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Hitler Bolsters Eastern Army

Chinese Escape Jap Trap

Defenders Of Toungoo Withdraw

Fiercest Battle of Whole Burma Campaign Reported Fought at Toungoo, 155 Miles From Rangoon; British Position Grave.

(By The Associated Press) Hard-fighting Chinese defenders of Burma were reported to have escaped a Japanese trap at Toungoo today, falling back to the north after the fiercest battle of the whole Burma campaign so far.

Toungoo, 155 airline miles from Rangoon, was the eastern anchor of the allied line in central Burma.

Front line dispatches said remnants of the Toungoo garrison, originally estimated at 10,000 Chinese against 18,000 Japanese, slashed their way through enemy lines, crossed the Sittoung river under pointblank fire, and scattered in the wooded hills to make contact with a Chinese relief army.

Five thousand Japanese were reported killed in the bloody five day siege of the town. Chinese losses were not disclosed, but many fought to the death in shallow machine gun and rifle pits under incessant dive bombing assaults and enemy artillery fire.

On the British-held west flank, the situation was equally grave.

A communique conceded that the Japanese had gained complete control of an area that British patrols

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Italian Sub Sinks Cruiser

Rome (From Italian Broadcast), April 1.—(AP)—An Italian submarine has torpedoed an enemy cruiser, the Italian high command announced today.

The command's communique said that the submarine, returning to its base, had confirmed that it torpedoes and damaged an enemy cruiser in the eastern Mediterranean.

The Italians also said that their torpedo-carrying planes successfully attacked a convoy in the east in Mediterranean and sank a large merchantman.

Watson Deal Into Open

Statesville Delegation Charges Highway Commissioner With Law Violation.

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By BOB THOMPSON

Raleigh, April 1.—(AP)—Members of a delegation from Statesville yesterday presented the governor and Highway Chairman Ben Prince with informal charges that Max Watson, highway commissioner from Forest City, had violated the law prohibiting a State official, as such, from trading with himself. It was learned that the charges were discussed several days ago by the attorney general, the chief counsel of the highway commission, and the state director of purchase and contract. No report, however, was made of the conference.

"They are sore as hell because we

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A 'Soldier' Goes for a Walk



U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo

Wearing his soldier's uniform, Arthur MacArthur, baby son of General MacArthur, takes a stroll outside a tunnel shelter on Corregidor Island in the Philippines. The photo was taken shortly before he left for Australia with his mother and famous father.

(Central Press)

Standard Withheld Rubber Information

TAX COLLECTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA REACH RECORD MARK

Greensboro, April 1.—(AP)—With a total of nearly \$66,000,000 collections for the month of March by the office of Charles H. Robertson, collector of internal revenue, reached the highest peak in the history of the district of North Carolina. It was announced today.

Officially tabulated figures showed the total for the past month to be \$65,957,414.14, or an increase of \$25,661,725.99 over the total reported for March, 1941.

Bailey Asks Amendments

North Carolina Senator Says Small Business Aid Measure Needs Changes.

Washington, April 1.—(AP)—Senator Bailey, Democrat, North Carolina, urged the Senate today to amend pending legislation to limit proposed government loans to small business to firms having less than \$400,000 annual turnover.

Supporting Bailey's proposal Senator Gloss, Democrat, Virginia, contended that the bill now would permit a single loan of \$100,000,000, the full amount authorized in the measure.

Bailey said the bill, which would establish a smaller war plants corporation linked to the war production board, was likely to be amended to "bring a rush on the Treasury in which small business may get lost."

Bailey proposed in a series of amendments to limit loans not only to firms with less than \$400,000 annual turnover, but to companies which were giving concern on December 1, 1941.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Continued rather cold tonight with scattered frost.

February 16 Registrants To Be Called

Selective Service Headquarters Instructs Local Draft Boards to Classify Latest Registrants Immediately.

Washington, April 1.—(AP)—Selective service headquarters announced today that men who registered February 16 would be immediately classified and some probably would be inducted into service in May or June.

There has been some confusion as to whether the February 16 registrants would be integrated with men who registered prior to that date or be called after exhaustion of all previous registrants, but the announcement said:

"Local boards throughout the nation were instructed to start classification at once of the several million men who enrolled on February 16 and to prepare to fill the Army's June call for men, and possibly the May call, with these registrants and registrants from the first age group."

"The War department," the announcement said, "has indicated that beginning June 1, 1942, requisitions will probably call for men of both age groups."

Local boards were directed to proceed to complete classification of registrants of the first age group and "at the same time" proceed with classification of those in the second age group "in sufficient numbers to insure the filling of the June call entirely from the third registration, if such action is required."

If any local board finds it does not have a sufficient number of men from the first age group available in Class 1-A to fill its May call, it was authorized to call enough men from the second age group to fill its quota and was told to continue to classify men in the second age group to be sure that it has enough by June 1 to fill a normal call.

Blimp Base Commissioned

Elizabeth City, April 1.—(AP)—Governor Broughton said today that the Navy's new \$6,000,000 blimp base here would help uphold coastal North Carolina's tradition of taking an active part in all of this country's wars.

In a speech prepared for delivery at commissioning exercises at the base, the governor pointed out that ships and boats were being built at Wilmington, Elizabeth City, New Bern and Manteo; that Camp Davis was one of the largest anti-aircraft bases in the country, that the Marine base and Cunningham field were ready to turn out thousands of trained fighters; and that anti-submarine activities were in full swing.

"North Carolina also has furnished many naval heroes and five sea-

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Prince Says Purchases Customary

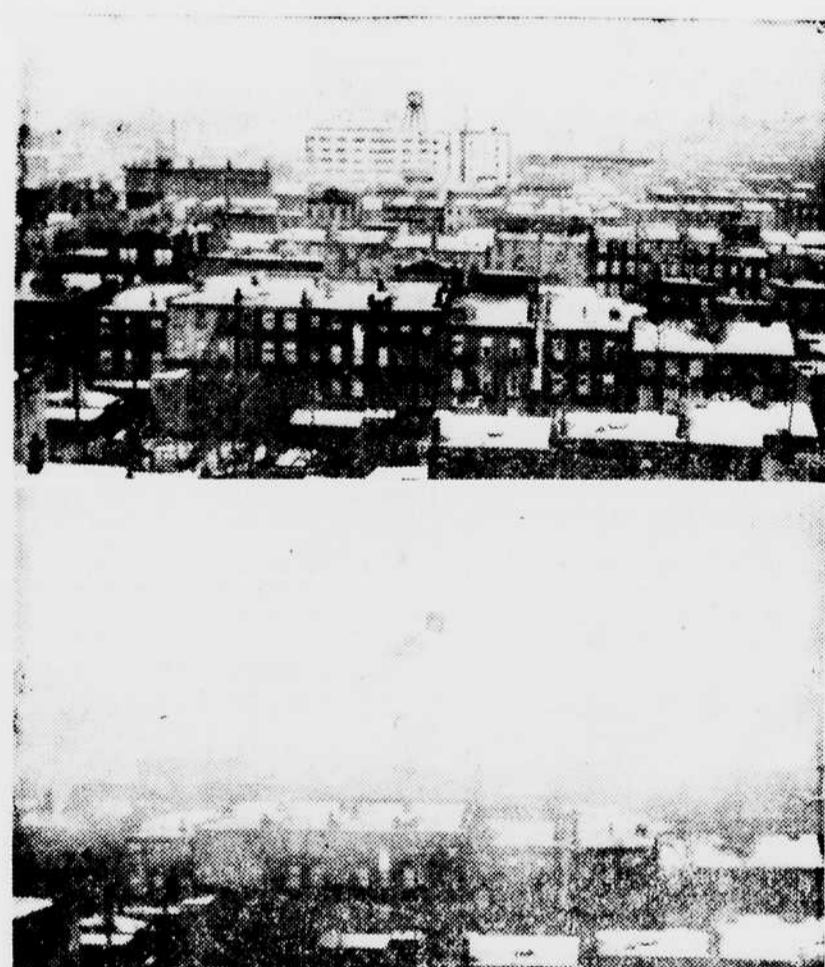
Raleigh, April 1.—(AP)—The State highway commission today sought to determine the legality of its purchases of materials from firms of which State employees are members.

John R. McLaughlin, Fredell county representative, yesterday charged that the highway commission had purchased automobile parts from a Forest City firm controlled by Highway Commissioner T. Max Watson.

Ben Prince, chairman of the highway commission, today said that the commission for the past 20 years had been buying parts from firms in which members of the commission had been connected.

He said, in addition to Watson, Thomas R. Wolfe of Aibemarle, seventh district commissioner, and E. G. Flanagan of Greenville, second district commissioner, were members of firms from which the commission had bought materials.

Fog for Daylight 'Blackout'



Here are two views of the Wallabout section of Brooklyn, N. Y., during a test in which artificial fog was tried as a means of concealment from bombers that might come over in daylight. Top, the area before the "fog," a non-toxic, non-odorless vapor, was turned loose. Below, how the section looked with the "fogging" of fog hanging over the buildings. Military authorities observed the tests.

(Central Press)

Launching Of Offensive Draws Near

Fuehrer Reported to Have Moved 1,500,000 Fresh Troops to Eastern Front; Germans Announce New Offensive Thrusts.

(By The Associated Press)

Adolf Hitler was reported moving 1,500,000 fresh troops into the eastern front today as signs multiplied that the Fuehrer was preparing to open his long heralded spring offensive for a climactic struggle involving nearly twelve million German and Russian soldiers.

Stockholm dispatches said 13,000 German troop trains had moved eastward in the last three months.

London quarters estimated that about 4,500,000 Germans and 7,000,000 Russians were massing for the great battles already beginning to take shape along the 2,000-mile Soviet front.

Indications that "zero hour" may be near for the German drive were seen in recent communications reporting Nazi offensive thrusts, after months of stressing the bitter defensive nature of German operations. Thus, today's bulletin from German field headquarters reported that "in an attack of our own," Nazi motorized troops dislodged Russian forces from positions north-east of Orel, 200 miles below Moscow.

London military observers said they expected Hitler to aim his heaviest blows against the Russian armies on the southern front, in an attempt to break through the 400-mile line between Orel and Taganrog.

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Siberian Army Reinforced

London, April 1.—(AP)—A responsible source said today the Russians, while mobilizing the bulk of their military manpower against the Germans, had restored their Siberian army to nearly one million men who are fairly well equipped.

"They are watching the Japanese carefully," he said.

The Japanese, he reported, have suggested that, as a show of good will toward Japan, the Soviet far eastern troops should be withdrawn to a line demarcation agreed upon by both nations and that certain airports should be abandoned. He expressed doubt that the Russians would agree.

Congress May Recess

Senate Leaders Oppose Effort to Give Right of Way to Labor Legislation.

Washington, April 1.—(AP)—Senate leaders discussed today the possibility of joining the House in a recess for a week or ten days, but advocates of war labor legislation asked assurance that their proposals would be given consideration as soon as Congress resumed work.

Majority Leader Barkley, Democrat, Kentucky, told reporters that many senators favored a brief, informal recess, but that he was opposed to giving labor legislation the right of way at the end of any holiday that might be agreed upon.

Senator Connally, Democrat, Texas, said, however, that he would move to take up his proposal to empower government seizure of war plants and the freezing of labor relations to prevent or halt strikes as soon as pending legislation to aid small business had been disposed of.

SIKHS REJECT BRITISH OFFER

MEXICAN MINISTER ASSURES SUPPORT

Washington, April 1.—(AP)—Dr. Ezequiel Padilla, Mexican foreign minister, personally assured President Roosevelt today that his country would do "all possible for the common cause of democracy in the present war effort."

The foreign minister carried this message to Mr. Roosevelt from the president of Mexico in a call at the White House today.

Hindu Warrior Caste Declares Britain's Plan for Post-War Dominion Status Leaves Them at Mercy of Moslems.

New Delhi, April 1.—(AP)—The Sikh all parties committee, one of India's minority groups, issued the first flat rejection today of Britain's offer of post-war dominion status for India.

The Sikhs, a Hindu warrior caste, rejected the plan as submitted by Britain's special envoy, Sir Stafford Cripps, on the ground that it would leave them at the mercy of the Moslem majority in Punjab province.

As a result, the Sikhs were expected to make common cause against the Moslems with the Mahasabha, organization of Hindu extremists, whose rejection of the offer already has appeared certain.

The chief stumbling block to acceptance was the requirement that India's wartime defenses be left in British hands.

It appeared likely that Sir Stafford would not have the final decision of all the major Indian groups before Friday. The Congress party working committee, whose stand is the most important, was drafting its reply, but it was not known when it would be handed to Sir Stafford.

War Council In Session

Seven Men Meet in Washington to Work Out Strategy of United Nations Drive.

Washington, April 1.—(AP)—Upon seven men organized as the Pacific war council developed today the gigantic task of working out the strategy of the United Nations for victory over Japan.

Their efforts were expected to produce the first complete unity of war planning since Japan cracked the ring of allied defenses in the southwestern Pacific by overwhelming Singapore and the Dutch East Indies.

President Roosevelt, who announced formation of the council Monday, called the other members to meet with him at the White House today in their initial session and while official word was lacking as to the first work to be undertaken Mr. Roosevelt himself has described it as imperative that the United Nations in the western Pacific "con-

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Nazi Workers Demand Food

London, April 1.—(AP)—The Moscow radio reported today that "hunger revolts" took place a few days ago among workers of Essen, the German munitions center, and declared police guards and armed storm trooper formations were being increased at German war factories.

The Essen disturbances occurred when cutting of the bread ration was announced a few days ago, the radio said, and such slogans as "we want more bread," "stop the war," and "down with Hitler" appeared on the factory walls.