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Five Persons Killed Near Selma Early Today

Ammunition Truck Explodes

Viereck Leaves for Prison



C. P. Phonephoto

George Sylvester Viereck (black coat) is shown being led to a U. S. Marshal's van in Washington after being convicted of violating the Foreign Agent Registration Act. The novelist, publicist, poet and ace German propagandist was found guilty of withholding essential information when he registered with the state department as a Nazi agent and faces two to six years imprisonment, a \$3,000 fine, or both.

Japanese Storm Gates Of Bandoeng

Tokyo Says Fall Of City Is Imminent

Nipponese Forces Seeking to Capture Soerabaja, Big United Nations Naval Base, Encounter Strong Tank Forces.

(By The Associated Press) Japanese troops storming at the gates of Bandoeng, allied military headquarters, were reported to have broken through the city's northern defenses today and a Tokyo radio broadcast asserted that collapse of the entire defense of Java was regarded "as a matter of a few days."

A Tokyo report broadcast by the German radio said Japanese troops seeking to capture Soerabaja, big United Nations naval base, had run into heavy allied tank forces massed in the immediate vicinity of the naval base.

The radio said Japanese forces had "penetrated" to Soerabaja, evidently meaning the outskirts. The invaders now were reported overrunning almost the entire 620-mile northern coastal plains and driving deep into the interior, and battle-strewn Dutch, British and American troops, outnumbered five to one, fell back into the mountains.

The island itself was cut in two, with Japanese troops knitting across the center to the south coast on the Indian ocean.

Moreover, dispatches reported that Tjilatjap, the island's last usable port on the south coast, had been destroyed by Japanese bombers.

In the face of this grim picture (Continued on Page Six)

Developments on the Pacific Battlefronts



This map shows the latest developments on the Pacific fronts. Tokyo announced thirty planes bombed Minamitori Shima. (1) Jap island in the Bonin group. It didn't identify nationality of attacking planes. Nipponese troops forced a crossing of the Sittang River (2) in Burma, last natural barrier between the Japs and Rangoon. A prolonged raid by Jap planes was staged at the vital north Australian port of Darwin (3). Japanese planes repeatedly raided Bandung (4) as the battle of Java approached a climax. Gen. MacArthur's tiny air fleet sank several large Jap ships in a surprise raid on Subic Bay (5), apparently drowning thousands of enemy soldiers. (Central Press)

100 Persons Are Injured By Blast

Truck Loaded With 30,000 Pounds of High Explosives, including Ammunition, Catches Fire After Crash; Explodes Two Hours Later.

Smithfield, March 7.—(AP)—Four persons were known to have been killed and approximately 100 others were reported injured near here early today in the delayed explosion of a fire-ridden, ammunition-laden truck, the detonation of which was heard over a radius of 50 miles in eastern North Carolina.

A hotel, a filling station and a tavern were leveled to the ground and windows in Selma, a town about two miles away, were shattered. The cement highway under the truck was ripped wide and deep for a distance of 30 feet.

Dr. E. N. Booker, Johnston county coroner, who first said at least five persons were injured fatally, said there was some question whether three bodies at first believed to be in a leveled hotel were there as he initially announced. Several persons were missing from the hotel and it was possible, he explained, that the number of dead might be seven or more. He said ruins of the hotel were too hot to be sure but that he was planning an investigation this afternoon.

Dr. Booker said that at least four persons were injured fatally, two of them in an automobile which he said failed to observe highway patrol warnings to halt, and the others in the leveling of the Tarlton hotel. Dr. Booker said that George (Continued on Page Six)

Radio, Phonograph Industry Mobilized

War Production Board Orders Stoppage of All Production for Civilian Use After April 22; Parts May be Made.

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—The war production board today ordered manufacture of radios and phonographs for civilian use discontinued after April 22.

It also announced that, except for production of replacement parts, the entire facilities of the industry would be converted to war production. Radio manufacturers will be permitted to complete sets on which assembly work has begun on or before April 22, within the limits of production quotas under which the industry now is operating.

British Tanks Oppose Japs

London, March 7.—(AP)—Camouflaged tanks which recently rumbled upon the Burmese battlefield are fighting to smash a Japanese attempt to push westward over a highway and railroad north of Pegu, a military commentator indicated today.

He said the Japanese were attempting their westward shove in the area 40 miles north of Rangoon but the British tanks were trying to clear them up.

U.S. Convoys In Pacific

'Troops, Pilots, Planes and Guns' Reported Heading Through Southwest Pacific.

London, March 7.—(AP)—Walter Farr, Daily Mail correspondent assigned to the United Pacific fleet, in a dispatch to his newspaper dated "at sea Friday" said "great convoys of ships carrying American troops, pilots, planes, tanks and guns" are heading through the southwest Pacific.

This correspondent wrote that "naval and air battles without parallel in history are developing." "These massive forces will not only help to defend Australia," Farr wrote, "they are maturing to be used to build the foundations for a great offensive against the Japanese"

(Continued on Page Six)

FORMER IRANIAN PREMIER UNABLE TO FORM CABINET

London, March 7.—(AP)—Reza is reported from Teheran today that former Premier Ali Forughi had left the Iranian capital after informing parliament that "the crisis surpassed my power." It is impossible for me to accept the premiership and form a cabinet."

Sato Called New Kurusu

Chinese Press Declares New Jap Envoy to Russia is Screen for True Purposes.

Chungking, March 7.—(AP)—The Chinese press declared today that Naotake Sato, newly appointed Japanese ambassador to Soviet Russia, would go to Khabarovsk actually as another Saburo Kurusu whom Tokyo sent to Washington in the guise of peace envoy to mask her last minute preparations for the Pearl Harbor attack.

The newspapers said Sato's appointment further served to screen the real purposes behind the recall of his predecessor, Yoshitugu Tatekawa, to Tokyo.

Tatekawa actually has been in Russia as "a highly placed spy" of the axis for the past year and a half, and is being called home to give a first hand account of the military situation in Russia, the newspapers asserted.

Japs Extend Philippine Occupation

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—The Japanese have extended further their occupation of the Philippines, the War department said today in reporting the landing of a small force of invaders accompanied by tanks at Calapan on the island of Mindoro.

Mindoro is about 70 miles south of the Bataan peninsula fighting front, where a communique said activity had ceased except for slight artillery fire and an ineffective enemy air raid.

Desultory fighting took place meanwhile between patrols on the southern island of Mindanao, where new invaders landed this week.

Refrigerator Price Hikes Ordered Cut

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—Price Administrator Leon Henderson issued a preliminary request today that "inflationary and unfair" price increases on mechanical refrigerators be rescinded immediately and that prices be restored to February 2 levels.

In telegrams to distributors, dealers and retail outlets, Henderson asserted that the sharp price increases had occurred on a nationwide scale since the war production board froze refrigerator stocks on February 14 preliminary to instituting a rationing plan.

WATER TESTED.

Albuquerque, N. M., March 7.—(AP)—Barton Reservoir, supplying water to the Army air base, was shut off and a chemical analysis of the water made today after a reservoir guard fired two shots at two men who disregarded orders to halt.

Flames Raze Defense Plant

Las Vegas, Nev., March 7.—(AP)—Wind-whipped flames destroyed the \$25,000 administration building of the Basic Magnesium Plant, Inc., last night. The \$63,000,000 project, financed by the defense plant corporation, is scheduled to begin production of magnesium for warplane factories about June 1.

Lawrence G. McNeil, head of McNeil Construction Co., the contractor, said he suspected sabotage because the flames started in a corner where wind would whip them through the structure. The first magnesium processing building is scheduled to be ready for production in late May.

Five thousand men are employed in construction work.

RUSSIANS NEAR VYAZMA

Reds Urge New Front

Strategists Believe Anglo-American European Front Can Crush Hitler This Year.

London, March 7.—(AP)—Russian strategists again are urging swift creation of an Anglo-American front in Europe in the belief that it can smash Germany by autumn and thus force a short-cut to solution of the Pacific war.

Well-placed Americans and British in London are supporting the campaign.

Once Germany is disposed of and the axis split, these persons say, Japan will become considerably less formidable, mainly because the U. S. and British naval forces will be free for concerted action in the Pacific.

Presence of an increasing U. S. armed force in the United Kingdom has raised Russian hopes for creation of a second European front.

Three Dead In Fire

New York, March 7.—(AP)—At least three persons were burned to death early today in a tenement fire on the lower west side and an undetermined number were injured.

Seven persons were taken to St. Vincent's hospital.

First reports were that the flames started on the first floor and quickly ate their way upward through the old structure.

A mother leaped out of a second story window with her baby in her arms and both were injured seriously.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA Warmer this afternoon and tonight, possibly light rain in the mountains by early Sunday.

CONSTRUCTION BEGUN ON NEW BATTLESHIP

Norfolk, Va., March 7.—(AP)—The keel of the Navy's newest battleship, the 45,000-ton Kentucky, was laid today at the Norfolk navy yard on the same ways from which the 35,000-ton Alabama was launched on February 16.

Because of wartime restrictions the usual ceremonies were dispensed with, but six navy yard officials riveted the steel in place.

Ellis Case Still Argued

Attorneys Defending Youth Charged With Murder Claim Mental Incompetence.

Smithfield, March 7.—(AP)—Attorneys defending Joseph Ellis, 23-year-old Jersey City, N. J., youth charged with slaying an elderly woman here, argued today before a Johnston county jury that Ellis did not realize what he was doing when the murder was committed.

For more than two hours, James R. Pool, defense counsel, spoke to the jury this morning. L. L. Levinson, also defending the youth, was to address the jury this afternoon before the State's argument by Solicitor C. C. Canady.

Superior Court Clerk H. V. Rose predicted the court session would continue into Sunday, with the jury probably getting the case late tonight. The trial began last Monday.

At the late session Friday night, Dr. J. W. Ashby, superintendent of the State hospital for the insane at Raleigh, and Dr. L. C. Liles, a member (Continued on Page Six)

TWO U. S. NEWSMEN ARRESTED BY JAPS

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—The State department announced today that it had learned officially two American newspaper correspondents had been arrested by Japanese authorities in Shanghai on charges of espionage.

The two are Victor Green of the New York Herald-Tribune and J. B. Powell of the China Weekly Review. They were reported in good health, the State department said.

Nazi Losses Are Heavy

Red Army Troops Reported Within Artillery Range of Important Nazi-Held City.

(By The Associated Press) A Russian spearhead was reported to have slashed to a point within artillery range of Nazi-held Vyazma today and the Soviet government declared Red army troops had killed 10,000 Germans on the central front alone in a 28-day period ended March 5.

Stockholm advices to the London Daily Herald said the Russians have re-occupied Loshino, a village only six miles south of Vyazma, which lies on the Moscow-Smolensk highway 125 miles west of Moscow.

The Soviet information bureau made no specific claim as to Loshino, but said several populated places were occupied yesterday in a continued advance marked by repulse of German counter attacks. It said 263 villages and towns on the central front had been recaptured from February 6 to March 5.

The London Times urged immediate (Continued on Page Three)

Free French In Libya

Cairo, March 7.—(AP)—Britain's Free French allies, striking into Libya from the east and south, have captured two axis positions and penetrated the Fezzan section of the Libyan desert which lies south of Tripoli, a British communique announced today.

Retreating apparently to the eastern Libyan front, the war bulletin said "activity was again confined to patrolling. The garrison of an enemy post was captured by a Free French column."

(This might have been the Free French column which the British had said earlier was operating at the southern flank of the Timimi-Meebil front in Cyrenaica.)

SPANISH ARMAMENT'S CREDITS APPROVED

Madrid, March 7.—(AP)—The Spanish government approved today extraordinary defense credits of 141,536,250 pesetas (about \$10,320,000) for purchase of armaments and 200,000,000 pesetas (about \$16,000,000) for naval expansion.

U. S. DIPLOMATS MAY COME HOME

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—Acting Secretary Welles said today that he believed American diplomatic officials soon would leave Germany for London, pending arrangements for the shipment of official representatives of the axis and this country.

Nelson Denies Shipbuilding To Fall Short

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—Chairman Donald M. Nelson of the War production board declared today "I have not recognized" any possibility that the war shipbuilding program might fall short of President Roosevelt's goal.

On the contrary, Nelson told reporters, "we're trying to increase the program."

Asked to comment on a statement yesterday by W. H. Harrison, WPB production director, that the President's "blueprints for victory" goal of 8,000,000 tons of shipping this year might not be realized, Nelson retorted: "I haven't recognized any such possibility. The shipping program has got to come through. The whole nation is at stake."