



PATTERN OF DEATH—Like a flock of phosphorescent prehistoric creatures of the air are the spectacular explosions, above of British star shells, bursting in formation in British naval action against Vichy French during the Syrian campaign. Destroyer is silhouetted in flashes of her own guns. Photo just arrived in San Francisco by clipper from Syria.

City Port Prospects Brighten GREATER USE SOUGHT

Traffic Manager of Harbor Reveals Statistical Report Sent From Here

Prospects of the Port of Wilmington handling an even greater amount of business, possibly taxing the harbor to capacity, loomed last night when it was learned that plans are underway in Washington to increase the use of South Atlantic ports in an effort to ease the strain on the larger eastern shipping centers.

MANAGER CALLS SUNDAY SESSION

City Officials Mum on Subject Discussed at Star Chamber Meeting

Two members of City council, fire and police chiefs and City Manager James G. Wallace met in a secret session in a chamber meeting in the city manager's office yesterday afternoon at which all outsiders, including a Wilmington Star reporter, were barred.

British Air Losses Heavy, Claim Nazis

BERLIN, Aug. 24.—(AP)—The high command asserted today that the British air force had lost 1,044 planes and the Germans only 127 in two months of air battling from the Mediterranean to the North Sea.

ARMY TO REVIEW HABINYAK CASE

War Department Said Likely to Reduce Drastically Terms of Imprisonment

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—(AP)—Authoritative sources indicated today that the War Department would reduce drastically the 10-year court-martial sentence imposed on John Habinyak, 26-year-old Pennsylvania selectee, for repeated disobedience of orders.

BLITZ ATTACK WRECKS CONVOY

25 Ships, Including Naval Vessels, Sunk by Submarines and Bombers

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—(AP)—The German high command in a special communique broadcast over the Berlin radio tonight claimed the sinking of 25 ships totalling 148,200 tons in a British convoy en route to Gibraltar.

PRIORITY STATUS PROBE PROPOSED

Searching Inquiry Into Effect of OPM Powers Due for Senate Hearing

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—(AP)—A rising tide of complaints that small industries are being cut off from essential materials generated bipartisan support today for a proposed congressional investigation of the government's system of defense priorities.

Good Prices Anticipated On New Bright Leaf Belt

RALEIGH, Aug. 24.—(AP)—Auction sales will open Tuesday on the 14 markets of the new Bright (Eastern Carolina) Tobacco Belt with the growers more cheerful over the outlook than at any time in recent years.

WEATHER

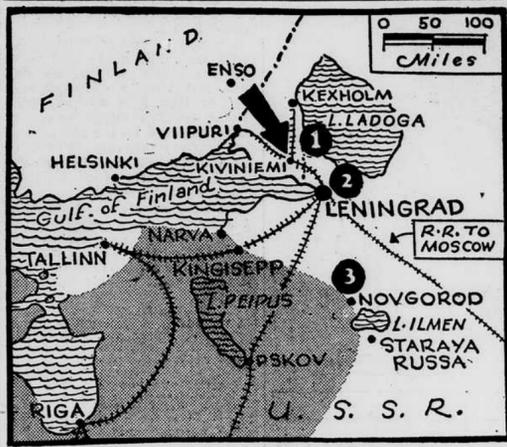
Table with weather forecast details including temperature, humidity, and precipitation for Wilmington and surrounding areas.

PERSIANS AWAIT ULTIMATUM; BRITISH READY TO STRIKE; CHURCHILL WARNS JAPANESE

SAYS U. S. WILL JOIN

British Prime Minister Declares Two Million Germans Die in Russia

By the Associated Press LONDON, Aug. 24.—Prime Minister Churchill, describing Adolf Hitler as "surprised, startled and staggered" at the bloody cost of the German invasion of Russia, declared in a broadcast tonight that Britain would join the United States in action against Japan, the Asiatic Axis partner, if the Japanese persisted in aggression.



THE BATTLE OF LENINGRAD—With a citizens army erecting barricades in Leningrad's streets, Soviet troops are reported making a to-the-death stand in the north city as German and Finnish troops storm the approaches. (1) Finns claimed drive down Karelian Isthmus to Kiviniemi

TROOPS WITHDRAWN

London Expected to Order Force Into Country If Nazis Granted Stay

TEHERAN, Iran, Aug. 23.—(Delayed)—An ultimatum to the Iran government is expected from London today, the British legation said, as tension over the continued presence of German specialists in this country grew near to the snapping point.

Mammoth Tank Battle Rages Near Leningrad

(By The Associated Press) MOSCOW, Monday, Aug. 25.—Mammoth tank battles raged today along the approaches to Leningrad and on the central front before Moscow where stiffening Red army defenders reported destroying 135 tanks and routing a Nazi infantry division over a battlefield littered with German armor.

No similar withdrawal was reported, however, from the Iraq and Baluchistan borders, whence British troops might be expected should the dispute break into open warfare.

GREENSBORO PIPE LINE AUTHORIZED

President Roosevelt Gives Go-Ahead Order on Long Gasoline Conduit

HYDE PARK, N. Y., Aug. 24.—(AP)—President Roosevelt has authorized the Plantation Pipe Line company to construct a line from Baton Rouge, La., to Greensboro, N. C., for "national defense purposes."

CIO CALLS OFF KEARNY STRIKE

Accepts 'Terms' With Navy Department; Work to Resume Immediately

KEARNY, N. J., Aug. 24.—(AP)—Decks were cleared today for resumption of work on \$493,000 worth of naval and merchant shipbuilding contracts held by the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock company as a naval official announced that first steps were about to be taken to reopen the idle yards and a union president stated that the 17-day-old strike was "definitely over."

More than 100 German cars and armored vehicles, countless guns and huge ammunition supplies were reported destroyed by the Russians.

The Red Star correspondent said the Germans, unable to check the Soviet charge, were rolled back leaving blazing tanks that resembled "fantastic torches" in the half-light of Sunday's pre-dawn.

Equally heavy fighting raged on the Southeastern front where a Soviet cavalry regiment was reported to have thrown German units out of a town identified as "B" and captured a German division headquarters. This fighting, although not specifically located, presumably was in the Dnieper bend.

On the Leningrad front, a dispatch to the government newspaper Izvestia said, crews fought like "real knights" of modern machines in the tank battles.

The morning communique acknowledged a new retreat by Red army forces defending Odessa but (Continued on Page Three, Col. 4)

The country long since has adopted a policy of eliminating foreign residents who are objectionable, regardless of their nationality, the note was reported to have contained.

Found Unsatisfactory (British sources in London yesterday said Iran's reply was being studied. There were indications it had been found unsatisfactory. The British said there was not likely to be any announcement concerning Iran's reply over the weekend, a possible indication that they are awaiting Iran's reaction to further (Continued on Page Three, Col. 8)

OIL SHIPMENT PRICES PEGGED

Maritime Commission Acts to Stabilize Ocean-Going Fuel Carrier Trade

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—(AP)—The Maritime Commission today placed a price ceiling on rates charged for ocean shipments of petroleum. The effect of the order applies to foreign flag tankers as well as to American vessels.

ANTI-NAZI TERRORISTS STRIKE AGAIN IN PARIS

Automobile Filled With German Officers Wrecked In Defiance To Berlin-Vichy Threat To Hostages

By the Associated Press VICHY, Unoccupied France, Aug. 24.—Anti-Nazi terrorists were reported today to have wrecked an automobile full of Germans near Paris in the first challenge to the German army to carry out its threat of shooting hostages for such acts.

Timoshenko's Red Army Said Caught In Pincer

(By The Associated Press) BERLIN, Aug. 24.—A great encirclement battle was declared by DNB to be developing today on the 150-mile sector between Kiev and Gomel and German dispatches told of increased civilian reinforcement of the Soviet Russian army.

Strong Soviet forces under Marshal Semyon Timoshenko, the news agency said, are being hemmed in between the left wing of Field Marshal General Karl von Rundstedt's southern army group and the right wing of Field Marshal General Fedor von Bock's central army.

Machine-gunning of 24 trains, destruction of 500 cars and dispersal of 12 large Russian marching columns were reported by German fliers along the central front.

The developing Kiev-Gomel battle apparently was one phase of two widely-separated thrusts eastward reported by the German high command in the zones of menaced Leningrad and Kiev, which coincided with renewed pressure upon two bitterly contested centers of isolated resistance, Tallinn and Odessa.

"Northwest of Kiev," the high command said, "pursuit of the defeated enemy continued across the Dnieper."

"Soviet forces defeated south of Ilmen lake (about 100 miles south of Leningrad) were thrown across the River Lovat. More than 10,000 prisoners and much booty fell into our hands."

Finns Continue Attack Finnish attacks against the Russians on both sides of Lake Ladoga, north of Leningrad, also were declared to be continuing "to make good progress."

The German threat to Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, was emphasized by a high command announcement of the Nazi capture of "the bridgehead at Cherkasi (on the Dnieper 100 miles southeast of Kiev), which had been stoutly defended by the enemy."

(DNB said Saturday that Cherkasi was captured and that Soviet resistance was broken on an island in the river.) In the Ukraine, said DNB, German fliers pressed attacks upon the withdrawing troops and motorized columns of the southern Soviet army of Marshal Semyon Budennyi. The high command said that German forces of foreign vessels tied up in American ports. (Continued on Page Three, Col. 6)

After an emergency appeal for volunteers to give blood for a transfusion in an effort to save the victim's life, nearly a dozen persons offered their blood. William Grissin, whose address could not be learned, was accepted and the transfusion given.

Hospital attendants said it was too early to determine whether additional blood donors would be needed, but said they had taken the list of those who volunteered and placed themselves on call at any time.

British Get Permission to Man U. S. Merchantmen

HYDE PARK, N. Y., Aug. 24.—(AP)—An executive order, which White House officials said today would have the effect of allowing British masters and crews to sail ships operating under jurisdiction of the Federal Maritime Commission, has been issued by President Roosevelt.

The order provides for the waiving of compliance with provisions of existing law relating to masters, officers, crew members and crew accommodations. It was issued under an act of last June which authorized, primarily, the seizure of foreign vessels tied up in American ports.