

Hull, Knox Urge More British Aid

Navy Secretary Says We Cannot Allow Goods To Be Sunk in Atlantic

TERMED 'OUR FIGHT'

Secretary of State Avers Safety of Hemisphere Calls for Resistance

By J. C. STARK WASHINGTON, April 24.—(AP)—Two key figures in President Roosevelt's cabinet called tonight for more active steps to aid Britain...

"Our Fight" In an even stronger pronouncement in New York, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox declared "this is our fight," that "we must see the job through" and that "we can no longer occupy the immoral and craven position of asking others to make all the sacrifice for this victory which we recognize as so essential to us."

Knox asserted that "Hitler cannot allow our war supplies to reach England—he will be defeated if they do" and he added with emphasis: "We cannot allow our goods to be sunk in the Atlantic—we shall be beaten if they do."

Hull declared the safety of the hemisphere caller for "resistance wherever resistance will be most effective." It makes a vast difference to us who wins the present struggle in Europe — "the difference whether we stand with our backs to the wall with the other four continents against us and the high seas lost, alone defending the last few territories on earth, or whether we keep our calpe in an orderly world."

The secretary of state spoke before the American Society of International Law in Washington and his address was broadcast over the radio.

SINGAPORE BASE IS STRENGTHENED

British Move More Men And Machines in to Meet Thrust by Land or Sea

SINGAPORE, April 24.—(AP)—Formidable new reinforcements of men and machines landed at this British far eastern stronghold today, strengthening the defense of Singapore and the Malay Peninsula against a surprise thrust by land or sea.

They came in a big transport as reinforcements for the main body of the Australian Imperial force which arrived here February 18. This time the public welcome was less colorful and not so noisy; the brass bands and singing were missing.

But Australian-Manned bombing planes roared out to meet the convoy 10 miles at sea and circled overhead as the big troop-carrying liner steamed through the naval base dock.

The new contingents included transport services and other auxiliaries. With the troops already here—said by some observers to be the forerunners of an army of 80,000.—They will take up positions

Treasury Presents Tax Schedules To Lawmakers

By RICHARD L. TURNER WASHINGTON, April 24.—(AP)—The treasury presented its new defense tax schedules to the house ways and means committee today and through John L. Sullivan argued emphatically against the substitution of a payroll tax or a sales tax for the proposed heavy imposts on incomes.

Lieut.-Col. Johnson Greets Newest Cadre



Surrounded by staff officers, Lieut.-Col. Edwin H. Johnson, commander of the Camp Davis station complement, was photographed at the Holly Ridge ACL depot yesterday afternoon as he watched the arrival of the first troops to reach the camp via train transportation.

Force Of 234 Regulars Arrives At Camp Davis

PASS THROUGH CITY Southport 'Eligible' For Small Boat Base

WASHINGTON, April 24.—(AP)—Rep. Clark (D-N.C.) announced tonight that Southport, N. C., had been listed by the Navy as "eligible" for a section base for small craft.

He explained that the actual establishment of such a base would depend upon the amount appropriated and its importance to the Navy in relation to available funds. He said the \$50,000 authorization for the building of small craft bases was before congress and he hoped that when the money is appropriated, Southport would receive an allotment.

BOND VOTE TALKED AT JACKSONVILLE

JACKSONVILLE, April 24.—The town board of aldermen tonight discussed the issuance of \$50,000 in bonds for water and sewerage improvements and authorized John D. Warlick, town attorney, to take up the proposal with the Local Government commission in Raleigh.

Mr. Warlick is scheduled to report at the regular meeting on May 6 and if his report is favorable, the board will probably set a date for the vote on the issue at that time.

R. F. Hill, superintendent of water and sewerage of the North Carolina department of Health, appeared before the board and discussed the great need of water and sewerage extension in Jacksonville in view of the increase in population because of the defense program.

The board named a committee composed of Clyde Sabiston and Hedrick Aman to investigate the proposal to establish a fire zone and set up water and sewerage tapping fees. It was instructed to report at the meeting on May 6.

WEATHER

FORECAST: North Carolina—Mostly cloudy, preceded by scattered showers in east portion, cooler in southeast portion Friday; Saturday partly cloudy, slightly warmer. (Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday) (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Temperature: 1:30 a. m. 65; 7:30 a. m. 68; 1:30 p. m. 77; 7:30 p. m. 71; maximum 79; minimum 62; mean 70; normal 65. Humidity: 1:30 a. m. 85; 7:30 a. m. 85; 1:30 p. m. 87; 7:30 p. m. 87. Precipitation: Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 2.15 inches. (From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.) High 9:55a. Low 4:12p. Masonboro Inlet 7:01a. 12:52a. 7:35p. 1:22p. Sunrise 5:29a.; sunset 6:51 p.; moonrise 5:07a.; moonset 6:12p. Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville on April 24, at 8 a. m., 10.85 feet.

Big Marine Base Work Is Started

Lieut.-Commander Madison Nichols Named Officer In Charge of Project

100 MEN BEGIN WORK

Start Erecting Temporary Quarters for Contractors Near Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, April 24.—As scheduled, work here today on the U. S. Marine Corp's new \$14,575,000 base five miles south of here on the New river, and simultaneously the Navy department announced the appointment of Lieut.-Commander Madison Nichols as officer in charge of the base.

Approximately 100 workmen, mostly carpenters, this morning began the work of erecting temporary quarters for the contractors in the proposed tented area at Jacman's station two miles south of Jacksonville just off the highway leading to Wilmington.

Lieut. Commander Nichols is expected to arrive here the first of next week. Meanwhile, his representative will be Lieutenant Smith, expected to reach here sometime today.

BUILDERS' LOBBY SPENDING BARED

Loftis' Secretary Testifies In His Damage Suit Against A. G. C.

CHARLOTTE, April 24.—(AP)—Testimony that thousands of dollars were paid out by the Carolinas branch of the Associated General Contractors for lobbying purposes and for various types of "campaign expenses" was introduced today in the \$200,000 damage suit of V. P. Loftis, Charlotte contractor, against the contractors' organization and its officers.

The testimony was presented by Mrs. Ethel Brown, secretary of Loftis at the time Loftis was executive secretary of the Carolinas branch of the Associated General Contractors.

On cross examination by John M. Robinson, one of the attorneys for the defendants, Mrs. Brown said that Norman Shepherd got as much as \$5,000 for lobbying and that considerable sums also went to Harry Buchanan for similar purposes. She said that expenditures from certain funds of the Associated General Contractors' accounts were heaviest during the time the legislature was in session.

She said upon further cross-examination that Jack Blythe received a check for \$1,000 and that Joe Blythe got one for \$500. The witness said that this money was for "political campaign expenses." Sometimes, she said, the money was paid out in cash and sometimes checks were made out to "cash."

E. P. Mitchem, vice president of the Loftis Contracting company, testified that he tried to settle the controversy between Loftis and prominent contractors who were officers of the A. G. C. and that Edwin Jones told him that it was no use for Loftis to try to buck the whole industry.

R. Lewis Patton, vice president of James J. Harris Insurance company, told of his company discontinuing writing performance bonds for Loftis. He said he talked with Fred N. Thompson and Earl Whitson, Charlotte contractors, about certain "rumors" which were alleged to have been heard about Loftis.

Loftis resigned as executive secretary of the A. G. C. to become a general contractor. After his resignation, he was expelled from membership in the contractors' association. In his suit, brought in superior court here, he contends that the action of the contractors' association and individual officers of the association injured his business.

Women Volunteers Plan Housing Survey In City

With more than 300 women volunteers scheduled to participate, an exhaustive house-to-house canvass of Wilmington and New Hanover county, to determine the exact number of houses, apartments and rooms available for rental purposes, will be next Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

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RAF ATTACKS TWO NAZI BATTLESHIPS

Steady Blows Are Believed To Have Put Scharnhorst Out of Action

LONDON, April 24.—(AP)—British bombers attacked the 26,000-ton German battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst at Brest last night for the 12th time, and the British press association said tonight these steady blows were believed to have put the Scharnhorst out of action "for some months."

"The Gneisenau is understood to have been hit amidship in an earlier raid," the news agency said. In reporting these attacks on the two sea raiders the air ministry did not claim direct hits. Full observation of the bomb explosions was impossible, it said.

Fires were started in the dock areas of Brest and at Le Harve, however, and direct hits were reported registered on an important power station at Ibbenburen, in northwest Germany, in a daylight raid.

The Dutch island of Terschelling was attacked, Nazi troops were machine-gunned, and three German ships off the coast were hit and probably destroyed, the ministry's communique related. One bomber was lost in the daylight operations.

Northward across the channel from Brest, Nazi bombs heaped more damage and death on the port city of Plymouth, England, which has attacked for the third straight night. At least twelve persons were killed.

Colombian Army Plane, With 14 Aboard, Missing

BOGOTA, Colombia, April 24.—(AP)—The Army announced tonight that a tri-motored Army plane with 4 persons aboard is missing on a flight from Cauca to Tarpaca, in extreme southeastern Colombia.

The plane left Cauca, also known as Puerto Leguisamo, in South Central Colombia, at 9:15 a. m. Tuesday, and has not yet reached its destination, the communique said, expressing a belief it was forced down in the jungle. Colombian warplanes and river boats on streams which are the headwaters of the Amazon are seeking the lost transport, which carried Captain Jorge Bernal, pilot; Customs Police Chief Sixto Lopez Lleras and his wife and a number of Army officers.

Work On Defense Housing Projects To Begin Soon

Housing Authority of the City of Wilmington, and immediately taken to Washington, D. C., by Henry Emory, HACOW director, for USHA approval.

ENGLISH ARE RESISTING

British Losses 'Extremely Light' But Nazis Lose Many Infantrymen

PIRAEUS IS ATTACKED

Many Women and Children Killed When Refugee Vessel Is Bombed

ATHENS, April 24.—(AP)—Hurled back when they attempted to storm the historic pass of Thermopylae with infantry, the Germans today brought up the heaviest artillery yet used in the Balkan campaign and shelled the British-Greek positions.

The stoutness of the British resistance was indicated by the fact that the Germans brought up 6-inch guns, which require elaborate emplacements, instead of using the mobile artillery previously employed in the campaign.

Ambulance drivers returning from the front said the British losses around Thermopylae had been "extremely light" but they understood that a German attempt to force the pass with infantry cost the invaders heavily.

Piraeus Attacked Meanwhile, German dive bombers, darting down in the rays of the setting sun tonight heavily attacked Piraeus, the Port of Athens, bombing a ship which was taking on refugees.

The ship immediately burst into flames and the government, identifying it as the 2,295-ton Hellas, a converted yacht, said many of the women and children boarding it for sanctuary from the war in Greek islands were killed or wounded.

Another steamer, said a home security ministry communique, was damaged heavily off the Greek island of Kea and two hospital ships, both with conspicuous Red Cross markings, were sunk.

There were no casualties aboard the hospital vessel Polikos, sunk at Methone, the communique said, but a few of the crew of the hospital ship Andros sunk at Loutra were reported killed or wounded.

Strike Other Cities Centering its raids on Greece's southern coast and the clusters of islands off it, the ministry said, the German raiders also struck at Corinth, Aigina, Eleusis and Megara. It said anti-aircraft fire brought down three Nazi bombers.

Air-raid sirens had been silent for most of the day and civil administration was functioning (Continued on Page Four; Col. 5)

BRITISH OUTLOOK IN AFRICA BRIGHT

Say Axis Descriptions Of Tobruk as Beleaguered City 'Misleading'

CAIRO, April 24.—(AP)—British sources, claiming the initiative in increasing ground sorties on the Libyan-Egyptian frontier, tonight said Axis descriptions of Tobruk as a beleaguered city were "misleading."

It is two weeks now since the Axis drive toward the Suez tailed off at Salum, just inside the Egyptian frontier, and with a steady growing strength the desert veterans at General Sir Archibald P. Wavell's headquarters here viewed the situation with confidence and some optimism.

NAZIS MAKE CLAIMS

Declare British Lines of Retreat to Egypt From Greece Crippled

MANY VESSELS SUNK

Radio Says Not One English Soldier Has Re-Embarked from Greece

BERLIN, April 25.—(Friday)—(AP)—British lines of retreat to Egypt from Greece have been considerably crippled by the Luftwaffe, German commentators said early today after the German high command claimed destruction of approximately 89,600 registered tons of shipping space in Greek waters in the last three days.

All these ships, it was said, were held in readiness to carry the English expeditionary corps and valuable equipment out of Greece. (A British radio commntator in a broadcast heard in New York said "not one British soldier has re-embarked from Greece.")

Athens Not Taken Although Athens has not yet been taken by the Germans, according to the latest military information available in Berlin, responsible quarters voiced the opinion that the Greek incident nevertheless must be regarded as practically closed.

It was pointed out that German troops still are an appreciable distance from the Greek capital and approaching it in the most methodical manner.

To the question as to when Athens would be occupied, a spokesman said the military leadership would not be misled into making mistakes by any "significant question of prestige."

The German army was described in the Berlin press last night as pushing on methodically towards Athens "by way of Thebes," about 35 miles northwest of the capital, with orders to occupy it without harming its ancient and splendid monuments.

These reports, not bearing the cachet of the high command, said the highways and railways to the north of Thebes were in full control of the grey-uniformed Wehrmacht.

The high command's daily bulletin, however, said merely that at Thermopylae, the historic pass some 100 miles north of Athens, "we succeeded in breaking into positions which were situated in especially favorable terrain." Thus the high command did not confirm the report by other German sources of yesterday, and implied in the Thebes report of today, that the Nazi army had broken through Thermopylae and opened the gate to Athens.

Tanks Taken The command bulletin did say that thirty British tanks were taken between Lamia and Larisa, north of the pass, and DNB, the German news agency, declared that as one large British camp hundreds of tanks and munition trucks and many 3-inch guns had been captured, as well as several thousand British soldiers.

There was no official announcement as to how the high command proposed to capture Athens without damaging the classic relics of antiquity, although on newspaper, The Deutsch Allgemeine Zeitung, remarked: "The Acropolis stands in the midst of war, spared by the German air force."

No such surpluses protected the Athenian port of Piraeus, and every military dispatch indicated that Stuks were droning over it like angry hornets.

"Make the British retreat as costly as possible," remained the order to the air force, and it continued (Continued on Page Four; Col. 2)

Dear Is Named President Of Newspaper Publishers

NEW YORK, April 24.—(AP)—The American Newspaper Publishers association completed its 55th annual convention today after naming Walter M. Dear, publisher of the Jersey City Journal as president, succeeding John S. McCarens, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Linwood I. Noyes, Ironwood (Mich.) Globe, was elected vice-president; Norman Chandler, Los Angeles Times, secretary, and William G. Chandler, Scripps-Howard newspapers, secretary.

The membership ratified and affirmed a declaration on national defense approved last February 24 by representative of the Anpa, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the National Editorial association and a number of regional publisher groups.

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