

Supreme Meet To Study Draft Of Young Men

M'NUTT HEADS BODY Deferments For Key Workers To Be Rationed Under Plan

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(AP)—Paul V. McNutt tonight created a new committee to ration occupational draft deferments for men under 26, and secured a Navy agreement that deferments should be considered for key men in railroading, logging, coal mining and other war-supporting industries.

Previously, the Army had held out for deferments only in a group of industries producing "must" munitions — chiefly those needed for an invasion of Europe.

McNutt, as war manpower chairman, named himself to head the committee, and gave it the power to decide which industries should get special treatment. The group will decide also how many young key workers can be deferred in each activity.

The action, announced at a press conference, was believed to provide a solution for the manpower crisis precipitated by the Army's sweeping demand for virtually all able-bodied men under 26.

McNutt allowed just three days for government agencies to say how many youths in each industry they want deferred as essential and irreplaceable.

The government agency in charge of each industry will present to the committee by March 27 a list of the "must" industries under its jurisdiction, and a proposed budget of deferments for each.

Each of the agencies concerned will have membership on the new body. Thus WPB will participate in the decision on ODT's deferments, and vice versa.

(Continued on Page Five; Col. 3)

Reds Drive On Rumania And Black Sea



The upper arrow on the above map indicates where the First Ukrainian army pushes toward Lwów. Other arrows show a new offensive in the Proskurov sector that took Kurilovskiy-Murovany, which Berlin said was apparently aimed at trapping German troops in the Vinnitsa area.

\$26,065 GIVEN IN DRIVE HERE

Wilmingtonians Making Average Response, Officials State

Wilmingtonians having donated \$26,065.27 in the first six days of the Red Cross War Fund campaign, according to the Friday night audit, shows that citizens are making a satisfactory average response, officials stated.

PRICE CONTROL HELD NECESSARY

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(AP)—Two of the administration's top men—War Production Chief Donald M. Nelson and Federal Reserve Chairman Marriner S. Eccles—urged Congress today to keep the country under stabilization controls beyond the war's end.

Nelson declared, however, that the need has passed for a national service act, recommended some time ago by President Roosevelt to authorize the drafting of civilian labor for essential industries.

Let's Give RED CROSS WAR FUND

SENATE APPROVES GI AID MEASURE

Provides Almost Everything Except Bonus For Servicemen

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(AP)—The Senate passed unanimously late today a \$3,500,000,000 "G-I bill of Rights" measure providing virtually every suggested aid to veterans of this war except adjusted compensation (bonus) payments.

POWELL IS HELD UNDER BOND HERE

Cpl. Robert C. Aldred, Battery C, 111 AAA, Gun Battery, Camp Davis, was fatally injured on U. S. Highway No. 421, South, eight miles from Wilmington, when he was struck by a car operated by Joe Powell, Negro, of Wilmington.

Powell is being held under a bond of \$3,000 following an inquest yesterday afternoon, Coroner Asa W. Allen stated last night, adding that he is being charged with murder.

Cpl. Aldred was attempting to direct traffic with a flashlight, while a small Army truck and trailer were negotiating a turn in the road, and had already stopped several cars when he was struck by Powell, highway patrolmen said.

Reich Battered In Great Strength By RAF; Berlin Is Main Target; Reds Slay 20,000 Nazis In Push

Rumania Admits Nazis' Occupation

LONDON, March 24.—(AP)—The Rumanian legation at Ankara, Turkey, announced today that it had confirmed the German occupation of Rumania, and diplomatic quarters in London agreed that Hitler's Balkan grab had forestalled any effective peace move by the Nazis' nervous satellite nations.

The possibility that the Allies have been quick to stir up as much trouble for Hitler as possible in the disension-torn Balkans was seen in Berlin radio reports that paratroopers in British uniforms had been dropped into Rumania and a Rumanian Jewish ring dealing with them had been caught.

There were numerous indications that the Nazi maneuver had not ended with the occupation of Hungary and Rumania. Turkish advisers reported that German reinforcements had been rushed to all points on the Rumanian and Bulgarian coasts of the Black Sea in an apparent German move to prepare a stand against the onrushing Russian army.

The Moscow radio broadcast a Tass dispatch dated Istanbul which quoted "trustworthy sources" in the Turkish city as reporting that "German billeting officials recent-

WHISKEY COUPON BOOST IS DENIED

The state Alcoholic Beverage Control board yesterday rejected a proposal presented by W. D. MacMillan, chairman of the New Hanover County ABC board, that it liberalize the current stringent liquor ration during the remainder of March because of the large surplus here which will be subject to an additional federal tax of \$3 a gallon on April 1.

This tax must be paid by the consumer and will increase the price of liquor now on the shelves of the stores "50 cents and up" a bottle.

The action of the state board was taken at a meeting in Durham, according to a telegram received by MacMillan from Carl L. Williamson, chairman.

62 MILE ADVANCE Russians Threaten To Trap Thousands Of Enemy Troops In East

LONDON, March 24.—(AP)—Russia's First Ukraine Army in a 62-mile flanking smash has killed 20,000 Germans and broken through to the Dniester River at the gateway to the Balkans five miles from the former Rumanian province of Bucovina, Moscow announced tonight, threatening to trap thousands of battered German forces to the east.

A four-day avalanche of Red army power unleashed by Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov south of by-passed Tarnopol engulfed 400 towns and villages and reached the river at Aleshchiki, in the southeastern tip of old Poland just 26 miles north of Czernowitz, big Rumanian rail hub controlling lines into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Southern Rumania.

The killing of 20,000 Germans, along with the capture of 3,500 more, was announced in the Soviet daily communique.

Premier-Marshal Stalin announced the break-through to the Dniester at Zaleschiki, and also the capture en route of the "operationally important" rail junction of Chortkov, 22 miles to the north, and Gysyatin rail station 17 miles east of Chortkov. An order of the day, recorded by the Soviet monitor, recorded the gains.

MELLETT QUILTS AS AIDE TO FDR

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(AP)—Lowell Mellett, gray-haired veteran behind the new deal scenes, quit his \$10,000-a-year job as administrative assistant to President Roosevelt today to become a newspaper columnist for the Washington Star.

The resignation was announced at a news conference by the President who told reporters he was sorry to see Mellett leave the administration family. The President used the occasion to praise publishers who print views contrary to their own.

Mellett, a newspaperman with years of Washington background, went to work for the government in 1937 and headed a trio of war-born alphabet agencies—the National Emergency Council (NEC), Office of Government Reports (OGR), the motion picture bureau of the Office of War Information (OWI).

Foreign Developments Hold Capital Spotlight

Washington was the scene yesterday of these rapid-fire developments in the field of foreign affairs:

- 1. President Roosevelt appealed to Germans and other peoples of Europe and Asia to shield and grant asylum to refugees from Axis executioners.
2. Secretary of State Hull conferred with Republican Congressmen seeking specific data on U. S. foreign policy.

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK WASHINGTON, March 24.—(AP)—President Roosevelt, saying hun-

JAPANESE MASS FOR CHINA PUSH

Navy Search Plane Bombs Ant Islands, In The Caroline Group

In the Pacific all news yesterday was bad for Tokyo. The Navy announced American submarines had sunk 11 more Japanese ships—two tankers, three transports, five freighters, and a converted minelayer.

AIR ASSAULT DID LITTLE IN ITALY

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, March 24.—(AP)—The Germans have thrown powerful new artillery and aerial support into their defense of Cassino, their ground troops are resisting as desperately as ever in the ruins of the mountain-locked stronghold, and it becomes plain that last week's terrific air assault did little to help Allied forces break through into the Roman valleys.

Enemy artillery fire from north of the town has mounted steadily in recent days, and between 40 and 50 Nazi planes swept low yesterday to shoot up Allied traffic on Highway Six behind the lines.

New Zealand troops wormed forward in the ruins at the southern edge of Cassino and an Allied spokesman reported they made "some little progress." German parachute troops clung to wreckage of the Continental and Des Roses Hotels and other buildings.

U. S. HITS FRANKFURT

LONDON, Saturday, March 25.—(AP)—"Aircraft of the RAF bomber command were over Germany in strength during the night, with Berlin as the main objective," an authoritative British source announced today hard on the heels of the American daylight attacks which pounded Friday Frankfurt and Schweinfurt and the French airfields of Nancy and St. Dizier as the air war against Germany raged without pause.

The German radio declared the night raid on Berlin was on a large scale. High explosives and fire bombs blanketed all Berlin, the Germans said.

The Germans, who had offered little opposition to the daylight attacks, made it a "battle of the capitals" Friday night with the longest, most determined raid of the week on London.

It was their fourth consecutive night raid, and several waves of bombers caused casualties and damage with high explosive and incendiary bombs. A well-known building, a famous old church, and a publishing house were among London structures hit, along with many residences. The Germans also struck in Southeast England and East Anglia.

About 250 American bombers and approximately the same number of fighters, including RAF Mustangs, took part in each of the two daylight missions—a total of 1,000 planes—significantly demonstrating the Allies' growing command of the air, the raids were made at a cost of three bombers and five fighters although two of the targets, Frankfurt and Schweinfurt, are vital industrial centers heavily defended in the past.

The escort destroyed two Nazi aircraft on the ground and shot down a third as it was taking off. The Americans could not shoot any great numbers out of the air because, as a headquarters communique observed, "few German interceptors challenged either the fighters or the bombers."

The mission was the 19th in March for the Eighth Air Force, topping the record of 18 operations for a month, established in February. Flying Fortresses struck 400 miles to Frankfurt and 475 to Schweinfurt, marking the 14th time in March that American heavies had bombed German soil and providing a striking contrast to the days when the Eighth Air Force had to pay heavily to penetrate that deeply.

CHURCHILL VIEWS U. S. 'CHUTISTS

'Chutists Told Day Coming 'Soon' When They Will Do Big Jump

LONDON, March 24.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill on his first inspection of an all-American force in Britain watched hundreds of parachutists in a mass leap at a U. S. air-borne base yesterday, clambered about a glider, discovered a jeep inside and pronounced the air-borne troops "the most modern expression of war."

"Soon," he told the parachute troops who gathered around him on his surprise visit, unannounced until today for security reasons, "you will have the opportunity of testifying to your belief in all those great phrases embodied in the American constitution."

Mentioning the comradeship in arms of American and British troops, Churchill said "our troops, British and American, at this moment are shedding their blood side by side in Italy, at Cassino or in the Anzio bridgehead, fighting hard and losing heavily in the struggle."

The Americans in Britain, he said, "are preparing themselves to strike a blow for a cause which is a greater cause than either of our two countries have ever fought for in by-gone days."

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

Farm Machinery Probe Situation Asked By Solon

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(AP)—Farm machinery exported under lend-lease has been less than 2 percent of the American supply, President Roosevelt said today, and emphasized that those exports are helping feed the American army overseas, soon to rise to 5,000,000 men.

Mr. Roosevelt replied indirectly at his press-radio conference to complaints, in Congress and elsewhere, that farm machinery is being shipped abroad when American farmers are unable to get all they want.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)