

GERMAN PRESS FLAYS F. D. R.'S BRITISH AID TALK

Greeks Oust Italians From Heights Near Klisura



Here is Bluethenthal airport, located on the Gordon road, as it looks today to visiting airmen. One of the 3,000 feet long, 100-foot wide runways has been covered with a rock base and the dotted lines show where the other two runways are to be constructed.

ITALIAN FACTORY DICTATOR CHOSEN

Nation Takes Action To Tighten Her War Economy Another Notch

ROME, Dec. 31.—Italy tightened her war economy another notch today by establishing a virtual dictatorship over her industry.

Airport Runways Paving May Be Finished March 1

SPENDING \$200,000 Force Of 180 Men Engaged In Grading Runways And Working At Quarry

BY SAM RAGAN Staff Writer An almost barren savannah that was good bird-hunting territory thirty years ago is finally after fifteen years of manuring—beginning to look like an airport.

STATE'S BANKERS TO AID DEFENSE

Credit Resources Will Be Placed Behind Development Of Factories

RALEIGH, Dec. 31.—North Carolina bankers, in a move which may mean additional large-scale industrial expansion in the state, announced today that the full weight of their credit resources would be placed behind the "legitimate" development of Tar Heel factories to meet the demands of the defense purchasing program.

CROWDS IN LONDON GREET NEW YEAR WITH CRY OF 'TO HELL WITH HITLER'

LONDON, Jan. 1.—(Wednesday)—In the unrelenting darkness of the blackout but with the crash of German bombs missing, New Year revelers gathered today in the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral and greeted with cries of "to hell with Hitler."

West End cheered and sang as the old year passed on. The great ring in Piccadilly—its blazing lights of former years extinguished for the war—had its revelers but most of the bomb-wearied residents remain.

Britain, apparently because of a continuation of bad weather which grounded bombers Monday night. The Dover Strait—pathway of bombers—was cloudy and foggy.

bombs of the sort with which German raiders wrought so much havoc in London Sunday night.

500 Fascists Are Captured In Campaign

Reinforcements Are Beaten Back And Italian Tank Attack Is Repulsed

MANY CRAGS TAKEN

Better Weather And Widespread Activity Of Warplanes Aids Greeks

ATHENS, Jan. 1.—(Wednesday)—The Greek army pounced on enemy reinforcements and captured 500 prisoners in dislodging Italians from heights near the key town of Klisura, in central Albania, a spokesman declared early today.

Tanks Repulsed

A general headquarters communiqué reported the repulse of a tank attack by the Italians on an undisclosed sector.

FEELING IS CLOSER

Editor-Diplomat Plans To Return To Mexico Post Within A Month

BY W. JOYNES MacFARLAN RALEIGH, Dec. 31.—Joseph Daniels, a dyed-in-the-wool newspaper editor though he is ambassador to Mexico, clipped papers today at his old editorial desk as he described relations between the United States and Mexico as "the best they have ever been."

FOOD SITUATION IN EIRE SERIOUS

Agriculture Chief Says Supplies Of Imported Food May Be Halted

DUBLIN, Dec. 31.—The food position of Eire is rapidly becoming more serious, Agriculture Minister James Ryan warned in a broadcast from Dublin tonight.

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina—Mostly cloudy Wednesday and Thursday followed by rain Thursday and in the mountains late Wednesday or Wednesday night, slightly warmer Wednesday.

F. R. Raises Possibility Of British-United States Materials-Arms Trade

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—(AP)—The possibility of receiving payment in raw materials for some of the war implements that may be loaned or leased to Great Britain was raised today by President Roosevelt, as congress squared away for a battle-royal on the whole lease-lend program.

Joseph Daniels Lauds Mexican-U. S. Relations

Mexico Makes Payment To U. S. For Damages

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Mexico today made its seventh payment of \$500,000 on the settlement of approximately \$5,000,000 to United States citizens for personal and property damages during revolutions between 1910 and 1920.

NEW YEAR GIVEN NOISY WELCOME

All Governmental Offices In City Plan To Observe Holiday Today

New Year was ushered in with the bang of fire-crackers, the blowing of horns, singing and cheering in Wilmington last night—and the whole program went off without the slightest tinge of formality.

500 Victims Of German Sea Raiders Are Rescued

SINGAPORE, Malay States, Jan. 1.—(Wednesday)—Five hundred men, women and children landed from German commercial raiders by the Bismarck Archipelago have been rescued by an Australian ship and taken to Australia, it was announced officially today.

Adolf Hitler Promises Men Victory In '41

Says War Must Go On To Destruction Of The 'Responsible Elements'

DENIES WORLD GOAL

Many Nazi Papers Charge F. R. With 'Co-Responsibility' For War

BY ALVIN J. STEINKOPF BERLIN, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler promised his fighting men and the people of the reich today that 1941 will bring them total victory and, on a nod from his government, the German press released a torrent of caustic denunciation of President Roosevelt's fireside talk on helping the British.

Roosevelt's Statement

President Roosevelt said: "The Nazi masters of Germany have made it clear that they not only intend to dominate all life and thought in their own country, but also to enslave the whole of Europe and then to use the resources of Europe to dominate the rest of the world."

Roads Are Cut At Holly Ridge

Work Started On Several Permanent Buildings At Firing Center

HOLLY RIDGE, Dec. 31.—Work was started here today on several permanent buildings which will constitute the Wilmington Anti-Aircraft Firing Center and the layout for other structures on the camp site was staked off.

War Interpretive

BY KIRKE L. SIMPSON The seventeenth month of the war in Europe opens this New Year's day with grim portents from both London and Berlin that it will be fought to a finish; that 1941 will see the crisis, the beginning of the end.