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Nazi Blitzkrieg Sweeps Over All Major Defenses

Bern, Switzerland, April 9.—(AP)—Britain and her Greek and Yugoslav allies appeared tonight to have lost in four days their major defenses in the Balkans.

Salonika, great natural fortress of the Aegean throughout history, fell to the nazis today.

Greece's eastern army, estimated to number 300,000 before hostilities began, surrendered en masse.

The German blitzkrieg army, fighting westward over mountain terrain, was within 15 miles of a junction with the Italian forces in Albania.

To some observers these facts

signified that the Balkan war might be almost over, although it still was not known how well Britain and Greece have prepared other positions to which they were retreating tonight.

It was almost certain, however, that Yugoslavia from now on is fighting on her own unless she can break through the German lines strung out across southern Serbia, dividing her from the British and Greeks.

To reach their goals in western Yugoslavia, the German motorized columns sped over roads little better than goat trails. The Italians meanwhile had pressed eastward into Yugoslavia to take the town of Grad.

Salonika Is Captured In Nazi Balkan Drive

North Carolina Enters Navy

Warship Is First In 18 Years

\$70,000,000 Vessel Takes Place as "Ship of the Line" in Sober But Colorful Ceremonies at Brooklyn Navy Yards.

New York, April 9.—(AP)—The U. S. S. North Carolina, first battleship commissioned by the United States Navy in 18 years, took its place as a "ship of the line" today in sober but colorful ceremonies aboard the new 35,000-ton vessel at the Brooklyn navy yards.

The commissioning ceremonies on the quarterdeck of the \$70,000,000 ship, attended by 1,500 specially-invited guests headed by Secretary of the Navy Knox and including Governor Broughton, were held under wartime restrictions with special police, Marine and sailors on guard.

The U. S. S. North Carolina, receiving ship, fired a 19-gun salute as Secretary Knox of the Navy arrived. Admiral Harold Stark, chief of naval operations, and Governor Broughton spoke briefly.

The North Carolina is the first of 17 dreadnaughts ordered in the nation's speeding program to build the mightiest naval power in the world.

Italy Demands Recall Of American Attache

Action Interpreted as Reprisal for United States Action in Forcing Recall of Italian Attache in Washington.

Washington, April 9.—(AP)—Italy today demanded the recall of the American assistant military attache in Rome, in apparent reprisal for the action of the United States in forcing the withdrawal of the Italian naval attache from this country.

The State department announced that the Italian government had made the request for the withdrawal of Captain William C. Bentley in the same note in which it complied with the American request for withdrawal of Admiral Alberto Lais, the Italian naval attache here.

The text of the State department's announcement: "By a note of April 3, 1941, the secretary of State notified the royal Italian ambassador that Admiral Alberto Lais, naval attache of the royal Italian embassy, was persona non grata to this government and requested that the royal Italian government withdraw him immediately from the United States.

"The secretary of State has now been informed by the royal Italian ambassador in a note dated April 3 that Admiral Lais had ceased from his functions and will leave this country without delay.

"In the same note to the royal Italian ambassador stated that Captain William C. Bentley, assistant military attache and assistant military attache for air of the United States embassy in Rome, is persona non grata to the royal Italian government and requested that he be withdrawn immediately from Italy."

RESIGNS.
Raleigh, April 9.—(AP)—H. L. Bailey, assistant farm agent in Pasquotank county, has resigned effective April 15 to accept a job as junior interviewer for the State Employment Service and will be stationed in Goldsboro.

Extension service officials said he probably would be succeeded by P. H. Jamison, now assistant farm agent in Edgecombe county. It has not been decided who will succeed Jamison.

CONVOY RAIDED.
London, April 9.—(AP)—The admiralty reported tonight that a British submarine had torpedoed a 12,000-ton ship and another of 6,000 tons in an attack on a heavily laden convoy in the central Mediterranean.

Abernethy On Trial

Goldboro, April 9.—(AP)—Charles L. Abernethy, Jr., of New Bern went on trial in Superior court here today on charges arising from alleged election irregularities in connection with the 1940 Democratic primary.

Abernethy is charged in a Wayne county court warrant and in a grand jury indictment with conspiracy to violate the election laws, receiving stolen goods, namely ballots, and unlawful interference with the duties of election officials.

Most of the morning was spent in arguments of attorneys over preliminary motions, especially one by Solicitor Claude C. Canady to amend the charge in the warrant to value the alleged stolen goods not in excess of \$10. This motion was allowed by Presiding Judge Q. K. Nimocks of Fayetteville.

The solicitor explained that with this change he planned to proceed to trial on the warrant rather than the indictment.

Senator Sheppard Is Dead



Senator Morris Sheppard Democrat

Washington, April 9.—(AP)—Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas, dean of Congress in point of service and sponsor of the national prohibition amendment, died today. He would have been 66 years old next month.

The death of senator Sheppard makes possible the elevation of Senator Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina to the chairmanship of the Senate military affairs committee. By the seniority rule, Reynolds outranks the next Democratic member, Senator Thomas of Utah, by three months.

Senator Sheppard died from a hemorrhage attack.

Dr. George W. Calver, capital physician, said death resulted from a slow hemorrhage into the brain at 5 a. m.

Senator Sheppard suffered a hemorrhage April 4 following several weeks of overwork. He became unconscious later that day but remained at home in care of his physician until Sunday when he was taken to Walter Reed hospital.

Sheppard, a Democrat, completed 38 years service in Congress last October 11. He was elected to the House in 1902 to succeed his father, who died during his third term, and entered the senate January 29, 1911. Senator Ellison D. Cotton (D.) Smith of South Carolina, first elected in 1908, ranks as dean of the Senate, but he had no prior service in the House.

JURISDICTIONAL STRIKES OPPOSED
BY MISS PERKINS

Washington, April 9.—(AP)—Secretary of Labor Perkins expressed the opinion today that jurisdictional strikes were "most unfortunate at any time" and in defense industry were "not justified."

She made this assertion in response to questions by members of the House military committee during the committee's investigation of the defenses program.

Detaining jurisdictional strikes as those occurring between two unions within one labor organization, she said there were few strikes resulting from conflict between the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labor and that these could be readily settled through machinery of the national labor relations board.

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Nazi Planes Raid England

Berlin, April 9.—(AP)—Several hundred Nazi planes raided England last night, heavily bombed Portsmouth and Coventry and other objectives on the south and southeast coasts, the Germans reported today.

A Berlin broadcast by DNB said 700 planes took part in the raid.

The night raiders were said to have inflicted further losses on British shipping, sinking one 4,000-ton vessel and damaging another of 20,000 tons.

Two direct bomb hits were scored on a British destroyer near Grimsby and two merchant ships, one of 4,000 and one of 3,000 tons, were damaged.

(Continued on Page Three)

Oumansky Now Popular

Soviet Envoy to Washington Greeted Cordially by State Department Officials.

By CHARLES P. STUART
Central Press Columnist

Washington, April 9.—(AP)—Constantine A. Oumansky, Moscow's ambassador here, is up against a new experience. He actually is quite popular in Washington.

The State department not only is glad to see him when he calls; it urges him to drop in more and more frequently. Secretary Hull and Undersecretary Welles give him warm handclaps. Newspapermen head in to his embassy after talking with him, beat it out to write almost friendly stories about the Soviet Republic.

Ill bet Constantine could give an ambassadorial party now and get a good attendance. Not so very long ago he was a nobody.

(Continued on Page Seven)

3,000 U. S. Soldiers Leave For The East



With 3,000 U. S. soldiers crowding her rails, the former luxury liner Washington sails from New York for the Pacific. Now known as the U. S. Army Transport Washington, she is bound for Panama, Hawaii and the Philippines. Sleeping quarters have been enlarged and other remodeling done to adapt the vessel to military use. She formerly was operated by the U. S. Line.

More Ships To Britain

Ten Coast Guard Cutters Released by U. S. Under Lease-Lend Arrangement.

Washington, April 9.—(AP)—The release of ten Coast Guard cutters to the British was announced today at the White House.

Stephen Edg, presidential press secretary, told reporters the Coast Guard vessels had not yet been delivered to the British but were being prepared for the transfer under terms of the lease-lend bill.

He said he preferred not to disclose the names of the cutters, but said they were built between 1928 to 1932.

No commercial ships or merchant vessels are involved in the deal, Edg said. Presumably, he added, the cutters will be turned over to British crews on this side of the Atlantic as was done in the case of 50 destroyers released to Britain in exchange for defense base sites.

The vessels will help replenish Britain's still depleted fleet by replacing her lost Atlantic gunboats, but whether additional merchant craft will be transferred to England was not indicated.

Britain has said that she is badly in need of ships to escort convoys.

The cutters are armed, but Edg said he thought they had little more than small caliber guns mounted on them. He said he doubted that additional armament would be placed on the ships before the transfer.

Suez Canal Is Axis Coal

Rome, April 9.—(AP)—The British-controlled Suez canal is the key goal after Yugoslavia and Greece, the officials of a controlled newspaper Popolo di Roma said today in a dispatch from Berlin.

To reach the Suez canal, Axis forces would have to drive through Turkey, which was reported in Ankara to be watching the Balkan war calmly and viewing the situation as "not dangerous yet."

Popolo di Roma's dispatch said that, instead of a static front in the Balkans as in World War, the Balkans constitute "a dynamic offensive treaty intended to strike British power directly in one of its vital centers." The Italian high command announced today.

Outlook Brighter On Strike Front

BRITISH TRANSPORT SAILING CANCELLED

London, April 9.—(AP)—The Rome and Berlin radios, heard today in London, quoted what is called a report from Sofia, Bulgaria, that sailing of British transport ships in Piraeus, port of Athens, had been cancelled.

The ships, according to the Sofia message, had been ordered to remain in port and the radio and Greek military circles considered the order a precautionary measure for re-embarkation of British troops.

DNB quoting German army headquarters said that it looked as though the re-embarkation would possibly be another Dunkerque.

Troops Guard U. S. Embassy In Rome

Rome, April 9.—(AP)—British troops continued to stand guard outside the United States embassy today as reports circulated that German planes would bombard the embassy.

Another report, however, development was the action of Secretary of Labor Perkins in announcing to the national unionism board a tentative old CIO strike at the Phelps-Dodge Copper Products Corporation, Elizabeth, N. J.

Phelps-Dodge, a national union have \$135,000,000 in defense contracts and the shutdown of the River Rouge plant has affected directly and indirectly an estimated 200,000 workers. Phelps-Dodge holds \$20,000,000 in national defense contracts and employs 1,000 persons.

Wages here, and a union shop were at issue in the strike at Elizabeth while the CIO members at the Ford plant demanded a structural relationship between company and union abolition of what they called a "company spy organization" and wage increases for some workers.

TWO WPA PROJECTS APPROVED IN STATE

Raleigh, April 9.—(AP)—Two WPA projects for North Carolina, costing \$79,010 and employing 118 workers, were approved today by C. C. McGinnis, state WPA administrator.

In one, a sewage system will be constructed in Murfreesboro at a cost of \$16,449 and employing 59 workers, and in the second, a sewage disposal plant will be installed in Pittsboro, costing \$63,361 and employing 59 workers.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Cloudy, scattered showers in west; slightly warmer in north and central portions.

Greek Army East Wing Surrenders

Berlin Reports German Army Has Now Smashed Its Way Clear Down Vardar River Valley, Breaking Greek Metaxas Line.

Berlin, April 9.—(AP)—The powerful Nazi army has smashed its way clear down the Vardar river valley, captured Salonika and forced the surrender of the whole eastern wing of the Greek army between Salonika and the Turkish border, the high command announced today.

Other German forces have taken Skopje and Ules, Yugoslavia, and are advancing rapidly toward the Albanian border and junction with Italian forces after taking two other small towns, the high command said.

Further north in Yugoslavia, a German armored corps captured the vital railroad city of Nis, while others took Maribor and crossed the Drava river.

In northeastern Greece, a communique said, German divisions driving south from Bulgaria captured the town of Xanthi, 50 miles northwest of the port of Kavala, and advanced from there to the shores of the Aegean sea.

Many of the Greek soldiers who surrendered had fought desperately in the Strama river valley, trying to stem the pressing German advance which broke through the extensive string of fortifications known as the "Metaxas Line" after the late Premier General Ioann Metaxas.

The first official report here of the successful German advance came in a high command statement earlier, which said the armored forces had driven a wedge southward from Yugoslavia, cutting off the Yugoslavs from British or Greek reinforcements and taking more than 20,000 prisoners.

To the south, the war bulletin said, German troops drove past Lake Doiran in northern Yugoslavia and into Greek territory.

The so-called Metaxas line, Greece's modern fortification system built at the suggestion of the late premier to guard the mountain frontier, was said to have broken after an eight-day struggle.

Mountain and infantry divisions under Field Marshal General Sigmund Wilhelm Lud, supported by their numbers, were credited with the breakthrough into Yugoslavia and Greece.

Churchill Warns Reds

Soviet Russia Told by Prime Minister That Nazi Drive is Heading Her Way.

London, April 9.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill told Britain the grave extent of Germany's smashing advance through Greece today, and warned Soviet Russia the Nazi drive was heading her way.

In a war report to the house of commons, Churchill announced that Nazi troops had entered Salonika at 4 a. m.

"Up to the present the British and imperial troops have not been engaged" in the fighting in Greece, he said.

He refused to give any indication of what would be done with these troops in the "widespread battle."

The prime minister declared there were increasing signs that Germany Russia's Ukraine. He also announced the British capture of the Red sea port of Massawa, Eritrea, and the virtual completion of the conquest

(Continued on Page Three)