

# The Texts of the Day's Communiqués on Fighting in Various Zones

## United States

**MANILA, Dec 15 (AP)**—This communiqué was issued today from the headquarters of Lieut. Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Enemy activities today were confined to the air. Japanese aircraft dropped bombs in the vicinity of Nichols Field about noon. Senator-Elect Manuel Roxas, a lieutenant colonel of reserves in the Philippine Army, has been ordered to active service and inducted into the United States Army forces detailed as aide-de-camp to General MacArthur.

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (AP)**—The War Department issued this communiqué today covering events up to 9:30 A. M.

1. Philippine Theatre. Enemy air operations over the Island of Luzon continue. Operations on the ground are continuing in the north and northwest sections of Luzon and in the vicinity of Legaspi in Southeastern Luzon. 2. There is nothing to report from other areas.

**WASHINGTON, Dec 15 (AP)**—A communiqué of the War Department.

1. Hawaii. Practically complete reports indicate the following casualties were sustained by the Army in the surprise attack by Japanese bombing planes on the Island of Oahu on Sunday Dec. 7:

### OFFICERS

Killed in action or died from wounds 11  
Wounded 10  
Missing 1

### ENLISTED MEN

Killed in action or died from wounds 157  
Wounded 213  
Missing 25

2. There is nothing to report from other areas.

The Navy Department issued this communiqué.

A Norwegian motor ship was sunk while approaching the Hawaiian Isles. The crew was rescued by naval vessels. The Hawaiian area otherwise has been without incident.

Recent enemy bombing in the Philippine theater has resulted in no damage to naval installation or ships.

Heavy weather in the North Atlantic hampers naval operations there.

Midway and Wake Islands continue to resist.

The above is based on reports up until noon today.

## British

**SINGAPORE, Dec 15 (AP)**—The British issued this communiqué today.

In Kedah the enemy has pressed his attack and gained ground in spite of the heavy losses he has suffered. Severe fighting continues in South Kedah in difficult country and the situation is confused.

There were some activities in Kelantan yesterday. Penang was free from bombing today but Ipoh had a short warning.

There is no further news from Hong Kong.

**LONDON, Dec 15 (AP)**—The Admiralty issued this communiqué today.

In the Mediterranean His Majesty's submarines continue to harass enemy shipping.

A medium-sized supply ship, a schooner and a caique have been sunk by shell fire. A supply ship and a salvage tug believed to be the Irene Bernice were found in the harbor of Candia (in Crete). Both were sunk by torpedo.

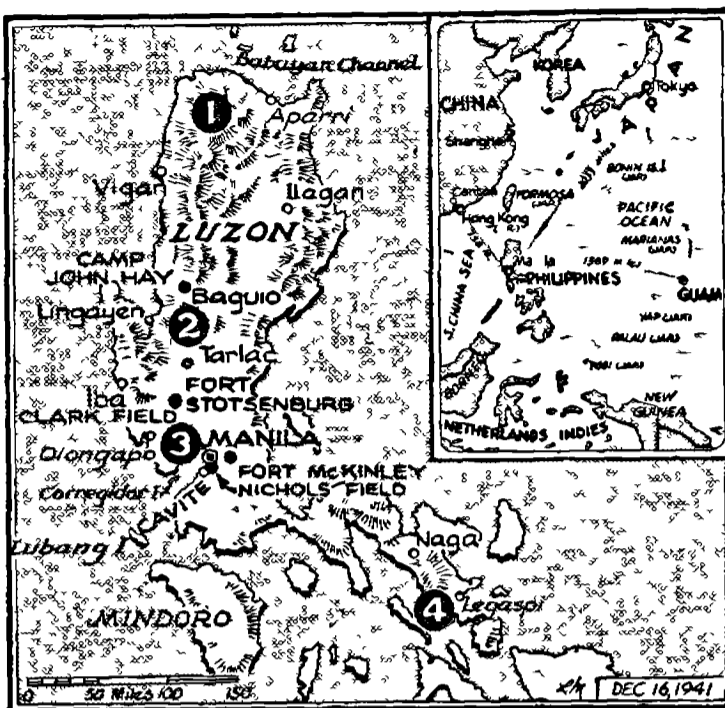
Two supply ships of medium tonnage escorted by a destroyer have been attacked. An Italian ship of the Ramb class has been attacked and hit with torpedoes. It is not known if this vessel was sunk.

A ship of some 12,000 tons similar in appearance to the Italian steamship Virgilio has been torpedoed and sunk. This vessel was under escort. It is known that ships of this class have been used as troop transports.

The text of an Air Ministry communiqué.

Aircraft of the Bomber Command laid mines in enemy waters.

## PHILIPPINES KEEP THE INVADERS IN CHECK



Ground operations continued in Northern Luzon (1) and at Legaspi (4) where 154 motorboat loads of men were blasted in the initial attack. The Japanese said they had caused heavy damage in air attacks on headquarters in Baguio and Tarlac (2). Raids were carried out against the Olongapo naval base (3) and Nichols Field on the outskirts of Manila. The inset shows the Philippines in relation to their surroundings.

last night. One of our aircraft is missing.

**CAIRO, Egypt, Dec 15 (AP)**—British Middle East Headquarters issued this communiqué today.

Despite bad weather with low clouds and rain, our main forces made still further progress from the area southwest of El Gazala. North of the Trigh El Abd Indian and British troops during their advance were twice counter-attacked by German tanks and lorried infantry but both attacks were repulsed. Sixteen German tanks being destroyed and twenty officers and 350 other ranks being captured.

In addition, our troops shot down four enemy dive-bombers and one enemy fighter.

A little further southwest British troops inflicted casualties on the enemy and captured about 150 prisoners. They took another seven guns and captured an enemy supply dump containing 70,000 gallons of fuel. They also shot down one enemy bomber.

In the frontier area, South African troops have captured another 200 or more prisoners, over half of whom were Germans and three tanks. They also shelled remaining enemy positions just east of Solum.

Mopping up operations on the coast between Tobruk and Solum where fugitives and stragglers still are being found in small numbers are proceeding satisfactorily throughout the area east and southeast of Tobruk.

The late battlefield is now being cleared and quantities of material captured from or abandoned by the enemy are being collected.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, our air forces still maintained constant and most effective attacks on enemy transport columns throughout the area of operations. In particular, they caused severe damage to enemy motor vehicles on the road between Tmimi and Derna.

A communiqué of the Royal Air Force.

Objectives at Derna and enemy aircraft on the landing ground were raided by our bomber aircraft Saturday night. Large fires broke out on the airdrome and violent explosions occurred when bombs scored hits on the barracks. Other bombs caused further explosions and fires.

Shipping and wharves at Bengazi were also attacked.

Yesterday our fighters carried out a number of successful sweeps in the Tmimi area. A JU 87 was shot down and a CA 135 also was destroyed. Two ME-109s were shot down near El Gazala, while a JU 88 was shot down over Tobruk.

Our fighters machine-gunned motor transport moving along the Ghemines El Agheila road. Many

casualties were inflicted on enemy troops and numerous vehicles were extensively damaged. From these and other operations five of our aircraft are missing.

## Netherland

**BATAVIA, Java, Dec 15 (AP)**—A Netherlands Indies communiqué issued today.

No hostilities have taken place on Netherlands East Indies territory during the last twenty-four hours.

At isolated points, low flying unidentified aircraft were observed.

Yesterday's statement of the sinking of two Japanese ships by Netherland submarines can now be confirmed officially.

No further details can be given regarding the Netherlands Indies actions off the east coast of Thailand in which four Japanese troop ships were sunk, nor regarding the actions off the east coast of Malaya in which two enemy ships were sunk.

The Navy Department said that giving such details would be much too dangerous and the whole story probably cannot be told before the end of the war or when the Japanese attacks are completely beaten off.

## Russian

**MOSCOW, Tuesday, Dec 16 (AP)**—The Soviet Information Bureau issued this communiqué today.

During the day of Dec 15 our troops fought the enemy on all fronts.

In a number of sectors of the western and southwestern fronts, our troops engaged the enemy in violent combat, continued their advances and occupied the towns of Klin, Yasnaya Polyana, south west of Tula, and Dedilovo and Bogoroditsk southeast of Tula.

Twenty-four German planes were destroyed on Dec 14. We lost seven planes. Six German planes were brought down in air combat near Moscow on Dec 15.

On Dec 14, our fliers operating on the western front destroyed or damaged forty-two German tanks, more than 1,050 trucks with troops and supplies, destroyed thirty field and anti-aircraft guns with crews, more than 300 ammunition carts, twenty-four fuel trucks and annihilated or dispersed three regiments of enemy infantry.

Our troops operating in one sector of the Kalinin direction within seven days of fighting destroyed seven German tanks, 103 trucks, thirty-three guns, fifty-one machine guns, forty-one mortars and captured three tanks, forty-four

guns, thirty-five mortars, 117 machine guns, sixty-seven automatic rifles, twenty-four trucks, 4,500 shells, 250,000 cartridges, four standards and many other trophies.

During the same period the Germans lost 8,000 officers and soldiers killed and wounded.

In one day's fighting, General Lelushenko's troops captured eight German tanks, six guns, sixteen machine guns, fifty-eight trucks and other trophies.

Our troops penetrated the enemy lines and blew up three blockhouses, destroyed three guns, six machine guns and annihilated about 200 German soldiers and officers.

## Italian

**ROME, Dec 15 (From Italian broadcast recorded by The Associated Press)**—Today's High Command communiqué.

Enemy pressure continued at El Gazala and met with vigorous Italian resistance. Italians passed to counter-attack along the whole line.

An enemy thrust on the Solum-Erdia front was repulsed. The enemy left some prisoners in our hands.

The Axis air force took an active part in the fighting. It machine-gunned enemy columns and dispersed enemy mechanized forces.

Twenty enemy planes were destroyed, thirteen by Italian German fighters and seven by anti-aircraft defenses. Two Italian planes did not return.

During air raids over Derna and Chene, two persons were killed and one person was injured, but no damage was caused.

During operations in the Central Mediterranean, two Italian light cruisers sank after they had been torpedoed. Nearly all of the crews were saved.

An enemy destroyer of the former Netherland Navy has been sunk.

A submarine commanded by Captain Torri attacked a British cruiser in the Eastern Mediterranean and hit it with a torpedo. A submarine commanded by Lt. Commr. Campanella torpedoed another enemy cruiser in the Central Mediterranean.

## German

**BERLIN, Dec 15 (From German broadcast recorded by The Associated Press)**—The High Command issued this communiqué today.

In the east, enemy attacks at

several points on the front were repelled with heavy losses to the enemy.

The air force successfully attacked enemy concentrations in the Donets basin as well as railway targets between the Don and the Donets.

Strong forces of bombers and dive bombers with fighter protection made annihilating blows against tank positions and supply columns of the Soviet in the central sector of the front. The enemy suffered particularly sharp losses in heavy weapons and rolling stock.

In the Volkhov sector as well as on the Murmansk railway, air force attacks were successful.

Patrol craft of the navy damaged a British submarine in the Aegean Sea with depth charges. Its loss can be reckoned with.

In North Africa, renewed British attacks were repulsed. German and Italian dive-bombers scored direct hits with heavy caliber bombs on enemy columns and gun emplacements southwest of Tobruk. German bombers set supply depots on fire at an enemy strong point.

Naval artillery shot down two British bombers off the Atlantic coast.

## Finnish

**HELSINKI, Finland, Dec 15 (From Finnish Broadcast Recorded by The Associated Press)**—Finnish High Command issued this communiqué today.

Karelian Isthmus. Enemy artillery and trench mortars generally in action, keeping up a slow harassing of Finnish positions. Infantry fire has been active at some points. Our own trench

mortars and anti-tank guns fired on enemy positions and nests and areas where fortification work was in progress and silenced an enemy anti-tank gun and two machine-gun nests.

Svir Front. Local harassing fire with artillery and trench mortars on both sides. A number of enemy patrols again tried to cross the River Svir but were repulsed. Our artillery and trench mortars scattered an enemy detachment in the act of assembling, silenced a machine-gun nest, destroyed a direct-fire gun and scored direct hits on an enemy staff building.

Eastern Front. In one of the southern sectors, an enemy detachment 500 strong launched an attack which was repulsed. The enemy losing more than 100 killed. In other sectors, there is nothing worth mentioning.

Air activity over the Karelian Isthmus and the Svir front has been limited by unsuitable weather. An enemy fighter was shot down in an air fight over Merimaaelka.