

SHIPYARDS HERE TO COST FOUR OR FIVE MILLIONS

Greeks Stab Italian Defenses Below Valona

Newport News Firm Finances Construction

U. S. Ship With Anti-Mine Belt



Mystery shrouded reasons for the sudden rush job of equipping the United States liner America with an anti-mine belt, such as is used on British vessels in the war zone.

ITALIAN COMMAND REVAMPED AGAIN

General Soddu Gives Way To General Cavallero In Greek Campaign

ROME, Jan. 13.—After two months of trying to hold off Greek attacks, General Ubaldo Soddu relinquished command of Italian forces in Albania today to General Ugo Cavallero, Premier Mussolini's current number one military chief, in the third army shake-up since Nov. 10.

This latest overhauling of the Albanian command came as Italy credited the new German-Italian air offensive in the Mediterranean with the ninth bomb or torpedo hit on British warships within four days.

An official announcement said General Soddu, 57-year-old veteran of every one of Italy's wars since 1900 and Il Duce's under-secretary of war when he was sent to Albania, "has been relieved because of his health."

Italian authorities insisted that the situation behind the lines in Albania was satisfactory. General Cavallero, himself a veteran of three wars, retains his position as chief of staff, a post in which he succeeded Marshal Pietro Badoglio, who resigned "at his own

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Largest Push Of War May Be Under Way

Athens Still Lacks Confirmation Of Reports Tepeleni Captured

ITALY USING RESERVES

Fascists, Ousted From The Mountains, Must Defend Less Favorable Ground

ATHENS, Jan. 13.—Greek soldiers, reporting scant resistance, stabbed deeper into Italian defense positions below Valona today and Greek spokesmen expressed the hope this might prove the greatest offensive of the war in Albania.

Although they claimed Fascist lines were crumbling at some points, authorities in Athens still lacked confirmation of reports from the Yugoslav frontier that Tepeleni, fortified mountain town guarding an Italian-built highway to the port of Valona, had fallen.

Jumping-Off Place Capture of Tepeleni would give the Greeks a jumping-off place for a renewed thrust toward Valona, sole southern Albania port remaining in Italian hands.

A companion drive northward along the coast was said to have brought the Greeks within 30 miles of Valona. New gains were claimed also for forces which swept on northward from Klisura, a strategic central front point taken last week. From the battered city a road leads down from the mountains northwestward toward Berat.

A government spokesman said the Italians had strengthened their lines with reserves poured into Albania by sea and air but that news from the front showed the situation as "very satisfactory" for the Greeks. More prisoners and many abandoned Italian wounded men were captured by Greek patrols, he added.

"Italians wounded and prisoners being mostly to troops sent to Albania recently by ship and plane," the spokesman said. A delayed dispatch from an associated press correspondent ac-

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SCHOOLS CLOSED BY WAVE OF FLU

Authorities Ask Public To Take Precautions To Prevent Its Spread

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 13.—Although the state board of health reported no noticeable increase in influenza cases in North Carolina, several schools closed today and authorities asked the public to take all precautions to prevent spread of the disease.

Pleasant Gardens High school near Marion closed for the remainder of the week after Locky Virginia Huskins, seventh grade pupil, died of pneumonia.

Two Mecklenburg county schools suspended classes after increasing absences were reported. Health

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Reapportionment Bills Introduced In Assembly

RALEIGH, Jan. 13.—Reapportionment bills to establish a 12th congressional district and to make the membership of the state house of representatives conform with the 1940 census figures were introduced in both houses of the general assembly tonight.

The bill setting up an additional congressional district would carve a new district out of what now is the 10th and 11th districts. It would not affect any of the other nine existing districts.

The measure, introduced by Senator Cherry of Gaston and Representative Jarvis of Buncombe, calls for a 10th congressional district to be composed of Avery, Burke, Catawba, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Mitchell counties. The

11th district would be comprised of Cleveland, Gaston, McDowell, Madison, Polk, Rutherford and Yancey counties. The 12th would be made up of Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties.

E. B. Denny of Gastonia, chairman of the state democratic executive committee, who helped draft the measure providing for a new congressional district, said the present 10th district, with 491,000 persons, had the largest population in the state.

Under the new congressional set-up, he said, the population of the various districts would be approximately

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Didn't Like His Art



When George Franklin, above a citizen of Colombia, was in Spain he drew some newspaper cartoons which Spanish authorities didn't like. He was sentenced to death, but got away with two years in a Spanish prison. He's pictured arriving in New York on way home.

SMITH SENTENCED ON LOTTERY COUNT

Gives Notice Of Appeal To Superior Court And Bond Is Set At \$5,000

George (Crip) Smith was fined \$2,000, taxed with the costs, and sentenced to serve six months on the state highways when convicted yesterday before Judge Alton A. Lennon in recorder's court on charges of conspiracy to violate the lottery laws.

Smith also received an additional six month term at the county farm in default of payment of the fine and his appeal bond was set at \$5,000.

The defendant, through counsel, gave notice of appeal of judgment to the New Hanover superior court and his appeal bond was set at \$5,000.

Deputy sheriffs immediately remanded Smith to the county jail in default of payment of the appeal bond. The defendant was recently convicted in Greensboro on similar charges.

Judge Lennon remarked at the close of the trial that the state had introduced evidence indicating false registration of automobiles and that the numbers racket had been conducted on a large scale throughout North Carolina.

After the state had offered evidence in the case and rested, the defendant, through counsel, presented no evidence, and Judge Lennon returned a verdict of guilty as charged—conspiracy to violate the lottery laws.

Norman Davis, convicted recently on charges of violating the lottery laws, gave notice of appeal to

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WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Mostly cloudy Tuesday and Wednesday, possibly light rain or snow in west portion Wednesday and in mountains Tuesday night; considerably colder Tuesday and Tuesday night.

\$526,720 Put On Tax Books By High Court

Includes Property Owned By Charitable Institutions In County

ORRELL MAKES REPORT

County Expected To Receive Additional \$4,000 Annually In Taxes

Property in New Hanover county with taxable valuation of \$526,720 has been added to the county tax books under a recent ruling of the state supreme court that property of charitable institutions must be taxed unless they occupy their buildings.

J. A. Orrell, county auditor, yesterday reported to the county commissioners.

Orrell referred the county board to a decision made some time ago by the state tribunal pertaining to what the legislature had a right to exempt from taxation.

Has Right To Tax Under the ruling, he said, the county now has a right to tax certain properties in the county which heretofore had not been listed for taxes.

Decision of the tribunal applied to properties owned by benevolent societies and such other organizations which is rented out to others and from which an income is derived.

Orrell estimated that the county government would receive an additional \$4,000 annually in taxes as the result of the addition of this property to the tax books for collections. The auditor's report to the county commissioners follows:

"I attach hereto tax book sheets for 1940 for property that was formerly free of taxes. These sheets show valuations as follows: Wilmington, \$375,080; Federal Point, \$3,090; Harnett, \$7,655; and Masonboro, \$2,950; for a total of \$388,775.

"I also attach list of formerly free taxes which have not been listed, which we have entered with a penalty.

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CARGO SHIP RUNS AGROUND IN RIVER

Tugs Standing By Malamton, Expected To Float Her At High Tide

The 2,721 ton freighter Malamton, loaded with a cargo of sulphur, went aground in the Northeast river a short distance above the harbor yesterday afternoon.

Tugs were standing by last night and expected to float the vessel at high tide.

Alex Hoffman, president of Heide and Coffman, agents for the ship, said that there was no damage to the vessel. He said that the reason for the ship aground was the lack of water in the Northeast river.

"There's not enough water in the river, which is filling in fast," he said.

The cargo of the Malamton was consigned to the fertilizer plants at Navassa.

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Marooned By Germans—Saved By Aussies



Happy railbirds are these aboard an Australian naval vessel at an "unnamed port." They were among nearly 500 people picked up by the Australian ship Emirat Island, desolate speck in the South Sea where they had been marooned by German sea raider which sank their vessels in the Pacific. Photo was flown from Australia to San Francisco by trans-Pacific clipper and flashed to New York by telephoto.

Skilled Trades Training Project Is Assured Here

WILL COST \$32,500

County Board Approves Plans For Erection Of Building By NYA

An NYA machine shop project for Wilmington costing \$32,500 was assured yesterday when the county commissioners voted to cooperate with the federal government by leasing property on which the building will be erected.

The project, designed to train young men of Southeastern North Carolina in skilled trades allied to the national defense program, will include a building costing \$12,000 and equipment valued at \$20,000.

Plans Approved County commissioners yesterday approved plans for erection of the building on county owned property at the northern fence of the American Legion stadium between the stables and the highway.

A request of Harold H. Jeter, NYA area supervisor, that the county lease the property without charge to the federal government for a period of five years, with the privilege of renewing the lease for another five years, was unanimously approved by the county board.

Jeter said work of erecting the building will begin within 10 days, with about 45 days to be required for the completion of the entire project.

The county's leasing of the property to the federal government for such purposes was made subject to the approval of Marsden Bellamy, county attorney.

An average of 100 persons weekly will be employed during the construction of the building, Jeter said. The project will feature facilities for the training of youths totaling approximately 100, including 50 each for the two periods of 80 hours monthly allowed by the federal government.

Labor Provided Young men engaged in the project will do all machine work for both the city and county governments at no cost whatsoever. The city and county must furnish the materials, but the labor and equipment

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Passengers Removed From Grounded Liner

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Coast guardsmen, working in a moderately high sea kicked up by a brisk breeze, removed the last of 200 passengers from the stricken luxury liner Manhattan tonight and brought them safely ashore.

The nearest thing to a mishap ended happily when guardsmen grabbed a woman who lost her balance while being lowered to a small surf boat and nearly fell overboard. No one was injured and there was nothing resembling hysteria among the passengers.

Plans were made to have the tug Willet, using kedge anchors to take advantage of swells lifting the ship, attempt early tomorrow to pull the Manhattan free.

The 24,000-ton cruise ship went aground last night, nine miles north of here.

BRITISH BOOST AIR CONTROL IN LIBYA

RAF Reported Using Italian Fields For Heavy Attacks On Tobruk

CAIRO, Egypt, Jan. 13.—(AP)—RAF squadrons ranging far ahead of General Sir Archibald Wavell's land forces have gained control of the air as far as Benghazi, or over a third of Italy's North African colony, British sources said tonight.

A string of airbases and landing fields in the vicinity of beleaguered Tobruk were abandoned so speedily by the Italians that they had no time to destroy them, the British said.

RAF fliers were said already to be using these fields as bases for heavy attacks on Tobruk like those credited with playing a major role in the fall of Bardia.

The British say that General Wav-

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War Interpretive

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Greek hopes of dealing Italy another heavy blow in Albania before Germany can go effectively to the rescue were stimulated by Rome's re-shuffling of the Albanian army command.

Displacement of General Ubaldo Soddu for reasons of "health" indicates that Rome fully recognizes the gravity of the Greek breakthrough at Klisura. It hints at a desperate effort by Mussolini to escape personal blame for what might happen to all Fascist forces in southern and south central Albania.

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JENKINS INDICTED IN SLAYING CASE

Scheduled To Be Tried At Special Term Of Court Beginning Feb. 17

The grand jury returned a true bill against Bonnie Jenkins, negro, charged with the murder of Willie Ray White, negro, during the opening session of January criminal term of New Hanover superior court, yesterday afternoon.

Judge John J. Burney appointed Solomon B. Sternberger and Elbert A. Brown to represent the defendant at a special criminal session planned the week of February 17.

Robert Cobia received 18 months on the state highways on charges of larceny and receiving.

Divorce decrees were awarded in the following cases: Joe J. Vaughan vs. Ethel B. Vaughan; Dock Ford vs. Lula Ford; Jesse J. Robinson vs. Hannah Estelle Robinson; Grady B. Cook vs. Vallie M. Cook; Mary Lou Rivenbark Robbins vs. George W. Robbins; Martha F. Gallop vs. Charlie Gallop; Cain Pellom vs. Sara Pellom; Elijah Adams vs. Maybell Adams.

Pender Durham drew three years on the roads after pleading guilty to charges of assault with a deadly weapon with serious injuries resulting.

Other cases disposed of during the afternoon session included: Benjamin G. Davis, abandonment and non-support, continued; Her-

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BRITISH AID BILL CHANGES OFFERED

Administration To Accept Some Restrictions On Powers For F. D. R.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Amendments to the British aid bill reflecting, in part at least, the ideas of Wendell L. Willkie, were introduced in the house today soon after administration leaders had expressed a willingness to accept

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Contract For Soldiers' Recreation Hut Planned

The county commissioners yesterday took further action on a proposal for erection of a recreational center here for the soldiers to be stationed at Camp Davis at Holly Ridge.

Addison Hewlett, chairman, and Marsden Bellamy, county attorney, were appointed to a committee, with power to act, to confer with the city commissioners with reference to entering into a contract with the city regarding erection, operation, maintenance, and final disposition of the project.

The county commissioners also considered the necessity of calling a special bond issue election to finance the county's share of financing the proposed WPA army-auditorium, project for Wilmington costing \$215,000.

Will Be Reimbursed By Maritime Commission From Time To Time

WILL RUN SUBSIDIARY

Six Or Eight Ways To Be Built For Construction Of 24 Cargo Ships

A Maritime commission official said yesterday in Washington that the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company would finance construction of its shipyard subsidiary at Wilmington, but would be reimbursed by the commission from time to time as the work progressed, according to an Associated Press dispatch received from the capital last night.

The official explained the company had its own capital to go ahead with the project, which is estimated to cost about \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000.

In Line With Program Reimbursement, however, will be made in line with the program of the government to finance construction essential to national defense.

The Newport News company which plans to operate the subsidiary to be known as the North Carolina Shipbuilding company, is planning to build 24 cargo vessels at an estimated cost of \$1,750,000 each. The vessels are to be built for the Maritime commission under its program for emergency construction of 200 cargo ships.

The 24 ships are to be completed in 24 months and Capt. Roger Williams, vice president of the Newport News firm, stated Sunday to the Star-News that "We'll be ready to go when the whistle blows."

No official announcement on selection of the site for the shipyards has been made but Captain Williams has said "We have plenty of information and are working on it. We still like Wilmington 100 per cent."

Six or eight ways will be built and the site for the shipyards is

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BRITISH COASTAL TOWN IS RAIDED

Nazis Concentrate Major Assault On City In Southwest Part Of Nation

LONDON, Jan. 14.—(Tuesday)—(AP)—The German Luftwaffe concentrated a major assault on a southwest coastal town last night and early today, unleashing high explosive bombs and dropping thousands of incendiaries which the townspeople said made the night "very much like a grotesque fairyland."

It was feared the casualty list would be heavy. In singling out the town for the main raid of the night, the Nazis followed their custom of splashing it with incendiaries to light the way for bombers which unloaded the heavy explosives.

The women's ward of one hospital suffered a direct bomb hit

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