

NAVY IS JUBILANT OVER DEFEAT OF JAPS

Political Isolation Of Germany Is Aim Of New U. S. Moves

Asks Speedier Aid



LT. GEN. Robert K. S. Lim, China's top medical officer, arriving in the U. S. by air from Chungking, urges local authorities to speed medical aid to China. Fatalities among Chinese wounded, he says, have dropped from 50% in 1937 to about 5% at present. (International)

Attempt Expected To Swing Neutrals Into Allied Camp

Washington, April 8.—(AP)—New American moves to surround Nazi Germany with a tight ring of non-cooperating neutrals is expected in the near future. They are necessary to prepare for the day of invasion. Fresh efforts may be expected, if they have not already been undertaken, to have Turkey and Spain shut off shipments of essential metals and clamp down on espionage and to get Turkey into the war before it is too late. England's severance of communications with Ireland, where Axis diplomats still have a foothold, may be reinforced by a fourth American appeal to the Irish government to break with the enemy. Many experts would not be surprised at efforts to persuade hard-pressed Sweden to break her remaining commercial ties with Germany. Sweden's resistance to German pressure would be much stronger if Finland were out of the war, and hope persists here that a Russo-Finnish peace will yet be agreed upon in time to shock German morale and to provide a shot in the arm for the demoralized Finns.

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DRAFT IS RELAXED ABOVE 26

New York, April 8.—(AP)—New York City draft headquarters announced today revocation of nationwide orders from Major General Hershey, national selective service director, to halt induction of all men more than 26 years old, who are making a contribution to essential agriculture, war production or war supporting activities. The order is to be applied, officials said, until draft boards are satisfied that the processing of men under 26 is completed. Colonel McDermott, city selective service director, said the order, which went out to all State directors, applied to all men more than 26 "even though such men have been found acceptable for military service or have been ordered to report for induction or pre-induction physical examinations."

Colonel McDermott informed the 280 local boards in New York City that the order was "effective immediately." This means, he told the boards, that even men scheduled for induction Monday who are over 26 and who come within the new classification will not be inducted pending further instructions. No distinction is made between fathers and non-fathers in the national order. Colonel McDermott said. Moreover, he added, "It is not required that they be 'necessary men' or engaged in activities listed as 'essential' or in occupations listed as 'critical.'"

Although inductions of men over 26 will stop, McDermott said, "It is not considered advisable" at the present time to postpone pre-induction physical examinations for this age group. STATE BOARD IS NOTIFIED OF ORDER BY WASHINGTON. Raleigh, April 8.—(AP)—Major Charles Jones of State selective service headquarters, said today that telegrams had been sent to all North Carolina draft boards ordering them to halt induction of all men over 26 years of age now in essential activities. Jones said the North Carolina boards were notified after receipt of a directive from Major General Lewis B. Hershey, national selective service director. Jones said Hershey's directive went to all selective service boards in the nation. The order, Jones said, applies to all men more than 26, "even though such men have been found acceptable for military service, or have been ordered to report for induction or pre-induction physical examinations."

Democrats Cheer Gains Over Prices

Republicans Claim Serious Fumbles on Wages and Prices

Washington, April 8.—(AP)—Administration claims to have held the line against inflation for the past year drew cheers from Senate Democrats today but Republican scorekeepers charged serious fumbles on wage controls and price subsidies. Democratic Leader Barkley, of Kentucky, termed "optimism that is justified" a report by heads of the Offices of Economic Stabilization, Price Administration and War Food Administration and the War Labor Board, which said prices and wages have been kept stable since President Roosevelt's "hold the line" order was issued a year ago today. With less enthusiasm, Acting Republican Leader White of Maine commented that the four officials "recommended themselves and their work pretty highly."

And while there was general agreement that the stabilization act would be extended for another year, Senator Butler, Nebraska Republican, renewed demands for abolition of consumer food price subsidies. Also, Senator Taft, Ohio Republican, said there is a steady increase in labor costs and uncontrolled raw materials, which is driving many small business men out of business and bringing about black markets.

U. S. Bombers Strike Again Upon Berlin

London, April 8.—(AP)—Great fleets of American heavy bombers and fighters thundered back into Germany today, blasting the aircraft industries of Brunswick, and airdromes in the northwest, and provoking the German air force into the first major air battle this month. United States headquarters announced today that the bombers had destroyed 1,200 planes and a host of three Allied heavy bombers and seven other planes.

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RECKONING DAY NEAR TWO YEARS AFTER BATAAN



ON APR. 10, 1942, the 26,850 starving, diseased, munitions-stripped American and Filipino defenders of Bataan were forced to give up the rocky peninsula. Their terrible fate on "the March of Death" was a nightmare sequel only recently revealed. So April 10, 1944, two years after, intent on avenging Bataan, U. S. ships, planes and men crash at the very gate to the Philippines and echo the famous MacArthur pledge: "We will return!" The map (with an inset (1) showing the island of Luzon, Bataan and the location of the "March of Death") illustrates the present course of our drive, which grows in intensity and picks up in speed. Shaded area indicates territory entirely in U. S. hands, but it must also be noted that even though the Japs have not been driven off Ibabao in the Philippines, the Marshalls have virtually been mopped up; the clearing of New Guinea progresses with the smashing of Hollandia; the Jap fleet has been chased into hiding; we can readily smash at Truk and the Pacific sea lanes have been penetrated to Palau, which is 500 miles from Mindanao. (International)

28 Warships, 160 Planes Lost By Foe

Not One American Warship Damaged; 25 Airplanes Lost

United States Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, April 8.—(AP)—Navy officials were jubilant today over official reports that American warships dominated waters 600 miles from the Philippines for three days while hundreds of planes based on aircraft carriers showered destruction in the Carolines, more than 1,000 miles west of Truk. Not one warship was damaged and only 25 planes were lost as the price for sinking 23 enemy planes, damaging 10, including a battleship, definitely destroying 100. Nipponese planes, probably working 54 more and steering into Palau, Yap, Ulithi and Western American personnel losses total 22 airmen.

This feat of not losing a warship matched the task force performance February 16 and 17 at Truk, where 25 enemy ships were sunk, six destroyed, and 201 planes destroyed and February 22 in the Marshalls, where two enemy ships were sunk, one damaged and 150 planes wiped out. Palau, long fortified Japanese naval base 500 miles east of the Philippines and 600 miles from Pearl Harbor, was overwhelmed and powerfully bombarded for two days. Large warships destroyed the stronghold before the Axis war armada could reach attack position. March 29, but on the night of the 29th, a fleeing Japanese battleship was torpedoed and severely damaged by a submarine which slipped past screening destroyers. Then, throughout March 29 and 30, Palau was pounded by hundreds of carrier planes. At least 93 and probably 122 Nipponese interceptors went down in flames trying to stem these attacks. From 29 to 30 more were wrecked aground or in the water.

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Jap Pressure Strengthened In India Area

New Delhi, India, April 8.—(AP)—Steady Japanese pressure in the Kohema area of India was reported today by Admiral Mountbatten's command, but the bulletin said no important engagements have yet taken place.

Kohema is 60 miles north of Imphal at the junction of the Imphal-Manipur highway. Mountbatten said that Allied troops operating in the hills overlooking Imphal plain in the north of the big British base had overlooked one important feature and have improved their positions in that area. There was a slackening of action on the Tiddim-Imphal road to the south, where the 17th Indian division finally fought its way clear of the last Japanese road intersection to join the main advance in the Kohema area, was described here as of a "prolonged nature. This town is important in the line of communications leading back to the Bengal-Assam railway, which took the north Burma offensive of Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell and the China air supply route. The Japanese have been reported within 25 miles of the railway after cutting the Imphal-Kohema road along fifteen miles of its length.

Reds Reach Czech Border Stalin's Order Announces

London, April 8.—(AP)—Red army troops have reached the Czechoslovak-Rumanian frontier in their rolling westward offensive. Premier Josef Stalin announced today in a special order of the day. Marshal Zhukov's forces have lured up to "our state frontier" at the foothills of the Carpathians along a 124-mile front, and are "pushing the retreating enemy" after capturing more than 30 additional places in Rumania proper, the announcement said. Today's announcement was the first official mention of the drive through Rumania proper since last Monday, when it was announced that more than 50 places had been captured inside the border. The language "our state frontier" was the same as that used by Stalin to describe the reaching of the Prut river, the Rumanian frontier, several days ago.

Germans Fleeing From Odessa

WILLKIE AFTER QUITTING RACE



THIS INFORMAL PHOTO of Wendell Willkie was snapped as he arrived in Union Station, Chicago, while on his way to New York. He had just informed reporters that he had nothing to say about politics. Some hours before, he had announced in Omaha his withdrawal from the 1944 Republican presidential nomination race. (International Soundphoto)

Republicans Worry Now Over Willkie's Silence

Washington, April 8.—(AP)—Wendell L. Willkie, who was accused by some of his Republican critics of "taking too much" may give his worried party colleagues the silent treatment for a while. Aides said today that Willkie probably will go to Koshville, Ind., soon for a rest. While none of them proposed to speak for the retired presidential candidate, they said they would be surprised if he makes known his future plans within the next few weeks. Willkie's abrupt withdrawal from the presidential race without any hint as to his future party course has left Republican officials wondering if he will support the convention's nominee. He had nothing whatever to say on that subject when he returned to New York yesterday. While there has been conjecture that the 1940 nominee might jump the fence and return to the Democratic party, Senator Taft, Ohio Republican, said he thought it would be logical to expect Willkie to continue the course he set in his 13-day Wisconsin campaign—pointing out what he considers party faults and working to correct them. "His influence along that line perhaps will be greater now than when he was candidate for the nomination," said Taft, who is supporting Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio for the nomination. There remains, of course, the possibility that President Roosevelt might

Panic Reigns In Cities As Reds Arrive

Moscow, April 8.—(AP)—Germans and Rumanians were reported in flight from Odessa today as the Russian army drew tight a siege arc which pressed as close as nine miles to the northeast of the big Black Sea port, scene of long-drawn Soviet resistance in 1941. A deserter by Captain Touray to Red Star said one group of the third Ukrainian army caught an enemy column hurrying from the city along a narrow muddy road northwest of the port, and achieved so great a surprise that the enemy was unable to put up resistance. The road was severed, he said, hundreds of the invaders were thrown back into the icy Danester swamps. Great panic swept through little outskirts villages as Russian cavalry and tanks, followed by infantry, broke down one defense line after another in the five-mile-wide land corridor approaching Odessa from the north east, a correspondent reported. The rear of battle sounded in Odessa's streets. Forty-five miles northwest of the Black Sea metropolis, the Russians have encircled still another group of the enemy, five to six divisions, comprising 25,000 to 50,000 men, above the rail junction of Rzhdelyna, which was captured Wednesday. A Russian communique said 5,000 Germans were killed and more than

20 and over group. Fathers to be given more liberal consideration. 17's—Those not already employed in essential occupation warred by Manpower Commissioner McNott, Draft Director Hershey and a House military committee which has been considering draft legislation, to apply immediately for such work. Today most local draft boards were in receipt of the latest selective service instructions on the drafting of available men, instructions dividing those of draft age into the three age brackets. Although dependency as a test for deferment has long since yielded to job essentiality and age, the boards were told that prewar fathers 26 and over normally will be accorded job deferments in preference to non-fathers. In the case of men over 30 the boards were told to go easier

make some resolution overture to Willkie, men as that which placed the Republican Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Knox, in the cabinet shortly before the party's 1919 nominating convention. (Continued on Page Six.)

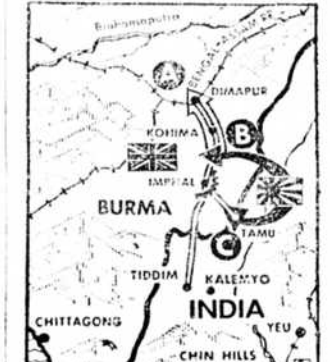
WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Partly cloudy southeast tonight and Sunday; continued mild.

Manpower-Draft Picture Outlined In Brief Form

Washington, April 8.—(AP)—This is the manpower and draft picture as of today: Age group 18 through 24—No job deferments unless endorsement as key man is obtained from State draft director or man is employed in farming, merchant marine or Army transport corps. Age group 25 through 29—Job deferments will be granted only for "necessary men" in war production or war effort, supporting work, this requirement to be "strictly applied." Age group 30 and over—Necessary man requirement to be applied less strictly. Fathers: 18 to 25 groups—No consideration as fathers. 26 to 29—To be given some consideration over non-fathers, other deferment factors being equal.

Jap Rail Thrust



ATTEMPTING to reach the Bengal-Assam railroad lines (A) Jap forces invading India are reported to have taken a strip of highway between the supply bases of Imphal and Kohima (B) but are meeting with stiff resistance. The Japs are claiming gains at Tannu (C), an important link in the road. (International)

Slight Gain Made By U. S. Forces In Area Below Rome

Allied Headquarters, Naples, April 8.—(AP)—An American combat patrol, after a sharp contact with the Germans, has established a new strong point northwest of Paticione, slightly improving the Allied lines on the central sector of the beachhead below Rome, headquarters announced today. On the east flank of the beachhead Allied artillery, mortars and tanks assigned to fire and enemy buildings were gradually demolishing from repeated bombardment. Allied guns also knocked out a tank, three miles north of Cassino, 21 miles below Rome. The Nazis continued to pour a harassing fire over the beachhead, but generally they are pinned on the defensive. Attempted enemy infiltrations at these points were repulsed. The air forces again hammered heavily at German and Rumanian forces in Italy yesterday, flying about 1,200 sorties and destroying 31 enemy planes for a loss of three Allied heavy bombers and seven other planes.

Reds Reach Czech Border Stalin's Order Announces

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