

GERMANS NERVOUS ABOUT 2ND FRONT

Cripps Says Government Cannot Talk About Its Plans For Offensive

BY NOLAND NORGAARD LONDON, May 17.—(P)—Mysterions talk by one of Britain's political leaders of an Allied offensive coincided today with signs of nervousness in the Axis over the Mediterranean front and reports from American correspondents arriving in Lisbon that the German and Italian people generally are disheartened and disillusioned.

A member of the British war cabinet Sir Stafford Cripps, declared that the government was as eager to form a second European front as the British public but could not talk about it publicly.

A Berlin broadcast reported that British military authorities in North Africa had carried out a regrouping of forces of the eighth army in Libya and that field marshal Erwin Rommel, the German armored force commander in Africa had held "important conferences" with Gen. Ettore Bastico, Libyan governor and commander-in-chief of Italian forces there.

The German broadcast explained that the British were reorganizing their forces because they "obviously were troubled by the reinforcements of German-Italian troops," but British dispatches quoted Swiss correspondents in Rome said Premier Mussolini and his generals were apprehensive over the possibility of an Allied drive in North Africa before the hot weather sets in in earnest.

These correspondents said the Italians had heard that United States and British sea and air forces were massing in the eastern Mediterranean. The German radio reported the first brush with an American four-motored bomber of the Consolidated type in Africa, declaring it was downed.

The determination of the British to defend Malta by reinforcing that fortress, even at great risk, also was said to have greatly impressed the Italians.

Cripps, Lord Privy Seal, told consultants at Bristol that the British government was "as keen and anxious" for the opening of a second front against the Axis as the people themselves.

"The only difference between us and you is that you can talk freely about it, whereas we cannot," he said.

"Already the Germans are getting uneasy at the militant offensive spirit of the British and American people in this matter of a second front," he added. "The Germans will, I believe, show something more than nervousness when our two governments translate that militant spirit into offensive action, as they certainly will at the moment they judge it opportune."

Tire companies are now turning out millions of inner liners which when cemented to the inside of the casing prevent small cuts or ruptures from pinching the tube. It is estimated that these liners will add 10 to 15 per cent to the life of the old casing.

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East Indies Child Evacuees In Australia



Almost too young to comprehend the tragedy that has come into their lives, these Javanese and Chinese children pose for the photographer in Australia. They were evacuated just before the Japanese invasion of the Netherlands East Indies. They are being cared for in a welfare center in Melbourne.—Central Press.

HITLER EXPECTED TO SHOOT WORKS

Shanke Says Winter Spent In Developing Army Of 300 Divisions For Offense

Editor's note: Edwin Shanko, native of Milwaukee, who joined the Associated Press in 1925 and was assigned to the Berlin bureau in 1937, wrote the following story recently in internment at Bad Nauheim, Germany, and brought it with him to Lisbon, place of exchange for United States and Axis internees.

By EDWIN SHANKO. LISBON, May 17.—(P)—The current German drive in the Crimea, in the opinion of observers who have had an opportunity to study the Nazi war machine at close range, is only the prelude to an attempt at an all-out offensive for which Adolf Hitler has been preparing some 300 divisions throughout the winter.

There is strong reason to believe this effort is intended to take the form of a double-pronged drive around both sides of the Black sea into the Near East to gain control of oil resources and territory which might enable Germany to stand up longer economically should she be forced into a defensive war.

It seems obvious that Hitler must "shoot the works" this summer because it probably will be his last opportunity to select the time and place for an attack which he hopes may prove decisive.

With the striking power of the United Nations increasing by leaps and bounds, his prospects of maintaining the initiative in a prolonged conflict are growing correspondingly dimmer. Therefore to him it is imperative to win control of the Near East, the Mediterranean area and at least European Russia.

To meet Germany's strategic and economic needs, Hitler has been marshaling his forces throughout the long winter months while trying—with a minimum expenditure of effort—to hang onto his gains in Russia.

The size of the German armed forces has been increased tremendously by the winter draft, and new reserves and recruits have been put through a rigorous course of training.

The acute labor shortage now existing in Germany reflects the extent to which the reich's manpower has been stripped to swell the army. Promotions among commissioned officers also have been unusually numerous recently—far more numerous than necessary for mere replacements.

To give troops long on active service a much-needed rest and to permit overhauling of equipment, the Germans resorted to a plan during the winter whereby only about one-third of the forces available for duty in the east were kept at the front.

Another third was kept at some distance behind the lines where the men could take life easier and still be available to back up the front in emergency, while the remainder were assigned to winter quarters at home or in occupied France.

These groups were switched at various times as conditions permitted.

At the height of the Russian campaign last year the Germans used approximately 15 armies—10 infantry armies and five armored. During the winter, however, Hitler used only holding forces on the Finnish fronts and three armies from Leningrad to the Black sea, supported by small local tank formations. So far as known in military quarters, no mechanized armies were used as such in the defensive winter campaign.

It is significant, perhaps, that Field Marshal General Seydmut List, who is one of Germany's

M. P.'S FOLLOW RIGID ROUTINE

Daily Physical Fitness Program Also Provides Recreation For Men

By SGT. JOHN J. BURNS You might think that M.P. looks pretty snug as he asks for your pass at the main gate or tells you to button your collar.

He looks like a monarch by divine right as he strolls through Holly Ridge wearing a Frank Buck hat, totin' a six-shooter and swinging a night stick.

But if you could see this same M.P. at about 1:30 o'clock of an afternoon, you'd learn he's paying a price for glamor.

We stumbled on this choice bit of news when we stopped at Farnsworth Hall on business (to get a soft drink) the other day.

There in the middle of the basketball court was a huge mat, and on the mat, clad only in shorts, were dozens of military policemen.

They were having a sort of battle royal; pitching, tossing, pushing, whirling each other around—fighting for the simple privilege of staying on the mat.

Mr. Law was fighting for survival! Groaning, puffing and snorting were fat M.P.'s and skinny M.P.'s. Under the circumstances we could have (1) chuckled or (2) sympathized. We chuckled.

Through Lieut. Robert L. Wicker, Military Police athletic officer and Lieut. H. A. Johnson, camp athletic officer, we learned that this strangely concentrated manpower was the M.P. physical fitness class.

Every day approximately 50 of the law enforcement boys attend the class in Farnsworth Hall.

Lieutenant Wicker explained that the course has two purposes. The first is to keep the men in shape for their sometimes dangerous assignments; the second, to provide the M.P.'s with recreation. In case you didn't know it, an M.P. doesn't have much time for play.

The class is conducted by Lieutenant Johnson, who gives the men "the works" for about an hour.

"We start out with 20 minutes of calisthenics, then, when the 'students' think they're through, we organize mass games, like the one they're playing now."

That game on the mat looked more like work than fun, we thought.

CRAZY SHOW PLAYS AT DAVIS FRIDAY

Comedy Production Has A Cast Of Twenty-Four Performers

What has been termed "America's craziest orchestra" headlines the "Crazy Show" sponsored by U. S. O. Camp Shows, which will appear at Theater No. 2, Camp Davis Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23. The comedy production has a cast of 24 performers.

The 12-piece orchestra is led by Milt Britton. It plays in leading theaters and clubs, starred in the last Ziegfeld Follies, in Rudy Vallee's film "Sweet Music," and has been featured in England and South America.

Other attractions in the show are the Kim Loo Sisters, American-born Chinese, swing singers with a distinctive style; the Honey Family, dancers and acrobats; Ross and Pierre, comedians and mimics; and Anita Lane, stage and nightclub dancer who does acrobatic and tap routines.

Milt Britton's orchestra first began its musical rough-housing in 1930 when the leader first conceived the idea of changing a straight dance band into a prop-smashing outfit. During a show, Britton's charges break fiddles and bows over each other's heads, bombard one another with quart of water, dried beans, talcum powder, blank cartridges and anything else that's handy.

Frank Ross, of the team Ross and Pierre, is an extraordinarily gifted mimic and has a large number of take-offs in his repertoire. From Henry Busse's trumpet through an entire Max Fleischer "Barnacle Bill" screen cartoon, his routine is deft and funny. His partner, by the way, is a girl, Anita Pierre, who is a gifted impressionist and songstress.

"Crazy Show" is one of 15 big-time musicals now on a nationwide tour of Army camps. It is presented free of charge.

Tentatively it is planned to have a show at 7 p. m. Friday and Saturday, with an added show at 9:15 p. m. Friday for the benefit of Officer Candidate school students who have a study period from 7 to 9 p. m.

Stern Tests To Come, Fran Gannett Tells Oglethorpe Graduates

ATLANTA, May 17.—(P)—Warning of stern tests to come was given the graduating class of Oglethorpe University here today by Frank Gannett, Rochester, N. Y., publisher of the Gannett group of newspapers.

"On your generation will fall the major role of winning this war and of meeting the tremendous problems that will follow when peace finally comes," he told the graduates.

"The future of America—yes, the future of the whole world is bound up in the life that you, and thousands of young Americans like you, are now commencing."

Fighting the war, the publisher said, is more than striving for victory. He said the war could be won and yet lost, "if in the winning this country should lose its grip on a way of life which has led to America's place in the world as the freest, happiest, wealthiest nation."

Long an advocate of aviation, Gannett declared outcome of the war will depend upon supremacy in the air, and added that aviation will be one of the greatest peacetime industries.

"But more important still," he added, "is the fact that if we develop an air force of 250,000 planes—which we can and perhaps must do—then we cannot only protect ourselves against any foe, but we can have much to say about the

NAVY CONSIDERING DRYDOCK FOR PORT

Admiral Moreell Will Discuss It With Local Delegation Today

By HOWARD SUTTLE (Star Washington Bureau) PRESS FOR DRYDOCK WASHINGTON, May 17.—The Navy Department is definitely considering a drydock for Wilmington. The matter has been brought to the attention of Admiral Ben Moreell, chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. Representative J. Bayard Clark has arranged for a Monday conference between Admiral Moreell, R. B. Page, publisher of the Star-News and the Star-News Wilmington correspondent.

Representative L. Mendel Rivers of Charleston, member of the powerful House Naval Affairs Committee has agreed to work with Representative Clark and Wilmington leaders in formulating tentative plans for completion of facilities at Wilmington whereby new merchant ships, constructed by the North Carolina shipbuilding company may be loaded for their maiden voyages at the port of Wilmington.

Since all new ships must go into drydock for final repainting after installation of equipment, it has been necessary to send vessels launched at Wilmington to drydocks in other coastal cities prior to placing them in service.

In event the Navy Department decides to locate a drydock at the New Hanover port, its facilities would be available to both the Navy and Maritime Commission.

Ration Gas To Save Tires It is generally conceded among government officials here that the gasoline rationing program now in effect was ordered more because of the rubber famine than of the petroleum shortage. The general public has obviously failed to realize the seriousness of the rubber situation. Among authorities who are acquainted with all the possibilities for obtaining rubber it is agreed that virtually all new, reclaimed, and synthetic rubber available during the next eighteen months must be used in the war effort. This means that the civilian motorist must make his tires last for at least eighteen months—maybe longer.

As a matter of fact, it is possible that the transportation situation may become so acute that the government may be required to regulate some of the automobiles now being used for civilian purposes.

Continue "X" Card Squabble Congress is still in an uproar over the inference in some newspapers that certain members accepted, under the gasoline rationing program, "X" cards entitling them to unlimited gasoline with the idea of using a portion of such gasoline for unofficial purposes.

Senator Robert R. Reynolds received a "X" card for himself and an "A" card for his wife.

Senator Josiah W. Bailey declined the "X" card available to members and accepted an "A" card for purchase of gasoline for the one car used by him and Mrs. Bailey.

None of the North Carolina Tidewater area congressmen, Representatives J. Bayard Clark, of Fayetteville; Graham A. Barden, of New Bern; and Hubert C. Bonner, of Washington, accepted "X" cards.

The gasoline requirements of members of Congress, like the requirements of other citizens, vary. Those who reside in hotels or apartment buildings in the center of Washington require less gasoline than those living across the District of Columbia lines in Maryland and Virginia.

There are some who use their own automobiles in calling upon various departments and agencies to transact the business of their respective states and districts. Others use taxi cab service. Use of street cars by members is not very extensive because of the great necessity for speed in the transaction of business with various agencies.

Therefore, gasoline rationing officials left to each individual member of Congress the decision concerning the extent of his gasoline requirements.

Congressional resentment was expressed against the conveyed idea that members who accepted "X" cards were taking advantage of their positions to receive "special privilege."

"As one member put it, 'members of Congress are presumed, when elected, to be honest. The fact that a member accepts a "X" card does not mean that he will not conserve gasoline. It is incumbent upon such members to use the gasoline available to them only for business and official purposes, under the same conditions governing use of motor fuel by a private individual of company to whom "X" cards have been issued.'

Members of Congress who will

be required to campaign for reelection this summer have received assurance from gasoline rationing officials that arrangements will be made whereby they will be permitted to purchase gasoline for such campaigns. The same privileges extended to such member would also go to his opponent. Members of the staff who issued gasoline rationing cards to senators and congressmen obviously acted under orders to issue "X" cards unless a member asked for a card permitting purchase of less motor fuel.

MORRIS AT CAPITAL

John Morris, who recently gave up his duties as secretary of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce to answer the call of Uncle Sam for service in the air corps, is now on temporary assignment with air corps general staff in Washington.

Warning On Firing Given At Camp Davis

Camp Davis authorities again warn of firing to be conducted during the week of May 18 on the various ranges in this vicinity.

At Ft. Fisher there will be firing on the anti-mechanized range May 22. The water area known as Sector No. 3 will be dangerous for 10,000 yards off shore.

The rifle range just south of Camp Davis on Route No. 17 will be in use the entire week, from May 18 to May 23, inclusive. All persons are warned to keep out of the posted area back of the range.

Small boat operators and owners should make note of the water areas rendered dangerous by this firing.

Another Application Filed For Gas Pipeline

WASHINGTON, May 17.—(P)—Trans-American Pipeline corporation announced today it had filed a new application with the War Production Board for priorities for steel to construct a pipeline from east Texas to Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S. C. A previous application was turned down.

More than nine billion cigarettes are smoked each month in the United States.

Private Jones

Come on, sarge, be a sport! Pvt. Jones isn't loafing. He's simply discovered a fresh chocolate cake made with Rumford Baking Powder. Can tell because it looks light, looks round and delicious, looks worth going after! FREE: Victory booklet of sugarless recipes! Help conserve vital supplies. Write today, Rumford Baking Powder, Box 88, Rumford, Rhode Island.

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NOTICE! Concord Chapter No. 1 R. A. M. Will Hold Its Slated CONVOCATION Monday Evening, May 18th 7:30 All Members Are Urged To Be Present JOHN S. MEEACHERN, Secy.

British Marines Best Devil Dogs In Shooting Match

PORTSMOUTH, England, May 17.—(P)—United States marines met the British marines in a shooting match here today, but the situation decidedly was not well in hand.

The Americans were beaten 1026 to 1126. Just to rub it in the British used old bolt action Lee Enfield rifles and whipped the Americans using semi-automatic Garands in a rapid fire contest.

Axis Raiders Sink 14 Ships In Week

By The Associated Press Long-range Axis submarines knifing at Allied supply lines in the Atlantic sank 14 United Nations vessels, it was officially reported last week — boosting announced Allied sinkings in that area since Pearl Harbor to a total of 189 ships.

Three other merchantmen were heavily damaged but reported still afloat — two having been towed out to sea.

Wichita Is Booming As Warplane Center

WICHITA, Kas., May 17.—(P)—A gigantic program of production of Army and Navy training planes is at least three factories in this area which has started a new industrial migration which is enervating villages and farms in eight states of young workers — both men and women — all on their way to Wichita.

From a complacent middle western city of 120,000, Wichita has grown into a war-mind, noisy center of training plane manufacture with 65,000 new inhabitants and the prospect of another 25,000 in the near future. Carl J. Hines, chamber of commerce president said today.

Three principal plants — Boeing Airplane company, Cessna Aircraft company and Beech Aircraft corporation — who manufacture among themselves the majority of the training planes in the United States have stepped up production until houses are at a premium, servants almost priceless, and women taxi drivers the rule rather than the exception.

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LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

TH' COFS AN' TH DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AN' DOZENS O' BIG SHOTS FROM TH' CITY, SURE HAVE BEEN GOIN' THROUGH "DOC" ELDEEN'S PLACE--DUG UP AND IDENTIFIED ALL THOSE FOLKS HED KILLED--

RICH FOLKS, MOSTLY, THAT HED ROBBED--MAKIN' IT ALL LOOK LEGAL, THROUGH HIS PRIVATE "HOSPITAL"--PLACE IS ALL CLOSED UP NOW, AND LOCKED--HMM--WONDER WHERE "DOC" ELDEEN IS--

WONDER IF HELL EVER GET CAUGHT--SOMETIMES IT SEEMS AS THOUGH ONLY LITTLE GUYS GET PUNISHED--BUT MAYBE IT ONLY SEEMS THAT WAY--

I SURE MISS CHUCK, SINCE HE WENT TO WAR WITH "DADDY" AND PUNJAB AND TH' ASP-- HEY--WHO'S THAT KID IN TH' ROW BOAT? SURE HANDLES THE OARS NICE, FOR A KID--

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