



# Henderson Daily Dispatch

ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THIS SECTION OF NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HENDERSON, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 18, 1942

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

## Death Agony of a Merchantman



This spectacular photo shows an unidentified victim of the deadly U-boat menace in the Atlantic. The still-smoking British merchant ship rears skyward a few seconds before plunging beneath the choppy waters. Her crew struggles in the water awaiting rescue craft. (Central Press)

## Britain Reinforces Middle East Armies

London Admiralty Announces Arrival of 'Certain Convoys' at Undisclosed Destination; Russians Continue Advance.

(By The Associated Press) A hint that Britain may be heavily reinforcing her armies in the Middle East, possibly to combat a German thrust into Turkey this spring, was dropped by the London admiralty today with the disclosure that "certain convoys" had been escorted through the Mediterranean. The admiralty said the operations, apparently on a big scale, were carried out between February 13 and 16 with the loss of only two merchant craft.

The point of reinforcement was not specified. An Italian communiqué asserted Monday that a British destroyer and seven merchant ships had been sunk out of a big convoy on route from Alexandria. Even in the bomb-battered island of Malta, about midway between the tip of the Italian boot and Libya, north Africa.

On Saturday, a German communiqué said that planes sank a British destroyer and a 10,000-ton merchantman in a convoy north of Benghazi. Recent dispatches from the Balkans have told of a large number of German troops missing in Bulgaria, Greece and Greek islands—all potential springboards for a German invasion of Turkey, the "land bridge" between Europe and the Middle East.

Malta, under increasingly violent assaults by German and Italian planes in recent weeks, would be a sharp thorn on the flank of any axis drive into Turkey or across the Mediterranean to Egypt and the Levant states.

Meanwhile, Stockholm dis-

(Continued on Page Two)

### AUTHOR PIES

Pompton Lake, N. J., Feb. 18.—(AP)—Allert Payton, Terhune, whose simple stories about dogs won him international fame, died today at the age of 69. He had been in ill health for two years.

## Night Session On Pensions

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The Senate civil service committee voted today to hold a night session on the Congress pensions repeal after being told by Senator Byrd, Democrat, Virginia, that unless it acted with speed, "the Senate may take the matter out of our hands."

As a day session of the committee ended inconclusively, Representative Ramspeck, Democrat, Georgia, announced he would "take the lead in affording the House an early opportunity" to vote on repeal of that section opening retirement benefits to members of Congress.

"In a democratic nation such as ours," Ramspeck said in a statement, "the will of the people should prevail."

## Japs Cross Bilin River

Tokyo, (From Japanese Broadcasts), Feb. 18.—(AP)—A Japanese report from Burma said today that the Japanese had crossed the Bilin river. (British forces two days ago dug into new positions along the Bilin river, some 50 miles from the feeder rail line to the Burma Road.)

"Japanese forces after crossing the Salween river are continuing their advance northward," Dorel said.

"On Monday afternoon they reached the Bilin river some 60 miles north of Moulmein. In spite of heavy enemy counter attacks Japanese troops crossed the river."

## Japs Renew Bataan War

Start of Long Expected Assault Believed Near; U. S. Army Bombers Sink Ships.

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The start of the long expected assault in force against General Douglas MacArthur's lines in Bataan was indicated today in a War department communiqué which reported increased air activity, renewed artillery fire and the landing of Japanese reinforcements in Subic bay, just north of the Bataan peninsula.

At the same time, however, the department reported that four Japanese army bombers attacking Japan's ships off Bougainville, scored direct hits on two enemy transports, one large and one small, both of which were believed sunk. Two enemy barges were destroyed with no damage to any of the American planes.

At the refugee camp at Cebu, the department reported yesterday, a Japanese bombing attack killed 15 women and five children and wounded 13 women and nine children, all Filipinos. Department officials said there were no reports of casualties in the second bombing of the camp.

## Negro Singer Thins Crowd

Kansas City, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Paul Robeson, Negro, baritone, prefaced the second half of his concert last night with a lecture against race segregation and told his audience he was continuing under protest.

Some white listeners, immediately left the auditorium and others followed throughout the remainder of the program. There was no estimate of the number to walk out.

The singer made his talk without warning, either by word or manner, in the first half of the program.

Later he sang the Jim Crow song, containing verses of racial protest.

## Dutch East Indies Governor Calls For

# Showdown In Pacific

## Vichy To Try Former Leaders

Five Held Responsible For Defeat

Two Former Premiers and Former Generalissimo Face Trial at Riom; Germany Charges Plan to Murder Hitler.

Vichy, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Five leaders of the defunct French third republic, including two former premiers and a former allied generalissimo, go on trial tomorrow before a special tribunal set up by the Vichy regime to determine their responsibility for the fall of France.

Vichy hourly grew more excited at the "approach of the trial at Riom, 20 miles from here."

Accusation named these men: Former Premier Edouard Daladier, who until France was beaten was hailed by his country as its strong man;

Former Premier Leon Blum, socialist who rose to power with a popular front of leftist parties;

Former Generalissimo Maurice Gamelin;

Pierre Laval, former administrator of national defense industries;

Guy LaChambre, one of France's wealthiest men, who became prime minister.

Pierre Cot, also a former prime minister, fled to the United States before the accusations were made.

(As the trial neared, the German radio last night charged that the Netherlands foreign minister, Eelco N. van Kleffens, in 1939 "had in his possession plans for murdering Adolf Hitler and Foreign Minister Ribbentrop and that he attempted to do away with the government of the reich."

## Congressmen Named In Trial

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—A federal court jury was told today that George Sylvester Viereck, registered German agent on trial on charges of failing to give information required by law, worked over manuscripts prepared by Representative Day, Republican, Illinois, and former Senator Holt, Democrat, West Virginia.

Sigfried Hauck, president of the Flanders Hall Publishing Co., Scott Plains, N. J., said he and Viereck worked over the manuscripts and that Representative Sweeney, Democrat, Ohio, in a radio address, had referred to a book published by his company.

Hauck said he was told by Prescott Bennett, associated with the "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee" and who was paid \$250 for Flanders Hall Publishing Co., Scott Plains, N. J., that Sweeney mentioned the book—"One Hundred Families That Rule The Empire."

## Chiang Talks With Gandhi

Calcutta, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Mohandas Gandhi and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek met here today. The generalissimo is on a tour of India and has conferred with several Indian leaders.

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek accompanied the generalissimo.

They were received at Birla Park, where Gandhi is staying, by Pandit Nehru, an Indian leader. He escorted them to the drawing room where Gandhi was squatting on the floor.

Through an interpreter, Chiang and Gandhi talked for an hour and twenty minutes. Then the generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang had an Indian lunch while Gandhi remained in the drawing room.

## First War Ration Book of World War II

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## Brazilian Vessel Sunk

Rescue Boats Land 83 Survivors From 85 Aboard Ship Sunk Off Virginia Coast.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 18.—(AP)—Two torpedoes from an axis submarine sank the Brazilian passenger-cargo steamer Barroque off the Virginia coast Sunday morning in the first hostile act against the South American republic since diplomatic relations were severed January 26 with Germany, Italy and Japan.

The Navy announced the sinking last night shortly after two rescue boats had brought in 37 survivors, bringing to 83 the number of persons saved. Forty-six were landed Monday and the rescue boats last night brought one body, leaving only one person missing from the eleven passengers and 74 crewmen aboard.

Lifeboats had pulled only a short distance from the ship when the second torpedo struck and she sank in 30 seconds.

Three women and a five-year old boy were among the 46 survivors landed Monday.

## BOXER IS RELEASED AFTER QUESTIONING

Pittsburgh, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Sammy Angott, light-weight boxing champion, was released today after he had been detained several hours for questioning about his association with two men charged with the \$7,537 robbery of a theatre here Monday.

Inspector of Detectives Walter Monaghan said he was "convinced Angott had no connection" with the robbery and Police Captain Frank T. McQuade added that the Washington, Pa., fighter was "apparently the victim of a series of circumstances."

## Who Are The Killing-Drivers On North Carolina Highways?

Daily Dispatch Bureau, Raleigh, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Who are driving the hundreds of more automobiles which kill people in North Carolina every month?

Are the drunken drivers responsible? How about the women drivers, whom all men claim are "dangerous"? Or are the kids and the Negroes in their ramshackle jalopies the ones to blame?

The highway safety division has just completed an exhaustive, statistical study of last year's accidents which gives the answer. Here it is:

## Solons To Probe Normandie Blaze

Blount Files For Congress

Raleigh, Feb. 18.—(AP)—A contest in the first congressional district was assured today when Marvin K. Blount of Greenville paid a \$100 fine to the State board of elections to oppose U. S. Representative Henry Bonner of Washington, N. C., in the Democratic primaries this spring.

## Mayris Chaney Resigns

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The office of civilian defense announced today it had accepted the offer of Mayris Chaney, blond dance protégé of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, to resign her \$4,600 OGD job if it felt "the best interest of the physical fitness program" can thereby be served.

Mrs. Chaney, whose appointment in charge of children's activities in the OGD physical fitness division brought criticism from Congress to eliminate "trills" from OGD, made her offer in a letter to James M. Landi, director of OGD.

The physical fitness division is part of the community and volunteer participation, action over which Mrs. Roosevelt, as assistant civilian director, presides.

## Tanker Crew Quits Ship

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 18.—(AP)—The Atlantic Refining company's 11,615-ton tanker E. H. Blum was abandoned off the Atlantic coast Monday night (February 16) by her crew of 40 who expressed divergent opinions when landed at Norfolk by a rescue ship as to whether their vessel had been torpedoed or had struck a mine field.

Two members of the crew suffered minor injuries in escaping in four lifeboats from the tanker, which was still afloat when they last saw her. Survivors agreed that the tanker was wrecked by three explosions based about 15 minutes apart. None saw a submarine, they said.

The crew was picked up by a rescue vessel within an hour after their four lifeboats were launched.

## Senate and House Groups Named to Investigate Burning of Former French Liner

Washington, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Two congressional investigations of the burning of the former French luxury liner Normandie were ordered today.

The Senate naval committee approved unanimously a proposal of Senator Vandenberg, Republican, Michigan, that it probe to determine whether the fire at a New York pier as the vessel was being converted for Navy use was caused by negligence or sabotage.

The House naval committee authorized Chairman Vinson, Democrat, Georgia, to appoint a six-man subcommittee to inquire into the "destruction of the U. S. S. Lafayette," formerly the Normandie. It empowered the committee to summon witnesses, books, papers and documents and report back such recommendations as it may deem desirable.

## Crew Members Unable to Agree Whether Vessel Torpedoed or Struck by Mines.

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## WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA  
Colder, snow flurries in the mountains tonight; temperatures freezing and below in the interior.

## Thailand Is Invaded By Chinese

Van Mook Appeals to United Nations to Take Offensive; Japan's Invasion Hordes Hold Off From Direct Assault on Java.

(By The Associated Press) Eye witness accounts of fighting in lower Sumatra reported today that three native soldiers of the Dutch Indies, armed only with pistols and swords, were inflicting heavy casualties on the Japanese and proving more than a match for the invaders armed with submachine guns, in bloody hand-to-hand fighting.

The defenders were reported battling desperately to block the Japanese drive toward Sunda strait, the narrow waterway between Sumatra and Java.

(By The Associated Press) With "zero hour" near in the battle for Java, Lieutenant Governor Hubertus van Mook of the Dutch East Indies appealed to the United Nations today to take the offensive, search out the enemy and fight, or risk losing the war.

Even as Van Mook spoke, there came reports that Chinese troops had invaded Japanese-dominated Thailand, striking the first land counter blow by the United Nations since the war began December 7.

Thailand was a major jumping off point for the Japanese invasion of Malaya and Burma.

An all-India broadcast, quoting a Rangoon communiqué, said that according to "a report as yet unconfirmed," Chinese troops on the north Burma front had crossed the Thailand border and were battling toward Chengmai, 300 miles north of Bangkok, the Thai capital.

"The Japanese are using ships recklessly, I think we could emulate them," Van Mook said, arriving in Sydney, Australia, from the United States where he conferred with officials in Washington.

Japan's invasion hordes still held off from a direct assault on Java, densely populated part of the Indies, four days after striking into nearby lower Sumatra with parachute troops and sea-borne reinforcements.

United Nations headquarters and American pilots aiding in the defense of Java attacked a Japanese-held airbase in lower Sumatra and shot down four enemy planes without loss to themselves. Dutch bombers shot down two more.

Five Japanese bombers were shot down in an attack on the big allied naval base at Soerabaja, Java, this morning, it was announced.

A combined American-Dutch bomber force, using a large Japanese transport, scored hits on two others, and caused havoc on a fleet of troopship barges.

NEL head-quarters and Dutch troops were still fighting grimly against Japanese forces in Borneo but acknowledged that "fighting has abated."

(Continued on Page Two)

### SUICIDE

Wilson, Feb. 18.—(AP) C. (Bud) Cooper, 33, who on March 10 would have rounded out 24 years on the local police force, committed suicide yesterday by shooting himself through the heart as he sat in a chair in the officer's lounge on the second floor of the municipal building here.

## Italians Sink British Ship

Rome, (From Italian Broadcasts), Feb. 18.—(AP)—The Italian high command said today a British cruiser of the 4,200-ton Cairo class, previously reported damaged by axis action, had been sunk.

The high command said there had been patrol activity and clashes between British and axis forces in Libya below El Mechili, about 100 miles west of Tobruk.

German and Italian planes bombed Tobruk and a Matruh airbase, causing considerable casualties and damage, it was reported. The high command acknowledged four Italian fighter aircraft had failed to return.