



Our world...

Italians on Defensive Lose Ground

Athens, Nov. 18.—More than 30,000 Italian troops, fighting a desperate defensive battle to save themselves and huge military stores in the Fascist base city of Koritza in Albania, called up their airmen to cover their retreat, a Greek government spokesman said tonight. Italian counterattacks against the Greek mountain troops who threatened to cut the only road of escape for the Fascist legions had ceased late today. More Italian prisoners and war equipment fell into Greek hands, and the Italian air onslaughts were of "no importance," the Fascists losing an average of eight planes to one in the fighting, the spokesman reported.

Big Boast by Benito

Rome, Nov. 19.—Premier Benito Mussolini, in a vigorous speech, described as the most realistic he ever made, foreshadowed still closer German-Italian co-operation yesterday in the axis task of destroying the British Empire. Observers saw in it the first axis hint that the war will not be short. Il Duce minimized the time element in the campaign against Greece, whose backbone he promised to break. "Once I have started, no one can stop me," Il Duce asserted, boasting that Italy had an additional 8,000,000 men. Although Mussolini gave confident assurance that the axis "holds victory in its fist," he admitted that the British scored a victory at Taranto. "Greece is a tricky enemy," Il Duce said. "The Greeks hate Italy more than any other nation. We will break the backbone of Greece; whether it takes two weeks or two months is unimportant. The war has just started."

Can Japan Be Weary?

Hong Kong, Nov. 18.—After 40 months of war in China, Japan was reported today to be seeking direct peace negotiations with Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. These reports, attributed to Tokyo sources, lacked any official confirmation. Rumors of Japanese peace feelers were circulated last week in Chungking, but Chinese military spokesmen there said that, instead of thinking of peace, China was preparing for three years more of war if necessary. The Japanese decision to make peace overtures, the Tokyo reports said, was reached November 13 by the Imperial conference, which includes Japan's highest military and political leaders.

Britain's Bombers Range Far

London, Nov. 18.—The heavy bombardment of an Italian port in Africa and a bomb attack on an Italian base in Albania were reported by the British tonight in a series of far-ranging blows apparently intended to help their Greek and Ethiopian allies as well as to defend the empire against the Axis. The Admiralty announced that blazing guns of light naval units took a heavy toll of port services at Dante, Italian Somaliland. The Admiralty only yesterday said light naval units had bombarded Mogadiscio, principal port of Italian Somaliland, and well down the Indian ocean coast from Dante. Almost simultaneously today, the Air ministry news service announced that R. A. F. bombers raided Elbasani, an Italian base in Albania, south of Tirana. Far to the north, British bombers struck through a gale on the English channel and pounded German batteries on the French coast while the bad weather cut German air attacks on London almost to zero.

More Mysterious Explosions

Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 18.—The third mysterious explosion within a week in a plant of the American Cyanamid and Chemical Corporation did damage estimated at \$250,000 at the company's factory at Bridgeville near Pittsburgh. This building, one of the largest of 45 on the 65-acre grounds, was shattered by the blast. Two workmen were injured.

Stormy Leader Plans to Resign

Atlantic City, N. J., Nov. 18.—With the mist of tears in his eyes, John L. Lewis solemnly told his C. I. O. legions today that he was stepping down as their leader and fervently bid them to carry on with unified leadership the militant organization he founded five years ago. In a hall packed with 500 delegates to C. I. O.'s third national convention, Lewis gave notice that he was fulfilling his pre-election promise to retire as C. I. O. president if President Roosevelt was re-elected.

A Sad Accident Near Stratford

Last Friday morning Mrs. Sarah Sturgill suffered a stroke, fell into an open fire and was severely burned. Mrs. Sturgill lives at the old home near the Irwin School building, Stratford, with her son, George. She had sent her son's wife to the mail box and while she was alone the stroke came and she fell into the open fire. Her head, face and shoulders were badly charred and disfigured and only slight hope is held for her recovery.

ALLEGHANY STAR-TIMES

OVER HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

52nd Year. No. 14.

Sparta, N. C.

Thursday, November 21, 1940.

J. L. Joines Tells Sparta Pupils How He Learned 3 Rs.

With his old Blue-Back Speller, a worn copy of Fowler's Arithmetic and an old-time slate under his arm, John L. Joines, 76, walked over two miles last Friday to fulfill a speaking engagement at Sparta High School.

The aged pioneer of Alleghany grew up in the picturesque surroundings of Whitehead and got his "book larnin'" there in a little rural school-house.

Mr. Joines spoke to a crowded auditorium of students about "perpetuating individual liberties and present day opportunities." Although this was said to be the old gentleman's first address before a student body, he put his message across to the attentive pupils with the art of a veteran platform speaker. Mr. Joines spiced his remarks with humor and personal experiences, while from time to time he would do a little pantomiming to illustrate some point, much to the delight of his young audience.

He pointed out that education and advancement are attained by hard climbing, not all at once, but "step by step." Striking a reminiscent mood the bearded speaker harked back to the days long ago when he would sprawl out before a raging pine-knot fire and study the three Rs. He cited the great progress education has made since his day, and reminded the pupils that they were the statesmen, governors and even presidents of tomorrow, and that they should diligently prepare themselves for the roles they may play in the affairs of our country in the future.

Very few speakers have the ability to hold in such rapt attention so large a group of combined grammar grade children and High School youth. Mr. Joines spoke for an hour and twenty minutes, and the warm salvos of applause he received throughout his talk was the best indication of both the faculties' and students' appreciation of the elder Alleghany farmer.

Mr. Joines' address came as a fine climax to Sparta High School's observation of American Education Week.

43,000 Strong Red Cross Nursing Reserve Called For Defense Duty



Top, Red Cross speeds enrollment of reserves to serve U. S. Army and, right, to guard public health. Oval, Mary Beard, National Director of Nursing Services.

Tom W. Smith Found Dead in Car Near Roaring Gap

Tom Walter Smith, 35, of Roaring Gap was found dead in his automobile at the fire lookout tower near Roaring Gap, Saturday morning, it is reported.

There was no question but that Smith, who had brooded much of late over a protracted illness, had taken his own life by carbon monoxide poisoning. When he was discovered, the motor of his car was running and gas fumes from the exhaust were flowing inside the car through a piece of garden hose which had been attached to the exhaust pipe and squeezed through the window.

A note addressed to his wife was found in his pocket intimating that failing health had driven him to use suicide as the way out of suffering.

Smith is reported to have been seen Saturday morning by friends at a filling station near the entrance of the Roaring Gap resort grounds. They described him as being in a "highly nervous condition." Less than an hour later his lifeless body was found in the parked car.

His widow and two children are the immediate survivors.

The funeral was held at Antioch Methodist Church, near the Smith home, at 11 o'clock Monday morning. His body was interred in the church graveyard.

Woman's Christian Society Meets at Dr. Choate's Home

The Woman's Society of Christian Service held its monthly meeting at Dr. Burt Choate's residence, Thursday. Mrs. Dobbins presided, Mrs. Vergie Burchette and Mrs. Leonard Halsey both presented missionary readings. Miss Imogene Choate favored the gathering with a solo, "I am an American," accompanied by Mrs. Genevieve Mead at the piano. Climaxing the afternoon's program Mrs. Mack Parsons gave a splendid talk on foreign missionary activities.

After the meeting the society discussed ways and means for raising funds for a project the ladies have in mind. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

The next meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service is slated for 2 p. m. on Friday, Dec. 13, at the home of Mrs. Reeves, Four Oaks Tavern.

I bought a wooden whistle, but it was wooden whistle. So I bot a steel whistle, But steel it wooden whistle. Then I bot a lead whistle, Steel they wooden lead me whistle. So I bot a tin whistle, And now I tin whistle.

Information Clerk: "Madam, this train goes to Omaha and points west."

Lady: Young man, I want a train to Oshkosh and I don't care which way it points."

Roy J. Barker

ELKIN, N. C.

INSURANCE That Protects and SERVICE That Satisfies

By Irv Tirman

SPEAKING OF SAFETY
ACTORS JUST LOVE THE SPOTLIGHT.
EVEN THE FISH CAN BE LURED BY THE BRIGHT LIGHTS.
GIRLS DON'T OBJECT TO BEING DAZZLED WITH DIAMONDS.
BUT NO DRIVER ENJOYS LOOKING INTO THE GLARING LIGHTS OF AN ONCOMING CAR WHOSE DRIVER IS TOO SELFISH OR TOO DUMB TO DIM THEM!

NAPPY
BOXING TODAY
ADMISSION - 1!
WELL! THAT'S THAT! LET'S SEE HOW TH' OTHER FELLAS ARE DOIN'!
YOU GUYS SEEM T'BE DOIN' VERY NICELY! NICE GOIN'!
Y'DO US PROUD, GENTS!
YEAH! HOW ABOUT SOME HELP YOU GUYS?
WE'D LIKE T'HELP YOU GUYS BUT WE CAN'T!! Y'SEE, I'M TAKIN' CARE O' GOOBER. --- HE'S SO SICK IF HE DID ANY WORK HE'D PROBLY FAINT!
SO WOULD WE!