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U.S. Troops Halt German Thrust

SCHOOL BOARD COMPROMISE OFFERED

MARINE MASCOT LEADS PARADE



MASCOT OF THE MARINE BARRACKS at the Charleston, S. C. Navy yard... (International)

28 Dead Or Missing In Crash Of Bomber

Flaming Four-Motored Plane Crashes Into Seattle Packing House; Pilot Killed

Seattle, Feb. 19.—(AP)—A B-24 of 25 dead or missing was counted today in the crash of a four-motored bomber into Seattle's largest packing house, the worst aerial disaster in Pacific northwest history.

The bomber, only minutes away from its regular flight, was first spotted by a fireman who called the fire department. The plane crashed and burst into flames, dropping its cargo.

Twelve bodies were recovered in the twelve hours after the crash of the burning aerial giant as its pilot fought desperately to get it into Boeing field for an emergency landing. They included those of eleven highly skilled Boeing mechanics aboard.

The flight instructor, Edward T. Allen, flying the plane, was killed in the crash. He was in the pilot's seat.

Four Navy company employees' bodies were recovered, but only one of them was identified. The others were buried in the rubble of the house and house.

The Boeing company declared that the crash had no connection with the company's flight operations.

It had the crew reported a low cloud ceiling and the pilot was unable to see the ground.

The great majority of the supplies that we have shipped to Russia are reaching their destinations.

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BAILEY PROPOSES GRANVILLE SHIFT

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Senator Bailey, North Carolina, introduced today a bill to shift the Granville county, N. C., to the judicial district of North Carolina.

Gandhi Now Much Weaker

Indian Leaders Express Hope for U. S. Intervention To Secure Release

New Delhi, Feb. 19.—(AP)—With Mohandas K. Gandhi in the stopped talking almost altogether, Indian leaders gathered here for the fourth day of his last and reported much weaker that he had signed a conference of business, professional and educational leaders expressed hope that the United States would intervene to obtain his release.

Gandhi is fasting in protest against his detention by the British, who arrested him last August 9 and have kept him behind barbed wire in the prison of the city of Poona.

The official bulletin on Gandhi's condition today reported "improving weakness," but said otherwise there was little change.

One of the foremost Hindu politicians said out of jail and he was convinced that "America has made a mistake" not to interfere in the Indian situation in view of the danger of friction with its principal ally.

"There is material to support this position but it looks only to one end. That is peace. It is peace, Justice. About that I'm convinced. For if peace is the only aim of American policy then there will be nothing valuable coming out of the peace conference after the war," he said.

NYE IS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Rockingham, Feb. 19.—(AP)—R. H. Nye, Lenoir county business man, was sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$500 after his conviction today on a charge of conspiracy with the settlement of a \$30,000 suit against the B. C. Benedict Co.

Judge J. Whites Warren passed sentence. Defense counsel gave notice of appeal to the U. S. court of appeals, and Nye was released in bond of \$2,000.

Proposal Sponsored By Governor

Measure Is Fourth Compromise Offered On Amendment; Other Raleigh News

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Senator Brooks of Durham introduced an administration-sponsored school board amendment today in an effort to settle wide-spread differences over other proposals that have reached the main floor.

It was the fourth major change proposed in the recently enacted constitutional amendment consolidating the several school boards and agencies in North Carolina.

The Brooks amendment was the outgrowth of a conference attended by Governor Broughton, Brooks, Senator O'Berry of Wayne and Representative Arch Allen of Wake.

O'Berry, who prevented third reading Wednesday on another substitute amendment, said the one drawn in conference was acceptable to him because it would reduce the membership from 15 to 13, eliminate vacancies of members from the method of selecting them and would place the selection of the controller in the hands of the board, and not in the hands of the governor.

Under the compromise, the legislature would prescribe eight educational fields, each of which would have a representative on the all-powerful school board, and the governor would appoint two from the state at large. The lieutenant governor, State Treasurer and State superintendent of public instruction would have places on the board.

The governor could appoint any body to membership, no matter whether they are representatives of business, agriculture or the professions.

The house, meanwhile, went into committee of the whole to resume consideration of the five-year bill. It was likely that the representatives would say in session all day. If a vote is reached, the bill probably will pass second reading immediately, and the house stay in session until midnight on third reading. Tax raising measures must pass readings on separate days.

Representative Wallace of Lenoir introduced a commission-approved bill to revise the 1935 franchise independence of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad in line with the reduced levy of 1939. Representative Edwards of Greene sent out a measure to amend the tobacco tax laws so they will not apply to a re-registered leaf dealer who buys again to re-ship and pack in large heads for resale, and who has an established place of business.

Mme. Chiang Gets Pledge

President Roosevelt Says More Implements Of War Will Be Sent To Aid Chinese

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Mao Tse Tung, Kai-Shek said at the White House today that Americans could help the Chinese best by sending more implements of war, and President Roosevelt declared this was going to be done as quickly as the Lord will let us.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt united in their press conferences for the first time and the first lady of China and the Chief Executive both announced their agreement.

At one point, Mr. Roosevelt re-emphasized the intention of the United States to use China actively as a base for attacking Japan, while efforts continue to stop the Japanese forces in the Pacific islands.

To a question as to how aid (Continued on Page Two)

White House Meet Called To Discuss Food Production

Stabilization Board Members Meet With Agriculture, Labor And Management

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—The administration called a White House conference of its economic high command today to discuss strategy for perhaps its most serious and pressing home front battle—the production of sufficient food to fill military, home-base and civilian requirements.

Summoned to the conference were members of the economic stabilization board, which is made up of four cabinet members, including Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, chiefs of several government war and financial agencies, and representatives from agriculture, labor and management. Presiding was economic stabilization Director James F. Byrnes.

As they assembled members mounted in Congress for prompt ending of labor shortage on the farms as well as in industry with a dramatic showdown is imminent on proposed remedies frowned upon by military and administration forces.

Determined to get action on bills requiring military allotment of farm workers and the forbidding of other work in the army, a large line of Senators threatened to force the members from the military affairs committee if the committee refused to send them out for a floor vote.

Small business, Senator Austin, Vermont Republican, renouncer of wage control to make both men and women subject to call for non-essential war service, with certain exceptions, and a public urging of the proposal will be held March 2.

Aside from manpower, the chief point of contention between the administration and the congressional farm bloc is food prices.

The farm bloc—backed by some of the national farm organizations—demanding prices be allowed to advance to levels which farmers say, in themselves, would encourage maximum production.

Army's Size Determined

President Declares Figure Set Last August, Determined By Military Needs

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—President Roosevelt said today that it was decided last August how many men should go into the Army this year, and that so far as the farm labor shortage was concerned he thought the use of some people of high school age could do a lot to relieve it.

The decision on the size of the Army, he explained, was dictated by military needs. He said it consisted of a certain number, certain age of officers, by next December 31. With other services, this would mean a total of 10,000,000 in all armed services.

A reporter remarked there had been an agreement that agriculture and supplies could not be restricted for so long a period and also for lend-lease considerations. The President replied that there was absolutely nothing in that statement which would be gratifying to all.

The farm labor situation came up when a reporter asked if Mr. Roosevelt was worried over the contention by some that it was impossible to have an army of that size and raise all the food needed.

Mr. Roosevelt replied that he was of course concerned. He stated a story a man could do a lot to relieve it. The President said the Russians took 300,000 school children and planted every acre around the city as soon as the cold was out of the ground. Then their young people grew in the forest, and in that way Moscow was supplied with enough food and fuel to last one. He held the story for the rest of the day. The story of what could be done when manpower was lacking.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Warmer tonight, some light rain.

Straw in the Wind



LOOK FOR a shift in Finnish foreign policy if Risto Rytty, above, foreign minister, is not given a post by President Risto Rytty's new cabinet. Widely distrusted in Allied circles as a promoter of the German cause, Rytty's removal may indicate peace moves between Finland and Russia. (International)

British Army Units Close For Squeeze

Eighth Army Occupies Important Outpost On Mareth Line; Other War News

(By The Associated Press) — Gen. Erwin Rommel's thrust deep into the middle of the 200-mile Allied front in Tunisia was described as "broken" today and a German broadcast reported that the British Eighth Army and other units were moving up on both flanks. In a developing north-south squeeze.

A bulletin from General Sir B. L. Montgomery's headquarters said British Eighth Army troops yesterday occupied an important outpost at the southern end of the 100-mile-long Mareth line, within 24 hours after patrols scouted the area.

This indicated little or no opposition. Thirty miles to the north, General Montgomery's big guns were reported shelling the axis in the Medenine area, immediately in front of the Mareth defense works.

In the American-occupied sector, 150 miles southwest of Montgomery's position, Rommel's commanding 60-mile advance spearheaded by heavy new tanks appeared to have come to a standstill.

The French commander in chief in the area said the new drive had been "broken" after decisive action by American tanks and German heavy tanks had been destroyed by a broad shooting of British artillery.

A testimony to American value in their first all-out clash with Rommel's veteran combat units came in a broadcast from Harold V. Clark, Associated Press war correspondent, who wrote:

"The bloody battlefields, littered with broken vehicles, mangled with the cross of Germany as well as the star of America, testify that the Nazis had no margin on counts."

"As one who watched for three straight days as American tankmen throw away their lives in a gamble to stem the onward advance of the German armored force, I do not entertain a question of the decision to withdraw."

Both the Americans, who were repositioned with only 200 tanks, and the German 60 for tanks, had been in good order when they met in combat.

On the Russian front, Red army divisions more than 100 miles through the 200-mile wide German "escape corridor" from Russia, driving to a point only 25 miles from the Sea of Azov.

Disrupting the German supply line was a key move with the Red army's capture of the rail line in the north. Leningrad is on the sea of Azov.

With the Germans apparently falling back in all fronts, the British, American and Soviet headquarters reported fresh German attacks in the west.

In the north, the Russian stormed within 30 miles of the major German base at Orel, 200 miles below Moscow.

Front line dispatches said Rommel's artillery looks up German counterattacks west of Kairouan, and mobile Soviet troops dashed to better at the German flanks and speed the retreat.

Allied Lines Readjusted

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Marshall Erwin Rommel's abandonment of drive through central Tunisia has come to at least a temporary halt near the Algerian frontier, an allied communiqué indicated today, but the north allied lines were being readjusted to meet the new situation.

French troops had been withdrawn from Dichen, about 30 miles north of the Faid Pass area where Marshal Rommel started his drive Sunday, it was announced.

RAF Raids Nazi Base

Wilhelmshaven Is Target of Bombers; Other Planes Raid Continent and Sea

London, Feb. 19.—(AP)—RAF bombers, reared back to attack Wilhelmshaven, German naval base, last night and other allied aircraft attacked rail lines on the continent and shipping off the coast, the air ministry announced today.

Seven planes, including four bombers, were shot down today.

The air force said the great German naval base was being and the British air force made it a target for the night. The last remnants of the Luftwaffe were destroyed today.

Railways and road lines in France and Belgium were the principal targets.

A bombing raid on a supply line was the only Dutch raid and it was a minor success. The British air force said it was unable to locate the main German supply line.

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Home Canning Drive Planned

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—(AP)—A unified food conservation program, designed to reach every home in the state, in an effort to increase the production of home-processed foods, will get under way early in March under the direction of the state civilian defense mobilization committee.

The John F. Kennedy executive secretary of the committee, and today.

The campaign will be launched here March 26 with a two-day training course for public school nutritionists. Each agency will supply specialists to work with county nutrition committees of the North Carolina defense council.