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ROOSEVELT ANNOUNCES BIG SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM

Australians Take 5,000 Italians In Bardia Battle

Three Die As Train Jumps 150-Foot Cliff

C. P. Phonephoto

Wreckage of a north-bound Santa Fe freight train is shown after the locomotive and 17 cars jumped the tracks and plunged over a 150-foot embankment near Del Mar, Calif. Three trainmen were killed. The engine and nine of the cars piled up on the beach at the foot of the cliff, eight other cars catapulted into the Pacific ocean. Recent heavy rains are believed to have caused spreading of the rails.

Wilmington Camp Road Work Pushed; Sheriffs Plan To Coordinate Agencies

TO BUILD 60 MILES

Equipment For Concrete Plant Arriving And Cement Expected Soon

HOLLY RIDGE, Jan. 3.—(AP)—The task of raising roads out of a bog went forward despite inclement weather today, as the Army pushed construction of a $9,000,000 Wilmington anti-aircraft firing center which will be established here.

The roads, within the Army reservation will be used for transporting materials, many of which will be extremely heavy. Col. A. Montgomery, construction quartermaster, has authorized the use of 500,000 cubic yards of sand-clay to build foundations for the roads.

To Build 60 Miles

In all, 60 miles of roads will be paved and curbed. For the task, a concrete plant, capable of producing the equivalent of 20 railroad cars of materials daily, and an asphalt plant will be erected.

Equipment for the concrete plant now is arriving here, and the cement is expected to arrive shortly. The Atlantic Coast Line railroad today was erecting a spur to move the materials into the Army base.

Capt. V. A. Dash, retired, assistant construction superintendent who today was appointed press relations officer, announced that the purpose of a meeting of contractors in Wilmington last night was to coordinate the efforts of firms which will do the constructing work.

Firms represented at the meeting were E. W. Grannis of Fayetteville, V. B. Higgins of Greensboro, and J. J. McDevitt and F. M. Thompson of Charlotte.

Captan Dash said the construction work is a four-company partnership "founded for the purpose of coordinating. . . The partners have subordinated their individual efforts to a coordinated whole under C. P. Street, project manager."

Water near the surface is a handicap to road building at the Army base, he said, but the water is being removed by drainage ditches which now are being dug by seven large machines. 1

Man Arrested For Tool Theft At Holly Ridge

JACKSONVILLE, Jan. 3—Conrad Seutter, 30, who said that his home was in Wilmington, was being held in the Onslow county jail tonight on charges of larceny.

According to Sheriff B. F. Morton, it was Seutter who allegedly stole carpenter's tools belonging to three Southport men at Holly Ridge Wednesday night.

The victims found the tools Thursday cached in the woods and later saw Seutter at the scene, Sheriff Morton said. They then called officers.

It was the first trouble at Holly Ridge since the Army anti-aircraft firing unit was started, Morton said.

PETAIN STUDYING REGIME REFORMS

Confusing Statements Following Resignation Of Baudouin From Group

VICHY, FRANCE, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Marshal Philippe Petain was said authoritatively tonight to be still studying a re-organization of his government after a day of confusing and contradictory statements and the resignation of Paul Baudouin, a leading figure of the regime.

Authorized informants tonight characterized as "premature" an apparently official announcement, earlier in the day, that the cabinet had been reorganized with sort of a directorate taking the place of the former one-man vice-regency of Pierre Laval ousted Vice-Premier.

The earlier announcement had indicated that two French fighting men and a political veteran would have broad powers under Petain.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)

WILL MEET THURSDAY

Sheriff Jones And Others Discuss Problems Expected To Arise From Camp

HOLLY RIDGE, Jan. 3.—Sheriffs and county commissioners from New Hanover, Pender and Onslow county will meet in Jacksonville Thursday of next week to take further steps to coordinate the law enforcement agencies of the three counties most affected by the establishment of a $9,000,000 anti-aircraft firing center here, it was learned today as the third work week at the center drew near a close.

Sheriffs C. David Jones, of New Hanover, J. T. Brown, of Pender, and B. F. Morton, of Onslow met with the boards of commissioners of the three counties this week to discuss problems which may arise from the construction of the camp.

Stevens Begins Work

Meanwhile Dr. H. W. Stevens, director of the Onslow-Pender county district health office, arrived and began work this week organizing his office personnel in two counties. The office is to be concerned primarily with preventive medicine.

The state highway patrol office here, in charge of Corp. H. C. Johnson, has been completed and Patrolmen C. L. Teague and A. R. Craig, formerly stationed at Greenville and New Bern, in Troop A, have arrived to take up their duties. The two patrolmen from Troop B who will be stationed here have not been named yet.

More than a score new private buildings are either under construction or have been completed between Folkstone and Hampstead.

Meanwhile, Billy Arthur, contact man of the Onslow County Defense Committee, called on C. M. Thompson, chairman of the Pender county group, for assistance in seeing that Onslow and Pender laborers got preference for work at the project.

It was Arthur's contention that Onslow and Pender county's com-

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

Troops Break Semi-Circular Line Of Forts

Sudden Attack, Supported By Planes And Guns, Is Launched By British

FALL EXPECTED SOON

Quarter Of Garrison Is Taken; Operations Developing Successfully

CAIRO, Egypt, Jan. 3— (AP) — Australian troops storming the Italian fortress of Bardia, Libya, already have taken more than 5,000 prisoners, a quarter of the garrison, the British Command reported tonight in a special communique.

The communique said merely: "Operations are developing successfully at Bardia. So far, more than 5,000 prisoners have been captured."

Earlier dispatches from the battle zone declared that the sudden attack, led by the fight-hungry Australians, had broken through the half-ring of forts protecting the Italian port and that the assault was continuing, supported by tanks.

Heavy Bombardment

The thrust was preceded and supported by the heaviest aerial bombrdment yet conducted in the African war, authoritative sources reported.

All last night and this morning, from dusk until dawn, the Royal Air Force planes crossed and recrossed the perimeter of Bardia, dropping tons of explosives and incendiaries on the beleaguered Italians and starting huge fires all over the town, it was reported.

Not a single plane was lost in this extensive operation, RAF headquarters said.

Then, at dawn, the Australians launched their drive.

They reported a fairly deep penetration in the southwest sector of the semi-circular Bardia defenses by noon today.

The British command conserva-

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

POSTAL REVENUE INCREASES HERE

1940-Receipts Total $218,062, Gain Of Six Per Cent Over Previous Year

Postal receipts for 1940 totaled $218,062.02 and were about six per cent or $13,697.75 ahead of revenue of $204,364.27 for 1939, the postmaster reported yesterday.

Postal receipts for December this year amounted to $27,398.76, a gain of about four per cent or $1,179.53 over the record of $26,219.23 for the corresponding month in 1939.

Postoffice officials reported receipts during 1940 by quarters as follows: first quarter, January,

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

WEATHER

FORECAST

North Carolina—Mostly cloudy Saturday and Sunday preceded by light rain on the coast Saturday morning; slightly colder east and central portions Saturday and considerably colder Sunday.

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)

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

Temperature

1:30 a. m. 59; 7:30 a. m. 58; 1:30 p. m. 58; 7:30 p. m. 55; maximum 61; minimum 55; mean 58; normal 47.

Humidity

1:30 a. m. 93; 7:30 a. m. 99; 1:30 p. m. 97; 7:30 p. m. 93.

Precipitation

Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p m. 0.77 inches; total since first of the month 0.77 inches.

Tides for Today

(From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.)

	High	Low
Wilmington	2:20a	9:40a
	2:44p	10:04p
Masonboro Inlet	12:02a	6:12a
	12:26p	6:43p

Sunrise 7:18a; sunset 5:16p; moonrise 11:28a.

River stage at Fayetteville, N. C., at 8 a. m., Jan. 1, 14.4 feet.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 7)

Going To Britain

HARRY HOPKINS

HOPKINS TO LEAVE FOR LONDON SOON

Roosevelt Appoints Close Friend And Adviser For Special Mission

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3— (AP) — Harry Hopkins, long-time friend and perhaps most intimate adviser of President Roosevelt, prepared tonight to leave for London on a special mission believed to be for the purpose of revealing the innermost plans of the administration to supply Britain with the sinews of war.

President Roosevelt, in making the announcement today, said Hopkins would leave very soon and stay in England perhaps two weeks. He will have no title, official status or authority, said the President. The mission itself, the President said, was not specific.

The President said he expected next week to appoint a new ambassador to Great Britain — not Hopkins — to succeed Joseph P. Kennedy, who has submitted his resignation.

Meanwhile, the President said, Hopkins will go over as his representative to maintain personal contact between the chief executive and the British government.

Hopkins, one of the original new deal group which came to Washington with President Roosevelt in 1933, has had no official position in the government since he resigned last August as secretary of commerce.

Before entering the cabinet in 1938, he was the new deal's chief relief spender as WPA administrator.

He lives most of the time at the White House with his young daughter, Diana, and is regarded as the President's most trusted confidant. He was considered the Presi-

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

War Interpretive

BY KIRKE L. SIMPSON

The fact that southern Ireland has now been subjected to further aerial harassment only deepens the mystery surrounding the motives for the unprovoked attacks.

Dublin quickly satisfied itself of German responsibility. Its demand that Berlin make full reparations and give adequate guarantees of non-recurrence is an ultimatim in effect if not in form. It brought Ireland to the verge of belligerency and Irish west coast bases almost within Britain's grasp.

Wants Irish Bases

Nothing short of an internal blow-up in Germany against Hitler's rule could give British victory hopes a greater tonic than quick acquisition of Irish bases. They would promptly change the odds heavily in British favor in the war at sea. Why Nazidom should risk that and the possible near-collapse that and the possible near-land at so critical a moment it is very difficult to see.

Assuming that Germany was the aggressor (and a Berlin denial of responsibility will not satisfy Dublin obviously) it might be possible that Berlin has decided to deal

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

Irish Protest To Berlin On Bomb Attack

Twenty Persons Injured When Dublin Is Raided By Single Plane

CABINET HOLDS MEET

Nazis Believed To Have Given Up Hope That Ireland Will Stay Neutral

DUBLIN, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Dublin was bombed before lawn today by a single plane whose one explosive smashed two houses on Donore avenue, injuring some 20 persons —and Prime Minister de Valera sent a stiff protest to Germany and met with his cabinet in urgent secret session amid rumors that any further attack would mean the explusion of the German minister to Ireland.

The Irish department of external affairs formally blamed the Nazis for the bombing of three other areas in neutral Ireland—such incidents have been occurring intermittently since Wednesday night—and announced "an energetic protest to the German government against the violation of Irish territory by German aircraft and the loss of life and destruction of property. . . ."

To Ask Reparations

The Irish charge d'affaires in Berlin, it was added, had been "further instructed to claim full reparations and insist that effective steps be taken to avoid a recurrence of such happenings."

As to the additional bomb that fell only today, the department announced, an investigation of its origin was still in progress.

In London informed neutral sources asserted that bombs dropped on Ireland in the past two days had come without question from German planes and interpreted this as meaning that the Nazis had given up any hope that Ireland would remain neutral or even be an ally of the reich if the Germans

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

FIRE EXTINGUISHED AT OIL TERMINAL

Firemen Avert Catastrophe By Checking Blaze In Pump House Here

Wilmington's firemen narrowly averted a major catastrophe early yesterday morning when they successfully combatted a fire, which originated in the pump house, at the Standard Oil company terminals, located adjacent to the Seaboard Air Line railway depot here.

Damage from the fire, confined to the pump house and the adjoining boiler house, was small due to the quick work of the firemen but, Chief J. Ludie Croom pointed out, "I am afraid to think of what might have happened if that blaze had gotten out of control."

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, he said. He quoted the night watchman as saying he heard an explosion just before he discovered the fire. The chief said he could find no bursted pipes or other signs of an explosion and could find nothing broken ex-

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

Protests

DE VALERA

BREMEN ATTACKED BY BRITISH PLANES

RAF Continues To Retaliate For Big Nazi 'Fire' Raid On London

LONDON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—The big German port of Bremen underwent its second straight bath of bomb and fire last night in a mighty, all-night assault by the RAF in a continuation of its retaliation for the big Nazi "fire" raid on the heart of London, the air ministry anounced tonight.

While the British bombers were adding new fires to those started the night before in Bremen, wave upon wave of German raiders in an apparent retaliation-for-retaliation attack gave the great coal port of Cardiff in South Wales its worst drubbing of the war. "Scenes reminiscent of the World war," was the way the British Press association described parts of pummelled Cardiff.

Recounting last night's raid on Bremen, the air ministry news service reported the RAF attackers swarmed over the city from shortly before 8 o'clock until almost daybreak, setting off "enormous" new fires in shipyards and factories which produce Adolf Hitler's warships and other war materials.

Besides the destruction of these targets the British assault was described as for the purpose of "prolonging the inevitable disorganization of the city."

The raid was not on so grand a scale as Wednesday night's when 20,000 fire bombs were dropped, the air ministry said, but it lasted much longer. The RAF pilots found the air clear over their targets after bucking a fierce snow storm to get there. 1

BLIMP BASE FUNDS MAY BE PROVIDED

Bonner Says Appropriation Bill May Contain $5,000,000 For The Station

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Representative Bonner (D. N. C.) said today it was possible the first deficiency appropriation bill would contain a $5,000,000 item to establish a lighter-than-air craft patrol

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

Will Produce 200 Standard Cargo Vessels

Speed On $350,000,000 Job Is Expected To Rival That Of World War Days

TO BE OWNED BY U. S.

President Indicates Craft Will Be Built In New, Inexpensive Yards

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—A gigantic shipbuilding program aimed at producing 200 new ocean-going cargo vessels with a speed reminiscent of the feverish construction of World war days was announced today by President Roosevelt.

The vessels, 1,500,000 tons of them, will cost $300,000,000 to $350,000,000 and, Mr. Roosevelt said, some should be ready inside of a year.

The chief executive said the cargo carriers were to be built because so many vessels were going to the bottom in the war that there were prospects of a world shortage of tonnage.

Diverts Questions

He diverted press conference questions as to whether the program would aid Britain in any way or result in the release of American ships to the British to replace some of those sunk by enemy action.

But several factors in the program, such as the apparent intention to sacrifice desirable features of design in the interest of speed of construction, immediately engendered speculation that the administration contemplated steps to help Britain solve the critical problem of getting bottoms to take war equipment and food across the Atlantic.

The President said the ships would be government-owned and that they would be of one, standardized type, resembling oblong tanks, more than craft in whose lines a lover of ships, like himself, could take pride. Each ship will displace approximately 7,500 tons, and will cost $1,500,000 to $1,750,000.

To Use New Yards

He indicated they would be built in inexpensive, new yards, operating insofar as possible merely as assembly plants to put together pre-fabricated parts and steel plates, and that special training of

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

ENGLISH BATTLE FIRES IN TOWNS

German Fire-Bombs Start Great Flames In Midlands And Southwest Cities

LONDON, Jan. 4.-(Saturday)-Hundreds of firemen and volunteers fought desperately early today against great German-set fire in two British towns—one in the western midlands and the other in Southwest England.

The assaults by German airmen hurling fire and explosive bombs began last night and appeared to have assumed the proportions early today of previous Nazi attacks on London's "city," Cardiff, Birmingham, Coventry and Bristol.

Four firemen and two soldiers were killed in the southwestern town in fighting the flames.

One hospital whose ground floor was badly damaged by explosives

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

77th Congress Convenes For Session Of Heavy Responsibilities, Decisions

BY RICHARD L. TURNER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3—(AP)—In a subdued mood, the 77th congress convened today for a session of heavy responsibilities and history-making decisions.

Quickly and solemnly, each house organized, elected officers, disposed of routine business, and then adjourned to meet again on Monday and hear President Roosevelt detail his views on America's place in a world at war, on American help to Great Britain and on the American defense program.

References to the world situation cropped out from the very start. The Rev. James Shera Montgomery, house chaplain, prayed for the survival of democracy and Rep. Sam Rayburn of Texas, in a short and simple speech after he had been re-elected speaker, emphasized a need for national unity.

President Roosevelt's plan for lending war supplies to England, to be returned or replaced later, immediately shaped up as one of th biggest issues of the congress. Senator Barkley of Kentucky, the senate majority leader, made known that legislation to implement it would be introduced soon, and that it would probably contain no limitation on the amount to be expended for the purpose.

Meanwhile, it became clear that the Roosevelt foreign policies would face an organized challenge. Senator Wheeler (D.-Mont.) said there was a "rock bottom list" of 15 senators who would speak against administration methods which they believe are tending toward war, and that an effort would be made to "organize the country."

The senate met a little before noon, with Vice President Garner

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

Greek Troops Break Through Italian Defenses In Central Part Of Albania

ATHENS, Jan. 4. -(Saturday) —(AP)—Greek troops broke through Italian defenses in the central sector to pave the way for what was authoritatively described early today as "an important development in the war."

Scene of the breaching was not located specifically, but was understood to be north and east of the Klisura-Tepeleni area which a government spokesman earlier had declared was pierced by the Greeks.

Gains northeast of Chimara on the coast also were chalked by the Greeks in the drive north toward the impotant Fascist bases of Valona on the coast, and inland Berati and Elbasani.

An accelerated advance toward those Fascist points now is indicated in the announced successes.

Earlier the spokesman had declared that "desperate" Italian counter-attacks failed to dislodge the Greeks from newly-acquired heights in the Klisura region, and that Italian tanks had been put to "headlong flight" from that region to the Adriatic sea.

The Greeks said the Italians suffered heavy losses.

"The whole region of the Tepeleni-Klisura has been brought under control of Greek fire," advices from the front said.

This was described as the 'outstanding feature of the operations" on fronts from the coast to Lake Ochrida.

It is via the road running from Klisura through Tepeleni to the West that Greek forces in Central Albania aim to press on the port of Valona simultaneously with the southern wing advancing up the coast from Chimara.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 7)