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F. R. Plans To Protect U.S. Ships

Indicates Vessels Carrying War Supplies in Red Sea To Be Guarded

SAYS IT IS THE LAW

May Escort Freighters, Es-tablish Patrols or Arm The Merchantmen

WASHINGTON, April 15 .- (A)-In a terse but apparently historic remark, President Roosevelt indicated today that American merchant ships carrying war supplies through the newly-opened Red sea route to Egypt would have armed

He was asked at a press conferonce whether it was the policy of this government to protect its ships wherever they go, so long as they stay out of the combat zones defined in the neutrality act. He replied that that was the law.

He did not say to what law he referred, but other officials ex-, meant internaional law which, they said, provided for the freedom of the seas. Although the president refrained from going into details about meth ods of protecting ships, naval men said several courses were possible if the government should decide

Escorts Mentioned

They mentioned actual escorts w United States naval vessels, assignments of such vessels to patrol specific areas of the seas to see that no harm comes to American merchantmen, the use of airplanes, and the arming of the merchant-

The President had told reporters, however, that he knew of no discussion of arming merchantmen, except talk by orators.

In the senate meanwhile, Senator Tobey (R.-N. H.) arose to inquire whether his resolution to prohibit the use of the American navy for convoy duty was being "smothered" by "persons in high authority, such as the White House."

in the Foreign Relations commit- North Eighth street and the railroad tee. Angrily, Senator Barkley of tracks. Centucky, the democratic leader, replied that he had had no discus-(Continued on Page Twelve; Col. 4)

F.D.R. PLANS NEW HELP FOR ALLIES

As 'Supervisor' of Vast

Lease-Lend Program WASHINGTON, April 15.—(P)—With Harry L. Hopkins officially

recognized for the first time as 'supervisor' of the vast lend-lease program, President Roosevelt tonew moves to aid nations battling Plans \$3,000,000 Addition day was reported to be planning

Outlays thus far announced for assistance to Britain and Greece were expected to be expanded soon include help to embattled China President Roosevelt told his

George Greets Gargoyle



on tour of English coast defenses, must think Orson

Three Buildings Burned, 14 Damaged In Fire Here

Damage From Flames on North Eighth Street Estimated at \$10,000

Fire which for a time threatened o engulf an entire negro section of he city late yesterday afternoon destroyed two homes and a large warehouse, severely damaged three other houses and partially damaged 11 The measure is awaiting action other dwellings in the vicinity of

> It was the city's wors tion this year, and only work by virtually every city fireman utilizing all but two pieces of the fire department's equipment kept the blaze from razing a much larger area.

Fanned by Breeze The fire started in a negro two family dwelling at 709 North Eighth street, a frame building, and fanned by a slight breeze, quickly leaped to a similar building at 707 North Eighth Harry Hopkins Recognized street and to a large warehouse building, recently used as a mechan-

(Continued on Page Five; Col. 3)

CAROLINA POWER TO BUILD ANNEX

To Cape Fear Plant in **Chatham County**

RALEIGH, April 15.—(A)-A secpress conference that Chinese ond \$3,000,000 addition to the Caroheeds were being analyzed and lina Power and Light company's hat some supplies designed for Cape Fear Steam Electric Generprocessed. He had conferred during day by the firm's board of direc-

Continued on Page Five; Col. 2) (Continued on Page Five; Col. 2)

Night Parking Is Banned On Nut, Water Streets Harris Proctor, of Durham, who yesterday afternoon won the five-

Enforcement of a city ordinance | Enforcement of the night-time (Continued on Page Nine; Col. 7) ohibiting night parking on Nut parking ban, the Mayor said, was Mayor Thomas E. Cooper.

At the same time, Mayor Cooper aid he had instructed City Attor-Mey William Campbell to prepare necessary ordinance to proit day-time parking on the west ity's traffic-flow problem.

Water streets-route of a spur being resumed at the request of ight line of the Atlantic Coast ACL officials who complained that hes - and plans for regulating parked automobiles on railroad day-time parking on the narrow tracks extending through the wareroughfare through city ordi- house district of the city were were announced yesterday causing serious interruptions of service.

Effective immediately, parking The Mayor also announced that the Tide Water Power company, and Water streets between Red operators of a bus service using oss and Nun streets will be pro- city streets, had acceded to a pohibited. To enforce the existing lice department request to keep ordinance, Mayor Cooper yester- more than one bus at a time off day instructed Police Chief Joseph a given city block. The bus comourk to have traffic officers ar- pany's compliance with the police rest operators of cars found parked request came after a conference the streets during the 11 night between Police Chief Rourk, Traffic Lieutenant John Davis and transportation officials of the pub-

lic carrier. Under terms of the agreement reached by the city and the bus company, bus drivers have been ide of Nut and Water streets be- instructed to keep their buses at Ove, the Mayor explained, was town district, thus eliminating 9:51a. Ween Red Cross and Nun. This least one block apart in the downaccord with recommendations what police traffffic officers have ade by a traffic expert retained frequently described as one of the ecently by the city to survey the principal reasons for congested street traffic.

BIG AREA THREATENED Sun Shipbuilding Firm To Build 72 Tankers

CHESTER, Pa., April 15.—(AP) -John G. Pew, president of the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock company, said today the company, within a few days will sign a \$180,000,000 contract with the U. S. maritime commission to build 72 oil tankers.

"We expect to complete all 72 ships in two years," Pew assert-"The keel of the first one probably will be laid about July The first tanker will be launched in about nine months,

Twelve new ways will be built by the company to speed construction of the ships, estimated to cost about \$2,500,000 each. In addition, Pew said, it is likely 10,000 workers will be added to the payroll within a year.

LEGION ORATORS **COMPETE TONIGHT**

Three High School Students Will Take Part in Sectional Meet Here

The sectional championship of the American Legion National Or- ture, completed in the 1939-40 proatorical contest will be held to- gram, was sunk on convoy duty night at the High school auditori- by a torpedo, the admiralty ansurvivors of entries of a dozen the number of casualties were not stating that in his opinion, the terms southern states, compete for the disclosed. right to enter the national finals The Bonaventure was the fifth Friday night at Charleston, S. C. The winner of tonight's compe-

tition here—one of four sectional finals being conducted this evethe day with Dr. Hu Shih, Chinese tors, L. V. Sutton, president and —will represent the south in quest fered annually by the American Legion to the High school student adjudged the best orator on some subject concerning the constitution

of the United States.
Harris Proctor, of Durham, who state regional finals at Charlotte,

WEATHER

FORECAST

North Carolina: Mostly cloudy; showers and cooler in north and west portions Thursday and in the mountains Wednesday afternoon or night.

Wednesday afternoon or hight.

(By U. S. Westher Bureau)

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

Temperature

1:30 a. m. 67; 7:30 a. m. 64; 1:30 p. m. 86; 7:30 p. m. 73; maximum 89; minimum 61; mean 75; normal 62.

1:30 a. m. 71; 7:30 a. m. 65; 1:30 p. m. 33; 7:30 p. m. 45.

Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0:00 inches. Total since the first of the month 1:98 inches.

Tides For Today

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

Wilmington 1:43p 8:54p

Wilmington 5:26a

Cape Fear river stage at Fayette-lle on April 15, at 8 a. m., 13.98

(Continued on Page Twelve; Col. 5) secretary of war, following Stim- (Continued on Page Six; Col. 7) Continued on Page Six; Col. 4) tucky.

Nation Is Germans Drive Deep Into Allied WarnedBy Dr.Durant

Declares Decadence From Within Is the Greatest Peril to Democracy

POINTS TO THE PAST

Philosopher Cites Need for More Discipline in the Home and School

Decadence from within-not conquest from without-is democra y's most imminent peril. So warned Dr. Will Durant, one

of the greatest of modern philosophers, last night to a Wilmington audience at the High school auditorium, speaking under the auspices of the Community Forum.

Drawing striking parallels from the pages of history to force home the sobering reflection that democratic civilizations of the past have crumpled from within before beng conquered from without, Dr. Durant decried the declining Amercan birthrate as the greatest single contributing factor to deca-

Marching Same Path

"We are, as a nation, as a people, marching the same path of self-destruction that preceded the collapse of democracy in early Rome, that led the way to the downfall of democratic Greece, that undermined France. Democpolitically, then morally. A declining birth-rate is a positive evidence of that corruption."

Of the remedy, the noted speak

er was not so sure.

"Perhaps we need less freedom less freedom morally, perhaps, even, less freedom politically. Certainly we need more discipline; more discipline in the home, more discipline in the school. And above all, we need a return to that religious faith which drives man to ambition—ambition to create his kind, to create a family and to make his world a better one for his children," Dr. Durant declared.

"Lessons From History" was the subject of Dr. Durant's highly in-(Continued on Page Five; Col. 4)

BRITAIN ADMITS LOSS OF CRUISER

Claims New Bomb Hits on Or Near Two Nazi Battlefronts at Brest

LONDON, April 15 .- (A)-Britain acknowledged the loss of one of her newest cruisers tonight, but claimed destruction of a 10,000-ton port and new bomb hits on or near Germany's two 26,000-ton battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst

berthed at Brest. The 5,450-ton cruiser Bonaven-

cruiser acknowledged by the admiralty as lost since the war began. The others were the Effingham, Curlew, Calypso and South-

Other officially acknowledged losses to date in major warship the following questions: classes are one battleship, two aircraft carriers, 39 destroyers, in- the council to be elected under the (Continued on Page Twelve; Col. 6) (Continued on Page Five; Col. 4)

Americas.

sessions."

Meanwhile:

and the actual walkout.

Be Sent Out Of Americas F.D.R. Says No Decision WASHINGTON, April 15 .- (R)- son on the stand, told the senate Secretary Stimson, one of several committee that the army's light ranking officials to testify at con- and medium tanks were "superior gressional hearings on defense in speed, armor and weapons to

problems, strongly intimated today those of any other nation," and that it might become necessary for said American pursuit planes were the United States to wage war, in better than Europe's best. its own defense, outside the Testifying before the house military committee, Donald M. Nelson, "Our forces must be prepared OPM purchasing chief, said that for the possibilities of war in many when strikes are threatened, puband varied terrains," he told the lic opinion should be brought to range of 21 through 35 had pro-

"it being quite uncertain in what mediation board, he said, had done part of North or South or Central a "perfectly amazing job." America, or even possibly other Stimson gravely warned the comregions, it ultimately may be necessary to use force in the defense of this country and its pos- may "be very prolonged." He in- there would be plenty of time for timated that it may become necessary to subordinate civilian needs needed. Before the house naval commit- to the military program to a greattee, Secretary Knox opposed anti- er extent than has been true of the ply to a question whether the minstrike legislation but spoke favor- past.

off period" between a strike call he continued, contemplates a five- the age limits might be changed, mer Tennessee highway patrolman. dlesboro, said today's shooting oc year period covering "many suc- indication that if adequate man-Robert P. Patterson, the under-

At a Staten Island, N. Y., pier, flour is loaded into the hold of the

Attacks on London

LONDON, April 16 .- (Wed-

nesday)—(P) — German bombs

crashed in one London district

early today, trapping several

persons in wreckage and caus-

One German raider crashed

The bombing here was the

second reported in a night dur-

ing which German raiders

were heard over most of Eng-

land. The other bombing was

at a south coast town, where

damage was reported not ser-

BRITISH AND AXIS

FIGHT FOR SALUM

by Destroying 22 Planes

And 15 Tanks

CAIRO, Egypt, April 15.—(A)-

in flames in a south coast area.

ing some casualties.

Front And Reach Siatista Pass;

Report British In Full Retreat

And Out of Harbors GERMANS AT LARISA Reich Paper Hints That

NAZIS BOMB BRITISH

Planes Attack Greek Coast

As Transports Move in

WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1941

Terminated Soon BERLIN, April 16.—(Wednesday) -(P)-German reports early today pictured British forces in Greece as in full retreat with some commentators declaring it was a "rout" under terrific bombardment

Balkan Hostilities May Be

of the Nazi air force. The Greek coast was bombed relentlessly, the Germans said, as British transports move into and out of harbors, and German pressure was increased on the Greek-British defense line running from Albanian corner to the Aegean sea

REACH LARISA

The Columbia Broadcasting system's Ankara correspondent broadcast last night that German tank squadrons had broken through the defense line to reach Larisa and racy tends to corrupt itself, first that Greek forces admitted their southward withdrawal would con

> The correspondent, Winston Burdette, also said "it appears that British calculations have already been upset and it is reported that eight empty transport ships left for Greece yesterday from Alexandria,

MAY TERMINATE FIGHTING Whille authorized sources would give no details on developments of the North African campaign, they COLIMA IS IN RUINS Germans Renew Air give no details on developments of 'not unfavorable to us."

The commentary Dienst Aus Damage at Capital Esti-Deutschland, which has close foreign office connections, dropped a hint that Balkan hostilities may be terminated within a short time. Commenting on what it terms the British withdrawal from the

Greek front, Dienst observed that The city of Colima was reported the effects of this step may soon half in ruins tonight with prospects become noticeable." of a large casualty list as the re-The fate of the Greek army also sult of an earthquake that shook

will be greatly influenced by the the south half of Mexico today (Continued on Page Nine; Col. 5)

COUNCIL TO TAKE OFFICE ON MAY 31

tanker bound for a Nazi-occupied Campbell Expresses Opinion Terms of Commissioners End on That Date

City Attorney William B. Campbell said yesterday that he had written a letter to H. G. Carney, chairum as three High school students, nounced. The date, location and man of the city board of elections, of office of the three city commissioners would expire on May 31, and that the councilmen elected on May 6 will take office on that date.

His letter to Carney follows: "You have requested me to consider and give you an opinion upon Colima police.

"1. When will the members of

(Continued on Page Five; Col. 5)

CHANGE IN DRAFT AGE CONSIDERED

mated at \$1,000,000;

Huge Fires Started

MEXICO CITY, April 15.-(AP)-

and inflicted damage estimated at

\$1,000,000 in fires and other de-

The destruction in Colima, about

375 miles southwest of Mexico City

was reported to the government

press office in wireless messages

saying many of its 15,000 inhabi

Dead In Ruins

Colima State Military Garrison,

said it was feared numerous vic

President Avila Camacho imme-

diately ordered military and civi-

lian planes to hasten tonight and

tomorow morning to Colima with

The forests around Colima were

reported burning and a dam at

the city's water plant collapsed.

Colima was in darkness, the ra-

Troops have been rushed from

medical supplies and doctors.

tims were dead in the ruins.

These reports, coming from the

tants were injured.

dio dispatches said.

struction here in the capital.

Reached, Matter May Be Taken Up in June

WASHINGTON, April 5 .- (A)today that War department and outburst of violence in southern was riddled by bullets. congressional committees had under study the advisability of changing the draft ages later in the year. Any change would be predicated on a showing that the present special senate defense committee, bear on the situation. The defense vided sufficient man power and adequate technicians.

The President said no decision had been reached and thet senate mittee that the country was facing and house committees might take "a dangerous emergency" which up the matter in early June, so legislation if any is deemed These observations came in re-

ably of action to require a "cooling The army's training program, The President said both ends of borne county, Tennessee, and a for-

Food For Unoccupied France

PASS HUGE OBSTACLE

Nazi Forces Invade Vlacho Klissura Pass During **Earlier Operations**

ITALIANS ARE TAKEN

British Holding Line on the Right Throw Back Nazi Mechanized Forces

ATHENS, Greece, April 15 .- (A)-German troops smashing deep into the allied left and center on the northern Grecian battle front reached the western outlet of Siatista pass today, the Greek government spokesman announced tonight, and thus surmounted a formidable obstacle in their thrust to the south.

The pass, which is at the town of that name some 50 miles within Greece, provides an opening in a 6,000-foot mountain range beyond which lies a stretch of considerably easier country.

(The spokesman's language indicated what was not expressly stated: That the Germans had traversed the pass and were free be-

Occupy Pass

In earlier operations, it was added, the Nazis had occupied the Vlacho-Klissura pass, which lies some 20 miles to the north of

French liner Leopold, which will carry one of two cargoes for unoccupied France. The sending of more food may depend on how these two cargoes are distributed and utilized. The Greek command said "ordered movements of our troops towards new positions" were carried out in Western Macedonia, Mexico Shaken By Quake; that local Italian offensives in Albania were thrown back with serious losses, and that 10 enemy Heavy Casualties Feared lous losses, and that 10 enemy planes were shot down during the

The Greek spokesman said four officers and 100 men were cap-tured by the Greeks following the German-Italian operations Northern Greece and in Albania. He said the Italians were repulsed in attacks north of the Aoos

(Continued on Page Five; ol. 6)

ACL REPORTS BIG NET INCOME GAIN

All Officers and Directors Are Elected at Meeting Of Stockholders

RICHMOND, Va., April 15 .- (AP)-The Atlantic Coast Line railroad company reported a gain of \$1,019,-462.50 in net income for 1940 over 1939, at the meeting of stockholders and directors of the railway here

The road's 1940 net income English Stave Off Attacks amounted to \$1,823,536.82, compared with \$804,074.32 a year ago. Operating revenues in 1940 were \$50,087,983.60, as against \$47,099,-287.24 in 1939, a gain of \$2,98,-696.36, while operating expenses totaled \$39,567,508.55, or 2,895,728.40 A wide-open battle rocketed back 671,780.15.

and forth through the Egyptian The road reported that tonnage border village of Salum tonight moved over its line in 1940 was zone headquarters in the Pacific port of Manzanillo to reinforce beleaguered Libyan port of Tobruk, the British announced they had cent in passengers carried and 'aved off ferocious attacks by deoying 22 Axis planes and 15 220.8 per cent in revenue.

Officers and directors were re-(Continued on Page Five; Col. 3) elected.

Four Killed, 25 Wounded In Harlam Mine Shooting

MIDDLESBORO, Ky., April 15. No arrests had been made late -(P)-A hail of bullets on a dark today. mountainside road killed four men Bell County Attorney Walter B. -including the president and vice Smith investigated at the scene president of a coal mine - and which literally touched the state wounded possibly 5 others today line at a point five miles souhwest Appalachian coal fields.

see line, on a road leading from Middlesboro to the Fork Ridge arising from labor difficulties. Coal company mine in Tennessee about one mile from the border. The dead:

C. W. Rhodes, 48, of Middlesboro, president of the mine company and of the American association, a bituminous mining group which contract to succeed one which ex-

founded Middlesboro. E. W. Silvers, 45, Middlesboro,

Fork Ridge company. Bob Robinson, 38, imum age would be lowered to 18. Tenn., a deputy sheriff of Clai in Harlan county. Sam Evans, 48, a miner em-

President Roosevelt told reporters in this month's third life-taking of here. A roadside line marker The killings set a new high for Eight wounded men were taken the number of fatalities in this to hospitals from the scene of the southeastern Kentucky section dur-

shooting near the Kentucky-Tennes- ing any single phase of the oftrecurring and oft-bloody troubles Nine deaths have occured in the region during the current work stoppage of Appalachian area

mines following the failure of negotiations of the United Mine Workers (CIO) with operators for a work pired April 1. On the day of the expiration a mine guard was shot vice president and treasurer of the fatally in Harlan county and the next day gunfire cost four lives at the Crummies Creek mine, also

Patrolman Guy Harrell of Midcurred after approximately 100 au-

ployed at a mine nearby in Ken-(Continued on Page Five; Col. 1)