

# Henderson Daily Dispatch

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

HENDERSON, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 15, 1944

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON  
EXCEPT SUNDAY.

FIVE CENTS COPY

# CASSINO, BASTION LEVELED BY BOMBINGS

**Bowles Says Living Costs Rise Halted**

No Increase Made In Eleven Months Senators Are Told

Washington, March 15—(AP)—Price Administrator Chester Bowles told the Senate Banking Committee today there had been no increase in the living cost level for the last eleven months and that if the present price control act is extended without substantial change, "inflation during the war will be prevented."

Further, he said, the nation would be able to come out of the conflict with a "sound and balanced price structure."

In the first public hearing on legislation to continue the Office of Price Administration for one year beyond June 30, Bowles said OPA had met its faults. But he contended that price controls had fully proved their worth and held the living cost rate in this war to less than half the overall increase during World War I.

"After 53 months of World War I, the cost of living was up 35 percent," Bowles said. "In January of this year, 33 months after August, 1939, the cost of living had risen only 26 percent."

"There is no question but that prices have been stabilized. There has been no increase at all in the living cost level in the last eleven months."

**Joseph B. Eastman, Director of ODT, Dies at Age of 61**

Washington, March 15—(AP)—Joseph B. Eastman, 61, director of defense transportation and for 23 years a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, died today after an illness of several weeks.

A native of Katonah, N. Y., Eastman was named to the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1919 after service on the Massachusetts Public Service Commission. In 1933, President Roosevelt named Eastman director of the railroads and he sought to effect economies in operations at the height of the depression.

In 1942 Eastman was named director of the Office of Defense Transportation and given the tremendous task of bossing the movement of everything that poured through domestic channels into the war effort. His physician said Eastman died suddenly from a coronary occlusion.

**Nazi Pocket Wiped Out At Beachhead**

Allied Headquarters, Naples, March 15—(AP)—Allied beachhead troops have wiped out a German pocket and improved their positions south of Carcotto, 21 miles below Rome, where the Germans had month launched some of their fiercest attacks against the Allied line, headquarters announced today.

The attack was made by British troops, who at last reports still were mopping up the enemy in the area, headquarters said. In an adjacent region other British troops tested the German positions and brief fighting followed, but no ground changed hands.

Allied assumption of an offensive role in the valley south of Carcotto came as bright sunshine replaced bad weather, but the ground still was soggy elsewhere along the perimeter of the beachhead; there was active patrolling by American and British troops and harassing artillery fire.

The Germans have been observed regrouping around the beachhead for the past week and they have been expected to launch a fourth offensive, but this has not materialized.

Air force headquarters and photographs showed that 100 railroad cars were destroyed or damaged in yesterday's Marauder raid against the Presepio rail yards in Rome, the eighth attack on the Eternal City.

The raid was coupled with Mitchell attacks on rail yards north of Rome, and assaults on two harbors by medium bombers.

German planes raided Naples early today, dropping flares which illuminated the city and its water front with an orange glow reflected as far away as the slopes of Vesuvius. Anti-aircraft batteries sent up a heavy curtain of fire.

FIRST CHAT SINCE TAX UPHEAVAL



SEN. ALBEN BARKLEY, Ky., (right) whose outburst over the President's tax-bill veto stirred a national commotion, is shown with repoter following his first call on FDR since that occasion. With him is House Majority Leader John McCormack. (International Soundphoto)

**18-26 Deferments May Be Banned By Congress In Hunt For More Men**

Washington, March 15—(AP)—Threatening legislation to ban all but physical deferments for men between 18 and 26, Chairman H. May, Kentucky Democrat, today reopened the House Military Committee's investigation of draft deferral policies.

Announcing a meeting of a special sub-committee headed by Representative Costello, California Democrat, May said the group was concerned about the effect of War Manpower Commission Paul McNutt and War Production Board Chairman Donald Nelson to persuade the President to bring about the deferment of non-fathers and the induction of others.

The new draft order leaves untouched about half a million young farmers who are protected by the Tyding amendment to the selective service act providing for deferment of men essential to agriculture.

The War Department said to look with distaste, however, on the large number of young men deferred on farms, in view of the Army's needs for use of those under 26 for combat replacements. Selective service reported that 562,000 men under 26 were deferred in agriculture, of whom 334,000 are in the 18 to 21 age group.

Meanwhile, a new selective service order banning occupational deferments for men under 26 with some significant exceptions, forced the drafting of more fathers, since it left local boards no discretion in giving stays to men 25 and younger. Previously, the deferment prohibition applied only to those 18 through 22 age groups.

**III Feeling Is Revealed In ECTC's Meadows Case**

Sentiment in Greenville Turning Against College Head; Paper Demands Resignation

BY LYNN NISBET  
Daily Dispatch Bureau

Greenville, March 15—(AP)—The statement by Dr. Leon R. Meadows, president of East Carolina Teachers College that one item in the recently published audit report of funds handled by him was "a flagrant attempt of one person to go to extreme lengths in trying to prove that another had a bad money not belonging to him," was the first evidence of ill feeling that has cropped out in the investigation. The college trustees met in board room of the administration building here Tuesday in an adjourned session to give the president opportunity to explain the items questioned in the audit.

The particular amount referred to was \$562.05 for work on piano, the voucher noting that the check had been endorsed back to the college to buy musical instruments, but it later showed up in Meadow's personal bank account. The auditors talked with R. C. Bolling, the man who told them he had done no work for the check, by way of explanation. Meadows showed that Bolling had done considerable work during the winter of 1937-38. The auditors found, however, that other payments of \$496.35 had been made. Meadows further called attention to the fact that though the check was six years old it had not been discovered in any previous audit report of the regular college funds on which it was drawn. He denied any knowledge of the pencil notation about the endorsement which should be used for export production how much is needed to maintain

(Continued on Page Three)

**Seek Accord On Claims Of U. S.-Britain**

London, March 15—(AP)—A determined effort to reach an accord on several basic problems of lend-lease and a score of mounting importance in British-American relations as a potential issue in the presidential campaign is understood to be in progress to clarify the present and future economic positions of Britain and the United States.

The particular amount referred to was \$562.05 for work on piano, the voucher noting that the check had been endorsed back to the college to buy musical instruments, but it later showed up in Meadow's personal bank account. The auditors talked with R. C. Bolling, the man who told them he had done no work for the check, by way of explanation. Meadows showed that Bolling had done considerable work during the winter of 1937-38. The auditors found, however, that other payments of \$496.35 had been made. Meadows further called attention to the fact that though the check was six years old it had not been discovered in any previous audit report of the regular college funds on which it was drawn. He denied any knowledge of the pencil notation about the endorsement which should be used for export production how much is needed to maintain

(Continued on Page Four)

**Finn Delay Over Peace Frets Reds**

Destruction of Finnish Army Is Being Threatened

Stockholm, March 15—(AP)—The Finnish Parliament was summoned to meet again behind closed doors at 3 p.m. on 9 a.m. (EWT) today to consider a reported recommendation by Premier Edwin Linkomies that Finland turn down Russia's armistice terms.

Linkomies was said to have had the recommendation before a secret parliament meeting yesterday and it was confidently expected that today's session would determine whether the Finns will stay in the war.

The prime minister was understood to have told the Parliament that the present Soviet terms were substantially the same as those submitted more than a week ago, and that Finland could not possibly accept them. The Parliament also was told it was reported, that the Russians demanded a decision before end of the week.

An Associated Press dispatch from Moscow said Soviet diplomats there believe that unless the Finns accept Russia's terms soon, Finland can expect "terrible bombings and active operations from the land and sea."

The dispatch added that high Soviet officials were reported rapidly flying to Finland's "pro-Soviet" and that Moscowites were asserting that the Red army immediately should set out to destroy the Finnish army.

**U. S. Bombers Hit Strategic Points In Mid-Germany**

London, March 15—(AP)—United States heavy bombers in "medium-sized forces" smashed at military targets in central Germany today, under strong fighter escort, strategic air force headquarters announced.

Targets and other details were not disclosed, but the German radio said air fleets swept into northwest Germany this morning touching off "major scale air battles" centering over Hanover, 150 miles west of Berlin.

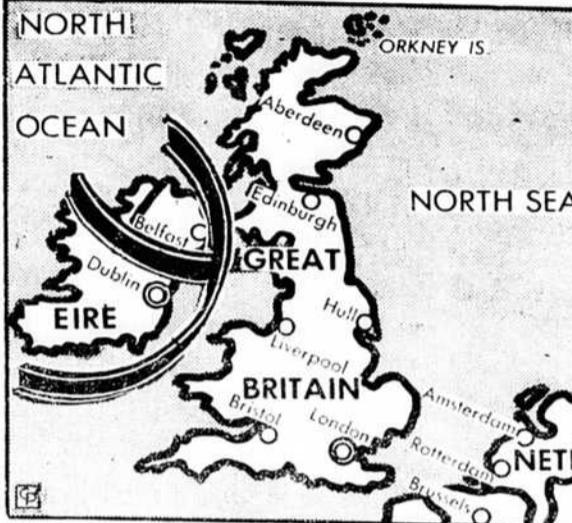
German radio transmitters went off the air as the bombers approached during the middle of broadcasts because of heavy damage to London in a big fire last night.

Later the Berlin radio said German anti-aircraft defenses today were "considerably hampered by weather conditions."

It was the eleventh operation this month for the American four-engined bombers, and the 13th in 17 days.

The daylight blow followed a night raid by Mosquito bombers on Dusseldorf without loss.

**BRITISH DECREE ISOLATES IRELAND**



IN A MOVE to prevent the leakage of news of Allied preparations for opening of the second front, Great Britain has suspended travel between that country and Northern Ireland and Eire. This was done after Prime Minister Emilio de Valera refused to let German and Japanese diplomatic representatives.

**Soviets Wiping Out Nazi Ukraine Units**

**Set for Promotion**



MUCH DECORATED Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle, commander of the Eighth Air Force, has been nominated by President Roosevelt for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general, Doolittle's forces are preparing the way for invasion of the European continent. (International)

**Nikolaev Harbor Closed by Drive; Escape Route Cut**

Moscow, March 15—(AP)—Red Army troops are isolating several trapped Nazi divisions in the southern Ukraine, the Russians said today, and in a smash along the Black Sea coast have closed the harbor at Nikolaev, the only major port in southern Russia still available to the Germans.

Ten thousand Germans in the town killed and 1,000 captured already, a Soviet communiqué said, while trying to break out of the trap sprung by the Third Ukrainian army about 46 miles northeast of Nikolaev. Columns driving in from the north and south formed a ring of steel around the Nazis.

Other Red army troops pushed 14 miles beyond capture Kirovograd to cut the German lines of escape through Nikolaev harbor into the Black Sea. The Red army also closed in on Nikolaev from the north.

To the north also Soviet units were said to have forced a crossing of the Bug river near Gabrovo, a town about fifty miles southeast of Vinnitsa, putting them within sixty miles of the Romanian frontier.

The Russians also announced that the Red army had swept up more than 230 facilities in its advance on three Ukrainian fronts.

The announcement of the encirclement of the German division northeast of Nikolaev followed within three weeks the Russian announcement that Nazi divisions were wiped out in the Krasnodar ring, about 130 miles north of the area.

The German radio said the Soviets had forced a crossing of the Bug river near Gabrovo, a town about fifty miles southeast of Vinnitsa, putting them within sixty miles of the Romanian frontier.

The German radio said the Soviets had forced a crossing of the Bug river near Gabrovo, a town about fifty miles southeast of Vinnitsa, putting them within sixty miles of the Romanian frontier.

The day's raid was the second in the series of attacks on the British Isles by German bombers. The first was on London last night.

The British radio heard by CBS in New York, quoted a German broadcast today as saying the British had been forced into action in the Krasnodar region because of the German penetration in what perhaps might be the result of the fall of Kiev.

The German radio said the Soviets had forced a crossing of the Bug river near Gabrovo, a town about fifty miles southeast of Vinnitsa, putting them within sixty miles of the Romanian frontier.

The British radio heard by CBS in New York, quoted a German broadcast today as saying the British had been forced into action in the Krasnodar region because of the German penetration in what perhaps might be the result of the fall of Kiev.

The total raiding force was estimated at 150 to 200 planes, but how

**Obstacle To Advance Is Obliterated**

**Most Concentrated Bombing Attack of War So Far Made**

Allied Headquarters, Naples, March 15—(AP)—Allied air power devastated Cassino today with history's greatest concentrated bombing attack, and Allied ground forces immediately charged in to drive the Germans from the rubble of the fortress town.

More than 1,100 tons were hurled on a target area of less than a square mile by every type of Allied plane in an armada of 3,000 sorties.

This good news destined of this stronghold where the Germans have been digging the mud into the January advance since the January.

British and American artillery moved out in a fury of shells after the morning-long bombardment stopped.

Cassino, on a main highway to Rome, is 15 miles southwest of that capital and some 60 miles east of the Anzio beachhead.

At 12.45, British and American aircraft began to drop bombs on Cassino, 15 miles from the Anzio beachhead. They were followed by British and American tanks and then British and American troops.

Allied troops who had been holding about one-third of the city were withdrawn quietly during the night to give the bombers a free hand.

First reconnaissance photographs developed after the attack showed that Cassino had been leveled.

Immediately the 100-ton weight of bombs was cast on the buildings and surrounding orchards to the north and northeast, areas where the Germans might attempt another delaying stand at Cassino.

German troops in the Anzio beachhead also were hard hit at the same time.

The Allied planes hitting Cassino turned against the Germans one of the Luftwaffe's own most frightening psychological weapons—whistling devices. Towed to as many heights as possible to see how the enemy stood up under his own type of "screamer."

Little bombers began the assault at 8.30 a.m. (3:30 EWT), and after two formations had gone over the target Flying Fortresses and Liberators came in to pound it from 8.30 a.m. to 11.15. Then B-26 Marauders swooped over the town.

Waver before had such air power an objective in support of ground troops and few other air operations comparable to this.

The tremendous attack had one

(Continued on Page Four)

**Gripsholm Docks With 663 Persons From Nazi Lands**

Jersey City, N. J., March 15—(AP)—The Swedish diplomatic exchange liner Gripsholm edged her way up New York harbor today, bringing home to the Americas 663 refugees, who had been interned in Germany and Nazi-occupied France.

Red Cross workers at the American Export Lines pier said they had received word from the ship that 236 persons aboard would need assistance in locating relatives, obtaining hotel accommodations or finding employment.

**London Digs Out After Worst Recent Bombing**

London, March 15—(AP)—The city of the dead, London was not destroyed. At least thirteen workers were dug down, eleven over England and two outside home. A good part of the raiders' German raids against England are two-crewed, double-pilot night bombers, capable of carrying only a ton of explosives amidst the three tons or more the Allies' four-engine bombers.

The raid, which lasted less than an hour, was the first attack on the British capital since March 2 and touched off a barrage similar to that sent up during last month's "baby blitz."