

GERMANS REACH GREEK FRONTIER; YUGOSLAVIA MAY SIGN AXIS PACT; BRITISH BOMB RUMANIA

Vichy Agrees To Jap Terms

Delegation To Tokyo Delays Pact, However

Representatives of French Indo-China Hope to Minimize Concessions

SIGNATURE EXPECTED

Domei Dispatch from Hanoi Says French Troops Are Moving Southward

SAIGON, French Indo-China, March 2.—(AP)—The Vichy government has agreed to Tokyo's plan for settlement of the territorial disputes between Indo-China and Thailand. A Japanese spokesman declared today that French colonial representatives at Tokyo are withholding their own agreement, hoping to minimize the concessions to Thailand.

The spokesman, Commander Isao Yasumura, said, however, that the Japanese expect prompt signature of the Tokyo agreement. Japan has demanded that the French cede to Thailand large areas of the Indo-China provinces of Laos and Cambodia.

Officials at Hanoi, the French colonial capital, nevertheless said they had not been informed of any Vichy decision.

A Domei (Japanese News Agency) dispatch from Hanoi said that French troops "continued to move southward amid continued tension" and that French and Japanese authorities alike were awaiting instruction from their home governments.

The significance of any southward movement by French forces was not explained.

AGREES

VICHY, France, March 2.—(AP)—An informed source intimated tonight that France had agreed to Tokyo's request that she come to terms with Thailand but said she had not consented to the concessions asked.

It was indicated that the French reply made or to be made in Tokyo was a compromise offer as the basis for further discussions.

The door is open to continue negotiations and Vichy counts on a peaceful solution," the informant said.

CIVIL SERVICE BILL AMENDMENT ASKED

Firemen With Most Service Would Be Given Opportunities for Promotion

Wilmington firemen have asked that an amendment be offered to the bill now pending before the state legislature and providing for the establishment of a civil service setup for firemen and policemen. Representative John R. Morris said last night.

The amendment would be offered for the purpose of enabling the men with the most service to be given

Jimmy's Got It; Ginger Too



Clutching their golden "Oscars," James Stewart and Ginger Rogers congratulate each other on having been given the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awards as 1940's best actor and actress at the academy's annual Hollywood banquet. Jimmy got the prize for his work in "The Philadelphia Story." Ginger's prize-winning performance was in "Kitty Foyle."—(NEA Telephoto)

New American Liner Runs Aground Near Hog Island

IN CAPE COD CANAL

BUZZARDS BAY, Mass., March 2.—(AP)—The new liner President Hayes went aground tonight in Cape Cod Canal, but the coast guard reported she was in "no immediate danger."

The coast guard said there were no immediate details on the circumstances and declared "she may be only stuck in the mud."

The position of the vessel was given as near Hog Island, a short distance from the canal entrance.

The liner left Boston on a 29,000-mile round-the-world voyage.

In command was Captain Dale E. Collins, 40, one of the youngest men to have charge of such a large ship.

The President Hayes, owned by the American President Lines, arrived in Boston only Saturday morning from Newport News, Va., where she was constructed.

She was carrying a New England-made cargo for consignments to ports all over the world.

The British also reported progress in operations in Ethiopia, where the native followers of Haile Selassie are cooperating in harassing the Italians, and in Italian Somaliland.

The general headquarters communique said the troops in Ethiopia proceeded along the road to Gondar.

"In the Gojjam (district) patriot (native Ethiopian) forces inflicted considerable losses on the Italian garrison at Burye which attempted a sortie with cavalry and infantry."

Work On Camp Davis Reaches Half-Way Post

Construction of \$12,880,660 Firing Center About 50 Per Cent Completed

14,000 MEN EMPLOYED

One of Three Fire Stations At Camp Scheduled to Be Occupied Today

Construction of Camp Davis, the Coast Artillery's new \$12,880,660 anti-aircraft firing center at Holly Ridge, is approximately 50 per cent completed, an official of the constructing quartermasters' office said last night.

He pointed out that some features of the large development are well above 50 per cent completed and none are below the 40 per cent mark.

No buildings have been finished it was explained, as the builders do not consider a structure completed until every detail of work, such as wiring, painting and plumbing has been carried out.

In about two weeks more, it was said, several hundred buildings will be completed.

Approximately 14,000 men are now employed on the project, which is expected to be completed by mid-May.

It was revealed that one of the three fire stations planned at the camp will be occupied today. This one is in the center of the development and the other two will be at opposite ends in order to provide equal protection for the large area.

Six fire trucks, two of 750-gallon pumping capacity and four of 500-gallon, will be stationed at the three stations. Two of the trucks have arrived and will be placed at the center or No. 1 station today.

A well-organized fire department was established at the camp at the beginning of operations and is in charge of Lieutenant Wilbur

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BROWN ADDRESSES NEGRO GATHERING

Calls on Wilmingtonians to Open Homes and Clubs to Camp Davis Troops

Lieut. Col. Robert Duncan Brown, who will be in command of the negro troops at Camp Davis, urged negro citizens to open their homes, churches, and clubs for the entertainment of commissioned and non-commissioned officers and men of these regiments in a talk before a patriotic mass meeting held yesterday afternoon at St. Stephen's A.M.E. church under the auspices of the T. J. Bullock Post No. 4, American Legion.

Lieut. Col. Brown told a capacity audience that "these boys were American boys away from

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NAZI TROOPS ALSO MOVING TOWARD TURKEY; ENGLAND TO BREAK WITH BULGARIA

OIL FIELDS BOMBED

Heavy Explosions Occur, Big Fires Are Started North of Bucharest

THREAT IS FULFILLED

British Legation in Sofia Prepares to Move at a Moment's Notice

NEGOTIN, Yugoslavia At The Rumanian and Bulgarian Frontiers, March 2.—The RAF was reported today to have carried the European war to Rumania—making good Britain's threat to bomb Rumania's rich oil fields and communications lines if Nazi troops invaded Bulgaria.

The reports reaching here from Rumania said heavy explosions occurred in the Ploesti fields, north of Bucharest, added that big fires were started and attributed the damage to RAF planes. The advice also said that all foreigners and Rumanians, save those with military passes, had been barred from the oilfield region.

Southwest of Ploesti

Negotin, where this dispatch originated, lies about 175 miles southwest of the Ploesti fields and about 120 miles northwest of Sofia, Bulgaria, which the Nazis occupied yesterday.

George W. Rendel, British minister to Bulgaria, said Friday that the British would regard themselves as "free to attack the Germans on Bulgarian soil without any formal declaration" of war.

Rumania, he said, had not been bombed "because we want to make it easier for Bulgaria to remain neutral," and implied that Rumanian oil fields and communication lines would be attacked should

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NAZIS PUSH MOVE TO HELP ITALIANS

Troops Sent to Libya Take Oaths 'to Make Greatest Effort' for Victory

ROME, March 2.—(AP)—The German troops sent to Libya to strengthen faltering Italian forces there have taken an oath to "make the greatest effort for a joint victory" of Germany and Italy, the official Italian news agency, Stefani, reports.

The high command communique did not mention an "oath" and Stefani did not say when the pledge was made. It simply declared that Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, Italian commander in Africa, and a German officer not identified in the dispatch first reviewed the Nazi troops.

Then the German officer delivered a speech closing with these words: "At the beginning of Italian-German cooperation on African soil we

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Yugoslav Regent, German Minister Hold Conference

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, March 2.—(AP)—The probability that Yugoslavia soon will sign the Axis three-power pact was reported in authoritative quarters tonight.

These sources said this resulted from conferences between Prince Paul, the Yugoslav regent, and Viktor von Heeren, German minister to Belgrade.

Scarcely had Bulgaria entered the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo alliance Saturday, they said, than von Heeren requested a special audience.

He was said to have been received last night.

(A Berlin radio broadcast, heard in New York by NBC, said that Yugoslav Premier

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TAKE UP QUARTERS

Extensive Air Raid Defense Precautions Are Pushed Throughout Bulgaria

BREAK SEEN TUESDAY

British Envoy Tells King Boris That War Will 'Undoubtedly Follow'

SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 3—(Monday)—The vanguard of Germany's onrushing Balkan army, speeding across Bulgaria from bases in Rumania, was reported to have reached the Greek frontier at four points early today.

The Germans also sped toward the Turkish frontier. Two trainloads of infantrymen were dispatched from Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city, toward the Turk border.

Take Up Quarters

Reports from the provinces said small Nazi detachments had taken up quarters in the Bulgarian towns of Slatograd, Melnik, Trigrad, and Svilengrad, a few miles short of the Greek frontier.

Other troops were said to be rolling into Plovdiv.

Air raid defense precautions went steadily ahead throughout Bulgaria.

Anti-aircraft batteries were installed on all large railway stations as well as important bridges and tunnels.

Although official orders were not given, many citizens of Sofia began leaving the city for the country.

Queen Ioanna, daughter of King Vittorio Emanuele of Italy, and crown Prince Simeon and Princess Marie Louise left for the country palace.

MAY BREAK TUESDAY

SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 3—(Monday)—British quarters in Bulgaria's capital declared early today that minister George Rendel had informed King Boris Britain would break off relations with Bulgaria "probably Tuesday" and that a state of war would "undoubtedly follow."

The British minister and King Boris were alone for two hours last night, talking in the monarch's study.

Through the windows, both men could see gray armored cars, troops and trucks of Germany's army rolling through Sofia's main streets.

Friendly Talk

The talk was described as very friendly. King Boris met the tall, stooped British minister on the palace steps and escorted him into the study. Rendel was understood to have expressed regret felt by the British government that Bulgaria should sign the Axis pact and open the country to German armies, since the British must resist the German march and Bulgaria may become a battleground.

Turks Close Dardanelles To Ships Without Permits

GIVE NO EXPLANATION

Units of Fleet Steam Out of Istanbul Toward the Famous Straits

ISTANBUL, Turkey, March 2.—(AP)—The Turkish navy ministry announced tonight that the strategic Dardanelles straits had been closed to all ships except those having special permits and employing Turkish naval pilots.

The ruling went into effect tonight.

Units of the Turkish fleet, it was learned at the same time, steamed out of Istanbul towards the Dardanelles today.

NO EXPLANATION

No explanation was offered immediately for Turkey's action in shutting the Dardanelles to any traffic except under strict Turkish control and for speeding her fleet into that vital zone.

Presumably, however, it is a counteraction to Saturday's developments which put Bulgaria solidly in the Axis orbit and opened the Bulgarian frontier to Germany's legions.

Because Bulgaria already had been infiltrated by the German military and written off as an inevitable Axis ally, it is likely that thoughts for defense of the Dardanelles were prominent in the discussions last week between Turkish officials and British foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and General Sir John G. Dill, chief of the British imperial staff, who participated with Eden in talks with Turkish chiefs during their stay in Turkey.

Premier Alexander Korizis will give a luncheon tomorrow in Eden's honor. He also will be honor guest at a dinner at the British legation tomorrow night.

Eden plans to stay in Athens a few days.

Anthony Eden Arrives in Greece for Talks

ATHENS, March 2.—(AP)—British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden arrived today by plane from Turkey and was received by King George II.

Accompanying Eden was General Sir John G. Dill, chief of the British imperial staff, who participated with Eden in talks with Turkish chiefs during their stay in Turkey.

BRITISH VESSELS SUNK BY GERMANS

Four Ships, Totaling 24,000 Tons, Destroyed During Air Attack

BERLIN, March 2.—(AP)—Four British merchantmen, totalling 24,000 tons, were sunk by German air attack today, informed sources reported.

These were in addition to five vessels claimed by Germany's seagoing fliers to have been sunk Saturday in raids on British shipping.

One 10,000-ton ship was said to have been sunk immediately in today's air bombardment when a direct hit on the engine room exploded the vessel's boiler off the Shetland Islands. Two other ships, of 8,000 and 10,000 tons, travelling in the same convoy, were so seriously damaged they sank soon after the attack, these sources said.

A fourth merchantman, of 2,000 tons, said to have been intercepted in

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Germany Calls On Turkey To Offer War Mediation

INSTANBUL, Turkey, March 2.—(AP)—It was learned on reliable authority today that Germany asked Turkey to offer to mediate the European war during the recent visit in this country of British foreign secretary Anthony Eden.

The British, however, flatly refused to consider mediation when sounded out by Turkey, this source said.

A well-informed source said that German Ambassador Franz von Papen approached Turkish foreign minister Sukru Saracoglu on the subject before Eden's arrival last week, pointing out that Turkey

was in a most favorable position to act as mediator.

(Authorized sources in Berlin ridiculed the report and repeated the stock answer, "It is not for the winner to suggest peace.")

It was a week-end busy with diplomatic activity at Ankara with President Ismet Inonu keeping in close touch with his cabinet.

The cabinet, with Inonu presiding, held an extraordinary session from late Friday night to the early hours of Saturday morning, presumably considering Bulgaria's new

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