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GERMANS WITHIN 15 MILES OF CHANNEL

Italy Believed Preparing For War

Nazi Force Driving South Within Sight Of The Eiffel Tower

Blackouts And Air Raid Drills Begun

Foreign Minister Ciano Says in Milan and Cremona Italy Waits Only "The Order of the Day" From Mussolini.

Italy, German ally, appearing to enter a state of blackouts and air raid drills beginning today.

Foreign Minister Ciano said today that Italy would remain neutral unless the order of the day came from Mussolini.

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Border Between Yugoslavia And Albania Closed

Skopje, Yugoslavia, May 21.—(AP)—The frontier between Yugoslavia and Italian-held Albania was closed today by Italian order.

News of the border closing was received here shortly after the announcement in Rome that Italian foreign minister Count Ciano had ordered the closing of the border.

Reports filtering across the frontier to Yugoslav military centers here said the Italian army had succeeded in transporting large quantities of war materials to Albania.

Louvain, Pulverized by German Bombs



C. P. Cablephoto

Residents of Louvain, Belgium, wander through the debris-littered street, their homes reduced to shambles by German bombers. Louvain, destroyed in World War I and rebuilt, was a fine modern city before the Nazi blitzkrieg struck. Photo was cabled from London to New York.

FDR Asks Removal Of WPA Limit

President Roosevelt Opposes \$50,000 Limit on Cost of WPA Projects, Saying It Would Hinder National Defense Projects.

Washington, May 21.—(AP)—President Roosevelt urged Congress today to remove a relief bill cost limit on WPA projects and contend that advocates of the limitation could be charged with a desire to return to hibernation.

President Roosevelt in a letter to Representative Cannon, Democrat, Missouri, expressed opposition to provisions in the pending \$975,650,000 bill which would limit the cost of a federal project to \$50,000 and the federal contribution to a non-federal project to the same amount.

"The commissioner of work projects informs me that the proportion of relief labor on large construction projects is in many cases greater than on small projects and, furthermore, that the overall proportion of relief labor on all construction projects now in operation is between 93 and 97 percent," the letter said.

"The limitation would have a particularly harmful effect upon the attempt which is being made to use the program of the Works Project Administration to further national defense."

Mr. Roosevelt vetoed as not needed in view of "a sufficient backlog" a bill authorizing appropriation of \$100,000,000 for national defense.

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Reynaud Confesses France Faces Serious Situation

Roosevelt And Landon To Hold Conference Thursday

Chicago, May 21.—(AP)—A. H. M. Landon, who said last night an invitation to a White House conference had been received, announced today he was going to Washington after receiving a personal telephone call from President Roosevelt.

The Republican leader received a long distance telephone call in the midst of a conference with reporters regarding last night's cancellation of a White House invitation. Landon said the call was from the White House and the President "wants me to come on down."

Landon received word from Brig. Gen. E. M. Watson, presidential secretary, last night that the meeting had been postponed "indefinitely."

He had answered a question concerning the rescheduling of the meeting, but after talking with the President declined to authorize publication of the statement he had made.

Hitler May Not Attempt To Take Paris At Once

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER
With the German Wehrmacht Army May 21.—(AP)—The famous Eiffel tower of Paris was clearly visible to the advance guards of Adolf Hitler's army this morning, but it was by no means certain that the Fuehrer would attempt to capture the French capital in a hurry.

He seemed more concerned with routing Belgian, French and English troops headed for the French coast of the English channel.

No less a man than Gen. Walter von Reichenau, commander of the 12th army, was selected to perform this task.

Yet even von Reichenau was known to be only a few miles from the English coast.

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Premier Tells Senate "The Truth", Declares "We Must Take Immediate Decisions", Explains Army Failures.

Paris, May 21.—(AP)—Premier Reynaud blamed the French high command today for "incalculable faults" because of which "disaster xxx total disorganization" was inflicted by German armored blows on the French army defending the Meuse.

The Premier solemnly told the senate "faults will be punished."

But he declared there was no need for further disaster "if each soldier realizes his enormous task and the millions of sons of France realize their future is at stake. xxx

"France cannot die! If a miracle is needed to save France I believe in miracles because I believe in France."

Telling the senators "the truth" because it alone "can save the fatherland," the premier declared "we must take immediate decisions."

He admitted that France had suffered from a lack of machine guns, tanks, armor and other modern equipment, and that the French divisions were "disorganized" in that sector.

"The best troops had been sent further into Belgium," the premier continued, declaring that made it "easy" for enemy mobile units to penetrate into the Meuse.

The premier laid part of the blame on the failure of French defenders to blow up bridges across the Meuse.

"These faults 'will be punished,'" he shouted and the senate, which had been listening in somber silence, broke into cheers.

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BRITISH BOMBERS RAID NAZI UNITS

Lombard, May 21.—(AP)—The air ministry announced tonight that British bombers had "successfully" attacked German armored units in the Arras and Cambrai areas of northern France yesterday.

Correspondents Return To London

London, May 21.—(AP)—American correspondents who had been with the British army in Belgium returned today to London. Among them was Drew Middleton of the Associated Press.

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British Admit Two Ships Lost

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Thousands Help Raleigh Celebrate

Raleigh, May 21.—(AP)—Thousands of visitors helped Raleigh celebrate today the centennial of its connection by railroads with the outer world and of the completion of its state capital.

A special train to Raleigh covered as nearly as possible the route taken 100 years ago when the first train operated from Gaston to Raleigh over the Raleigh and Gaston railroad.

Governor Hoy, Governor Burnet R. Maybank of South Carolina, and Thad Eure, secretary of state, spoke at the open-air ceremonies on Capitol Square in the early afternoon.

Retired Army Officer Dies

New York, May 21.—(AP)—Col. Charles F. Echols, 72, former professor of mathematics at the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, died early today after he was found unconscious in the rear of the New York public library, apparently a robbery victim.

The retired army officer lay bleeding at the foot of a stone stairway leading from the library promenade onto Bryant park, 6th avenue and 42nd street. He died at Bellevue hospital of a fractured skull and internal injuries.

Broughton And Maxwell Strongest In First Four Congressional Districts

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENRY AVERILL.

(This is the first of three articles dealing with the gubernatorial primary by Congressional Districts. First to Fourth are surveyed in today's; Fifth to Eighth will be considered tomorrow and Ninth to Eleventh on Thursday.)

Raleigh, May 21.—The lead in Congressional Districts One to Four, inclusive, in North Carolina's gubernatorial campaign is a neck and neck struggle between Raleigh Attorney J. Melville Broughton and Commissioner of Revenue Allen J. Maxwell.

Lieutenant Governor Wilkins P. Horton is likely to be pressed hard by Rocky Mount's "business man" L. Lee Grady for the third position; while the balance of the field will trail these leaders at quite a respectable distance.

U. S. Naval Defense To Be Speeded

Acting Secretary of the Navy Compton Orders Additional Shifts and Increased Forces for Ship Building Establishments.

Washington, May 21.—(AP)—All Navy establishments were ordered today by Lewis Compton, acting secretary, to speed up defense preparations by working additional shifts and by increasing civilian ship building forces by at least 15,000 men within three months.

Compton sent a letter to the commanders of all naval districts, yards and stations, all bureaus and offices of the Navy department and to headquarters of the Marine Corps.

There are 66 warships under construction or projected, including eight battleships.

In connection with the Army phase of the emergency defense program, meanwhile, it was forecast that the House military committee would vote to remove for a prescribed period all limits on the number of planes the army may procure.

This action, the committee said, would be in line with President Roosevelt's proposal for a 50,000-plane Army and Navy air force.

The Army has asked only the air corps' present limit of 6,000 planes to be raised to 19,000, but committee members said that in view of President Roosevelt's recommendation and the uncertainty of world conditions the Army should not be hampered by legislative restrictions.

Even as Compton's order was announced, President Roosevelt concentrated on navy affairs, summoning ranking admirals and Senate and House committee chairmen to a conference at which the effects of labor laws on ship building were to be discussed.

The House committee approved a proposal to authorize the Navy to desist without regard to the civil service law employees engaged in subversive activities. The committee withheld final action on the legislation, however, until Chairman Vannoni of the House naval committee could take to the White House a set of amendments designed to relax the labor laws.

(Continued on Page Two)

French Cities of Arras, Amiens and Abbeville Taken; Ninth French Army, Defending Meuse Front, Crushed.

Paris, May 21.—(AP)—The Germans, striking with devastating force, hurled their armored cars today almost to the English channel.

Amiens and Arras on the edge of the coastal plain were ablaze and in German hands.

Nazi motorcycle vanguards had reached the outer environs of Abbeville, 12 miles from the channel.

(By The Associated Press)
Nazi blitzkrieg legions, in a two-forced dash to the west and south, drove to within 15 miles of the English channel, the German high command announced today, and said they were within sight of the Eiffel tower in Paris, only 69 miles away.

The French cities of Arras, Amiens and Abbeville were regarded as grossly exaggerated.

Amiens and Abbeville were seized, the high command said.

A French war ministry spokesman said the Germans were meeting "furious resistance everywhere."

The drive to the west—apparently in quest of springboard bases for a "blitz" on England itself—surpassed the westward gains scored by Kaiser Wilhelm's imperial army in all the world wars.

Other German columns, forking south from the Meuse river front in the Sedan sector, were reported within sight of the Eiffel tower in Paris.

The German high command reported that the ninth French army, defending the Meuse front from Namur to Sedan, had been crushed in the "biggest attacking operation of all time."

By contrast, a British spokesman described the battle on the western front as "more confused than ever."

(Continued on Page Two)

Big British Warship Hit

Berlin, May 21.—(AP)—A battleship, probably the 29,150-ton *Rechenburg*, was hit heavily by a heavy bomber today.

The *Rechenburg*, a heavy cruiser, was also hit by bombs off Norway, the high command announced today.

(The class is composed of five ships, each of 29,150 tons, with normal complement of about 1,500 officers and men.)

(One, the *Rechenburg*, was torpedoed and sunk in Sept. flow, the only battleship the British have acknowledged being.)

Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Mostly cloudy tonight and Wednesday; showers in mountains; slightly warmer Wednesday.

Pan America Prefers To Stay Democratic, Stewart Says

By CHARLES P. STEWART
(Central Press Columnist)
Washington, May 21.—(AP)—Pan America is very well satisfied with the results of the Pan American's determination to remain democratic no matter what happens in Europe. All advice from capitals of the southern republics are to the effect that liberty-loving Americans in their part of the new world simply have been strengthened by recent German excesses in their resolve to keep totalitarianism from gaining a foothold in our hemisphere.

If there's any other country concerning which Washington, most confidentially, has been uneasy, it's Mexico.

Congressman Martin Dies, for instance, has suggested that un-American propaganda is dangerously prevalent just below the Rio Grande.

However, Josephus Daniels, our ambassador to Mexico City, who probably is as good a judge as Congressmen Dies, says it isn't.

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