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Telephone Tieup Threatened

Soviet Position In Ukraine Is Conceded To Be Grave

Reds Suffer Severe Loss In Retreat

Port of Odessa Caught in Gigantic 'Squeeze' With German Columns Advancing From Three Sides; Large Force Trapped

(By The Associated Press.) Russia's Red armies appeared to have all but lost their grasp on the western half of the Ukraine today as German troops smashed from three directions at the great port of Odessa and suicide-rear guards fought bitterly to cover the Soviet retreat to the Black sea.

A British war office spokesman acknowledged that the Russian position in the Ukraine had deteriorated rapidly and the Soviet high command was ominously silent on the struggle. While the situation was undoubtedly grave for the Russians, qualified observers said the loss of the lower Ukraine, even the capture of Odessa, would not be a decisive blow to the Soviet. It was pointed out that the richest prizes still lie beyond the Dnieper river to the east, where the big industrial centers are located. Most of the lower Ukraine is an agricultural country while the treasure trove of iron, manganese and other war materials are in the east.

Nazi military dispatches asserted that the port of Odessa, main base of the Russian Black sea fleet, was caught in a gigantic 'squeeze' with German columns storming toward the city from three sides.

Soviet quarters in London said that should Germans enter Black sea ports of Odessa and Nikolayev they will find a "smoking ruin of abandoned factories and empty streets."

German reports said a considerable Red Army force was trapped along the Black sea coast between Odessa and Ochakov, 70 miles east, cut off from retreat by German and Rumanian forces.

British Raid Many Cities

Berlin Heavily Attacked as RAF Bombers Range From Norway to France

London, Aug. 13.—(AP)—British fighters in a wide foray which ranged all the way from Norway to France attacked Berlin heavily last night and unloaded explosive and incendiary bombs on a dozen other German cities.

In the German capital, a London air ministry communique stated, "large fires which were started were increasing their hold when our aircraft left."

The British bombers had as their main targets in addition to Berlin the industrial cities of Magdeburg, Hanover and Essen, the Krupp armament works at Essen being the main objectives. Much damage was done.

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Freckle Champ



John Rotchford

And here is the freckle champion of 1941. He is John Rotchford, 13, winner of the most freckles contest at the Charlestown branch of the Boy's Clubs of Boston, Mass.

House Votes Longer Term Of Service

By One-Vote Margin, Representatives Approve 18-Months Extension of Service in Army; Bill Goes Back to Senate

Washington, Aug. 13.—(AP)—By the narrow margin of a single vote a tumultuous House gave its approval last night to an 18-month extension of service for the Army's rank and file.

Temporarily delayed by the rough and tumble debate of a technical session, the representatives burst into a roar when Speaker Rayburn ended the dramatic suspense of the final roll call with the announcement that the legislation had been approved by a record vote of 263 to 202.

Thus the House joined the Senate in approving the War Department's insistent request that Congress authorize selectees, National Guardsmen and reserve army components to be kept in training for a total of 30 months instead of twelve and that it remove the 950,000 maximum on the number of draftees that may be in service at one time.

Final congressional action by the week end on compromise between the almost identical Senate and House bills was expected on all sides—but the unusually close House vote raised several questions of procedure.

The normal course would send the measure to conference with each chamber being required to vote on the compromise version. That would mean that the administration would have to run the risk of being defeated in the House.

Senator Barkley of Kentucky, the majority leader, expressed the hope that the Senate might accept the minor House changes in its original bill, thereby permitting it to go to the President without any further House consideration.

No Word From FDR

Washington, Aug. 13.—(AP)—The Capital remained without word of President Roosevelt today, the fourth day since the last dispatch was received from the Chief Executive's yacht Patomac.

The Navy department, through which communications from the vacationing presidential yacht had been made public, had no comment on the Patomac's silence.

Nazis Charge U.S. Planning To Seize Martinique Island

EARLAN WILL MAKE IMPORTANT SPEECH

Vienna, Aug. 13.—(AP)—Vice Premier Admiral Jean Darlan, newly awarded vast powers over military and other phases of French life, decided today to make a minute and a half radio announcement at 9 o'clock (2 p. m. EST) tomorrow. Informative sources said it would be "of extreme importance."

Knudsen Sees Production Peak In Year

New York, Aug. 13.—(AP)—Director General William S. Knudsen of the office of production management predicted today that if the nation's defense program hit the half-way mark by January 1, 1942 "we should hit peak production by July and after that America can write its own ticket on war material."

"And this ticket can, as far as I am concerned, be twice what anybody else's ticket is," Knudsen added.

Greater speed in sub-contracting defense orders will be required to accomplish the objective, he asserted in an address to the New York division of commerce production clinic.

"Decentralize that procedure business and let each manufacturer handle his job and his business with a little of it—I could almost say Washington—as possible we will get it done," the chief declared.

"All we need is the will to get the job done and we have one great advantage—nobody is going to bomb us much while we are doing it. All we need is to get together—stop bickering over procedure."

Major Attlee In Important Broadcast

London, Aug. 13.—(AP)—Major Clement R. Attlee, lord prime and often Prime Minister Churchill's deputy in parliament, will broadcast an announcement privately described as "important" on all British Broadcasting Company stations at 3 p. m. Thursday (9 a. m. e. s. t.).

(Nature of the announcement was not disclosed, but there has been much speculation that Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins have met or are meeting secretly.)

Highway Commission Head Faces Shortage Of Funds

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

Raleigh, Aug. 13.—Ben Prince, chairman of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, is truly "on the spot" right now and, what's toughest of all, there seems little or nothing he can do about it.

Trouble is that Ben didn't put himself on the spot through any action of his own height there through the force of the emergency and other circumstances over which he has absolutely no control.

On the brighter side, the highway chairman has the satisfaction of knowing that nobody blames him for the trouble which apparently lies ahead.

Authorized Berlin Quarters Declare United States Will Use Petain's Speech as Excuse to Take West Indies Colony

(By The Associated Press.) Germany charged the United States today with planning to seize the French island of Martinique in the West Indies as a result of former Chief of state Petain's newly announced policy of stronger collaboration with the Reich.

Authorized quarters in Berlin declared bluntly that certain American groups which "for a long time have cast covetous eyes on Martinique" would use Petain's speech yesterday as an excuse to "satisfy their lust for the island."

In both Washington and London serious repercussions arose over France's new attitude.

In Washington the conviction was freely expressed that Petain's pro-Nazi alignment held threats to American interests and territories and the U. S. State department was reported negotiating for air base rights on the French West African base at Dakar.

In London, authoritative quarters said Petain planned to "subjugate the French people and force upon them a policy which they detest."

Secretary of State Cordell Hull, withheld formal comment, but some senators and congressmen outspokenly urged that the American republic should take over French colonies in the western hemisphere.

Several congressmen also advocated breaking off diplomatic relations with the Vichy government and recognizing General Charles de Gaulle "free French."

In Berlin, the Nazi foreign office hailed Petain's speech as important because powers outside the continent "which desire to establish guardianship over France were rebuffed" and because Petain had solidly allied himself with Hitler's "new order" for Europe.

Liquor Sales Are Higher

Raleigh, Aug. 13.—(AP)—Liquor sales in North Carolina for July of this year totaled \$182,438 more than for July, 1940. Robert Grady Johnson, chairman of the state ABC board said today.

Totals sales for July were \$865,680, compared with sales of \$482,534 in July, 1940.

This increase was in spite of the sale of fewer gallons of liquor during the past month than for the same month of the preceding year, Johnson said.

July sales, by counties, included: Beaufort, \$16,639.59; Edgecombe, \$25,069.25; Gosport, \$2,349.49; Lenoir, \$21,865.69; Pamlico, \$27,326.19; Vance, \$13,963.40; Wilson, \$24,736.33; Nash, \$16,774.99; Chowanhead \$73,598.

Calls British Too Hopeful



The spirit of the British people is good, but they are over-confident, according to Alfred Duff Cooper, former minister of information, shown with his wife and son upon arrival in New York by clipper plane. He is en route to Singapore, where he will serve as coordinator of British political activities. The boy, 11 years old, is a student at Upper Canada College, Toronto.

Better Quality Leaf Sells Higher

Adel, Ga., Aug. 13.—(AP)—With sales here on all markets, most grades of tobacco held to rather high prices yesterday in the Georgia-Florida fine-cured tobacco belt, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported. The quality of the offerings was described as "good to excellent as usual."

General satisfaction with prices continued, department specialists said.

Cool Wave Hits Nation

Most of the nation experienced a little "with-stillness" and a "cool wave" after a long hot spell, with normal temperatures, all over around Jackson, Miss., today. The city was under a spell of "with-stillness" and "cool wave" for several days.

Light Frost in Sections of New England, With Low Temperature Marks Broken

(By The Associated Press.) Most of the nation experienced a little "with-stillness" and a "cool wave" after a long hot spell, with normal temperatures, all over around Jackson, Miss., today. The city was under a spell of "with-stillness" and "cool wave" for several days.

Warehouse Floors on Border Belt Flooded With Tobacco As Growers Express Satisfaction With Opening Day Averages

Florence, S. C., Aug. 13.—(AP)—The better quality offerings received higher prices today as auctioneering of the 1941 Carolina fine-cured tobacco crop on the 16 border belt markets went into the second day.

Price averages, apparently were being boosted above yesterday's average of around 25 cents a pound.

Buyers, who expected the better than expected prices, crowded the warehouses through the day. On several markets, the day was reported as "a record."

Strike Vote Follows Stalemate

Disputants Called to Meeting in New York City; Governor Edison Urges Government Not to Take Over Kearny Plant

(By The Associated Press.) A group of the nationwide Bell Telephone System was threatened today when the Association of Communication Equipment Workers announced that a majority of its locals in 13 cities had voted a strike authorization in connection with its dispute with a Bell company.

Negotiations between the association and Western Electric Company, Inc., a part of the Bell system, are now stalemated over four points of a proposed master working agreement, the union said.

Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick of the New York state mediation board, attempting to avert a nationwide stoppage, called the disputants to a meeting in New York city tomorrow.

The Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company's offer to turn its strike-bound Kearny, N. J. plant over to the Navy to operate drew more official discussion today with Governor Charles Edison of New Jersey urging that the government remain from such a step.

Navy Secretary Knox announced he and Sidney Hillman, co-director for the office of production management, would resume their discussion today with L. H. Korndorf, president of the shipbuilding concern. No decision was reached yesterday in two conferences on Korndorf's offer.

United States Negotiating For Airbase

Washington, Aug. 13.—(AP)—Pursuing a broad strategy designed to safeguard the hemisphere, the United States today was reported negotiating for airbase rights in Brazil to offset any German threat to Dakar, French West Africa.

Unveiled congressional sources declared the State department has initiated discussions with Brazil urging her to resume control of an Italian-operated air base on the island of Natal, east on the hump of the South American continent.

From Natal it is only 1,620 miles northward across the narrowest part of the South Atlantic to Dakar, referred to frequently as a potential "hub of operations" against the western hemisphere.

Members of Congress concerned with military legislation expressed indignation over the announcement from Vienna that Admiral Jean Darlan would be given supreme control of French military matters. This news, they declared, probably meant that Hitler would be accorded the right to use Dakar.

State Agencies List Desired Public Works

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

Raleigh, Aug. 13.—Whether it will mean anything after it's done is quite problematical, but on August 23 a list of North Carolina's public works needs and desires will be compiled in great detail.

Governor J. M. Broughton has sent letters to no less than 52 departments and institutions advising them that at 10:30 a. m. Saturday, August 23, they are expected to gather in the hall of the House for a session over which J. L. Hales, state director of the Public Works Reserve division, will preside.

Now the idea behind PWR is to prepare, in long advance, a list of all public work projects which can be built to advantage when the present war emergency passes and things go "bloomy" instead of, as now, "boom."

Wherefore the meeting will give

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Fair, slightly cooler south-west, and south central portions tonight. Generally fair Thursday.

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