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PRICE FIVE CENTS

BRITISH MASS TROOPS FOR ASSAULT UPON TOBRUK

Nazis Try To Fire London; RAF Hits At Italy

Roof Guards Foil Effort Of Luftwaffe

Swiss Town Undergoes 5 Alarms As Bombers Fly Toward Turin

PORTSMOUTH RAIDED

Much Damage And 'Several' Deaths Caused By Attack On Port

By DREW MIDDLETON

LONDON, Jan. 11.—(AP)—This Citadel of Britain stood firm tonight against an onslaught of hundreds of fire and explosive bombs dropped by squadrons of heavy German bombers in a short but intense raid.

The attack threatened but never achieved the destruction done in London's great fire of 1940—the "fire blitz" Dec. 29 on the "City," London's crowded, old financial district.

Termed Failure

If, as it seemed for a while, the Luftwaffe was trying to repeat that devastation on an even wider scale, observers said it failed.

Volunteer fire watchers and fighters rallied as incendiaries hurried down. They extinguished fires which were so bright for a time that you could read a newspaper on the blacked out city's roofs.

An Associated Press reporter saw at least 50 incendiaries swish to the ground at one time and start rows of bright blue lights. One by one they went out as firemen reached them.

The dome of St. Paul's Cathedral once again stood out impressively against the flaming backdrop. But, unlike the earlier raid, the main blazes were speedily put out, even in sections where there are no residents or night workers and even though there were more planes and more bombs in a shorter time.

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DEFENSE 'BOOM' TO GROW SWIFTLY

Passage Of F. R.'s Budget Would Speed Industrial Tempo Greatly

By FRANK MacMILLEN

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—(AP)—When President Roosevelt this week presented a budget providing for arms expenditures that may run to more than \$1,000,000,000 a month before mid-1942, he practically presented industry with a blue-print for the greatest production in American history.

The factories of the United States are running at the swiftest pace on record. Standard indices of production, such as that of the Federal Reserve board, are topping the peaks of 1929.

Yet defense spending is only getting under way. The government

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WEATHER

FORECAST

North Carolina, Fair, partly cloudy Sunday and Monday; slightly warmer in south portion Monday and in mountains Sunday.

Virginia, Georgia and Florida: Fair, continued cool Sunday; Monday partly cloudy, slightly warmer.

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)
(Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday.)

Temperature
7:30 a. m. 32; 7:30 p. m. 32; 1:30 p. m. 45; 7:30 p. m. 39; maximum 45; minimum 31; mean 38; normal 46.

Humidity
7:30 a. m. 68; 7:30 p. m. 76; 1:30 p. m. 67; 7:30 p. m. 57.

Precipitation
Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00 inches. Total since first of the month 0.77 inches.

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

Wilmington High 9:04a Low 3:46p
9:21p 4:27p
Masonboro Inlet 6:45a 12:31a
7:05p 1:09p

Sunrise 7:15a; sunset 5:23p; moonrise 6:11p; moonset 6:17a.

River stage at Fayetteville 11 feet

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HALIFAX GREET'S HOPKINS IN LONDON



Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt's personal representative in Great Britain, got his first taste of war as soon as he arrived. He stepped into London from a blacked out train in the midst of an air raid. He's seen above, left, in London with Lord Halifax, who was recently named Britain's ambassador to the U. S.

Nazi-Italian Air Force Claims Hits On Warships

IN SICILIAN CHANNEL Shipyard Site Here Not Yet Selected

Rome Makes Much Of Nazi Aid, But Nazi Report Subordinates It

By The Associated Press
ROME, Jan. 11.—Four British warships have been hit in a new joint German-Italian aerial offensive against British Mediterranean sea power—an action said unofficially to be "continuing"—the Fascist high command announced today.

In a communique stressing the "fraternal, close cooperation" of the Nazi air force in this first action for the Germans in the Mediterranean, the Italians gave these as the results of the attack:

Carrier Torpedoed
An aircraft carrier hit by an Italian aerial torpedo; a cruiser struck by two heavy bombs from Italian dive bombers; a second aircraft carrier hit by heavy Italian bombs; one of these aircraft carriers hit also by both heavy and medium German bombs; a destroyer hit by the Germans.

The German high command's communique subordinated the Mediterranean action to its next-to-last paragraph; made no specific mention of the Italians other than that implied in the phrase that Nazi fliers "participated;" and said nothing of German-Italian fraternity. The communique announced that German fliers had scored hits on "two warship units," and mentioned nothing about any Italian successes.

The Italians acknowledged that British fleet guns and British planes offered a "violent" reaction to the German-Italian assault, which occurred on yesterday in the narrow Sicilian channel, but claimed nevertheless:

"... All our planes returned to their bases."
The first clash, in the Mediterranean engagement, the Italians reported, took place 10 miles north

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Senate Committee Favors F. R. British-Aid Bill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—(AP)—A poll indicated today that the administration would receive the votes of at least three of those now uncommitted making a total of 13 of 21 members for the measure.

The house will act first on the legislation, and on meeting Monday will have to settle a dispute over which of its committees should handle it.

The military committee decided, 15 to 4, today to demand control of the measure, which already had been assigned to the foreign affairs committee.

Chairman Bloom (D-N. Y.) of the latter group said that there was

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Greeks Now Moving On Berati Base

More Italians Captured, Much War Material Is Reported Seized

MOPPING UP KLISURA

Roman Hold Upon Tepelene Reported Weakening In Athens Dispatch

By The Associated Press
ATHENS, Jan. 12.—(Sunday)—Mopping up operations, in which the Greeks have captured about 100 more Italians and additional quantities of war material, were reported by the high command today.

Although its communique mentioned only "restricted local cleaning up operations," dispatches from the front reported progress Saturday from captured Klisura toward Berati under cover of low-flying Greek and British warplanes.

Heights Occupied
Heights dominating the road toward Berati, about 30 miles north of Klisura were reported occupied with the capture of additional prisoners and materials, among which the communique listed 10 18-millimeter mortars, "many machine guns and automatic rifles."

An earlier Athens radio report had said the Greeks found 400 Italian dead in one part of the abandoned Klisura lines and that many wounded, abandoned in the retreat.

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UNC NEWSPAPER RAPS TEXTBOOK

Daily Tar Heel Says History Chosen On Basis Of Politics

CHAPEL HILL, Jan. 11.—(AP)—The Daily Tar Heel, student publication at the University of North Carolina, said today that scores of educational leaders had charged the state Board of Education with

playing politics in the selection of a history textbook for fifth grade students.

In a copyrighted article written by the paper's managing editor, Charles Barrett, senior, of Raleigh, the paper asserted:

1. That a text book written by two university professors—Dr. A.

RALEIGH, Jan. 11.—(AP)—Thad Eure, secretary of state and a member of the State Board of Education, denied tonight that the board had played politics in the selection of a history text for fifth grade students.

He also denied that the choice of the book, written by Jule B. Warren, secretary of the North Carolina Education association, was in any way against the wishes of the State Textbook commission.

"Your first step to increase the efficiency of the department was an asset to the department, enabling us to receive fire alarms correctly and faster" the report says. "This was done by replacing a 45-year-old alarm switchboard with a new ten-circuit Ganevill switchboard, also the installation of the Vocalarm along with the new switchboard has proven a great asset to the department in

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MILD INFLUENZA WIDELY REPORTED

Outbreaks Of Near Epidemic Proportions Are Sweeping Nation

BOSTON, Jan. 11.—(AP)—Hundreds of New England businesses carried on short-handed today as a gripe epidemic confined thousands to their beds and forced the closing of scores of schools.

In Massachusetts at least, the disease apparently had reached its peak. Dr. Paul J. Jaknauth, state health commissioner, said no new reports of increasing infection had been received for the past 24 hours.

The ailment described by some health officials as a mild form

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TO THE WHITE HOUSE SHE WILL GO



Dolores Frances, above, nine-year-old Washington, D. C. miss, has had her share of tough luck. She contracted infantile paralysis when she was 18 months. Now it's her turn for good luck. Chosen as a youngster typical of those aided by the Infantile Paralysis Foundation, she will be Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's guest at a White House party for women executives of the Foundation. Though still under treatment, Dolores can now walk without braces.

Fire Losses Here Cut To One-Third Of Average

COOPER FILES REPORT BURGWIN NAMED BAR EXAMINER

Losses Of Last Five Years Total \$389,261 Against Previous \$1,283,000

Fire losses in Wilmington have been cut greatly in the five year period ending 1940, according to the annual report of the Wilmington fire department made public yesterday by Mayor Thomas E. Cooper, commissioner of public safety under whose jurisdiction the department falls.

In the period 1921-26, the report reveals, the fire loss in the city was \$1,283,000. In the period 1936-40 it dropped to \$389,261.

Increased efficiency within the department, brought about by its modernization by Mayor Cooper, is credited with the reduction in the annual report, written by Chief J. Ludie Croom.

"Your first step to increase the efficiency of the department was an asset to the department, enabling us to receive fire alarms correctly and faster" the report says. "This was done by replacing a 45-year-old alarm switchboard with a new ten-circuit Ganevill switchboard, also the installation of the Vocalarm along with the new switchboard has proven a great asset to the department in

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Reds Say New Treaty With Nazis Not Warlike

By The Associated Press
MOSCOW, Jan. 11.—The government and party press of the Soviet Union spoke out sharply today in justification of the new economic deal between Germany and Russia and rebuked British and American statesmen who may consider it warlike.

Furthermore, the newspapers announced Moscow will make additional trade treaties in 1941 as she pleases, with nations both at war and at peace.

"It is time," said an editorial in Izvestia, the government organ, that the world understands the U. S. S. R. follows an "independent policy and will continue to follow it."

Both Izvestia and Pravda carried editorials which cast some new significance on the expanded German-Russian trade pact signed here Friday, under which Germany is supposed to receive, principally, increased supplies of Soviet wheat. (Buenos Aires sources have indicated that Russia is sending a mission there to buy much Argentine wheat. This might be transhipped to Germany.)

"There are," said Izvestia, "in Britain and the United States some leading statesmen who believed that the United States in full conformity with international law and the position of neutrality, may sell

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Say 44,868 Were Taken At Bardia

2,041 Officers 'Counted' Among Prisoners; Huge Booty Captured

SHELLING IS BEGUN

Graziani Makes No Effort To Come To Aid Of Be-leaguered Garrison

By ERIC BIGIO

CAIRO, Jan. 11.—Italy's Marshal Rodolfo Graziani made no move today to relieve his beleaguered garrison at Tobruk 80 miles inside Libya, but the British moved up troops and guns under massive air protection and plopped shells into the seaport's semi-circle of defenses from four carefully-placed batteries.

The guns of Tobruk replied, but aside from these artillery duels there was no fighting on the fourth day of the siege.

RAF Is Busy
RAF patrols were out all day yesterday on the road west of Tobruk leading to Derna, where British mechanized ground forces also are operating, but there was no conclusive engagement with Fascist airmen.

Despite his tremendous losses Graziani still has a considerable army to the west, but the fact that it is not coming up leads the British to believe that Tobruk will fall as did Bardia, Salum and Sidi Barrani before it.

The size of the Tobruk garrison is not known here but it is believed smaller than that of Bardia. The latter turned out to be considerably smaller than that of Bardia. The

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TAKING OF SHIPS AGAIN DISCUSSED

British-Aid Bill, Some Say, Will Give That Power To F. R.

By REX INGRAHAM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—A study of the administration's British aid bill led some legislators to the conclusion today that it would empower President Roosevelt to seize foreign merchant ships in American ports and turn them over to Britain, if he desired.

There were 266 such vessels—refugees from the war—tied up in American ports on Jan. 1. Ronald Cross, British minister of shipping, recently said frankly that he was casting "covetous eyes" on the Axis ships among them.

In turn, spokesmen in Berlin and Rome indicated that it would be regarded as an act of war if the United States made these craft available to Britain.

Most Congress members took the view that the extent of power proposed for President Roosevelt was a delicate question of law, but Chairman May (D-Ky.) of the house military committee told newsmen the administration's bill would "without question" confer power on the President to take over the ships if they were needed

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CANADA TO BUILD AIRBASES FOR U. S.

Safe, Year-Round Airway To Alaska Is Promised; Sites Approved

By WADE WERNER

OTTAWA, Jan. 11.—Construction of a series of air bases between the United States border and Alaska, to provide a safe year-round airway to Alaska for American pursuit planes is planned by the Canadian government, it was reported today.

The bases will be built by Canada, it was said, but will be available for the use of U. S. military planes.

A commercial route to Alaska already is being flown winter and summer, but military pursuit planes of short range need better

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