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Sea Battle In Mediterranean

Yugoslavia Silent On Germany's Demands

Off to Work on Trinidad Base



Joseph Cloutier (left), construction superintendent who will work on the new United States naval and air base at Trinidad, is fingerprinted for federal records before leaving New York. Doing the printing is William Hammersley. Some 2,000 American mechanics will work approximately two years building the \$51,000,000 stronghold on British soil. (Central Press)

Situation Tightens In Balkans

Yugoslavia Makes No Statement on Nazi Demands That She Clarify Her Position; Italians Prepare to Evacuate.

(By The Associated Press.)
Yugoslavia kept silent today on German demands that she clarify her position toward the axis, and fragmentary reports on the Balkan situation indicated a tightening tension.
The Yugoslav government had halted all navigation of German barges and other craft on the Yugoslav section of the Danube river.
That the Italian legation at Belgrade had begun preparations for the removal of all Italians from the country, should the situation "turn worse."

Still another report emanated from Belgrade—a statement by German circles that the German commercial air line had ordered its planes to stop flying over Yugoslav territory.
In Berlin, authorized sources said the German minister to Yugoslavia was greeted with "insulting calls and whistles" when he participated in church services attendant on the enthronement of young King Peter. This followed a report from Belgrade that his reception was one of cold silence.

The German high command said a long-range Nazi bomber had attacked a British troop transport about 310 miles west of Cape Wrath, Scotland, and forced the soldiers to take to the boats. Sinking of three merchant ships totaling 7,500 tons also was reported.

Germans and observers in the Balkans expressed belief Yugoslavia's future course hinged principally on whether the country's major groups, Serbs and Croats, long at odds, split or stand united.

Although reports from Berlin said Germans were looking on calmly,

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King Peter II Inspects His Troops



This picture, taken recently, shows the youthful King Peter II of Yugoslavia with his uncle, Prince Regent Paul (right), inspecting the Royal guard of honor in Belgrade. Prince Paul is reported under arrest while Peter has seized control of the government and is rapidly welding his army into a strong anti-axis machine, determined to resist any Nazi move.

One Italian Battleship Is Damaged

Two Enemy Cruisers Severely Damaged, British Declare in Preliminary Reports of Clash in Eastern Mediterranean.

London, March 29.—(AP)—The admiralty announced tonight "it may be assumed" that at least one Italian warship was sunk in a battle in the eastern Mediterranean.

A communiqué, the second of the day, said:
"Further information of the naval action in the eastern Mediterranean is not yet available, but reports containing Italian survivors have been reported this morning by our aircraft."

"It may, therefore, be assumed that at least one Italian ship has been sunk."

Earlier, the admiralty had reported another of Premier Mussolini's heaviest battleships, a number of cruisers and a destroyer damaged.

London, March 29.—(AP)—The admiralty announced today that British and Greek naval forces joined battle with Italian warships in the eastern Mediterranean and that so far "at least one Littorio class battleship has been damaged" and two enemy cruisers severely damaged.

One ship of the 35,000-ton Littorio class was badly crippled in the British torpedo plane attack on the Italian naval base at Taranto on November 11, and the British have said they believed it was not yet repaired.

According to British sources, Italy has only two ships of the Littorio class. They are armed with nine 15-inch guns, twelve 6-inch and twelve 3.5-inch anti-aircraft guns as well as 40 anti-aircraft machine guns. They carry three air planes.

The admiralty's communiqué said:
"Naval operations of some importance are taking place in the eastern Mediterranean. So far only preliminary reports are available, but from these it appears that yesterday our naval forces operating under the command of Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham sighted Italian forces consisting of battleships, cruisers and

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BRITISH BOMBERS SCORE VICTORIES

Cairo, March 29.—(AP)—British bombers in force made a heavy and successful attack on Italian warships in the Ionian sea, hitting two cruisers and one destroyer with heavy bombs, royal air force headquarters announced today.

SHIP IS SUNK

Helsinki, March 29.—(AP)—The Finnish freighter *Carolina Thorden*, 2,475 tons, proceeding from Petsamo, in northern Finland to New York, was torpedoed Wednesday off the Faroe Islands, it was announced officially today.

The passengers and crew were reported saved.

Italy Claims Sky Victory

Possible Sinking of British Cruiser, Damage to Aircraft Carrier Reported

Rome, March 29.—(AP)—The possible sinking of a British cruiser and the damaging of an aircraft carrier and another cruiser in torpedo and bomb attacks by Italy's air force were reported by the high command today.

At the same time the official Italian news agency said that the "naval assault craft" which entered Britain's naval base at Suda Bay on the island of Crete Tuesday and reportedly sank a warship were tiny, new, high speed vessels requiring skill and daring on the part of their volunteer crews.

The agency said today that Italian scouting planes had discovered that the warship, reported sunk in yesterday's high command communiqué, was lying on its side with its stern resting on the bottom of Suda Bay, and its decks under water.

State Appointments Hold Main Interest

Waynick, Prince and Gill Named in Raleigh Rumors as Slat for Important Posts in Broughton's Official Family

Raleigh, March 29.—(AP)—Rumors persist here that Capus Waynick of High Point, Ben Prince of Hendersonville and Puroles Commissioner Edwin Gill of Raleigh are slated for important appointive posts in Governor Broughton's official family.

Waynick has been mentioned frequently in recent weeks in connection with the chairmanship of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, a post which has been resigned by Charles Powell.

Ben Prince is frequently mentioned by politicians as slated to become highway chairman. T. Bodie Ward of Wilson also is receiving strong support for this post.

Gill, the politician, says is almost certain to be promoted possibly to the post of revenue commissioner, if A. J. Maxwell steps aside. If Gill were elevated, his assistant, Hattie Cross, would almost certainly become parole commissioner, most sources say.

Besides Waynick, A. L. Fletcher, Carolina administrator of the federal wage-hour law, is often mentioned as possible UCC chairman.

Oscar Pitts, superintendent of prisons, apparently is slated to be promoted to the job of head of the penal division. This probably would mean another state job for the present prison head, Robert Grady Johnson.

Governor Broughton also must appoint eight special judges, and the names most frequently heard here include those of J. C. Rudisill of Catawba county, Hiram Valentine of Nashville, Hector Clark of Elizabethtown and Clarence Blackstock of Asheville, as well as several of the incumbents.

Fayetteville To Entertain Roosevelts

Fayetteville, March 29.—(AP)—President and Mrs. Roosevelt will be driven up Fayetteville's historic Hay street to the old market house when the President comes here Monday to inspect nearby Fort Bragg.

Plans for the visit here were made at a conference between Harry Cooper, a secret service agent, and Mayor H. C. Blackwell. The President's train will arrive at the station here between 3:45 and 4 p. m.

Mrs. Roosevelt is expected to join

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ANTONESCU SAID TO HAVE RESIGNED

London, March 29.—(AP)—Reuters, British news agency, quoted an Istanbul dispatch to an independent French news agency today, reporting that General Antonescu had resigned as Rumanian premier in protest against German demands.

The Associated Press had no confirmation of this report from other sources.

War Relief Regulated

New Priorities Board Named to Determine Distribution of Relief Supplies.

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Central Press Columnist

Washington, March 29.—While warmly commendatory of charity to victims of overseas war conditions, State Secretary Cordell Hull wants it so systematized as to make it 100 percent effective. Besides the Red Cross, it seems that the number of private relief agencies runs into the hundreds. Acting each on its own, Secretary Hull's idea is that they tend to fill over one another, cluttering up the job at which they all mean so well.

That's why, upon Cordell's recommendation, President Roosevelt recently named his three-man national committee to give collective direction to the miscellaneous organizations' efforts.

The chairman is Joseph E. Davies, American ambassador to Belgium until the Germans overran the country. Associated with him are Charles P. Tait of Cincinnati and President Frederick P. Keppel of the Carnegie corporation. Besides funneling foreign relief into the right channels, the committee will have charge of the task of shaping the direction of contributions for the benefit of our selected training centers here at home.

This latter may not be relief, in its strict sense, but F. D. R. and Secretary Hull think it needs attending to, to make the gitts count up to a maximum.

You don't get far into a discussion of anything relating to today's overseas situation and our own defensive preparations without running into the question of priorities.

Who Comes First?

Who's to be provided for first, if supply sources or transportation facilities are skimpy?

It's quite a problem in connection

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IHC Plant Stays Closed

Chicago, March 29.—(AP)—A spokesman for International Harvester Company announced today that because of lack of union cooperation the company had cancelled its plans to reopen the tractor works here and the plant at Rock Falls, Ill., Monday.

"When we announced our intention of opening these plants yesterday," the spokesman said, "we assumed the union would go along with us. Now we find they are demanding conditions which make their position very unclear."

Workers Vote To Continue Their Strike

Milwaukee, March 29.—(AP)—The Allis-Chalmers local of the United Automobile Workers union voted today to continue their 67-day old strike "until the government compels the company to accept" a settlement agreement proposed by the UAW, national defense agency.

The union voted as a number of production workers labored in the shops to turn out vital needed defense goods, including propulsion machinery for 25 navy destroyers. The strike, which started January 22, had tied up \$45,000,000 worth of national defense orders.

Arthur Richter, union counsel, said a standing vote was taken on the question of acceding to the government's request to return to work in the interest of national defense while negotiations to settle the strike proceeded.

He said there was a sprinkling of opposition from men on the fringes of the crowds but that no one talked in opposition to the strike's continuation.

Defense Mediation Board Labors To End More Strikes

Tar Heel In Washington Sees Democrats Weakened By Changes In Districts

By ROBERT A. IRWIN.

Washington, March 29.—A brief excursion into election mathematics, in connection with creation of a new congressional district in western North Carolina, is rather disconcerting from the Democratic point of view. All observers, including the citizens of the new Tenth district which consists of the present Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, and fourteenth counties, agree that the first Democratic primary in the new district next year will be a wide-open, knock-down-and-drag-out affair.

The Democratic race, with Mecklenburg county candidate, and voters as the big question mark, may turn out to be just a good means to the main end with the Republicans in the general election, to choose a representative who will take his seat in the 76th Congress, convening here in January, 1943.

Off-year election day, 1942, has been the greatest threat in Tenth district congressional elections. In presidential election years, (except 1928) Democrats of the Tenth have turned out en masse to give a winning majority to the man who has represented them for so many years.

Traffic Fatalities Increase During First Months Of 1941

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

Raleigh, March 29.—The reports are by no means complete, but even so it is certain that March fatalities in North Carolina will show no let up in the wave of highway slaughter which started as far back as last September.

Since then there has been a substantial increase in the death list every month and, on the basis of a negro March returns, Ronald H. Cutt, director of the highway safety division, has already sadly announced that more people have been killed on the roads in the first three months of 1941 than in the same period of 1940. That makes it sure there will be an increase of more than 20 percent.

Persons who seek to excuse the increasing death toll on that ground, "It's just a simple matter of more cars," are simply kidding themselves.

Turning to the records he pointed out that during January and February

Major A. L. Bulwinkle, of Gastonia, in the off years, however, the major has had a tight on his hands. This mathematical excursion is based upon the subtraction of Gaston, Cleveland and Yancey counties and their normal Democratic majorities and Democratic votes in Madison county, usually Republican, from Tenth district returns in every general election since 1930. The result is nothing but a definite conclusion that the State legislature cut off some thing in the past, otherwise bill.

Here goes. In 1930, Major Bulwinkle won 77-23 way back to Congress over Republican Charles A. Jones, who had unseated the major in the 1923 election. Take out these four counties mentioned, with Democratic leads in three of them, and Major Bulwinkle's 1930 margin over Mr. Jones would have been a bare 1,633 votes.

In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt won the presidency in a landslide. Tenth district Democrats gave the major, on the above basis, a majority of 9,555 votes over Mr. Jones.

An off-year election came again in 1934. It was Major Bulwinkle

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More Than 22,000 Workers Still Away From Their Jobs, Although Board Is Encouraged by Settlement of Key Strikes.

(By The Associated Press)

Encouraged by the prospect of work resumption in some key defense industries, the new mediation board today tackled the specific job of getting more than 22,000 striking workers back to their benches in vital munitions plants.

The board members assembled in Washington to begin mediation efforts in strikes called by the CIO. Early Equipment Workers Organizing Committee at four midwest plants of the International Harvester Company, employing 20,000.

The CIO Harvester Workers meet tomorrow to decide whether to go back to work as requested by the board and whether to meet with the board and company officials in Washington Monday. The union seeks higher wages and other concessions.

A strike at the Midlands Steel Products Company, Detroit, important to the automotive industry, was tentatively settled yesterday after 10 uncertain days. CIO union members met today on a proposal including a five-cent hourly pay raise.

CIO and management also reached an agreement effecting 1,400 workers at the plant of the Universal Cylinders Steel Corporation, Bridgeville, Pa. The five-week strike had been turned over to the mediation board for settlement. Reopening of the plant, vital to defense, was forecast today. The agreement was said to involve a wage increase.

Settlement of the strike at the Bethlehem Steel Company's huge plant at Bethlehem, Pa., however, did not end the firm's difficulties.

The CIO union of machine and shipyard workers authorized its leaders to call a strike of 1,500 workers in Bethlehem's Hoboken shipyards. The dispute centered on what the union called a failure to get a contract after eight weeks' negotiations. Wage increases and the right to organize inside the yards when the men are off duty were demanded.

Resumption of work at Bethlehem's Johnstown, Pa., plant Monday was forecast by a federal labor conciliator.

Three were widely varying reports concerning the number of workers who have returned to the plant of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company at Milwaukee, which was ordered reopened by national defense officials. The CIO

contended only 46 men passed through the gates yesterday morning, while the company said 2,000 went back to work on \$45,000,000 worth of defense orders held by the firm.

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WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Fair, slightly colder with frost tonight; Sunday fair, slowly rising temperature.