British bombers based on the island have dropped millions of bombs on enemy targets in Sicily and S. Italy.

*Photos, British Official; Crown Copyright; Planet News*
Our Troops in Libya Wear the Smile of Victory

Hundreds of cans full of petrol fell into British hands when this fuel dump, between Bardia and Tobruk, was captured. The loss of fuel supplies by capture or bombing has been a great blow to Rommel's panzers.

BARDIA COULD NOT EMULATE TOBRUK

The New Year began well in Libya with the capture of the fortified seaport of Bardia. During the night of January 1-2, units of the First and Second South African Divisions—the South African Police, Kaffrarian Rifles and Royal Durban Light Infantry—supported by British tanks and medium artillery as well as by the Polish Field Artillery Regiment and by the New Zealand Cavalry Regiment, carried the strong defences of Bardia at the point of the bayonet. The operation was magnificently supported by units of the Mediterranean Fleet.

The Bardia garrison held a position of great natural strength, made even more formidable by the application of military science and engineering. But though the German and Italian garrison had before it the magnificent example of Tobruk to show what a resolute defence could accomplish, they surrendered unconditionally after an attack of less than 48 hours.

Although naval and air bombardment and artillery fire contributed to the capture of the fortress, it was the bayonet attack at night which really sealed its fate. Rather than face a repetition of the attack, the enemy decided to surrender, and on Friday morning, January 2, two Axis emissaries approached the British lines with a flag of truce.

They asked Gen. de Villiers, commanding the British forces in the attack, to make a rendezvous with Maj.-Gen. Arthur Schmidt, the Axis commander, with a view to negotiating the surrender. The terms were soon settled and nearly 8,000 prisoners were taken by the Imperial Forces when they entered the town later in the day.

Maj.-Gen. Schmidt, the first German general commanding a large force to surrender to the British in this war, was Chief Administrative Staff Officer of the African Panzer Groups.

THE LIBYAN ADVANCE has brought regiments from home as well as Imperial troops into the limelight. Above, some cheery lads of the Essex Regiment are seen at El Duda, while at the top of the page two joyous machine-gunners of a North County regiment sit in a captured enemy gun pit. Circle, a remarkable shot by the Germans. The shell went right down the muzzle of a British tank gun and split it in two.

Photos, British Official: Crown Copyright
VICTORY IN LIBYA is crowning the efforts of General Ritchie's 8th Army, which, by the end of 1941, had almost cleared the province of Cyrenaica of the enemy. Photographs from the Libyan front in this page show: top, Axis tanks, armoured vehicles and mechanized transport ablaze in the desert after capture by South African troops. Below, British military traffic making its way along the Tobruk-Bardia road. The New Year opened with Gen. Rommel brought to bay at Jedabia, 100 miles south of Benghazi, where he strove desperately to break out of the ring slowly closing round him.
CHURCHILL SPEAKS FOR BRITAIN IN AMERICA:

M R. CHURCHILL in America! On December 23, 1941, when the War Office announced that the British Prime Minister had arrived in the United States to discuss the national and international questions relevant to the war effort, Mr. Churchill was accompanied by Lord Beaverbrook, Sir Charles Portal, Chief of the Air Staff, and Field-Marshal Sir John Dill, Chief of the General Staff. He was welcomed with open arms, and his words were received with great enthusiasm.

His address to Congress was broadcast to the world. In it he spoke of the need for unity and cooperation between the United States and Britain. He said that the war was not just a struggle for power, but a battle for survival. He appealed to the American people to support the British war effort and to join them in the fight against fascism.

The speech was received with great enthusiasm. It was a call to action, a call to unity, and a call to victory. The audience was moved to tears, and the applause lasted for minutes.

President Roosevelt, who was also present, said that Mr. Churchill was a man of great vision and courage. He said that the United States and Britain were united in their determination to win the war and to create a better world.

The speech was a turning point in the war. It brought the United States and Britain closer together, and it helped to bring about the Atlantic Charter, the foundation of the United Nations.

The war was long and hard, but in the end, the United States and Britain emerged victorious. Mr. Churchill’s speech played a key role in bringing about this victory.

In conclusion, Mr. Churchill’s speech was a testament to his vision and courage. It showed that the war was not just a battle for power, but a battle for survival. It was a call to action, a call to unity, and a call to victory. The United States and Britain were united in their determination to win the war and to create a better world.
HISTORIC WORDS IN WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA

Japan, it becomes still more difficult to reconcile Japan's action with prudence and sanity.

What kind of a people do they think we are? Is it possible that they do not realize we shall never cease to persevere against them until they have been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget?

Next Mr. Churchill turned from the turmoil and convulsions of the present to the broader basis of the future.

Twice in a single generation the catastrophe of world war has fallen upon us. Twice in our lifetime has the long arm of fate reached across the ocean to bring the United States into the forefront of the battle itself. If we had no interest in this region, we should be in the vanguard of the battle.

It is not given to us to peer into the mysteries of the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American people will, for their own safety and for the good of all, walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace.

Address to the Canadian Parliament

I am with feelings of pride and encouragement that I find myself here in the House of Commons of Canada invited to address the Parliament of the Senior Dominion of the Crown.

Then followed many paragraphs devoted to a survey of Canada's magnificent contribution to the Imperial war effort, in troops, in ships, in aircraft, in food, and in finance.

The peoples of the British Empire may love peace, they do not seek the lands or wealth of any country, but they are a tough and hardy lot. We have not journeyed this way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy.

We do not ask that the rules of the game should be modified. We shall never descend to the German and Japanese level. But if anybody likes to play rough we can play rough too. Hitler and his Nazi gang have sown the wind. Let them reap the whirlwind.

Neither the length of the struggle nor any form of severity which it may assume will make us weary or will make us quit.

Then came a tribute to "that great man," the President of the United States, with whom Mr. Churchill had spent the last week, concerted the steps which will bring about "the total and final extirpation of the Hitler tyranny, the Japanese frenzy, and the Mussolini flop."

The crisis is upon us. The power of the enemy is immense. If we were in any way to underrate the strength and resources or the ruthless savagery of that enemy we should jeopardize not only our lives, for they will be offered freely, but the cause of human freedom and progress to which we have vowed ourselves and all we have. We cannot for a moment afford to relax. On the contrary, we must drive ourselves forward with unrelenting zeal. In this strange, terrible world war there is a place for every man and woman, old and young, the hale and halt —service in a thousand forms is open. There is no room now for the dilletante, for the weakling, for the shirker, for the sluggard. The enemies ranged against us have asked for total war. Let us make sure they get it.

Mr. Churchill then looked back on the years of war. He mentioned Hitler's treachery to Poland, "the phoney war," the assaults on Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Holland, absolutely blameless neutrals; the hideous massacre of Rotterdam, the great French catastrophe. If only the French had decided to continue the fight from North Africa . . .

But their generals misled them. When I warned them that Britain would fight on alone, whatever they did, their generals told their Prime Minister and his divided Cabinet: "In three weeks England will have her neck wrung like a chicken." Some chicken! Some neck!

Mr. Churchill proceeded to describe how the tide is now turning against the Hun. Britain is growing stronger every day. The Russian Army, under their warrior leader, Joseph Stalin, is fighting an unrelenting battle with increasing success. General Auchinleck is mopping up the German and Italian forces who have attempted the invasion of Egypt. The mighty republic of the United States has entered the conflict in a manner which shows that with her there can be no withdrawal except by death or victory. After a passage in French, greeted with a roar of appreciation by the bilingual Canadian M.P.s, Mr. Churchill resumed in English.

We may discern three main phases or events in the struggle that lies before us. First there is the period of consolidation, of combination and of final preparation. The second phase may be called the phase of liberation. There is a third phase which must also be contemplated — the assault upon the citadel and the homelands of the guilty parties both in Europe and Asia . . .

Let us then address ourselves to our task, not in any way underestimating its difficulties and perils, but in good heart and sober confidence, resolved that, whatever the cost, whatever the suffering, we shall stand by one another true and faithful comrades and do our duty, God helping us, to the end.

IN OTTAWA, in the Chamber of the Canadian House of Commons on Dec. 30, the scenes of enthusiasm which had been witnessed a few days before in Washington were repeated when Mr. Churchill addressed the members of the Canadian Legislature. Here he is seen making his speech while members applauded. In the background sits the Speaker of the House of Commons. Photo, Keystone.
Our Searchlight on the War

FRANCE'S YEAR OF HOPE

After France felt certain French Generals were unwise and mean enough to say that: "in three weeks England will have her neck wrung like a chicken."

The Russian victories and the entry of America into the war have had a profound effect on the true France, 1942 will be a year of increasing hope and possibly resurgence of the French people. Nothing, of course, but treason can be expected from the Vichy Government, who are the gaddirs of compatriots. France is said to possess two trump cards, North Africa and the French fleet, but even Indian public of all castes and creeds are now able to see the difference between British imperialism, so called, and Japanese and German aggression, even though the Congress Working Committee has the effrontery to say that the British Government is an arrogant imperialism undistinguishable from Fascism. Subjugation of Asia is the Japanese ambition, and if it came about there would be no room in India for democratic evolution. Sir Fernand Noon advises the potential munition workers of India to plunge into the production of more and more guns and ammunition for defence. Such is Atlantic success, has received little notice. A year ago we were in the grave danger of being starved into submission. Our arteries with the United States were being cut right and left by Hitler's bombs and torpedoes, but our seamen and an efficient war direction have turned a near defeat into a near victory. There are no words noble enough to praise the men concerned in this triumph. We can only humbly thank them and be proud of them, for the Battle of the Atlantic is the very foundation of all our victories—and it is still going on. Everything depends and has depended upon Britain to lead and prompt us to keep the sea open. Had we failed the Nazis would have won.

SAVAGE AND SALVATION

Will the drive for salvage of all kinds change our national habit of extravagance into one of thrift?

In the old days of peace and plenty an intelligent Frenchman, asked what had impressed him most about England, replied that he was astonished by the wasteful and extravagant habits of the people of all classes. The opinion seems to have been confirmed by the immense value and utility of salvage of all kinds from foodstuffs to metals and paper. We now collect these unconsidered trifles to help to save our very lives from the predatory foe. As to whether the world will be immensely poorer or richer after the war there are two schools of thought—who believe that the cupboard of life will be bare, and those who think that a new system of economics and world cooperation will usher in a time of great prosperity. In either case the idea of national thrift might well continue, for thrift is a basis for success and happiness in life. The extravagant may appear to have a good time, but the careful is not only the better citizen, but fundamentally the happier. To make thrift possible, however, post-war Governments must set an example. We must get back to a system that does not rob Peter to pay Paul, in other words, to reasonable taxation and decent use of employment and wage conditions which will obviate the dissipation of public money. Surely the best social system is one which makes the individual proud and secure in his own efforts. It is the abuse of wealth and not its accumulation which is bad.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP

What matters in foreign affairs is not the form of internal government of any nation, but its international behaviour—Mr. Anthony Eden.

In his splendid broadcast on his visit to Russia, Mr. Eden expressed the feelings of all the denizens and women in regard to Anglo-Soviet relations. The war for freedom has brought Russia and Britain together in idealistic unity. The magnificent flight of Russia and Britain on behalf of the human spirit has won the admiration of all peoples. Contrast in scene that of government must be no bar to an increasingly fruitful understanding. Let it be admitted that we have something to learn from the East, and that the Soviet have something to learn from us, and progress is inevitable. At heart, the Russian and British peoples want the same things, freedom, from aggression, freedom to develop their national genius, peace and prosperity. Neither is a war-mongering race: let all people believe the greatest warriors when the call comes to defend themselves against cruelty, injustice and tyranny.

MR. EDEN IN MOSCOW. Wearing a black fur coat and an A.F. for cap, Mr. Anthony Eden on his arrival for important discussions with the right in Sir Stafford Cripps. Mr. Eden has done his task of the talks as full, frank and sincere. Photo, British Official. Crown Copyright

Vichy realizes that nothing is to be gained by handing these over to Germany. The men of Vichy, however, have so compromised themselves that they now prefer Fascist lives, miserable as they are, upon a Nazi victory. As the chance of that victory recedes so will France pass out of her despair into defiance. The question is one of heroic leadership in France itself, inspired by the splendid attitude of Free France. If our ally Alby has an evil genius for fostering the worst politicians in the world, she has also a good genius for producing fine patriotic figures. We do not doubt that some great leader who will help to restore the soul of France is lurking somewhere in that tragic land.

MANILA'S MARTYRDOM

According to a British United Press message, United States naval authorities have allowed it to be understood that no moral contact with the Japanese Fleet can be expected for months, perhaps a year.

The tragedy of Manila and the Philippines is one of the supreme lessons of the war. An amiable and peace-loving people is overwhelmed by the yellow locusts from Nippon. Britain cannot afford to criticize the United States for neglecting the defences of the Philippines. We, ourselves, have lost—temporarily—the Channel Islands, Hong Kong and much of Malaya, but the lesson to be learned is that both great Democracies proved unequal to their responsibilities. They were not able to protect the freedom-loving peoples. Let Britain and America revive the idea that freedom in itself has some magic power of self-preservation. To guard it we must be stronger than any combination of powers that threaten it. The Democracies must also revive their ideas about peace-time armaments, and all malcontents who howl about the cost of navies, armies and air forces must be silenced. America is preparing to spend $37,000,000,000 on a Victory Loan that is already 6 million $40,000,000,000 a month. Had the Allies in common spent a fraction of these figures before the war, Hitler and Mussolini could not have risen to challenge the free peoples.

WISDOM FROM INDIA

Some Indian leaders who today even in the face of this extreme danger are behaving in a sulky manner will never be forgiven by future generations for their indifference to the dangers of India.—Sir Fernand Noon

Since the Japanese entered the war a few responsible Indian leaders have warned their countrymen of the futilities of political discord and civil disobedience. Perhaps the

SANDBAGS IN SAN FRANCISCO piled up around the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Building on the morning following the Japanese attacks on America's Pacific outposts. The seizure of American cities on the Pacific coast caused the authorities to order immediate protective measures against the possibility of Japanese bombing attacks from aircraft carriers. Photo, Planet News
Though it is not intended to represent any known harbour, this drawing illustrates the characteristic features which may be found in any large naval base, whether situated in the Pacific or elsewhere.

The most important feature, of course, is the harbour (1), which must be capable of providing shelter for a fleet and room for the largest battleship to manoeuvre. The entrance to this harbour is protected by a net and boom (2) against the encroachment of hostile submarines. Minefields (3) guard the distant approaches. At (4) and (4a) are the emplacements of long-range coastal artillery which defend the base against enemy warships, and batteries of searchlights (5) are used to illuminate the harbour approaches.

Fighter aircraft, as well as reconnaissance and bomber planes are stationed at the airfield (6), which has multi-directional runways. One of several A.A. defence systems, with its gun-sites, predictors, range-finders, sound locators and searchlights, is seen on the high ground (7). Seaplanes and long-range flying boats have hangars and repair workshops with ramps leading down to the water's edge (8) and a berth for aircraft carriers is seen at (9).

Not the least important feature of the base of this kind is the oil and fuel storage with a jetty along which fuel is pumped into the storage tanks (10). A submarine depot ship, which houses a laundry, plumbers', carpenter's, and other shops, is berthed at (11) with some of the submarines it services. At (12) are larger workshops, forges, etc., where all heavy repairs to warships can be carried out, and in this connexion the large travelling cranes and gantries (13) are used.

The cruiser (14) is in the refitting berth, being made ready for sea again. A large power-house is seen at (15) and at (16) are storehouses. Alongside rise the masts of the radio station (17). A large dry dock, in which major repairs and refits are carried out, is at (18), and adjoining is the pumping plant (19). Dry docks are usually constructed in close proximity to wet docks in order that, after discharging her cargo or stores, a vessel may, when required, be dry berthed without loss of time. If there is no space available for a graving dock a floating dock may be used. Barracks, administrative offices and a parade ground for troops or Marines are situated at (20).

The strategical importance of such a base is obvious, and that is why Japan is making such strenuous efforts to deny our own and the U.S.A. Fleets the use of Singapore, Pearl Harbour and other similar bases, and why our Bomber Command makes continuous heavy raids upon the German-controlled bases at Brest, Dunkirk, La Pallice and Lorient.

Diagram specially drawn by Haworth for The War Illustrated.
The Ordeal in the Philippines and Malaya

As the war in the Pacific developed it was obvious that the Japanese were working to the long-cherished plan to conquer the Philippines and Malaya and the occupation of Borneo. Though their initial efforts, aided by immense superiority in forces, and a treacherous surprise attack, met with considerable success, victory will remain with the democratic powers when their great strength and strategy are fully coordinated.

The Japanese plan of campaign was to surround Singapore by the conquest of the Philippines and Malaya and the occupation of Borneo. Though their initial efforts, aided by immense superiority in forces, and a treacherous surprise attack, met with considerable success, victory will remain with the democratic powers when their great strength and strategy are fully coordinated.

In Malaya, after a brief respite, following the British retreat from Ipoh, the great thrust in north-west of Malaya fighting was resumed on a large scale. An announcement from Combined Headquaters, dated December 30, stated that the enemy were attacking in strong forces in this area, though further air raids on Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan on the east coast of Malaya had caused very little damage. A matter for congratulation was the capture in two nights of the north, and then stood up to Japanese fighting. Although the Kelantan Volunteer Force consisted of no more than 100 strong, with a few Europeans, they carried out their duties with a stoical indifference to danger, guarding bridges and other points, and preventing panic among the inhabitants. Many stories of individual heroism in the Malaya stronghold could be told, but that of Major F. Harvey and his assistant Lieut. Foo Kia Peng, two Salvation Army officers, has received special mention. When the bombs began to fall on Penang, which capitulated to the Japanese, these two devoted men decided to remain to aid the wounded. When Lieut. Foo’s car was destroyed by a bomb he commandeered a pickax and was continuously on duty removing the injured from the ruins. Organizing a refugee camp, finding cooks, and setting an example to the suffering inhabitants by his own resource and courage.

Malayan Jungle Fighting.

Strange indeed was some of the hand-to-hand fighting in the Malayan jungle. At an advanced outpost, south of Ipoh, a Highland captain, once a reserve officer for Scotland, having used up all his ammunition, attacked the Japanese with his hands. His C.S.M. battered the enemy with a Tommy gun. An orderly also entered the fray, and three of these men killed at least 12 Japanese, and managed to escape unhurt, save that the C.S.M. blistered his fingers by grasping the hot barrel of the gun.

Enemy pressure on the Perak front continued to force our troops farther south of Ipoh toward new positions near Bidor, about 70 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, which is the second biggest city in Malaya. Maintaining their attacks from the north with a great number of small tanks, armoured cars and Bren-guns, and in the west coast of Malaya at the mouth of the Perak and Bernam rivers.

In the north-east sector the enemy drove down the coast of Trengganu to positions 30 miles north of Kuantan. Rubber and tin transit. Here they later gained possession of the aerodrome, some 190 miles from Singapore.

After four weeks of fighting the Japanese could be said to have had all the advantages and initiative. Our rubber and tin-producing areas, were undoubtedly heavy. We had to fight rear-guard actions all the way against a vastly superior number of men and machines.
Manila's Preparations for Attack Came Too Late

BLACK-OUT in Manila was put into practice just before Japan launched her attack. The extinguishing of the lights proved prophetic, for Manila was the main objective of Japanese invasion forces and fell on Jan. 2, 1942.

Above, modern architecture in the capital of the Philippines. Below, the Escolta—the Broadway of Manila—reported to be in flames when the Japanese entered.

FILIPINOS test their gas masks during a demonstration of civilian defence at Manila, city with a population of over 633,000. Once they had occupied the city, the Japanese compelled all white civilians to remain indoors under penalty of being shot if they ventured into the streets.

Photos, United Press, Libearts
‘Without Mercy and Without Respite’ the Russian Armies Strike Hard.
Hitler in Command: The Russians Sweep On

The end of 1941 saw the German armies retreating here slowly, there fast, along the whole of the front from Leningrad to the Black Sea. At this crisis of the war the Fuehrer assumed direct responsibility for the future course of the campaign. But the Russians, aided by General Winter, still advanced.

Just before Christmas 1941 von Brauchitsch, Commander-in-Chief of the German Army, was sacked by his Fuehrer. In an announcement issued from Berlin on December 21 it was recalled that Hitler personally assumed the command over the whole armed forces of the German Reich on February 28, 1933 and repeatedly since then imperatively demanded that all powers should be concentrated in one hand. Moreover, "the realization of an inward call and his own wish to take upon himself responsibility weighed with the statesman Adolf Hitler when he resolved to be his own Generalissimo. The course of this war has more and more confirmed the recognition of this fact, but it was fully shown only when the campaign in the East assumed proportions exceeding all past notions. The same was the case with the close connection of the conduct of land operations with the political and economic war aims, and also the numerical size of the army compared with that of the other part armed forces, have induced the Fuehrer to follow his intuitions and to influence in the strongest possible manner the operations and the equipment of the army, and to retain himself personally all essential decisions in this sphere. Following up his decision of February 4, 1938, the Fuehrer therefore resolved on December 19, 1941, with the recognition of the merits of General Field-Marshal von Brauchitsch, to combine in his own hands the leadership of the whole armed forces with the supreme command of the army."

Why Brauchitsch Was Dismissed

According to the most generally accepted view Brauchitsch was superseded because of the failure of the attack on Moscow; the German Army had suffered its first major disaster and the C-in-C had to pay for it. But reliable information has come into the hands of Dr. Benes, President in London of Czechoslovakia, which points to serious differences between Hitler and Brauchitsch. According to these reports the latter is reported to have told his master that 1,075,000 German soldiers had been killed on the Russian front up to November 1941, that Germany could not win the war, either on the field of battle or in the political arena; but that she might not lose the peace if she were helped by mistakes both diplomatic and political made by the Allies.

Following his assumption of the supreme command, Hitler addressed a personal appeal to the German Army: "From the new eastern front," ran one passage of his exordium, "nothing else is expected today than that the German soldiers achieved in four Russian winter campaigns 25 years ago. Every German soldier must set an example to our loyal allies. . . . Preparations for an immediate resumption of offensive operations in the spring, until the enemy in the east is finally destroyed, must be taken at once. . . . I know war from the four years of highly conflict in the west, from 1914 to 1918. I experienced personally the horrors of all the battles as an ordinary soldier. I was wounded twice and was even threatened with blindness. Thus nothing that torments you, weighs upon you, and oppresses you, is unknown to me. . . . What I can do for you, my soldiers, by way of care and leadership, will be done.

What of the men to whom this appeal was addressed? Hundreds of thousands of them were retiring from Moscow, just as Napoleon's legions had retreated 130 years before and in much the same conditions. They were hungry and tattered, cold and miserable in the extreme. The icy blasts pierced the errant uniforms—many of the men seemed to be without overcoats—so that in order to keep out the cold they swathed themselves in rugs and old eiderdowns tied around their waists with string, wrap their necks in petticoats and Russian children's shaws. How woeful was their plight was confessed by Hitler himself. In a statement read by Goebbels over the German wireless, the Fuehrer claimed that "fighting an enemy vastly superior in number and material, our troops have gained tremendous victories," but in the next breath went on to say that "if the German people want to make a Christmas present to the front they must give their warmest clothing which they can spare in war and be able to replace later in peace." Goebbels went into more detail. "We who on the home front enjoy a modest but secure Christmas must deny ourselves. Our soldiers must live (the text is missing) of the privations of the soldiers at the front." So the "little doctor" appealed for "felt-lined boots, felt socks, warm woolen underwear, chest protectors, head, ear and wrist covers, jack boots, large blankets, ground sheets, thick fur-lined gloves, etc."

Napoleon Did Not Winter in Russia

One German newspaper published an "alphabet," with a phrase for each letter; e.g. under S, Stalin is warmly clad, therefore see that our soldiers are still more warmly clad." Another had it that Napoleon's Grande Armee was defeated in Russia by the cold, but this could not happen to the German Army of today since their people at home would not leave them in the lurch. But the compiler of the alphabet did not mention that even the last stragglers of Napoleon's army had recrossed the Russian frontier on their way home well before Christmas in that fateful 1812. Moreover, the Germans in 1942 are striving to hold positions far to the east of any they held in the last war. During the Great War, Major Gribble of the "News Chronicle" has pointed out, the Germans never held the line farther east than Riga, Minsk and Czernowicz; there is not a point on this line which is less than 350 miles west of the positions now held by Hitler's Russia—some 600 miles. The average day temperature in the existing German positions is from 10 to 15 degrees of Russian cold on the old lines held during the Great War.

Compared with the Germans, their Russian foes were far better off. They were now better equipped, fresher, and in many places more numerous; they were, moreover, injured by long experience to conditions which, to the man from the genial Rhineeland or even the plains of Pruasia, must seem hellish. Still more, they had now the confidence of victory. All along the line they were pushing back the Germans. The threat to Moscow had been averted, and Kaluga, it was announced on January 1, was recaptured by Gen. Boldin—a reverse which Hitler strove in vain to counter by dispatching a crack German division to Cracow in troop-carrying planes. When they were smashed, he himself flew to Smolensk in the hope of preventing a debacle. In the north, too, the Germans in Leningrad have been hard put while in the south the Russians, by a brilliantly conceived stroke, recrossed the Straits of Kerch and invaded the Crimea. No wonder Hitler's message to his people struck a sombre note. "Now, on New Year's Eve," it concluded, "we can only pray to our God Almighty that He may grant the German people and her soldiers the strength to support with a brave heart all that is necessary to safeguard liberty and the future."
Hawaii Paid the Grim Penalty of Unreadiness

A.A. machine-gun and crew at Wheeler Field, American airfield in the middle of Oahu Island, Hawaii. They came into action when Hickam Field, farther south was attacked on Dec. 7.

An improvised gun emplacement made from a wrecked plane after the surprise attack by the Japanese on Hickam Field, near Honolulu.

Left, Hangar No. 3 at Wheeler Field, Oahu Island, after military areas in Hawaii had been bombed by the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941.

AT HONOLULU (above) furniture was moved hurriedly into the street after the Japanese had begun their bombing and fires had broken out. Right, the scene at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 as Japanese planes attacked. The pall of smoke on the right comes from the burning U.S. battleship Arizona.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31 85th day
Sea.—Admiralty announced the sinking of five enemy schooners by British submarines in the Mediterranean and damage to an Italian destroyer.

Russian Front.—Moscow officially announced the recapture of Kaluga and with it news that 10 German divisions under Gen. Guderian had been routed.

Africa.—Rommel striving to keep open his southern flank to maintain supply lines from Tripoli. Bardia defences attacked.

Far East.—Two night raids on Singapore. Violent fighting south of Ipoh. In the Philippines Japanese mechanized forces pressed toward Manila from north and south.

THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 1942 86th day
Sea.—Russian troops recaptured several towns, including Staritsa, 290 miles N.W. of Moscow.

Africa.—British attacked during night of Jan. 1-2 by units of 1st and 2nd South African Divisions supported by tanks, artillery and naval units.

Far East.—Big battle raging north of Manila. Officially announced that British forces had withdrawn from Sarawak. Sharp fighting at Kuantan in Malaya. Japanese-occupied aerodrome at Geng Kreah raided at night by R.A.F. Communique from Burma reported small Japanese infiltration into Bokpya in the Mergui district, but enemy withdrew when British columns arrived.

General.—Admiralty announced a raid on the Lofoten Islands, British forces were in control for three days.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2 87th day
Sea.—Admiralty announced that British naval units in the Mediterranean had sunk one Italian and two German submarines and taken prisoners the crews.

Air.—Bomber Command made night attack on naval bases at Brest and St. Nazaire.

Russian Front.—Moscow reported recapture of Malo Yaroslavets, north of Kaluga.

Mediterranean.—Night raid on Naples by R.A.F.

Africa.—South African troops and British tanks captured Bordia, 8,000 Axis prisoners.

Far East.—Manila, occupied by the Japanese. Fighting going on to the north of the city. In Malaya three attacks were made by enemy forces. Landing in Lower Perak repulsed. Enemy occupied outskirts of Kuantan. Two air raids on橡胶, and one on Singapore.

General.—Twenty-six powers signed a joint declaration at Washington, binding themselves not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemy.

SATURDAY, JAN. 3 88th day
Sea.—Admiralty reported a five-day attack by U-boats on a British convoy. Two merchant ships were lost, but over 90 per cent of the convoy arrived safely. An ex-American destroyer, H.M.S. Stanley, and the auxiliary vessel H.M.S. Audacity were sunk. At least three of the attacking U-boats were destroyed and two Focke-Wulf aircraft were shot down, with a third severely damaged. Admiralty also announced the loss by enemy mines in the Mediterranean of the cruiser H.M.S. Nep- tune and the destroyer H.M.S. Kandahar.

Russian Front.—Russian troops pressed forward towards Mojaik.

Africa.—In the Jedaba area British mobile columns continued to harass the main enemy concentrations.


General.—A joint announcement issued by Pres. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill stated that Gen. Wavell had been appointed Supreme Commander of the United Command of the South-West Pacific Area. Maj.-Gen. G. H. Brett was appointed his Deputy, and Gen. Sir Henry Pownall his Chief of Staff. Admiral Hart, commanding U.S. Asiatic Fleet, assumed command of all naval forces in that area under the direction of Gen. Wavell, and Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek was given command of all land and air forces of the united nations operating in the Chinese theatre.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4 89th day
Air.—Daylight raid on Germany by Bomber Command.

Russian Front.—Fighting reported in the streets of Mojaik. Moscow announced recapture of Boksvar. 25 miles S.E. of Mojaik.

Mediterranean.—Enemy submarine base at Salamis, near Athens, raided by R.A.F. during night of Jan. 3-4.

Africa.—Enemy positions at Hallaya heavily attacked from the air.

Far East.—Big battle still raging between Chinese and Japanese in Huinan province. In the Philippines, Corregidor was again attacked from the air. Fighting continued in Pampanga province, north of Manila. In Malaya, Japanese War matériel, including 36 miles N.W. of Kuala Lumpur and made fresh landings on the west coast of Malaya. Churchill attended a conference of the Allied War Council in Washington.
War Reaches India’s Eastern Gate

RANGOON, capital and seaport of Burma, has been the target of severe bombing attacks. In the first of these, on Dec. 23, 1941, there were about 600 civilian casualties. American pilots, originally enlisted to defend the Burma Road, are now being used to help the British airmen defend Rangoon.

Little land fighting has yet taken place in Burma. Victoria Point, in the extreme south, was evacuated by its small garrison on Dec. 15, since it was considered untenable, and the first engagement with enemy troops was reported in a communiqué from Army H.Q. on Jan. 1, 1942, which stated that a small party of Japanese who had infiltrated into Bokpyin, in the Mergui district, withdrew in face of our columns.

On Jan. 2 it was confirmed from New Delhi that picked Chinese troops were moving into Burma to help in its defence.

IN THE BURMESE JUNGLE British troops with rifles and tommy-guns advance, suitably camouflaged, during training exercises. Burma is now threatened by the Japanese occupation of Thailand.

BURMA has been improving her defences in recent months and, above, Shan peasants are clearing and levelling the ground for a new airfield. Burma has a land frontier of about 1,700 miles, bordering on China, Indo-China and Thailand.

Planes of a British bomber squadron are seen in formation over the famous golden pagoda called Shwe Dagon at Rangoon, Burma’s capital. The aerodrome there was attacked on Christmas Day 1941, and the city has since suffered many more air raids.

Photos, Ministry of Information, Lafayette, Planet News
'We'll Defend the Indies to the Last Man'

Of all the members of the A.B.C.D. front in the Pacific war zone, the Dutch were the most fully prepared and hence already have a number of successes to their credit, achieved by their bombers and submarines against the Japanese transports and landing-parties. In this article we tell something of Dutch resistance in the East Indies which, though Holland is in Nazi occupation, is as vigorous as ever.

A fortnight before the Japanese struck in the Pacific, the Dutch colonies in the East Indies were put on a war footing, and almost before news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was received, the attack on Wilhelmina's instructions, the Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies, Jonkheer van Starckenborgh Stachouwer, broadcast the news to the people of the Indies at 6:30 a.m. on December 8. At the same time, the Commander-in-Chief in the Netherlands East Indies, Lt.-Gen. Ter Poorten, mobilized the army, dispatched forces to the outer islands as a protection against attack, and interned some 2,000 Japanese and a number of suspect Chinese. Moreover, he promised and dispatched all possible aid to their new allies, more particularly to the British at Singapore.

'Everything to Fight For'

The determined note of the Dutch resistance was sounded in an address broadcast by Gen. Ter Poorten on December 22. The day had come, he said, for the Army to defend the country, and hardly had the broadcast been over when thousands of young men flocked to the recruiting offices. The Netherlands East Indies had a fighting spirit and a determination to fight for existence. The Dutch were ready to fight for their freedom, their home-in brief, their happiness, without which life is not worth living.'

A few days later, when the Japanese had claimed to have made landings in British Borneo, General Ter Poorten vowed that the Japanese would not be allowed to get away with the oil they were draining from the damaged wells—"because our Air Force will bomb hell out of them." But, he went on, the Dutch needed immediate material support, particularly bombers, fighters and A.A. guns. Given these without delay, they could defeat even a large-scale Japanese attempt to land on their islands. In any event, 'the Dutch East Indies, as the first line of defence which will be defended to the last man.'

Certainly the Netherlands Indies would prove a rich prize for the Japanese robbers. For centuries they have been famed as among the world's richest islands. When the Dutch went there first they found spices and such-like exotic produce; now the islands' immensely fertile soil produces rubber, sugar, coffee, rice and rubber, and from their bowels are derived oil and copper, lead and bauxite. Then the hillsides are carpeted with dense forests, filled with valuable timber.

Altogether the islands of the Dutch East Indies cover an area of 735,000 square miles, inhabited by more than 60,000,000 people. Most important of the far-reaching group is Java, which, with a population of about 40,000,000, claim to be one of the most densely populated areas in the world—784 people to the square mile, compared with England's 703.

In Java are situated the chief interests, the principal arsenals and dockyards. Batavia, with a population of about 250,000, is the capital. To the east lies the larger island of Sumatra, much of which is covered with tropical jungle, although along the coast may be found many a town amongst the finest examples of town planning in the Orient; then to the east stretches a far-flung chain of islands divided by narrow seas—Bali, world-famous for its temple dancing girls, and Lombok, both outposts of Hindooism in a Mahomedan world. Next come Sumbawa, Flores and Timor, while to the north of these are Celebes and the Moluccas, on one of which is the naval base Ambon. These are just a few of the scattered islands which are amongst the jewels of Queen Wilhelmina's crown. They are the scene of a rich and complex civilization, which dates back for nine or ten hundreds of years.

As for the people, they are for the most part Indonesians, for the Japanese have mixed with the Chinese. There is also a Hindu element in Sumatra, Bali and parts of Java; there are also Arabs and, of course, a number of Europeans. In Java there are some 50,000 Europeans. Note that whereas in India the half-castes—Eurasians, as they are called—are ostracized by white society, in the Netherlands Indies a dash of white blood confers the status of European. In years gone by racial intermarriage was encouraged, and, indeed, the Dutch burghees and traders have needed little inducement to find their wives amongst the local women, since the charms of the girls—of Java and Bali in particular—have long been famous.

To defend their rich territories in the Orient, the Dutch have a considerable local army, navy and air force. The Royal Netherlands Indies Army is a fully equipped and highly trained professional force of some 30,000 men. All the members of the various population groups are represented in its ranks, and while most of the officers are Europeans, quite a number of them are natives. All able-bodied Dutch in the islands were made liable for military service in 1940, and more recently compulsory service has been extended to the native population.

Dutch Power in the East

The Netherlands East Fleet is comprised of cruisers, destroyers, submarines, various small ships and auxiliary craft, and a Fleet Air Arm; the naval base at Surabaya is one of the most formidable in the Far East. Coming to the Air Force, it is equipped with American-built machines—Martins, Lockheed's Curtiss, Brewsters and Rays. On her air arm the Netherlands most chiefly relies in this new war that has been thrust upon her—on her air arm and on the hosts of small craft, submarines and motor-torpedo boats in particular, which are eminently fitted for service in the island-dotted seas of the Indies. Indeed, in the first weeks of the Japanese invasion of Malaya and the Philippines, Dutch submarines and aircraft did invaluable work in destroying 15 enemy aircraft, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 9 transports, 2 tankers and 2 merchant vessels.
The Dutch Colonial Government has long been alive to the dangers of fifth column activity in the Dutch East Indies. Here members of the Batavia Home Guard are guarding an administrative building during exercises.

The Dutch East Indies have met the Japanese onslaught with calm and courage, and the deeds of the Netherlands forces there, by sea and in the air, have been prominent in the news from the Pacific theatre of war. Left, the Post Office at Medan, Sumatra, the airfield of which has been bombed by Japanese planes. Right, gun crew of a destroyer of the Netherlands East Indies Navy. Centre right, view over the volcano of Papandayan, Western Java, showing the difficult nature of the country for an invader.
BREST NAVAL BASE was the objective of heavy daylight raids by the R.A.F. on Dec. 18 and 30. It was during the former raid that the photograph above was taken showing Halifax aircraft attacking the German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the battle-cruiser Prinz Eugen at their repair berths. During the month of December the R.A.F. carried out nine night raids on Brest; in addition to these two daylight raids. These intensive attacks show that the R.A.F. is determined to keep the German naval units immobilized. Submarine repair shops and depots at Brest as well as at La Pallice have also received the constant attention of our heavy bombers.
Hong Kong's Fight to the Bitter End

For most of the world Christmas Day 1941 was saddened by the news that Hong Kong, Britain's outpost in China, had been compelled to capitulate to the Japanese besiegers. Below we give a day-to-day account of the colony's gallant stand against truly overwhelming odds.

When Japan struck in the Pacific, Hong Kong stood to arms at once. Its garrison, numbering 8,000 men at most, was of truly Imperial character. It consisted of the 2nd BN. Royal Scots and 1st BN. Middlesex Regiment, together with Canadian battalions by the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada —under the command of Brigadier-General J. K. Lawson; the 2/14 Punjabis and 3/7 Rajputs, together with the H.K. Volunteer Defence Force and the normal complement of R.A., R.E., and Royal Signal units, etc., the whole force being under the command of Major-General O.M. Maitby. Units of the Royal Navy and of the Hong Kong Naval Volunteer Reserve and detachments of the Royal Marines co-operated with the military force.

On December 8 Japanese forces, estimated at one division with a second division in reserve close behind, crossed the frontier of the Hong Kong leased territories on the mainland. Heavily outnumbered as they were, the garrison withdrew according to the previously arranged plan, blowing up roads and bridges behind them.

Dec. 9. In the afternoon our forward troops on the Taipo Road withdrew into the prepared "Gindrinkers Line," on Castle Peak Road. At about noon, Sing Mun redoubt, which was held by a platoon of the Royal Scots, was surprised by the enemy by surprise.

Dec. 10. Attempts by the enemy to break through towards the Taipo Road failed. However, as reserves had been used in this fighting, a readjustment of the line was carried out at dusk.

Dec. 11. Strong enemy pressure developed in the morning on our left flank, held by the Royal Scots. The two left companies were driven out, and accurate mortar fire, but the situation was stabilized by the use of all available reserves, including a company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. The Royal Scots, nevertheless, suffered severe casualties.

Dec. 12. The island of Hong Kong was subjected to sporadic bombardment by artillery fire from the air, but casualties were few. The civil population was reported to be calm, but their morale was considerably shaken. Monetary problems and rice distribution gave cause for serious anxiety.

First Japanese Ultimatum Rejected

Dec. 13. A difficult day. Shelling increased in intensity and accuracy, and various guns and searchlights were put out of action. The Japanese presented an ultimatum, which expired at 3 p.m. and was rejected out of hand. The Chinese report was to be mopping up enemy troops near Tashui, 25 miles north-east of the Hong Kong border, and near Linghehan, some 12 miles north-west of the city.

Dec. 14. There was systematic shelling by the enemy. The morale of the civilian population was still shaky owing to difficulties over the distribution of rice, but otherwise undisturbed.

Dec. 15. It was reported that more than half of the pill boxes between Lynam and Bowring were out of action. Movements of the enemy towards High Junk and Clear Water Bay were observed, and hostile parapets were seen to have landed on Lamma Island.

Dec. 16. Aerial bombing and artillery shelling were on an increased scale, with a high standard of accuracy on military objectives. One enemy aircraft was brought down into the sea.

Dec. 17. Our counter-battery fire silenced a section of enemy artillery on Devil's Peak, another on Gun Club Hill, and three mortars on the water front.

At 3.5 p.m. the Governor sent to Lord Moyne, the Colonial Secretary, in London a telegram: "After some further bombardment I have today received another letter signed by the Japanese military and naval commanders-in-chief, asking me to confer about surrender on considerations of humanity. The following is the text of my reply: The Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong declines most absolutely to enter into any negotiations for the surrender of Hong Kong, and he takes this opportunity of notifying H.G. Gens. Takashi Niakki and Vice-Admiral Masashi Nishi that he is not prepared to receive any further communication from them on the subject."

Dec. 18. "Another peace offer by the Japanese was flatly rejected this morning." announced Hong Kong, "to their evident surprise. During the night of December 18-19 the enemy succeeded in crossing the bare 500 yards of intervening water and in landing on Hong Kong Island, in the Tai Koo area and Lynam, whence they had infiltrated to Wongnai Chung Gap and Tytam Gap."

Dec. 19. Counter-measures against the Japanese parties which had succeeded in landing in the neighbourhood of North Point and Tai Koo were continued.

Dec. 22. The enemy landed further troops on the north-east coast and attacked continuously. A counterattack on the 21st from Stanley towards Ty Tam took place, but was felled, although a certain number of the enemy were killed at a cost of about 100 Canadian casualties. A counterattack by a company of Winnipeg Grenadiers to retake Wongnai Chung Gap also failed in the face of concentrated mortar and light machine-gun fire, which inflicted heavy casualties.

Dec. 23. For the 24 hours ending 5 p.m. the enemy had kept up incessant attacks accompanied by intensive bombardments from the air, mortars and artillery. Some ground on Mount Cameron lost during the previous night was recaptured by the Royal Marines, but counter-attacks by the force at Stanley towards Stanley Mound failed. However, the Middlesex Regiment successfully repulsed a determined attack at Leighton Hill. But the water and food supply was desperate, for the reservoirs and depots were in enemy hands.

Dec. 24. The enemy continued to subject the garrison to heavy fire from dive bombers and mortars, and incendiary bombs set the countryside all around Mount Cameron on fire.

Dec. 25. "The Governor of Hong Kong," announced the Colonial Office, "reports that he has been advised by the military and naval commanders that no further effective resistance can be made. He is taking action in accordance with that advice." The statement went on: "It will be remembered that the Japanese effected landings in strength at several points on the island on December 18. To many it seemed that the end must be near. Yet for seven days, under relentless observed artillery fire, not only from the mainland, but from heights on the island, the garrison fought on, refusing three demands to surrender.

"The water supply soon gave cause for anxiety. Important reservoirs fell into Japanese hands; water mains were destroyed by bombardment. The Public Works Department struggled bravely to effect a remedy, but the enemy destroyed the pipes again and again. Two days ago there remained but one day's supply. Military and civilian casualties were heavy, but under the inspiring leadership of Sir Mark Young the morale of all was admirable."

An account of the surrender of the island was forthcoming from the Dornie Agency. "Sir Mark Young, the Governor of Hong Kong," it read, "and the Commander of the British garrison there, at 7.5 p.m. yesterday (Dec. 25) unconditionally surrendered with their forces to the Japanese as the result of a parley with the Japanese military and naval authorities which took place at the Peninsular Hotel at Kowloon from 6.50 p.m. until 7.5 p.m. yesterday. Sir Mark stayed at the Peninsular Hotel overnight under the protection of Japanese troops and returned to Hong Kong to prevent the destruction of establishments and materials in the British Colony, with a Japanese staff officer today. During the historic conversation Sir Mark stated: 'I am here to become a prisoner by ordering the entire British forces to surrender, that the remaining British troops, estimated at 6,000, have been ordered to disband by noon.'

"So ends a great fight against overwhelming odds," to quote a Colonial Office statement again. "The courage and determination of the Royal Navy and troops from Great Britain, Canada and India, as well as the local volunteer units, and many Chinese, will long be remembered."
We Went to Vaagso with the Commando Men

On December 27, 1941, for the first time British soldiers, sailors and airmen combined in an assault on the Nazi-occupied European coastline. Their raid on the Norwegian island of Vaagso is here described by Reuters' correspondents who accompanied the expedition.

We left our base with Christmas decorations still hanging up in the wardroom, and early on the morning of December 27 we were off the entrance to Vaagso Fjord waiting for dawn—the zero hour for our attack.

The ship's crews had been closed up at their action stations for an hour or more and there was nothing to do as, in line ahead, we gently slipped round the headland and steamed down the fjord towards the town. Everything was ready for the first step—the bombardment of the two coastal batteries which the warships had to carry out first to enable the soldiers to make a safe landing.

Once inside the fjord assault craft with soldiers veered out of line and the warships went ahead to take up their positions. No attempt was made to interfere with this, and it seems that the first knowledge the German gunners had of our arrival was a hail of high explosive shells which rained relentlessly down upon them, reducing their gun emplacements to piles of shattered masonry and their guns to twisted pieces of metal. Only one gun of the two batteries answered our fire, and this was immediately silenced by our accurate shooting.

Beneath this cannonade a thin snake-like line of Commando barges drove straight to the island and, within 20 minutes, the men in them had climbed its rocky slopes, stormed the coast in days of cutlass and pistol, shot many Germans and taken 20 prisoners. Later the men and women of the Commandos were blown sky high. Simultaneously with this assault, led by a major who serenaded his men across the smooth water to the straits of his bagpipes, the main landing craft on which I made in the leading barge with members of the Army film unit—tore down.

As the naval bombardment died down the Hampdens swept over the head of the tiny bay in which Vaagso Port lay nestled thickly against the towering cliffs.

The Commandos chose a rocky foreshore on which to lower their ramps, and as they landed smoke bombs dropped from 50 feet up. This screen, through which a German machine-gun fired a few rounds ineffectually, gave the landing-party complete cover. It was perhaps a little too close, but it could not have been better timed. The R.A.F. had scored an early full's eye.

I waded ashore with the rest, knee-deep through rocky pools and acrid fumes, on to ledges of snow. It was a weird and confusing experience, through which the Commando troops, led by dashing young officers and hard-bitten sergeants, emerged to begin a series of assaults through and around the narrow town from west to east.

It was then that the fun—Commando fun 1942 style—really started. The officers of the troops concerned gathered up their forces for the most desperate of all the tasks that short, swift day. They had to advance down the main street.

A Troop Without an Officer

One officer had slipped on getting out of the boat and jammed his leg between it and the rocks, but he struggled on, limping badly. Another encountered immediate machine-gun fire, and with men engaged and killed five of the enemy before setting fire to an ammunition dump. Later, he was killed trying with a corporal to storm a house from which numerous German officers were firing. A third officer was sniped in the back soon afterwards. At one time the entire troop was without an officer in command.

Despite casualties, all ranks pursued their task with great gallantry both before and after they were reinforced by a floating reserve. One man I saw fought brilliantly. He was the corporal who went with his captain to storm the hotel. After the officer had been shot he managed to chuck a grenade into the building, which then caught fire.

Many Germans were roasted to death in houses they made into strong points, and from which they doggedly refused to emerge, even when grenades or a fusillade of shots had set the rooms about them on fire. Resistance was particularly stubborn in the centre of the town which, as the morning grew older, began to blaze as more and more houses holding snipers and small parties of the enemy came under heavy fire, including 2-inch and 3-inch mortar shells.

While we were still dodging behind boulders and sinking over the first half-mile, and whilst the first of the Norwegian men, women and children, anxious to go to England, were running back to our barges—some in tears, some laughing and all rather scared—two warships rode majestically past the town sending a wash ashore for four miles or more of Nazi inland waterway space.

Heavy gunfire reverberated down the fjord to add to the clamour of explosions. Another German coastal battery four miles away over the hills tried to get the range of our warships, but their fire was ineffective.

Deprived of reinforcements, the nearest neighbouring garrison was over the water 25 miles away. The Germans got little help from their air force, although the aerodromes at Trondheim, Stavanger, Lista, Aalborg and Herdla are all within striking distance.

The land operations, carried out in the extreme confusion of close hand-to-hand fighting, smoke and flame, tested the Commandos' communication system to the hilt and as the battle progressed many messages could only be got through by word of mouth.

The lieut-colonel commanding the battle on shore showed an inspiring disregard of danger in his anxiety to keep it under control. He escaped unscathed, although he had at least one narrow escape. A German opening a door threw a stick grenade in his path, but he jumped clear. Then the Nazi walked out. He was immediately shot.

Demolition work was sometimes unavoidably risky owing to the closeness of the cannon and oil factories to the fighting. I and several others had to duck rather hastily.

**HERDIA AERODROME**

About 100 miles down the coast from Vaagso, was heavily attacked by Blenheims of Bomber Command during the combined operations of December 27 to prevent enemy aircraft from assisting the German garrison attacked by the British raiding-party. The photograph was taken from one of the attacking Blenheims, and shows bombs bursting on the airfield. The Me 109 on the extreme left, taxi-ing on the airfield, was destroyed.
when the biggest of them was blown up, and a little later, when the only German tank in town, a small light model, was demolished in its garage. Pieces of the burning metal whistled past me up the street and wounded two of our men 200 yards away.

The Germans, though outnumbered, fought to the last and were good physical types. By skilful use of cover and by using almost flashless and smokeless cordite they showed that they had mastered one of the ugliest features of modern war—street-fighting. Some German troops, including a small unit spending Christmas at Vaagso and who were out early on a route march, made for high ground, and one soldier was still sniping when, all tasks completed, the last of the Commandos were re-embarked.

It was just three in the afternoon as we steamed out of Vaagso Fjord. Almost the entire German garrison of upwards of 200 men had been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner; all the industrial plant was dynamited, and the coastal guns spiked. The Navy destroyed 16,000 tons of merchant shipping, two armed trawlers and an armed tug. R.A.F. and Naval cooperation was of first-class vigour, and, as one Commando sergeant described it, "so comforting." No soldier, sailor or airman who took part failed to realize their complete independence in modern warfare.

I Watched a Practice Alert in India

Formed only 18 months ago, the Indian Observer Corps has thousands of keen-eyed and keen-eared watchers who cover all the areas vulnerable to air attack. Reuters's special correspondent sends this account of the air defence exercises he witnessed in Northern India.

Columns of armoured vehicles, taking part in the week's air defence exercises, passed me roaring their way north as I went to visit the secret headquarters of the India Observer Corps somewhere in Northern India. They were followed by heavy guns.

In the headquarters I found a large table with a map of the surrounding districts so arranged that the path of the approaching aircraft reported by the observation posts by means of direct telephone connections could be plotted with complete accuracy.

Two mock air raids were taking place when I arrived. With quiet efficiency young Indians received telephone reports and marked the position of the raiders on the map, while at the desk above them others reported to fighter aircraft command, A.R.P. authorities and anti-parachutist detachments. On the first day, I was told, these keen youngsters dealt successfully with no less than nine simultaneous raids.

The mock air raids took a realistic turn when the sirens sounded and the warplanes, whose path I had been watching plotted, appeared overhead. Detonations in the vicinity indicated that they had succeeded in dropping a few bombs. But a few minutes later one of the outlying observers reported that at least two raiders had been shot down in his area, and the appropriate indicator was triumphantly placed on the plotting map. These young Indians, many of them evidently scarcely out of school, did their job with superb efficiency which could only be attained by their own keenness coupled with skilful training.

The great air defence exercises entered their second phase with aircraft representing enemy air forces attacking various local targets. Hostile aircraft flew at a great height over the cantonment area of Peshawar. The alarm was sounded and full defence precautions were immediately taken by the civil and military authorities. No bombs were dropped and presumably the enemy's object was merely to spy out the land.

Later in the day a short but sharp attack by enemy dive-bombing was made on a post in the Khyber Pass, but this was repulsed without any serious damage being caused. Soon after dark some "bombs" fell unexpectedly in the Noshera area, evidently dropped by enemy aircraft operating at a very great height in the sub-stratosphere. The umpires of the directing staff ruled that these bombs, if real, would have caused a certain amount of damage to a main road and railway in the vicinity. Arrangements were at once made to effect the necessary repairs.

All civil and military A.R.P. and P.A.D. (preparation for air defence) services are in a constant state of readiness. Black-out and other defence measures have been strictly enforced and everyone is waiting with keen interest for further developments in these realistic and instructive exercises.
Editor's Postscript

How many of the millions who listen to the B.B.C. every day of their lives realize that they are utilizing the greatest invention for world-happiness? Not one in ten thousand, I'll bet. They accept this superlatively achievement of human skill just as indifferently as the packet of cigarettes which they were obliged to queue up—nay, the trouble of getting the latter gives it for the moment a superior value to the priceless gift of radio. That nation slumbering in that nation through etheric space does not thrill them greatly. No wonder when we consider that through most of their youth British radio has been at the command of men it is War that has been spoken. Without wireless this world war could not have come to pass; certainly not in its man... and continuing. Without (1) the misuse of this marvel of science in spreading lies, hatred, and threats of horror, it was the speaking war unto nation, (2) the coordinating of the movement of armies and navies and ships at sea, and (3) guiding the death-dealing bombers to their targets—without these no such universal war as we are witnessing could have developed on this planet.

Few, indeed, ever think of that when listening to exponents of the lowest form of melody, known as "crooning," which my dictionary rightly defines as a "hallow, continued moan." "Moaners" would be a better description for its exponents. Nor can you be impressed with the wonder of wireless when your receiver sometimes assaults your ears and senses with the crude and garbled jokes of men indiscriminately dubbed "comedians," some of whose prototypes before Marconi's day collected their fees in their hats by the sad sea waves.

Yet, think of the wonder of wireless when on December 26 last you could listen while all the world listened to the greatest oration in the world, Lincoln's two minutes' masterpiece at Gettysburg in November 1865, heard by a few hundreds of Churchill's thirty-five minutes of superbly balanced oratory, in which he had the greatest theme in modern British oratory—the uniting of all freedom-loving nations under the lead of the entire English-speaking world for the extinction of tyranny, wars, murder... it will still echo down the ages and untold millions through the whole world were able to listen to the actual words of flame and fervour as they issued from his own eloquent lips. A tremendous occasion, which thrilled into a renewed fervour of life the countless millions of listeners who shared the oration's heartrendingly simple words, while it must also have confirmed their faith in their deliverance for the oppressed and tortured who could hear it in those lands where the Nazi slavery has been imposed.

Just what followed his historic speech on the broadcast that night I don't know. I certainly didn't listen. But as likely as not it might have been: "We are now taking you over to Cock-eyed Caravan in Soho for dance music by Billy Bonehead and His Boys, with Minnie Moaner." That's the pity of it—what a juxtaposition. But, of course, the B.B.C. cannot be expected to cater mainly, or even largely, for high-brows, when one remembers the intellectual standard of its major body of listeners;—after seventy years of free education. Nor am I in any degree against amusement and entertainment, with or without music, featuring largely on the programme, but so that the good comic turn—so that the quality that is daily dished up—so that the curiously poor quality of much of it to which I take exception.

I fear that our daily papers (except those named) are in grave danger of losing individuality by over-compression in order to print a maximum of copies from their available quotas. It magnifies the office of the B.B.C., and no greater disaster to our social and intellectual life could happen than the B.B.C. emerging as the prime source of national information, instruction, and amusement. That would be a big step towards totalitarianism. The B.B.C. as a stronghold of British culture would be a menace to the very freedom for which we are fighting and enduring unimagined privations. It must not be, yet things could easily drift that way—are drifting, if not yet visible, and only strong, free, individual newspapers will stop the drift.

My thoughts have turned thus far reading an attractive pamphlet "B.B.C. at War," by Antonia White, in which the multifarious activities of the Corporation are described in a way that makes one feel 'hats off to the B.B.C.' But there's the very point of danger. My first impulse was to pen a gloating tribute to the War work of this great national monopolist organization; it is impossible to withhold admiration for the scope, enterprise, and general good sense of its ever-widening activities, only the least worthy of which are best known to a public incurious about the best. Its continuous foreign broadcasts in its European News Service are models of honest statement and judicious comment, as I can personally vouch from being able to follow them in three of the many foreign languages in which they are issued. Especially do I like to listen to the fine, vigorous phrases of that announcer, though the Italian and French are equally praiseworthy. The English bulletins in the European Service sometimes seem to me more pithy and pointed than those in the Home Service.

The vividness of the news is immensely enhanced by the recordings from B.B.C. observers on all fronts of the War, and the orators that are often brought to the microphone to relate personal experiences help not only to give immediacy to the news but to enlarge its appeal and its international value. All this is splendid, and I'm backing much of our propaganda against all the hysterical, over-emphasized, and exaggerated emanations from enemy sources. But, I repeat, it will be a bad day for Britain if the present popularity of the B.B.C. should ever become an established and regularized competitor with the free press of a free people.

Not content with having made a great success of the Brains Trust, I see that the B.B.C. is even giving "Gary" a book all to itself... and private publishers are starving for paper! The publications department of the B.B.C. has always seemed to me a questionable form of activity in a country where we have as many as our Russian Allies by nationalizing the book-publishing trade as well as the Press. I am sure that it is as foreign to British ideas as the Russian alphabet is to our school children.