

108 KILLED IN NAZI PLANE RAID ON BRITISH SHIP

Finns Continue Withdrawal To New Lines

Move Troops On Isthmus' Western Side

Defenders Claim They Are Still Holding Off Russians At Viipuri

MANY SOVIETS KILLED

Red Officials Call Finland's Claims Of Recent Victories 'Absurd'

By WADE WERNER
HELSINKI, March 3.—(AP)—Finns continued their withdrawal toward new defense lines at same points on the western side of the Karelian isthmus today but reported they still were holding off Russian forces pounding at the gates of strategic Viipuri with unrelenting fury from three sides.

With the Viipuri defenders generally repulsing the savage Red army thrusts, the Finnish high command reported that in yesterday's fighting the Russians also were beaten back with heavy losses on the eastern end of the isthmus and north of Lake Ladoga where 1,000 of the enemy were said to have been killed.

Russian Claims
The Red army high command reported early Sunday that its forces had taken Viipuri's railroad station and that the southern part of the ancient port city was being occupied during Saturday night.

Devastating punishment was inflicted on the Russians on the eastern part of the Karelian isthmus, the high command said, when the enemy was concentrating for an attack in this area where the Finns still hold their original Mannerheim fortifications. The Finns reported nine Russian tanks and several guns destroyed in this action.

Above Lake Ladoga, the high command announced that Russian attackers ran into a withering fire at Kollaanjoki, Aittajoki and Kollaa. In addition to 1,000 Russians killed at the latter point, the Finns said one propeller sloop, one armed car and one tank were put out of action.

Attacks Turned Back
Further north, at Kuthmo and Salla, on Finland's narrow waistline, the Finns said Red army lines were not built for dials and had to be replaced.

The date of conversion from manual phones will be approximately in the middle part of June, Thomas said. The exact date will be announced later.

The building at Fourth and Chestnut streets is now completed and it is planned to move the offices in about the last of March. Furniture is now being installed.

The placing of dial equipment in the building is about 75 per cent complete and is progressing according to schedule. After its completion, it will be thoroughly tested for several weeks before being placed into use.

All in all, Thomas said, the change-over will cost the telephone about \$700,000, and will provide Wilmingtonians with the latest and most modern type of dial telephone equipment.

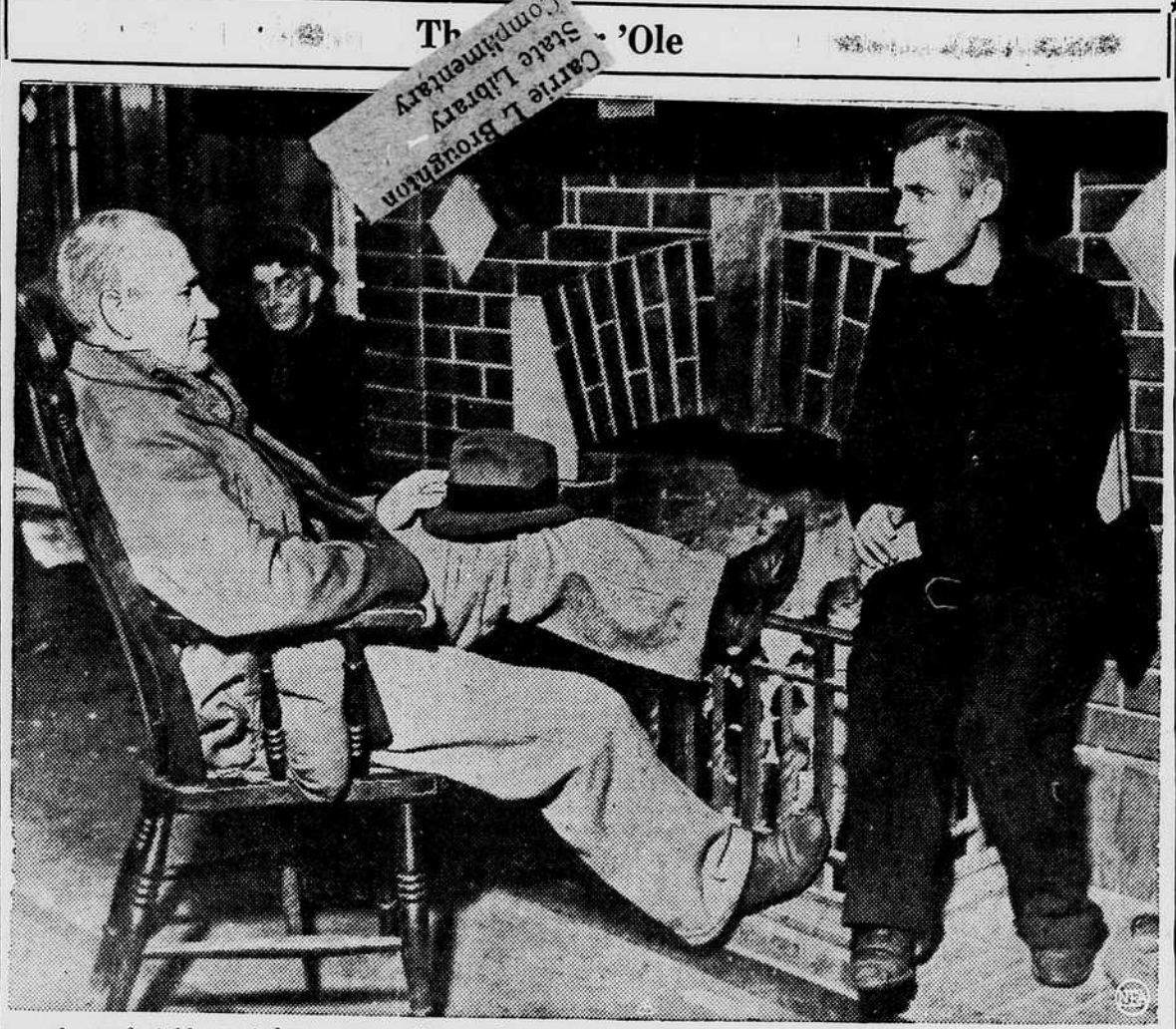
Workers Defense League Says Mill Workers Beaten

WASHINGTON, March 3.—(AP)—The Workers Defense League declared today that textile workers were being "beaten and relentlessly persecuted" for union activities in Gaffney, S. C.

The league made public a letter from an organizer for the Textile Workers union (CIO) describing alleged terroristic activities by mill owners and urging Attorney General Jackson and Governor Maybank of South Carolina to investigate.

CHINESE DROWN

SHANGHAI, March 3.—(AP)—Three hundred Chinese men, women and children were reported today to have been drowned off Ningpo when they became panic-stricken and caused their launch to capsize upon hearing cries of "Japanese planes are coming." The crew of the German coastal vessel Hohlenkot said the Chinese were en route to board their vessel off the Chekiang province port at the time. They said the alarm apparently was false as no Japanese planes were observed.



A comfortable seat by a warm fire replaces dark, cramped, below-deck quarters on a prison ship for these two British seamen, pictured recuperating in a London hospital. They were among prisoners released when British cruiser Cossack ran the German prison ship Altmak around in a Norwegian fjord recently.

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(Continued on Page Three, Col. 1)



Here's the latest picture of pretty Mary Cohan, daughter of George M. Cohan, who now is Mrs. George Ranken, wife of an accordion player. The couple eloped.

Installation Of Phone Dials Nears Completion

TO BE FINISHED SOON

Conversion From Manual To Dial Telephones Is Scheduled In June

Installation of dials on telephones in Wilmington is now about 95 per cent complete and will be entirely finished in about one or two weeks, J. R. Thomas, local manager of the company, said last night.

New switchboards are now being installed in downtown hotels and business houses. Practically all residence installations have been completed.

The new switchboards in hotels and business houses will include a built in dial for each trunk line and others will have a dial on each phone. Most of the present boards were not built for dials and had to be replaced.

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Leipzig's Great Fair Opened By Goebbels

LEIPZIG, March 3.—(AP)—Leipzig's great international fair, giving an impressive picture of Germany's industrial strength in the midst of war, was opened today by Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels in a spirited speech reiterating the Nazi theme of German invincibility.

Goebbels characterized the fair as a fort on the Reich's economic front reflecting the greatness of the commercial structure expected to contribute to ultimate victory on the war front.

Asserting that the great trade routes still are open to Germany, Goebbels declared that the Reich is trying to develop its commerce naturally—a procedure which he said would prove more effective and lasting than "the political buying which Britain has been doing in all parts of the world."

IL DUCE PROTESTS BRITISH BLOCKADE

Strongly-Worded Note Presented To The British Embassy In Rome

ROME, March 3.—(AP)—Aroused by Britain's newly-enforced blockade against German coal shipments to Italy, Premier Mussolini's government today presented a strongly-worded protest to the British embassy.

The government's prompt action, which came within 26 hours after the British clamped on the blockade, was accompanied by a bitter press attack by Roberto Farinacci, outspoken member of the Fascist grand council, who termed Britain's move "an act of arrogance and insolence."

Writing in his Il Regime Fascista, the only newspaper to comment on the coal controversy, Farinacci said the blockade was "the reaction to our refusal to sell arms to England."

"Besides it was hoped to oblige our country to buy coal from Welsh mines and put our ships in peril in the North sea," he said. "When a fight is waged against unarmed populations and not against armies, any reaction is legitimate."

Farinacci's words gave a hint as to the tone of the Italian note, the text of which was not expected to be made public until its transmission to London.

The coal blockade has given oil a companion commodity as international trouble-bearer, and it steps on Italy's political as well as economic toes.

Diplomats are watching closely the possible effect on Italian adherence to the precarious path of non-belligerency.

Rome's quick protest was prompted above all by the Fascist regime's extreme sensitiveness to anything that smacks of economic coercion.

This post-war fixation dates back to 1935 when the League of Nations.

(Continued on Page Three, Col. 5)

Robeson Native Killed By Auto

John D. Smith, 50, Fatally Injured On Highway West Of Lumberton

LUMBERTON, March 3.—John D. Smith, about 50, native of Lumberton and resident of Charlotte, was fatally injured at about 1 o'clock this morning when he was struck by an unidentified automobile driver on highway 74 west of here.

No arrests had been made tonight but county officers and state highway patrolmen were continuing their search for the hit-and-run driver.

The accident victim was a carpenter and had recently arrived in Lumberton.

(Continued on Page Three, Col. 5)

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(Continued on Page Three, Col. 1)

WEATHER

FORECAST
North Carolina: Mostly cloudy and light rain in extreme east portion; Sunday mostly cloudy.

Metereological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday:
Temperature
1:30 a. m. 39; 7:30 a. m. 57; 1:30 p. m. 61; 7:30 p. m. 61; maximum 65; minimum 56; mean 60 normal 59.

Humidity
1:30 a. m. 91; 7:30 a. m. 95; 1:30 p. m. 90; 7:30 p. m. 90.

Precipitation
Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m.: 0.36 inches; total since first of the month, 0.25 inches.

Tides For Today
High 6:16a 0:56a
Low 6:30p 1:26p
4:34a 10:38a
4:47p 10:54p
Sunrise 6:57a; sunset 6:11p; moonset 3:56a; moonrise 2:52p.

(Continued on Page Three, Col. 2)

Village Near Louisville Flooded By Salt River

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 3.—(AP)—Water from rain-swollen Salt river rolled nearly five feet deep today through streets of Taylorsville, overflowed, low-lying county seat town of 900 about 30 miles southeast of Louisville.

County Judge E. J. Snyder reported between 200 and 300 persons had been forced from one-story homes. Others living in two-story houses, he said, took refuge to the second floors.

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Estimates On Construction Of New House To Be Received Here Today

Bids on the construction of the new moving picture theatre to be built at 16-18 North Front street will be opened today at noon at the Cape Fear hotel.

The new house has been authorized by Wilmington Theatres, Inc., and actual construction is expected to start within the near future.

The present Furell building, occupied by Hornett's jewelry store, Wurtz's news stand and Baxter's pool room, will be torn down and the new structure will be erected in its place.

It is expected to be ready for the opening by next fall. No estimate of the amount of the expenditure to

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