

# MUSSOLINI AND HITLER PLAN TO CONFER TODAY

## Hope Of Rescuing 69 Trapped Miners Fades

### Where 25 Met Death In Train-Truck Crash



A priest moves among the dead and dying administering last rite to some of the twenty-five fruit pickers who were riding in a truck when it was struck by a train near McAllen, in the worst accident of its kind in Texas history. Women and children were among the dead. Seventeen others were injured. One of the dying (left) holds his face others manage to raise their heads. They were in search of a job at the time of the accident.

### Russia May Demand Free Ports In Norway, Sweden

STOCKHOLM, March 17.—(AP)—The Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet said in a Moscow dispatch tonight that Russia was reported to be insisting to demand free trade ports in Sweden and Norway after negotiating a trade treaty with Finland.

### 'Champion Grandmother Of U. S.' Dies In Texas

GONZALES, Tex., March 17.—(AP)—Mrs. Mary Skinner, 100, known locally as the "champion grandmother of the United States," died today in the home she had occupied for 80 years.

### HOPKINS ACCUSED OF FLOUTING LAW

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—Senator Tobey (R-NH) accused Secretary Hopkins today of "flouting the law and the constitution by commanding the people to answer illegal questions" in the census and Hopkins "promptly replied that I have two honorary law degrees to his one."

### HOUSING AGENCIES WILL OFFER NOTES

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### MOVEMENT TO INCREASE RELIEF FUNDS

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### Every Effort Made To Save Men In Mine

#### Forty-Four Entombed In West Chamber, Others In Adjacent Works

### INTERIOR IS WRECKED

#### Deadly Afterdamp Lingers In Ohio Mine Long After Large Explosion

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, O., March 17.—(AP)—The number of men unaccounted for in the Willow Grove mine disaster was placed at 69 today and an official said "hope of reaching them alive is dwindling fast."

"After a careful check it appears 44 men are entombed in the 22-west chamber and 25 others in adjacent works," reported W. H. McWilliam, public relations counsel for the Hanna Coal company of Cleveland, owners of the mine.

The men were trapped by a devastating explosion shortly after 11 a. m. yesterday. Four others were killed and more than 100 gassed or injured.

#### "Miracle" if Saved

John Owens, president of the CIO United Mine Workers of Ohio, said "It will be a miracle if any of them come out alive."

The company's general manager, R. V. Clay reported the men trapped in "22-west" were about three miles from the mine entrance. They were working as a unit. The other 25 were in scattered groups nearby when the explosion struck.

"Hope of reaching them alive is dwindling fast," Clay said. "We're doing everything possible and will spare no effort to get them out."

There were four known dead. Approximately 115 others, suffering from gas fumes, were rescued yesterday afternoon and night.

John Richards, mine superintendent, and Howard Sanders, tipple foreman, died after breathing asphyxiating afterdamp gas in a daring attempt to free their comrades.

H. C. Kelly, member of a rescue crew, identified the two other dead as John Marks, a motorman, and Ralph Sutton.

#### Require Treatment

Virtually all of the 115 who came from the blast-shattered tunnels alive required medical attention. A

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#### Wilmington, With Offer Of \$750,000 In Securities, Included On List

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—The United States Housing Authority announced today that 25 local agencies would offer \$71,251,000 of their securities on the open market between March 26 and April 2 to assist the financing of slum-clearance and low-rent home projects.

The local agencies and their offerings include:

Augusta, Ga., \$1,032,000; Charlotte, N. C., \$1,783,000; Columbia, S. C., \$1,640,000; Hartford, Conn., \$1,100,000; Holyoke, Mass., \$620,000;

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### Says Goodbye



Disclaiming any intention of seeking a divorce, Dolores Del Rio, Mexico-born screen actress, declared she and Cedric Gibbons, movie art director, had separated. Glamorous Dolores moved from their Hollywood home to an unpretentious house in Palm Springs.

### MANNERHEIM MAY RECEIVE NEW ROLE

#### Paper Suggests He Assume 'Direction Of National Fate In General'

HELSINKI, March 17.—(AP)—The important newspaper Uusi Suomi suggested today that Field Marshal Baron Carl Gustaf Mannerheim assume "direction of the national fate in general," as well as continue as chief of the nation's defense forces.

This was the first public proposal that the field marshal take an active part in governing the republic, but there has been much private talk of this as an emergency measure during the reconstruction period, now that the Finnish-Russian war is ended.

"Nothing in our misfortune could be more desired than that the commanding position of the field marshal would continue, not only in respect to national defense forces but also in direction of the national fate in general," the paper said.

"We do not need a dictator but we do need a commander-in-chief who, by the power of his personal qualities, is capable of thrusting aside all political differences and preserving the nation's readiness to sacrifice and its fighting spirit, which in our heavy struggle has come forth and which alone can guarantee realization and success of the gigantic program which lies before us."

The editorial dealt at length with Mannerheim's efforts to strengthen the country's defenses long before the Russian crisis developed last autumn and declared that events had proved him right.

This was the general feeling expressed in many private conversations. There seemed no doubt about the tremendous admiration and respect of the Finnish people for the man who also led their fight for independence 20 years ago.

The only question was whether the field marshal would accept a broader role than that of commander-in-chief. He has had many opportunities in the past to become active in governing the republic but never would accept.

In the present instance the question has gone no further than the newspaper suggestion and the government, meanwhile, was busy pushing reconstruction measures.

A new decree provided that all grain above individual requirements must be given to the government with compensation.

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### Nazi Airmen Claim British Warships Hit

#### Officers Report Much Damage Inflicted On Ships At Scapa Flow

### AIRPORTS ARE BOMBED

#### Raid Causes Britain's First Civilian Casualties In Aerial Warfare

BERLIN, March 17.—(AP)—The 42,100-ton British battle cruiser Hood and the 32,000-ton battle cruisers Renown and Repulse were believed to have been anchored at Scapa Flow when a group of German bombers suddenly raided Britain's anchorage at Scapa Flow, German fliers declared tonight.

Describing how the first German air attack of the war on British land objectives was carried out, three young red-cheeked German fliers told the foreign press their raid "went off on schedule, much like a peacetime parade before a Nazi congress."

Although they said the three biggest British warships were believed in the Orkney Island anchorage when they raided it, they could not be sure what ships they hit with their bombs because it was virtually impossible to read the names from the air.

#### Command Claims Hits

The German command contented itself with a communique merely saying three battleships and one cruiser were "severely damaged" and "probable" damage inflicted on two other warships as well.

The Orkney island airports of Stromness, Kirkwall and Earth House, and a number of anti-aircraft positions were bombed, the command said.

The military experts declined to disclose the number of Heinkel 111 type bombers participating, but said the British figures were "about correct. There were a few more."

The British said 14 German raiders took part.

Major Fritz Doench, 36 year old veteran and unit leader, wearing the Iron Cross, said the Germans had known for days that the

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### HATCH BILL FACES BATTLE IN HOUSE

#### 'Clean Politics' Measure Is Expected To Be Passed By Senate Today

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—A stormy road lies ahead of the Hatch "clean politics" bill in the house if, as both its friends and foes expect, it passes the senate tomorrow.

Informed sources said the strategy of house opponents would be to keep the measure bottled up in the judiciary committee.

Both Speaker Bankhead and Majority Leader Rayburn (D-Tex.) are reliably reported to be opposed to it, although they have refrained from comment, pending the senate's action.

Bankhead opposed the original Hatch Act putting restraints on political activity by federal em-

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## AXIS LEADERS TO MEET NEAR BRENNER PASS

### British Airplane Crew Escapes After Landing In Germany By Mistake

WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN FRANCE, March 17.—(AP)—A young British flight lieutenant told correspondents today how he landed his bomber in Germany by mistake and then successfully brought it back to his home base after discovering the error.

The officer said he believed he was near his own airbase when he dropped through the clouds at dawn and landed in an open field.

Peasants ran to the plane as the crew climbed out, and the officer asked:

"This is France, isn't it?"

"No, sir, this is Germany," a peasant replied. "The frontier is 25 kilometers (about 16 miles) away."

The pilot and his crew jumped back into their ship and took off just as several more men ran into the field and began firing at the plane.

### LOBBYING CHARGE VOICED BY COOPER

#### Says Several Candidates 'Most Powerful Lobbyists' In N. C. History

GREENSBORO, March 17.—(AP)—A charge that several of the gubernatorial candidates are "the most powerful lobbyists the state of North Carolina has ever known" was made by Thomas E. Cooper, mayor of Wilmington, candidate for the democratic nomination for governor, who was a visitor here today.

"The people of North Carolina through the establishment of expensive campaign organizations for which, should any of them be elected, the people of North Carolina will have to pay," he stated.

"Every candidate setting up headquarters in the Sir Walter hotel is a lawyer, and among those lawyers are some of the most powerful lobbyists the state of North Carolina has ever known, according to the records of the secretary of state," the candidate with the "golden rule platform" stated.

Cooper scolded the elaborate headquarters set up of the "Raleigh gang" claiming his own campaign to be one of a poor man.

Mayor Cooper said he would campaign in the Piedmont and western sections of the state in a "sound truck" starting about March 28, "covering the west like the mountain dew." The mayor expressed confidence that he had the east "sewed up."

Charging some of the other candidates with lobbying, the Wilmington mayor who also is commissioner of public safety in that city, explained, "the 'kingfish' of the lobbyist candidates even lobbied to keep insurance rates up and lobbied against our home stores, supporting the chain store system."

### MEET OF FORUM SLATED TONIGHT

#### Walker To Discuss Need Of Junior Chamber Of Commerce In Wilmington

A committee will be appointed to investigate the possibilities for a recreation center for Wilmington's youth at the meeting of the Youth Open Forum to be held tonight at 8 o'clock at the Y.M.C.A.

H. L. Walker will make a short talk on the need for a Junior Chamber of Commerce in Wilmington, and following his talk, the floor will be opened for talks pro and con by other members of the organization.

Similar treatment will be given a discussion on forestry and conservation by Oscar D. Mead.

Following the talks, the various persons in attendance will be asked to take the floor and express their opinions concerning any subject and ask the opinions of any other members.

### Don't Drive Your Livestock To Market . . .

#### . . . I'll Send a Cash Buyer Out to Your Farm

I want those people who want to buy livestock. WHEN they are ready to buy. I will recommend your offer to 50,000 readers of the Star and News, some of whom are in the market for what you have.

Call 2800 and ask for the Classified department and I will start to work for you in the very next issue of the Star or News. Charge Your Ad

### WEATHER

FORECAST  
North Carolina: Mostly cloudy, rain tonight; beginning in the mountains Monday afternoon and ending in the central portions Tuesday. Slightly warmer east portion Monday.

Metropolitan data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday:  
Temperature  
7:30 a. m. 52; 7:30 a. m. 43; 1:30 p. m. 58; maximum 66; minimum 42; mean 54; normal 53.  
Humidity  
7:30 a. m. 62; 7:30 a. m. 92; 1:30 p. m. 54.  
Precipitation  
Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00; total since first of the month, 0.00 inches.

Tides For Today  
High 4:40a  
Low 5:10a 12:20p  
High 5:10a 8:40a  
Low 2:40p 9:10p  
Sunset 6:38a; moonset 6:22p; moonrise 12:50p; moonset 2:08a.

Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville on March 16, at 8 a. m. 27.5 feet.

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