

German Troops Ready To Move On Yugoslavia

Nazi Minister Leaves Belgrade to Make Report to Von Ribbentrop

FIND NATIONAL UNITY

Germans Quartered in Bulgaria Shifted from Turk, Greek Fronts

BEUGRADE, April 1—(Tuesday) Five German divisions were reported concentrated on the Hungarian-Yugoslav frontier early today soon after German Minister Viktor von Heeren led the last of German nationals out of this country on a special train departing eight minutes before the midnight deadline he had set for the exodus.

The reported concentration of some 75,000 German troops on the Northern Croatia frontier coincided with word that Yugoslavia had found national unity in an agreement between the veteran Croat leader Vladimir Macek and Premier Dusan Simovic.

Macek's paper in Zagreb, capital of the highly vulnerable northern province declared: "In historic times which may be near, Croat ranks stand united."

In addition to the threat from Hungary, German troops quartered in Bulgaria since that nation fell into the Axis sphere early in March, have been shifted from the Turkish and Greek frontiers westward to face Yugoslavia on the east.

Italians At Back At the back of this nation are Italian forces in Albania, for the present thoroughly occupied by the Greeks.

Macek's acceptance of the vice-premiership in the new anti-Nazi government was reported as Simovic ordered Yugoslavs to remain on the threshold of their homes and "if destiny orders" give their lives to the fatherland.

Loudspeakers blared this proclamation as von Keeren and more than 1,000 Germans left on a special train which was an hour late because of the procession of trains which steamed out of the station

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

CRAWFORD SPEAKS TO OFFICERS HERE

Outlines Certain Policies That Will Be Followed At Camp Davis

Addressing his officers at the Thalian Hall yesterday, Col. James B. Crawford, commanding officer of Camp Davis, outlined certain qualifications that are essential to the efficient military leader and certain policies that will govern Camp Davis.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Cloudy and mild, rain east and central in forenoon Tuesday. Wednesday generally fair and mild.

Says 'Free Spain' Group Is Forming



The Spanish civil war has been over two years, but loyalists are still fighting totalitarian "intolerance and bigotry" according to Isabel de Palencia, above, who announced coming formation of "Free Spanish" force similar to de Gaulle's Free French.

JAPANESE MINISTER ARRIVES IN ROME

Matsuoka to Confer With Mussolini and Count Ciano Today

ROME, March 31.—Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka arrived tonight for conferences with Premier Mussolini amid the following war developments: United States seizure of 28 Italian ships in American ports;

Confirmation of British claims that their Mediterranean fleet had destroyed three Italian cruisers and two destroyers in the Ionian sea;

Removal of Italians and Germans from Yugoslavia, which seemed nearer armed conflict with the Axis.

Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano and other high political and military figures greeted Matsuoka and shepherded him through a Fascist welcome.

The Japanese rising sun, the Nazi swastika and the Italian tricolor rippled along Matsuoka's route to the villa Madama, the government's guest house.

Matsuoka was guest of honor at a private dinner tonight given by Hans-Georg Viktor von Mackensen, German ambassador to Italy.

Matsuoka's first talks with Mussolini and Ciano are scheduled for tomorrow.

The press devoted its space almost exclusively to a Japanese friendship theme and relegated to secondary display such developments as the American seizure of Axis and Danish vessels.

While foreign observers considered Matsuoka's trip to Rome as secondary to his calls at Moscow and Berlin, high Fascists declared it was more than a courtesy visit.

Newspapers spoke of conferences in which "plans and actions" would be coordinated "to complete decisions reached in Berlin."

The Berlin decisions, wrote Virginia Gayda, most authoritative Fascist editor, are "political and military secrets."

Axis Files Protest On Ship Grab

Embassies Act Quickly After U. S. Seizes 69 Craft During Week-End

CREWS ARE ARRESTED

Italians Removed from Villarperosa Here Transferred to Savannah

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Germany and Italy protested to the United States today over the government's action in taking Axis ships into "protective custody" on the grounds of sabotage.

The embassies of the two Axis powers acted quickly after the seizure of a total of 69 German, Italian and Danish vessels in sweeping raids during the week-end.

The contents of the notes were not disclosed, but it was considered likely that Germany's was couched in more violent language than that of Italy.

Denmark Not Protesting The Danish legation here announced tonight that "we haven't protested and are not going to protest" the simultaneous seizure of 35 Danish vessels along with those flying the Axis flags.

The Italian note was delivered personally by the ambassador, Prince Colonna, to Breckinridge Long, assistant secretary of state.

Germany's was dispatched later by messenger to the state department. It arrived after most officials had departed for the day and it was left in the custody of a guard.

A long conference of the secretaries of State, War and Navy was held at the State department late in the day, but whether it had any connection with the seizure of the ships was not made known.

Following up its dramatic seizure of the vessels, the United States today issued formal warrants accusing the German and Italian crews of violating the immigration laws.

Investigation Ordered A few hours after this action was made known, the Justice department announced it had instructed the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate sabotage of the seized vessels.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

ITALIANS ADMIT FIVE SHIPS SUNK

Dispute Reports that British Fleet Escaped Without Damage, However

ROME, March 31.—The Italian high command acknowledged the destruction of three cruisers and two destroyers—British's positive claims—in the week-end Ionian Sea battle, but disputed British reports that their fleet had escaped without damage.

The Italians insisted a heavy British cruiser was sunk and two other British warships were seriously damaged by Italian broadsides. Full British losses, it was added, had not been determined but "might have been serious."

The admiralty specifically denied that a fourth cruiser, the Giovanni

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

City Selects Council-Manager System, 1,743 To 1,259 Votes, In Unusually Light Referendum

How City Changed Government

Table with 4 columns: Precincts, For Commission, For Plan D, Registration. Totals: 1,259, 1,743, 8,508.

F. D. R. Visits Two Forts; Says Greeks To Get Guns

WELL SATISFIED STAGE MOCK FIGHT

World War 75's Not Only Equipment that Will Be Sent to Greece

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL ABOARD ROOSEVELT TRAIN ENROUTE TO WASHINGTON, March 31.—President Roosevelt viewed today two spectacular demonstrations of the processes by which the Army molds men and machines into fighting trim, but he commented particularly on a group of 75 millimeter guns which he said were going to Greece.

He said it was all right for reporters to say that the World War vintage artillery pieces were not all the war equipment which would be dispatched to Greece, but he would not discuss numbers of quantities.

First Disclosure The President's statement that some 75's soon would be on the way to Greece was the first disclosure of any specific kind of weapons which have been released to Britain and Greece under the lease-lend program.

Immediately after congress approved the program, Mr. Roosevelt approved the first transfer of war supplies, and it was learned yesterday that he had since approved additional consignments and that more probably would follow soon.

It was significant in that connection that Major General James H. Burns, aide to the undersecretary of war who is in charge of procurement of war materials, boarded Mr. Roosevelt's special train before it pulled out of Fort Bragg.

A responsible authority said Burns and the President were working tonight on the \$7,000,000. (Continued on Page Three; Col. 7)

BARDEN EXPLAINS BASE LAND PLANS

Marine Station Problems Talked by Mass Meet in Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, March 31.—Farmers, FSA and AAA officials held a mass meeting in the courthouse here tonight, at which Congressman Graham A. Barden explained plans for appraising land to be purchased for the coast here.

Hundreds of residents will be forced to move from the area in the near future to make room for the base, and tonight's meeting was called to inform them of plans being made to resettle them elsewhere.

Congressman Barden assured the farmers that they would receive as fair price for their farms as possible from the government, and that efforts are being made to secure loans for those who may need them.

Plans are also being formed to assist in the locating and purchase of farm lands to replace those taken over by the government.

Among others attending the meeting were Vance Swift, state director of the FSA; H. H. Gordon, regional director; Max Trapnell, assistant information adviser; and E. G. Odum, district supervisor.

E. F. Floyd, state director of the AAA, and Lieut. J. R. Murphy, who is in charge of Marines corps affairs here, also attended.

Floyd said that farmers who move to lands in this or adjoining counties will receive the same acreage allotments for their crops that they have at their present locations.

E. B. Smith, local businessman, represented the farmers and presided over the meeting.

COMMISSION FORM IS DEFEATED

Machinery Set Into Motion for Establishment of Five-Man Council and Manager Plan of Regime on May 7

PRIMARY WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 21

Junior Chamber Thanks Voters and Mayor Cooper, Fisher and Wade Pledge Cooperation to New Government

Riding the crest of a light vote—35.4 per cent of an 8,508 registration—the council-manager form of government yesterday won the endorsement of 1,743 Wilmington voters, thus setting in motion the machinery by which the municipality will replace its present three-man commission form of government with a five-man council and city manager on May 7.

On the basis of complete but unofficial returns, Plan D—council-manager form—received 1,743 votes against 1,259 votes for extension of the commission government. Twelve ballots were found, in unofficial tabulation, to have been illegally marked. There were 3,014 votes cast.

The vote was so light that complete, unofficial returns were tabulated 45 minutes after the polls closed at 8:30 o'clock last night.

The city election board will meet at noon today in the council chambers of the city hall for its official canvass of the election.

Plan D carried nine of the city's 10 precincts, failing to secure a majority only in the first precinct of the fifth ward, the vote there being 109 for commission government, 93 for council-manager. There are 855 registered voters in the precinct.

The council-manager form found its greatest support in the first precinct of the sixth ward, tallying 235 votes against 125 of a total registration of 709 voters.

F. D. R. OPPOSES COAL STOPPAGE

Appeals for 'Uninterrupted Operation' of the Bituminous Fields

NEW YORK, March 31.—President Roosevelt appealed tonight for "uninterrupted operation" of the defense-important bituminous coal fields where a stoppage was set for midnight.

An hour after negotiators adjourned their 14th day of conferences, deadlocked in their efforts to replace an expiring contract covering 330,000 miners in the Appalachian fields, this message arrived from the President, en route to Washington by train.

"Uninterrupted operation of bituminous coal industries extremely important. Suggest if necessary you continue negotiations during Tuesday looking to satisfactory arrangement. Shall expect report through Steelman before midnight."

The message was dispatched to Ezra Van Horn, chairman of the joint Appalachian conference, in care of Dr. John R. Steelman, federal conciliator who held conferences with operators and miners yesterday and today.

The conferees had agreed, before receipt of the telegram, to continue negotiations at 10 a. m. tomorrow, and it was considered likely that the President dispatched his message before knowing this had been done.

Van Horn was absent from his room at the hotel Biltmore when the telegram was delivered and did not receive it, he said, for several hours. He said at 10:30 p. m. (E. S. T.) that he had not yet prepared his reply

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

Plans To Enlarge Local Airport Pushed By Board

Enlargement of Bluetenthal airport to meet commercial and military size regulations moved a step closer realization yesterday as the board of county commissioners tentatively approved county participation with the Federal government in the proposed project.

Action on the airport proposal highlighted a brief regular session of the commission meeting in the courthouse.

On motion of Chairman Addison Hewlett, the commission approved county participation in the airport enlargement program, subject, however, to availability of cash funds with which to retain a civil engineer to prepare the project for a WPA application. County Treasurer John Orrell told the commission that funds were available for the preliminary survey. He requested the board to withhold purchase of additional airport land, however, until the new fiscal year, beginning July 1.

Chairman Hewlett advised the board that commercial airlines considering Wilmington as a route city

required runways of at least 5,000 feet in length. Presently, Bluetenthal airport has two 3,000-foot runways, now being asphalt surfaced, and a 2,200-foot dirt runway. Under the enlargement program the two 3,000-foot runways would be lengthened to a minimum of 5,000 feet. To gain that length, the county would be required to purchase several acres of land on either side of the present field.

James E. L. Wade, city commissioner of public works, appeared before the county board to request use of county convict labor on the Freeland park drainage project, undertaken jointly by the city and county. The request was granted.

Prisoners serving 30-day sentences will be utilized on the project, the sheriff was to be advised last night. The project was started with WPA labor, but because of a shortage at that source, labor was sought from the jail and county farm.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)