

Henderson Daily Dispatch

ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THIS SECTION OF NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

HENDERSON, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 17, 1940

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY.

FIVE CENTS COPY

Nazis Declare "Total Blockade"

Wilkie Challenges Roosevelt To Series Of Debates

Foreign Policies Dencounced

Republican Presidential Nominee, in Acceptance Speech, Accuses Roosevelt of Courting War; Favors "Some Form" of Draft

Aug. 17.—(AP)—Wendell Wilkie, Republican presidential nominee, today denounced the foreign policies of President Roosevelt in his acceptance speech.

Wilkie, in a speech before a large crowd in California, said that the United States should not be drawn into a world war. He called for a "some form" of draft to prepare the nation for such a conflict.

He also criticized the administration's handling of the situation in Europe and the Pacific, arguing that the United States should maintain its neutrality.

Wilkie's speech was widely reported in the press, and he is expected to continue his campaign across the country.

His acceptance speech is seen as a challenge to Roosevelt's policies, particularly regarding the draft and foreign intervention.

Wilkie's campaign is gaining momentum, and he is expected to be a strong contender for the presidency.

His speech is a key event in the campaign, and it is expected to influence the outcome of the election.

Wilkie's challenge to Roosevelt is a significant development in the 1940 election.

Wallace's Successor?



Claude R. Wickard
Washington circles intimate that Claude R. Wickard, of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, may become the newest member of President Roosevelt's cabinet, succeeding Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, who resigned to campaign for the Vice Presidency.

Nazi Raids Lightened

Daylight Hours Pass With Only Scattered Scouting Planes Over British Isles.

London, Aug. 17.—(AP)—For the first time in seven successive days, the daylight hours up to 5:30 p. m. (11:30 a. m. EST) passed without the shadow of massed German raiders over Britain.

But with a lull apparent in the struggle for mastery of Britain's skies, the nation struck with new vigor to hold supremacy on the seas.

In the face of a German proclamation of total blockade of the British Isles, the admiralty announced that Britain's own mines had made the English channel and the Bay of Biscay dangerous for shipping.

It announced also that a battle force of the British fleet including battleships and cruisers, had bombed the Libyan ports of Bardia and Fort Capuzzo, as well as other objectives this morning.

Germany's bombers thundered over the isles in new destructive raids during the moonlight pre-dawn, blasting a wide area of Wales.

Britain Has Seventh Day Of Air Raid

Bombers Blast Wide Area of Wales in Pre-Dawn Raids; British Air Ministry Claims "Large Damage" on Nazi Fuel Supply.

London, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Germany's bombers thundered against England in new destructive raids today, blasting a wide area of Wales in long pre-dawn moonlight raids, tearing through British defenses over an inland town in southeast England this morning and swarming over the southeast coast at two points this afternoon.

Many already were homeless as the Nazis went into their seventh successive day of intensive mass attacks on harbors, airports, factories and warehouses.

Even as funds were being collected for the relief of the homeless, other homes were destroyed by delayed action bombs exploding this morning in a southwestern London suburb which the Nazis raided late yesterday.

While British pursuit planes fought new swarms of invading warplanes, the air ministry revealed that British bombers raided Germany last night and struck heavily at the Nazi fuel supply, wrecking "very large damage" on a great synthetic fuel plant at Leuna, near Leipzig, where coal is transformed into gasoline.

At the same time the ministry revised upward its figures of German planes destroyed, reporting 75, not 71, Nazi raiders had been shot down during yesterday's "very much smaller" scale attacks, and insisting that a new check on Thursday's air battles showed 180 invading aircraft "certainly destroyed."

The previous figure for Thursday was 159 planes.

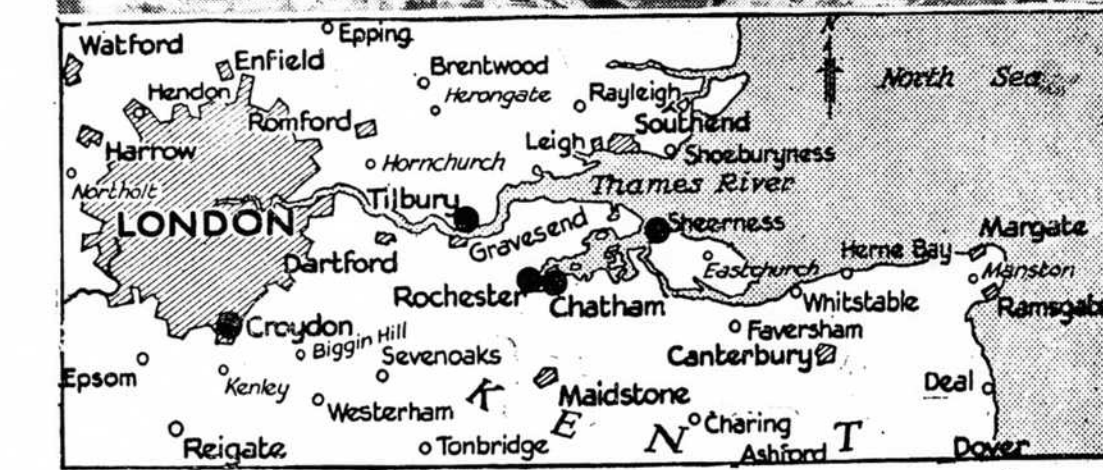
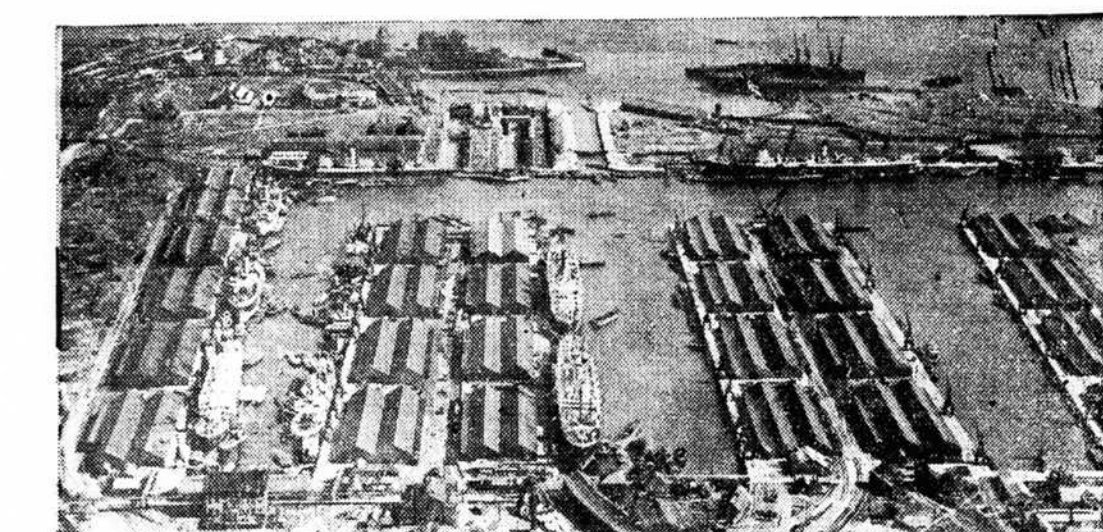
Abernethy Not Yet Arrested

New Bern, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Three warrants against Charles L. Abernethy, Jr., have been received here by Sheriff R. B. Lane from Wayne county authorities, but Sheriff said this afternoon they had not been served. The warrants charge election irregularities.

The warrants were drawn as the result of an investigation following the finding of unused primary ballots in the possession of Abernethy prior to the May 25 primary.

Abernethy was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for congress in the third district.

Nazi Bombers Strike Close to the Heart of England



Map (bottom) shows the valley of the Thames, which was particularly hard hit by the massed German planes delivering hammer blows closer and closer to London, smashing at the docks, airports and military objectives surrounding the great metropolis. Top, is a view of Tilbury docks, adjacent to the city and one of the most important dock areas in Great Britain, which suffered heavy damage from the Nazi raiders.

Leaf Prices Hit Slump

Growers Express Dis-satisfaction With the Prices Offered on the Georgia Markets.

Moultrie, Ga., Aug. 17.—(AP)—Reports of grower dissatisfaction with the bright leaf tobacco market developed today in the south Georgia belt.

Prices in at least two of the markets slumped well under the average during the first few days of the 1940 sales.

At Moultrie, Sales Supervisor C. E. Isom said the market sold 3,175,536 pounds for the week for an average of 17.72.

However, the price dropped more than two cents yesterday and some grower dissatisfaction was noted on the warehouse floors. More tickets were turned yesterday than at any time since the sales began.

At Tifton, yesterday's sales average dropped to 15.27, although earlier sales maintained the week's average figure at 18.151.

Reports of grower dissatisfaction with the bright leaf tobacco market developed today in the south Georgia belt.

Dike At Caledonia Dynamited Today

Italy To Ask Greece To State Position

Rome, Aug. 1.—(AP)—Premier Mussolini's newspaper Il Popolo d'Italia indicated today that Italy would ask the Greek government to define its position on Italian claims on behalf of Italian-annexed Albania within a few days.

Heretofore, the Italians have accused Greece of being a vassal of Britain and aiding in her Mediterranean war against Italy and of conniving in plots along the Albanian frontier.

Meanwhile, Virginia Gayda, who often reflects Mussolini's views, said that expanding Italy could now consider herself victorious in the battle for British Somaliland.

While official Italian communiques reported a full British retreat in Somaliland, Gayda wrote that within a few days the colony would cease to form a part of the British empire and could be combined in the economic and military organization of Italian East Africa.

Roanoke River, in the Worst Flood of Weather Bureau Records, Forces Prison Authorities To Inundate Thousands of Acres.

Weldon, Aug. 17.—(AP)—State prison officials dynamited a portion of the nine-mile dike at Caledonia prison farm near here at dawn today in an attempt to save the remainder of the structure from the relentless flood waters of the Roanoke river.

Even while the blast was touching off the flood waters were licking at the top of the dike and still rising rapidly.

No hope was held for crops in the low land area, including 3,000 acres of convict-planted corn and lespedeza at the farm. There was a possibility that the camp would be abandoned if the entire dike were swept away.

The 400 inmates of the camp were not evacuated since officials said there was no danger.

Eastern North Carolina rivers were rising steadily and continued on a rampage today, inundating thousands of acres and forcing residents of low lying areas to abandon their homes.

The flood in the Roanoke broke

Act Answers 'Illegal' Sea Warfare

"Every Neutral Ship Which Sails These Regions Is in Danger of Destruction," German Communique Declares

Berlin, Aug. 17.—(AP)—A "total blockade" of Britain in answer to Britain's "illegal" sea warfare was declared by the German government today.

A long communique marshalled numerous instances of what it said were illegal acts by Britain on the seas.

"Germany is convinced that with announcement of a total blockade of the British islands she is taking another decisive step toward ending the war and removal of the responsible contemporary British rulers," the statement said.

German armed forces will "utilize fully" their strategic position from the Bay of Biscay to the north cape of Norway as well as their supremacy in the air and on the sea around England, the statement added.

The German note was sent to all neutral countries except Argentina and the United States, asking them to forbid their ships to sail into the German-English war zone. The United States and Argentina were expected, it was explained, because they have already barred their ships from the war zone by neutrality legislation.

The communique warned that German warplanes henceforth will attack every ship entering the war zone. "Every neutral ship which in future sails these regions is in danger of destruction," it declared.

French Fliers Bomb Italians

Cairo, Aug. 17.—(AP)—French air men operating with the Royal Air Force fought off an attempted Italian air raid on Berbera, the capital and chief port of British Somaliland, the RAF announced today.

A communique announced the Frenchmen shot down one Italian bomber and put the others to flight, while British bombers attacked the Italian-held port of Zeila and other military targets and troops concentrations.

The RAF also reported direct hits on an Italian submarine, a naval oil tank and jetties in bombing the harbor of Tobruk, Libya, and said resultant fires still burned "many hours later."

Flood Damage High In West Part Of State

Raleigh, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Rain and flood damage to western North Carolina crops will total "well over a million dollars," Russell P. Handy, junior statistician in the State department of Agriculture reported today upon his return from the stricken area.

He reported that injury to tobacco had not been so severe, but the inability of growers to harvest the crop in face of continued rains may diminish their income by additional losses.

Throngs Await Wilkie Speech

Aug. 17.—(AP)—A large throng of voters gathered today to hear Wendell Wilkie, Republican presidential nominee, in a short speech at the opening of the agricultural campaign.

Wilkie's speech is expected to be a key event in the campaign, and it is expected to influence the outcome of the election.

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Bank Assets Total Over Half-Billion

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. Raleigh, Aug. 17.—Total assets of the 353 banks and branches in North Carolina were more than half a billion dollars on June 30, according to an abstract of condition just released by Gurney P. Hood, commissioner of banks.

By far the greater part of these assets were held by the 154 state commercial banks and their 118 branches. These had combined assets of \$398,314,622.12; while assets of the 31 state industrial banks and one branch were \$16,729,642.90; and 49 national banks, with their branches, had assets of \$128,315,000.

All together the 353 banks or branches had assets aggregating \$545,959,229.65. Figures for the national banks were as of March 26, the latest available. For state commercial and industrial banks they were as of June 30.

Total commercial bank assets showed an increase from \$360,400,944.63 on June 30, 1939; this being the highest attained at a June 30.

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Weather
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Mostly cloudy tonight and Sunday, probably occasional showers.

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