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Not War—Only Defeat—Destroys the Freedom Of Men And The Privileges Of Democracy

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ *Final*

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NAZIS IN FULL RETREAT IN CAUCASUS

American Warships Strike Boldly In Solomons

BAN ON PLEASURE DRIVING ORDERED

Will Cancel Gas Rations If Violated

Presence of Cars at Places of Sport Or Amusement Enough for Action

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — The Office of Price Administration today outlawed all pleasure driving by holders of "A," "B" and "C" gasoline ration cards on the Atlantic Seaboard and prescribed the cancellation of gasoline rations as the penalty for failure to comply.

The aid of all State, County and Municipal law enforcement agencies in the seventeen Eastern states and District of Columbia is being asked to help the Federal Government in preventing pleasure driving, by reporting violations to local ration boards or local OPA offices.

"The presence of passenger cars at any gathering for purposes of sport or amusement will be taken as prima facie evidence that gasoline rations and tires are being dissipated needlessly and illegally," OPA said. "The ban on pleasure driving will also apply to driving to purely social engagements."

CUT FUEL RATIONS

Simultaneously, OPA declared fuel oil heating of all buildings except those used for residential purposes in the East would be "cut substantially within the next 24 hours." No details were given.

The drastic prohibition on pleasure motoring was reinforced by an OPA warning that "even more serious measures" are being prepared to be

See BAN DRIVING on page 8

Airfield On New Georgia Island Is Bombarded

Hit Heart of Jap Defense Zone

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

American warships boldly steaming into the heart of the Japanese defense zone in the Solomons have successfully bombarded the airfield at Munda, New Georgia Island, 180 miles northwest of Guadalcanal, where the enemy has been developing an important base.

The foray, announced in a Navy Department bulletin, was the deepest northwest thrust by U. S. surface ships so far reported in the immediate waters of the Solomon Archipelago.

JAP PLANES DRIVEN

The communique said Japanese bombers tried to intercept the warships but were driven off by four Grumman "Wildcat" Navy fighter planes which shot four into the Pacific and probably destroyed two others. It said the action occurred in the pre-dawn darkness of yesterday.

The sea attack was part of a two-fisted assault by Allied forces on Japanese bases menacing the American hold on Guadalcanal. Heavy bombers were credited officially today with sinking or damaging ten enemy ships in Rabaul Harbor, New Britain. One was destroyed with a direct hit.

In the background of these attacks was an Australian warning that Japan was massing a new war fleet in the Southwest Pacific.

In all, 50,000 tons of shipping suffered under the newest blows of the bombers which have been making Rabaul, capital of New Britain Island, the objective of concentrated attacks ever since the Solomon Islands campaign

See U. S. SHIPS on page 8

Silver Star for Beaufort Seaman

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Navy announced today the award of a Silver Star Medal to Lt. Commander Ernest J. Davis of Beaufort, N. C., for gallantry in the battle of Midway last June.

Davis, gunnery officer aboard the aircraft carrier Yorktown which sank as the result of damage suffered in the battle, was among four officers and two enlisted men decorated.

Davis' citation said his gunnery department, imbued with an incomparable fighting spirit, destroyed many attacking aircraft.

"From his dangerously exposed position, personally directing the batteries, he was largely responsible for the fighting effectiveness of these groups," it added.

LEADERS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY — Representative John Kerr Jr. of Warren County (left) and Senator J. Hampton Price of Rockingham County were nominated for House speaker and Senate president pro-tem in the Democratic caucus last night in Raleigh. Nomination being evuivalent to election, the two assumed their posts today as the General Assembly convened today. (Special photo by Laurence Worford.)

Russian Forces Drive Hard On German Heels

Invaders Blow Up Bridges, Mine Roads in Effort To Check Reds

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW —(AP)— The German Army was reported in full retreat in the Caucasus today, blowing up bridges and mining roads in a desperate effort to check the surging advance of Russian forces driving hard at its heels.

Red Star, organ of the Soviet Army, said Russian forces, which already had stormed and won the important towns of Mozdok, Nalchik, Prokhladnenski, Kotlyarevskaya and Maiskoye, continued their sweeping advance along a wide front, winning back a large number of additional towns.

The entire province of north Ossetia, lying between Ordzhonikidze and Nalchik, had been won back under the Red banner by Soviet forces operating along the west bank of the Terek River, while other Russian troops rolled the Germans back to the north, Red Star asserted.

To the north, along the lower Don, the Russians were reported fighting forward after overrunning the important Nazi bridgehead town of Tsimlyansk and thus driving a second spearhead within 125 miles of Rostov, whose fall might doom the entire German forces in the Caucasus.

The first spearhead was thrust earlier southwest of Kamensk to a point about 100 miles northwest of the great Don mouth port of Rostov.

HALF-MILLION RETREAT

(Reuters, British news agency, estimated in London that more than a half million of Adolf's finest troops were in full retreat in the Caucasus and the middle Don.)

Red Star said the main line of German fortifications at the Eastern end of the Caucasus front was shattered Monday when the Russians stormed the approaches to Nalchik and occupied the city after a terrific street battle.

Soviet troops were said to have pursued the Germans northward from this sector across a western branch of the Terek River. In a twelve-mile final thrust yesterday, Red Star said, the Russians drove into and captured the town of Prokhladnenski, 30 miles northeast of Nalchik.

Prokhladnenski is the juncture where the trunk line Caucasus Railroad from Rostov to the Baku oil fields meets a branch line running south to Ordzhonikidze.

Still other forces rolled the Germans back to the west at an accelerated rate, with tanks and in-

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Six Die in Chicago Fire

More Than 100 Hurt At Bowling Alley

CHICAGO.—(AP) — Six persons were killed and more than 100 injured in a fire and explosion in a bowling alley on the far South Side shortly before last midnight. Many of the 200 patrons who escaped to the street were blown through doors by the force of the blast.

The sixth body, that of Joseph R. Bingham, 41, was recovered from the ruins today more than eight hours after the blaze started. Fire Marshal Anthony Mullaney estimated the damage at $150,000. **$150,000 DAMAGE**

The fire burned for several hours and damage was estimated by Fire Marshal Anthony Mullaney at $150,000.

Scores of injured, most of them with burns on the face, neck and hands, were treated at nearby first aid stations.

Approximately one-fifth — 30 pieces — of the city's fire equipment answered the 5-11 alarm. Firemen were hampered by temperatures well below freezing and vehicles were slowed by icy streets.

Indian Papers Strike Over Riot Censorship

NEW DELHI —(AP)— Nearly 100 Indian daily and weekly newspapers went on a one-day strike today in protest against censorship of incidents growing out of disturbances last August, the All-India Newspaper Editors Conference said.

There was an outbreak of violence in Chimar, in the central provinces, last August and the current protest is aimed at censorship of activities of the authorities in quelling it.

Rayburn Re-Elected Speaker Of House

Tells Body That After Victory Won Axis Vandalism Must Be Wiped Out

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — Speaker Rayburn told a cheering House today that when victory at war is won "this time there must be no stopping until the vandalism and paganism of Berlin, Rome and Tokyo are wiped from the face of the world."

"We must disarm these vandals and keep them disarmed," Rayburn said. He had shortly before been re-elected House Speaker as the 78th Congress convened.

He told the House that this nation would be confronted with "world - shaking" problems at the war's end and that the problems of "trade and commerce, peace and civilization must be looked to."

Simultaneously, the Texan pledged that it would be his "unswerving determination" as Speaker "to protect, to defend the rights, the prerogative and the powers of the House.

MARTIN BEATEN

Rayburn defeated Representative Joseph Martin, Republican, Massachusetts, who, as a result of the outcome, automatically became the minority leader. Representative McCormack, another Bay State lawmaker, was renamed Democratic floor leader at a party caucus yesterday.

The vote for Speaker was: Rayburn, 217; Martin, 206, on strict party lines.

Martin had been nominated by

See RAYBURN on page 8

Congress Sidelights

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Sidelights on the opening session of the 78th Congress today:

Only a scattering of uniformed men watched the proceedings from the House and Senate galleries.

Senator Bilbo, Democrat, Mississippi, contrary to custom, kept his seat when Senator Eastland, Democrat, Mississippi, his colleague, went to the rostrum to take his oath. Senator McKellar, Democrat, Tennessee, escorted Eastland, who defeated Senator Doxey, Democrat, Mississippi, whom Bilbo had supported.

Despite political enmity, which included a recent complaint by Senator Murray, Democrat, Montana, that he won re-election over the opposition of the "Wheeler political machine," Senator Wheel-

See SIDELIGHTS on page 8

Speed Marks First Day Of Assembly

Nine-Month School Bill Introduced; Kerr and Price Named Leaders

RALEIGH. — (AP) — A bill to set up a statewide nine-months school term, endorsed by both major political parties, was introduced in the House today as the North Carolina Legislature rapidly organized in near-perfect harmony.

The measure, introduced by Representative Gass of Forsyth, would lengthen the public school term from the present 160 days to 180 days, but would be optional. The State and County Boards of Education would be authorized to determine whether the longer term would be advisable. Some sections, particularly farming regions, contend the nine - months term would seriously interfere with production, especially since there is a shortage of labor.

BACK TO TREASURY

Money not used would be returned to the Treasury for operation of schools the following year.

Rapidity was the keynote of the opening session. In the Senate, Lieut.-Gov. R. L. Harris ignored precedent and immediately announced his committee appointments.

It was the first wartime session since 1865. Legislative leaders had already urged upon the membership at caucuses to concentrate upon their duties to effect early adjournment so that the membership could return home and expend more energy toward winning the war.

There was no indication of friction at the opening session. Elections followed the dictates of the caucuses and John H. Kerr Jr. of Warren was elected Speaker and J. Hampton Price of Rockingham County president pro-tem of the Sen-

See SPEED MARK on page 8

British Move In Tunisia

Enemy Driven From Strategic Hills

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA —(AP)— British troops, attacking fifteen miles west of Mateur, have driven the enemy from strategic hills and are now mopping up in the first activity on the northern Tunisian front in some time, an official spokesman announced today.

Mateur is twenty miles southwest of the Tunisian naval base of Bizerte.

The attack was supported by RAF Hurricane bombers and fighters, and an RAF spokesman announced that during yesterday four Nazi Focke-Wulf 190 fighters and one JU-87 dive-bomber were shot down for the loss of one British plane.

RAID SFAX

Flying Fortresses—U. S. four-motored B-17 bombers — raiding the enemy port of Sfax were said to have scored hits on or near a cruiser leaving the harbor and to have left the power station in flames. American medium B-26 Marauder bombers also attacked a Nazi airdrome at Kairouan, about 36 miles southwest of the east coast port of Sousse.

United States and British communiques in Cairo disclosed that Sousse itself also was hit. An American communique said U. S. heavy bombers made the raid and unloaded all their bombs "within the target". The British, apparently referring to the same attacks, said hits were scored on docks and buildings.

"There still was nothing to report from the pursuit of Marshal Rommel in Libya and the communique yesterday on the Libyan front.)

Gable Finishes Gunnery School

TYNDALL FIELD, Fla.—(AP)—Lt. Clark Gable, former motion picture leading man, was graduated today from the Army's Air Force gunnery school at Tyndall Field.

Sub Menace Emphasized

Davis Warns of Hopes For Early Victory

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — Elmer Davis, director of War Information, spoke out today against over-optimism about an early end to the war and stressed particularly the "continuing serious submarine menace."

Davis, who in his New Year's message to the people last week advised them to expect casualties and losses inevitable in war, took specific exception to a prediction of Admiral William F. Halsey, South Pacific Commander, that the war will end this year.

"I have no information to support such a prediction, although I have been trying to get some," Davis told a press conference.

The information director said that, to the best of his knowledge, the Germans were still building more submarines than the United Nations were sinking, while the toll that the German subs were taking of Allied shipping was creating "heavy losses in ships and in the cargoes that go with them, and sometimes trained men on them."

BUILD SHIPS FAST

However, Davis said that the United Nations, particularly the United States, are now building ships faster than Axis submarines were sinking them.

Admiral Land of the Maritime Commission announced yesterday that this nation's shipyards alone built more than 8,000,000 tons of merchant ships in 1942 and President Roosevelt predicted American construction would exceed 16,000,000 in 1943

President Roosevelt told a press conference yesterday that four new ships a day are coming down the ways in United States shipyards and by May the number will be increased to five.

30 Executed In Rumania

LONDON.—(AP)— Reuters said today that reports had reached Switzerland from Budapest that Rumanian police had arrested more than 4,000 persons and already had executed 50 after uncovering an iron guard plot against Marshal Ion Antonescu, Rumanian chief of state.

It said the report was published by the Basler Nachrichten and came from that newspaper Budapest correspondent.

The arrests, it said, were made in Bucharest, Ploesti, Giurgiu and elsewhere throughout Rumania. Government officials were said to have been involved.

Guide to Good Reading

DESIGN FOR LEGISLATION

Design for living in North Carolina in wartime occupies the editors of The News in today's lead editorial as they outline their conception of an ideal legislative program for the General Assembly. Ten points are presented for attention, and we fully expect many of them to be translated into law.

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RABBITS ABOUND IN WILDLIFE AREA

First reports from hunters of results obtained on the new Wildlife Development Area in the Hickory Grove Section were available today. Since the 9,000-acre tract was opened recently, the hares have given the hounds some merry chases. You'll find the reports as told to News Outdoor Man Tom Revelle on page 8.

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ROMANCE IN THE SHADOW OF MARS

Cupid worked fast in the tunnel hospital at Corregidor, reports W. L. White in today's chapter of his dramatic story "They Were Expendable." Chapter 3 is on page 4-B.

Patrol Fliers Court Almost Certain Death In War Missions

By EUGENE BURNS

WITH THE UNITED STATES FLEET IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, Dec. 24.—(Delayed)—(AP)—Some of the great war stories in the South Seas are being written in valor by Navy patrol plane pilots who fly their lumbering, lightly-armed Catalina flying boats into almost certain death — suicide missions epitomized by one pilot who radioed his carrier:

"Am shadowing (following Japanese warships). Notify our next-to-kin."

Ten minutes later that pilot was dead.

The Catalinas (PBY's) can fly tremendous distances on patrol, but these pilots are using the slow planes as dive-bombers, fighters and torpedo planes in missions deep in enemy territory.

To give you an idea of their exploits, there is Lieut.-Comdr. Clayton C. Marcy, 36, of Lander, Wyo., who flew his patrol plane from the Philippines to Borneo and Java one jump ahead of the Japanese, ferrying 21 refugees at a time.

Lieutenant Charles (Whisky) Fountain Willis of Baltimore, Md., who gets his name because he doesn't drink, who volunteered to rescue an Army bomber crew deep in Japanese territory;

Lieutenant (jg) Donald L. Jackson who singly made a night torpedo attack on an enemy carrier —and hit it;

PLANE SAVED

Lieutenant Willard (Bill) King, Lexington, Va., who was forced down in 30-foot waves, but battled successfully for four days to save his plane;

Lieutenant Melvin K. Atwell, who bombed an enemy cruiser at night at such a low attitude that his plane was blown 200 feet upward by the concussion;

Lieutenant (jg) R. B. Clark who fought a duel with nine enemy planes;

Lieut.-Comdr. James O. Cobb, who helped turn back a Japanese landing attack on Guadalcanal by bombing enemy ships at night;

Lieutenant George F. Poules, 25,

See PATROL on page 8

WEATHER

Slowly rising temperature.

Today's Temp.: H. 38; L. 23
Sunset today 6:26
Sunrise tomorrow 8:32

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 8.

Americans Have Tough Job With Scouting Assignment In Africa

By HAROLD V. BOYLE

WITH U. S. FORCES IN TUNISIA, Jan. 5 — (Delayed) — (AP) — American scouts led by a former Missouri Valley tennis champion are playing an important role in keeping Allied eyes—and pressure—on the Axis forces.

"It certainly is great training for a lee man," said 26-year-old Lieut. Mark T. Martin Jr., former St. Louis reporter and assistant telegraph editor of the Des Moines, Iowa, Register-Tribune, who hails from Hoo Hill, Elkhorn, Neb.

"We were out in the hills for five days at a stretch, traveling 60 to 100 miles and feeding the whole time on emergency rations, in our light packs.

"We would like to have a blanket or two but they take up space and slow us down, so all we carry beside food is our weapons."

The patrols include 30 men who reconnoiter by night and dig in by day to escape observation.

LITTLE SLEEP

"We are lucky if we get two hours' sleep out of 24," Lieutenant Martin said.

He said that although casualties had been comparatively heavy, as might be expected in these dangerous Commando-type operations, the spirit of the men is very high and they are anxious to take on more risky assignments.

Martin, who was ranked as number one junior class tennis player in the Missouri Valley in 1933, weighed 190 pounds when he took up the Commando-like training. Now he weighs 165 pounds.

Three of his sergeants have been promoted to second lieutenants for valor and efficiency in action. They are Leo Taylor, 21, of 1518 Avenue D, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Frank McFarland, 24, of Villisca, Iowa;

See U. S. SCOUTS on page 8