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Germans Claim Fall Of Kerch

Churchill Makes Optimistic Talk

British Can 'Play Rough,' He Declares

British Prime Minister Declares United Nations Have Sighted the Ridge Over Which Road Leads to Victory.

(By The Associated Press) To the cheers of thousands of Yorkshire workers, Prime Minister Churchill declared today that the United Nations have sighted the ridge beyond which the road leads downhill to victory.

Moreover, he warned the enemy that British and empire soldiers now have ample weapons as well as courage and can "play rough too" if he plays rough.

Standing on the steps of Leeds town hall before a huge Union Jack, Churchill told a crowd of 25,000 that "we have reached the period in the war when it would be premature to say we have topped the ridge, but we see the ridge ahead now."

"The United Nations will come to the top of the ridge and then they will have a chance not only of beating down and subduing those evil forces which have twice let ruin and havoc on the world but they have a further and grander prospect beyond the smoke of battle and confusion of the right," he added.

The enemy is not so ready "to come to this island" because "the snows and arrangements for meeting him" which are "improving in power and efficiency every day," Churchill declared.

Other world wide developments: Battle of Burma—Countering yesterday's reports that the last weary remnants of the British army in Burma had retreated into India, British military quarters said today that British troops had made contact with Japanese forces driving up the Chindwin river valley north of Shwebo.

"There has been no general withdrawal into India," these quarters said, indicating that General Harold Alexander still kept some forces in Burma to check the Japanese onslaught toward India.

Battle of Australia—General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters reported that allied bombers, matching the Japanese off guard, heavily blasted the enemy air base at Lae, New Guinea, and left big fires blazing.

Other allied planes twice raided the Japanese base at Rabaul, New Britain.

European air war—The German command said 14 British planes were shot down in the past 24 hours in sea and air fights off the channel "invasion coast."

The British said RAF Hudson bombers set fire to three German supply ships and hit several others in attacks on two German convoys near the Frisian islands in the North sea. Five RAF bombers were acknowledged missing.

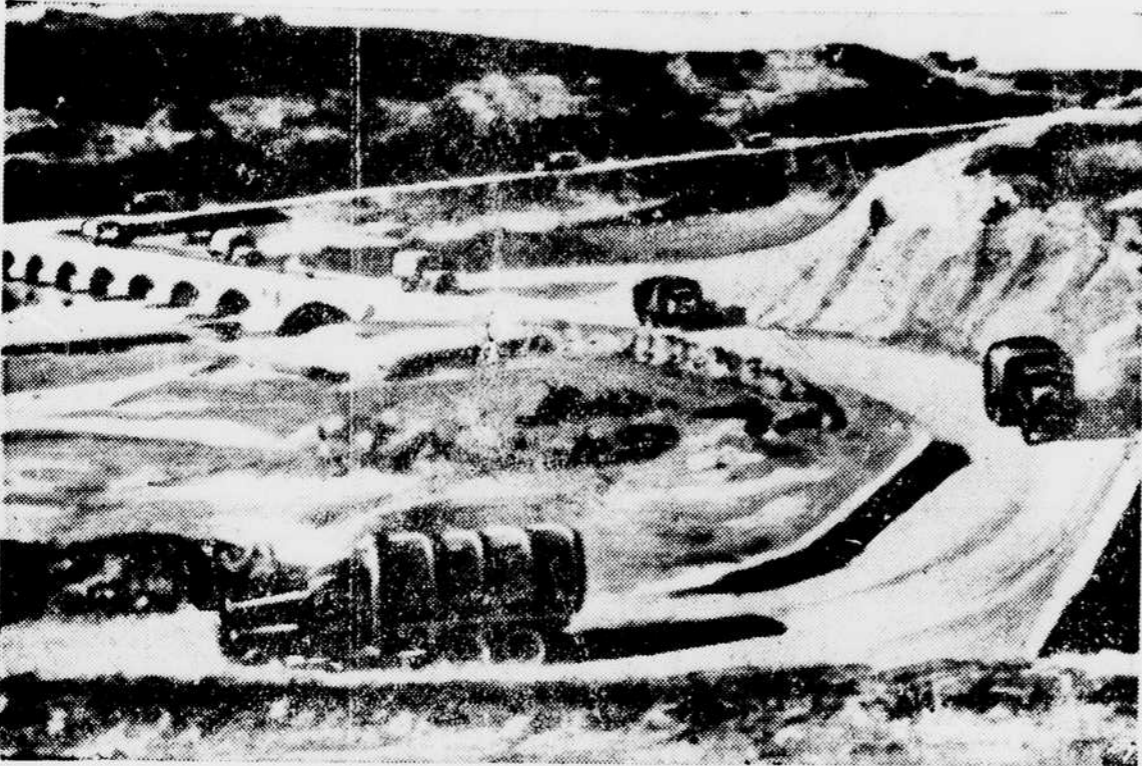
Senate Farm Bloc Agrees

Washington, May 16.—(AP)—Leaders of the strong Senate farm bloc, threatened by a split in its ranks over government sale of stored grain for feed, agreed today on a course of action designed to prevent such a split from depressing prices of wheat and corn.

Senator Bankhead, Democrat, Alabama, who presided at a two-hour closed session, said the 26 senators present agreed that first they would try to place a "price floor" under any sales of government wheat or corn for feeding livestock at about 85 per cent of parity, or near present levels.

If this attempt should fail, the senators then would try to knock out of the pending farm bill all restrictions on acreage.

Supplies Go Through for Russia's War Machine



This photo, radioed from Cairo to London and cabled from London to New York, shows how a stream of trucks flows steadily through Persia on the way to Russia with vital supplies from the United States and Great Britain for the Red Army. In the current battles on the Russian front, in the Crimea and in the Kharkov sector, American tanks are already in action.

Fraud Cases Cumberland Sheriff Prepared

Biddle Announces Evidence Alleged Fraud in War Contracts to be Presented.

Washington, May 16.—(AP)—Evidence of alleged fraud in war production contracts soon will be placed before federal grand juries all over the country, Attorney General Biddle announced today.

Preliminary investigations of complaints have been underway by the Justice department's war fraud unit for several months and these will be intensified under an expanded organization. The unit also will prosecute cases arising under a office of price administration ration and price ceiling orders.

Thus far it has obtained several indictments in connection with the ration violations, and has developed cases which officials estimated involved several million dollars in alleged "chiseling" on contracts.

Biddle said that the cases soon will be ready for presentation to grand juries involved:

1. Faulty materials, supplies and workmanship in products delivered to the government.
2. Alleged conspiracies to increase the cost of plants and factories built to produce war materials.
3. Practices which have increased the cost of food and supplies for the Army and Navy.

DEATH OF GERMAN GENERAL ANNOUNCED

Berlin (From German Broadcasts), May 16.—(AP)—The death of Infantry General Friedrich Karl von Lossberg, who gained fame in World War I, was announced today.

The German radio said that he died Thursday in Lubeck of inflammation of the lungs and that Fuehrer Adolf Hitler had ordered a state funeral.

SEVEN MEN KILLED AS BOMBER CRASHES

Eureka, Cal., May 16.—(AP)—An Army bomber crashed into Humboldt bay yesterday and the Coast Guard was unable to find any trace of the seven occupants.

JAPANESE CLAIM SINKINGS BY SUBS

Tokyo (From Japanese Broadcasts), May 16.—(AP)—Imperial headquarters declared today that Japanese submarines in the Pacific and Indian oceans had sunk 65 vessels totaling 444,000 tons up to May 15.

Ford Plant Closes 15 Places

Ford Plant In Production

Washington, May 16.—(AP)—War department officials said today Henry Ford's new Willow Run plane factory had started actual production of bombers for the Army.

Major General Alexander D. Scales, public relations director, limited the announcement to the bare fact that the plant, started some 13 months ago, was in actual production.

Japs Moved Into Centers

San Francisco, May 16.—(AP)—Approximately 35,000 Japanese have been moved from military area No. 1, comprising southern Arizona and the western portions of California, Oregon, and Washington, or are under orders to be evacuated by May 23.

The Army issued a summary of its activities in evacuating Japanese following promulgation by General J. L. DeWitt yesterday of five new executive orders. These brought the number of orders to 33 since the first was announced March 23.

Lieutenant Colonel Martin F. Haas, in charge of initial evacuation operations, said orders affecting Japanese still remaining in the military area would follow rapidly.

Of the 35,000 Japanese, approximately 53,000 had been moved to assembly, reception or relocation centers up to last Wednesday night.

TPA Elects Local Men

Greensboro, May 16.—(AP)—A. A. Ruffin of Wilson was elected president of the North Carolina division, Travelers Protective Association of America, at the closing session today of the organization's 45th annual convention here. The board of directors was authorized to select a site for the 1943 convention.

Other officers elected included: J. R. Peters, Wilson, fourth vice president; E. G. Shaw, Henderson, director; Dr. Isaac W. Hughes, Henderson, chaplain; Ed Mann, Washington, eastern division chairman; Ed W. Davis, Wilson, publicity committee chairman.

Cleanup of Fort Bragg Area Started With Padlocking of Road Houses, Tourist Camps and Private Residences.

Cleanup of Fort Bragg Area Started With Padlocking of Road Houses, Tourist Camps and Private Residences.

Fayetteville, May 16.—(AP)—Fifteen road houses, tourist camps and private residence in Cumberland county were closed today as the result of padlock proceedings instituted by Sheriff N. H. McGeachy, under the state's anti-nuisance law.

The operators were directed to appear before Superior Court Judge Walter Vene June 1 to show cause why the padlock orders should not be made permanent.

Sheriff McGeachy's action came one day after the expiration of a time limit originally set for May 15 in a demand by the Woman's Committee of the Health Education Program for Defense, which threatened to appeal to Army authorities to invoke a federal anti-vice law if local authorities ignored the demand.

Later the committee extended the time limit to May 20.

Fourteen of the places padlocked were on the Lumberton road and the other on the Clinton road.

Open Road Is Lonely These Days

(By The Associated Press) The open road is a lonely place these days. Once-jammed highways along the eastern seaboard had only a trickle of travelers as gasoline rationing clamped down yesterday.

Many filling stations had no gasoline at all as a result of the rush to beat the deadline. Others were certain to run out over the weekend.

Typical of the traffic situation was a report from New York state police at Troy which said "hardly anybody was in sight" on the roads.

More motorists traded in unlimited or high allotment ration cards and took smaller allowances. This trend, prompted by criticism of the high percentage of requests for "x" unlimited rations, was spurred by the office of price administration in Washington which, reversing its original policy, prepared to make public

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Laval Turns Thumb Down On Demands

Pro-Axis Chief of Government Says Vichy Will Not Relinquish Her Rights Over Martinique Under Any Conditions.

Vichy, May 16.—(AP)—Pierre Laval, chief of government, announced today that Vichy had informed Washington officially that it could not accept the United States conditions regarding the status of Martinique.

Laval told the press that a note sent to Washington had declared the American conditions to be a "grave blow to French sovereignty" over France's West Indies possessions.

"France will not relinquish any of her rights over Martinique, no matter what happens," the pro-axis chief of government told correspondents.

The Washington government maintains that Laval's government is not concerned in the negotiations being conducted at Port de France with Admiral Georges Robert, the French high commissioner, seeking direct neutralization of Martinique. Washington maintains the admiral is the "ultimate authority" and that Laval's denials do not concern it.

Thursday an authoritative Washington source said agreement had been reached already with Admiral Robert for immobilization of the French aircraft carrier Bearn and cruiser Emile Bertin and Jeanne d'Arc, at Martinique. Disposition of some 150,000 tons of merchant ships there is said to be another subject of negotiations.

Laval said that the French warships at Martinique were "in point of fact already immobilized" and that Vichy had agreed to give the United States a guaranty only not to aggravate the strain on French-American relations.

He added that "immobilization of the ships will not in any case permit sending them over to any foreign power—including the United States."

Saying he had waited three days in vain for Washington to make public a response sent by Vichy May 13 to the American demands, Laval read the complete text of the American note given to Admiral Robert.

He stressed that Admiral Robert was acting under direct orders of his government despite Washington's efforts to by-pass Vichy in the negotiations.

LONE PLANE RAIDS FINNISH CAPITAL

Helsinki, May 16.—(AP)—A lone Russian plane dropped several bombs on Helsinki early today, killing four persons, wounding three civilians and damaging three houses. It was officially reported.

Anti-aircraft fire prevented a second raid, officials said.

It was the first bombing of the Finnish capital since last January 20, although an raid alarm was sounded here April 29.

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Witnessed Jap Raid



Fate played tricks on little four-year-old John Hebbe, son of petty officer Elwood R. Hebbe. The youngster witnessed the Jap sneak raid on Pearl Harbor and came through without a scratch. On his way back to the U. S. he broke his arm aboard ship. Little John is pictured upon his arrival in New York City with his arm still in a sling.

Freedom For Browder

President Roosevelt Commutes Prison Sentence of Communist Party Leader.

Washington, May 16.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today commuted the sentence of Earl Browder, communist party leader who has served approximately 14 months of a four-year sentence for passport fraud.

The former general secretary of the communist party in the United States will be released from the Atlanta penitentiary as soon as proper arrangements can be made.

Browder paid fines of \$2,000 at the time of his sentence and was committed to prison on March 27, 1941.

"The sentence imposed upon him," said a White House statement, "was longer than the usual sentence imposed for offenses involving the fraudulent obtaining and use of passports."

The statement added that the President believed that the "principle of obedience to law has been sufficiently vindicated by the punishment already suffered."

It was said that commutation to the term already served, coming as it does shortly before Browder becomes eligible for parole, would have a tendency to promote national unity, and allay any feeling which may exist in some minds that the unusually long sentence in Browder's case was by way of penalty imposed upon him because of his political views.

Press Agents Will Combat Bad Publicity

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French Ship At Casa Blanca

Casa Blanca, French Morocco, May 16.—(AP)—The population of Casa Blanca was notified today by authorities that the 35,000-ton French battleship Jean Bart, which has been in port here since the French-axis armistice in 1940 for reconstruction of fire towers and other repairs, soon would take her first test within this port.

The Jean Bart, the third of this name, was launched March 6, 1943, at St. Nazaire, France. Her fate was unknown at the time the Germans captured St. Nazaire but this dispatch indicates she made her way to French Morocco safely.

Kharkov Seems Near Red Capture

Soviets Do Not Admit Loss of Kerch, But Reports Indicate Hitler's Entire Crimean Drive Threatened by Red Gains.

(By The Associated Press) Adolf Hitler's field headquarters asserted today that German troops had occupied the Crimean town of Kerch, gateway to Caucasus oil riches, but a greater prize appeared to be falling within the grasp of the Red armies—the big Ukraine city of Kharkov.

Unconfirmed reports said Marshal Timoshenko's troops already had battled their way into the northeast suburbs of Kharkov and were fighting the Germans in the streets.

Simultaneously, a Stockholm dispatch said the Russians, flanking Kharkov to the south, had breached the German defenses at Lozovanya in a drive to cut Nazi communications with the entire front south of that point.

Lozovanya is a rail junction town, about midway between Kharkov and Stalin.

A successful lunge there would impede the big hydroelectric power city of Dniepropetrovsk and threaten the whole German campaign in the Crimea and along the Sea of Azov.

Soviet dispatches said the Germans were paying a terrific toll in killed and wounded.

Hitler's command issued a special communique asserting that Nazi troops penetrated Kerch yesterday "after overcoming stubborn resistance" and added:

"The town and harbor are in German hands."

A Reuters (British news agency) dispatch said the Germans had temporarily occupied part of Kerch but had been overrun by a fierce counter attack of Soviet tanks, artillery and infantry stalking from Yenikafe, ten miles to the northeast.

In any event, the fall of Kerch would not necessarily mean that Hitler could reach out and seize the great Caucasus oil fields, across the narrow Kerch strait from Kerch city.

The Germans held Kerch for two months last year without risking a thrust across Kerch strait under the guns of the Soviet Black sea fleet.

Soviet dispatches gave no indication of Kerch's fall, reporting merely that stubborn battles raged throughout the night on Kerch peninsula.

On the Kharkov front, 300 miles north of Kerch, a Red army bulletin reported that Marshal Timoshenko's army was inflicting havoc on the Germans, capturing "a large number of prisoners," destroying 255 guns, wrecking more than 250 tanks and shooting down 40 planes.

The Russians said a big new tank battle in the Kharkov sector left one field "a cemetery of German tanks," with 35 Nazi panzer units in flames and 40 torn by shell fire.

Attacking now on a 70-mile front, with American-made tanks blasting

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WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA Look tonight.