

BRITAIN FEARS WAVE OF ATTACKS BY U-BOATS

Moscow D... Berlin Rumor Of Molotoff Visit

3-Way Axis Was Talked By Italians

Possibility That Russians Might Join Il Duce-Hitler Described

REDS SPIKE RUMOR

Proposed Visit Described As Devoid Of Foundation By Moscow

MOSCOW, March 24.—(Sunday)—The reports, published in all Italian newspapers yesterday, disappeared overnight.

BERLIN, March 23.—(AP)—Official German reports are convinced that Russia's premier and foreign minister, Vyacheslav Molotov, will at last visit Berlin to cement the recently formed Berlin-Moscow friendship and remove any obstacles to Russian-Italian cooperation for the duration of the European war.

Tax, the Soviet official news agency, issued a statement in Moscow describing rumors abroad concerning Molotov's proposed visit as "devoid of any foundation."

The new registration will be taken during the period Saturday, April 27, to Saturday, May 11. The registrars will be at their desks in the various polling places each Saturday, beginning at 3 a. m. and remaining until sunset.

Chairman Carney explained that the requirements of the law regarding a mere relisting of the electorate were so stringent, that it "was obvious" that a new registration would be less costly and, he added, "far more desirable."

A relisting or a new registration is mandatory under a state-wide act passed by the 1939 legislature. Reorganization of the county elections board yesterday is expected.

By JOHN FERRIS NEW YORK, March 23.—(AP)—Whispering and roaring, a man dressed in a Santa Claus costume topped with an Indian headdress rode a makeshift wagon into Rockefeller Center today and tried to distribute 40 live chickens "in the interest of world peace."

"The Santa Claus from Santa Fe," he roared, "and I'm giving away chickens. Chickens with feathers on 'em. Peace! The whole world's going to have peace."

The crowd in the plaza stopped. The crowd around the skating rink turned to the strange figure who grinned amiably.

"The old Santa Claus from Santa Fe," he bellowed. "On the Q. T.,"

By JOHN H. MARTIN PARIS, March 23.—(AP)—With his first premiership sanctioned by a slim majority in the chamber of deputies, Paul Reynaud set out today to counter rightist hostility by mapping a program to step up the tempo of war against Germany and thereby strengthen his position before the lower house reconvenes April 2.

His first move was to confer at (Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

By FRANK MacMILLEN NEW YORK, March 23.—(AP)—Retail merchants in many communities counted today wide trade gains over last year in the heaviest Easter buying since 1937.



A salvage derrick leans against the 15,575-ton freighter Panamanian after the vessel partially sank recently at a Baltimore pier. The accident, attributed by coast guardsmen to overloading, occurred while loading a general cargo for British ports. The ship is under charter to Arnold Bernstein, refugee German shipping magnate.

Elections Board Orders New Registration Here

CARNEY IS RENAMED He Will Serve Third Term As Chairman; Strange To Be Secretary

The New Hanover county board of elections, during its organization meeting in the courthouse yesterday, ordered a new registration of voters to be taken during the regular registration period before the May 25 primary.

The board re-elected H. G. Carney, Wilmington insurance agent, as chairman. He has served two preceding terms.

Also re-elected was Robert Strange, secretary. J. H. Niggel is the republican member.

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Industrial communities had the advantage of expanded factory payrolls and some reported trade gains ranging from 10 to 30 per cent over March, 1939 figures. The earliest Easter in 1939 five years distorted the year-to-year comparison, making appraisal of the Easter influence difficult.

Many retailers predicted post-Easter buying of spring merchandise (Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

Trade Pact Changes Hit By New Deal

Senate Ratification Of Bill Would Cause Veto, Say Capitol Leaders

TEST VOTE ON NLRB

Smith To Ask House Slash Of Entire Fund For Economics Unit

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(AP)—Word spread on Capitol Hill today that President Roosevelt would veto legislation continuing his reciprocal trade program if congress adopted a proposal to require senate ratification of trade agreements.

It was said that Mr. Roosevelt and Secretary Hull had agreed, and passed this word on to legislative leaders, that the ratification proposal would destroy the usefulness of the trade program.

A Major Issue The question whether the treaties should be subject of senate ratification, by a two-thirds vote, is expected to be a major issue of contention when the senate debates continuance of the trade program.

House-approved legislation to continue the program unchanged for three years was brought to the senate floor late yesterday, and debate will begin Monday.

One of those favoring ratification of the agreements is Chairman Pittman (D-Nev) of the foreign relations committee. He said today that the present program, in his opinion, was unconstitutional, but Senator Norris (Ind-Nebr) declared it was much preferable to "log-rolling tariff bills."

Pittman said that the agreements were actually treaties, and therefore should be subject to ratification.

"If the senate grants this authority to the President without the reservation of ratification," he declared, "then it will set a precedent under which the President might be permitted to make such agree-

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EUROPE OBSERVES WAR-TIME EASTER

Prayers For Peace Arise From Battle Camps As Total War Looms

(By The Associated Press) Mankind at war paused in troubled Europe today to celebrate in restrained Easter festivities the resurrection of the Prince of Peace 1,940 years ago.

Under the shadow of guns threatening to speak out in the long-faded total war, Christians of all sects raised their voices in song and prayer amidst ceremony and custom handed down through the centuries.

The Holy City of Jerusalem was the mecca of thousands of pilgrims who gathered to participate in impressive services around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, on the site of the tomb from which Christ arose.

The eyes of the Roman Catholic world turned to Vatican City where Pope Pius XII personally arranged to celebrate mass in the basilica on historic St. Peter's.

The war kept down the usual throng of tourists attending the brilliant Easter service in St. Peter's but the occasion afforded the (Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

ADORNS EASTER COVER



A photograph in brilliant colors, almost a duplicate in pose of the above portrait taken here yesterday, of Captain Margaret Wynne of the Salvation Army, now stationed under Brigadier J. V. Brezental, adorns the Easter issue of Canadian War Cry, the official Army magazine. Captain Wynne is the daughter of Adjutant and Mrs. Wynne of the Salvation Army at Gastonia. (Staff photo—Callahan.)

Army And Navy To Speed Up Allies Plane Orders

PUBLIC IS URGED TO VISIT LAKE

Dr. Moore Calls Attention To Beautification Of Greenfield Shores

Dr. W. Houston Moore, chairman of the Greenfield Drive Association, Inc., yesterday issued an invitation to the people of Wilmington to view that section of Greenfield Lake drive which has been beautified by the association during the past several weeks.

Within the next two weeks, he pointed out, the azaleas will be in bloom and that area which has been beautified will show the people of the city what can be done at this natural beauty spot if the people will provide the necessary funds.

He urged those who plan to visit the spot to enter the drive from the Fourth street entrance, for it is only near this entrance, the association, with its limited funds, has been able to carry out its beautification program.

He further urged that the people not just drive through the section but that they park their cars on the left-hand side of the road and then walk along the many paths which have been laid out and bordered with small azalea bushes.

The work even on this section is not complete yet, he pointed out, but sufficient work has been done (Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

Church Services, Fashion Parade Mark Easter Here

Today Wilmingtonians will don their new spring finery and join an Easter parade that bids fair to become the greatest composite fashion plate in many a year.

This, one of the greatest of religious observances, will find various special services in practically every church in the city, beginning at dawn and lasting through the entire day.

During the past several days, the downtown streets have been thronged with Easter shoppers from throughout southeastern North Carolina and the holiday buying has been heavier than any year since 1937. A national survey revealed that holiday trade was up about 125 per cent.

10 Neutrals, Five British Vessels Sunk

Denmark Alone Loses Six Ships To Nazi Subs During Week

NEW OFFENSIVE SEEN

Fleet Of Subs Reported Emerging From Canal Into North Sea

By DREW MIDDLETON LONDON, March 23.—(AP)—The start of undersea warfare "on a scale undreamed of in the World War" within two weeks was declared probable by informed quarters in Britain today.

German submarines were reported filtering through mine fields and Allied surface patrols into the North Sea and Atlantic for a new wave of attacks on the British bread line that runs the breadth of the seven seas.

As Thick As Smacks A large number of U-boats were reported just outside Norwegian waters yesterday and a German submarine commander was quoted by a Norwegian fishing captain as saying German undersea craft soon would be as thick as fishing smacks in the North Sea waters.

Neutral naval officers in London said they believed "more than half" the new wave of submarines emerging from the Kiel canal into the North Sea had been built this winter.

(Informed German sources asserted several weeks ago that the Reich was building one submarine a day.)

Moreover, neutral officers asserted the crews probably were experienced and said that the almost general assumption in London that Germany is suffering a submarine crew shortage probably is wrong.

Informed quarters admitted that the wave of sinkings this week, when seven neutral merchantmen were sunk by submarines in two days, may prove to be the prelude (Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

CHINESE RETAKE LINGSHAN CITY

Tokyo Report To U. S. Is Silent On Question Of Fortifying Isles

CHUNKING, China, March 24.—(Sunday)—(AP)—The Chinese Central News agency reported tonight that Chinese troops had recaptured Lingshan, in the South China province of Kwangtung, Friday morning and that Japan suffered more than 4,000 casualties in fighting in that sector during the past five days.

Earlier, a Chinese spokesman said the Japanese suffered heavy blows in a thrust northward from Lingshan and that the Chinese had retaken a number of vantage points around the Nanning-Yamchow highway.

The Central News agency said the Japanese are in full retreat toward their base at Yamchow.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(AP)—Japan, in a report to the League of Nations on her 1938 administration of the Pacific Mandate islands, (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

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WEATHER FORECAST table with columns for location, time, and weather conditions.