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Reds Claim Smashing Victory

French Ask Peace In Syria

Mrs. Roosevelt Arranges a 'Blind Date'



Const Guardsman John McGowan is introduced by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the President, to Miss Lucille Bechtel, professional model, who was his "blind date" at a party that marked opening of a New York information center and rendezvous for servicemen on leave. Fifty beautiful girls were paired off with an equal number of servicemen for a round of festivities that sent the new center off to a flying start. In right foreground is Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, who officiated at the opening.

Immediate Armistice Requested

United States Consulate at Beirut Is Intermediary in Negotiations for Vichy Surrender; Terms Are Not Revealed.

Vichy, July 9.—(AP)—The Vichy government announced tonight that it had asked Britain for an immediate armistice in the month-old war in Syria. The United States consulate at Beirut was its intermediary in negotiations for a Vichy surrender which were started last night, a communiqué said. It added that the French government had taken this step "to avoid particularly grievous bloodshed in the conflict which was becoming daily more unequal."

Whether hostilities actually have ended was not disclosed immediately. Neither was there any immediate indication of the terms to end the strife. The end of fighting had been foreshadowed in reports that an armistice was being arranged while the British Free French allies, in possession of the Syrian capital of Damascus, closed relentlessly on Beirut, on the Lebanese coast, and other centers of Vichy resistance at Aleppo and Homs.

London, July 9.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill announced today that General Henri Dentz, French high commissioner for Syria, had asked "for discussion of terms leading to an armistice" and expressed hope that such negotiations "may reach a speedy conclusion."

The prime minister, addressing the house of commons, said Britain would be glad to see an end to the month-old battle against her old ally in the Middle East, but added that until a truce could be reached the fighting must go on.

SPAIN SEES DANGER IN LATIN DISPUTE

Madrid, July 9.—(AP)—A statement issued by the Spanish foreign office tonight expressed a fear that the border conflict between Peru and Ecuador, if prolonged, might give rise to "the danger that some third party will seize the opportunity to intervene on behalf of its plutocratic rights."

Willkie Dines With Roosevelt

Washington, July 9.—(AP)—Wendell L. Willkie, the 1940 Republican presidential nominee, was invited today for what was officially described as "a general discussion of international affairs."

Willkie, who has been a firm advocate of the President's foreign policies, last saw the Chief Executive several months ago upon the former's return from a flying trip to England.

In reply to questions, Stephen Early, Presidential secretary told reporters he did not think that there was "any job in the picture" for Willkie and that he did not believe Willkie desired one.

Salary Data Ruled Out

Lexington, Ky., July 9.—(AP)—Testimony regarding salaries paid executives of the R. J. Reynolds and Liggett and Myers companies was stricken from the records of the tobacco anti-trust trial by Federal Judge H. Church Ford today.

The judge instructed the jurors to disregard the salary and added they might consider further evidence on bonuses paid to defendant executives out of the increased profits of the companies.

The government contends that the bonuses paid out of profits on aided earnings furnished a motive to the 20 executive defendants to foster the criminal monopoly and price fixing with which they are charged.

Nazis Capture Red Fortress



Nazi soldiers are shown in action as they captured a Russian concrete bunker fortress, according to the official German caption with these photographs from Berlin. In top photo, they came out the bunker atop the hill. Below, they were out the Red defenders with a stream of liquid fire.

Two German Regiments Wiped Out

Moscow War Bulletin Says Fierce Russian Resistance Is Stalling Nazi Drives Along 1,000-Mile Front; Fighting is Bloody.

(By The Associated Press.) Soviet armies reported a smashing victory over Adolf Hitler's invasion forces today in a battle in northern White Russia, where two German motorized regiments were declared to have been wiped out and "the enemy left hundreds killed on the field and retreated to the west."

A Moscow war bulletin said fierce Russian resistance was stalling German drives along a 1,000-mile front from the Baltic to the Black sea. Far from executing a blitzkrieg, the bulletin said, the nazis were trying to entrench in northern White Russia, on the upper Dniepr river.

Authoritative quarters in London said the nazi eastward push into the USSR "appears halted" and that "unless there is a big breakthrough in the next few days, a great pause is likely."

Huge masses of German troops were reported marching to the front, and nazi quarters in Berlin hinted broadly that a decisive phase of the 18-day old struggle was at hand.

The Germans asserted that strong Russian tank formations, hurled into a desperate counter attack, had been "crushed and destroyed" in a vain attempt to stem German-Rumanian troops pouring through Bessarabia on the south wing of the battlefield. The Russians, however, declared that Red Army soldiers executed a series of counter attacks on the German-Rumanian invaders and drove them back in disorder beyond the front lines.

German sources expressed belief the reichswehr and the Red Army were locked in the bitterest, most bloody and perhaps the most decisive fighting of the campaign.

Former Soviet Foreign Commissar Maxim Litvinov, out of the limelight since last before the now-discarded Russian-German pact of 1939, addressed a broadcast appeal last night to Britain to strike hard and at once to catch the Germans on two fronts.

REPORTS DENIED OF RUSSIAN TERRITORY SALE NEGOTIATIONS

Moscow, July 9.—(AP)—S. A. Lozovsky, vice commissar for foreign affairs, said he had heard of German reports that Russia was negotiating for the sale of Kamchatka and the far eastern maritime province to the United States, but declared these were groundless and spread "doubtless to create friction between the United States and Japan."

The Kamchatka peninsula and the maritime province containing Vladivostok are the easternmost provinces of Soviet Siberia. Some Japanese imperialists have called for their acquisition by Japan.

Churchill Objects

Concern Expressed Over Wheeler Statement; Wheeler Says "This Is Still A Democracy".

Washington, July 9.—(AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill has expressed to the White House his and the British government's concern over an "announcement" made on July 3rd by the late Senator Wheeler, Democrat, Montana, made such a statement to reporters—that American forces soon would occupy Iceland.

Receipt of the message was announced by Stephen Early, press secretary, who plainly indicated it was directed at Wheeler's statement.

Early, however, did not mention Wheeler by name.

He merely said that the President had received a dispatch direct from Churchill through the State department.

Army Project Strike Ended

Rayburn Opposes Bill

Speaker Would Offer Selectees Chance To Volunteer, But Opposes Holding Them.

Washington, July 9.—(AP)—Speaker Rayburn today he opposed a bill that drafted men be kept in service longer than one year but favored an amendment to the selective service law to permit them to volunteer for a second year.

At the same time Rayburn expressed the opinion that National Guardsmen and reserve officers "might be willing to stay in service another year."

Asked for his opinion on suggestion by General George C. Marshall that the present limit of one year of service for draftees be removed, Rayburn said:

"I think we made a contract with those selectees that they stay in one year."

"But I would like to see the law amended so that those who wanted to volunteer for another year can do it. I'd like to see that done."

He said he also would "like to see" officer training schools established in the army.

"If we give those boys a hope that they would rise up in the Army a good many of them would take another year," Rayburn said.

Woman Tells Of Strange Abduction

Norfolk, Va., July 9.—(AP)—Norfolk police today are investigating the complaint of Mrs. Willie Mae Brown, of Newton Park, a Norfolk suburb, that she was held captive in her own automobile by two men during a wild ride that began here Sunday and ended in Goldsboro, N. C., late Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Brown told police that she was approached Sunday afternoon at her home by two men, one young and one old, who informed her that they wanted to buy a boat from her husband. She informed them, according to the report, that her husband was in a hospital and they would have to see him there.

Accordingly, the men got into her car but rode only as far as a nearby park before deciding they would see him later. She then took them back to a point near her home and saw

Huge Sum To Be Asked For Defense

Washington, July 9.—(AP)—President Roosevelt will ask Congress this week for an additional appropriation for both defense and lend-lease operations.

Some administration sources said the figure would be double the original \$7,000,000,000 lend-lease bill.

Without announcing the exact sum, Stephen T. Early, White House press secretary, told reporters that the supplemental estimates would be for the Army, Navy and maritime commission in connection with increased domestic defense and an increase in the lend-lease program.

Budget Director Harold D. Smith brought the new estimates to the White House today for a final check with the President.

Informed persons had predicted the request earlier.

Six Red Cross Nurses Feared Lost At Sea

Washington, July 9.—(AP)—The American Red Cross said today that a British vessel bearing ten Red Cross nurses to England had been torpedoed and that six of the nurses were missing.

A Red Cross official said the vessel, identity of which was held secret, was torpedoed about two weeks ago. Four of the nurse contingent were rescued four days ago and are in good condition.

The boat sailed from a gulf coast port June 5.

The Red Cross also said there still had been no "conclusive" reports of the safety of two other women of a contingent of 17 Red Cross nurses aboard another vessel, the Dutch steamer Maasdam, which also was torpedoed.

It was said the attack on Greece was aimed at Eleusis, on the southern coast about eleven miles north-west of Athens, and was carried out without any losses.

The communiqué mentioned only "targets" on Crete, without saying where they were.

WPA Labor In Dispute

Other Strikes and Threats of Strikes Give Concern to Defense Mediation Board

(By The Associated Press.) American Federation of Labor building trades workers voted to return to work today on the army's \$4-million Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, expansion project, ending a week-old test strike against employment of WPA labor.

At the same time, a strike of AFL-United Auto Workers, whose dispute was being considered by the defense mediation board, closed a Michigan defense plant, and a unique walkout of AFL electrical workers threatened to delay completion of part of the government's huge Charleston, Ind., ordnance works.

The AFL building trades council voted to end the Jefferson Barracks strike after receiving assurance that the OPM would investigate alleged encroachment of the WPA in construction work. Hiring of 75 WPA painters at sub-union wages precipitated the walkout.

At Muskegon, Mich., the AFL-United Auto Workers struck the plant of the Sealed-Air Corporation, which manufactures engine parts for tanks, submarines and trucks. The union is demanding wage increases and a union shop contract.

A spokesman for the AFL Electrical Workers Union asserted the Charleston walkout was neither a strike nor a dispute and that 400 workers simply left to seek jobs at higher wages elsewhere.

The union said no pickets would be established and any union men who wished to do so could take jobs on the ordnance project.

Efforts to settle a dispute between the AFL Chemical Workers

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Miners Fight Detectives

Pottsville, Pa., July 9.—(AP)—Twelve miners were injured, nine of them wounded superficially by shotgun fire, and eight private detectives were beaten today in a clash over coal stripping operations at Donaldson, 16 miles west of Pottsville.

The injured were treated at Pottsville hospital. All were discharged. The detectives were bruised and battered by the surging crowd of miners as they left the scene where the shots were fired.

U.S. Warships May Aid British Patrol

1,476 Planes During June

Washington, July 9.—(AP)—The office of production management announced today that military aircraft manufacturers delivered 1,476 airplanes during June.

Comparable final figures for May showed 1,334 deliveries, officials said, although when they were announced last month they were given as 1,329.

The OPM did not disclose the types of planes nor the number going to Great Britain or to the United States Army or Navy.

Occupation Called War

German Spokesman Says United States Has Taken Active Military Step.

Berlin, July 9.—(AP)—The United States, by occupation of Iceland, has taken an active military step and is now represented by troops in the war zone, a German spokesman observed today.

"From a military point of view, these troops might as well be in a British port," he said.

German sources also said the occupation of Iceland would give new assistance to the United States' "continental" campaign in the Azores, Dakar and Cape Verde islands.

No responsible German said so, but it was obvious that Berlin was counting on the possibility that the United States would occupy other places.

"Roosevelt for a long time has been appearing war-weary and has moved much closer to the spokesman said.

There was speculation here as to what is the western hemisphere.

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WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Generally fair tonight and Thursday except some likelihood of scattered showers in mountains Thursday afternoon or night.

British House Hears Churchill Suggest Cooperation of Navies in Guarding 'Very Dangerous Waters' Off Iceland.

London, July 9.—(AP)—The house of commons tonight heard Prime Minister Churchill suggest today that United States and British warships may profitably assist each other in guarding the "very dangerous waters" off Iceland.

Churchill made this statement in a speech welcoming American occupation of Iceland and his report raised parliament to its loudest cheer since the day he dramatically announced the signing of the German battleship Bismarck.

The prime minister informed the house that Britain proposed to retain some of her forces at present in Iceland.

Churchill declared that the arrival of "so powerful United States forces will greatly reduce the danger to Iceland and that it seems very likely British and American forces will cooperate effectively in assistance to any attempt by Hitler to gain a footing."

The prime minister pointed out that American policy is not only to send British war supplies but also to make sure we get them.

Britain, he said, not only approves but welcomes the United States step and, as for Germany, "whether similar satisfaction will be felt in Germany is another question and one which hardly concerns us."

"In fact," he said, "it is one of the most important things that has happened since the war began."

Peru-Ecuador Truce Offered

Washington, July 9.—(AP)—The United States, Argentina and Brazil have asked Peru and Ecuador to establish a no-military land on both sides of the line known as the status quo line in territories disputed by the two nations.

Sumner Welles, acting secretary of state, announced today that after the envoys of the three nations had made that recommendation to Peru and Ecuador the three governments had also informed the governments of all other American republics and asked that they give their support to ending the conflict.

Under the proposal the governments of Peru and Ecuador would withdraw their forces 15 kilometers from the line of status quo, establishing a neutral zone 30 kilometers in depth.

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