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GERMANS SEIZE BALKANS BLACK SEA PORTS

Reds Reach To Carpathian Foothills

Advance Of Soviets Is Speeded Up

German Commanders Unable to Control Rumanian Soldiers

Moscow, March 24—(AP)—Russian troops drew within sight of the Prut river from heights fifteen miles away today and continued their advance in Bessarabia through the first foothills of the Carpathian mountains.

The Prut is the boundary of Rumania proper. The Dniester, which was the prewar boundary, has been reached on a wide front. Five miles beyond the Prut is an important north-south railroad which is the key to northeastern Rumania.

Marshal Ivan Konev's second Ukrainian army was reported increasing the pace of its advance toward the Prut, now that former and higher ground is under foot.

While Konev's swift advance through northeast Bessarabia against Rumanian units, their German commanders appeared unable to hold them together for a determined, concerted stand, field dispatches said.

The Nazis apparently were feeling the strong pressure of the Russian columns toward Czernowitz, important rail and highway city at the foot of the Carpathians, approximately 90 miles west of Mogilev Podolski. They were reported struggling desperately to throw up defense lines around the city as the Soviet drive developed in intensity from the north and the east. Czernowitz is regarded by Soviet military experts as the key to the Rumanian province of Bukovina.

Further north Marshal Zhukov's three-day-old drive which has liberated 200 populated points in a 25-mile advance, took his forces into the heart of the communications area controlling Lwew's connections with the lower Ukraine, the Russians said.

This strong push by the first Ukrainian army also outflanked Tarnopol, front dispatches reported, and left the twin German defense bastion of Proskurov to the east within the Red army's salient. It appeared, these dispatches indicated, that the German counter-offensive in this sector had been broken, and that immediate withdrawal or destruction faces Field Marshal von Manstein's Axis armies.

Zhukov's advance guards were re-

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Irresistible Invader Steps In On War



Fleeing lava, hot and crushing, enters a street on the edge of San Sebastiano, Italy, and American soldiers with local natives watch helplessly a moment before a bombing of the town to doom, as Vesuvius continues in the worst eruption many generations have known. By night and day, the glow and the clouds over the volcano are visible in Naples and more distant points. Many towns have been deserted, the populations being helped in flight by Allied forces and AMG staffs. OWI radiophoto.

Most 18-25 Men Must Fight

Dr. McDonald New Head Of N. C. Teachers

Raleigh, March 24—(AP)—Dr. Ralph McDonald, of Winston-Salem, was installed today as president of the North Carolina Education Association and Mrs. Annie Laurie McDonald, of Hickory, took office as vice-president.

Saves 2 Warships



LT. FREDERICK R. STIEFLITZ, USN, St. Louis, Mo., is the "unknown" navy pilot who saved two cruisers in the Prut area by warning them in time that they were under torpedo attack. He was on a hunt for Zepps when he spotted the torpedo wakes, U. S. Navy photo. (International)

Only Mere Handful of Men Under 26 Will Be Deferred Very Much Longer

Washington, March 24—(AP)—The vast majority of men civilians 18 through 25 years of age are virtually on their way to a fighting war, unless they work on a farm or can't pass a physical test.

Japs Forced Back in India After Attack

New Delhi, India, March 24—(AP)—Admiral Louis Mountbatten's headquarters announced today that Allied troops attacked a Japanese column advancing from the south on the important road junction of Imphal, in India's Manipur river valley, and had driven the enemy from three positions covering the Imphal-Imphal road.

Broughton Given Student Resolves Sent From ECEC

Raleigh, March 24—(AP)—Governor Broughton said today he had received a resolution passed Wednesday night by students of East Carolina Teachers College at Greenville asking that further investigation be made of a State auditor's report that Dr. Leon Meadows, the president, had not satisfactorily accounted for \$18,000 in school and student funds.

Turkey Now Alarmed By Nazi Moves

25 Divisions From Mid-Germany Sent To Bulgaria, Rumania

Ankara, Turkey, March 24—(AP)—The Rumanian legation here confirmed today that Germany has occupied Rumania.

London, March 24—(AP)—Turkish advisers reported today that German reinforcements had been rushed to all points on the Rumanian and Bulgarian coasts of the Black Sea and indicated possible beginning of full-scale occupation of all Rumania as part of Hitler's preparations for a last-ditch stand against the advancing Russian armies.

Turkey herself is said to be sending an anxious eye over the extensive German troop movements throughout southeastern Europe. An Istanbul dispatch said it had been learned reliably here that the Germans were in full control of every Rumanian and Bulgarian city on the Black Sea, with all local troops under the command of Nazi officers.

By one unconfirmed estimate current in Ankara, the Nazis have drawn off 25 divisions from their central reserves in Germany in order to occupy Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

The widening flood of Nazi forces in the Danubian basin and the Balkans reawakened Turkey's 1941 anxieties—fears that were kindled by Germany's move into Rumania and Bulgaria preparatory to the Greek and Yugoslav campaigns.

The Turks, following their established principle of taking precautions against every possible contingency, were said to be re-examining the possibility the Germans might invade Turkish Thrace, the bridgehead into the Balkans and the European route to the Barbantines.

An Associated Press dispatch said a rigorous check in Istanbul in connection with the report that the Germans had begun taking over all facilities in Rumania yesterday failed to produce either confirmation or a denial. Telephone communication between Turkey and Bucharest, the Ru-

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American Bombers Push Into Germany Third Day in Row



DESPERATELY seeking to bolster their cracking eastern defenses against the Soviet drive, German troops are seizing important points in Rumania and Bulgaria, shown on map, and preparing for complete occupation. Hungary has already been taken over. Dotted line shows Reds smashing into Bessarabia at the Prut River. (International)

New High Record Set for Attacks Within One Month

London, March 24—(AP)—American heavy bombers drove into Germany for the third straight day today, bombing military targets in western Germany, a United States communiqué announced, following strong RAF night blows at objectives in France.

These attacks raised to 19—a new high record—the number of attacks in a single month. The previous high for operational missions was 18 in February.

As on yesterday, when a six-pronged assault was made on railroad yards, airport stations and other objectives in western Germany, the heavy bombers today were escorted by strong formations of Lightning, Thunderbolt and Mustang fighters.

RAF heavies, bombing objectives around the industrial city of Lyons in southern France, and the railroad yards of Lyon, 80 miles northwest of Paris, first night brought the total Allied air forces over Germany and occupied territory in 36 hours to between 5,000 and 6,000 planes, it was estimated. Bomb tonnage for that period was boosted to around 7,000.

These RAF planes were lost last night in operations which included Mosquito strikes at the Rhineland communications center of Dortmund, and mine laying missions.

The United States air forces announced that 61 enemy aircraft were knocked down in yesterday's blasting of six targets in Germany, while losing 27 heavy bombers and bombers and fighters.

The RAF's assault on the Lyon yards, 45 miles south of Paris de Caen, the 90-mile deep French deployment which the Allies have been bombing heavily for the last seven months was a part of the coordinated day and night campaign against the network and Belgian railroads leading to the invasion coast.

Eleven raids this month have been directed at this network.

Hull Calls Upon Hungary To Resist Nazis' Occupation

Washington, March 24—(AP)—Secretary of State Cordell Hull called on Hungary today to offer "firm resistance" to German forces of occupation, stating that in this way the Hungarians may hope to "regain the respect and friendship of free nations."

The secretary described Hungary's occupation by the Nazis as a desperate move, prompted by German setbacks, and said Hungary is "the first of the Axis satellites to feel the Nazi whip."

The phrase indicated a belief that Rumania and Bulgaria probably were also on the Berlin list for occupation.

U.S. Opposes Recognition Of DeGaulle

Final Agreement On Pre-Invasion Issue Waits British View

Washington, March 24—(AP)—The United States government is strongly opposed to recognizing the French national committee as the sole governing authority for France, but final determination of Allied policy on this pre-invasion issue is awaiting reaction of the British government to the American position.

It is considered possible here that the British may come up with a conflicting view, but some sort of compromise is expected.

The negative points of Allied policy for France are more clearly established at present than the positive line of action. There will be no dealings with the Vichy government or others who have "voluntarily" in the State Department's words, cooperated with the Germans.

Also it is considered certain that the Allied military government organization, which has been used in Italy, will not function in France, but that matter in any other Allied country, to be liberated of German control.

The positive points of American policy for France were finally spelled out by President Roosevelt about ten days ago, after recommendations had passed from the War and State Departments, into his hands several weeks before. Daily he has been reading a memorandum and some news items reported that he considered the British position to be in line with his own.

The President's question is underlined on excellent authority to have covered his own points directly or by implication.

In arranging the government of French territories liberated by Allied armies, General Eisenhower, Allied

Nelson Speaks in Favor Of Limited Service Act

Washington, March 24—(AP)—Donald M. Nelson, the nation's war production boss, today expressed favor for a "limited" national service act.

Such an act, he told the House Military Committee, would be preferable to broad national service legislation, and, he said, would go a long way toward solving the manpower problem.

Testifying before the committee, which is investigating draft defec-

WASHINGTON WRITER SUDDENLY STRICKEN

Washington, March 24—(AP)—Jesse Samuel Cottrell, former diplomat and longtime special correspondent in the national capital for newspapers in various parts of the country, including the Ch.lotte, (N. C.) Observer, died suddenly early today at his home in nearby Arlington, Va. He was 65 years old. Ill for a time last year, he had apparently recovered and had been active recently in the management of his news bureau, operated jointly with his wife, Mary Jane Cottrell.

Tobacco Meet In Favor Of New Quotas

Raleigh, March 24—(AP)—Tobaccoists of the Carolina and Virginia advocated today passage of the Cooley bill to extend the life of the quota system for two years, and left to a committee the drafting of a resolution calling for a differential between ungraded and graded leaf tobacco.

Named to the committee were H. A. McGee, of Florence, S. C.; E. G. Moss, of Oxford; R. E. L. Green, N. C. State College; M. R. Buffum, specialist with the State Agriculture Department and E. M. Matthews of Chatham, Va.

Accuses FCC

Charging that a U. S. Naval task force in Alaskan waters was trapped by the Japs as the result of "bungling" by the Federal Communications Commission, Rep. Louis E. Miller of Missouri says he will produce witnesses to verify the statement. He made the disclosure at a House Committee hearing. (International Soundphoto)

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Fair and slightly cooler tonight. Saturday fair to partly cloudy and warm.