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British Push Deeper Into Libya

Sec. Hull Sees British Crisis In Spring

Back From Defense Cruise



After a cruise in the Caribbean, during which he inspected newly-arrived U. S. defense bases, President Roosevelt is piped ashore from the U. S. S. Tuscaloosa at Charleston, S. C. He returned from the voyage sea-tanned and healthy. Note catapult plane in background. (Central Press)

British Attempting To Encircle Bardia

Last Remnants of Italian Army Driven from Egyptian Soil; British Capture Salum and Fort Capuzzo in Libya

By EDWARD KENNEDY.

The British forces at Salum, Egypt, Dec. 16—(AP)—British armored units were sweeping the desert west of Bardia in an attempt to encircle that Italian base in Libya, following the capture of Salum and Fort Capuzzo.

The last remnants of the Italian army were driven from Egyptian soil under heavy British fire, the British abandoned Salum, seized their drive into Egypt, and crossed the frontier into Libya, where they are now.

British troops promptly occupied the Egyptian port. Then they continued to carry the fight to the Italians moving across the border to Fort Capuzzo.

The Italians are reported to have abandoned Salum, on the east coast of the Mediterranean, and retreated from Bardia and Tobruk.

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Anniversary of First Airplane Flight Observed

Mantro, Dec. 17—(AP)—Fifty airplanes from Greensboro, Raleigh, Fort Bragg, Langley Field and the Elizabeth City Coast Guard airbase, were expected to circle Kill Devil Hill today in observance of the first successful flight of the Wright brothers, made from the hill December 17, 1903.

Mrs. Truman Miller, manager of the Raleigh airport, and Mayor Jerome Floyd, of Elizabeth City, were asked to place wreaths on a monument atop the hill. Lieutenant Commander R. L. Burke of Elizabeth City was programmed for a talk.

Negro Found Shot To Death In White Home

Lumberton, Dec. 17—(AP)—Ira Eayden, 18-year-old Negro farm hand, was found dead today at the home of Walton Allen, white armorer of Howellsville township, his head mangled by a shotgun blast.

Sheriff Clyde Wade quoted Allen's wife, Mrs. Alene Pridden Allen, 25, as saying Bowden attempted to attack her, but that she be away and ran from the house and heard a gunshot a moment later.

Wade said Allen was working at Fort Bragg and that Mrs. Allen said she was in her home when Bowden

Morgenthau Analyses British Needs

Washington, Dec. 17—(AP)—Secretary Morgenthau was reported to have told a House appropriations committee today that Sir Frederick Phillips, undersecretary of the British Treasury, had informed him that England could make no more commitments for purchase of war materials in the United States unless financial aid was extended.

Committee members who disclosed this testimony, given behind closed doors, added that the Treasury secretary had repeated his statement that he believed that the United States could not extend loans to credits unless Congress modified the Johnson act forbid-

Miss Ethel Parker Seeks Mrs. Stevens' Place On State Agriculture Board

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

Raleigh, Dec. 17—As if next Governor J. M. Broughton didn't face trouble enough in finding jobs for all the male politicians who will swear in the primary last spring, there is in prospect at least one scrap for position in which the aspiring contenders will be ladies.

Miss Ethel Parker of Gatesville—or at least friends in her behalf and on behalf—has already launched a campaign to replace Mrs. Vivian (L. L.) Stevens on the State Board of Agriculture, of which that lady from Currituck is now the only feminine mem-

British Ask Financial Assistance

Details of Appeal Not Made Public; Secretary Hull Urges All Speed Possible in Producing Arms, Planes and Supplies.

Washington, Dec. 17—(AP)—Secretary Hull was reported today to have told defense commissioners and other government officials that Great Britain probably would face a serious crisis next spring unless present delivery schedules of American supplies were considerably increased.

Disclosure of the cabinet member's view followed an outright British request for financial assistance from the United States. Details of the appeal were not made public.

Hull was reported to have urged all speed possible in producing arms, planes and other supplies. Similarly, it was learned that the shipping situation is being examined to determine whether additional merchant ships might be made available for rushing supplies to Britain.

Hull's statements were believed to be partially responsible for the comments of William S. Knudsen and other defense officials that greater speed is necessary in the defense program.

Knudsen yesterday described the production situation as one of "terrible urgency." That declaration and the British request for financial help put two formidable problems on President Roosevelt's desk.

As Mr. Roosevelt returned to the executive offices for the first full day after his two weeks cruise in the Caribbean, the brief grieve in some quarters that some important action might be forthcoming.

"Something usually does happen when he comes back here," Secretary of Commerce Jones pointed out in explaining recently that decision on financial help to Britain could not be reached because "the administration is away."

Since armament aid to Britain depends on the speed of domestic defense production, the expectation was that this field of assistance would receive executive attention before the matter of financial assistance.

Beaverbrook Says Invasion Attempt Planned By Nazis

Succeeds Pittman



Berkeley Bunker, 34, Las Vegas, Nev., merchant and Mormon bishop, takes oath of office to fill unexpired term of the late Senator Key Pittman. Bunker is first senator to take oath of office in the old Supreme Court chambers, temporary senate chambers, in the last 80 years.

Many Dead In Explosion

Cause of Blast in Cincinnati Apartment House Not Determined; Twelve Hurt.

Cincinnati, Dec. 17—(AP)—Members of four families were elated out of their beds by a pre-dawn explosion that wrecked a three-story downtown building and killed eight to eleven persons today.

Twelve persons were injured and two were missing in the pile of brick, kindling and dust that until 3.30 a. m. had been a structure housing business establishments on the first floor and apartments on the upper floors.

Twelve children were among the victims, including a baby which coroner Frank Conroy said was born to Mrs. Lillian Schmetzer, 42, before she, too, was taken lifeless from the wreckage.

While the cause was not determined immediately, Joe Hughes, 57, who lived across the street, said the explosion "was like a puff from igniting gas."

Some of the bodies were so badly torn they could not be identified immediately.

Screams of adults and children trapped in the debris spurred emergency squads of police and firemen as they dug into the ruins. A fireman said that those who didn't die of injuries were suffocated by smoke and dust.

RAID CASUALTIES

London, Dec. 17—(AP)—Civilian air raid casualties in the United Kingdom in November were 4,588 dead and 6,992 injured, it was announced officially today.

Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Fair tonight and Wednesday; colder tonight.

6 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

TO BUY SWEATER FOR WILLIE

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

"Immense Attempt" to Bring Out Huge Airforce in Early Months of Next Year Is Being Made, Minister Declares.

London, Dec. 17—(AP)—Lord Beaverbrook, minister of aircraft production, declared over the radio tonight that Germany "is making preparations for invasion of England before next spring—by land and sea, but principally by air."

Hitler is making an "immense attempt" to bring out a huge air force in the early months of next year, Lord Beaverbrook said, and there are "sure and certain signs" of a feverish development of production.

"These vast preparations," he added, "are directed at one objective—the invasion of Britain."

"So we are warned. We know that some measure of preparation was carried out in Germany last winter. Tanks and dive bombers to destroy the French; the same thoroughness will be employed against us when the time comes."

Lord Beaverbrook told Britons they were "much too confident" and added "there is no justification for overconfidence now."

"It must be acknowledged that Hitler is still military master of Europe but not quite so much the master he was."

American planes are arriving in England "in an increasing flow—very very many of them," Lord Beaver-

Coal Mine Blast Traps Dozen Men

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 17—(AP)—The State Mines Department announced today it had received an unofficial report that approximately a dozen men had been trapped in the number four mine of the Raleigh Coal and Coke Corporation near Beckley by a dust explosion or a mine fire.

Beckley, W. Va., Dec. 17—(AP)—Five injured men were brought out of the number four mine of the Raleigh Coal and Coke Corporation today, less than an hour after an explosion which trapped an undetermined number of victims.

The extent of the injuries suffered by the miners, who were rushed by ambulance to a Beckley hospital, was not immediately learned.

Company officials announced shortly after the five injured were brought out that they believed 14 more men were inside. They did not know whether the miners still in the mine were alive or dead.

Mrs. C. M. Meadows, wife of a district mine inspector, said she understood there had been at least one fatality.

The mine, a "stop" operation extending many miles back into a hillside on the outskirts of Beckley, normally employs about 100 men, and officials said there were 47 men employed on the day shift.

Two rescue crews were ordered out immediately.

TRAITOR

London, Dec. 17—(AP)—Mrs. Dorothy Pamela O'Grady, 42, a housewife, was sentenced to death for treason today. She was convicted under the official secrets act and defense regulation, it was announced.

FIVE DIE IN FIRE

Johnstown, Pa., Dec. 17—(AP)—Five persons perished today in flames which destroyed a two-family home at nearby Mineral Point. The victims were trapped on the second floor of the seven-room frame structure.

No Foreign War Committee Organization Announced

New York, Dec. 17—(AP)—Formation of the No Foreign War Committee was announced today by Verne Marshall, editor of the Cedar Rapids, Ia., Gazette, who is chairman of the new organization.

The purpose of the committee, a statement said, is to "give articulation to that overwhelming majority of American citizens which is definitely on record as opposed to our direct physical involvement in the present war."

In a statement issued after a two-day organization meeting here, Marshall said:

"For months out in Iowa I have watched the development of a psychological trend toward actual physical American participation in this war.

"The William Allen White Committee to Defend America by Aid-

No. 2 Man in France



Named to succeed Pierre Laval, who was purged from his positions as vice premier and foreign minister of France, was Pierre-Etienne Flandin, former finance minister. Flandin took over the foreign ministry, but the vice premier post was left empty. Laval was a prima mover in the attempt to bring France into closer accord with the Rome-Berlin Axis. (Central Press)

Laval Meets Nazi Envoy

Ousted French Official Reappears Suddenly for Talks With Abetz and Petain.

Bern, Dec. 17—(AP)—At the behest of Reichsfuehrer Hitler's representative in Paris, German Ambassador Otto Abetz, Pierre Laval reappeared suddenly in Vichy today for a luncheon table talk with Abetz and Chief of State Philippe Petain.

It was the first time the ousted vice premier and foreign minister had been seen in Vichy since he was expelled from the French cabinet Friday night.

His reappearance increased the anxiety of many veteran French officials whose usual tranquility in the face of government upheavals has been upset by Abetz's dramatic arrival yesterday with a picked Nazi guard and a German delegation.

Total German occupation of France, some observers said, may be foreshadowed in the Abetz visit—the first to Vichy of any ranking Nazi official since the armistice.

Rumors spread that the Germans want Laval, once the old marshal's own choice as his successor, back in his job. But reports reaching diplomatic quarters here said it was

Windsors End Visit In U. S.

Miami, Dec. 17—(AP)—The Duke and Duchess of Windsor terminate today their first visit to the U. S. since King Edward's abdication of the British throne.

Happy over the cordial reception they received here, the Windsors planned to sail at 5 p. m. (e. s. l.) aboard the yacht Southern Cross on the return trip to Nassau.

The duchess appeared virtually recovered from the effects of a dental operation that brought the Windsors to Miami just a week ago.

BRITISH REPORT SHIPPING LOSSES

London, Dec. 17—(AP)—The admiralty reported today 101-190 tons of British, allied and neutral merchant shipping were sunk during the week ending December 8.

Nineteen British vessels, totaling 86,740 tons, three allied ships of 12,937 tons, and one neutral vessel of 1,513 tons, were lost during the period, it said.

Armour May Become Ambassador

Washington, Dec. 17—(AP)—Norman Armour, ace career diplomat and now United States ambassador to Argentina was mentioned in informed circles today for the vacant post of ambassador to Great Britain.

With no British ambassador in this country following the death of the Marquess of Latham, President Roosevelt was expected to name a successor soon to Joseph P. Kennedy, who resigned the London post on November 6.

Some sources hinted that the President already had decided on Armour for the key assignment in the British capital.

Armour, who was born in England of American parents, has held diplomatic posts in nearly every part of the world, including Japan, Russia, and various European countries.

RAF Raids Nazi Center Of Mannheim

Greeks Report Smashing Seven Violent Counter Attacks by Fascists in Albania; Abetz Confers With Petain in Vichy.

(By The Associated Press.)

Britain's counter-invasion troops pushed deeper into Italian Libya in the nine-day old battle of North Africa today; royal air force warplanes pounded the German chemical manufacturing city of Mannheim in a seven-hour assault, and the Greeks reported smashing seven violent counter attacks by fascist legions in Albania.

Near Bardia.

London military quarters said General Sir Archibald P. Wavell's Desert forces had thrust a salient to the vicinity of Bardia, key Italian stronghold 15 miles inside Libya on the Mediterranean seacoast.

Pressure on Bardia is "steadily increasing" and new British forces are arriving in the area, a general headquarters communique reported today. The communique also said that two additional Italian forts at the frontier south of Bardia had been captured.

British armored units were reported sweeping over the desert beyond Bardia in an attempt to encircle the town—which would provide an important base for the British offensive aimed at knocking Italy out of the war.

Salum Captured.

The drive gained momentum from the capture of Salum, last Italian pocket of resistance in western Egypt, and Fort Capuzzo, strategic highway terminus twelve miles due south of Bardia.

Premier Mussolini's high command said the battle on the Libyan front was raging "with ferocity no less than that on previous days" and declared that the Italian air force "strongly wore down the enemy."

Fascist torpedo planes, the Rome communique said, scored two hits on

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