

Henderson Daily Dispatch

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Italians Fighting Greeks

FDR Watches Balkan Moves

Adding a New Spoke To The Axis



Paris, Oct. 28.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today announced that he had received word from the French cabinet that it had decided to open a series of negotiations on the reported plan to draw France closer to the Rome-Berlin axis. The report in Berlin signified willingness to give France "easy peace terms" in return for French bases in the Mediterranean and in the west of Africa. It is also rumored pressure was brought on France to war against Great Britain. The meeting occurred "somewhere in France."

May Cancel Address Set For Tonight

President Confers By Telephone With Secretary Hull, Decides to Carry Through Portion of Motor Tour of New York.

Newark, N. J., Oct. 28.—(AP)—President Roosevelt decided today to carry through a portion of his plans for a motor tour of the New York metropolitan area today, although a secretary said officials feared press reports of Italian-Greek combat "may be a preliminary move to a more serious situation."

Declaration Of War Follows Ultimatum By Italy; Athens Airport Bombed Hour Later

Remember the Maginot Line?—This Is It



Once the defeat of France's military might, the Maginot Line serves only as a bulky, crumbling background for German soldiers cutting the tall grass in the shadow of one of the fortifications. First German move on occupying France was to destroy the effectiveness of the Line, which was built to keep out the Nazis.

Great Britain Speeds Mediterranean Fleet To Assist Greece; General Conflagration in Balkans Is Feared.

Athens, Oct. 28.—(AP)—Fierce fighting Greek troops were reported tonight to have gained the first victory in the war with Italy, breaking through Italian positions at one place and driving eight miles into Albania. The report, unconfirmed elsewhere, was made by Reuters (British news agency) in a dispatch from Athens. Pledging "unlimited support", Britain swiftly seized the initiative at sea in the new conflict. Informed quarters in Athens said the British fleet already had occupied the Greek island of Corfu and also a small island off Corfu. A flames naval battle, presumably between British and Italian warships, was reported fought off Corfu.

Nazis Continue Raids

Night Raids Are Lighter

German Planes Reported Over West of England, Midlands, East Coast and Wales.

London, Oct. 28.—(AP)—German planes were reported over the west coast of England, the Midlands, East Coast and Wales today after a series of night raids during the night. The main attacks in London were reported to be lighter than the second day.

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Turkey Takes No Official Action

Ankara, Turkey, Oct. 28.—(AP)—Premier Refik Saydam broadcast today that "we are stronger than ever" but made no mention of Italy's invasion of Greece. It was generally assumed that Turkey's attitude would depend largely on how much aid Britain can give Greece as well as on the degree of Greece's own resistance. Although official sources kept silence no credence was given to rumors that the Ankara government was drafting a declaration of war.

Petain Has FDR Note

Contents of "Personal Message" Not Disclosed in Announcement at Vichy.

Vichy, Oct. 28.—(AP)—A foreign ministry spokesman said today that Marshal Philippe Petain, France's chief of state, had received from President Roosevelt a "personal message" which could be disclosed only by Petain "because of the privacy of its character."

Highway Accident Survey Shows 26 Counties Killing One Or More Per Month

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENK! AVERILL. Raleigh, Oct. 28.—Twenty-three North Carolina counties have on the average had one person a month killed in highway accidents during the first nine months of 1940; while at the other end of the list seven counties had no fatalities.

Big Liner Is Lost

Empress of Britain Is Sunk By Nazis; 598 of 643 Persons Aboard Are Rescued.

London, Oct. 28.—(AP)—Britain acknowledged today that the 12,248-ton liner Empress of Britain had been lost. (A British broadcast heard in New York by NBC said 598 persons so far had been rescued. German reports, saying that the big liner had been crippled by air attack Saturday and finished off early today by a submarine, described her as a "transport.")

The admiral and war office refused to announce that the S. S. Empress of Britain has been lost as the result of enemy action. The Empress of Britain was attacked by enemy aircraft and set on fire and it became necessary to abandon ship.

Some 598 survivors out of the total on board of 613 have already been rescued by British warships. Included in this number were military families and a small number of military personnel.

The resolute and efficient handling of the Empress of Britain's anti-aircraft defenses contributed largely to the high proportion of the complement's being saved.

but a total which will still compare quite bloodily with casualties from the bombings of London, population and all other factors being due consideration.

Mecklenburg's death list, just as last year, was highest in the state, with Guilford hanging grimly to second place. The former topped its list for the first time last year's first three counties, killing 23 this time against 21 last year. Either of these was an improvement over 1938's first nine

months, when 38 were slain. Guilford's second place total reached 30 again this year, the same as in 1939. The 1938 total for the corresponding period stood at 26.

The other 21 counties in which nine or more were killed up to October 1 were, in order (with 1939 and 1938 fatalities in parenthesis): Robeson 27 (15-8), Forsyth 25 (14-17), Brunswick 21 (16-28), Cumberland 18 (20-10), Rowan 17 (11-12), Gaston 13 (7-18), Harnett 13 (7-12), Wake 13 (26-35), Duplin 12 (11), Johnston 12 (9-6), Alamance 11 (5-8), Cabarrus 11 (8-5), Edgecombe 11 (9-12), Union 11 (6), Wayne 11 (12-11), Catawba 10 (18-7), Cleveland 9 (10-3), New Hanover 9 (14-9), Northampton 9 (16-8) and Wilson 9 (7-3).

The perfect-score counties so far this year are (with 1939 and 1938 figures in parenthesis): Camden (1-2), Chowan (0-4), Clay (1-1), Gates (0-2), Hyde (0-0), Perquimans (2-3), Tyrrell (0-1).

Hyde, it will be noted, is the only county in North Carolina which has not had a single fatal highway accident during the first nine months of any of the last three years.

It takes no peering scrutiny of the list to note that the only counties with perfect records are those which have few people, few roads, or both.

This year's list of 10 counties with ten or more fatalities is a reduction of four over last year, when there were 23 double-digit death counties. Seven counties which had less than ten deaths last year advanced into the red list this time, while eleven which were on the dishonor roll last year show better safety records so far.

Undoubtedly the worst showing in highway safety has been made this year by Robeson, in which there have been 27 fatalities as compared with 14 last year and only eight the year before; even though Union tops it by far if a percentage of increase basis is applied. In the first nine months of 1938 there were but one highway fatality in Union. In 1939 this was multiplied six times and this year the figure has soared to 11—merely an increase of one thousand percent in two years.

Among the counties still killing as many as ten, Gaston alone shows consistent improvement, its toll running 18, 16 and 13 for the first three quarters of 1938, 1939 and 1940, respectively.

Russia May Take Over Dardanelles

Mussolini And Hitler Confer

Florence, Italy, Oct. 28.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred for nearly three hours today in the first session of a meeting staged as Italy took what was described as "urgent" measures required to face the danger of the situation in Greece.

The two axis leaders began their session at 11:30 a. m. and emerged at 1:15 p. m. for luncheon with their foreign ministers. A second conference was expected to begin at about 4 p. m.

Traffic Toll Is Eleven

Week-End Accidents in North Carolina Take Heavy Toll of Dead and Injured.

Charlotte, Oct. 28.—(AP)—At least 11 persons were killed and a large number injured in auto mishaps in North Carolina over the week-end.

Three were killed in an automobile wreck at Winston-Salem: Mrs. Pauline Ross Griffin, her two-year-old daughter and her three-year-old sister-in-law. The dead lived in Cricklet, Wilkes county.

Beulah Faye Hopkins, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thad Hopkins, was fatally injured when she was struck by an automobile in front of her home near Greenville.

At Bessemer City, A. W. Thompson, 51, was killed in a similar accident. A break accident at Wilson cost the life of Mrs. A. G. Lemm, 60, and injured two other women. The wheel of a racing car driven by Ray Dowell of Alexandria, Va., flew off and landed into the crowd watching the race at the Wilson county fair.

Entire Question of Russian-German Relations Believed Nearing Showdown As New Crisis Develops in Balkans.

Budapest, Oct. 28.—(AP)—Rumors were current in the Balkans today that Soviet Russia is preparing to take over the Dardanelles "protectively" as southeastern Europe nervously awaited some indication of Moscow's attitude over Italy's invasion of Greece.

Diplomatic observers expressed belief that the entire question of German-Russian relations was approaching a showdown.

Many said they believed that Moscow was informed in advance of the Italian action and that no Soviet intervention could be expected.

But it seems widely felt that Russian reaction ultimately will depend on the extent to which Moscow believes that Soviet Black Sea interests are threatened by this latest axis move.

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENK! AVERILL. Raleigh, Oct. 28.—John L. Lewis' declaration of support for Wendell Willkie will have a negligible effect on North Carolina's voting Tuesday week, in the opinion of practically all political observers in Raleigh.

Chief interest here in the Lewis plump for the G. O. P. is watching his effect on the big business men of the state, who have damned the CIO chief for years but who now find themselves lying in the same political bed with the bushy-browed fellow they have so often pictured with horns of most Satanic type.

Hall in just it is being suggested that these tycoons are now rather wishful that FDR succeed at the polls, because John L. has promised to quit his labor job at that event. They are, it seems, between the devil and the deep blue sea—if they get rid of Roosevelt, they'll still have Lewis to contend with. The compensation is that if they have to keep the man in the White House they will at least get rid of the CIO boss—salvage provided he keeps his temper.

More Voters Are Eligible

Growth in Number of Voters Does Not Indicate Corresponding Population Gain.

By CHARLES P. STEWART. Central Press Columnist. Washington, Oct. 28.—Although this year's eligible voters are 5,391,600 more numerous than they were in 1926 it doesn't follow that there's been a corresponding population increase. On the contrary, our population growth is dwindling rapidly. Experts predict that, within a few years, we'll be stationary.

That there's a trend in that direction is proved, in fact, by the increase in the number of our voters. We have more of them, because Americans, on an average, are older than they were not long ago. Not many babies are born in the United States now as there used to be. Consequently, there's a shrink-

Dr. Hugh Cumming. (Continued on Page Four)

Weather FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Partly cloudy and somewhat foggy tonight and Tuesday; Wednesday a fair show of rain with a few showers; north part of the State, rain.