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Finnish Army Begins Retreat From Areas Ceded To Russians

Ahead of Soldiers, 100,000 Dispossessed Civilians Hurry From Territory As Red Army Marks Time Awaiting Retreat.

March 15.—(AP)—The Finnish army fled through the snow in tactical retreat before the withdrawal from the territory so stubbornly defended in the first half months of war, and now are ceded to Soviet Russia.

The soldiers there hurriedly fled with their families and dispossessed civilians, packed on foot, herding their families and carrying their belongings that were the salvage of their property.

The 100,000 bring to about 460,000 number who must find new homes.

A half-million persons already are refugees, but 40,000 are from battered territories Finland retains and to which she is able to return.

The Red army held its position until Finnish troops had fallen back the required distance in one day the Finnish army started at 10 a. m. along the front in the southeast corner of the Gulf of Finland.

The Karelian isthmus and the north of Lake Ladoga must be held by March 26.

Government To Finance Farm Home Building

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—President Roosevelt authorized the United States Housing Authority to spend \$2,522,000 to finance 1,500 new farm homes in six states.

Because the USHA has handled only city slum clearance and rural housing projects, the rural housing is designed to provide modern farm homes to replace ramshackle shacks.

Some families of low income are to benefit. Their annual rental will be less than \$50.

Cotton Market Stages Rise

New York, March 15.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 6 higher to 5 1/2.

Mid-morning the list expired March was 4 to 11 1/2.

Mid-day prices were 3 to 8 higher.

Market News Aids Farmers, Scott Says

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel.

March 15.—North Carolina farmers are now receiving more accurate and complete information on the state's history, Commission of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott said.

The news service, the newest of the State Department of Agriculture's marketing program, was launched two years ago in cooperation with the United States National Marketing Service and is one of the most valuable of services received by farmers, he declared.

The second anniversary of the news service reviewed price reports of growers, packers and agricultural buyers as well as selling prices of farm products, Scott said. "This information has been of great value to the farmer, and he has had to take his place in the market without knowledge of existing prices. The picture is different—farmers are aware of price changes, price outlooks and demands more so than at any time in the history of the state."

(Continued on Page Two)

Indian Assassin Caught



Handcuffed to a detective, Mahomed Singh Azad (left) is led from Caxton Hall, London, where he shot and killed Sir Michael O'Dwyer, veteran India administrator, and wounded three other officials. The Indian assassin said he killed O'Dwyer because, as governor of Punjab, O'Dwyer was responsible for British troops killing 379 Indians during a 1919 riot. The shooting thrust the troublesome question of Indian independence into the front rank of Britain's problems. Photo flashed by radio from London to New York.

Candidates Rush to File As Limit Nears

Greenville High School Paper Is Winner of Honor

New York, March 15.—(AP)—A Columbia scholastic press association now holding its convention at Columbia University announced today that awards had been made to 1,085 schools for the publication of outstanding newspapers and magazines. The winners included in the class of 301 to 300 enrollment. The Medalist (highest honor) to Greenville High, Greenville, N. C., high school.

British Trade Restrictions Temporary

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—Great Britain declared today that her restrictions on imports of certain American products were solely war measures and "not in any way intended to cause a permanent diversion of trade."

The assertion was contained in a formal statement of Ambassador Lord Lothian, issued by the British embassy.

Secretary Hull at his press conference a little later said that he was glad to be able to say that discussions were continuing with representatives of the British and French governments to safeguard American commercial interests.

Hull explained that total American exports to Great Britain despite the restrictions on certain products had greatly increased since war started.

Long Distance Rates Reduced

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—The federal communications commission announced today that the American Telephone and Telegraph company had agreed to reduce long distance telephone rates about \$5,500,000 annually.

The reduction will apply on calls of 420 miles or more with a sliding scale of increasing reductions for longer calls.

Negro Gassed At State Pen

Raleigh, March 15.—(AP)—Robert Williams, 20-year-old Negro, sentenced in Cumberland county, was gassed at state prison today for the rape of a white woman about three times his age.

Williams, also known as Robert McNair, had admitted the home had done odd jobs around the home of the woman he attacked, Mrs. W. W. Bullard, and had no previous criminal record, witnesses said.

The Negro entered the death chamber at 10:01. Gas was started at 10:02 1-2, and he was pronounced dead 13 minutes later.

Seven Persons Dead In Charlotte Apartment Blaze; Seven Injured

Britain Meets Three-Power Trade Threat

New Weapons Are Brought Into Economic Front Line As Reports Circulate of German-Italian - Russian Economic Bloc

London, March 15.—(AP)—Great Britain brought three new weapons into her economic front line today to meet the threat of a German-Russian-Italian bloc aimed at capturing her trade.

These measures coincided with reports in Belgrade that Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop of Germany had suggested to Italian formation of a German-Italian-Russian economic bloc with "all small states between these powers."

As reported in Belgrade von Ribbentrop's proposal to the Italian government would put Europe's small Baltic, central and southeastern states in the economic orbit of the three totalitarian powers with whom some already do most of their trading.

Meanwhile, the London Daily Mail said today that Prime Minister Chamberlain would disclose secret assurances made two months ago to Norway and Sweden of allied support if in giving help to Finland they became involved in war with Russia or Germany.

The newspaper said Chamberlain would make the disclosure Tuesday.

French Senate In Second Day Of War Debate

Paris, March 15.—(AP)—As the French senate gathered for a second day of secret debate on the allied war strategy, former Premier Leon Blum's newspaper Le Populaire described the atmosphere in Paris as "a political crisis whose consequences cannot be gauged."

Amid this feeling of tension and general press criticism which for three hours yesterday had Premier Deladier explaining to the senators the French-British conduct of the war, it appeared likely that the senate would reach a vote tonight on the whole question of allied effectiveness.

The debate covers French reaction to the Russian-Finnish peace, regarded as a diplomatic victory for Germany.

The insistent demand of the press is that the allies "find a battlefield—and make war" against Germany. "In other words," says Le Temps, "abandon the present war of siege and ev."

Senate Clears Way For Final Vote On Hatch Bill

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—The Senate cleared the way today for final passage of legislation broadening the Hatch anti-politics law by refusing to return the legislation to committee for further study.

Senator Hatch, Democrat, New Mexico, said that if the bill had been recommittees "it would have been dead for this session." The recommitment proposal was offered by Senator Lucas, Democrat, Illinois.

It was rejected 52 to 31.

Supporters of the broadening legislation had won a major test a short time before when the Senate approved 47 to 30 a key section forbidding political activity by state workers paid partly from federal funds.

Previous efforts to modify the provision to permit "voluntary" political activity had failed. Today's was the first direct Senate vote on the restriction itself.

Senator Thomas, Democrat, Oklahoma, attacked the constitutionality of the bill.

Another congressional controversy, that over inclusion of personal income questions in the census, had the attention of President Roosevelt today.

Although a cold prevented him from holding his usual Friday morning press conference, the Chief Executive sent word through his secretary that he considered one senator critical of census procedure to be advocating violation of the law. Senator Tobey, Republican, New Hampshire, has led the fight against the income questions.

Senator Clark, Democrat, Idaho, introduced a resolution to break off diplomatic relations with Russia in protest over the Soviet's successful invasion of Finland.

Hot Dog Candidate



Declaring himself the people's "hot dog candidate," James Rivers, of Boone, N. C., is running for Congress against Robert L. Doughton, 72, New Dealer and ways and means chairman, Rivers, a printer, is shown munching one of the franks on which he says he's subsisting during his campaign. (Central Press)

Murder Trial Pleas Made

Four Men Charged With Clifton Snider Murder Enter Nolo Contendere Pleas

Beaufort, March 15.—(AP)—Superior Court Judge Luther Hamilton ordered court to resume at 2:30 p. m. today for pronouncing judgment in the trial of four men on charges growing out of the slaying last November of Clifton Snider of Winston Salem.

The four—Kenneth Chance, Needham Garner, J. B. Hudson, and R. E. King—pleaded nolo contendere at the conclusion of state testimony. Most of the morning was spent in testimony by the defendants.

The nolo contendere plea was offered after the defendants had pleaded not guilty at the start of the trial yesterday.

State's witnesses testified concerning confessions which they said were obtained from the men.

Hudson, King, and Garner testified today they had made no confession.

Defense testimony and argument sought to show that the men were a mile from the spot where Snider was found and that he presumably was shot by someone else and that one of the group had fired a gun at a glimmer of light that they thought the eye of a deer.

BIOFF ORDERED TO SERVE OLD TERM

Chicago, March 15.—(AP)—William Bioff, west coast movie labor leader, today was ordered to the house of correction to complete a six months sentence imposed 18 years ago for pandering.

Entering of the order, however, was delayed until March 25 to allow Bioff's attorneys to take the matter to the state supreme court.

Big Store Is Implicated

New York, March 15.—(AP)—George Dietrich, brother of the late Philip Musica, who as F. Donald Coster headed the \$87,000,000 wholesale drug firm of McKesson & Robbins, Inc., testified in federal court today that R. H. Macy and Co. virtually was used in 1926 as a "middle man" between Girard and Co. and bootleggers.

Girard & Co. was the concern which Coster-Musica headed after he left New York City under indictment for subornation of perjury. The Girard company the government has charged with diverting products with a high alcoholic content.

Dietrich testified at the trial of five men indicted for mail fraud and conspiracy.

Fire Destroys One Section Of Building

Several Seriously Injured Persons Not Expected to Live; Fire at Guthery Apartment Discovered At About 2 a. m.

Charlotte, March 15.—(AP)—Fire that destroyed a section of the 86-unit Guthery apartment here early today brought death to seven persons, four of them women, and injuries to seven others.

Several of the injured were not expected to live.

The dead: Mrs. Hazel E. Martin, Edward Martin, 21-year old son of Mrs. Martin.

Miss Rowena Dickinson, 26, daughter of Dr. E. T. Dickinson, of Wilson, N. C.

Miss Lucy Walton, 43, native of Morganton.

Mrs. Etta M. Eley, 32, native of Norfolk, Va.

H. Russell Eley, formerly of Norfolk, Va., husband of Mrs. Etta M. Eley.

Tommy Charity, 15-year old high school student.

Charlotte, March 15.—(AP)—William B. Pittman, a 200-pound fireman, told today of bringing two women down a ladder from the fire-swept Guthery apartment here when the body of a third struck him from behind.

"It was about 20 feet up on the ladder," Pittman said at a hospital where he was being treated. "I was holding one on each side."

"Some woman on the third floor, I believe, jumped. She hit me on the back of the neck—I was leaning forward with the ladder—and then she fell to the ground."

"The two women weren't hit by the woman. I brought them to the ground."

"The woman who jumped was groaning. I don't know who she was. Somebody said she died, but she wasn't dead then."

"It was the most terrible thing I have ever seen."

Firemen who reached the scene shortly before 2 a. m. found the block-long three-story brick and stone structure a blazing inferno with many persons clad in their night clothes trapped on the upper two stories.

Screams rent the chill morning air as the upper story residents, choked by clouds of smoke, leaped to the cement alleysways on the sides of the building. Ambulances sped the dying and injured to hospitals as 100 firemen fought the conflagration.

The fire apparently started in the basement. Fire Chief Hendrix Palmer said, however, he was at a loss to explain how the blaze spread so quickly.

Firemen rescued a number of trapped persons with ladders. Many of the occupants of the building said they were first awakened by screams and the wail of countless sirens to find their rooms filled with smoke and flames.

W. J. Guthery, owner and operator of the apartment—one of the largest in Charlotte—estimated the loss at \$75,000.

The injured: Miss Mabel Rockett, extent of injuries unknown; W. B. Pittman, a fireman, neck and back injuries received when struck by a falling woman; Adolph Consolani, 19, extent of injuries undetermined; Miss Aubrey Charity, 19, a sister of Tommy Charity, fractures of both arms, face and eye injuries; Mrs. Ruby Fleming, shoe; Mrs. Margaret L. Parnell, a native of Tabors City, shock and possible internal injuries; Miss Lydia Pittman, head and back injuries which hospital attaches said were not believed to be serious.

Miss Rowena Dickinson, who died in the Charlotte apartment house fire this morning, was a niece of Mrs. B. G. Allen and Mrs. J. T. Alderman of Henderson.

GOLDSBORO FIRM GETS BIG CONTRACT

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—The United States Housing Authority approved today a \$819,800 bid by T. A. Loving & Co., Goldsboro, N. C., for construction of a 314-unit "garden homes" estate housing project in Savannah, Ga.