

SINGAPORE WILL BE HELD

G.O.C.'s DETERMINATION

HEAVY AIR RAID ON RANGOON

From Our War Correspondent and A.A.P.

SINGAPORE, February 8.—Lieutenant-General A. E. Percival, G.O.C. British forces, Malaya, told correspondents last night at a special conference: "We intend to hold Singapore. There is no question of retreat. Everyone must realise that it is a common fight for military and civilians alike."

He revealed that owing to shell-fire, personnel and stores had been moved from the naval base.

General Percival praised the work of the Royal Navy in protecting Malayan shores. Because British aircraft were not always seen overhead, he added, it did not mean that action was not being taken in Singapore's interest elsewhere.

Hundreds of British soldiers, cut off on the west coast of Malaya, were rescued on successive nights by the Navy and amateur boatmen from Singapore, who took them from the mainland in whatever craft were available.

RANGOON, February 8.—Japanese bombers early this morning carried out the heaviest night raid which Rangoon has yet suffered. For three hours the Japanese attacked the aerodrome, coming in waves. The city area also was attacked. It was the fourth successive night bombing.

Six waves of Japanese aircraft bombed Rangoon on Friday night, but when 30 enemy machines returned at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday they ran into a trap, and 10 enemy machines were shot down and 10 others probably destroyed.

ACTION ELSEWHERE AIDS DEFENCE

From Our War Correspondent in Malaya

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