

FORECAST
NORTH CAROLINA: Friday cloudy with showers and not quite so warm in west portion. Mostly cloudy and continued warm in east portion.

Wilmington Morning Star

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ESTABLISHED 1867

500 Additional Nazi War Prisoners Due At Camp Davis Today

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE
Men Are All Selected For Good Conduct, Willingness To Work

Five hundred German prisoners of war are scheduled to arrive at Camp Davis today, and will be quartered in the recently erected stockade in Maple Hill, Area A, it was announced by Colonel Adam E. Potts, camp commander.

The prisoners, all selected for good conduct and willingness to work at a base prison war camp, will be put to work immediately at numerous and varied tasks which do not contribute directly to the prosecution of the war.

Two weeks ago yesterday, Felix A. Scroggs, manager of the local office of United States Employment Service, stated that there was a possibility of getting some additional prisoners of war assigned to this area, as the War Department seemed very anxious that all prisoners of war be put to work as soon as possible.

No Trouble

Scroggs also revealed, contrary to many rumors in this vicinity at that time, that there had been no trouble what so ever with the Germans. "There has been no escapes or attempted escapes by the men, and we are certainly proud of this record," he said.

Monday, of this week, law enforcement officers and officials of the prisoner of war camp on the Carolina Beach road joined in a blanket denial of the hundred of rumors to the effect that German prisoners are escaping from the heavily fortified camp.

"To our knowledge, not a single prisoner has escaped from the place," Sheriff C. David Jones announced, after conferring with the State Highway Patrol, and the Army personnel in charge of the camp.

Public Aid Asked

"We are asking the public to quell all the baseless sports of escapes. These are working a hardship on the county police, the sheriff's office, the city police, and the State Highway Patrol, as well as

GOVERNORS STUDY VOTING MEASURE

Broughton Says Election Has The Power To OK Federal Ballot

By The Associated Press

Governors of three states—California, Maryland and Kansas—assured President Roosevelt yesterday that their state laws will permit use of Federal ballots for service voting.

At least eight others, an Associated Press survey showed, were ready to give him qualified assurance that any required changes in state laws will be made.

Most of the governors, however, still had the question in the study stage. They were awaiting copies of the soldier voting bill, or opinions from state legal authorities, before replying to Mr. Roosevelt's telegraphed questionnaire.

The President, indicating their replies would guide his decision whether to approve or veto the service vote measure Congress has passed, asked the governors two questions yesterday:

1. Whether use of Federal ballots, as provided in the bill, is authorized by state law, and,
2. If not, whether the governor thought steps would be taken in time to make use of the ballots legal.

The survey showed governors of these states prepared to say they thought such steps would be taken: Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Nebraska, Vermont, Indiana, and New Mexico.

In addition, Governor J. M. Broughton of North Carolina advised that his state's election board had full authority to authorize the use of the ballots. The implication was that it would do so, although he did not attempt to commit the board.

Governor Simeon Willis said Kentucky would "do everything possible" to assist soldier voting.

Several of the governors reached in the survey indicated they thought the question of Federal ballots was unimportant, so far as their states were concerned, saying they considered state absentee ballot laws adequate.

TAXI OPERATORS WARNED BY ODT

Southeastern taxi-cab operators who have defied ODT rules by exceeding their daily allotment of gasoline will not be granted supplemental gasoline to operate their equipment when present quotas are exhausted the Wilmington District Office of Defense Transportation announced Thursday.

Present gasoline allotments for taxis do not expire until March 31, but already many taxi firms are running out of gasoline and appealing for additional supplies, George T. Musselman, ODT district manager in Wilmington, said.

"Every taxi-cab operator in the Wilmington district has been granted a gasoline necessary to serve the emergency needs of the public," Musselman declared.

"The ODT, however, has not made available gasoline for taxi-cab operators to make trips to roadhouses, places of amusement or long distance jaunts which are in no way essential to the war effort or to the maintenance of essential civilian economy."

The ODT manager said, "if taxi operators continue to seek such business and use their supplies of gasoline to handle it, it is inevitable that the public will suffer when taxi allotments are exhausted long before a new supply is available."

In conclusion he said, "if, as now seems likely, taxis lie idle for lack of gasoline in many communities, it is only fair that the public know that such conditions exist because the adequate supplies which have been allotted have been wasted by many taxi firms."

Liberty Ship Honoring Confederate General To Be Launched Soon

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 16.—(AP)—A Liberty ship bearing the name of Confederate General Francis S. Barlow of Savannah, is scheduled to be launched by the Southeastern Shipbuilding Corporation on or near Confederate Memorial Day. Sponsor for the ship will be Virginia Walton Purse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Purse, her father being a past commander of the Francis S. Barlow camp. Mrs. Lucille Taylor Johnson, a descendant of Jefferson Davis and wife of Brig. Gen. Leon W. Johnson, bomb wing commander now in England, will act as matron of honor.

Civilian Internees Tell Of Nazi Tortures As They Leave Gripsholm

JERSEY CITY, N. J., March 16.—(AP)—From tortured Europe today came bitter tales of starvation, inquisition, privation and of dogged hope that the day of an avenging invasion was near.

The stories were brought back by non-official repatriates on the Swedish diplomatic exchange liner Gripsholm, who were being disembarked slowly. But while the process dragged, they were patient in the knowledge that soon they would be free—many to see America for the first time.

By midafternoon about 400 of the 662 passengers had left the ship,

Over 70 Nazi Planes Shot Down In Raid

SPECTACULAR FIGHTS

Southern Germany Pounded In Great Strength By Americans

LONDON, March 16.—(AP)—American fliers attacking southern Germany in great strength fought one of the most spectacular aerial battles of the war today in a smashing sequel to record RAF night raids on Stuttgart and other targets by more than 1,000 heavy bombers which dropped a staggering 3,860 tons of bombs.

The Germans threw up a powerful defense fighter force which for the first time used swift four-engine planes and fired rockets in mass, but the American fighters alone shot down 76 of the Nazis against a loss of 13. The German bag of American bombers was 22.

Very Great Strength

The U. S. Army communique said that the American Flying Fortresses and Liberators flew out in "very great strength," indicating that the force in this latest daylight attack probably was as strong as the armada which attacked Berlin on March 6. Similar phrasing was used in the war bulletin on that raid and the correspondents later were permitted to estimate the number of the heavy bombers at roughly 850.

The American fighters in their 6-to-1 victory were only 7 short of their all-time one-day record of 83 German fighters downed in attacks on Berlin earlier this month.

The Brussels radio left the air late tonight, indicating the RAF might be carrying the attack into another night.

Targets Given

Berlin said the American targets, bombed through clouds, were the aircraft city of Augsburg and the steel plant of Augsburg.

(Continued on Page Seven; Col. 1)

FDR STEPS INTO FINNISH DISPUTE

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP)—President Roosevelt, appealing directly to the Finnish people to end the "hateful partnership" with Germany, today threw the weight of his office into eleventh-hour British-American efforts to persuade Finland to accept Moscow's peace terms.

Although Finnish parliamentary action was construed in Stockholm and other capitals as tantamount to rejection of Soviet armistice proposals, it is understood that this government has received no such official interpretation and still holds the hope that Finland will not close the door to a way out of the war.

This hope was apparent in Mr. Roosevelt's appeal, made by him in the name of all Americans.

"It has always seemed odd to me and to the people of the United States," he said in a statement, "to find Finland a partner of Nazi Germany, fighting side by side with the sworn enemies of our civilization."

"The Finnish people now have a chance to withdraw from this hateful partnership. The longer they stay at Germany's side, the more sorrow and suffering is bound to come to them. I think I can speak for all Americans when I say that we sincerely hope Finland will now take the opportunity to disassociate herself from Germany."

The Chief Executive's statement was broadcast throughout the day in Scandinavian languages and on short wave transmitters beamed to Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

TROOPS RECALLED

STOCKHOLM, March 16.—(AP)—The Bulgarian army command has recalled Bulgarian occupation troops from northeastern Serbia, a Swedish press dispatch from Sofia said today. No reason was given.

OPEN SALES OF U.S. GOODS ASKED

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP)—Demanding open market sales of surplus government property, Rep. Cochran (D-Mo) said today a government employee had purchased two lots of over-age dry cell batteries from the Army, one for \$15 and one for \$65, and part of them were resold later for \$20,000.

Cochran told the house a preliminary investigation by the Army showed no fraud or collusion, but that regulations governing sale and disposal of salvaged Army property were being tightened.

The Missourian gave the house this account:

The batteries, all over age and

CIVILIAN INTERNEES TELL OF NAZI TORTURES AS THEY LEAVE GRIPSHOLM

but 310 of them were cleared last night with the official party of diplomatic attaches, Red Cross personnel, newspapermen and wounded servicemen. Navy officials said the task of clearance would last well into tomorrow.

Those who came ashore gave vivid pictures of Europe down-trodden by Nazism. One came from 26-year-old Marie Torczak, of Pittsburgh, Pa., who arrived shabbily dressed in ersatz clothing.

She had reached Poland to be married just two weeks before the German campaign which obliterated the country. Her fiance fell

410 U.S. Troops And 23 Planes Destroyed By Mistake At Sicily; Allies Mopping Up In Cassino

TOWN IS DEMOLISHED

Some Groups of Germans Apparently Had Reentered the Wreckage After the Shattering of This Town, Which Lies on the Road to Rome, by Yesterday's 2,500-ton Bomb Assault.

Foot by Foot

Devastation wrought by the air and accompanying artillery bombardment handicapped the advance of Allied infantry and tank units, which were forced to poke their way foot-by-foot through the wreckage.

In a dispatch dated "With The Fifth Army at Cassino," Lynn Heinzelring, Associated Press Correspondent, said that while Allied soldiers fought surviving Germans in the southern part of the town, other attack units were clawing their way up monastery hill and seemed to be nearing their goal—the Nazi-occupied ruins of its Benedictine Abbey.

Allied gunners poured hundreds of high explosive and smoke shells into the already battered abbey, he said, explaining that the smoke shells were aimed at cutting off German observation of Allied activities in the valley before the town.

GERMANS CLING

Though shaken by the deluge of steel from planes and guns, German parachute troops who survived the blasting slung desperately to the ground, seeking to delay as long as possible their retreat westward along the Via Cassina toward Rome. From the surrounding hills German multi-barreled mortars poured a steady fire into the ruins of Cassino.

Allied officers doubted the enemy could hold out long in the few steel and concrete strongpoints that escaped destruction. With all the town's buildings flattened, these emplacements stood out starkly and were exposed to the

ITALIAN FIGHTING SAID A SUCCESS

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP)—Allied forces have accomplished their strategic goals in Italy, War Secretary Stimson declared today, blaming the weather — not German resistance — for slowing the pace of the campaign.

He answered recent criticisms of the Italian progress with a news conference summary listing six basic Allied objectives as accomplished facts. He threw in an optimistic report of the fighting on other fronts.

As an example of the war against Italian weather, Stimson said Wednesday's saturation bombing of Cassino has been on the books for two weeks—held up only by the train, snow and mud hampering Allied aircraft.

Stimson said the Allies have done these things they set out to do in Italy:

Knocked the Italians out of the war as an Axis weapon, opened the Mediterranean to unhampered Allied shipping, seized southern Italian airports thus giving our air forces access to the Balkans, taken over much of the Adriatic, kept 19 German divisions out of the Russian fighting by pinning them to the Italian campaign, inflicted enemy losses substantially heavier than our own.

CHURCHILL READY FOR CHARTER ROW

LONDON, March 16.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill today dared critics of the Atlantic Charter policy to test the governments strength with a vote of confidence in Commons.

Churchill declared confidently that if they wished to call for a censure vote, he was ready to take up the challenge at any time.

The issue was originally raised in a motion signed by 70 members of Commons, asking debate to determine whether recent statements of Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden suggested Polish territorial adjustments reflected abandonment of the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

Although this motion is not sponsored by any organized political party, said Churchill, taking up the issue quickly, nevertheless it is couched in hostile terms, is signed by 70 members and wears the aspect of a vote of censure.

Experienced parliamentary observers doubted that the motion's backers would carry their move to a censure vote.

WELFARE GROUP SAYS COUNTY SILENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL HOME

Although the Welfare division of the Council of Social Agencies commended the county government for the improvements now in progress at the juvenile detention home and the county home, they wanted to know why the Board of Commissioners had not filed the answer to the list of recommendations for improvements made after the group's meeting February 10, and they demanded "more action" as they met in the Sorosis club-room Thursday morning. Since these recommendations, the welfare body maintained that no answer has been

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received from the county government.

Welfare workers also requested the county government to show cause why the two WPA-constructed buildings at the county home, now being used for store-houses, can't be used for the detention of juveniles. The group also has asked why the infirmary on the property, discovered only Thursday morning by an investigating since there is a shortage of hospital and infirmary space in the

Addison Hewlett, Sr., chairman

MacArthur's Comeback



ON March 17, 1942, Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Australia from the Philippines, vowing that he would return to recapture those islands from the Japanese. This map and chart show how far MacArthur and central Pacific land and sea forces have gone toward fulfillment of that pledge.

Land-Based Bombers Assault Truk As Infantrymen Invade Manus Isle

DRAFT OUTLOOK GROWING DARKER

War Production Will Be Sacrificed To Get Men For The Army

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP)—To build a young man's army, the high command has decided to sacrifice war production if necessary, the steel industry was informed today by Chairman Donald M. Nelson of the War Production Board.

Military requirements call for the combat use of virtually every available able-bodied man in the country under 26, Nelson was quoted—by highly reliable sources—as telling a closed meeting of the Steel Industry Advisory Committee.

An official account of Nelson's message, released later, gave a rephrased version but quoted Nelson as declaring that the Army and Navy need men and "they must get the men, even if it means losing production."

The steelmen were informed, it was officially revealed that they must expect "severe manpower losses" in the next few months because of the draft.

Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey, who also addressed

MacArthur Is Reported In Good Military Position On 2nd Anniversary

By LEONARD MILLIMAN
Associated Press War Editor

American amphibious forces invaded Manus island, largest of the Admiralty group in the Southwest Pacific, Wednesday, while land-based Liberators made their first raid on Truk presaging frequent bombings of Japan's greatest Central Pacific stronghold.

Infantrymen splashed ashore on Manus under the cover of a heavy barrage from warships, planes and artillery, the latter firing from nearby islands. Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today. The invaders suffered only minor losses as they pushed to within half a mile of Lorengau airfield, the only one in the Admiralty group that

REDS SEAL OFF BLACK SEA PORT

Rail Line Serving Disaster-Ridden Nazis In Southern Russia Cut

LONDON, March 16.—(AP)—The Red army has cut the Odessa-Zhmerinka trunk railway serving hundreds of thousands of disaster-ridden Germans in southern Russia, sealed off the big Black Sea port of Bikoalev on three sides, and wiped out three encircled German divisions originally estimated at 45,000 men, Moscow announced tonight.

Nikolaev's capture was believed to be imminent.

Vapnyarka, 25 miles from the Dniester River frontier of Rumania's Bessarabian territory, fell on Wednesday to Marshal Ivan S. Konev's victorious Second Ukraine army, said an order of the day issued by Premier-Marshals Stalin.

Whole trainloads of equipment were seized and the Russians pushed on to envelop 32 more localities in the drive toward Rumania, a later communique said.

The seizure left the Germans to the east only two slender rail escape routes into Rumania, and the Russians now drawing within artillery range of pre-war Rumania apparently were seeking to crash into that country and head off the retreat of huge German forces falling back in confusion on Odessa.

A total of 176 towns and villages were taken during the day by two Soviet armies, Moscow said, while in the Proskurov sector near the old Polish border the Russians still were beating down fierce German counterattacks. Tarnopol, inside

Joan's Paternity Suit Must Be Tired, Court Of Appeals Declares

LOS ANGELES, March 16.—(AP)—Joan Berry's paternity suit against Film Producer - Actor Charles Chaplin must go to trial despite defense objections, the District Court of Appeals held today.

The appellate court denied Chaplin's petition for a writ of mandate to compel superior court to dismiss the civil suit, brought by his former protégé, who claims he is the father of her five months old child, Carol Ann.

Defense attorneys held that Superior Judge Stanley Mosk should have dismissed the suit in accordance with a previous stipulation in which all parties agreed that if blood tests indicated the actor was not the child's father, the suit would be dropped.

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LONG KEPT SECRET

Sergeant Breaks Military Censorship To Tell Of Incident At Gela

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(AP)—The loss of 410 American airborne infantrymen in 23 transport planes shot down by anti-aircraft fire from their own ground and naval forces during the invasion of Sicily was disclosed today by the army after a sergeant broke the military censorship which kept the incident secret eight months.

Without explanation of the secrecy previously imposed, an official memorandum was issued describing the mistake which occurred as airborne reinforcements were being flown into the Gela sector the night of July 10-11, 1943.

"Some 20 Planes"

Sergeant Jack Foisie, a correspondent of the army's overseas newspaper Stars and Stripes, made the first public announcement of the affair in a speech yesterday to San Francisco's Commonwealth Club. Foisie said "some 20 of our planes went down" from Allied anti-aircraft fire.

Asked about the sergeant's statement at his press conference today, Secretary of War Stimson replied that incidents of that nature had occurred during the war, but that he was unable to give details of the particular case and "did not recognize the figures" used by Foisie.

Reports of the Sicilian incident had been current for several months, although official confirmation could not be obtained, and the War Department, after requests were made for a more definite reply than the secretary's, made public several hours later the details of the action.

ACTION IS SEEN IN LEAF STRIKE

DURHAM, March 16.—(AP)—Major developments are expected to occur at a meeting of Durham's 2,400 striking employees of the American tobacco company when they gather tomorrow night at a session which likely will mark the turning point in the long-drawn-out dispute.

The exact nature of these developments cannot be revealed prior to tomorrow night's session but it is expected that they will be such that Durham's strike of tobacco workers will end by the early part of next week.

Conferees between leaders of the local units of the International Tobacco Workers Union of America and other American Federation of Labor officials have been going on virtually continuously for the past week.

Though the precise contents of the information which will be given to the union membership tomorrow night cannot be disclosed at this time, it is believed by most informed sources here that the workers will return to their jobs — on the basis of Friday night's developments—and that the case will go to the National War Labor Board for ultimate settlement.

REINFORCEMENTS

The operation was intended, the Army said, to land 2,500 troops of the 82nd Airborne Division as reinforcements within the Allied lines in the Gela area.

"This force, consisting of 170 air craft, received anti-aircraft fire from enemy ground forces and from friendly naval and ground forces with losses of 23 aircraft and 410 personnel," the memorandum said.

"The flight arrived in the battle area immediately following an enemy bombing attack and while their flares were still in the air."

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