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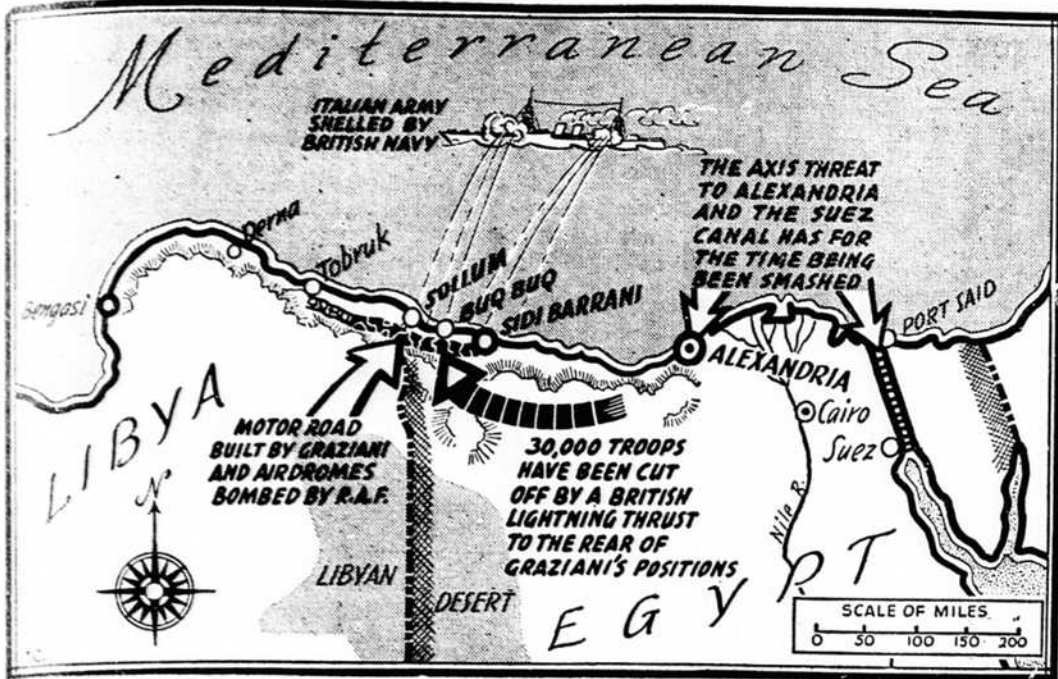
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HENDERSON, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 14, 1940

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How Britain Smashed Threat to Lifeline



After capturing the important base of Sidi Barrani, Italian base for the invasion of Egypt, British forces continued pushing on through the desert towards Libya. The smashing British victory relieved the threat to the Suez Canal and is said to have cut off 30,000 Italian troops by a blitzkrieg thrust. (Central Press)

Italians Driven Back Into Libya

New Plan To Aid British

Use Of U. S. Navy Escort Is Involved

Two Plans Put Forward by Advocates of Aid to Britain Have Not Been Submitted to State Department or President.

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Various advocates of greater United States assistance in the British effort were reported authoritatively today to have formulated plans for two new types of aid, one of which would involve use of United States naval escorts for supply ships.

The two proposals, which may be brought to the attention of President Roosevelt when he returns to Washington from his Caribbean cruise, are:

1.—Convoys of supplies to the British Isles in United States ships protected by escorts of United States war vessels.

2.—Bringing about the sale to Great Britain of some or all of 143 foreign flag cargo vessels, such as those of Denmark, which were tied up in American ports to escape an uncertain fate after German occupation of the homelands.

Informed persons emphasized that both proposals were still in the "mulling over" stage and while under consideration have not yet been placed formally before either the State department or the President.

While official comment thus was lacking, these persons recalled that Lord Lothian, the late British ambassador, made an implied plea for American naval assistance in keeping supply routes open to the British Isles in an address made for him before the American Farm Bureau Federation in Baltimore a few hours before his death.

Authorities who have studied both plans said it would be necessary to have congressional action before either could be put into effect.

They explained that the convoy system would require amendment of the neutrality law which forbids American shipping to enter European war zones, and the sale of foreign flag vessels would have to have enabling legislation.

NAVAL ORDNANCE PLANTS ANNOUNCED

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Sites for four additional naval ordnance plants to cost \$35,000,000 were announced today by the Navy department.

Acting Secretary James Forrestal announced that one of the plants would be located near Detroit, one near Canton, Ohio, and another at Indianapolis, Ind., and the fourth at Macon, Ga.

More Staples For Surplus Commodities

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

Raleigh, Dec. 14.—Action of the Council of State in making available some \$40,000 to the Surplus Commodity Distribution division will make available for distribution a much greater volume of "staples" than ever before, Governor Clyde R. Hoey said today.

In view of this fact all county welfare boards will be able to requisition and receive a much greater proportion of staples, such as meal, flour, meat and the like than has ever before been the case, the governor added.

According to A. E. Langston, director of the commodity distribution, the Federal officials have notified

The British Travel Fast



Powerful units of R.A.F. armored cars, such as those shown speeding through the African desert, worked in close cooperation with infantry, artillery and the Mediterranean fleet in Britain's smashing Egyptian victory over the Italians and the capture of Sidi Barrani. The armored cars are used generally in airport defenses. (Central Press)

British Move Cautiously In Advance

Cairo Reports More Than 30,000 Italians Surrendered to British; In Greek-Italian War Greeks Continue Gains.

(By The Associated Press.)

Closely pursued remnants of Marshal Graziani's Egyptian invasion army were reported retreating into Libya today after futile rear guard attempts to stop the British advance east of the Egyptian-Libyan frontier.

Unconfirmed rumors were circulated at Cairo that General Sir Archibald P. Wavell's advance units had captured the Egyptian border post of Salum and crossed the frontier, driving Italians from Fort Capuzzo.

A spokesman said little fighting continued in the parched sands of northwestern Egypt. The British were believed to be moving up cautiously along the frontier, consolidating far-extended positions and preparing to pounce upon any counter thrust Marshal Graziani might attempt from Libya.

Military observers expressed doubt that General Wavell would attempt a major drive on into Libya until his striking force was reorganized for the next phase of the campaign.

Italian prisoners still were being rounded up—their number only estimated. Cairo sources said more than 30,000 had surrendered.

Meanwhile, other Italian troops on the defensive in eastern Albania near Lake Ochrida were said to be putting up their fiercest resistance of the Italian-Greek war in an attempt to stem the Greek drive toward the central Albanian base at Elbasani, 20 miles from Tirana, the capital.

At the opposite end of the Albanian battlefield, the Greeks said their troops were advancing toward Chimara while inland forces near Tepelene were pushing another wedge northward through the mountains toward Valona.

Italian authorities refused to comment.

(Continued on Page Four)

Laval Out Of Office

Marshal Petain Ousts Laval From All Connection With French Government.

Vichy, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Old Marshal Philippe Petain ousted Pierre Laval, prime "collaborator" with Adolf Hitler, from all connection with the French government today, but insisted it made no difference to his avowed desire to get along with Germany.

(Bern diplomats heard that Petain had also ordered Laval's arrest.)

Sudden decrees and a speech by Petain, following a blackout of all communication between France and the outside world, disclosed that former Premier Philippe Etienne-Flandin had replaced Laval as foreign minister and that Hitler already had been told about the change.

Marshal Petain declared in a radio speech tonight that Laval, who has been both vice premier and foreign minister, now is no longer a part of the government because of "the interest of the country."

"It is for high reasons of interior policy that I am resolved to take this decision," said the old marshal. "It will make no difference in our relations with Germany."

It was Laval, the constant appeaser, who initiated post-armistice collaboration with Hitler by defeated France.

Defense Plant Burns

Loss Set At High Figure

Hoboken, N. J., Plant Building Equipment For Steamships, Destroyed by Fire.

Hoboken, N. J., Dec. 14.—(AP)—A fire today destroyed the plant building equipment for steamships, active in national defense orders, with a loss estimated by company spokesmen at \$1,000,000 to \$1,000,000. One man was killed.

The fire was tentatively traced to George Jacobs of Jersey City, a watchman who discovered the fire with four other workers during the night shift at 11:30 p. m.

Men said Jacobs had been going back into the plant to obtain papers and was struck by the flames.

Anderson, plant executive, said the loss at \$1,000,000 included wood patterns and built machines being constructed for defense orders.

Mr. Evans, company treasurer, said the \$1,000,000 estimate was high—about a tenth of the value of the plant.

The plant built turbines, condensers and other equipment for the Navy and other government agencies.

British Now Wants Ships

American Shipbuilding Once Frowned Upon, But Conditions Changed, Stewart Says

By CHARLES P. STEWART, Central Press Columnist

Washington, Dec. 14.—I can remember when John Bull wasn't really interested in the development of this country's maritime facilities at present. In fact, he was not interested in it. He found no fault with our maintenance but emphatically he was not interested in the upbuilding of our merchant fleet of any appreciable proportions. Back in the latter ship days our bottoms were a bit of the oceans' cargo.

But that time passed. Railroads better than overseas accounts. We concentrated on inland transportation. Our mercantile fleet went out to pretty nearly nothing but to do all our transporting. It wasn't as big as it used to be, but it was still there.

It was not until the experience had taught us that it was most undesirable to be dependent on foreign boats for our international business in

lottery racket arrest is made in Wilmington

Raleigh, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Frederick C. Handy, director of the State Bureau of Investigation, reported today that his agents in cooperation with the New Hanover county sheriff's office early today arrested a man who Handy said was the head of the lottery racket in Wilmington.

Handy identified the man as (alias Crip and Dutch) Smith. He was arrested in Wilmington and is also wanted in Greensboro on lottery charges, Handy said. The arrest came shortly after 33 Negroes had been convicted in the recorder's court in Wilmington on lottery charges and had received fines of \$25 to \$1,000 and had been sentenced to terms ranging from 30 days to four months.

(Continued on Page Two)

Benefit Payments Reach New Record

Director Yelton Seeks Increase in Old Age and Dependent Children Social Security Benefit Payments.

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

Raleigh, Dec. 14.—For the current month North Carolina will pay to 36,504 old age assistance beneficiaries a grand total of \$359,552.92 or an average of \$9.85 each.

If the widows of Confederate veterans whose pensions were transferred to the Old Age rolls be included, this will rise to 37,157 beneficiaries drawing \$376,172.24, or an average of \$10.13 each.

This month, also, 23,564 dependent children will receive \$162,873.49, or an average of \$6.91 each.

Nathan Yelton, director of the Public Assistance division of the Department of Charities and Public Welfare, released these figures today with the comment that the average payments are the highest yet attained under the Social Security regime in North Carolina.

He pointed out at the same time, however, that the average benefits both for Old Age and for Dependent Children are still far behind the National averages; and he cited his 1941 budget requests to indicate that his division is consistently working to raise the average payments, as well as the total number of beneficiaries.

Final objective, he said, is parity with the national average, at least, though he confessed inability to say just where the State can get the tremendous sums which would be necessary to do this.

The December figures for Old Age assistance showed an increase of 128 recipients and of two cents in the average paid each. Pensioners dropped off two (from 655 to 653), with the average payment going down by one cent.

For dependent children there was an increase of 187 while the average payment went up five cents from \$6.89 in November.

Taking up the requests made for the 1941-43 biennium, Mr. Yelton pointed to reasonable increases all along the line.

The aim for the next two years, in Old Age assistance, is 40,000 beneficiaries drawing checks which will average \$11.67 each per month. That includes the pensioners on the old age rolls. As mentioned, current figures are 37,000 recipients getting

(Continued on Page Three.)

Lottery Racket Arrest Is Made In Wilmington

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Weather FOR NORTH CAROLINA Cloudy tonight and Sunday, with occasional rains; somewhat colder.

Fills Lothian Post



Neville Montagu Butler

Phonephoto

Counsellor to the British Embassy in Washington, Neville Montagu Butler will act as Ambassador until a successor is named to Lord Lothian, who died suddenly a few hours before the envoy's death in Washington, Butler read Lothian's plea to the American Farm Bureau Federation for more U. S. aid to Britain.

Army Reserve To Be Called

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The War Department announced today that all of the 28,739 members of the regular Army reserve who do not have dependents would be ordered into active service probably by February 15.

The reserve is composed of former enlisted men who volunteered to remain subject to orders. Those not available for active duty because of dependents or because they hold key positions in essential industries will be discharged from the reserve.

The reservists will be ordered out, it was explained, to help "carry the load of training the new army."

The regular Army reserve was created two years ago with the original intent to expand it to 75,000 or more but officials said so many of the former soldiers re-enlisted recently that this objective was abandoned.

NEW PATROLMEN.

Raleigh, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Major John Armstrong, commander of the State Highway Patrol, announced today the appointment of five men as highway patrolmen to fill vacancies. They include Charles Powell of Wilson and J. W. Williamson of Kenansville.

Weather FOR NORTH CAROLINA Cloudy tonight and Sunday, with occasional rains; somewhat colder.

(Continued on Page Three)

Windsor May Visit CCC Camps In U. S.

Freezing Weather Crosses Continent

(By The Associated Press) Freezing temperatures stretched across the continent today as the cold wave reached the eastern seaboard.

In addition to frigid weather, snow, sleet, rain and fog were reported in many parts of the nation.

Eight deaths were attributed to the cold and snow in the middle west and Rocky Mountain region, where rising temperatures today brought relief from sub-zero weather.

A mass of cold air sweeping down from Canada gave parts of California their coldest weather in eight years yesterday.

Virtually all of the plains states were covered with snow. The temperature fell several degrees below the freezing point in New York City last night after a day of unseasonable warmth.

Large Defense Contract Let

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The War department awarded contracts totaling \$105,887,790 today for small arms ammunition and for a new plant at St. Louis to produce the ammunition.

Officials said the awards represented the largest single ordnance manufacturing project of the current rearmament program.

The plant will be built on a 134-acre site and employ from 10,000 to 12,000 persons when it starts production nearly a year hence.

8 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT
TO BUY HOUSIERY FOR COUSIN JANE
BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

Duke, Returning to Miami After Meeting President Roosevelt, Says Talks Concerned Naval Bases in West Indies.

Miami Beach, Fla., Dec. 14.—(AP)—The first meeting in 21 years between President Roosevelt and the Duke of Windsor may have paved the way for the former British king to come to the United States next year for first hand study of a New Deal agency.

While the two talked yesterday aboard the cruiser Tuscaloosa in Bahamian waters, the duke said he asked the President "if after New Year's he could make arrangements for me to visit CCC camps."

Edward indicated the reply was a cordial invitation and added he "wouldn't be surprised" if he sees the President again.

The duke, governor of the Bahama islands, has expressed deep interest in the CCC program because, he says, he sees in it a possible aid for Bahama islanders.

It was as governor that he flew from Miami in a United States Navy plane to keep a rendezvous with the President, who is completing an inspection of naval and air bases leased from Great Britain.

"We discussed naval bases in the whole of the West Indies," the duke

Second American Woman Now Held In Nazi Custody

Washington, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The United States embassy in Paris, the State department said today, is making a determined effort to obtain the release of Mrs. Etta Kahn Shiber, the second American woman to be taken into German custody in occupied France in the last two weeks.

Beyond the fact that Mrs. Shiber was detained by German authorities little was known here. The Paris embassy was not able to determine the nature of the charges against her or where she was held.

On December 1 the State department heard that members of the Nazi secret police had "rs. Elizabeth Deggan of Asheville, N. C., a clerk at the United States embassy in Paris. Maynard Barnes, embassy charge d' affaires later located Mrs. Deggan in a small hotel but officials here did not learn whether she had been released. In her case it was understood, the Germans were investigating accusations that she had helped British officers escape from occupied France.