U. S. Air Chiefs Are Confident miles northwest of kluang; thence northeastward to the Mersing area Of Superiority of Warplanes

Arnold and Echols Cite Performance In Combat to Substantiate Claims

Army confidence in the per- planes. formance and continuing development of American aircraft was down both of them. Other airthe message that the Nation now victorious battle with the Japais getting both quality and quan- nese on that day. Every time they not "apologize to any one in the themselves in excellent manner."

Combat performances of American-built planes pitted against German Messerschmitts and Japanese fighters—in many cases against heavy odds-were cited by Lt. Gen. H. H. Arnold, deputy chief of staff for air, to back up that statement before the House Appropriations

In a transcript of that testimony made public by the committee, Gen. Arnold was quoted as saying that most nations and ahead of a lot of

Brig. Gen. O. P. Echols, in charge "I think, from the best informa-

tion we have, that I can say, without hestitation, we are up to the Germans, and I think, in certain respects, we are ahead of them. I the best airplanes in the world, and | not." I think in our heavy bombers that we are ahead of them."

Gen. Arnold quoted the British as saying the P-40-D (Kittyhawk) pursuit was superior to all the other Royal Air Force planes in the Middle East, and said that one squadron of that type, "up against a su-perior number," had "knocked down 13 hostile planes, including two Messerchmitts 109-F. We lost only one plane."

"During the Japanese attack on Arnold continued, "Lt. Taylor and attacked a formation of Japanese north of Singapore and some 25

"A short time later, Lt. Welch engaged two Japanese planes and shot Japanese push down the coast reported to Congress today with planes of the same type engaged in the west of Mersing lies a dense tity plane production and need went up in combat, they acquitted

> Chinese Records Cited. The Army air chief quoted Chinese sources as saying that Amerithe Burma road and Rangoon, "many of whom use airplanes of the P-40 series, have bagged from 90 to 100 planes. That has been done since December 7, and it was done with the loss of only three

"On the Russian front," he added "early this month, four Tomahawks in plane research and development are reported in the news dispatches worn this country was "equal to as having shot down eight Messerschmitts which were there in support of the German driven on Leningrad."

On another occasion, he said, aviators in P-40s, outnumbered eight to one, destroyed 60 per cent of a German flight. He told the committee that the P-40s were operating in North Africa "when the think the new pursuit planes are Spitfires and the Hurricanes could

Malaya (Continued From First Page.)

the British positions appeared relatively unchanged, with the heaviest fighting under way in the Batu Pahat sector.)

Based on the official British report today, the front ranging from 60 to 70 or more miles above Singa-Pearl Harbor on December 7." Gen. pore, shaped up roughly as follows: From the western anchor around Lt. Welch, both flying airplanes Batu Pahat eastward to the Chaah similar to the British Tomahawk, area in the center, about 70 miles

miles northwest of Kluang; thence more serious than it was a few days ago.) on the eastern coast, 65 miles north

Artillery Harasses Japs.

tween Mersing and Endau, 25 miles

if he attempted a flanking move-

On the central front in the

Chaah area, forward elements were

in contact with the Japanese and

The Japanese were said to have

stepped up their activity in the Batu

Pahat section—and there the main

Aussies Heavily Engaged.

The Australians were especially heavily engaged in close quarter

fighting above Batu Pahat, which

Maj. Gen. Henry Gordon Bennett,

commander of the Australian Army

in Malaya, described as "very con-

by N. B. C. in New York, said Mai. Gen. Bennett in a message

to Australia reported the situa-

tion in Malaya was, if anything,

(The Melbourne radio, heard

ment on the east coast.

fighting was in progress

battle was joined.

The Japanese were reported to have brought up additional troops on the Muar River front on the west coast and had turned an infiltration movement into an assault on the Allied flank. The British The Far East command said British artillery has been "actively harwere helping the Australians in that Muar River sector. rassing" the Japanese in the Mersing Australians have studied every bit of the ground in the area be-

British Defense Collapse Impending, Japs Claim

to the north of Mersing, and the SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23 (A).brought those forces into play. To "Total collapse" of the British defense system in Johore state, in Malaya, "is impending," the Tokio radio broadcast last night, claiming the jungle through which correspondents at the front said the enemy would be forced to hack his way every step naval base at Singapore is "doomed."

> Randolph-Macon Courses ASHLAND, Va., Jan. 23 (P).— Randolph-Macon College will ac-

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Defense Meeting Called

out by leaders of the area for volun- Taylor 1493.

College Head to Speak

President Henry T. Moore of Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., will be guest speaker tomorrow night at a dinner of Washington and Baltimore Skidmore alumnae in A meeting of citizens of the Berwyn-Branchville area of Prince Georges County, Md.. to perfect defense plans for their community will be held at the public school auditorium on Branchville road at 8 dinner, which is to be informal, are their accepted by Mrs. Ruth Bowen, p.m. tomorrow. A call has been sent | being accepted by Mrs. Ruth Bowen,

War Cancels Sales Session

The annual convention of the Curtis Publishing Co. Sales District No. 2, originally scheduled to open today at the Shoreham Hotel, has been postponed indefinitely because of "unsettled conditions," it was announced yesterday.

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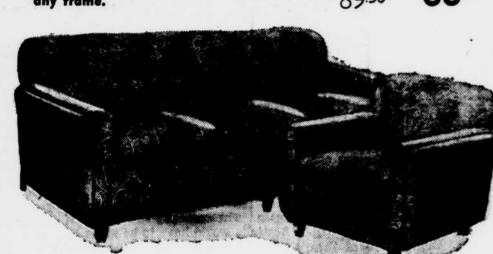
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