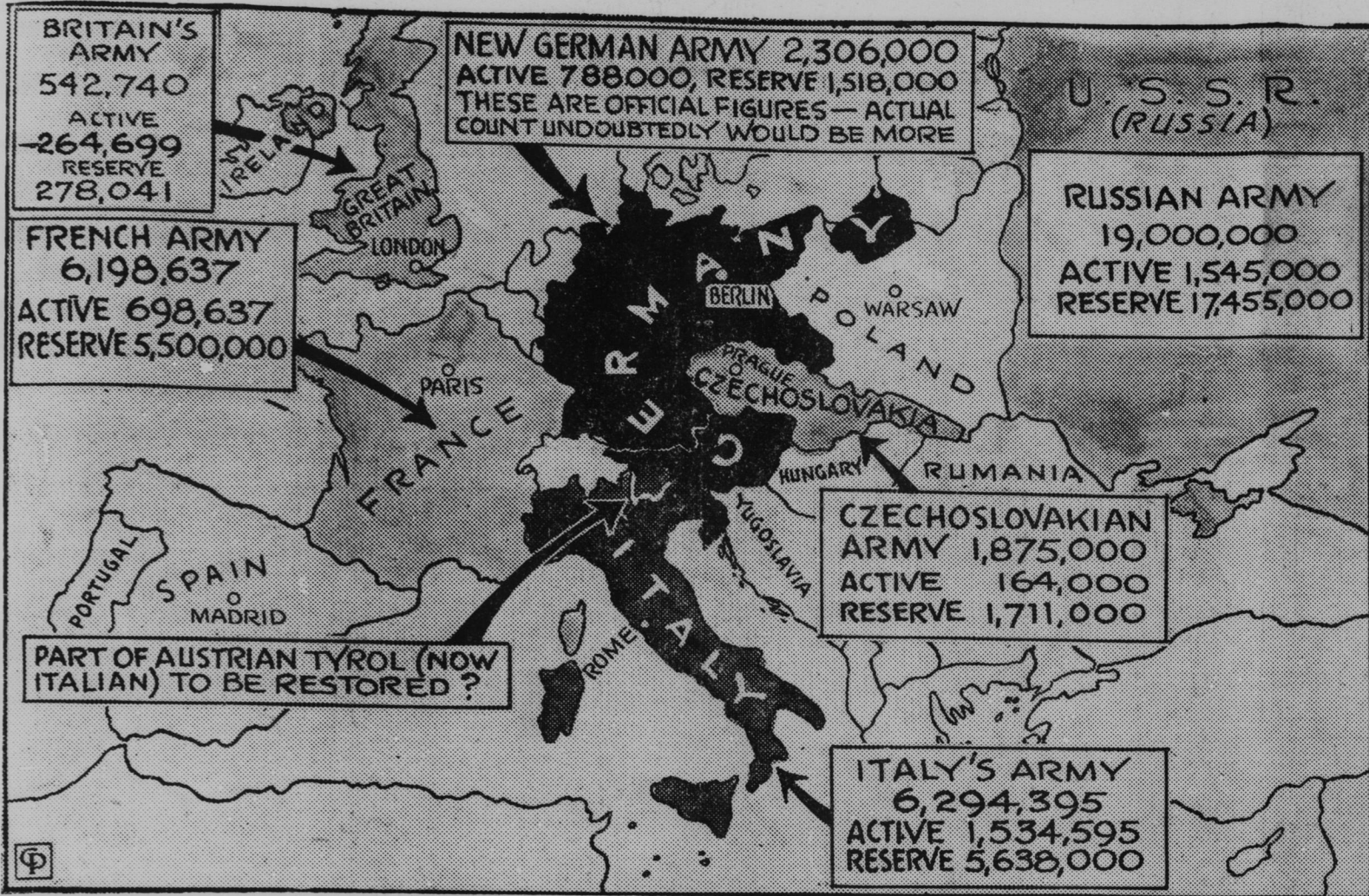


FRANCE AND RUSSIA TO FIGHT FOR CZECHS

Military Might of Nations Draws Interest Following Hitler Coup



Lineup of Military Power of European Nations.

As Europe's blood pressure rises over Hitler's coup in making Austria part of the new German empire, attention is focused in the armed strength of the nations and on the Rome-Berlin axis.

000 to his German army, by annexing Austria. The map also shows the Italian Tyrol, which, some reports say, may be given back to Austria by Premier Mussolini of Italy.

Hitler Comes Home Because Of Crisis For Baltic States

Clash of Poland and Lithuania Reported To Have Drawn Polish Ultimatum; Warsaw Denies Desire To Annex Neighbor; Hitler Fears New Turn

Berlin, March 16 (AP)—A German army source said today that Reichsfuehrer Hitler was returning hurriedly to Berlin because he had received word that Poland had presented an ultimatum to Lithuania expiring late tonight.

The army sources said he originally had intended to remain several days longer in Vienna, where he concluded his historic four-day Austrian visit yesterday, but that the Polish-Lithuanian crisis called him back to Berlin.

TWO BIG NATIONS TO RESIST HITLER SHOULD HE ATTACK

Paris and Moscow Exchange Assurances of Mutual Aid for Czechoslovakia People

BELIEVED, HOWEVER, NEXT HITLER MOVE

Fighting and Bombing Planes of France and Soviet Russia To Be Rushed into Fray if Der Fuehrer Resorts to Force; Pledges Made Czechs

Paris, March 16.—(AP)—France and Russia agreed today that both would fight to defend Czechoslovakia, if she were attacked.

Government Forces Halt Franco's Push To Coast

Swift Drive Brought to Abrupt Standstill by Desperate Resistance; Heavy Battle Being Fought at Strategic Highway Junction in East Spain

Hendaye, France March 16.—(AP)—Stubbhorn resistance by government forces brought General Francisco Franco's swift drive to the sea to an abrupt halt today.

Dispatches indicated government troops still controlled part of the strategic city of 20,000 population at the junction of the most important highways in northeastern Spain and in the east central part.

Paul-Boncour replied to the assurances with the promise that France, too, would fight in the same cause.

Both France and the Soviet Union planned to rush fighting and bombing planes to Czechoslovakia if Hitler resorted to force to achieve this objective, informed sources said.

Pittman Denounces Ickes In Opposing Reorganizing Bill

"Nothing on Earth But What Ickes Wants To Meddle With It," Senator Says

REORGANIZATION TO GIVE ICKES POWERS

Roosevelt Plans To Transfer Forestry Service To Secretary, Nevada Aserts; Treasury Has Record Income Tax Collections First Half of Month

Washington, March 16.—(AP)—Senator Pittman, Democrat, Nevada, urging modification of the administration's reorganization bill, told the Senate today that "there is nothing on earth but what Secretary Ickes wants to meddle with it."

Known Dead 17 In Storm Over Valley

Seven Mississippi Valley States Raked by Spring Tornado in Night

With the bodies of 17 known dead recovered, authorities in seven Mississippi valley states directed searchers today for possible additional victims of a cyclone of tornadic proportions.

Cale Burgess To Succeed Dr. Poteat As Dry Leader

Prohibition Forces of State to Plan in Greensboro Friday for "Now or Never" Drive for State Referendum to Rid State of Legal Liquor

Daily Dispatch Bureau, Raleigh, March 16.—United Dry Forces of North Carolina, meeting at Greensboro Friday, will select Cale K. Burgess of Raleigh to succeed their dead leader, Dr. W. L. Poteat; will call a statewide referendum on statewide prohibition; and will do everything in their power to line up satisfactory candidates for the 1939 North Carolina General Assembly.

garding the Friday session; they are made, rather, on what the dry leaders did not say and on the very apparent logic of the situation.

Measles May Cut Records For Schools

Raleigh, March 16 (AP)—Lloyd Griffin, secretary of the school commission, said today it was too early to tell whether the measles raging over the State would reduce the average attendance in schools enough to cause reductions of teacher allotments next year.

COUPLE GROUPS OF BANKERS TO MEET

Raleigh, March 16 (AP)—Paul Brown, secretary of the North Carolina Bankers Association, announced today that bankers of group two would meet March 26 at Wilson, Group 7 April 23 at Southern Pines.

KNOX SAYS NATION MUST DECIDE ROAD UNDER ROOSEVELT

Impossible Under Present System To Have Controls Now Being Fastened on People

SPEAKS TO G. O. P. STATE CONVENTION

1936 Republican Vice-President Candidate Is Keynote at Charlotte; Choice Is Democracy and Free Competition or Planned Economy in U. S.

Charlotte, March 16 (AP)—The North Carolina Republican Convention adopted a platform today promising sweeping tax, election and financial reforms in the State government, and criticizing in severe terms the State and national Democratic administrations.

MRS. WOHL NOT TO JOIN SENATE RACE

Lacks Dry Support and Dark War Outlook Knocks Props From Platform

Raleigh, March 16.—Mrs. Helen Robertson Wohl will not run for the United States Senate this year, the lady who garnered practically 100,000 votes against Charlie Johnson in 1936 having decided against the venture after making a full canvass of the situation.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Cloudy, showers this afternoon and in east and central portion tonight; warmer in east and north central portions tonight; Thursday partly cloudy.

MUSSOLINI GIVES ITALY ASSURANCE

Says Pan-German Expansion Will Never Penetrate Northern Border

Rome, March 16 (AP)—Benito Mussolini today promised his people that the pan-German expansion never would penetrate Italian frontiers, but at the same time pronounced a benediction on Adolf Hitler's absorption of Austria.

Neither the declaration of Saturday's Fascist grand council, nor repeated assertions in the press that the Anschluss (union) bore no menace for Italy, had entirely appeased

THREAT OF WAR IS SEEN BY EVERY ONE

If It Comes It Will Be Little Surprise to World As in 1914

By CHARLES F. STEWART Central Press Columnist Washington, March 16.—The World War threat undoubtedly is more obvious today than it was in 1914, until it actually began.

NEW INFORMATION IN LEVINE AFFAIR

Ragged, Elderly Man Tells of Seeing Two Strange Men Near Home Day of Kidnaping

Shanghai, March 16.—(AP)—Spirited Chinese counter-attacks scored successes in three provinces of the Yellow river sector, Chinese reported today.

CHINESE ATTACKS SCORE BIG GAINS

London, March 16 (AP)—Major Emil Fey, the Austrian anti-Nazi leader, whose philosophy is was "life is not the highest good," was reported today to have killed himself, his wife and son in Vienna rather than face the new Nazi regime under Fuehrer Hitler.

Commons Has Bitter Talks About Spain

London, March 16 (AP)—Opposition to Prime Minister Chamberlain today won the opportunity for full debate on foreign affairs in the House of Commons.

The harassed prime minister whose "realistic" hope of dickered with Reichsfuehrer Hitler had faded with the absorption of Austria, had just entered the House after a two-hour cabinet meeting, in which the wisdom of a sterner policy was discussed.

Austrians Suicide As A Way Out

London, March 16 (AP)—Major Emil Fey, the Austrian anti-Nazi leader, whose philosophy is was "life is not the highest good," was reported today to have killed himself, his wife and son in Vienna rather than face the new Nazi regime under Fuehrer Hitler.

Prof. G. Bayer, of the University of Innsbruck, was found dead. He was said to have poisoned his daughter and himself, presumably to escape possible arrest by the Nazi successors to the ousted Chancellor Schuschnigg.