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NAZI TRANSPORT PLANES OVER BALKANS

State Retirement Bill Passed By Legislature

Captured in Fall of Tobruk



C. P. Cablephoto

Italian naval prisoners are marched through the streets of the wrecked port of Tobruk, important Libyan base which fell to the British on January 22. The buildings bear scars of shellfire, evidence of the ferocity of the British bombardments. Leaving Tobruk far behind, the British are now reported to have swept into Italian Tripolitania.

Anti-Fascists Seek Overthrow Of Duce

"Free Italian Committee" Launched in Britain Enlists Members Over World.

BRITISH WARSHIPS BOMBARD OSTEND

London, Feb. 11.—(AP)—The admiralty announced that British warships bombarded Ostend, on the German-held Belgian coast, early this morning.

The admiralty communique said: "Units of the royal navy carried out a bombardment of the German-occupied port of Ostend in the early hours of this morning. Our salvoes fell on the harbor works and many fires were observed. No casualties or damage was sustained by our forces."

Wine Bill Under Study

Wet and Dry Factions In Legislature Expected to Agree on Restrictions.

Raleigh, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Both wet and dry factions in the General Assembly apparently will agree with Governor Broughton and outlay the sale of all "fortified" wines in dry counties, it was indicated today by members of a special finance subcommittee charged with drafting a measure that will "clean up" the state's wine situation.

A member of the 19-man subcommittee, a wet, said today that it appears there is a chance that the new wine bill will prohibit sales in all dry counties and put the sale of wine in wet counties under supervision of the ABC stores.

Such action by the subcommittee, scheduled to hold its last public hearing tomorrow morning before coming forward with a revamped wine bill, would incorporate a bill by Representative Reynolds of Buncombe and an amendment to the measure by his colleague, Representative Jarvis.

The Reynolds bill, Jarvis' amendment and proposals of leaders of the North Carolina Association for Wine Control for creating a special wine control division within the present State Alcoholic Control Board were handed the subcommittee for study with the view to composing a measure that would both satisfy the administration and "clean up" the state for wine sales.

WILLKIE URGES EFFECTIVE AID FOR BRITAIN

Gas Blasts Kill Four

Two Homes Wrecked by Explosions, Seven Others Destroyed In Resulting Fire.

Philadelphia, Feb. 11.—(AP)—At least four persons were killed and more than a score injured early today in illumination gas explosions that wrecked two homes in south Philadelphia and caused a fire which destroyed seven others.

One of the dead was Patrolman James Clark, who was crushed to death by a falling wall when he ran into a house in an attempt to rescue its occupants. Three bodies dug from debris were not immediately identified.

The first blast occurred at 5 a. m. and was followed in about 15 minutes by a second. A third came four hours later.

The fourth of the explosions cracked the pavement in nearby streets and hurled chunks of asphalt into the air. Burning gas shot through the crevices. Windows were shattered in homes for two blocks and many residents ran screaming from their homes.

Deputy Fire Chief William Simmler laid the explosion to illumination gas but had no further explanation. At least 23 persons were taken to hospitals. Many others were treated at the scene by physicians and nurses.

SOLDIER IS VICTIM OF WRECK INJURIES

Wilson, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Grady Skinner, 18, a member of the 79th Field Artillery at Fort Bragg, died today of injuries suffered in an automobile accident Saturday.

Skinner was a brother of J. L. Skinner, 26, who also was killed in the accident.

Shakeup Due In Revenue Department

Adding his endorsement of the British aid bill to that of Willkie and President James B. Conant of Harvard University, LaGuardia declared that the measure was "part of the national defense program" of the United States and should be approved "from a purely selfish American interest."

Conant flatly asserted that "the axis powers must be defeated," and said that "as a last resort to defend this way of life he favored sending American troops to Europe."

U. S. Courier's Passport Seized

Sofia, Bulgaria, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Bulgarian police seized an American diplomatic courier's passport today and the United States legation announced that "energetic protest" had been made to the government.

The courier, Raymond Leddy, telephoned Sofia from Istanbul, Turkey, that Bulgarian police seized his passport at a station in southern Bulgaria and that he was forced to continue by train without the document. He said the Turks allowed him to cross the frontier without the passport.

United States Minister George E. Earle protested immediately to the foreign office in what was reported

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Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Fair to partly cloudy in the interior, cloudy with probably light showers on the coast; slowly rising temperature tonight and Wednesday.

Extended weather forecast for the period from 7:30 p. m. Feb. 11 to 7:30 p. m. Feb. 13—light to moderate rains toward end of period, otherwise fair; temperatures rising slowly to normal or above.

Killed in War



Death of Francis Dean Carragher, of Los Angeles, pictured when he was a student flier at Randolph Field, Tex., was announced by the British Ministry of Aircraft Production. Carragher, who flew his first plane to Britain five months ago, was serving as a ferry pilot in the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Hunt Clues In Death

Apparent Suicide of Former Russian Official May Have Been Assassination.

Washington, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Declaring that an assassin might have "counterfeited" apparent suicide notes found by the bullet-riddled body of General Walter G. Krivitsky, a friend of the former Soviet Russian secret agent today turned a searching investigation of the mysterious death.

Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's New York attorney, hurried here after the body was found in a hotel room yesterday and disclosed that his client told him only recently of the arrival in New York of a man named "Hans".

"This man was known to Krivitsky as a deadly assassin of the Ogpa (Soviet secret police)," Waldman said. "Since the arrival of Hans in the United States Krivitsky felt that his days were limited. He asked me to do certain things to get protection for him."

Although Coroner A. Magaldi, Macdonald earlier had issued a certificate of suicide, police said they would hold the case open.

The body, a 33 caliber bullet wound in the right temple, was taken to the morgue but the results of an autopsy will not be known for several days. Detectives said a blood-stained envelope was clutched in the Russian's hand when he was found and that his room showed no signs of a struggle.

Magaldi, Macdonald and "we have been assured that this was a suicide." But in view of the fact, Mr. Waldman said, we are going to keep the case open and run down all leads.

State School Commission Proposed

Raleigh, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Senator Stacy of Robeson introduced a bill today proposing a constitutional amendment to erect an optional of the public school system in a seven-member state board of education consisting of six persons appointed by the governor and the superintendent of public instruction.

If three-fifths of the members of each division of the legislature approve the bill and it wins a majority at the polls in the next general election the new education board would take over the operation of the schools.

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CAMP DAVIS WORKER KILLED IN ACCIDENT

Wilmington, Feb. 11.—(AP)—John P. Horton, 40, a Morganton electrician in the employ of Camp Davis contractors, died today at the military reservation as a victim of a 2,300 volts of electricity from a high power line at the camp.

Horton, working atop a power pole, apparently lost his footing and accidentally made contact with a charged wire. He was found unconscious, bent over the pole crossbar, his hand still grasping the high voltage wire.

Planes Rush New Forces Into Area

Events Benefited Moving Rapidly Toward Climax in Southeast Europe; British Planes Continue Raids on Germany.

(By The Associated Press) An official Turkish newspaper said today German troops were pouring steadily into Bulgaria with their officers declaring "our goal is the Danube and the Mediterranean" and simultaneously fleets of Nazi transport planes were reported flying across Hungary headed for Rumania and Bulgaria.

In the heightening crisis Turkish quarters in London said Turkey would be willing to help Bulgaria if Bulgaria withstands Germany.

Both British and Turkish sources in London said Bulgaria might resist, but that failing Soviet Russia's help most likely she would yield if Germany demanded transit of Nazi troops to attack Turkey or Greece.

The official Turkish newspaper said German troops wearing civilian overcoats were arriving in the interior of Bulgaria via Dobruja.

(By The Associated Press) Fleets of German transport planes identified as the type used to drop Nazi parachute troops in the 1940 blitzkrieg on the western front were reported flying southward across Hungary today in an apparent sequel to Britain's rupture of diplomatic relations with Rumania.

The planes were reported speeding in the direction of Rumania and Bulgaria.

Balkan capitals nervously speculated that Hitler might be starting a thrust into Bulgaria toward Greece and Turkey.

Informed sources in London said Britain was expected to break diplomatic relations with Bulgaria if Nazi troops were admitted into that country.

Dispatches from Budapest said 31 of the giant trimotor planes flew over the Hungarian capital alone, swooping so low their markings were plainly visible.

There was no immediate explanation of the hurried reinforcement of Germany's armies massed in the Balkans, already estimated to number in the hundreds of thousands.

Military and political observers in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, declared, however, that events were moving rapidly toward a climax in southeast Europe.

The climax, these observers said, was accelerated by reports that Soviet Russia had notified Bulgaria she would not oppose a German march through Bulgaria toward Greece, Turkey and the Dardanelles.

There was immediate speculation in neutral circles as to whether Britain would declare war on Rumania.

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British Navy Takes Over Bengasi Port

With the British Mediterranean Fleet, Feb. 11.—(AP)—The British navy has taken over the spacious harbor of Bengasi and is turning it swiftly into a base for operations in the central Mediterranean which may play a vital part in attempts to knock Italy out of the war.

The British regard Bengasi as one of the most important prizes to fall into their hands since Italy entered the war. The city has a naturally fine harbor and the Italians spent large sums in recent years for improvements from which the British are now preparing to reap the benefits.

Possession of Bengasi has enhanced Britain's vaunted mastery of the Mediterranean, military sources declared.

Hitherto Britain's only central Mediterranean base has been the island of Malta, isolated between Gibraltar and Alexandria.

Bengasi is 600 miles west of Alexandria and fleet units based there would be within easy striking distance not only of Tripoli but Italy herself. It is about 400 miles from Bengasi to Tripoli, 425 miles to Sicily and 360 miles to the toe of the Italian "boot."

FIFTEEN VESSELS SUNK DURING WEEK

London, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Fifteen British, Allied and neutral merchant ships totaling 57,263 tons were sunk in the war at sea in the week ended Feb. 1, the admiralty reported today.

The losses were given as eleven British vessels totaling 40,429 tons, three allied ships totaling 13,882 tons, and a neutral merchantman of 2,952 tons.

The total compared with an average of 62,000 tons weekly since the beginning of the war. The January weekly average was 34,000 tons and the December weekly average was 62,000 tons.