

JAP SUBS IN SYDNEY HARBOR

THREE WERE DESTROYED

In Unsuccessful Attack On Shipping

TWO-MAN MIDGET CRAFT USED BY ENEMY

Launched From Parent Ship Off Coast

GUNS IN ACTION—DEPTH CHARGES USED

SYDNEY, Mon.—Following the roar of gunfire and explosions resulting from the dropping of depth charges last night, it was officially announced to-day that midget Japanese submarines had made an unsuccessful attempt to raid shipping at Sydney.

The official announcement stated that it was believed that three midget Japanese submarines had been destroyed.

The special communique issued by the United States authorities said:—

"In an attempted submarine raid on Sydney, three enemy midget submarines are believed to have been destroyed, one by gunfire and two by depth charges. The enemy attack was completely unsuccessful, the damage being confined to one small harbor vessel of no military value."

FERRY PASSENGERS SAW SUBMARINE.

Immediately the presence of the submarines was discovered, there was great activity among the defence services. Guns went

there was great activity among the defence services. Guns went into action, searchlights threw their beams in all directions, tracer bullets spluttered into the water and heavy explosions followed the dropping of depth charges.

Passengers on a ferry steamer declare they saw the periscope and portion of the conning tower of one submarine rise to the surface at a spot where the beams of a number of searchlights had been concentrated and underwater explosions had taken place.

MIDGETS HAVE VERY SHORT RANGE.

No details of the time of the attempted raid or of its precise location are revealed in the communique. The only hint in the official announcement is contained in the use of the word "harbor" to describe the vessel said to be of no military value, which was damaged.

The fact that midget submarines were used and that these are only two-man craft and have a range of less than 200 miles, suggests that they must have been launched from a parent ship. It can be assumed that the widest possible search is being made for such a vessel.

ONE SUBMARINE LOCATED.

Late to-night the search for the enemy submarines was continuing. It is understood that at least one enemy craft has been located. Salvage operations will be commenced to-morrow.

GUNFIRE AND DEPTH CHARGES.

The noise created by gunfire and depth charges was heard by residents not only along the waterfront, but in other suburbs last night.

Houses were shaken by the concussions and travellers aboard ferry steamers wondered as to the reason for the bursts of gunfire from light calibre units.

Passengers aboard a ferry vessel were eye-witnesses to the surfacing of a submarine. At first two shots were fired but little notice was taken of this, as it was assumed to be merely practice.

SEARCHLIGHTS AND TRACER BULLETS.

Almost immediately afterwards, searchlights illuminated the harbor. Then the sharp crackle of pom-poms was heard, followed by shells from heavier guns.

Tracer bullets were seen travelling across the water and then the periscope and the upper portion of the conning

view the periscope and the upper portion of the conning tower of a submarine emerged above the water, right in the glare of the concentrated searchlight rays.

The ferry immediately slackened speed and use was made of the current to keep the craft away.

It was revealed by a fisherman that while returning to port he noticed bubbles rising some yards ahead of his boat. He observed that the bubbles, which were similar to those made by a whale, were not moving, and he considered this strange, but did not attribute them to a submarine.

TWO-MAN SUBMARINES.

It is believed in some quarters that the underwater craft were of the type used in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. These submarines were manned by a crew of two and had a range of not more than 200 miles.

If the enemy craft which made the attack last night were actually of the midget type, it would

ally of the midget type, it would appear they could have been released from a "mother ship."

One resident in a harbor suburb, whose home faces the water, curious as to the reason for so much noise, looked towards the harbor and noticed a searchlight sweeping the water.

The beam caught an object partly visible above the water-line and shortly afterwards the water was thrown up as shells struck very near to the object. Other searchlights concentrated on the object and there was further gunfire.

TORPEDO STRUCK SMALL SHIP.

One of the submarines fired a torpedo, which struck and damaged a vessel formerly employed on a ferry run.

SHOULD ACT AS STIMULUS.

SYDNEY, Mon.—A warning that any repetition of the attack must not find the Australian people sunken in complacency was given to-night by the Minister for the Army, Mr. Forde.

"To-day's news should act as a further stimulus to the whole of the people to co-operate wholeheartedly with the Federal Government in putting Australia on a complete war footing, so as to meet any eventuality," said Mr. Forde.

The Minister said to-day's Allied Headquarters' communique, announcing the attempted raid, brought the war much nearer the industrial heart of Australia and should clearly indicate the absolute necessity for eternal vigilance and the highest standard of efficiency in all branches of the fighting services.

In turn, the fighting services must be ably backed up by the large army of workers in war production factories and by the army of primary producers supplying

production factories and by the army of primary producers supplying the necessary foodstuffs for both the forces and the civilian population.

"Although the communique stated three enemy midget submarines were believed to have been destroyed, we must not fall into a state of complacency that this is the last of the Japanese submarines in these waters," he added. "The seriousness of the position and the hardships inseparable from the change over from peace time to an all-in war effort would gladly be suffered," Mr. Forde added.

ESCAPED ANOTHER PEARL HARBOR.

SYDNEY, Mon.—The Deputy-Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr. W. M. Hughes, said while the people of Sydney would receive the news of our success with deep satisfaction, their hearts would miss a boat when they thought how narrowly we had escaped being another Pearl Harbor.

"If the vigilance of our defence forces had not been so keen and their counter-stroke so swift and deadly, we might at this moment be confronted with a disaster which might well have thrown the vast and complex machinery of shipping, transport and docking into chaos," he said.

A LONG CONFERENCE.

MELBOURNE, Mon.—The Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin, and General MacArthur conferred for 4½ hours this afternoon at Victoria Barracks. Mr. Curtin declined to reveal the nature of the conference. He said he had nothing for publication in the press.

BAD WEATHER OVER LAE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Somewhere in Australia.—Allied bombers raided Lae on Saturday night, but adverse weather conditions over the target area

conditions over the target area militated against accurate bombing. In the Lae attack hits were scored on docks and along each side of the aerodrome runway, while fires were started in buildings beside the aerodrome. The full effect of the bombing could not be observed, despite almost a full moon. The enemy provided a brilliant searchlight display and besides heavy ack-ack fire, our bombers were subjected to concentrated machine gun fire when they came down low in order to make sure of their targets.

KOEPANG, DILLI AND LAE BOMBED.

MELBOURNE, Mon.—A General Headquarters' communique issued to-day states:—

"Further attacks by our air force were carried out on Saturday night and early on Sunday morning on Koepang (East Indies), Dilli (Timor) and Lae (New Guinea). The raid on Lae only took place just before dawn and direct hits were scored on the runway and dock area. Fires were started in the building area. Only one enemy plane came up to engage our bombers, but failed to intercept.

The aerodrome was the objective at Koepang and bombs were dropped on the target area, but poor visibility prevented observation of the results.

The wharf area was bombed at Dilli.
