

BRITISH SMASH DEFENSE OF ITALIANS AT TOBRUK

Rumanian Army on Guardists Fighting PIERCE LINES FIVE MILES; TAKE GENERAL

Army Placed In Charge Of State Police

German Officer Is Slain During Riots in Bucharest

MINISTER DISMISSED

87 Important Industries Are Militarized by the Chief of State

BUCHAREST, Jan. 22.—(Wednesday)—Widespread disorders in Rumania including the slaying of a German officer prompted General Ion Antonescu to put the army in charge of the state police, militarize 87 important industries, and make a desperate appeal last night to dissident iron guardists to "forget the hatreds" and aid him in reestablishing order.

Dispatches from Belgrade said the fighting was between heavily-armed Rumanian iron guardists and the Ruman army. From Sofia it was reported German troops, now stationed in Rumania in great numbers, were speeding to Bucharest and other cities to quell the fighting.

General Antonescu dismissed Minister of the Interior Petreviscu, a leading iron guardist, "for failure to set up a guard around the hotel housing the German military mission, failure to take the necessary steps after the murder of the German major, and for allowing internal order to collapse."

Dimitru Popescu, military commander of Bucharest, was named new minister of interior. All police prefects were replaced by military men, an army major was named head of military censorship, and an army general replaced the state police head.

The disturbances occurring in Bucharest and other parts of the country were blamed by Antonescu on foreign agents, rebellious elements, and "some misunderstandings by individuals."

An official Rumanian news agency dispatch published in Belgrade today said Horia Sima, Rumanian Iron Guard leader, left Bucharest last night to confer with Nazi leaders there.

A decree was published providing the death penalty for any premeditated attack since first of the month.

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Happy Reunion After 12 Years



Arrival in America was doubly good fortune for 16-year-old Clotilde Obst, pictured above as she recently landed in New York. Not only had she made her way from Switzerland to the safety of the U. S., but she was rejoining her mother, whom she had not seen for 12 years.

U. S. Embargo On Planes To Russia Lifted

Friendly Gesture Designed To Improve Relations With Moscow

MAY BE WEDGE

May Be Attempt to Separate U. S. S. R. from Axis Powers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—(AP)—In a friendly gesture designed to improve relations with Moscow, the United States tonight lifted a "moral embargo" on the export of airplanes and airplane equipment to Soviet Russia.

Whether the move was part of an attempt to drive a wedge between Russia and the Axis powers was not stated, but it has been known for some time that both Britain and the United States have been seeking better relations with the Soviet regime.

Inasmuch as American plane production for a long time to come is virtually earmarked for Britain and the United States' own needs, there was considerable doubt that tonight's action would lead to any important shipments of planes to Russia.

The main purpose, it was believed, was to remove the continuing stigma of the "moral embargo," which was applied during the Russo-Finnish war. At that time President Roosevelt called on Americans not to sell planes and equipment to nations guilty of the "bombing and machine gunning of civilian populations from the air."

The move also may lead to a more liberal application of the export license system on machine tools and other materials which Russia has been seeking to purchase in the United States. Airplanes also are subject to this government control system.

The "moral embargo," which Russian Ambassador Constantine Oumansky was advised no longer

After Italians In Sudan



Native members of Britain's Sudan Defense Force leap from their trucks to go into action during one of the attacks on the Eritrean border, which British reported were climaxed by the defeat of Italians all along the 200-mile Sudanese front. British claim two Italian divisions (24,000) were routed with more than 2000 casualties from the Kassala area.

ROYAL NAVY AIDS Italian Cruiser Reported in Flames in Harbor By British

ATTACK AT DAWN Assault Follows All-Night Raids Carried Out by Royal Air Force

(By The Associated Press)

CAIRO, Egypt, Jan. 21.—(Wednesday)—Austral-Italian shock troops led by a crack British regiment smashed through Italian defenses at Tobruk, Libya, to a depth of more than five miles today and captured many prisoners, including a general, the British high command announced.

"The advance is continuing," the British added.

Royal Navy Aids

Despite the presence of German dive-bombers in the Mediterranean area the Royal Navy stood offshore and poured high explosives into Tobruk where 30,000 Italians are besieged.

"The Italian cruiser San Giorgio in Tobruk harbor is in flames together with a number of petrol (gasoline) stores and the like," the communiqué said.

Tanks and the Royal Air Force also aided the land forces who sprang to the assault at dawn today after 15 days of the same careful preparation that recently reduced the Bardia garrison.

Capture of the Italian general made a declared total of 12 thus far captured in the British campaign in Egypt and Italian Libya. Italian losses in dead, wounded and captured already are estimated to total 83,500.

The RAF carried out all-night raids Sunday and yesterday before the ground charge began. The British airmen showered the outer defenses with explosives and the town and harbor installations with both explosive and fire bombs. Hits on marine repair shops and the silencing of Italian ground batteries were claimed.

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BRITISH TO LIST ALL LABOR FORCES

Men and Women May Soon Be Drafted into War Factories

By The Associated Press

LONDON, Jan. 21.—Britain has decided to register her working men and women as a potential "permanent mobile labor force" which soon may be drafted into war factories, Labor Minister Ernest Bevin told the house of commons today.

In announcing plans for a census by age groups "of those who should be called upon to serve the state" behind the lines, Bevin assured parliament that industry was speeding up rather than bogging down.

No Exceptions

"Most people will volunteer," he declared, but he warned "there will be no exception of rank or anything else."

Bevin detailed Britain's industrial progress in recent months and said house members would be greatly encouraged "if I were at liberty to reveal the rate at which we are now able to equip a division with guns and machine-guns."

With the announcement, Bevin disclosed several other drastic

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18 FISHERMEN PERISH IN SEA

Fall Into Icy Waters When Frozen Fingers Can Hold No Longer

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—(AP)—One by one, as a pale winter moon watched, eighteen fishermen plunged to death in the icy sea early today as frozen fingers longer could retain a precarious perch in the main masthead rigging of the sinking schooner Mary E. O'Hara.

The rigging and an even smaller portion of the foremast was all that remained above the ocean surface where the fishing schooner sank in 49 feet of water after crashing into an anchored coal

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HITLER'S ANSWER TO BE DELIVERED

Information Reply to Petain Is Drafted and Will Be Sent Soon

VICHY, France, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Information from Paris indicated tonight that Adolf Hitler's reply to Chief of State Marshal Petain is ready and soon will be delivered by Fernand de Brinon, French representative in Paris.

It was not possible, however, to obtain immediate confirmation here.

Petain, a high government source said yesterday, will keep his present cabinet until Hitler answers his Christmas Eve message outlining how German-French collaboration could continue.

Negotiations have been halted since Pierre Laval, former foreign

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Appropriations Group To Increase Speed Of Work

M'RAE ADDRESSES SOUTHPORT GROUP

Outlines Steps to Allow Town to Participate in Defense Program

SOUTHPORT, Jan. 21.—Steps that Southport might take in the immediate future in order to participate in the expanding national defense program were suggested by Hugh MacRae, of Wilmington, in a talk before a dinner meeting of representative Southport citizens at the Miller hotel here tonight.

MacRae suggested that efforts be pushed for a three lane highway from the Brunswick river bridge to Southport, and cited the need for the provision of more adequate railroad facilities from Wilmington to Southport.

Modernize Basin

The yacht basin here now in the process of development, he said, should be modernized to secure further values. MacRae said no other spot on the coast could reap a richer benefit from the inland waterway than Southport.

The section about Southport is ideally suited by natural advantages for the establishment of a naval base, said the speaker, who termed this "best and biggest" national defense project to be obtained here in the immediate future.

MacRae also suggested the possibility of getting shipyards in Southport for the construction of small naval vessels, referred to the

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TURKS PUT LARGE ARMY IN THRACE

Forces in European Turkey Await 'Any Possible Action'

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Jan. 21.—(AP)—The official Turkish wireless announced tonight that the government "has gathered a great part of its army in Thrace (European Turkey), where it awaits any possible action."

Representative Taylor of Wayne predicted that the appropriations committee would report its bill "the earliest in history," but cautioned against too heavy a schedule of night meetings lest "haste make waste."

Senator Howell of Buncombe first moved to hold three night sessions next week.

Senate Chairman Lumpkin of Franklin and House Chairman Kerr of Warren were instructed to make arrangements for two night hearings.

Needs to be Heard

Part of the evening sessions will be devoted to presentation of the needs of the department of labor and the department of conservation and development. Because of illness, Labor Commissioner Forrest Shuford and Conservation Director Bruce Etheridge were unable to appear before the committee today as scheduled.

The broadcaster expressed doubt however, that the Nazis could mass enough troops in Rumania to attempt the invasion, asserting: "They would meet a wide Balkan front. The Balkans can muster more than 100 divisions and added to these would be British forces."

By April, the commentator continued, Germany at best could have only about 16 divisions in Rumania and would be forced to leave some troops there.

"It is doubtful," he added, "that the Germans could pass peacefully through Bulgaria. Also, they would have to protect their left and right flanks (presumably) against Turkey and Yugoslavia."

Therefore, it appears that the German troops in Rumania will be used only for pressure against the Balkans, not for conquest.

Turning to the visit to Sofia, Bulgaria.

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War Interpretive

BY KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Early fall of Tobruk, besieged Italian strong point in East Libya, would do more than further deplete the Fascist army in North Africa or heap fresh disaster on Mussolini. It might serve to help the British incalculably in dealing with the Nazi-Fascist air offensive in the central Mediterranean.

That Axis effort to block the Sicilian channel to British use is seriously complicating the British campaign in Africa as well as British efforts to aid Greece in Albania. It may have forced the British high command to expedite the attempt to smash Italian resistance at Tobruk and open a route for more effective British counter measures by sea and air in the Sicilian channel.

The Tobruk garrison is in virtually the same plight as were the Fascist defenders of Bardia, far

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WEATHER

FORECAST

North Carolina: Partly cloudy with warmer Wednesday; Thursday increasing clouds, followed by light rain in the interior, slightly warmer in central and east portions.

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)

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

1:30 a. m. 32; 7:30 a. m. 31; 1:30 p. m. 31; 7:30 p. m. 44; maximum 51; minimum 29; mean 41; normal 46

Humidity

1:30 a. m. 67; 7:30 a. m. 57; 1:30 p. m. 27; 7:30 p. m. 58

Precipitation

Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00 inches. Total since first of the month 1.16 inches.

Times For Today

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

	High	Low
Wilmington	5:15a	12:30a
Maconboro Inlet	5:38p	12:36p
Sunrise	7:15a	3:28p
Sunset	5:33p	1:25p

Cap Fear river stage at Fayetteville on Jan. 21, at 8 a. m., 11 feet.

Air Raid Warning System Test Commenced By ADC

BY CHARLES FRANCIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—(AP)—The northeastern United States had a slight taste of modern aerial war conditions today as the Air Defense Command began a four-day test of air raid warning facilities and fleet army pursuit ships sped aloft from five flying fields to intercept invading "enemy" bombers.

Summarizing the day's activities, Major General James E. Chaney, commanding general of the ADC, described them as highly successful. Every "enemy" bomber was picked up by the ground network of more than 10,000 volunteer civilian observers at some 700 posts throughout the area, he said.

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Plans To Make Fort Fisher National Park Are Talked

RALEIGH, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Plans to turn over four North Carolina historic sites to the National Park Service were studied at a meeting here today called by the state historical commission, the conservation department and the Society for the Preservation of Antiquities to present a brief to the park service.

R. B. Lattimore of the park service said his agency was interested only in sites of national historical significance and that the land comprising the sites must be given the government outright.

Crittenden said the advisory board of the park service appeared interested in obtaining the sites at a meeting he attended several weeks ago.

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