

# Macedonia Rated Vortex Of Whirlpool In Balkans

## Section's Difficult Problems Defy The Wisdom Of A Modern Solomon

**X. MACEDONIA**  
This is the last of a series of ten articles under the general title, Orphan Areas of Europe. The stories have been prepared by the National Geographic Society for the Wilmington Star-News to inform readers about disputed areas in Europe whose forms of government and economic relations with neighboring countries may have to be determined by negotiations among the Allied Powers.

By National Geographic Society  
The vortex of the political whirlpool known as the Balkan peninsula—where history has long reflected strife, violence and oppression—is a loosely-bounded area called Macedonia. There difficult problems defy the wisdom of a Solomon for over two million people of varying racial strains, creeds, and tongues live in some 55,000 square miles divided among three neighboring nations.

Macedonia, roughly fan-shaped, is bordered on the southeast by the Aegean sea and stretches east, north, and west from Salonika, its chief city and principal port. Touched on the east by the Nestos river and the majestic Rhodope mountains, Macedonia includes much of the southern lobe of Yugoslavia, and reaches on the west to the Albanian border. Macedonia's generally accepted southern border meets the sea south of the famed Mount Olympus. The region is drained by two important rivers, the Vardar and the Struma, which have cut valuable outlets for the inner Balkans. An important east-west route which skirts the sea from southern Greece to Istanbul (Constantinople) passes through southern Macedonia.

Salonika, ancient and cosmopolitan "city of a thousand sails," is rich in history. An important Greek colony, it was a busy Roman port, and became the second city of the Byzantine empire. Sacked by the Saracens in 904 and by the Normans in 1185, it later fell into the hands of the Venetians. The Turks took the city in 1430 and ruled it for nearly 500 years. A beautiful white tower, built by Suleiman the Magnificent at the height of Turkish power, still stands guard over Salonika.

The city's importance today stems from the fact that it is the only first-class port of the north Aegean and lies at the mouth of the Vardar depression, route of the principal railroad line from Belgrade, Budapest, and beyond Yugoslavia, deprived of good Adriatic ports by the lofty Dinaric Alps, looks south for an outlet, as does Bulgaria. Three nations—Greece, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia—share Macedonia, making it a bone of contention.

The northern reaches of Macedonia are rugged with rugged and diverse mountain chains which garble hilly plains. There the climate is continental, and a nomadic shepherd's life is the lot of most inhabitants. Farther south, a series of broad alluvial plains stretches across the seacoast regions—fertile basins with a Mediterranean climate which produces grains, tobacco, grapes, figs, apricots, and similar crops. Much tobacco smoked in America and labeled Turkish is really from Macedonia.

This southern section is better developed and more populated. Beneath its surface lies oil, as yet practically untrapped. Along the coast itself, the vastly irregular Khalkidike (Chalcidice) peninsula thrusts its three rocky promontories trident like into the sea. The easternmost of the three is the site of famous Mt. Athos' monastery, where it has long been the rule that no woman—not even a female animal—shall be admitted.

Macedonia's population consists of Serbs, Bulgarians, Greeks, nomad Vlachs, Albanians, Turks, Gypsies and Jews. The inhabitants speak a dozen different tongues and are divided into seven rival religious groups. There, indeed, is the land of Babel—a "tangle of tongues" a "dumping ground of peoples" a museum of racial strains.

A crossroads battleground since

## RECREATION WEEK PROGRAM LISTED

A teen-age dance at Vance center tomorrow night and a basketball game with the women of Hewes center playing a team from Camp Lejeune Thursday will highlight the week's city Recreation department calendar. The week's schedule:

**Monday**  
8-10 p. m.—Bingo at Lake Forest center.  
7:30 p. m.—Teen-Age Club dance at Vance center.  
3 p. m.—Rhythm band and folk dancing at Cornelius Harnett.  
3:30-4:30 p. m.—Bible club at Hewes center.

**Tuesday**  
7:30 p. m.—Church meeting at Lake Forest Community center.  
7:30-9:30 p. m.—Scout Troop No. 10 Lake Forest Community center.  
7:30-10 p. m.—Teen-Age club at Vance center.

**Wednesday**  
7:30 p. m.—Teen-Age meeting at Lake Forest center.  
8-11:30 p. m.—Square Dance at Hewes center.

**Thursday**  
7-10 p. m.—Cape Fear Rifle club, Lake Forest Community center.  
8-11 p. m.—Women's Basketball game, Hewes center vs. Camp Lejeune.

**Friday**  
7:30 p. m.—Teen-Tavern club at Cornelius Harnett.  
8:30 p. m.—Square dance at Vance center.  
8-11 p. m.—Teen-Age club, Lake Forest Community center.

## Veteran Pension Claim Form Error Discovered; New Instructions Issued

Short-forms of No. 526 used at separation centers for the filing of pension claims for veterans have been mailed to local service-connected officers by mistake. These forms should be returned to the nearest Veterans' administration office at once, Leonard Barrett, local contact representative of the North Carolina Veterans' commission, said.

Veterans who have received one of the forms by mistake will have to fill out the regular form, Barrett explained.

A Copenhagen restaurant offers 157 varieties of sandwiches, including bird nests and cactus flower honey.

In prehistoric times, Macedonia was subdued by ancient Persia in the early 5th century B.C. It has known the rule of Philip and Alexander the Great, the sway of the Romans, Byzantines, barbarian Slavs, and Turks. Saint Paul established the first Christian churches there, and Saints Cyril and Methody, creators of the Slav. ic alphabet still used throughout eastern Europe, went north from Salonika to enlighten the barbarians.

In the 15th century the rising tide of Islam inundated all the Balkans and beat against the gates of Vienna. For nearly 400 years the tide remained full and strong, but in the 19th century a strengthening undertow of nationalism caused Turkish power to recede, and Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania and Bulgaria gained their independence.

Macedonia was among the last sections to be liberated from the Ottoman Empire. The desire to end Turkish rule in Macedonia caused the new Balkan states to attack their former master in 1912, and the Sultan's power in Europe was reduced to small holdings in Thrace.

Division of the spoils caused a war among the Balkan allies the next year, and at its conclusion Macedonia was divided among Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece. Disappointment at her small share caused embittered Bulgaria to join the Central Powers in 1915. Greece received additional parts of Macedonia in 1919, shutting Bulgaria off from the Aegean Sea. The latter country heeded Hitler's promises 20 years later and joined the Axis nations.

## ORPHAN AREAS OF EUROPE



Macedonia is the ultimate in confused border lands—a region of numerous and long-conflicting interests. There, in an area the size of Wisconsin, live some 2,000,000 people divided by a dozen different tongues and into seven rival religious groups. Three nations—Greece, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia—share this bone of contention; two of them would like a larger share in order to have an outlet on the Aegean Sea.

## LOWE WILL HEAD BISHOPS COUNCIL

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Feb. 23.—(AP)—Bishop Titus Lowe, of Indianapolis, Ind., was elected president of the Council of Bishops of the Methodist church today, becoming the highest ranking Methodist official in the United States.

Bishop Lowe succeeds Charles G. Selecman, of Dallas, Tex. Bishop Paul Bentley Kern, of Nashville, Tenn., was elected vice president, and Bishop G. Bromley Oknam, of New York city, secretary.

Also elected today were new officers of five of the six colleges of bishops. They included: South-Central jurisdiction—President, Bishop Paul E. Martin, Little Rock, Ark.; secretary, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Central jurisdiction—President, Bishop Edward W. Kelly, St. Louis; Secretary, Bishop Robert N. Brooks, New Orleans.

Wood engraving was practiced by the Chinese as early as the 10th century.

## Former Wilmingtonian Promoted To Colonelcy With Army Tank Forces

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy B. Woodbury, Sr., 1107, Chestnut street, have been informed of the promotion of their son, L. B. Woodbury, Jr., to full colonel, U. S. Army.

Colonel Woodbury entered the service November, 1940, as a first lieutenant in the infantry. He was later transferred to the Armored forces as a tank commander with the 13th Armored division.

In 1944, Colonel Woodbury was sent overseas as liaison officer with the Chinese Armored Force serving 23 months in the Burma and China theaters.

A graduate of North Carolina State college and former district manager, Raleigh district, Remington-Rand company, Colonel Woodbury, who will be discharged in April, will return to a similar position in Birmingham, Ala.

**SETTLEMENT SEEN**  
ATHENS, Ga., Feb. 23.—(AP)—Settlement of the 178-day-old strike at the plant of the Athens Mfg. Co. here appeared a distinct possibility today when it was announced that the company had made a proposal for a contract.

## MARINE DEVULGE PLANS FOR NEGROE

CAMP LEJEUNE, Feb. 23.—The Marine Corps will continue the training of Negro personnel on a limited scale, Maj. Gen. John Marston, commanding officer, has pointed out.

Through their wartime records they have won for themselves permanent peacetime roles as Marines, the general explained, saying the steward branch would be retained with personnel being trained at Montford Point.

Negroes served with the Marines during World War II for the first time when on June 1, 1942 the corps broke a 167-year tradition and began accepting their enlistments.

The first Negro recruit arrived here Aug. 26 of that year. Since that time, General Marston said, they have served in the Pacific area as well as in this country compiling a record that led to them being retained on a limited scale.

Americans own or control 70 per cent of the world's refining capacity.

## LOCAL LUTHERANS TO ATTEND SYNOD

Wilmington pastors and laymen will attend the 142nd annual convention of the United Evangelical Lutheran synod of North Carolina at Winston-Salem, Feb. 26-28.

The Rev. Walter B. Freed, St. Paul's and the Rev. Carl Fisher, St. Mathews' Lutheran church, will be attendance together with laymen to be selected by the two churches today.

Dr. Franklin C. Fry, national Lutheran figure, who has recently returned from a tour of devastated countries in Europe, will deliver two addresses during the meeting.

He will present the needs of Christian people as a preliminary of Lutheran world action appeal for a sum of \$10,000,000 to be used in the work among the population of war-torn countries.

The synod, organized in 1803, has 166 congregations, 100 ordained ministers and more than 48,000 members. Dr. Jacob L. Morgan, Salisbury, will preside.

Recently Douglasville, Ga., citizens began boasting of their young mayor, 28-year-old Harold T. Mosely, Sr.

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**TAX LISTING**

The time for listing taxes has been extended for a short time. Please list promptly and save penalties.

J. A. ORRELL  
COUNTY AUDITOR