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Reds' Baltic Bulwark Crumbles

RAF Continues Mightiest Offensive

Lithuania, Estonia And Latvia Threaten To Join Germany

Protecting the East Flank



Bringing to a successful close the Soviet-Japanese neutrality pact, Constantin Smetanin (center), Soviet ambassador to Japan, chats with Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka (left) and War Minister Hideki Tojo. They are shown in Tokyo following luncheon Smetanin gave in Matsuroka's honor. (Central Press)

'Invasion' Bases Hit In Big Raid

American Air Corps Observer Declares Britain Has Won "Absolute Supremacy" in Air Over Northern Europe

London, June 23.—(AP)—Continuing its mightiest offensive of the war, the RAF made it a solid week of daylight attacks on the French "invasion" coast today after British raiders in their twelfth straight night assault on Germany proper pounded the big naval base of Wilhelmshaven and other targets in the northwest.

Fighter-escorted bombers sped across the channel in mid-afternoon and responded explosion soon were heard by watchers on the British south coast. The bombers tangled in a spirited fight with German fighters, then headed home again. These raiders followed upon Sunday battles over the channel and France, in which the British reported 30 German planes were downed against only two RAF losses, bringing the total in two days of aerial clashes to 57 planes. Another German plane was declared destroyed by one of last night's raiding bombers.

The series of crippling blows dealt by the RAF to Nazi military targets and the Luftwaffe has won Britain "absolute supremacy" in the air over northern Europe, an American Army air corps officer said today.

According to this observer, who has spent the last five weeks with the RAF, the British seized to good advantage the opportunity presented by the German diversion against Russia and have hammered home an offensive the like of which the RAF has not undertaken before in this war.

The CIO Signs Two Agreements



In one day, the CIO signs agreements ending long negotiations. Top, John L. Lewis (left), president of the United Mine Workers, signs a new wage pact between anthracite operators and miners at Hazleton, Pa. Beside Lewis is Major W. W. Inglis, who signed for the operators. Bottom, in a major triumph, Philip Murray (left), president of the CIO, signs agreement in Washington with the Ford Motor Company, including a closed shop. Harry Bennett, director of personnel, signs for the Ford Company.

Intensified U. S. Armament Expected

Some Legislators Already Urging That This Country Espouse Policy Voiced Yesterday by Churchill for Britain.

Washington, June 23.—(AP)—Germany's lightning-like invasion of Soviet Russia promised today to produce an intensification of the United States arms production effort both for national defense and for lease-lend aid to Britain.

Whether the lease-lend program would be extended to include Russia was still a moot question, but some legislators on Capitol Hill already were urging that this country espouse the policy voiced by Winston Churchill yesterday for Britain. "Any man or state who fights against Nazism will have our aid," the bombshell invasion of Russia "most surprising of many surprises," "Hitler week-ends" caught the Capitol unaware and, while there was intense diplomatic activity, Sunday, the disposition of the State department was to await a clarification of the situation before making any formal statement.

While State talking of the international scene proceeded, the belief expressed in informed quarters was that one outcome of the German thrust into Russia would be establishment of close economic cooperation among the United States, Great Britain and Russia.

GERMAN BOMBERS RAID ALEXANDRIA

Berlin, June 23.—(AP)—A strong German bomber formation caused considerable destruction in a raid last night on the harbor area of Britain's great Mediterranean naval base at Alexandria, Egypt, the German high command announced today.

German and Italian planes also attacked British positions at Tobruk, said the daily war bulletin.

Jones Favors Waterway

Washington, June 23.—(AP)—Jose Jones, secretary of Commerce, warned today that "if we do not make up our minds that war is apt to occur we're not very smart" as he urged construction of the \$285,000,000 St. Lawrence seaway for national defense.

"We cannot have too many inland waterways in the interest of commerce and defense," Jones told a House committee, and he expressed a belief power sales and waterway bills would make the St. Lawrence project self liquidating.

Union-Now Probe Asked

Congressman Day Would Have Dies Committee Investigate Internationalist Group

By CHARLES F. STEWART, Central Press Columnist

Washington, June 23.—Union-now agitators will be investigated by Chairman Martin Dies' committee on un-American activities in this country, if Congressman Stephen Day of Illinois has his way—which he probably won't. The Dies committee is too busy with communists to do much additional quizzing at present.

Day says, however, that the Union-Now join are as un-American as anybody. They're the aggregation who urge a federation of the United States, England, the various British dominions and France—in short, all the world's English-speaking peoples. Such a hook-up wouldn't be possible, according to the Illinois lawmaker, without a merger of our own national identity with a lot of royalist countries' identities. It's a movement, he

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Irish Potato Growers Aided

Raleigh, June 23.—(AP)—A Federal Irish potato purchasing program to relieve distressed potato growers of eastern North Carolina was announced today by L. P. Watson, N. C. State College Extension Service horticulturist.

The Federal Surplus Marketing Administration will establish a office at Washington, N. C., immediately and will buy "B" size potatoes at 74 cents a hundred pounds from growers who have planted within their agricultural conservation program allotments, Watson said.

Watson said A. E. Mercker, AAA potato marketing specialist, notified him of the purchasing program. Agricultural leaders were due to meet in Washington, N. C., to make plans for the purchasing program.

Four Dead In Accidents

Charlotte, June 23.—(AP)—At least four persons died in accidents in North Carolina during the week-end.

George Williams Shirley, 45-year-old Selma mill employee, was killed by a train.

Private Ralph F. Rowden, 26, of Granite City, Ill., a selectee in the headquarters Battery of the 94th Coast Artillery, was fatally injured by an automobile as he walked along a highway near Camp Davis.

Odel Adam Short, 26, an employee of the State hospital at Morganton, drowned while swimming in Lake James.

Kenneth Neal Home, two-months old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Home, Jr., of Charlotte, was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Marshville.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday, scattered showers in southeast portion.

U. S. Condemns Nazi Attack On Russia

Departure Of Italians Is Halted

Washington, June 23.—(AP)—The federal government today halted to halt departure of Italian nationals from the United States.

The action duplicated steps taken against the Germans in this country June 13.

The Justice department announced it had issued instructions to immigration and border patrol officers to take all necessary steps to prevent any Italian national from leaving the country pending further instructions.

Department officials said the order does not affect the Italian consular staffs, who must leave the country by July 15.

PRUE RIVER CROSSING.—(AP)—The German radio reported today that Nazi forces had crossed the Prue river, the border between Rumania and Soviet Russia, and were continuing to advance after German artillery and the Luftwaffe had smashed Soviet border fortifications. The broadcast was heard by NBC.

Senator Harrison Died Sunday

Washington, June 23.—(AP)—Pat Harrison, the Senate's president pro tempore, chairman of its finance committee and beloved by all his colleagues, died Sunday in Emergency hospital.

The tall, genial 59-year-old Mississippi Democrat, a colorful and influential figure during 30 years in Congress, had undergone an operation for an intestinal obstruction last Monday. He rallied well after this ordeal but in mid-week took a turn for the worse.

Senator Harrison died at 6:35 a. m., said a brief announcement by his personal friend and physician, Dr. Sterling Ruffin. "He had grown steadily weaker during the

Sumner Welles Reads Statement Declaring "Any Rallying of the Forces Opposing Hitlerism" Would Benefit U. S.

Washington, June 23.—(AP)—The United States condemned Germany's "unprovoked attack" on Russia today and declared that "any rallying of the forces opposing Hitlerism" would be to the benefit of American defense and security.

The statement, made by Sumner Welles, undersecretary of state, after he had conferred with President Roosevelt left open the question of whether lease-lend aid would be given to Soviet Russia.

Welles said no communication had been received from the Soviet government as yet and consequently the question had not been decided by the government.

He said, however, that President Roosevelt had authority under the

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Broughton-McDonald Break Indicated By Appointments

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

Raleigh, June 23.—Recent appointments made by Governor J. Melville Broughton indicate that there has been a complete break between the governor and his erstwhile ardent supporter, Dr. Ralph McDonald.

It follows that there is sure to be a realignment of political forces before the next statewide races in 1942 although there are not yet sufficient signs to show exactly the road that will be followed by McDonald or other prominent political figures.

Undoubtedly there will be great difficulty in getting together into any sort of formidable coalition the groups now united only in their resentment of Broughton's actions since his election or their dislike of Broughton carried over from before the primary of 1940.

Thus, for instance, former Lieutenant Governor Wilkins P. Horton is known to feel that he is not just in, but "under" the dog house and that feeling may be counted on to aid and abet almost any campaign directed at the governor's now unquestioned domination of the party.

Far Eastern Observers Watch Japan

Shanghai, June 23.—(AP)—Far Eastern observers keenly watched Japan today for signs that she might try to seize eastern Siberia while Soviet Russia is battling for her life against Germany in the west.

Dispatches from Tokyo thus far indicate extreme caution on the part of the tri-partite pact partner who also has a neutrality agreement with Soviet Russia.

Conquest of eastern Siberia is pointed to as for long a frankly admitted ambition of the powerful Japanese army which garrisons Manchukuo, Russian air bases in the east constitute a threat against Japan proper, and eastern Siberia has natural riches.

Against a Japanese move in the north, observers recalled that Russia's far eastern defense forces reputedly are self-sufficient and virtually autonomous.

Another belief expressed here was that present European developments gave Japan a golden opportunity to get out of the China impasse by an attack on Siberia. It was suggested that Japan might never find a better chance of liquidating the Chinese war on a face-saving basis.

Legion Head Is Heard

National Commander Urges That U. S. Guarantee Delivery of War Materials to Britain.

Durham, June 24.—(AP)—Three thousand North Carolina members of the American Legion heard their national commander recommend today that the United States guarantee safe delivery of war materials to Great Britain.

In blunt language, Commander Milo J. Warner of Indianapolis, Ind., said this nation should get goods to Britain "by whatever method and whatever means in the judgment of the commander in chief appears to be necessary."

Major General Jacob L. Devers, commander of Fort Bragg, discussed the training program under way at the fort.

The convention will end tomorrow with election of officers, selection of the site of the 1942 meeting and an address by Governor Broughton.

Lithuanians Reported to Have Formed New Government Pledged to Aid Nazis; Finland To Remain Neutral. J. C. Cooper, Jr.,

(By The Associated Press)

The Baltic bulwark which Soviet Russia erected by threats and persuasion against the possibility of just such an attack by Germany as is now raging along her great western frontier appears today to be crumbling.

Combined military and political blows within and without the three little states—Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—which the USSR took into camp and started fortifying a year ago, threatened to line them up with Adolf Hitler.

According to Berlin advices, based in turn on broadcasts from the Kaunas radio, Lithuanians have risen up forming a new government pledged to help Germany fight Russia.

An effort to cut Latvia also out of the Russian camp was indicated when the German radio broadcast a declaration by a Latvian "government-in-exile" that Latvia, too, would fight alongside Germany presumably and when and if Russian rule could be cast off.

Helinski reports said that Estonia, farthest removed of the three from the German-Russian battle line, was expected to follow suit. Baltic political refugees, themselves anti-Russian, said Russia had expected revolts in the three states.

Finland, who lost territory to Russia by war, declared, at the same time, that she would maintain neutrality as long as possible—this despite Adolf Hitler's classification of her as his ally.

In Washington, Warren Lee Pierce, president of the Export-Import Bank, said transfers already had been stopped on the bank's \$25,000,000 credit to Finland, but he declined to tie this in with the war.

Lithuania's declaration of independence came, as German land forces, now at least ten miles inside Russian territory, and the air force pounded Russian bases and communications in a tide of destructions which the German high command announced was proceeding "on schedule and successfully."

Substitute Offered

New Measure Would Limit President's Power to Take Over Defense Plants.

Washington, June 23.—(AP)—Substitute legislation limiting the President's authority to take over plants in the interest of national defense was presented to the Senate military committee today by Robert P. Patterson, undersecretary of War.

The measure would empower the President to requisition military or naval equipment, machine tools, manufacturing equipment, patents and plans "to promote the national defense and to overcome shortages."

The War department's original property seizure bill gave the President power to take over any plant for government operation when he deemed it necessary to the national defense.

Patterson termed the substitute "much narrower in scope" but added that it "ought to fill our needs."

The new bill provides that the President may sell any government requisitioned plant to private interests whenever the War or Navy department finds that such disposition would be necessary to continue production.

The substitute, Patterson declared, was intended merely to allay fears of some persons that "we would come up and ask a man for his watch."

Patterson estimated that on the basis of present production it would be 13 months before there was an adequate supply of machine tools. He said the production of bombing planes alone would "choke" the present output of tools.

British Forces Near Palmyra In Syria

Vichy, June 23.—(AP)—British motorized columns which pushed 100 miles across the desert have reached the outskirts of the important French garrison town of Palmyra, in the heart of the Syrian desert, the French reported today.

Vichy forces were said to have come in contact with the British columns as they reached the desert outpost. French airmen harassed the British and slowed their progress considerably, the French asserted.

Naval engagements were reported last night and early today off Beirut, between British units and a French light naval division. No details were given immediately.

The British columns reaching Palmyra crossed into Syria from Iraq.



Stephen Day

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