Churchill Announces Says: "Far Reaching Military Defeat"

LONDON, Feb. 15. — "Singapore has fallen, and the Malaya Peninsula has been overrun," said the Prime Minister (Mr. Winston Churchill) in a broadcast tonight. His announcement was the first confirmation of Tokyo claims that the outpost had surrendered.

Mr. Churchill spoke for about 30 minutes, and assured Australia and New Zealand that every effort would be made to preserve their safety.

"I speak to you tonight under the shadow of a heavy and far-reaching military defeat," he prefaced his grave announcement, "but it is one of those moments when the British can show that it can draw from reverses and turn them into victory."

"The line has struck a heavy blow, but what will be the outcome that R.A.F. cannot be asked. The street fighting by bands of guerrillas was planned for this time..."

"We trust not under- state the value of the aerial and naval losses now sustained; but..."

Soviet Troops Nearing Old Polish Frontier

LONDON, Feb. 15 (A.A.P.). — Stockholm quotes a report from the Swedish front that advanced Soviet forces have reached 220 miles from the old Polish frontier in the Wilno (Willa) district. The note says that the German and Finnish forces have been unable to hold the offensive here..."

R.A.A.F. in Notable Air Victory in Western Desert

LONDON, Feb. 15 (A.A.P.). — An R.A.A.F. communiqué from Cairo states that R.A.A.F. fighters last Saturday obtained their biggest individual success to the Libyan campaign, when four airmen led a squad of 20 others in a daring attack on two formations of enemy planes which were attacking troops in the Aunna desert, and without loss shot down 20 of them. These comprised 14 March 390s, six 333s, three 79s and a Breda. None of the enemy planes escaped damage. A report states that the R.A.A.F. were ordered to continue the attack on the enemy's ground force..."

The "Nelson Touch!"

LONDON, Feb. 15 (A.A.P.). — A German war correspondent successively described the naval action in the English Channel yesterday as "ludicrous." He contended that the British fleet had missed its object, declaring: "The Nelson touch, if it exists, is not needed in this war."

Australian Oil Supplies From N.E.I. Finished

BATAVIA, Feb. 15. — The destruction of the Palembang oil refinery, according to the greatest voluntary destruction of the war, has put the Palembang refineries supplied most of the aviation and motor fuel for the Allied forces in the south-east Pacific, including Australia. We now have to depend on the refineries of Batavia, India, Iraq, or elsewhere..."