FORECAST

NORTH CAROLINA: Wednesday rain and continued cool. South Carolina: Wednesday cloudy with somewhat warmer in south portoin in afternoon.

Wilmington Morning Star

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND BATAAN

VOL. 77. — NO. 59 | WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1944 | FINAL EDITION | ESTABLISHED 1867

Nikolaev, Key Black Sea Port, Falls To Red Advancing On 175 Mile Front; Enemy Fails To Challenge Air Armada

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Radio Duelists Meet—With Smiles

Walter Winchell (left) meets his radio opponent, Rep. Martin Dies (right), Democrat of Texas, in what seems to be a friendly atmosphere in the reception room of a radio station in Washington after their verbal duel on the air waves. First to broadcast was Winchell with his statement about Dies and his committee on un-American activities. Dies followed him on the air.

30 PLANES DESTROY

250 To 500 Heavy U. S. Bombers Rain Explosives On French Targets

LONDON, March 28. — (AP) — Striking in a campaign of mounting intensity against bases from which the Luftwaffe defends Europe, 250 to 500 U. S. heavy bombers rained explosives and incendiaries on four airfields in northern France today.

Heavily-escorted formations of Flying Fortresses slapped at Chartres, 40 miles southwest of Paris; Chateaudun, 30 miles farther southwest; Reims, 80 miles northeast, and Dijon, 160 miles southeast of Paris.

As yesterday, when nine French airdromes were attacked by between 750 and 1,000 big bombers, the German air force seemed to be sulking on the ground, leaving the defense to thinly-scattered batteries of antiaircraft guns. One pilot in the flight to Reims said he didn't see a single enemy pursuit.

"Unable to bring the Luftwaffe to battle," said the U. S. communique announcing today's raids, the American escort fighters "attacked enemy planes on the ground, destroying 30, including many bombers and three fighters were missing.

Thus in two days the Eighth Air Force has splintered 12 key enemy airdromes and destroyed at least 72 Nazi craft on the ground at an expenditure of eight bombers and 13 fighters.

As an indication of the Luftwaffe's declining strength, on March 18 when the Eighth Air Force destroyed 82 planes in the air during raids upon Augsburg, Friedrichshafen and other targets, the Nazis knocked down 43 U. S. bombers and 10 fighters.

It was the 22nd major American operation of the month.

In a two-day campaign which has taken the four-engined planes almost to the Spanish border, an estimated 3,000 tons of bombs has been dropped by 1,000 to 1,500 heavy bombers. Today's bombers were covered by an equal number of Thunderbolt and Mustang fighters, anxious to repeat their feat of yesterday of wrecking 38 enemy planes

Army Says Aim Of Great Bomber Offensive Is To Destroy German Air Force Entirely

WASHINGTON, March 28— (AP) — Elimination of enemy air opposition to the Allied invasion forces in western Europe has been the main objective of the bomber offensive against Grmany since last July 1, the Army said today.

The campaign now has reached such a point, the report said, that the Nazis must decide whether to defend their factories or hoard their planes to meet the invasion.

In an analysis of the bomber strategy, the Army made it clear that continuing operations against aircraft factories are necessary because of the "tremendous recuperative powers" of German industry.

At the beginning of 1943, the Army reported, Germany set out to treble fighter production. By July 1 production was up 50 per cent and the AAF and RAF-which up to then had devoted their principal attention to the submarine industry-began a systematic campaign against aircraft factories.

By Sept. 1, the bomber offensive had cut monthly production of single engine German fighters to approximately three-fourths of the July 1 level. In all of 1943, the Army reported the bomber attacks prevented production of an estimated 2,500 fighter planes.

"New plants which were constantly thrown into operation provided replacement capacity, not expanded capacity" said the report.

Early this year the scale of the bomber attacks was increased enormously and as of March 1 the monthly production of single engine fighters had been cut two thirds below the Jan. 1,1944, level twin-engine fighter capacity slightly more, and bomber capacity by one third, the review said.

"That does not mean, however," the Army explained, "that German combat aircraft production had been permanently reduced to that extent."

When a plant is bombed out, the Army explained, top-flight German production men rush in to determine whether it is better to rebuild there or move equipment and personnel.

Production may be lost only for the time necessary to move the workers as a second or third shift into another factory.

Assuming for purposes of illustration that only three production complexes—an assembly plant fed by component building factories—exists for a certain type of plane the report concluded that serious impairment would result only when the third had been knocked out.

And even that would be only temporary, it was pointed out with the first and second plants being rebuilt or others being erected.

GARRISON IS CRUSHED

Other Forces Strike Swiftly Across Flat Steppes Toward Odessa

LONDON, Wednesday, March 29 —(AP)— The Red army yesterday crushed the German garrison of Nikolaev, former Soviet Black Sea fleet base at the mouth of the Bug, and in a surprise night crossing 60 miles upstream joined other Russian forces striking swiftly southward across the flat steppes on a 175-mile front toward Odessa, 75 miles away, Moscow announced today.

In Rumania, other Red army units were assaulting the key rail city of Iasi, the Berlin raido said, but Moscow has not confirmed this report. If true, it would be the first Soviet smash into Axis territory.

Another German broadcast late last night indicated Russian troops had encircled Kovel in the east-central part of old Poland, saying Nazi troops there were being supplied by air. Kovel's 170 miles from Warsq and 35 miles from the 1939 German-Russian demarcation line on the Polish Bug River.

Premier-Marshal Stalin announced the fall of Nikolaev, which the Germans had held for two and one-half years and a midnight bulletin told of the night crossing of the Bug, the capture of Domanevka, 77 miles north of Odessa, and 40 other localities on the opposite side of the river.

The Russian threat to Odessa was especially acute, Moscow said, because in Bessarabia far to the west Soviet units were within eight miles of the Odessa-Tiraspol-Iasi railroad — the last main German supply or escape artery.

Nikolaev, which sticks out on a spit of land into the Bug River and therefore is surrounded by water on three sides fell after several days of fierce fighting in which the remnants of the German garrison where hurled into the Bug River to drown or be mowed down by machine-gun fire, Moscow said.

The Germans had been ordered to hold it "at all costs," and to take it the Russians had to storm through a formidable mass of trenches, barbed-wire and minefields laid out on the eastern side of the city, the bulletin said. After that was done there were 24 hours of intense stret fighting before the Germans were wiped out or surrendered.

The Russians were declared to have seized 176 towns and villages in six sectors during the day.

In the southeastern part of old Poland the Russians drove to within 40 miles of Czecho-Slovakia with the capture of Gvozdets, a district center of the Stanislav region only 11 miles northeast of Kolomea on the Czernowitz - Lwow railway. That prepresented a 10 - mile

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RED CROSS DRIVE WILL END TODAY

$54,676.93 Collected By Workers Toward Local Goal Of $75,000

A total of $54,676.93 was reported at Red Cross campaign headquarters last night, which represented division reports up until 12 noon yesterday.

The first report from the North Carolina Shipbuilding company showed a total of $10,000 collected from the workers.

Today is the last day of the drive, and divisional chairmen and co-chairmen are reminded to make their reports to campaign headquarters in the Tide Water building before 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Officials disclosed last night that $21,323.07 remains to be reported in order for Wilmington to reach its quota of $75,000.

A divisional report is given at the end of this report.

Winners of the Red Cross Window Display contest were announced last night by the committee of judges.

First place was awarded to the Wilmington Furniture company for their Prisoner of War display.

Second place went to the Pender Furniture company, which had displayed 25 Red Cross boxes, which were addressed to all parts of the world.

Third place was awarded to the La Mode shop, for their display

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HOSPITALS HERE ARE GIVEN FUNDS

James Walker Receives $7,051 From The Duke Endowment Trustees

According to information received here last night, Duke Endowment trustees appropriated $674,379.43 to 97 hospitals and 40 orphan homes in the Carolinas at their meeting yesterday. The list included an appropriation of $7,051 to the James Walker Memorial Hospital and $3,807 to the Community hospital, Wilmington.

Announcement of the action from the endowment offices said the appropriations were made on the basis of the institution's charity work in 1943.

Other hospitals receiving funds in this vicinity were: Columbus County, Whiteville, $1,223; Good Shepherd, New Bern, $2,179 and Thompson Memorial, Lumberton, $401.

The largest appropriations were granted to Duke, Durham, $51,657; City, Winston-Salem, $28,820 and Baptist, Winston-Salem, $26,889.

No orphan homes in this vicinity received appropriations.

OPA SOUNDS OUT RATIONING HEADS

RALEIGH, March 28— Theodore S. Johnson, Raleigh district OPA director, said yesterday that chairman of all local War Price and Ratioing boards have been written personal letters by Price Administrator Chester Bowles asking them for frank expression of opinion about the service that OPA is giving the public.

Johnson said eastern North Carolina board chairmen were asked to tell just what criticisms they have of the OPA program, to offer suggestions for improving the operation of the OPA, and to state frankly their opinion of the operations at the local board level.

"OPA wants to know what the man on the War Price and Rationing Board is thinking, how the public is being served, and wants to improve the OPA in every way possible," Johnson declared.

"At the same time," he said, "to further the understanding of local price and rationing problems, two board chairmen and two chief clerks will be picked in the Atlanta region to go to Washington and present first-hand the problems of the OPA and the local War Price and Rationing Boards."

"In other words," Johnson concluded, "we want to know just what suggestions a member of the local board might want to make to his own congressman, for example, about suggestions for improving O PA. The OPA is old enough now to really be able to serve the public fully and well on price control and rationing. We want to know the problems and ways of best taking care of them."

BUTLER IS HEARD IN CHAPLIN CASE

LOS ANGELES, March 28.—(AP)— Charlie Chaplin's butler testified at the comedian's Mann Act trial today that Chaplin admitted having had sexual intercourse with Joan Berry in New York.

The graying, fortyish butler, Edward Chaney, was a prosecution witness at the actor's trial on charges of transporting 24-year-old Joan to New York in 1942 for immoral purposes

His testimony, given at the close of the government's direct case, corroborated that of Miss Berry. Chaplin's attorney, Jerry Giesler, said in his opening statement that the actor would deny there was any act of sexual intercourse in New York.

After the government rested, Giesler moved for a directed verdict of acquittal, on the ground that the prosecution testimony was insufficient for a conviction and that Miss Berry had repeatedly requested a trip to New York.

Chaney's testimony followed a brief resumption of Miss Berry's cross examination during which she denied indignantly that she had demanded a $150,000 cash settlement from the actor on the ground that he was the father of her child."

Giesler asked Miss Berry the question about her alleged $150,000 demand on Chaplin after he had succeeded in gaining court

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

ARSONIST CAUSED BLAZE IN 'FRISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.— (AP)—An arsonist turned a Fourth Street hotel into a whirlwind of flaming death today.

Twenty-two persons lost their lives and some of the 30 injured may die.

Police agreed with Fire Marshal Frank Kelly that there was no question the blaze in the New Amsterdam hotel was set; that five other fires last night, and five Sunday night also were the acts of a fire bug.

The deaths occurred just after midnight, and 12 hours later only one person had been identified.

A policeman who helped remove the corpses said "you could tell they were human beings. But that was all."

The fire turned the three-story building into a huge torch. Some victims never got out of their rooms. Others leaped, screaming into flame-filled light wells. Others, panic-stricken, ran into corridors and piled up, body on body, in area-ways where they suffocated and then burned.

Some leaped from windows and many received grave injuries. One of the two women victims of the fire died that way. She was Mrs. Mamie Pulosky 43, wife of a Navy man. Firemen saw her standing in a third-floor window, her clothing in flames. They cried to her not to jump but she slipped into the darkness and crashed to death on th esidewalk.

Ration Point Values Heads To Quit Guessing To Be Cut By OPA

WASHINGTON, March 28.— (AP)—The Office of Price Administration announced tonight that the ration point value of ready-to-eat hams will be reduced from three to two points per pound next month.

Ration point values for fresh and cured hams will remain unchanged.

April point values for all meats, fats and cheese will be announced later this week. They will become effective April 2.

BOMBERS BLAST PACIFIC BASES

292 Tons Of Explosives Dumped On Bismarck Sea Targets

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Wednesday, March 29.—(AP)—Allied bombers dumped 292 tons of explosives in swings over enemy bases around the Bismarck sea areas, headquarters announced today.

The bombers hit Kavieng, New Ireland, Rabaul, New Britain, Japanese positions on Bougainville island in the Solomons, and the prime bases at Wewak and Hansa Bay on the northeastern New Guinea coast.

Heaviest hit were the New Guinea coastal points, where the Allied planes already have dumped around 2,500 tons of bombs so far this month, greatly reducing Japanese air and supply operations.

In the latest raids, 7 tons blasted the Wewak installations and 84 tons smashed the enemy gun positions at Hansa Bay. Rabaul, a daily target of Solomons-based planes, received 46 tons and other aircraft from the South Pacific hit Kavieng airdromes and defenses with 50 tons.

Strikes at the Japanese troop and gun positions around the Allied Torokina beachhead perimeter on Bougainville totaled 38 tons of bombs.

Other planes ranging to Kaimana in Dutch New Guinea set an enemy cargo ship afire.

C. G. AUXILIARY SET-UP TO START

An intensive training program for approximately 100 members of the Cape Fear division of the Coast Guard Auxiliary who are in the Coast Guard Temporary Reserve when on active duty, will be started Saturday morning, Lieut. Tom E. Murrell (CGR(T), commander of the division, announced today.

Plans for the program have been under way for sometime and definite schedules were mailed to the members yesterday.

According to the arrangement, the men will serve as crew members on Coast Guard patrol craft in the nearby sounds and Cape Fear river, under the supervision of regular Coast Guardsmen. One boat will be operated daily on the inland waterway, from Topsail Inlet to Little River, with the Temporary Reservist serving 24-hour tours of duty. The patrol will start at 8 a.m. Two craft will be operated daily on the river, on general harbor duty, on 12-hour tours of duty, starting at 6 p.m.

The type of instruction to be offered is considered highly practical and will deal with all phases of operation of small craft. The regular Coast Guard personnel will be in charge.

In order to discuss the new duty and "iron out" any misunderstanding, a supper meeting for all members of the division will be held Friday night at 7 o'clock at Lieut. Murrell's fishing lodge, located one and one-half miles beyond Scotts Hill, on the inland waterway. Because of the impor-

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 6)

Roosevelt Still Favors A National Service Act

WASHINGTON, March 28.—(AP)—President Roosevelt indicated today that he still favors enactment of national service legislation although Manpower Chairman Paul V. McNutt told Congress there is no present need for it. The Chief Executive declined direct comment at his press-radio conference on McNutt's statement but on the question of how best to use manpower, he declared there are a lot of people who are not aiding in the war, that it is a matter for soul searching and that if people won't search their own souls someone should do it for them.

Asked about a suggestion from Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey that 4Fs be drafted for work battalions, particularly for harvesting, Mr. Roosevelt said that left out a lot of other groups.

Help with harvests is needed, he added, from many others—high school boys and girls and even newspapermen. Everyone who possibly can should be helping to win the war, he said.

Asked directly how his views on national service jibed with McNutt's statement, the President said he would first have to read what the manpower chairman said because there might be some other sentences in it.

Opposing a national service law now, McNutt expressed the opinion there might be "real merit" in the idea of job controls over 4F's.

In testimony before a House Military Subcommittee, the chairman of the War Manpower Commission also said there was "every possibility," as a result of the Army's demand for younger men, that occupational deferments will be denied or seriously restricted later for "all men under 28 or even 30."

McNutt's emphasis on greater use of 4F's—men deferred as unfit—and on the Army's demand that inductees be young was repeated in an address during the day by Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey.

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BODY OF PRETTY BLONDE IS FOUND

DETROIT, MARCH 28— (AP) — Sheriff's detectives questioned a Detroit physician tonight concerning the death of Joyce Raulston, attractive 14-year-old blonde school girl whose stabbed and battered body was found on a refuse dump this morning.

Detective Thomas Gentile said an anonymous tipster named the physician as the girl's assailant. No formal charge had been placed against him, however.

Attempts also were being made to trace a man who telephoned the girl's mother Monday morning with the information "Joyce is married and has gone to California" and the owner of a tan automobile which a passer-by reported having seen coming from the dump in the early hours today.

Tire tracks led to the top of a short hill at the foot of which lay the girl's body both lungs punctured by stab wounds and with part of her clothing ripped away. Shoes, a skirt and parts of underclothing were discovered about 100 feet distant.

Officers said it appeared the girl's head had been battered with a concrete block that lay near the body.

Sheriff's deputies said there was evidence the girl fought desperately with her assailant on the lonely dump. There are no houses within two blocks of the scene.

MERGER OF ARMED FORCES PROPOSED

Committee Of 23 Solons Named To Study Post-War Military Needs

WASHINGTON, March 28.—(AP)— A committee of 23 members of Congress was established with a $25,000 fund today to study the postwar military needs of the United States, now bristling with the greatest arsenal in history.

As the House adopted the plan, Rep. Fish (R.-N.Y.) called for peacetime maintenance of the greatest navy and airforce in the world as a club over incipient aggressors.

He recommended that the committee look into the advisability of merging all the armed forces into the comprehensive department of national defense.

Fish spoke in behalf of the resolution introduced by Rep. Wadsworth (R.-N.Y.). The group is to consist of seven members each from the military and naval affairs committes and nine from the House at large with Representative Woodrum (D.-Va.) as chairman.

In the discussion preceding the unanimous voice vote for the study group, Chairman Sabath (D.-Ill.) of the Rules Committe urged that it study disposal of surpluses.

"I'm not satisfied with the way surplus property is being disposed of," he cautioned. "The government is losing millions by reckless disposition of surplus property no longer needed by the War and Navy Departments."

Fish digressed to the subject of the Atlantic Charter when Rep. Mundt (R.-S.D.) urged passage of his plan for a committee to study peace terms. The New Yorker said it wasn't feasible to take up what was the function of the executive department, then declared that it wouldn't do any good until "we find out Russia's and Great Britain's war and peace aims."

BAREFOOT

WASHINGTON, March 28. —(AP) —The country will soon go barefoot unless some of the 83,000,000 cattle on hand are slaughtered for leather. Representative Hall (R-NY) told the House today. "Well it'll soon be warm," interjected Representative Rankin (D-Miss).

Let's Give

RED CROSS WAR FUND

JAPS CONTINUE BURMA ATTACKS

Efforts To Clear Invader Said To Be Satisfactory In Communique

NEW DELHI, March 28— (AP) — Efforts of British troops to clear Japanese invasion columns from the Tiddim Imphal road south of the communications center of Imphal in India "continue satisfactorily," Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters announced today.

However, another Japanese force pushing into India through the Somra Hills was making determined attacks in the vicinity of Ukhrul, 32 miles northeast of Imphal, with hard fighting in progress. Japanese pressure there was increasing, an Allied communique said.

(A Japanese broadcast said "mopping-up" operations were in progress against remnants of three brigades of American and British airborne troops who landed March 5-6 in the vicinity of Katha far behind Japanese lines. An Allied communique several days ago said this force, which threatened to cut the Japanese railroad supply line between Mandalay and Myitkyina, was being supported by planes.)

A third Japanese column thrusting toward Imphal from the southeast appeared to have been halted just inside the India border. Today's communique said a Japanese attack was thrown back in that area and that Allied troops captured one position.

American-trained Chinese troops in northern Burma stormed and captured the village of Hkawnglawyang in the Mogaung Valley, and in the same vicinity American troops of Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell used bayonets and grenades to wipe out Japanese suicide squads between the Hkawnglaw Kha river and Shaduzup.

Allied operations progressed near the western coast on the Arakan front, today's communique said, with the Japanese suffering heavy casualties in abortive coun-

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FLORIDA RELIEF TRAINS CUT OUT

WASHINGTON, March 28—(AP)— The Office of Defense Transportation (ODT), declaring the travel emergency has passed, today declined to approve the operation beyond March 31 of a daily special northbound train out of Florida.

The decision not to extend the service was particularly warranted, ODT said, "in the light of heavy freight traffic and shortage of freight power and personnel on many of the lines involved."

The Florida West Coast-Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Railway were each authorized on March 1 to run one extra-day coach train daily for northbound service only. The latter road abandoned its special service two weeks ago, declaring: "Apparently we have taken out all the people who want this type of accommodations."

ODT reiterated that demand for Pullman services and de luxe coach reservations remain as heavy as ever.

The Florida East Coast-Atlantic Coast Line special train has transported an average of 430 passengers daily since the emergency service was inaugurated.

MAYOR TO ATTEND JOB CONFERENCE

Mayor Bruce B. Cameron, of Wilmington, will attend a meeting in Raleigh Thursday at which chief executives of 12 North Carolina war plant cities will confer with Governor J. M. Broughton on creation of community "Stay-On-The-Job" committees, urged recently by Major General Frederick E. Uhl, of the Fourth Service Command, it was announced late yesterday.

Being unavailable for comment, it is not known whether or not City Manager A. C. Nichols will attend the conference.

Fourth Service Command Headquarters said Broughton's conference would be the first of seven state meetings by representatives of labor management and the public.

M'Nutt Wants Military Of Ready To Eat Hams When War Will End

WASHINGTON, March 28.— (AP)—Manpower Chairman Paul V. McNutt wishes American military leaders would stop soon.

predicting the war will be over

He told the House Military Committee today that every such prediction moves "many war workers to leave war jobs and seek a place in civilian production, and makes more difficult the task of recruiting workers from non-essential to essential activities."