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PILOTED ROOSEVELT TO MEETING.



LOOKING OVER THE ROUTE of their momentous flight to Casablanca are Captains Howard M. Cone (right) and Richard Vidal, the Pan-American pilots who handled the controls on the clipper plane and escort plane that carried President Roosevelt to Africa and back. The two were photographed at clipper base near Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

Liquor Referendum Measure Introduced

Price of Rutherford Offers Bill Calling For Statewide Vote To Be Held Nov. 2

Raleigh, Feb. 4—(AP)—Representative Price of Rutherford, newspaperman, Baptist leader and self-described "personal and political dry" today introduced a measure in the house calling for a statewide referendum on the sale and manufacture of liquor.

The bill calls for an election November 2, 1942.

The measure is entitled "an act to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in North Carolina and to provide for a Statewide vote on the proposition."

It exempts liquor required by hospitals or sanatoriums for treatment of patient and does not apply to alcohol used for scientific, chemical, medicinal, industrial, medicinal and religious purposes; for use of those authorized to produce the same raw materials in the manufacture of patented medicinal, antiseptic, toilet, scientific, chemical, mechanical and electrical preparations or products used for beverage purposes.

However, the bill allows persons growing grapes, either wild or cultivated, of grapes, fruits or berries to make light domestic wine for the use of such persons or their family only. The measure also allows the making of cider "having only such alcoholic content as natural fermentation may produce."

The measure further outlaws the transportation or importation of liquor into the state, except as provided in the act. Violation is deemed a misdemeanor, punishable at the discretion of the court.

The measure states that its provisions shall go into effect 90 days after the special election if a majority vote is in its favor but that the act in its entirety be repealed if a majority vote is cast against statewide prohibition.

Rules for the election provide that county boards of election shall appoint two judges for each precinct and that one of the judges shall be known to be in favor of the act and the opposed. Otherwise regular election rules shall be enforced.

Price was the only signer of the bill.

Babson Says Farmers Need More Men And Equipment

By ROGER W. BABSON

Babson Park, Fla., Feb. 4—Through the courtesy of my neighbor, W. Paul Starkey, one of America's most successful farmers, I have just returned from an inspection trip of large truck farms. These are the thousand-acre tracts which raise the peas, beans, cauliflower, tomatoes, cucumbers and other fresh vegetables when you are eating.

For Once Farmers Are Right These farmers want no money from the government. All they ask is the right to buy plows, tractors and trucks and to employ a supply of workers. This last is the most needed of all. Let me give a few illustrations. Readers, moreover, know that I do not represent the farm blue—but am usually very critical of their demands. The time has arrived, however, when farm products have become munitions of war.

Farmers from everywhere are writing that they are not able to secure trucks and necessary tools. The potato farmers are very out spoken in their attitude regarding the Washington bureaucrats. It seems that the government has been making promises to them that labor would be supplied. However, a good many potato growers had their po-

METHODIST STUDENTS TO HOLD CONFERENCE

Durham, Feb. 4—(AP)—The North Carolina Methodist Student Center will hold its annual meeting this year in the Duke Memorial Methodist church here from Friday to Sunday.

Approximately 250 student delegates representing all the Methodist colleges of North Carolina are expected to attend. The conference theme is "Disciplines for Christian Living."

U. S. Food Aids Russia

Wickard Declares Supplies From U. S. Are Keeping Russia In the War

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Wickard told the House foreign affairs committee today that American food is keeping Russia in the war and contributing to the victories of the Soviet army.

"It is the men—Russian men—who are winning the all-important battle here," he said. "But if the supplies of American food which are going to these men, fraction though it is of the total supply, were to be cut off tomorrow, they would almost surely have to stop fighting."

Wickard, as food administrator, testified in connection with legislation authorizing continuance of the

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POWER PLANT SOUGHT

Wilmington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Tentative plans have been mapped by city officials to seek legislation enabling municipal ownership of the Tidewater Power Co. here.

Lower power rates for this area are being sought.

Attempting Escape From Caucasus To Crimea,

GERMANS FACE 'DUNKERQUE'

Solomons Sea Battle Developing

Jap And U.S. Fleets Spar For Opening

Titanic Struggle Believed Shaping Up To Decide Control Of Guadalcanal

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Like two heavyweight boxers coming each other out, flicking tentative but punishing jabs here and there, United States and Japanese naval units are maneuvering in the southwest Pacific for a stance from which to throw a haymaker.

From this corner there was only word that air and surface engagements "are continuing," but it appeared from the Navy's account that a titanic struggle was shaping up for control of Guadalcanal island with its all-important airfield.

Naval spokesmen repeated that both sides had suffered losses, but one of them emphasized that "the whole thing is a sparring for position" with the two major fleet units not yet joined in an all out slugfest. Like angry boxers, the bombers of General Douglas MacArthur's command continued to harass and distract the enemy by raiding his bases on New Britain and Bougainville islands.

A big four-motored Liberator bombed a Japanese warship at Wide Bay, New Britain, after driving off an enemy fighter. Results were not observed.

A report from MacArthur's headquarters today also said that Flying Fortresses had raided Rabaul itself, a vital Jap base for the battle of the Solomons, for the fifth consecutive night despite heavy clouds which hampered a check of the damage done. A Flying Fortress on a reconnaissance mission later was attacked by 15 Japanese fighter planes. The big ship knocked two of them down and returned safely to its base. Lowering fires were started by a Catalina medium bomber in a raid on an enemy airbase at Buin, on Bougainville island in the Solomons. Fires also were started at the Gasmata airbase on New Britain.

News of the engagements between naval units, which may be the largest yet arrayed in the Pacific war, was withheld here because of military considerations. Japanese claims that two United States battleships and three cruisers had been sunk were described by a naval spokesman as "grossly exaggerated." Secretary Knox said the Japanese were lying for information.

Nine Axis Ships Sunk

British Submarines Take Heavy Toll Of Merchantmen

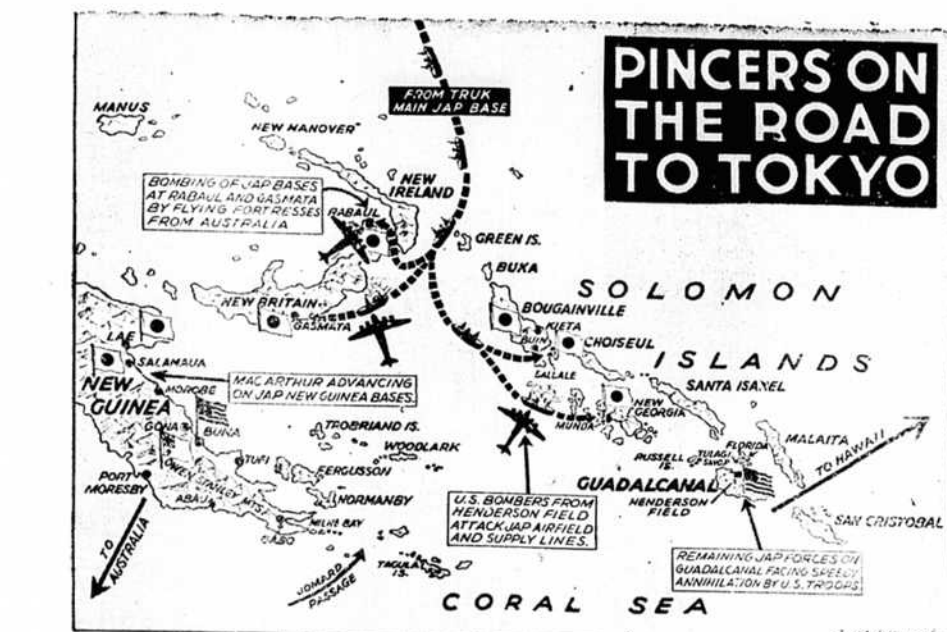
London, Feb. 4—(AP)—Nine axis supply ships and one anti-submarine vessel have been sunk by British submarines in the Mediterranean in the past few days, the admiralty announced today.

In addition a northbound transport and another large vessel were attacked and their destruction is considered probable, the announcement said. Still another small vessel was reported damaged.

The anti-submarine vessel and five of the supply ships were sunk by gunfire off the eastern Tunisian coast, the admiralty said, while another was driven ashore a total loss.

Two small supply ships were reported sunk by torpedoes off the Tunisian coast.

"During these operations ineffective fire was experienced that at the time was thought to be enemy shore batteries," the communique said. "It is presumed it was this to which the enemy referred in a recent broadcast when they claimed gunfire from armored patrol cars had destroyed a British submarine."



U. S. STRATEGY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC is becoming evident. Dispatches indicate how pressure is being applied from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, and Australian and New Guinea bases on the tentacles of the Jap supply line running down from Truk, the main Jap naval base to the North. MacArthur's air forces are pounding the western arm of the Jap line while Henderson Field bombers are concentrating the full force of their fury on the eastern arm, which extends to the airfields at Ballale and Munda.

Manpower Pool Of 6,400,000 In War Effort

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Chairman Donald M. Nelson of the war production board told the Senate military committee today the nation would draw from a "pool" of 6,400,000 persons this year to meet growing demands of the armed forces and war industry.

This pool, Nelson told the closed session, will be made up of 2,700,000 workers drawn from less essential industries, 1,900,000 women, 800,000 boys and old men, 600,000 employable, including physically defectives, not now working, and 500,000 persons made available by 45-hour work weeks throughout essential industry.

Nelson's figures were disclosed to reporters by Republican Senator Lodge of Massachusetts when the committee reconvened.

Meanwhile, Senate leaders sought to coordinate several separate congressional inquiries with the Senate as a whole expected to decide on procedures intended to eliminate duplication in investigations of the manpower question.

Lodge and Nelson's figures were based on the report from December, 1942, to December, 1943, during which he said 1,500,000 men and women would go into the armed forces to bolster their total strength to 11,000,000.

During the past period, Lodge asserted, Nelson estimated 1,200,000 additional workers would be needed in munitions and other war plants, leaving 300,000 in the pool for agriculture's manpower needs.

Jap Reserves Into China

Chungking, Feb. 4—(AP)—A Chinese army spokesman said today that Japan had sent more "main bodder than troops" to reinforce three Thailand divisions on the Yunnan Burma border where he said fighting was continuing.

He said Japan was forming a man-power shortage was felt at allied successes and was using the last troops to conserve her own strength.

Besides the manpower shortage, he told a press conference, the Japanese are suffering a shortage of resources. They have bombed a fresh drive for scrap metal in occupied areas of China, replaced made obstructions having replaced bombed wire entanglements, and many enemy ships plying the Yangtze have mounted dummy guns, he asserted.

Manpower And Tax Confront Congress

GOVERNMENT TO END POTATO TRIAL CASE

Wilson, Feb. 4—(AP)—The government expects to complete today its case against 13 corporations and 16 individuals on trial in U. S. district court here on charges of violating the Sherman anti-trust law in the potato industry.

John W. Aiken, chief counsel, told Judge C. C. Wyche at the end of yesterday's session that he had only one more witness to call and a number of documents to offer as evidence.

The only witness examined yesterday was H. R. Mohat, a department of Justice economist and business analyst, who identified a compilation he had made from the sales reports of the Atlantic Commission Co., a defendant, and also numerous charts and tables relating to potato prices in 1940 and 1941.

A recess was ordered early yesterday afternoon to permit defense lawyers to study Mohat's testimony before cross-examining him.

Japs Stage Night Raid

Bombers Attack Ships Off Guadalcanal, Indicating Renewed Jap Aerial Activity

With the U. S. Fleet in the South Pacific, Feb. 4—(AP)—The first night bombing attack by Japanese planes on American surface vessels covering operations at Guadalcanal was reported today. The results of the attack were not disclosed.

The enemy planes, dropping mysteriously out of the night sky, struck after dusk on January 29 while a unit of the southwest Pacific fleet was cruising near Guadalcanal.

The assault indicated a resumption of Japanese air activity strangely absent in the Solomons area within recent weeks.

Fleet officials recalled that enemy planes dropped flares during the night battle off Savo island August 9, when three U. S. cruisers were sunk, but the January 29 attack was the first instance of actual night bombing.

NEW OFFICERS Camp Lee, Va., Feb. 4—(AP)—Nine North Carolinians were among 600 officer candidates who were commissioned second lieutenants at the Army's quartermaster school here.

Coordinated Inquiry Into Manpower Needs Up in Senate; House Studies Ruml Plan

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—A move to coordinate investigations of the nation's manpower requirements was launched in the Senate today while the House ways and means committee, searching for an acceptable pay-as-you-go tax plan, took up again a New York banker's proposal to wipe out last year's means committee.

Vice President Wallace, who normally assigns Senate bills to committees, touched off the manpower inquiry issue when he left to the members to decide whether they wanted the educational and labor committee or the military affairs group to consider legislation creating an overall war mobilization agency.

Beardsley Ruml, chairman of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and advocate of shipping last year's taxes, was confronted with the same Treasury opposition he faced last year in his appearance before the ways and means committee.

Randolph Paul, Treasury department counsel, has told the committee the Ruml plan would precipitate inflation. Paul said the Treasury had given "serious consideration" to a plan to collect taxes on 1942 incomes but substitute the lower rates of 1941.

The Senate was expected to confirm by an overwhelming majority the nomination of Judge Wiley Blount Rutledge of Iowa to the Supreme Court. Possible opposition by Senator Ferguson, Michigan Republican, subsided when Ferguson dis-

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Negotiation Of 'Post-War Peace Charter' Advocated

Washington, Feb. 4—(AP)—Senator Gillette, Iowa Democrat, introduced a resolution today which would put the Senate on record as approving the basic principles of the Atlantic charter and advising President Roosevelt to negotiate immediately a "post-war peace charter" with other United Nations.

Gillette is a member of the foreign relations committee. The resolution would urge and advise that the proposed formal treaty stress the following points: "The joint signatories neither seek nor desire aggrandizements territorial or otherwise. That they respect and will approve the right of

Axis Troops Are Trapped In Caucasus

Reports Say Russian Warships and Planes Already Smashing At Sea Escape Route

(By The Associated Press)

Axis troops by the tens of thousands were apparently on the verge of a "Black sea Dunkerque" today and some reports declared that Russian warships and planes were already smashing at German transports as the invaders attempted a seaborne escape from the Caucasus to the Crimea peninsula.

Latest Soviet dispatches said upward of 250,000 German troops and their satellites, jammed into a narrow coastal strip in the western Caucasus, were in imminent danger of being split apart by Russian columns driving toward the Sea of Azov.

Soviet headquarters reported that the Red armies were now only 30 miles from the great German base at Rostov, whose fall would cut off the land "escape corridor" of Hitler's Caucasian armies, after capturing the town Kazakhitskaya on the Salsk-Rostov railway.

On the Tunisian front, allied headquarters reported that British troops had captured a hill eight miles southeast of Bou Aradia, in the bitterly contested Point du Fahs sector 35 miles below Tunis.

An official bulletin described the

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RAF Raids Hamburg

Large Bomber Force Attacks Nazi Seaport; 16 Planes Missing From Night Sweep

London, Feb. 4—(AP)—Royal air force bombers heavily attacked Hamburg last night in a raid in which 16 planes are missing, it was announced today.

The fourth German seaport previously had been bombed only last Saturday night. The British losses indicated a force of upwards of 300 bombers on the assumption that they were on the order of 5 per cent.

A British statement said: "Hamburg was heavily attacked by our bombers last night. Sixteen of our aircraft are missing."

Meanwhile there was slight enemy activity over coastal areas of north-east England early last night. Bombs were dropped at scattered points but it was stated authoritatively they caused only light damage. No casualties were reported.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Occasional showers this afternoon and tonight with slightly higher temperatures.