

Nazis To Occupy All Balkans

"Big Three" To Revise Status Of Charter, Churchill Asserts

1,000 American Planes Drop 1,500 Tons Bombs In Attack Upon Berlin

London, March 22.—(AP)—More than 1,000 American planes showed new destruction on Berlin today, returning to German capital for the first time since March 9. They dropped probably 1,500 tons of bombs.

"Strong forces" of Liberators and Fortress bombers attacked industrial and military targets in Berlin, United States air headquarters announced. Many hundreds of Thunderbolts,

Lightnings and Mustang fighter planes accompanied the bombers.

This was the fifth United States heavy bomber attack against Berlin. Lightning fighter planes started the United States visit with an offensive sweep March 3. A small force of Fortresses bombed the Berlin district the next day, and on March 6 about 100 heavy bombers dropped 2,000 tons of bombs on special targets there. Several hundred bombers made return visits March 8 and 9.

Ceilings For Farm Wages May Be Extended In 1944

Washington, March 22.—(AP)—War Food Administrator Marvin Jones told the Senate Banking Committee today that a policy of setting ceilings on farm wages in some areas may have to be extended this year "in the interest of production."

Appearing in behalf of legislation to continue the stabilization act another year, Jones said that the government reports prices for farm products "are an integral part of the year food production, and have played their part in increasing an output in 1943 which was 22 percent greater than the five-year pre-war average."

"On farm wage ceilings, he said: 'Farmers are likely to become in-

creasedly interested in wage stabilization in 1944. Although farm wages were at a relatively low level when the war started, they have increased substantially.

"There have been some areas, especially during the last season of certain perishable commodities, when the immediate pressing demands of farm wages to reach immediate levels. We have put into effect special wage ceilings in such areas and there may be need for extending such provisions this year in the interest of production."

In announcing continuance of Federal payments to support farm prices, Jones said they "not only encourage the necessary food production, but the relative prices for the various products encourage the most desirable pattern of production."

16 Dead, But 4 Missing In Bus Plunge

Pasadena, N. J., March 22.—(AP)—Police of half a dozen communities yanked today from the banks of the murky Passaic river seeking bodies which float downstream from the Market street bridge, where at least sixteen persons died in the plunge of a bus into the stream Sunday morning.

Searchers continued to work from rafts near the bridge, searching for four persons officially reported missing by police, and six others listed as probably missing by unaffiliated sources. Six other persons who were aboard the intercity bus when it went into the water Monday morning are in good condition at three hospitals.

Crop Insurance Bill To Confront Foes In Congress

Washington, March 22.—(AP)—The newly-introduced crop insurance bill, providing for renewal of government insurance on wheat and cotton next year, and on tobacco, corn and rice beginning in 1945, apparently was slated for hit-and-run opposition in the House today.

In reporting next fiscal year's agriculture bill to the House, the appropriations committee released the new liquidating crop insurance corporation, and Representative Cuddeback, North Carolina Democrat, one of the chief proponents of the legislation, said no effort would be made to amend the bill on the floor.

Whether Meeting Is Planned Not Stated By Prime Minister

London, March 22.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill told Commons today that there would be "renewed consultation between the principal allies" on the application of the Atlantic Charter under the changing phases of the war.

Churchill did not elaborate whether these consultations might take the form of a new meeting of the Allied "big three," as has been rumored.

His reference to the Atlantic charter—on which Churchill only last week refused to schedule an open debate in Commons—arose when Soviet Premier Stalin asked for a clarifying statement "in view of the doubts which existed as to what territories the principles of the Atlantic Charter were to apply."

"It is evident that as the changing phases of the war proceed one another, some further clarifications will be required of the positions under the document, which has become increasingly famous as the Atlantic Charter," Churchill replied, "and that it might be a good subject for renewed consultations between the principal allies."

"I am not prepared to embark on this subject at question time today further than to state that the Atlantic charter stands as a declaration of the spirit and purpose in which our signatures are being made, and that it implies a spirit of bargain with our enemies," Churchill said.

Lapin asked, "May we take it that means that the support of the government to the principles of the Atlantic Charter remain as strong today as when the document was drawn up?"

"I said I was not prepared to embark on this subject at question time further than to make the particular statement I have made," Churchill replied, "but it implies no contradiction of the question that I do not wish to add to what I have said."

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The broadcast apparently sought to declare Rome an open city. Such a unilateral declaration, of course,

London, March 22.—(AP)—New Zealand troops of the Fifth Army, slugging it out with the enemy in savage hand-to-hand fighting are making slow but steady progress in the southern section of Cassino, Allied headquarters announced today.

Fighting equally as bloody raged in the hills to the west from which an estimated thirty pieces of German artillery and many more mortar continued to rain shells into the ruined town.

Allied troops, holding one point on the Monte Cassino slope, were only 100 to 200 yards from two strong German pillboxes, just west of the town, making it particularly difficult for Allied gunners, firing from the valley or the hill beyond, to neutralize the enemy fire without endangering their own men.

The hand-to-hand fighting in Cassino's southern portion was officially described as "very heavy."

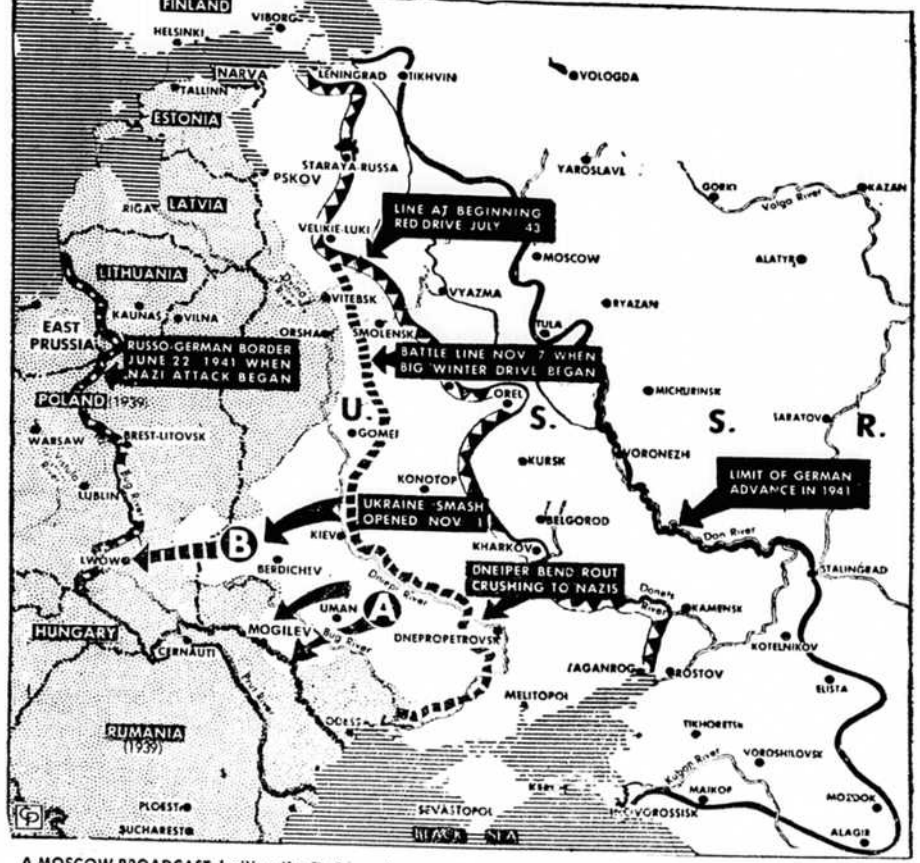
On the Monte Cassino slopes, British troops made a determined attack on two German points last night and were inking it good progress until they ran into a mine field. The Germans, meanwhile, started infiltrating through a gully around the British, forcing them to return to their base.

Nazis Offer To Make Rome "Open City"

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'MARCH TO BERLIN IS ON,' REDS SAY



A MOSCOW BROADCAST, hailing the Red smash across the Dniester River into Bessarabia, has announced that "the Red army troops are going to march to Berlin." This map illustrates the key steps in the sensational "comeback" staged by the Russians. At the moment the huge machine is sweeping into Rumania (A) and will probably cause that country to drop from the war while setting a southern trap for vast number of Nazi troops. Meanwhile at (B) is the main "on to Berlin" drive with Lwow as its next vital goal. (International)

Bulgaria And Rumania To Be Seized

Hungary Taken Over With Only Slight Opposition Raised

London, March 22.—(AP)—German troops, already in control in Hungary, were reported moving today to extend full military occupation to Bulgaria and Rumania, and the Turkish radio expressed the view Hitler soon would place all three countries under one command to intensify the German war effort in southeast Europe.

Advices from neutral capital indicated the Nazi divisions were seizing strategic military and civil administration centers with all the speed and ruthlessness that characterized German troop movements at the start of the war.

Except for minor cases of resistance, the occupying forces apparently were having things all their own way.

The Bulgarian cabinet was said by the Ankara radio to have met in prolonged session yesterday to discuss German demands for active help in the Nazi war against Russia. Bulgaria, at war with Britain and the United States, never has interrupted relations with Russia, long her friend and champion.

London morning newspapers published Ankara dispatches saying it was reported there that Premier Ionu Anonescu of Rumania was planning to seek an armistice with Russia, whose troops already are surging deeply into Bessarabia. Rumania was believed ready to renounce all claims to Bessarabia as one of the armistice conditions, these dispatches said.

A flood of reports about the situation in Hungary agreed on one point only—that 100,000 German troops now completely dominate the country with full control of all railways and communications. There were indications the Nazis were attempting to set up a Quisling regime in Budapest.

Berlin itself remained silent about what is proposed in the Balkans, although a foreign office spokesman indirectly intimated military occupation of the entire area might be proposed.

Before present political developments aimed at strengthening German defense forces there have been concluded, says German statement may be expected," he said, adding: "Germany's allies must now assume burdens equal to those borne by Germany."

Russia said the Nazis "threw in an infantry division just arrived from Denmark," but several German attacks were repulsed and 500 of the enemy were killed.

A bottle of "unparalleled ferocity" was declared by the Germans to be raging around Kovel, a rail junction 100 miles north of Lwow, on the road to Warsaw, but the report was without Soviet confirmation. Kovel is 500 miles from Berlin, the same distance as the Allied invasion forces in Britain.

Reds May Cut Nazi Escape

Savage War Now Raging In Cassino

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Fighting equally as bloody raged in the hills to the west from which an estimated thirty pieces of German artillery and many more mortar continued to rain shells into the ruined town.

Allied troops, holding one point on the Monte Cassino slope, were only 100 to 200 yards from two strong German pillboxes, just west of the town, making it particularly difficult for Allied gunners, firing from the valley or the hill beyond, to neutralize the enemy fire without endangering their own men.

The hand-to-hand fighting in Cassino's southern portion was officially described as "very heavy."

On the Monte Cassino slopes, British troops made a determined attack on two German points last night and were inking it good progress until they ran into a mine field. The Germans, meanwhile, started infiltrating through a gully around the British, forcing them to return to their base.

Mystery Blast In Ammunition Dump Near Oregon City

Pendleton, Oregon, March 22.—(AP)—An explosion containing bombs exploded at the Umatta ammunition storage depot at 9:30 last night and five or six persons are missing, Colonel A. S. Rivers, commanding officer, announced at midnight. He said names of the casualties would be announced as soon as determined.

Cause of the explosion is unknown, he said, but "there is no knowledge of any sabotage."

The force of the blast was felt here, 30 miles southeast, and residents as far away as Lewiston, Idaho, reported feeling the shock.

The ammunition depot covers an area of some ten square miles. The igloos are placed 100 feet apart, almost buried in sandy soil.

Russian Smash Is Near Prut River In Rumania Proper

London, March 22.—(AP)—Russian armies, smashing through Bessarabia in a surge toward the Balkans, have knifed to within thirty miles of the Prut river border of Rumania, Moscow announced today, and other forces striking southward were reported within 48 miles of the major escape road for thousands of Germans in the Odessa bottleneck.

Reinforced by masses of tanks and artillery pouring steadily across the Dniester river, the Russians slashed a trunk railway in their advance toward the Prut, starting line for the southern wave of the 1941 German invasion, a Soviet communique declared. The Russian units sweeping southward also struck to within twenty miles of another escape line for the Germans in the south.

The hammer and sickle was raised above 330 more liberated towns and villages yesterday as the Russians continued to pound the Germans back along the 500-mile front from old Poland to the Black Sea. The Soviet bulletin said the forces striking for Lvov, big Nazi communications hub in old Poland, had crashed into Lvov province. The Russians were within 36 miles of Lvov itself.

In the fighting in old Poland, the

New Zealanders In Hand-to-Hand Grip With Nazis

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Another U. S. Submarine Is Listed Lost

Washington, March 22.—(AP)—Loss of the American submarine Scorpion, the fourth unaccountable disappearance and presumed lost in eight days, was announced by the Navy today.

The Scorpion, carrying 23 the number of American submarines lost since the war started, all but three of them by enemy action, presumably while on patrol in Japanese-controlled waters.

The Scorpion carried a crew of approximately 100 officers and men, all listed as missing in action. Her commanding officer was Commander Alexander G. Schmitt, a native of Boston, Mo.

Loss of the Scorpion, however, did not affect the appearance of the Capelin and Porpoise, listed as overdue and presumed lost, but Saturday, and the Curlew, listed as overdue and lost on March 14.

The new sinking brings to 14 the number of American naval vessels lost since the war started. Compared with that figure, American submarines alone have sunk, probably sunk, or damaged 64 Japanese ships of all types, including some warships.

Invasion Ring Is Drawn Around Japs At Rabaul

Alfred Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Headquarters, March 22.—(AP)—The snapping shut of an invasion ring around thousands of Japanese at Rabaul, Kavieng and in the Solomons by Marines landing in the St. Matthias islands, 380 miles south of Truk, was disclosed today by General Douglas MacArthur.

The hot islands of Emirau, a potential air base, and nearby Elomoso were occupied easily Monday by ground forces from the Solomons, who thus shot the front line of Admiral William F. Halsey from the Green Islands on past the link of New Ireland to a near juncture with General MacArthur's conquerors of the Admiralties.

While the invaders, aided by air and naval cover, brushed aside light opposition, the town of Kavieng on New Ireland, 84 miles to the south-

Where Skidding Bus Took Riders To Death



Here is the snowy scene at the Market Street drawbridge in Passaic, N. J., a few minutes after a crowded bus swerved through the guard rail (break shown by arrow) and carried all its passengers to the bottom of the Passaic River (right). A few men and women floated to the surface after the emergency door of the vehicle came open, but of these less than a dozen were saved, through volunteer rescue workers began tolling at once. Police emergency trucks (near the arrow) and ambulances from several hospitals had arrived when this picture was made. (International)

29 U. S. Soldiers Killed In England In Training Blast

London, March 22.—(AP)—Twenty-nine United States soldiers were killed and eight injured during an accidental explosion during training activities in England, it was announced today. Names were withheld until their families are notified.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Mostly cloudy and warmer tonight. Cloudy and mild with showers Thursday.