

GERMANS TEAR GAPS IN ALLIES' MEUSE FRONT AFTER CROSSING RIVER; BRUSSELS THREATENED

Greeks Boost Forces Along Albanian Line

Precautionary Seps Are Ordered Within The Frontier Regions

PAPADEMAS IN CHARGE

Departure Of Allied Fleet From Alexandria Causes Much Uneasiness

ATHENS, May 16.—(Thursday)—Greek rushed troop reinforcements to her frontier with Italian-occupied Albania shortly after midnight this morning.

It was understood that precautionary measures had been ordered along the frontier regions.

(Here the telephone line between Athens and Budapest, Hungarian capital, by which the foregoing dispatch was relayed, went dead. Attempts were made at once to restore communication.)

Line Restored

(Later the line was restored and the following dispatch received.)

Colonel Papademas, undersecretary of war, arrived in the frontier region of Yanina, to take personal charge of preparedness operations. He is virtual head of Greece's armed forces since the war secretary is Premier John Metaxas.

Announcement that the British and French fleet had taken to the sea from Alexandria for maneuvers caused uneasiness among Greeks.

It was reported—but not confirmed—brought to bear upon Greece to permit establishment of naval bases for the British fleet on Greek islands.

Similar reports have been circulated previously. Some of them have been attributed to German sources.

The Yanina district borders the island of Corfu at the mouth of the Adriatic, an object of Italian ambitions for many years because of its position dominating Otranto Strait. Italy occupied the island in 1923, but later vacated it.)

Given Assurances

Greece, along with other countries in southeastern Europe, was reported on May 2 to have been given assurances by Italian and German diplomats that it need not fear invasion by the axis partners.

Germany was understood to have made the point that she desired to keep these countries peaceful so that they could continue supplying needed raw materials.

Italy was reported to have asserted she had no intention of changing her "non-belligerency" status for the present, and last October, in an effort to win the confidence of Greece, drew her troops back from the Albanian border.

Greece nevertheless continued watchful preparations. She called up 10 classes of reserve army officers for active duty that day.

NAMES VAN DER STAD

LONDON, May 15.—(AP)—Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands has appointed Rear Admiral Van Der Stad as commander of all Dutch military and naval forces in the province of Zealand, the Netherlands' least, announced tonight. The queen herself announced the appointment to the Dutch forces by radio.

WEATHER

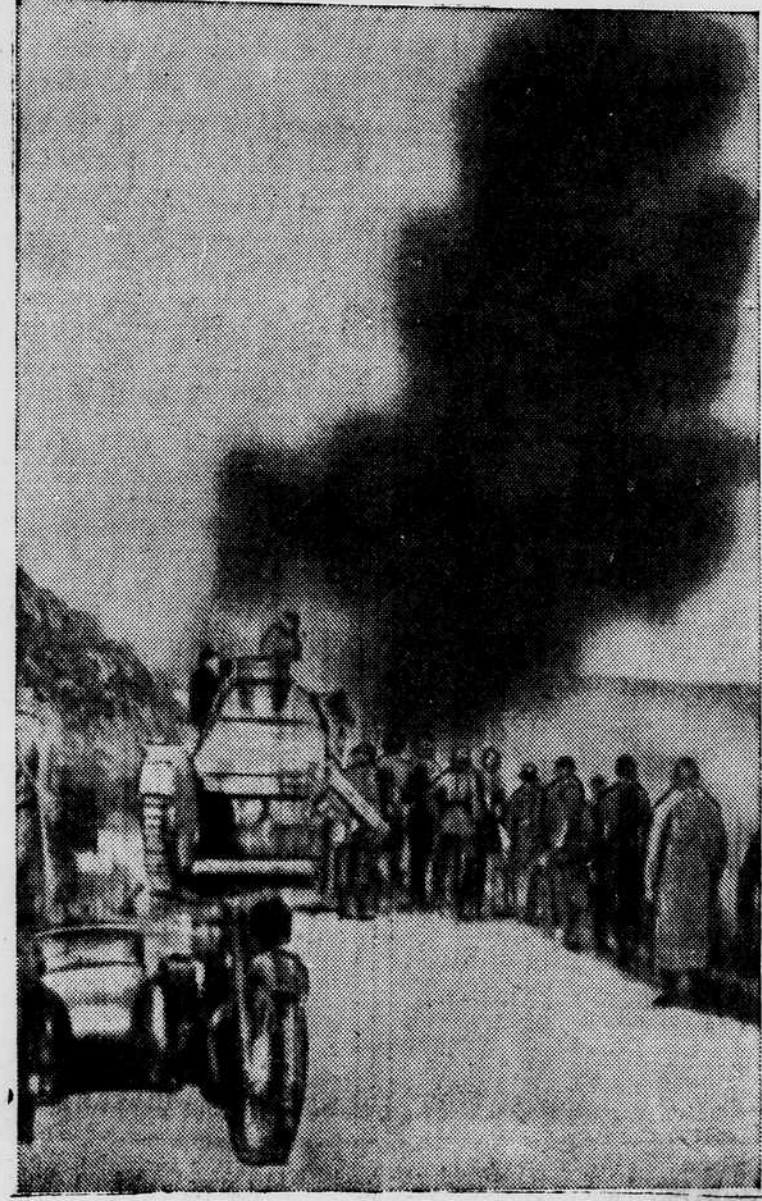
FORECAST
North Carolina: Mostly cloudy, scattered showers in east portion, slightly clearing in east and central portions Thursday; Friday fair.

Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday.

Temperature	High 73	Low 67
Humidity	52	67
Wind	5-20	12-19
Clouds	5-10	3-19
Visibility	5-10	3-19
Relative Humidity	52	67
Barometer	30.0	30.0
Moisture	5-10	3-19

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Artillery Smashes Path Through Tanks



Heavy artillery in the rear of this German tank sends huge shells crashing against Belgian defenses ahead of it—smoothing the way for the Nazi steamroller crushing its way into Belgium. Photo radioed to U. S. from Berlin.

House Committee Okehs \$975,650,000 WPA Fund

VICTORY FOR F. D. R.

Money May Be Spent During First Eight Months Of Coming Fiscal Year

BY JOSEPH H. SHORT

WASHINGTON, May 15.—(AP)—To an accompaniment of charges of "scandalous" conditions within WPA, President Roosevelt won house appropriations committee sanction today for a \$975,650,000 WPA fund which may be spent during the first eight months of the coming fiscal year.

The committee said in its report to the house that the appropriation would provide employment for an average of 1,950,000 persons if spent during eight months, or slightly fewer than the 2,042,000 average for the current year. This year's appropriation was \$1,477,000,000.

Strong Condemnation

The most strongly worded condemnation of the relief set up came from a minority of four republicans who objected to the majority report. They said an investigation by the WPA appropriations sub-committee had "served to re-emphasize certain fundamental faults under the present system of relief."

"The investigation," they added, "has also disclosed incompetency, graft and corruption, the selling of jobs and promotions, the diversion of relief funds to private use, ruin."

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Advancement Of South's Farm Progress Is Urged

BY BOB MATTHEWS

INVERSHIEL, May 15.—The advancement of agricultural progress in the south through the further development of year-round grazing programs for livestock was urged by farm officials of the Carolinas in addresses this afternoon at field day exercises at Invershiel.

Speaker after speaker appealed for the rebuilding of agricultural conditions throughout the southland by turning to diversification of crops, more efficient use of land, and increase in livestock.

The south will come into its own when its fields are green in winter," declared farm specialists from North and South Carolina.

Roosevelt To Give Defense Plans Today

Chief Decides To Deliver His Special Message To Congress In Person

PLAN JOINT SESSION

Big Part Of Program To Deal With Anti-Aircraft Defense Expansion

WASHINGTON, May 15.—(AP)—President Roosevelt decided tonight to deliver his special defense message to congress in person.

He will speak at 1 p. m. eastern standard time Thursday. The address will be broadcast nationally and perhaps internationally over the NBC, CBS and MBS radio networks.

Stephen Early, the President's press secretary, said that the action was taken on the advice and recommendation of congressional leaders. Both houses and senate members will be in attendance.

Arrangements for the address were started as soon as the President made known his decision shortly before 10 p. m. EST. Legislators expressed the belief that the President was using this method of demonstrating the importance of his message.

Joint Session Planned

Special details of policemen will be assigned to the Capitol, and congressional leaders will put through a resolution for a joint session as soon as the senate and house convene.

Simultaneously it became known that President Roosevelt, while working on the message, has been continuing correspondence with foreign governments, including Italy, looking toward peace.

The President remained at his desk until 2 a. m. today primarily to draft his message, but it was learned that he also was in telephonic communications with Secretary Hull at the state department in connection with the foreign interchanges.

These were authoritatively described as representing no new move but merely a continuation of efforts along the line the President has pursued for the last year.

A authoritative congressional source disclosed that a substantial part of the defense program would be devoted to a tremendous expansion of anti-aircraft defenses, and private munitions industries.

Legislators in close touch with the situation asserted that \$68,000,000 of the estimated \$976,000,000 armament program would be earmarked for anti-aircraft guns and ammunition for mobile regiments, fixed batteries and sea-coast defenses.

\$44,000,000 For Plants

An additional \$44,000,000, it was learned, would go for the expansion and tooling of plants for the manufacture of equipment such as semi-automatic rifles, machine guns, tanks and anti-tank guns.

House members explained that the expansion of private facilities was aimed at cutting down the time required to produce the arms, now estimated to range between one and two years for many items.

The disclosures were made while demands were heard in the senate for an investigation of national defense. Senator Clark (D-Mo) shouted to the chamber that he was opposed to "pouring any more billions down the same rathole before we find out what the brass hats have done with \$7,000,000,000 they've already received."

President Roosevelt worked today on the defense program, which he expects to send to congress tomorrow. The army is slated to get \$726,000,000 of the total and the navy about \$250,000,000, chiefly to speed up construction of warships now on the ways.

A \$25,000,000 slice of the funds, informed sources said, would be devoted to providing the army's warplanes with self-sealing gasoline tanks and protective armor.

Other Expenditures
The program also calls for expenditure of about \$80,000,000 for 200 four-engined bombers, about \$285,000,000 for equipment for a land force of 1,000,000 men, and \$30,000,000 for educational orders to

who called attention to the possibility of improving the economic status of farmers by introduction of methods found successful elsewhere.

A crisis for southern farmers, created by the closing of foreign markets to such cash crops as tobacco and cotton, was cited by farm officials, who called for a new era of happiness, prosperity and economic stability for agriculture in the south by fostering stream-lined farming methods.

The ball and chain method, practiced by southern farmers for years, in depending upon such main cash crops as cotton and tobacco,

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NAZI FORCES SHIFT ATTACK; ARMY IS LAUDED BY HITLER; BRITISH BOMB GERMAN LINES

THREAT IS GIVEN

Reich Says Belgians Must Stop Military Activity In Their Capital

AIR STORM HINTED

GERMANY

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER

BERLIN, May 15.—(AP)—The German army, acclaimed by Adolf Hitler for its swift conquest of the Netherlands, tonight threatened to bomb Brussels, the Belgian capital, and slashed through French defenses north of Sedan.

With his Nazi forces hammering forward in a resurrection of the famed Von Schlieffen plan for a drive into France around the Allied left flank—a plan which failed in 1914 but which Germans are confident will succeed in 1940—Hitler in an order of the day said "the future will demonstrate the military importance" of the five-day Dutch conquest.

Threat Given

In a threat similar to that which brought capitulation of the Dutch, the German high command declared that if Belgian authorities wish to save Brussels from Nazi air fury, they must cease all military activity in the Belgian capital, already menaced by German troops who approached the Luvain "gateway," some 16 miles to the east.

"The Belgian government declared on May 10 through its foreign minister in Brussels and likewise through mediation of its diplomatic intermediary, the United States embassy in Berlin, that Brussels is an open city, that no troops were in Brussels, nor would they move through the city," a high command spokesman said.

"This statement of the Belgian government does not correspond to the facts. German air reconnaissance during the last few days has established beyond doubt that all kinds of military columns are moving through Brus-

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Britain Claims German Drive On Sedan Halted

BRITAIN

LONDON, May 15.—(AP)—The Biggest fleet of Allied bombers massed for an attack in this war, 150 explosive-laden warplanes, raked German lines converging on the Meuse at Sedan with such effect, the air ministry announced today, that the first German advance in that sector was halted.

The result, said the ministry, was that the French were enabled to launch yesterday's counterattack which drove the Germans back south of Sedan just as they were getting ready for a supreme thrust into France. (The Germans attacked again today north of Sedan.)

Dropping to waver long columns of German soldiers, tanks,

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Smashing German Drive, English Force Collide

British In Louvain Section Bomb Many Nazi Tanks And Armored Cars

BELGIUM

By DREW MIDDLETON

WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN BELGIUM, May 15.—(Passed by Field Censor)

—(AP)—The smashing German offensive aiming at Brussels and the heart of Belgium through the Louvain "gate" clashed today with the British expeditionary force, which was heavily engaged throughout the long, hot day.

The British, holding positions in and around Louvain, threw thousands of tons of high explosives and metal into hundreds of German tanks and armored cars, screening the advancing green-gray columns on the roads of Belgium.

French Town Bombed

The operations opened last night when a French town well in the rear was bombed heavily and scores of civilians killed or wounded.

Louvain, a deserted city except for the troops and refugees streaming through, contains the famous University Library, rebuilt after the last war by the pennies of millions of American school children.

If the city is heavily shelled, the library, a landmark for miles around on the flat plain of Flanders, well may be demolished. When I saw it yesterday it was standing in all its grandeur, defiant above the stricken city, on its walls the names of the American universities and schools whose students

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NAZIS USE TANKS French Abandon War Of Position And Begin Campaign Of Movement

SITUATION CONFUSED

FRANCE

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

PARIS, May 15.—(AP)—Charing German tanks tore gaps in the Allied positions on the Meuse today after crossing the river at three points along the 50-mile front from Namur, Belgium, to Sedan in northern France.

The Germans shifted their assaults to this sector after meeting strong French counter-attacks in the Sedan region just to the south, and were reported to have "penetrated" to the interior of the French dispositions.

"War Of Movement"

"In the face of the serious new situation, the French command has abandoned the war of position and begun a war of movement," a war ministry spokesman said.

"The high command has regrouped and launched counter-attacks, which are now underway," he said.

The change from stationary to mobile warfare meant that the French had decided to abandon their prepared fortifications and fight the battle of the Meuse in the field to meet the Reichswehr threat.

The sector in which the Germans broke through was defended by a line of concrete pill-boxes built along the Belgian border as a northwesterly extension of the Maginot line.

German tanks rumbling through the valley and planes roaring overhead advanced deep into this field of fortifications, defying French machine-gun fire.

"Situation Confused"

Information received from French general headquarters at 6 p. m. (noon, Eastern Standard Time) said:

"A general melee of French and German infantry, tanks and aviation is taking place . . . the situation appears confused . . ."

Reichswehr infantry tried to follow the tanks through the French lines north of Sedan, but the French troops held their ground at first.

Once the tanks got through the French lines, however, they spread out in all directions, threatening the French positions from the rear.

Then some French units had to retreat.

Both in the Sedan sector and along the Meuse to the north, the German assaults continued despite

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YOUNG NEAPOLITANS REVIVE EXHIBITIONS AGAINST ALLIES

ITALY

ROME, May 15.—(AP)—Several youthful Neapolitans revived anti-Allied demonstrations tonight, marching in the main street of Naples shouting old cries for French possessions.

They carried huge pictures of Premier Mussolini and signs saying "Mussolini is always right," "Chamberlain's umbrella leaks," "d'Jibuti, nice, corsica," and "viva Italian corsica."

Earlier, police put a sudden stop to such demonstrations in Rome.

Police dispersed about 10,000 students and others who gathered in the Piazza Venezia for a

third day of parading and slogan-shouting.

Premier Mussolini failed to show himself to the crowd this morning, although yesterday he took three salutes at his balcony.

Several hundred students were reported to have taken a march to the Yugoslav legation but were dispersed after they threatened to mob a restaurant proprietor who advised them to "quit clowning and go back to school."

Official quarters could not confirm Yugoslav reports of anti-Yugoslav demonstrations at Fiume, but informed observers believed that if such demonstrations actually had taken place, they were without official sanction.

Italian soldiers continued to guard the French and British

embassies as new posters were plastered on nearby walls recalling that Germany supported but France and Britain opposed Italy during the Ethiopian war.

Lessening of tension prompted diplomatic observers to return to their assumption that Premier Mussolini would wait for a conclusive defeat of the Allies before plunging Italy into war.

The belief that Italian entry into the conflict was not imminent was strengthened by sailing of the liner Conte Di Savoia with 1,000 passengers bound for New York.

Diplomatic quarters believed that one reason why Italy might prefer to wait before incurring the heavy financial strain of

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Wilmington's Variety Store Open Day and Night

Offered each day in the columns of the Star and News Want Ads are the greatest bargains in and around Wilmington. You owe it to yourself, if you haven't been doing so, to read the daily Want Ads. In the course of a year you will find that you have saved many dollars by shopping the Want Ads before buying.