

Henderson Daily Dispatch

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

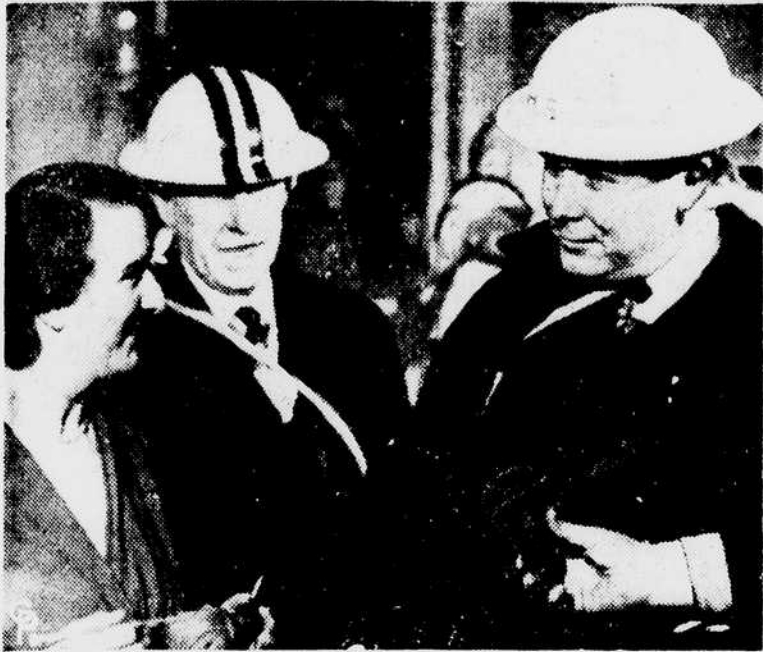
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HENDERSON, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 7, 1941

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

As Willkie Toured London



These pictures of Wendell L. Willkie, snapped as he toured war-torn London, preceded him home despite his hurried return to plead before Congress the need for speedy aid to Britain. Top, he quaffs beer in a pub and samples the opinions of the men there. Lower, the former GOP presidential candidate, wearing his helmet, exchanges a few words with one of London's "shelter knitters."

Begasi Is Captured

House Passes Retirement Bill Italian Base

105-0 Vote Cast; Bill Attempt To Exclude Russia From Aid Bill Is Rejected

Members Objecting to Certain Parts of Bill Serve Notice They Will Introduce Supplemental Measure Soon.

Raleigh, Feb. 7.—(AP)—The House passed and sent to the Senate today the state retirement program bill to give pensions to 25,000 public school teachers and thousands of other State employees at the age of 60 years.

The vote was 105 to 0 after members objecting to certain parts of the bill had served notice they would soon introduce a supplemental bill. Ordered to be read in a one-day legislative session in Pasquotank county about February 20.

Senators ordered ratified into law a bill to permit divorced women to assume either their maiden names or the surnames of former husbands who died.

Both divisions got bills to extend the score of the employment compensation law to include firms with five or more employees and increase benefit payments. The present law covers firms with eight or more employees.

The House sent to the Senate the Goble bill to eliminate the requirement that persons taking oaths must kiss the Bible.

Representatives set as a special order for Wednesday the bill to reorganization House membership by making changes in ten counties, which include provision for four representatives each for Mecklenburg and Guilford counties.

A favorable committee report again was given a bill to give bus companies rights of eminent domain in acquiring sites for union stations. Both branches got bills to permit organization of county housing authorities to build low cost rural housing projects to eliminate rural slum areas and to permit construction of low cost housing projects for national defense workers and soldiers.

A companion bill given the House would protect bonds issued for housing projects. Johnson of Sampson county introduced the housing bills in the House.

The House passed and ordered ratified into law the Stacy bill to require judges to charge juries that second degree verdicts may be returned in cases in which first degree burglary is charged.

Representative Wallace of Johnston sent in a bill to raise the compulsory school attendance age limit from 14 to 16 years of age.

Representative Johnson and Pittman of Robeson offered bills in the House to provide county electrical inspectors in Robeson.

Rome, Feb. 7.—(AP)—Pickets of troops in groups of 25 stationed in busy streets around the United States embassy and consulate today as a precaution against a student demonstration were reduced to small parties at room which no disturbance developed.

The students marched to Premier Mussolini's offices earlier today, as they did yesterday, to demonstrate their patriotism in the face of reported British attempts to reflect upon the Italian war morale.

In yesterday's demonstration they marched toward the United States embassy but turned off before reaching it.

First Lady Talks to Strikers



Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt addresses workers who have been on strike against the Leviton electrical firm of Brooklyn, N. Y., since last August, seeking better working conditions and wages. Mrs. Roosevelt, speaking in New National Hall, Brooklyn, praised the workers for "working together for the good of the group" and declared, "I'm afraid I agree with you."

House of Representatives Writes Into Measure a Second Prohibition Against Use of Convoys; "No More Concessions" Policy.

Washington, Feb. 7.—(AP)—After writing into the British aid bill a second prohibition against use of convoys, the House refused today to exclude Soviet Russia from countries for which defense materials might be produced.

By a 400-0 vote of 143 to 94 the House defeated an amendment by Representative Finkham, Republican, Massachusetts, making Russia the only specific exception among nations "whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States" and which conceivably could be provided with military equipment from the United States.

Finkham argued that "Stalin's hands, if anything, are more bloody than Hitler's" and that this country should do nothing which might place weapons in the hands of Russia.

Representative Luther Johnson, Democrat, Texas, opposing the amendment, declared that it would be "merely a gratuitous slap at a country which is not a part of the Rome-Berlin axis. Representative McCormack, Democrat, Massachusetts, the majority leader, joined in that viewpoint, contending that its adoption "might drive Russia further and closer into the hands of Hitler."

The House accepted a foreign affairs committee amendment designed to clarify the effect of the bill on the use of American vessels for convoy purposes. Nothing in the measure, it said, should be construed as permitting entry of American ships into combat areas in violation of the 1939 neutrality law.

A policy of "no more concessions" on the aid to Britain bill was agreed on by the House Democratic leadership shortly before the fight over amendments was resumed on the House floor.

Army Investigators Probe Plane Crash

RADFORD MURDER CASE GIVEN JURY

Louisburg, Feb. 7.—(AP)—A Franklin county jury this afternoon received the case of Sam T. Radford, 35, who is charged with murder in the death of his wife last July 24.

The final State witness, Dolan Radford, testified that Radford told him a few days before the shooting of Mrs. Radford that he planned to do some shooting.

The estate contended Mrs. Radford left her husband about two weeks before she was shot from ambush and that he planned her slaying.

Crew of Eight Cremated in Crash of New Type Army Bomber Against Mountain Side in Nevada; Sabotage Rumors Discounted.

Loveock, Nev., Feb. 7.—(AP)—While a cordon of CCC camp enrollees stood guard, Army investigators early today sought to determine why a new type bomber crashed on a mountain side near here yesterday, cremating its crew of eight.

It was the fourth air disaster in the west since December, involving United States warplanes.

The plane, one of the Army's newest, four-engine bombers, carried equipment for experiments in cold weather flying and may have had installed the air corps' testously guarded secret bomb sight.

Scene of the tragedy was a mountain which rose abruptly 1,000 feet from the desert twelve miles southwest of here.

Possibility of sabotage was discounted by Colonel F. C. Nelson, commanding officer of McClellan Field at Sacramento, Cal., starting point of the ill-fated flight.

A rumor that an attempt to sabotage planes at the field had been discovered about a week ago was neither confirmed nor denied by Colonel Nelson.

The four-engine bomber left Sacramento with Captain R. S. Freeman, commander of Ladd Field, Alaska, at the controls.

NEGRO FACES TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGE

Windsor, N. C., Feb. 7.—(AP)—George Peele, Windsor Negro who has been hidden away from possible violence in the cell of some undisclosed jail, will face a charge of murder next week in superior court here because an aged clerk, Ed Gray, whom he allegedly brutally assaulted in a robbery attempt last Friday, died this morning.

Gray was 78 years old and is survived by his wife.

RESERVE OFFICER

Washington, Feb. 7.—(AP)—The War department announced today that Ernest Golden Oxenton of Aurora, N. C., had accepted appointment as second lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps.

Ensigns Graduated

Annapolis Naval Academy Holds Early Graduation to Supply Officers For Navy.

Annapolis, Feb. 7.—(AP)—Secretary Knox pictured for the graduates class at the United States Naval Academy today "a slave world subject to the imperial will of ruthless dictators" if control of the high seas should pass to "those who support the totalitarian theory of government."

The Navy department chief congratulated the young ensigns upon having the privilege of entering their professional life at a time of grave situations. Recalling that a much smaller class had been commissioned 80 years ago just prior to the Civil war, Knox said:

Citadel Is Fifth Big Fascist Base to Fall to British Army of the Nile Since December 9; News From Other Fronts.

(By The Associated Press.) Striking in a blinding sandstorm, British desert troops have captured the Italian stronghold of Bengasi in eastern Libya. British general headquarters announced today, and cut the fascist line of communications south of the city.

The citadel, about 350 miles from the Egyptian frontier and Italy's last big stronghold in eastern Libya, surrendered yesterday.

British general headquarters said the Italians were "demoralized and out-maneuvered" in this latest British triumph of a westward sweep that has carried the imperial army of the Nile across 400 miles of desert in 61 days.

British general headquarters also reported more than 3,500 Italian prisoners have been taken since the British invaded the Red sea colony of Ethiopia in east Africa "and many more are coming in."

The fate of 25,000 fascist troops garrisoned at Bengasi was not immediately disclosed. Dispatches from Cairo, however, said the whole of eastern Libya were capitulating or fleeing.

In London, British military quarters said Marshal Graziani's position in north Africa now was so bad that Premier Mussolini might be forced to risk the Italian fleet in an attempt to move reinforcements and supplies across the Mediterranean to Libya.

These quarters also pointed out that capture of Bengasi gives the British a short distance base "from which we can hammer German occupied bases in Sicily."

It was the fifth major Italian stronghold taken by the British since General Sir Archibald P. Wavell launched a counter offensive last December 9, following in the wake of Sidi Barrani and the Libyan fortified towns of Bardia, Tobruk, and Derna.

On the western European front, the British reported another smashing overnight assault on five German-held "invasion ports" in which "many bomb bursts were observed and large fires started." Docks, railways, warehouses, shipping and barges which might be used as cross-channel transports were among the targets attacked. London reported a lull in night attacks by the Nazi air force.

In the Greek-Italian war, dispatches from the central Albanian front said the Greeks advanced through heavy rainstorms to seize new positions north of the Trebessina mountain range.

Front line reports said the Italians started a well-organized attack in the Tepeleni sector, only to flee in disorder as the Greeks, waiting until the fascists were at close range, opened up with machine guns and hand grenades.

Production Of Planes To Be Speeded

Washington, Feb. 7.—(AP)—Secretary Stimson informed the senate foreign relations committee today that the War department expected "accelerated deliveries" to the Army air corps of the latest type of combat planes "within four to six months."

Chairman George, Democrat, Georgia, placed in the committee record a letter from the Secretary of War, containing this assertion, after Major Al Williams, former Navy speed tier, had testified that he believed there was "not a single-seater, interceptor fighting plane in the United States today that is modern in any sense of the word either in armor, fire power or performance."

In his letter Stimson said that the American defensive program had not been impaired by delivery of planes to Britain and other countries. On the contrary, he contended, American airplane production capacity has expanded approximately 100 percent since the latter part of 1939.

Wage-Hour Group Makes Two Reports

Majority Report Signed by Taylor, Dobson and Horton; Minority Report Submitted by Waynick and Shuford.

Raleigh, Feb. 7.—(AP)—Unable to agree on what kind of wage and hour legislation should be enacted in North Carolina, a commission appointed by the 1939 legislature to study the problem made two reports to Governor Broughton today.

The majority report recommended that exemptions should be removed from North Carolina's present hours law and that no wage legislation be enacted. It was signed by H. P. Taylor of Wadesboro, Representative Henry Dobson of Surry and Senator Hugh Horton of Martin.

The minority report, signed by Captain Waynick of High Point and Labor Commissioner and Commission Chairman Ernest Sistrup, recommended a 48-hour exemptionless week for men and women and a 20-cent an hour minimum wage.

The present intra-state hours law provides a 40-hour week for women and a 50-hour week for men. The act, however, is so honeycombed with exemptions that, Shuford said, the majority of workers in intrastate industry were not affected by it.

CORBITT COMPANY ASKS CERTIFICATE UNDER TAX LAWS

Washington, Feb. 7.—(AP)—The War department announced today the Corbitt Company of Henderson, N. C., had applied for a certificate which would permit it to take advantage of provisions of the internal revenue act of 1940 and amortize over a period of five years for income tax purposes plant construction or expansion connected with national defense.

Rail Strike Is Possible

Barring Last Minute Settlement, Strike Ballots Will Be Mailed February 15.

(By The Associated Press.) The possibility that about 750,000 class one railroad employees, members of 14 railroad brotherhoods, might strike for paid vacations centered labor's attention today.

George M. Harrison, spokesman for the 14 unions, announced in Washington yesterday that barring a last minute settlement, strike ballots would be mailed to the membership February 15.

Thirty days would be allowed for the voting, however, and that, coupled with the 60 day "cooling off" period provided under the railroad mediation act, would prevent an actual walkout until late spring provided a strike was called. Meanwhile, efforts would be made to mediate the dispute.

FOUR WHITE MEN PAY WITH LIVES

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 7.—(AP)—Three convicted rapists and a murderer were executed in the electric chair at the state penitentiary today. The first died at 6:33 a. m. and the last one at 7 a. m.

Two of the men, Hugh Evans, 22, and Willis Evans, 20, were brothers. They and Hampton Lee, 22, were convicted of criminally assaulting a Richland county woman. The fourth white man was J. C. Hann, 27, who slashed the throat of Miss Ruby Boling at a cotton mill at Easley.

House Work Shows Signs Of Jamming

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HE. RY AVERILL.

Raleigh, Feb. 7.—The House calendar shows unmistakable signs of jamming, if something isn't done about speeding things up.

A half-hearted stab was made at it when the convening hour this morning was 11 o'clock instead of the customary noon; but the reluctance with which members strike a faster rail was well exemplified yesterday when Mecklenburger Jim Vogler proposed that instead of adjourning until today, the House recess until 8 o'clock for a night session.

The retirement bill had taken up vastly more time than the opposition to it justified and it was then shortly after 2 o'clock. The Vogler substitute for a motion to adjourn was received with such obvious frigidity that its author withdrew it—much to the apparent relief of all concerned.

The local calendar has been kept pretty well clear—that's the daily order of business before the public

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British Guns Pound Calais

By DREW MIDDLETON. With the British Home Forces in the Field. Somewhere in England, Feb. 7.—(AP)—British long range guns are pounding the German-held French port of Calais from several positions in the girdle of steel and concrete that encompasses Britain.

For more than a month the monster guns have talked across the channel, passing tons of high explosives and steel into that "invasion port" and surviving counter fire by Nazi batteries in that vicinity.

Everywhere I went in a two-day tour of the area, the soldiery from

Peace Parley Is Opened

Tokyo, Feb. 7.—(AP)—Japan announced that (Siam) and French peace conference delegates to the residence of Foreign Minister Matsuo today for the opening round of sessions to seek a settlement of boundary disputes which resulted in four months of undeclared war between Thailand and French Indochina.

Matsuo opened the peace conference with a speech stressing Japan's determination to maintain "security and stability" in east Asia.

Matsuo declared that Japan "considered it would be undesirable in the interest of all east Asia" if the

Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Rain near coast and drizzle or light showers in interior, possibly changing to light snow in mountains; colder tonight; Saturday partly cloudy and colder.

Extended weather forecast from 7:30 p. m. Feb. 7 to 7:30 p. m. Feb. 12.—Moderate rains about Monday and Tuesday, otherwise fair; temperatures much below normal Saturday, rising slowly Sunday and Monday.