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Nazi Press Will Reply To FDR

Wheeler Urges U. S. Efforts To End War

No Official Comment At Present

Press Will Describe President Roosevelt's Talk as "Undignified in Tone, Weak in Argument, and Not Convincing".

Berlin, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler's reply to President Roosevelt's Sunday night speech on the United States and the war will be given for the present by the German press, informed sources said today.

And the press, they added, will put Mr. Roosevelt's talk down as "undignified in tone, weak in argument, and not convincing".

In addition, it was said, the talk would be characterized as "an appeal to the lowest instincts of the American people."

At the same time, from the present handling of the German-American situation here as it results from the President's talk, it seemed evident that Germany does not choose to be provoked.

From the viewpoint of strategy, informed sources intimated, the press will hold that the President's speech is uninteresting because "United States support of England cannot delay—much less prevent—Britain's defeat."

It was said that the German press would comment further that the speech "neither politically nor from the viewpoint of its contents caused any surprise" and would add:

"It is remarkable, however, for its accumulation of partialities, untruths and insults to Germany and Italy."

The German press further was expected to express surprise that the "political leader of 120,000,000 people takes up such phrases of the Jewish press and makes them the subject of discourse to his people."

Bardia Defenders Awaiting Events

Cairo, Dec. 31.—(AP)—The British middle east command reported today that the Italian defenders of Bardia, pounded relentlessly by artillery, "continue passively to await events."

Indications still were lacking of an early British attempt to storm the fascist defended Libyan port which has been under British siege for two weeks.

It was believed here the British would refrain from a costly assault, preferring instead to starve out the Italians.

CHASED
New York, Dec. 31.—(AP)—The British tanker *Donax* reported in a message picked up by Mackay Radio today that she was being "chased by a submarine" about 450 miles west of Scotland.

SHIP IS SUNK
Belgrade, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Reports reaching Belgrade said that an Italian transport vessel loaded with war material for Albania was torpedoed by a British warship in the Adriatic sea today and went down off the Adriatic port of Bar.

Compulsory Defense Work For Britons

London, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Herbert Morrison, minister of home security, announced tonight the British government was planning to make part-time civil defense work compulsory for every Briton.

Morrison made the announcement in a radio address calling on British men and women to form a "civil defense home guard" to defeat the menace of Nazi incendiary bombs by guarding property where they live or are employed, leaving the vast fire department forces free to fight the worst and most dangerous fires.

The government, he said, has decided on "the principle of compulsion" and details are being worked out.

The speech was made after a day of virtual quiet over Britain and after demands had arisen in many quarters for compulsory fire watch.

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Italian Prisoners Off For Internment In Africa



A long column of Italian prisoners is pictured in this photo, flashed by cable from London, marching under British guard to an internment camp. In the background are the ruins of Sidi Barrani, which was captured, with thousands of prisoners, from the Italians. British advance units are now reported surrounding and besieging Bardia, in Italian Libya. C. P. Cablephoto.

Greek Island City Battered By Italians

By DANIEL DE LUCE.
Corfu, Dec. 28. (Delayed)—(AP)—The Greek island city of Corfu is dead above ground but in slimy tunnels six thousand women, children and old men live in fear of Italian bombs.

I saw them today cooking soup over charcoal fires, nursing babies, sewing clothes, in odorous caverns ankle deep in mud.

They had existed like this since November 1—38 days in misery of which more than 50 were marked by fascist air raids. Bombs have killed about 90 persons and injured that number.

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BRITISH ANNOUNCE SHIPPING LOSSES

London, Dec. 31.—(AP)—The admiralty announced today that 43,300 tons of merchant shipping were lost due to "enemy action" in the week ending December 22.

Eighteen ships were lost, it said, of which 15 totaling 32,539 tons were British and three with a tonnage of 10,451 were neutral.

Naval circles commented that the lowered rate of sinkings of the past two weeks indicated that counter-measures taken against submarines will succeed in reducing "materially" the effects of their attacks.

BOND ISSUE APPROVED

Raleigh, Dec. 31.—(AP)—The Local Government Commission today approved issuance of five governmental units of \$275,500 worth of bonds, including Washington public school district, \$10,000 refunding bonds, and Henderson, \$16,000 refunding bonds.

Ford Plant Threatened With Strike

Detroit, Dec. 21.—(AP)—A threat of strike at the Ford Motor Company was held forth today by the United Automobile Workers, CIO, who charged that the company was ignoring national defense needs with an "intention" to disregard a re-hiring agreement.

The union asked Federal intervention while asserting that the United Automobile Workers were "doing everything within our power to effectuate the purposes mentioned by President Roosevelt" in his address Sunday night.

"We feel it the responsibility of (Continued on page two)

Weather
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Increasing cloudiness possibly followed by light rain in west portion Wednesday and in mountains tonight; slowly rising temperature Wednesday and in west portion tonight.

BRITAIN GIVEN LULL IN NAZI AERIAL SIEGE

Healing the Sick



Sister Mary Jordan Carroll demonstrates to scientists in Philadelphia the effects of respiratory stimulating substances extracted from cells, on bacteria. She belongs to the Institutum Divi Thomas, Cincinnati, which has developed salves for wounds and burns which eliminate scar tissue. (Central Press)

Hitler Tells Troops 1941 Will Bring Completion of "Greatest Victory of Our History"; Other News From War Fronts.

(By The Associated Press.)
The government-controlled German press unleashed caustic comment today against President Roosevelt's fireside talk Sunday night, while Adolf Hitler declared in a New Year's message to his troops that 1941 would bring completion of "the greatest victory of our history."
The Nazi Fuehrer asserted that "God up to now has placed the stamp of approval on our battle." At the same time he denied any ambition toward world conquest on the part of the Rome-Berlin axis.
Berlin dispatches said that tensing emotions were sharply evident in the German capital, but that the attitude seemed to be that Germany would not allow herself to be "provoked" by President Roosevelt's program for increased aid to Britain.

The United States, it was said, will be given a chance to reflect before being committed to a course more hostile to Germany.

The closing hours of 1940 brought a lull in the aerial siege of Britain today.
On the Balkan front, the Greeks reported the capture of more than 1,000 new prisoners and said strong Italian counter attacks had been smashed despite the fact that Premier Mussolini's legions were fighting desperately to stem the Greek advance.

The Italian high command, however, asserted fascist troops had inflicted "considerable losses" on the Greeks in local fighting.

Hitler's message to his armies which overran most of Europe in 1940 declared that Germany was "threatened by the world" and that "it is the will of democratic war inciters and their Jewish-capitalistic wire pullers that the war must continue."

The Nazi Fuehrer's number one (Continued on Page Five)

FIVE MEN CAUGHT IN FALL OF MINE ROOF ARE UNHURT

Indiana, Pa., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Five men, all reported safe and unhurt, were trapped today behind a 70-foot long roof fall in the Kent Number 2 mine of the Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company, about 15 miles southwest of here.

Rescue crews digging into the debris kept in communication with the trapped miners and expressed hope of freeing them late today or tonight. The company said the five were receiving an adequate supply of air.

The fall occurred about three miles from the mouth of the mine. Twelve others in the same section escaped.

Hopson Is Convicted

Federal Penitentiary Sentence Looms for Utilities System Founder.

New York, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Howard C. Hopson, who rose from newsboy to the upper realms of high finance only to see his billion dollar utilities system topple like a house of cards, was convicted today on charges that may send him to a federal penitentiary.

After alternately moaning and dozing through a trial which began almost two months ago, the 53-year-old founder of the Associated Gas and Electric System heard a jury of eleven men and one woman convict him of mail fraud growing out of the juggling of nearly \$20,000,000 of the system's assets.

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Senator Disagrees With FDR

Wheeler Is Critical of Much of General Policy Propounded by President in Sunday Night Radio Address; Fears War.

Washington, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Senator Wheeler, Democrat, Montana, in an outspoken disagreement with President Roosevelt today on the question of peace in Europe urged that the United States exert every effort for the immediate end of the war.

He took direct issue with the President's Sunday night broadcast statement that the nation had "no fight or reason to encourage talk of peace" under existing circumstances.

Wheeler raised the peace question during a radio broadcast last night which was frankly critical of much of the general policy which the Chief Executive propounded.

In the United States, the Montana senator further declared, "is no longer in a position to be afraid."

Washington, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Senator Wheeler, Democrat, Montana, said today he had received more than 1,000 telegrams about his speech last night urging a peace move by the United States, and 50 per cent of them were favorable.

The response, he said, was the greatest evoked by any speech he has made in more than 17 years in the Senate.

Wheeler is fighting along the road to war. We are fighting—and don't be fooled."

A short time before the Wheeler speech, Jerome Marshall, chairman of the No-Foreign-War committee, organized at a press conference that the administration already had repudiated any profit of "honorable peace" terms. Despite this, he said, a peace conference still could be arranged if the administration would approve.

Marshall's assertions were challenged almost immediately in a State Department announcement which said that no "feasible" peace program had been advanced.

Senator Wheeler and Marshall, two leading figures in the ranks of those opposed to administration ideas on British aid and kindred subjects, were joined in their criticism yesterday by a number of others who expected to align over some of Mr. Roosevelt's Sunday utterances.

In the opposite camp, meanwhile, there was continued commendation for the policy outlined. The White (Continued on Page Five)

NIGHT WATCHMAN DIES OF INJURY

Washington, N. C., Dec. 21.—(AP)—Bernie Padgett, 59-year-old WPA night watchman, who was attacked by an unknown assailant while on duty here Sunday morning, died at a hospital here this morning.

He was severely beaten about the face and suffered a fractured skull.

Police today continued their investigation of the mysterious case, but no suspects have been arrested and no motive for the assault has been discovered.

Motorists, When They Buy License Tags, Make Only Small Payment On Taxes

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

Raleigh, Dec. 31.—Thousands upon thousands of North Carolina motor vehicle owners have bought their license tags this month. Those who from neglect or lack of cash couldn't do so before now, are today standing in long lines waiting to pay their money and get the pretty pieces of metal with fancy orange numbers painted on a black background.

As each one gets his tag he breathes a sigh of relief and more or less joyously congratulates himself: "Thank goodness, that's paid for."

Your Raleigh reporter dislikes intensely to be a sore thumb, a wet blanket or a lily; but he has just

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