



Henderson Daily Dispatch



THIRTY-FIRST YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HENDERSON, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 3, 1944

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

ASTP Units Extended In Colleges

Training Will Be In Preparation for Service Induction

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Extension of short-term specialized college training for boys under military draft age, at Army-Navy expense, was announced today.

The training would be in the nature of preparations for induction into the armed forces and would be limited to those who have completed high school work and who have not registered for selective service.

Tests for acceptability will be held throughout the nation on March 15. Those taking the March tests will express a preference for either the Army or Navy training programs.

Seventeen-year-olds who qualify for the Navy will receive the same training as other students in the Navy college programs designed to provide officers, will be enlisted in class A-1, and will attend college for varying number of sixteen-week terms, depending on the course pursued.

Seventeen-year-olds who will be in their 17 years and six months on July 1 will have the prospect of receiving at least nine months of academic work.

A limited number of men between 17 years, nine months old and 21 years old as of July 1, who take the March 15 tests, will be selected for the Army Specialized Training Program after their induction into the Army and following their basic military training period. In general, these will be men who have had prior academic training which qualifies them for advanced engineering and language courses.

It also is planned to continue certain medical, dental and veterinary courses in their present ASTP schools.

Lepke Hopes U. S. Court To Save His Life

New York, N. Y., March 3—(AP)—Lepke, charged with the slaying of a man, is expected to appear in court today to fight for his life.

Lepke, who was arrested last night with two aides in a 1936 Buick, was held in the Sing Sing prison death house several minutes before execution time today.

Gov. Lehman, who was to have been present at the execution, was held back by a heart ailment, and the execution was postponed until tomorrow.

Charles D. Brentel, counsel to Lepke, released a statement which said that a stay had been asked for Lepke and the others—Louis (Boss) Camp and Emmanuel (Mendy) Weiss until "later this week."

When Snyder said that unless he received further word from the governor, he would execute the three at 11 p. m. tomorrow.

Gubernatorial Campaign In State In Full Swing

By Lynn Nisbet
Daily Dispatch Bureau
Raleigh, March 3.—Opening of State campaign for governors by Greg Cherry coincided with "formal announcement" and platform declarations by Ralph McDonald in the current campaign for nomination as Democratic candidate for governor. Both events had been widely expected. There was nothing new or unexpected in the McDonald announcement Wednesday; and it had already been announced that Cherry headquarters would open with former Congressman William B. Umstead of Durham as manager.

LONDON AFTER NAZI RAIDS



High pressure streams of water are turned on one of the buildings set afire (top) during a recent raid on London by Nazi bombers. The fires were quickly brought under control and the following morning many residents of the city helped to clear rubble from the streets. Two young girl volunteers are shown (bottom) aiding the clean-up. (International)

Roosevelt To Be Asked To Relax Farmer Draft

Farm State Senators To Demand Changes In 16-Unit Proposal

Washington, March 3—(AP)—Aroused by claims that tightening of draft deferments for farmers will seriously curtail food production, a group of farm state senators plan a direct appeal to President Roosevelt for modification of the new selective service regulations.

This became known today after the Senate Agriculture Committee set up a special subcommittee headed by Senator Russell, Georgia Democrat, to deal with the question.

Senator Russell, Georgia Democrat, to deal with the question. Farm organizations assert that about half of the 1,770,000 farm workers now deferred are subject to induction under the revised rules.

Tentative plans call for the Russell group to carry the appeal to the White House next week unless selective service acts in the meantime.

Although Selective Service Director Hensley told the agriculture committee last week that he was "open minded" on the matter, legislators took the view his hands were tied by the letter directive from President Roosevelt ordering a general review of all occupational deferments.

In the House, Representative Sparkman, Alabama Democrat, declared the revised rules—boosting the minimum basic for farm worker deferments from eight to sixteen units of production—would hit small farmers hardest, because, he said, in many instances production on small farms doesn't measure up to the sixteen units formula.

Meanwhile, Senator Bankhead, Alabama Democrat, said that if an appeal to the President fails, congress has pending now legislation, already through the Senate, that would compel farm worker deferments.

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Rome Rail Yards Are Again Bombed By U. S. Aircraft

Alleged Headquarters, Naples, March 3—(AP)—American heavy bombers again attacked Rome's railroad installations today, the Mediterranean Allied air forces announced.

"Flying Fortresses, attacked Littorio and Tiburtina freight yards," the announcement said. "While Liberators, bombed the main Zierbo airfield, 35 miles north of Rome."

"Early reports," the statement said, "indicate the rail yards were well covered and that the airfield bombing was good. Both the fortresses and Liberators were escorted by fighters."

It was believed a sizeable force struck the Italian capital's chief freight yards through which military traffic flows to both the beachhead and main Fifth Army front.

Vote Measure Largely On State Rights

Washington, March 3—(AP)—A selective men's absentee vote bill accompanied from a state's rights formula, with just a pinch of Federal jurisdiction, was served up to Congress today by a divided group of Senate and House conferees.

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GERMAN DRIVE FAILS U. S. LANDING STICKS

Help Given Troops In Admiralties

Probing Action Now Full Invasion Move Under Gen. MacArthur

Allied Headquarters, Southwest Pacific, March 3—(AP)—Headquarters disclosed today that the initial Admiralty beach landing was a stabbing action to probe Japanese strength, but after a first day inspection by General Douglas MacArthur and a gallant stand later by outnumbered troops, a full-fledged invasion is in progress.

Strong reinforcements have been put ashore on a beachhead a mile deep. They are turning out from the quickly captured Manus airfield to engage the few thousand Japanese still holding the Los Negros island.

The elastic offensive shifted from reconnaissance to invasion after Allied commanders sensed the Japanese were caught flat-footed and outmaneuvered into dispersed positions.

The stand's key positions, the 3,000-foot-long airfield and adjacent Hyane harbor, were captured quickly Tuesday by the reconnaissance force landed under the shells of destroyers.

While enemy snipers still presented a menace, General MacArthur looked over the situation and said: "Hold on to what you take."

Wednesday, before dawn, the Japanese counter-attacked and were repulsed. That night and early Thursday, the Fifth Cavalry regiment beat off infiltrating Japanese, withstood enemy mortar fire and clung to the thinly manned perimeter about the airfield, although outnumbered. Thursday reinforcements started coming off the boats. The perimeter was established firmly. Engineers began filling holes in the airfield runway made by the preliminary landing bombardment.

Headquarters reported today a series of air smashes, many of them in support of the landing operations which penetrated into the Bismarck Sea, bypassed Rabaul and severed Japan's supply route between Truk and New Guinea.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

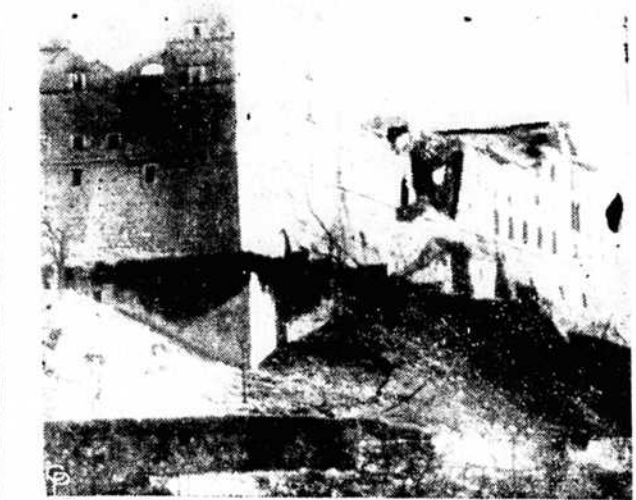
Partly cloudy and warmer tonight. Saturday, cloudy with moderate temperatures.

Russians Continue Push Toward Baltic

Moscow, March 3—(AP)—Despite a freakish springlike thaw, which is hampering military operations, the Red army is continuing its smashing offensive to liberate the Soviet Baltic republics and has materially improved its position, dispatches from the front said today.

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VIEW OF BOMBED CASSINO ABBEY



THIS PHOTO taken by a German photographer and radioed to the U. S. from Stockholm shows damage inflicted on the Monte Cassino monastery by Allied planes and artillery. This was done after the Nazis converted the ancient shrine into a fortress. (International Radiophoto)

Heavy U.S. Bombers Pound Nazi Plants

Aircraft Factories Crippled by Blast; "Rocket" Coast Hit

London, March 3—(AP)—American heavy bombers today pounded Germany for the second straight day, concentrating on undisclosed objectives in the northwest sector, while medium Marauders slashed at German air fields in northern France.

RAF formations, taking to the air last night for their second successive night, had hammered aircraft factories near Paris and at Albert in northern France only a few hours before.

The United States bombers were escorted by fighters of both the Eighth and Ninth air forces, as well as Allied fighters, and indications that the operation was of considerable size.

The widespread daylight smashes also included stabs at the French "rocket gun" sector by RAF fighter bombers.

The RAF's operations, including Mustangs slashes at western Germany and mine laying in enemy waters, were carried out without loss.

The attacks upon the aircraft factories in France were part of a sustained Allied offensive to knock out German aircraft production and clear the Luftwaffe from the skies in preparation

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Lunge Into Beachhead Disastrous

Foe's Third Push On Americans Ends Without Advantage

Allied Headquarters, Naples, March 3—(AP)—A strong German drive into the center of the Anzio beachhead this week was described officially as "a costly failure." Allied headquarters said defensive positions remained intact, with all lost ground regained.

The enemy offensive, the third lunge since the beachhead was established, failed to drive the American and British forces into the sea, but did inflict heavy losses.

American troops of the Third Infantry division bore the brunt of the attack and scored "a complete defensive success," a headquarters spokesman said. Less than a week ago, the Third, originally committed chiefly of troops from the Pacific coast, was officially commended for previous exploits on the beachhead.

Whether the enemy is regrouping for a continuation of the offensive from some other sector is unknown, but a blistering attack delivered from the air yesterday by Flying Fortresses, Liberators and lighter aircraft served as a strong deterrent.

Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, commanding general of the Fifth Army, said last night the enemy had suffered a serious setback.

This latest German failure to wipe out the beachhead, other Allied officers said, meant that heavy losses have been inflicted on the three divisions which spearheaded the assault, centered on a 1,000-yard front midway from Carroceto and Cisterna.

The Mediterranean Allied air forces, hurling virtually their entire strength yesterday against the Germans around the beachhead, dropped about 40,000 fragmentation bombs from some 1,600 planes—a record for this type of attack in this theater.

American Flying Fortresses, Liberators, medium light and fighter bombers all participated, the attack being concentrated on the Carroceto-Velletri-Cisterna line. The German air force made no attempt to intercept the formation. Ten enemy planes were shot down on one occasion but they failed to fight.

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Led Pskov Drive



GENERAL POPOV is the commander of the Russian Army forces that have driven to the outskirts of Pskov, rail and highway hub of German Baltic defenses. Reports from Moscow say that General Popov's men are fighting in Indian fashion across the rugged terrain around the city, whose early fall is expected. (International)

Selectivity Rules Stocks

New York, March 3—(AP)—Selectivity continued to dominate today's stock market. Paramount Pictures and General Motors registered gains for 1944. Support was recorded Chrysler, Southern Railway, Standard Oil of New Jersey and Texas Company. Railway was U. S. Steel, Goodrich, United Aircraft and Western Union A.

Cotton Mixed Around Noon

New York, March 3—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to five cents a bale lower. Noon values were ten cents a bale higher to 20 cents lower, March 20.85, May 20.40, July 19.70.

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Russia Will Get Third Of Italy's Fleet

Washington, March 3—(AP)—President Roosevelt said today that discussions were about half completed for transferring roughly one third of the surrendered Italian fleet to Russia.

The President also told a press-radio conference that Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., acting secretary of state, would go to London soon to discuss with British officials a dozen or more questions awaiting solution.

He disclosed that the United States and Great Britain already were using some of the Italian tonnage that was surrendered with the capitulation of Italy and that efforts now are being made to determine how many of these ships or their equivalent can be turned over to the Russian navy.

He emphasized that so long as the way leads the Allies will use everything against the enemy, but that after the war that was something else.

He said that since Italy surrendered to the United States, Great Britain and Russia, it was thought advisable to distribute the Italian fleet roughly on a one-third basis each. He would not say how much tonnage was involved.

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