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WHEELER SAYS ROOSEVELT DENUDED AIR DEFENSES

Shipyard Dredging Contract Awarded To Merritt

Grading Work To Be Started At Site Today

Charleston Dredging Company Scheduled to Start Operations Sunday
600 MEN EMPLOYED
More Land Cleared and Carpenters Start Erecting Temporary Offices



Shown above is the first construction at the Wilmington shipyards of the North Carolina Shipbuilding company being erected at Sunset Park on a 70-acre site. This building will stand at the southeast corner of the tract and will be used as a temporary office by Loftis, Underwood and Orrell, associated contractors.

British Army Takes Cirene, Presses Drive

Mechanized Forces Add Fourth Major Italian Base to Conquest
ARE NEARING BENGASI

CAIRO, Egypt, Feb. 4.—(AP)—The mechanized forces of Britain's imperial army have entered Cirene, ancient city of western Libya, adding the fourth major Italian stronghold to their conquest of the North African colony and placing the union jack within 130 miles of Bengasi, their next big objective.

Cirene, some 60 miles west of Derna, formerly was the general headquarters of Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, whose retreating forces now are strung out along the road leading westward to Bengasi under savage pounding of the Royal Air Force.

Weds Her Manager



Osa Johnson, explorer-widow of Martin Johnson, was married to her manager, Clark H. Getts, by Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia in New York. Because Osa is working on a motion picture, the couple have no honeymoon plans. She is not changing her name.

F. R. Asserts Solon Giving Nazis Comfort

Senator, President Renew One of Bitterest Feuds in Capital's History
HOUSE ARGUES BILL
Wadsworth Backs Lease-Lend Plan, Gen. Wood Voices Opposition

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—(AP)—In a renewal of one of the bitterest feuds in the capital's history, Senator Wheeler (D-Mont) today accused the Roosevelt administration of denuding the nation's aerial defenses to aid Britain, and President Roosevelt rapped back with a virtual charge that Wheeler was giving comfort to Adolf Hitler.

On hearing of the President's remarks, the Montana senator then issued a statement saying: "I'm perfectly willing to compare my patriotism with that of his closest advisers. I have no interest, financially or otherwise, in Germany or England."

NAZI PLANES RAID COAST OF BRITAIN

Fly Through Bitter Weather on Most Widespread Attack in 2 Weeks

LONDON, Feb. 5.—(Wednesday)—German bombers struck at England's eastern coast last night in the most widespread attack in about two weeks but nowhere was the attack described as "really heavy."

They flew through bitter weather that blanketed part of France with snow and concentrated on an east coast port for several hours.

One hotel was partly destroyed in a southeast coastal town, and among the bodies recovered from the debris was that of Jim Murray, a former heavyweight boxing champion in the India army.

Some fire bombs fell in London. Hostile craft were reported over East Anglia, the Midlands, southwest England and Wales, and near Liverpool.

ITALIANS ATTACK BRITISH CONVOY

Seven Hits on Ships in Red Sea by Torpedo Boats Reported by Command

ROME, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Seven hits on a strongly escorted British convoy in the Red sea by a squadron of Italian torpedo boats were reported today by the high command.

The small speedy craft launched nine torpedoes in all last night, a communiqué declared. British destroyers and cruisers opened fire, the announcement said, but the Italians got away unharmed and returned to their base.

(An authoritative British source in London said that Italy could have stationed torpedo boats in the Red sea before she declared war last June, and that the boats possibly were based at Massaua, chief port of Eritrea.)

The high command acknowledged that Italian troops, trying to halt

ACTION IN GREEK WAR RESTRICTED

Athens' Men Slip Through Italian Lines and Cut Communications

ATHENS, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Action over the entire Albanian front was restricted to patrol work and artillery fire today because of heavy rain and mist, reports reaching Athens said.

(Other reports to Bitoli, Yugoslavia, said that heavy fighting, including bayonet charges, went on despite the weather.)

At some points, Athens advices said, Greek units slipped through the Italian lines and cut telephone communications. One of these patrols returned with prisoners and equipment of two Italian machine gun nests, the reports said.

Greek artillery was said to have been extremely active hampering Italian efforts to organize their defenses. A government spokesman said "our advance units continued to harass the enemy in retreat at different points on the front by accurate and heavy artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire."

The spokesman said the Greeks were "still maintaining the initiative in spite of the assertions of Italian propaganda to the contrary."

"Our troops in the occupied region north of Klisura are engaged in consolidating the positions they captured," he said. "Italian soldiers... said the enemy was busy organizing and fortifying with barbed wire the positions to which they retreated."

FINANCE GROUP DEBATES WINE, MULES TAX ISSUES

By CHARLES W. DANIEL

RALEIGH, Feb. 4.—(AP)—The joint finance committee debated in a three-hour session today the wine and mules tax issues presented by the House of Representatives only, in the bill which Representative Bryant of North Carolina introduced.

The committee, upon motion of Representative Williams of Pasquotank, referred to a 19-man subcommittee all bills and related amendments which would regulate the wine in the state.

The action came after extended supporters of a measure to prohibit fortified wine sales in all dry counties, and by opponents of that bill—including representatives of the North Carolina Association for Wine Control—who submitted a substitute bill which would permit wine sales in dry counties under supervision of a wine control division to be set up within the machinery of the present state board of alcoholic control.

The committee unanimously rejected a proposed amendment to the 1939 revenue act by the revenue

Contract Is Negotiated To Improve Highway 17

ARRANGED WITH CLINE Plan to Widen Important Road from Pender County Line to Wilmington

The first contract negotiated under a new law to permit expedited work on projects needed for national defense works has been arranged for the widening of U. S. highway 17 from the Pender county line at Scott's Hill to Wilmington, W. Vance Baise, chief highway engineer, announced in Raleigh yesterday, according to an Associated Press dispatch.

The contract was arranged with F. D. Cline, of Raleigh, who already has machinery and equipment for the job in this area. Cline is now engaged in paving work on the Carolina Beach highway and in providing asphalt topping for the runways at Blumenthal airport.

Subject to approval of the contract is subject to the approval of the State Highway and Public Works commission, which meets February 12, and by Governor Broughton.

The section of the road involved in the contract connects at Scotts Hill with previously widened highway.

WILLKIE STARTS RETURN TO U. S.

Visits Both Prime Minister Of Ireland and King and Queen of England

LONDON, Feb. 5.—(Wednesday)—Wendell L. Willkie left London early today on the first stage of his journey home, after a day in which he visited both the prime minister of Ireland and the king and queen of England.

It was an unprecedented conclusion to an unprecedented visit to

ASSEMBLY GIVEN WAGE-HOUR BILL

Committees Are Considering Measures to Provide Ninth School Month

RALEIGH, Feb. 4.—(AP)—A momentum-gathering general assembly today received a bill to establish minimum pay and maximum hours in intrastate industries, while its committees were busy considering measures to provide a ninth month for the school term and to set punishment to be meted out to fifth columnists.

Both houses will not meet again until tomorrow night, in order that members may attend the funeral of Senator T. W. M. Long at Garysburg tomorrow morning. Among others expected to attend are Governor Broughton, Lieut. Gov. R. L. Harris, Speaker Mull, and numerous other state officials.

The Halifax county senator died unexpectedly last night.

While the joint appropriations committee was hearing pleas for increased funds for hospitals for the insane in order that "long waiting lists" might be accompanied, the joint finance committee heard arguments pro and con on whether fortified wines should be sold in the 74 dry counties.

Finally, the committee referred to a 19-man subcommittee all bills and related amendments affecting the sale of wine.

Opponents of the bill to limit wine sales to the 24 counties with liquor stores submitted a substitute measure to allow wine sales in dry counties under the supervision of a wine control division. This would be set

Batista Downs Plot And Ousts Two High Officers

HAVANA, Cuba, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Two officers accused of a seditious plot against President Fulgencio Batista—Col. Jose Pedraza and Lt. Col. Bernardo Garcia—were escorted to a Miami-bound plane late today, and it appeared that a brief Cuban political storm had blown itself out.

Their alleged associate, Col. Angela Gonzalez, the deposed head of the Cuban navy, remained in custody, and Batista went ahead energetically with the program which apparently had led to the trouble—a broad reorganization of the nation's armed forces.

Pedraza, who was head of the Cuban army until Batista ousted him last night, appeared unexpectedly at the airport this afternoon riding in the automobile of his successor, Col. Manuel Lopez Migoya, and with a military escort.

He entered a chartered airplane with Garcia, who was removed last week as chief of the Cuban national police; with his military aide, Capt. Owen Parr, and with Garcia's brother-in-law, Major Juan Serra of the police.

WEATHER

FORECAST
North Carolina: Mostly cloudy Wednesday and Thursday, slightly warmer Thursday.

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

Temperature	
1:30 a. m. 32; 7:30 a. m. 29; 1:30 p. m. 43; 7:30 p. m. 40; maximum 46; minimum 28; mean 37; normal 47. <td></td>	
Humidity	
1:30 a. m. 73; 7:30 a. m. 50; 1:30 p. m. 34; 7:30 p. m. 36. <td></td>	
Precipitation	
Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00 inches. Total since first of the month 0.21 inches. <td></td>	
Tides For Today	
(From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.)	
Wilmington	High 4:14a 11:46a Low 4:30p 11:22p
Masonboro Inlet	High 1:55a 8:12a Low 2:05p 8:30p
Sunrise 7:06a; sunset 5:46p; moonrise 12:21p; moonset 1:26a.	

Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville on Feb. 4, at 8 a. m., 10.35 feet.

War Interpretive

BY KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Week to week fluctuations in British cargo tonnage losses in the North Atlantic, as reported by London, are worth noting for the clue they may give to the timing of an all-out Nazi attack on England.

Heavy winter seas, short daylight hours and usually low visibility combine to limit the effectiveness of the German submarine and air campaign to sever England's Atlantic life lines. Not before late March, April or possibly May can German strategists count with reasonable certainty on con-

Efforts To End Strikes At Defense Mills Pushed

(By The Associated Press)

A strike involving approximately 1,300 Michigan City, Ind., workers was settled yesterday while federal negotiators continued efforts to adjust differences which are keeping two large defense plants idle in Chicago and Milwaukee.

The Michigan city strikers—employees of the Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing company—voted to return to work under a temporary agreement.

Conciliators were hopeful of breaking the Chicago deadlock, involving some 6,500 tractor workers of the International Harvester company, after

ARMY ORDERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Army orders today:

MAJORS
William A. Callaway, QMC, Fort Jackson to Camp Davis.
Rollin L. Bauchspies, Mc, Fort Bragg, to Fort George C. Meade.
Stuart L. Cowles, FA, Fort Bragg to Washington.

CAPTAINS
Alfred C. Marshall, QMC, Fort Benning, to Camp Davis.

War Interpretive

of a conference with representatives of strikers and employer they said additional meetings would be necessary.

In Milwaukee, 7,000 employees of the Allis-Chalmers company were still out. The plant closed down two weeks ago while working on 400,000 of defense orders. Dr. John Steelman, director of the federal conciliation service, discussed the strike with defense officials in Washington but said that no definite plans for action were formulated.

The CIO cited figures which it said