

New Zealand along the island chain pointed at the United Nations sea route to Australia, head of any direct attempt to invade the continent.

Australian Planes Discern New Moves

The move was disclosed by Australian air reconnaissance over Australian-mandated part of the Solomon group. The warship was sighted three days ago off Kessa, on the Buka Island, stepping stone from New Britain to the Solomons. There was further indication the Japanese had landed there. Buka is 180 miles southeast of Japanese-occupied Rabaul, New Britain, and 900 miles northeast of Australia's northeastern extremity, the Cape York Peninsula.

Australian bombers smashing the potential island route toward New Zealand attacked the empty-held airfield at Gasmata, on the south coast of New Britain, Thursday.

"All our bombs fell in the target area and columns of smoke rose from the ground," a communique said. Counter-attacking Japanese fighter planes were beaten off.

Shipping Ripples Attack

The Japanese offensive was applied to some extent in the sinking of seven ships by air attack last Tuesday off Salamaua, Japanese foothold in New Guinea.

A newspaper dispatch broadcast from Tokyo claimed the Japanese had won "the last strategic point off the northern part of Australia" through their occupation of Salamaua, New Guinea.

Further indications the invaders were making ready to use the unsplit, jungle-covered island of New Guinea as a big tie base were seen from R.A.F. reconnaissance reports that Japanese were working at top speed to establish fighter-plane bases along the northeast coast where they won footholds at Lae and Salamaua.

Whatever plans the Japanese might have had for quickly winning control of the island coast were declared, however, to have been disrupted by the hard aerial blows of Australian and U.S. bombers.

The lack of communications on island and its virtually impassible stretches of escarpments and jungle-tangled valleys also

against the Japanese on the northeast coast and are carrying out "valuable operations."

Observers said that even though the Japanese forces were campaign-toughened and jungle-trained, they would find overland travel from the northeast coast to the Papuan coast at the south, across Torres Strait from Cape York, a harder task than any they faced in Malaya.

These sources pointed to the success of the air attack which wrecked the seven Japanese ships at Salamaua as an indication of what the Japanese would encounter if they tried to move invasion forces to the southern coast of the island by sea.

An air force spokesman said that so far the only Japanese fleet known to be within striking distance of Port Moresby on the south coast was the one at Salamaua.

U.S. War Bombers Smash 5 Jap Planes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. War Department reported today that five American army heavy bombers destroyed five enemy planes in a raid two days ago on Japanese-held airfields at Salamaua and Lae in New Guinea.

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All the American bombers escaped damage in the fight with a formation of Japanese pursuit planes, which suffered the loss of five craft.

A spokesman said the raid presumably was among those reported in dispatches from Australia, but the results of the air attack were believed new.

Meanwhile the situation on the Bataan fighting front in the Philippines was reported unchanged.

BRITISH PLANES SCOUT OVER PARIS

VICHY (AP)—Paris had a 45-minute air raid alert today as an R.A.F. scouting force cruised over the occupied capital, forced suspension of horse racing at the Vincennes track and surveyed the manufacturing area in the southwestern workers' district. No bombs were dropped.

The planes were sighted over the Champs Elysees and Passy sections of western Paris on the right bank of the Seine and then passed over the 15th arrondissement, an industrial quarter in southern Paris.

The first alarm—one of the few which Paris has had since the occupation in 1941 because German authorities ruled they disturbed civilian life more than raids themselves—sounded at 2:40 p.m. Paris Time (6:40 a.m. P.D.T.).

Another alarm in Vincennes, on the eastern outskirts, eight minutes later delayed the start of the week-end racing program. The all-clear sounded throughout the city at 3:25 p.m.

7 Spies-Sentenced At New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard today sentenced seven persons defendants in the first spy trial since the United States entered the war to a total of 117 years in prison for espionage conspiracy.

Three were given 20 years' imprisonment each; three others, including a woman, 15 years each, and one 12 years.

Judge Goddard, in passing sentence, told the defendants he was "not only punishing you for your treachery," but "warning others like you that such acts will not be tolerated."



Sgt. A. B. Thornthwaite checks a Victoria car.

Vancouver Island Japanese Thursday turned in to Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the Willows Exhibition Grounds 39 motor vehicles of all kinds. It being unlawful for a Japanese to have in his possession a motor vehicle after sunset Thursday, it is presumed the remainder of the estimated 100 autos owned by Vancouver Island Japanese have been repossessed—if not completely paid for—sold or given away.

Locked, their radiators drained, their gas tanks emptied, 26 cars, nine trucks, two lumber carriers, one motorcycle and one hoist, formerly the source of livelihood and entertainment for Japanese, now stand bumper to bumper between the cattle stalls at the exhibition grounds.

Some of the cars are small and dilapidated, others are modern, luxurious, eight-cylinder cars. Six trucks had been used to haul lumber, two for delivering merchandise and one for farm produce.

Victoria Japanese turned in only two cars and two trucks. Five cars and one truck came from Duncan. The remainder came from other up-island points.

Eighteen cars, five trucks and one motorcycle were driven from up-island centres to Victoria in a single caravan escorted by three B.C. Police highway patrol cars. The group started at Cumberland at 9 in the morning, picked up more cars on the way south, and arrived here at 5.

Two lumber (Ross) carriers and a truck loaded with a heavy hoist made the 150-mile trip from Cumberland to Victoria in 10 hours, the Japanese starting out at dawn.

MOST FROM CUMBERLAND

More motor vehicles were brought from Cumberland than any other island centre, although Japanese reported about a dozen cars have been sold in Cumberland.

Turned over to R.C.M.P. was the auto vehicle equipment of the Royston Lumber Co. Ltd., including six lumber trucks, two carriers and a lumber hoist as well as a number of cars. Six or seven gasoline and steam donkey engines were left in Cumberland.

As R.C.M.P. officers took charge of the automobiles, they noted the license and serial numbers as well as the serial number of each tire and its condition. Extras such as radios, heaters, additional lights, tools were recorded.

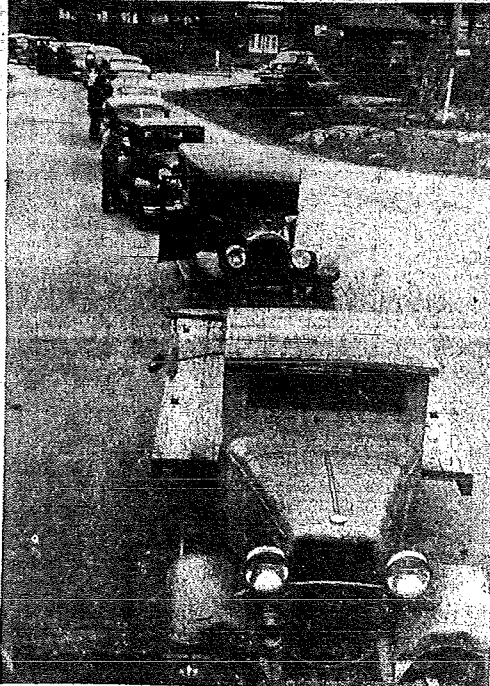
Many of the cars had "V" for Victory stickers, "There'll Always Be An England!" signs and Union Jacks on them.

The Japanese appeared serious, reluctant, as they checked over their automobiles, gave the keys to the custodian and signed the receipts. Questioned as to whether they thought they would ever have the cars returned, the Japanese replied no.

"It's the war and I guess we can't do anything about it," one young Japanese said morbidly.

WOULD LIKE MONEY

Rather than have the cars remain idle for the duration of



Part of convoy of 18 cars and five trucks from up-island.



Five out of six Japanese cars turned in had "V" for Victory or "There'll Always Be An England!" signs.



G. K. Uchiyama, part owner and general manager of the Royston Lumber Co. Ltd., Cumberland, had his personal car, a 1941 Packard Eight, six trucks, two lumber carriers and a hoist confiscated.

the war, many owners would prefer to have their cars sold at a fair price and receive the money which could be used for reestablishing themselves in areas beyond the protected defence zone.

H. G. Hinton, Victoria, representative of the custodian of enemy alien property, supervised the confiscation which was carried out by R.C.M.P. officers with the assistance of constables of the B.C. Police. H. P. Gardiner represented the custodian in Ottawa.

Besides the motor vehicles, five radios and three cameras were turned in to the police. Japanese have been ordered to dispose of such equipment but no deadline has yet been set. No firearms or explosives were turned over,

val base of Kiel while the Red army, having beaten Hitler to the springtime punch, was battering its way across the Donets basin. Via Stockholm came word that the Germans had been forced to dip anew into reserves trained for their own spring push and still were unable to stem the new power drive by Marshal Timoshenko's southern forces estimated at 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 strong.

The Germans in their communique acknowledged their troops were on the defensive in the Donets basin; counter-attacking against "strong enemy forces."

London observers said the objective of the hard-hitting Red marshal was the Dnieper bend, natural defence line in the heart of the Ukraine. Unofficial reports have placed the Russians, only 30 to 40 miles from this goal.

Although the calendar spring is but a week away, snow on the Staraya Russa front, 130 miles south of Leningrad, was reported so deep that ski troops still had to carry the burden of the fighting against the entrapped 16th German army.

Reds Determined To Hold Initiative

Red Star, voice of the Soviet army, declaring today the offensive this spring would be Russian, not German, described the Nazi military machine as worn out by its costly fall drive and the battering it has received this winter.

Dispatches from the front said the Germans were trying desperately to hold on, counter-attacking repeatedly and at heavy cost, but that the Red army still pushed steadily, if slowly, to the west.

Reports from the southern front said Marshal Timoshenko's Donets basin offensive, instead of being halted by the counter-attacks, had wiped out two strong points and swept on into an unidentified town where German bodies littered the streets after a fierce fight.

Russian Artillery Thins Rumanians

Elsewhere on the southern front Russian artillery fire was said to have broken up a Rumanian counter-attack.

The German counter-blows were described as hardest in the Staraya Russa area where the German 16th Army is trapped and desperate, but that these, too, were said to have failed.

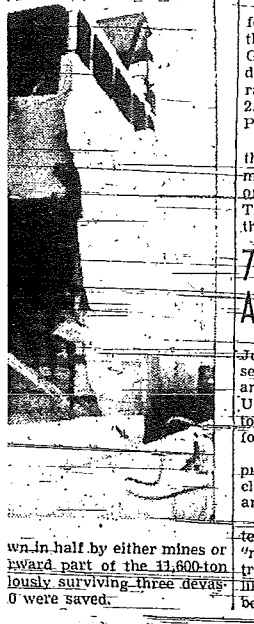
On the central front, where the Red army is driving past Vyazma and Rzhev toward Smolensk, three companies of the 365th Regiment of the German 211th Infantry Division were killed attempting a counter-attack and a reserve battalion of the same division was wiped out; the Russians said.

They also reported a German ski battalion destroyed.

Reducing Threat From Kiel

Apparently operating to neutralize Kiel as a base for springtime adventures of the German fleet, the R.A.F. Thursday night unloaded bombs on shipyards there for the 65th time and the "many fires" resulting told departing bomb-aimers their mission had been achieved. (See story page 2).

Apparently indicated Germany is exerting her full U-boat force in the Battle of the Atlantic. Three submarines reported Jan. 3 to have been sunk in a "sustained and determined" attack on a British convoy in mid-December, the U-131, U-134 and U-579, all were commissioned in 1941, six months before their doom.



Wounded in half by either mines or forward part of the 11,800-ton barge, survivors were saved.

Victoria Daily Times

FORECAST—Temperature un-
changed.

SUN sets, 6:15; rises Saturday,
6:30 P.S.T.

VICTORIA, B.C., FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1942—18 PAGES

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Allies Get in First Springtime Blows

Warships Move on Solomons

Associated Press
Japan's offensive against Australia still taking form in the series of islands curving along the vast northern shore of the continent, has spread off in a sort of naval penetration of Solomon Islands.

The move was evidently either meant to distract attention from the blishment of New Guinea or for the prospective lunge against Australia or actually a thrust against the New Hebrides and New Zealand along the island chain pointed at the United Nations sea route to Australia, and of any direct attempt to reach the continent.

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Four bombs fell in the target area and columns of smoke rose from the ground, the communique said. Counter-attacking Japanese fighter planes beaten off.

Attack on Ships

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A newspaper dispatch broad from Tokyo claimed the Japanese had won "the last strategic point off the northern part of Australia" through their occupation of Salamaua, New Guinea.

The indications the invaders making ready to use the main-split, jungle-covered island of New Guinea as a big base were seen from R.A. reconnaissance reports that Japanese were working at top to establish fighter-planes along the northeast coast. They won footholds at Lae Salamaua.

Elsewhere plans the Japanese have had for quickly won control of the island coast declared, however, to have been disrupted by the aerial attack of Australian and U.S. planes.

Lack of communications on land and its virtually impassable stretches of escarpments, jungle-tangled valleys also

will play a part in disrupting the Japanese timetable. No single road connects the Japanese beach-heads with the bases of Australian forces in key stations on the island.

Guerrilla Forces Still in Action

The Australian radio, heard in the U.S. by CBS, said a war correspondent of the Melbourne Argus reported Australian guerrilla forces still are in action against the Japanese on the northeast coast and are carrying out "valuable operations."

Observers said that even though the Japanese forces were campaign-toughened and jungle-trained, they would find overland travel from the northeast coast to the Papuan coast at the south, across Torres Strait from Cape York, a harder task than any they faced in Malaya.

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R.C.M.P. Confiscate Island Jap Cars



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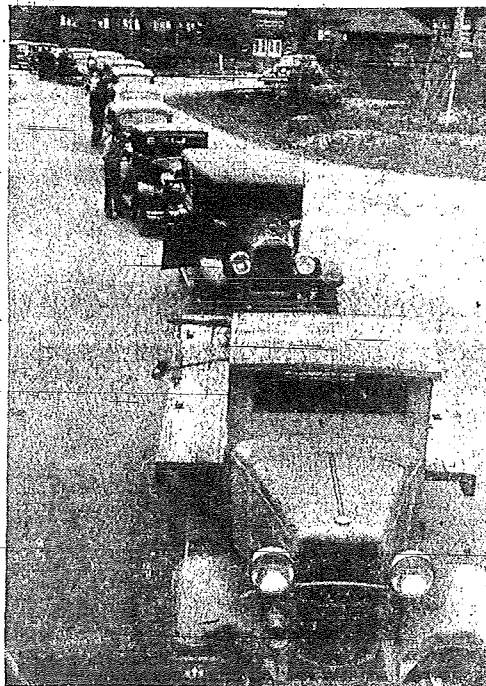
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Nazi Reserves Fail to Halt Russian Forces

Associated Press
Germany's springtime offensive waited today on the calendar, propitious circumstances and Adolf Hitler, but Britain's and Russia's offensives in the air and on the land, respectively, were in full swing.

Britain announced a fire-raising raid on the great German naval base of Kiel while the Red army, having beaten Hitler to the springtime punch, was battering its way across the Donets basin.

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