



British Press Closer On Tunis

U.S. Legation Leaves Helsinki

No Reason Announced For Move

Charge d'Affaires Remains; Minister In Washington Since December

Helsinki, April 23—(AP)—The main body of the staff of the United States legation left the Finnish capital suddenly this afternoon by airplane for Stockholm.

Robert Mills McClintock, charge d'affaires, remained in Helsinki.

The American minister, H. F. Schoenfeld, left here for Washington last December and did not return.

Neither American nor Finnish spokesmen would give any reason for the departure.

McClintock said all he knew was that he had been instructed to end the legation staff in Stockholm immediately. The Finnish office said its notice of the American decision came yesterday.

Official quarters in London indicated the sudden departure of the main body of the American staff as a strong hint to the Finnish government to break with the axis and make a separate peace while there was yet time. The British foreign office declined comment.

Washington, April 23—(AP)—State department officials, examining Helsinki reports of the departure of some personnel of the United States legation, described the action today as "an administrative move."

All questions on the possible bearing of such a move on United States relations with Finland met with the reply that the State department had nothing new on that subject.

Officials likewise would not disclose exactly which members of the legation staff had left the Finnish capital.

Wheat Loans Due April 30

Washington, April 23—(AP)—The government will come into possession of about 130,000,000 bushels of wheat a week from today unless several hundred thousand farmer-borrowers in the meantime pay off \$225,000,000 in loans extended on the grain last year.

The Commodity Credit Corporation disclosed today that loans on about 160,000,000 bushels of 1942-grown wheat stored in commercial elevators and warehouses and 20,000,000 bushels of 1941-grown wheat stored on farms will fall due April 30.

The loans will not be extended, officials said, grain not redeemed by that time will be taken over by the government as full payment of the loans.

Corn officials expect the bulk of the wheat to be turned over to the government. They explained that present market prices of most types of wheat are a few cents below the loan value. Hence, if the farmer paid off his loan, redeemed his wheat and sold it at current prices, he would lose money.

Georgia Prison Conditions Aired in Legislative Report

Atlanta, April 23—(AP)—Big liquor stills and little stills, vice, gambling and resort were common in Georgia's piney woods, marble "model" penitentiary before 25 prisoners took control one night last week, gorged themselves with food and "departed hilariously," a legislative committee reported today.

The committee told Governor Ellis Atwell that the new warden who took over from the previous administration recently has suppressed these conditions, but added:

"The conditions were so flagrant and far reaching that he has not even yet had time to discover and correct all that has been going on."

All except eight of the fugitives

WRECKED FLAGSHIP OF THE EGOLITTLE FLIGHT



Flashtop of the sixteen U. S. Army bombers that smothered the heart of Japan, the plane flown by General Doolittle is shown after its crash on a hillside some where in China. The plane took from the carrier Hornet, the Shangri-La of the presidential announcement. (International Soundphoto.)

Meal, Drink Prices Set

Eating and Drinking Prices in Southeast Region are Placed Under OPA Ceiling

Atlanta, April 23—(AP)—The regional office of price administration today placed ceiling prices, effective April 26, on all meals and food items, including wines and other alcoholic beverages, sold in eating and drinking places in the southeastern states.

North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia and Alabama are affected by the order.

Under the order, issued by James C. Dierkes, regional OPA director, prices will be limited at a point no higher than the highest price charged for each meal, food or drink item during the week of April 1 to 7. Subject to the order are all restaurants, hotels, cafes, delicatessen stores, soda fountains, boarding houses and "any other eating or drinking place."

Bona fide clubs, serving only members or members' guests are exempt from the order along with church and other religious organizations; meals served in hospitals other than to visitors, employees and private nurses; and meals served on railroad dining or by peddlers aboard trains unless the peddler's territory is restricted to the eight states of this OPA region. In such case their sales are regulated by the order.

The ruling provides that customers shall be plainly informed on menus or by conspicuous notices that prices charged are at or below the regulated ceilings. Records of charges must be kept and made available for "reasonable examination by patrons."

After a ceiling price is set under the order it may not be altered except to be lowered or to comply with future OPA price orders.

NEW REST AREA

Washington, April 23—(AP)—The office of price administration announced today rent ceiling in 14 defense-rental areas, effective May 1. Among the new areas, where rents may not exceed those prevalent on March 1, 1942, are: Moore county, Southern Pines, N. C.

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Americans Occupy Islands In Ellices

Solid Fuels Under Ickes

Washington, April 23—(AP)—President Roosevelt by executive order today conferred broad new authority over solid fuels, including the power to determine whether coal rationing to civilian users should be instituted.

The Presidential order abolished the purely advisory office of solid fuels coordinator for war and created in its stead a solid fuels administration for war with Ickes as administrator. The order sets up the new administration within the Interior department and authorizes it to establish basic policies and to formulate plans and programs to assure the "conservation and most effective development and utilization of solid fuels" in the United States, its territories and possessions.

A second executive order makes Ickes a member of the war production board, with which he is to advise before determining "the areas and the times within which such (civilian solid fuels) rationing should be effective and the amount of solid fuels available for such purpose."

WLB-UMW Deadlocked

Labor Board Issues Ultimatum Threat To Refer Strike To White House

Newark, N. J., April 23—(AP)—The national war labor board and district 50, United Mine Workers, were at loggerheads today over a strike at the Celanese Corp. of America's plastics division which the government has ordered ended.

Two rapid developments last night brought the dispute closer to a showdown. The WLB issued an ultimatum calling for cancellation of the walkout "at once" or the case would be referred to the White House—usually a preliminary to intervention by the armed forces.

Strikers had cheered the reading of a telegram to WLB asserting that its board was making "unwarranted threats" and offering to go back to work only "if assurance is given that grievances will be adjusted."

Pittsburgh, April 23—(AP)—A walkout of more than 2,000 soft coal miners, producing 12,000 tons of fuel daily by war busy steel mills,

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Action Is Revealed In Navy Communicate Telling of Attack On Installations

Washington, April 23—(AP)—Occupation of islands in the Ellice group in the south Pacific by United States forces was disclosed by the Navy today in a communique telling of an enemy bombing raid on American installations there.

The Ellice group is approximately 1,100 miles east of the Solomon islands and has no supply lines to the south Pacific and Australia. This little island group of nine islands was mentioned in a Navy communique in October, 1942, when it told of a surface engagement there. It was assumed then that the Japanese had moved in, possibly with land parties.

Today's communique said that land parties to American personnel were offered and minor damage was inflicted in the bombing raid. Fagatiki, the center of the island, is the largest island in the group.

The whole island is covered with coconut palms and the principal village is at an anchorage beside a lagoon.

Naval spokesmen said that the occupation of the island by United States forces was opposed. The date of occupation was not given. It was assumed that the Japanese were at least 100 men in only small and isolated groups.

No Decision Is Reached On Refugees

Hamilton, Bermuda, April 23—(AP)—British and American delegates to the conference here on the European refugee problem were understood today to be considering Africa as a major possibility for providing haven for European refugees, but it appeared that final decisions might be left to a later conference.

Although no details were announced, progress was reported toward the formulation of a program for consideration at a future date. Military considerations were believed to have eliminated any possibility of negotiations with the German government for the release of Jewish populations from German-occupied territory. Another private proposal that Germans intended in Allied countries be exchanged for Jews under Nazi control appeared to have been excluded from further discussion.

It was made clear at the outset of the conference that the blockade against the axis would not be lifted to permit food to reach oppressed people unable to leave Europe.

Germany's Kuban Army Reinforced

Men and Planes Thrown Into Assault But Russians Hold All Their Positions

Moscow, April 23—(AP)—The Germans hourly have reinforced their land armies in the Kuban and have shifted hundreds of their bomber and fighter planes into the Crimea for use in the north Caucasian battles, but despite incessant attacks by these new forces the Germans have failed to dent the Russian lines, it was declared today.

Red Star, the army newspaper, said the nazis were employing numerous Rumanian troops and that during the last few days had forced them to spearhead the assaults which are costing them hundreds of dead.

The noon communique told of 500 of the enemy slaughtered in two Kuban sectors alone in the last twelve hours, bringing the toll for the last 30 hours well above 800.

North of Changuet, on the Donets river, a group of Germans attempted to cross to the eastern bank but Soviet gunfire moved them down at the water's edge. Dozens of dead were left on the bank, it was asserted.

This was no effort to cross the Donets in force but appeared to be an attempt by a strong scouting party to establish a foothold on the Russian-held bank and hold it until reinforcements arrived.

But the battle of the Kuban remained the principal conflict. The Germans are employing their reinforced armies from the region of Novorossiysk to the sea of Azov, although the Soviets have not indicated they believe the enemy forces yet are numerically superior.

The German losses approximate 4,000 dead since they began their attacks in the Kuban, it was estimated.

Oil Dispute To Congress

Solons to Referee Jeffers-Military Tug of War Over Rubber Program

Washington, April 23—(AP)—Congress was called on today to referee a bitter tug of war between military authorities who want to bomb Nazi Europe to a pulp and Rubber Director William M. Jeffers who wants to keep both military and civilian machines rolling on synthetic tires.

Jeffers demanded, and got, an investigation yesterday after Undersecretary of War Patterson was quoted as saying that the aerial offensive was being retarded because materials needed to produce aviation gasoline were being diverted to the rubber program.

Chairman Gillette, Iowa Democrat, of the Senate agriculture subcommittee.

It's Bond Day In Wall Street

New York, April 23—(AP)—Wall Street abandoned its long established custom of observing Good Friday as a holiday today and devoted its undivided attention to the second war loan drive.

The stock exchange, curb exchange and outside securities markets were closed as usual but throughout the district brokers' offices were open, most of the staff was on hand and every worker, from top to bottom, got an early start on previously mapped plans to get the highest possible total of war bond orders before the day was over.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Occasional rain and showers tonight, somewhat warmer.

Chosen as Typical



SELECTED AS the "typical American business girl" Auxiliary M. Kelly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Kelly, Beresford, S. D., is now in basic training at the First WAAC Training Center, Ft. Des Moines.

Jap Island Arc Bombed

Allied Airmen Raid Japanese Positions In Southwest Pacific And In Burma

Washington, April 23—(AP)—Major General James E. Doolittle's prediction that American fliers will bomb Japan again "soon" was followed today by news of widespread aerial blows against Japanese forces in the southwest Pacific and in Burma.

General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters said United Nations airmen raided half a dozen enemy bases in the area of islands above Australia, concentrating on the region of Nassau Bay in northern New Guinea.

Allied bombers inflicted heavy damage on already depleted Japanese supplies and equipment in the area, it was announced, bombing and strafing islands in the bay and villages along the coast.

Enemy forces in the area were described as being in lack of food and medicine, with many troops ill and hungry.

Allied headquarters in north Africa, Major General Doolittle declared that when U. S. fliers hit Tokyo again it would be a "vastating attack that will rent the vital Japanese engine gears and they long for mercy."

In Washington, the War department said yesterday new raids on Tokyo were a definite possibility.

GIRAUD REINSTATES FRENCH NATIONALITY

London, April 23—(AP)—The French administration radio station at Algiers broadcast an announcement today that General Henri Giraud had restored French nationality to all persons who had been deprived of it because they fled the Vichy administration in France.

The broadcast, recorded by the Associated Press, also said that General Giraud had reinstated all officials who had been dismissed for reasons other than those connected with the service itself.

Japanese Broaden Threats Against Captured Fliers

Washington, April 23—(AP)—Axis broadcasts indicated today that Japan had broadened the scope of her "severe punishment" of captured American fliers to include all pilots and crew "who have been found guilty of having committed cruel and inhuman acts" anywhere in Japanese territory or zones of Japanese war operations.

The Tokyo radio also quoted a Japanese cabinet spokesman as saying:

"Japan can never agree with the absurd and groundless contention that the mere fact that enemy soldiers are wearing military uniforms makes them immune from responsibility of willfully committing any

Twenty Huge Transports Shot Down

Six-Engined Planes Carrying Nazi Troops And Freight Downed In Bay of Tunis

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, April 23—(AP)—The British eighth army has captured Takrouna and pushed six miles from Enfidaville toward Bou Fieha in twin drives northward and the British first army has stabbed ahead three miles against stubborn axis resistance in a sector on the western Tunisian front, it was announced today.

These gains around were coupled with aerial action during which Kittyhawks and Spitfires shot down every one of 20 six-engined Messerschmitt transports, some carrying troops and others laden with freight, and ten of their escorting fighters encountered over the Gulf of Tunis.

The giant Messerschmitt transports, which dwarf such carriers as the Junkers transports upon which Field Marshal Erwin Rommel has relied largely for reinforcements and supplies, are designed to carry 120 soldiers or almost ten tons of cargo. The transports were carrying gasoline and personnel to Tunisia and "the entire formation" was destroyed, an official statement said.

"Although not many aircraft were shot down, the size and importance of this victory ranks alongside the success of last Sunday when 77 enemy planes, including 50 Junkers transports, were destroyed in one engagement," the air force announced.

In all 38 axis planes were shot down during the day, against an announced loss of five allied aircraft.

The battle with the transports, regarded here as the most important stroke against enemy supply lines since the start of the war, lasted less than ten minutes. Flames burst from many of the great carriers as they were hit by the fighter bursts. All of the transports and the ten fighters dropped in the smoldering oil on the approach to Tunis. Troops who broke clear of the wreckage were seen struggling in the water.

The ground action again was on a large scale. Lieutenant General Anderson at—

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Miners Reject WLB Order

New York, April 23—(AP)—A proposal that the northern Appalachian coal wage conference recess to answer the summons of the war labor board to appear in Washington tomorrow was rejected by the miners today.

The operators, however, announced at the close of this morning's session that they would leave for Washington this afternoon, and the miners prepared to convene at 2 p. m., whether or not the operators appeared.

Charles O'Neill, spokesman for the operators, said that as far as the operators were concerned, the conference was recessed, subject to the call of Ezra von Horn, the chairman, and that the operators expected to leave for Washington this afternoon.

The decision of the miners to convene at 2 p. m. was announced by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers.

and all kinds of inhuman acts." A Tokyo dispatch, broadcast by the Berlin radio, said the Japanese government had notified the United States government of its intention to punish "with death or severe penalty" members of crews taken prisoner "following attack on Japanese territory, Manchukuo and areas of Japanese military operation" and "found guilty" of inhuman acts.