VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

Henderson Daily Dispatch

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CRACK NAZI UNITS FLEE BEFORE BRITISH

Allied Planes Scatter Jap Convoy

Four Ships Destroyed Or Damaged

MacArthur's Losses Are Light; Pursuit Of Lae-Bound Convoy Is Continued

Allied Headquarters in Australia, March 3—(AP)—The crippled and widely scattered remnants of a 14-ship Japanese convoy, smashed by mixed bombers and fighters yesterday, staggered through the fog-shrouded Bismarck sea today toward the enemy port of Lae, New Guinea, with General Douglas MacArthur's planes relentlessly on its trail.

At least four transports and cargo vessels of the original armada of seven Japanese warships and seven merchant ships have been sunk or damaged and 15 Japanese fighter planes out of the umbrella or 20 or 10 that tried to provide protection to the convoy have been shot out of action, allied headquarters announced.

"Our losses are light. The battle continues," a headquarters communique said.

Allied Flying Fortresses and Liberator bombers, with a fleet escort of P-38 fighters, stabbed through murky haze, thick clouds and rain to deliver their blows in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire and Japanese fighter planes.

"Other hits or near hits were made on armed warships and cargo ships, results of which have so far been impossible to measure," the communique said. Pilots reported a near hit on a Japanese light cruiser.

General MacArthur's airmen also pounded Lae, bomber and attack planes punishing the airdrome area. At the same time his bombers attacked airdromes on islands northwest of Australia, destroyed an ammunition ship directly with a 500-pound bomb at Wide Bay, New Britain, and smashed at the Gasmata, New Britain, airdrome in an afternoon raid, the communique said.

Allied pilots who participated in the attack on the convoy saw heavy bombs explode amidships on the Japanese transport and watched it split in two and sink, it appeared with its 2,000 occupants, reports from operations headquarters said.

The attack began at 9:30 a. m. yesterday. Reconnaissance planes had spotted the convoy slipping along the New Britain coast under cover of bad weather the day before.

Local Bills Are Killed

House Committee Reports Unfavorably 34 Wine and Beer Control Measures

Raleigh, March 3—(AP)—The house finance committee did its bit to hasten legislative adjournment today by reporting unfavorably on 34 local wine and beer control bills.

The measures were not needed, however, since the legislature has passed a statewide bill prohibiting the sale of wine and beer from 11:30 p. m. to 7 a. m. any week day and giving local governments the power to prohibit their sales over week-ends.

Before turning to other measures, including one to give the governor far reaching wartime powers, the house ratified the $105,000,000 revenue bill.

The senate kept up to the minute on its work by passing 27 bills and receiving three bills from the house in 55 2:30 p. m. Among the measures approved were one [illegible] and other bills to provide revenue for counties and to tax taxicabs and to make it a misdemeanor, punishable at the discretion of the court, of engaging in the numbers racket.

The taxicab measure permits local governments to refuse to issue

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N. Y.'S CHINATOWN READY TO HONOR MME. CHIANG

NEW YORK'S CHINATOWN is making extensive preparations to welcome China's First Lady, Mme. Chiang Kai-shek. One of Chinatown's leading personalities, Stanley Lee, is posting a notice that his store will be closed when Madame Chiang addresses Chinese leaders in Carnegie Hall. The Chinese messages on the left, reading from top to bottom, says: "Welcome Chiang Kai-shek Madame." (International)

Absenteeism On Increase

Knox Backs Efforts To Combat Wilful Loss of Production In Navy Yards

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Secretary of Navy Knox testified today he had received reports that time lost in war plants due to absenteeism was "many times greater than the time lost due to strikes or shutdowns," and that such loss of time and production had been "increasing during the past year, rather than decreasing."

Knox appeared before the House naval committee during consideration of a bill to curb absenteeism by requiring war contractors to report work absences to draft boards, with the view of inducting into military service men who willfully stay away from their war production jobs.

"I wish to state to the committee," Knox said, "that whatever final form this legislation may take, I am heartily behind anything that can be done to reduce absenteeism.

"I feel that there is no place in the whole naval establishment for a chronic absentee, and steps have already been taken to remove them from our employ after all means have failed to cure them.

"The thought of what our men at the front may be enduring for lack of the planes or the guns or the ships or the ammunition should be enough to spur every able bodied man and woman in this country to redoubled and continuous effort on the production front."

Oil Rations Increased

Washington, March 3—(AP)—The office of price administration today increased the value of No. 5 home-mailer book of ration coupons one to two gallons over present level in the 17 eastern states and the District of Columbia.

No. 5 coupons will have a value of ten gallons in all 17 eastern states and the District of Columbia.

No. 4 coupons, valid from early February to mid-April, have a value of nine gallons in all sections of the Atlantic seaboard with the exception of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

FITZROY DIES

London, March 3—(AP)—Captain Edward Fitzroy, 73, speaker of the house of commons since 1928, died today after a long illness.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Much colder with a cold wave in central and east portions tonight with temperature 18 to 20 on the coast.

Navy Is Expecting Ten Per Cent Loss

Secretary Knox Sets Estimated Casualties In Giving Testimony On Appropriation

Washington, March 3—(AP)—A grim warning to expect a ten per cent casualty rate in Navy personnel was laid before Congress and the nation today as Secretary of the Navy Knox disclosed an operating force plan calling for a Navy "big enough to dominate all seas over the world."

The solemn Navy estimate that it would lose, and have to replace, one man out of each ten—killed or wounded—came as Knox and ranking naval officials unfolded their program for building up personnel strength to 2,500,000 by July, 1944.

Knox' outline of the Navy's "operating force" plan and his figures on potential costs of the sea warfare were made public by the House subcommittee on naval appropriations as it completed work on a new $1,000,000,000 supplemental Navy spending bill.

As it emerged from the subcommittee the bill carried $3,816,206,533 in direct appropriations—a reduction of $37,793,417 from the budget estimate—and contract authorizations amounting to $239,710,400.

The committee pared the Navy's estimate of $147,240,000 for clothing and estimated personnel strength of 2,250,000 down to an even 8[illegible],000,000, advising Congress that:

"While a reading has been imposed by [illegible] upon naval enlisted strength [illegible] through reserve, an expansion [illegible] such magnitude . . . should be [illegible] subject to careful scrutiny and recommendations to the House by the naval affairs committee."

Members of the subcommittee were shown by the record to have pressed Knox quickly for an explanation of the casualty estimate. They drew from him testimony that on February 3 the total casualties of Navy officers and men had been only 19,022.

"Does that not indicate an over estimation?" asked one member of the committee. The Navy secretary paraphrased a verse of John Paul

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Driving Ban May Be Lifted

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Price Administrator Prentiss Brown said today lifting of the pleasure driving ban in the east about March 22 is "under consideration" but that no definite decision has been made.

Brown made this statement to a reporter shortly after an OPA spokesman had mentioned the same possibility in saying, however, that no date or action has been decided on.

Speculation has centered on March 22 because that is the deadline for exploration of the present period 4 coupon, worth three gallons in the Atlantic seaboard states.

Axis Consuls Are Interned

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Former German and Italian consuls general of Algiers, their staffs and members of their families captured by the United States armed forces in north Africa have arrived in the United States, where they are under guard in the Ingleside hotel near Staunton, Va.

The State department, in making this announcement today, said negotiations are under way for the exchange of these and other officials. They would be exchanged for officers of the United States and Latter American republics seized by the Germans in France and been held in Germany.

Meanwhile the civil internees in Virginia are not permitted contact with the public.

Mme. Chiang Cancels Talk

New York, March 3—(AP)—A scheduled address today by Mme. Chiang Kai-shek has been cancelled the National Broadcasting Co. announced.

Mme. Chiang, who suffered a fainting spell on Monday and made a belated appearance at a Madison Square rally last night on the advice of her physician, was to have made a broadcast address in Chinese and English from Carnegie Hall at 3:30 p. m. (est).

The Chinese news service said Mme. Chiang would appear at the rally.

Attaches of her party said today's address presumably was cancelled because of her weakened condition after eleven weeks of illness and convalescence from an operation.

OFFICERS ABSOLVED IN CONVICT'S DEATH

Kinston, March 3—(AP)—A coroner's jury last night absolved Kinston police of blame in the fatal shooting February 25 of Richard Salter, 23, while with seven other convicts escaped from the State prison camp near Kenansville.

Coroner F. A. Garner said the jury found the officers acted in line of duty.

Salter was shot near his home when officers attempted to arrest him.

Nazis Admit Evacuation Of Rzhev

Important Russian City Had Been All But Surrounded In Soviet Thrust

London, March 3—(AP)—The German high command in a communique broadcast by the Berlin radio announced today the evacuation of the town of Rzhev, 150 miles west and slightly north of Moscow, saying German forces withdrew according to plan in order to shorten the front line.

The announcement of the Rzhev evacuation was read over the radio first as a DNB dispatch and about ten minutes later a message was read saying that this had been "withdrawn."

About a half-hour later, however, the original announcement was repeated, this time the source being given as a communique.

London military quarters declined to speculate on just where the shortened line might be established but some observers said they thought it might go back to Smolensk, establishing a front running northwest from Smolensk to Velikie Luki and southeast to Bryansk.

As long ago as August 31 the Russians announced that they had crossed the upper Volga river west of Rzhev and pushed on, all but surrounding the city but leaving it at the tip of a very narrow salient pointing to Moscow.

Adjournment Of Assembly Awaits House

Raleigh, March 3—(AP)—Adjournment of the 1943 legislative session depends mostly upon the action the house takes today and tomorrow on scores of bills still before it. Most of them are local and only a few are controversial statewide ones.

The revenue, appropriations and nine-months school bills are out of the way. A proposal to amend the unified school board law effected in the last general election will be disposed of after the senate concurs in a house amendment eliminating a clause directing that the eight education districts shall be of approximately equal population.

The governor's war powers bill giving the chief executive authority over the health, welfare and security of the state, already has passed the senate and now is on the house calendar for consideration today.

Among measures yet to reach the floor is the committee-approved bill authorizing the State board of education to employ a supervisor to direct the teaching of effect of alcohol and narcotics upon the human body.

Gandhi Ends 21-Day Fast

MOHANDAS K. GANDHI

New Delhi, March 3—(AP)—Mohandas K. Gandhi, 72-year-old Indian nationalist leader, ended a 21-day hunger strike in protest against his internment by the British by sipping a glass of orange juice at 9:25 a. m. today (Midnight, EWT, Tuesday).

A communique announcing the end of the fast said that Gandhi was weak and showed signs of strain but was in good spirits.

Two minutes were spent in meditation before Gandhi accepted from his wife's hands the orange juice representing the first nourishment he had taken in three weeks, except for small quantities of water and lime juice.

With the end of the fast, Gandhi reverts to his status as a political prisoner, special concessions which permitted him to receive visitors being withdrawn. Only his relatives will be permitted to see him as long as he remains under detention.

Looking very tired but cheerful, Gandhi said in a weak voice, "I am very thankful to the doctors for serving me so well, but I feel there must have been someone answering the doctors' prayer that saved me."

Four miles away in a courtyard in the city of Poona, 200 of Gandhi's followers assembled with his sons to say prayers of thanksgiving.

SCHOOLHOUSE BURNS

Gastonia, March 3—(AP)—The Ranlo grammar school building in East Gastonia was destroyed by fire today but its several hundred pupils escaped without injury. The fire was believed to have started in the basement.

Fourth Term Is Broached

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Some Democratic national committee members broached the idea of a fourth term for President Roosevelt at a White House meeting today but Chairman Frank C. Walker said it was not a serious presentation and also that it got no response from the President.

A committee consisting of official and members of the national committee called on the President, and Walker said that some of them spoke of a fourth term.

Walker said that the delegation which saw the Chief Executive at a meeting of its own yesterday had heard the fourth term matter raised by several of those present. He said he would leave it to reporters to interpret whether it was the sentiment that Mr. Roosevelt should seek another four years in office if the war continues.

Meats, Cheese, Butter And Fats To Be Rationed

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Meats, cheese, butter, cooking fats and oils will be rationed beginning April 1, it was reported today, under current plans of food and rationing agencies.

The sources for this information, who withheld use of their names, said the red coupons on the No. 2 ration book would be used and that meat rations probably would run about one and three-quarter pounds per person per week.

Price Administrator Prentiss Brown told reporters that plans to start rationing of meats, cheese and other commodities would be discussed at a press conference later in the day.

Cheese will be rationed together with meat because of its usefulness as a meat substitute, while butter, margarine and cooking fats and oils will be grouped for rationing because of their interchangeability.

It was stated that the government did not contemplate any period of "sale freeze" preliminary to rationing the new foodstuffs on a point basis similar to that begun this week for canned, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables.

At offices of the food administration it was noted that the initial meat ration would depend largely on results of checks being made by the Agriculture department to determine just how much meat has been diverted into black market channels.

Artillery Barrages Rout Enemy

Burning Vehicles Left Strewn on Field In Northern Tunisia; Other War News

(By The Associated Press)—Adolf Hitler's crack armored and infantry units in Russia and ran under the rolling barrage and terrific artillery barrages of the British first army yesterday in northern Tunisia, allied headquarters report said today.

At the same time, British, American and French forces were winning back all they had lost in central Tunisia to Marshal Erwin Rommel in his recent offensive.

Dispatches from the northern Tunisian front said some of the best German infantry and tank units broke and fled in the face of artillery fire which left the field strewn with burning vehicles and blackened with the smoke of explosives.

The gradual smothering of the Germans' attempted [illegible] in Central North was underlined by renewed pressure in the central sector where Americans pressed south of Sbeitla. French troops reported they had driven the enemy out of another strong point to make southwest of Feriana, and occupied the road junction of Tameria, 30 miles southwest of Gafsa.

Continuing to pound simply pounded in Sicily, allied bombers visited Palermo and Trapani, [illegible] Trapani and [illegible] and a rest [illegible] and [illegible] from Chinese [illegible] sunk.

Meanwhile, through neutral Sweden said fires still blazed in Berlin where it was reported important government and military buildings had been damaged in Monday night's attack, in which about 900 tons of bombs were dropped.

On the Russian front, only slight gains progress of the Red Army was reported in the Soviet communique, [illegible] Kursk, [illegible] Russians aim at the Dnieper and another strong point in the above [illegible] Donets basin.

Rome said last March were [illegible] on these [illegible].

The Moscow radio [illegible] Germans [illegible] Kursk [illegible] Russian [illegible] Donets [illegible] Rome said [illegible] March [illegible] on these [illegible].

The Moscow radio [illegible] Germans [illegible] Kursk [illegible] Russian [illegible] Donets [illegible] Rome said [illegible] March [illegible] on these [illegible].

Nine Raids Made On Kiska

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Carrying out a series of thoroughly [illegible] and storms in the Aleutians, U. S. aircraft during February dropped [illegible] bombs on Kiska, an Japanese position on Kiska with no [illegible] loss of any planes, the Navy reported today.

It said ten enemy planes were shot down during the attacks.

Pipeline Recommended

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Petroleum Administrator Ickes told a young to a Senate committee today a report of his staff recommending that construction of the Texas-Illinois link of a gasoline pipeline from Texas to the east coast be started at once.

Those who signed the report recommended rejection of a proposal for initial construction of a line from the Chicago area to the Atlantic seaboard.

Ickes told the Senate war investigating committee his experts have calculated that if the line were built first from Illinois to the Atlantic coast this project would require 22,000 tons more of new steel, 11 per cent more motors and pumps and 12,000 more electrical horsepower than the link from Texas to Illinois.