THE CHARLOTTE NEWS ★★★★ Final

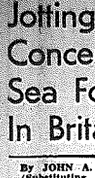
ESTABLISHED 1888 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1944 20 Pages—Price Five Cents

REDS CAPTURE BALKAN GATEWAY

Churchill Easily Wins Vote Of Confidence

Jottings Concerning Sea Forces In Britain

By JOHN A. MOROSO, 3RD (Substituting for Hal Boyle)
WITH THE U. S. NAVY IN BRITAIN.—(AP) — The extent to which the Nazis go in making false reports of naval actions for propaganda purposes has been exemplified anew.


MOROSCO

Recently an LCI (Landing craft, infantry) wandered out into the channel when her compass broke down. Visibility was poor and the ship was all alone. Light German naval forces detroyed the ship and the fate of her crew is in doubt.

The next day the Nazi pencil pushers reported that a large invasion force had been destroyed in the channel.

Escort carriers now are using American Avenger, Wildcat and Hellcat and British Seafire and Fairey-Swordfish planes.

These ships were used effectively at Salerno and they are expected to see much offensive action in the Pacific and European areas. Recently they have been doing night flying on convoy work . . . a difficult and dangerous feat that is making the going tougher for the U-boat men.

The modern battleship's anti-aircraft fire power is more than

See REPORTER'S on page 4

Stimson Explains Cassino:

The Nazis Stopped Us

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Secretary of War Stimson, discussing the situation at Cassino, said today "the simple fact is that the Germans stopped us."

He told a press conference that the Allied attack on the Italian fortress town "has subsided for the time being without achieving the results for which we had hoped."

The Germans, Stimson said, showed again "that they are obstinate and effective soldiers who do not quit when they are ordered to hold a key post at all cost."

"Their occupation of the steep hills where their guns covered the town gave the Nazis a continuing advantage," Stimson said. "The bomb and shell destruction which our planes and guns wrought in Cassino did not prevent a garrison defense by those who survived our explosives and by other enemy troops who filtered in to join them.

"The rubble was good cover and the tunnels or caves in the adjoining hills gave shelter and ease of movement. The rains immediately after the phase and gun barrage made a morass of the open ground around the town and limited the use of our tanks, while slowing the advance of troops climbing the hills under fire."

Stimson followed up his blunt acknowledgement that the Germans stopped the Allies at Cassino with this statement:

"That would be a severe setback only if we did not profit from our lessons. We have learned a great many things since the war and we have put our learning into practice. There is no reason to believe that our ability to profit from

See STIMSON on Page 5

Backed In Commons, 425 To 23

Ballot Cheered Best Showing In

By JAMES M. LONG

LONDON — (AP) — Winston Churchill tonight won his eighth vote of confidence in four years, from a recalcitrant House of Commons openly vexed at being called to mark over a minor domestic issue but ready to show its continued support of the Government's overall program on the eve of a great new phase Allied attack.

The division was 425 to 23—the Prime Minister's strongest showing since the first three virtually unanimous votes of confidence early in his leadership through the grim days of wartrout reverses.

CHAMBER RINGS

The House, packed with an generally unannounced turnout of Government supporters, cheered until the old chamber rang as the vote was announced.

Churchill left the hall a few minutes later, smiling at the cheers which followed him.

He had won hands down as expected—won on a vote which he demanded to reverse his Government's one-ballot defeat (137-116) Tuesday night on a Government-opposed amendment providing equal pay for men and women teachers.

Churchill steadfastly refused to regard this as a domestic issue, and said he must have the support of the House all down the line or his Government would resign.

He thus forced Commons to reverse its stand on the education issue, in the face of several critical newspaper editorials and one opposition declaration from the floor that Churchill had turned Parliament into a rubber stamp.

Mrs. Cazalet Keir, who offered the equal-pay amendment in the first place, told the House:

"The Prime Minister has left no other possible choice open to us than to support him. In this vote of confidence I am going to vote against a clause embodying my own amendment not because my views are changed at all on equal pay—but because more vital matters have been superimposed upon it. In this great democracy of ours convention for once seems to have overruled common sense."

Many in the House, Government supporters among them, were plainly perplexed at their position.

"It would be more in keeping with the traditions of Parliament," said Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, Conservative, "if the Government had introduced a measure in which the whole House could have shown their unbounded support for the Government in the war effort on a vote of confidence, and not put the House in the position it is today, in which members have to eat their own words and vote against the very measure they supported so recently."

CALL HIM "ONE SLUG"—Because of his expert marksmanship Lt. (jg) Hamilton McWhorter of Athens, Ga., is known to shipmates as "One Slug." He has ten Jap planes to his credit. During the Feb. 16 attack on Truk he shot down two Zeros in six seconds and a few minutes later destroyed another. He now is on leave in the United States. (Official U. S. Navy photo).

Soviet Victory March Carries To Czernowitz

Stalin Order Comes After Nazis Admit Bucovinian Capital Evacuated

LONDON—(AP)—Czernowitz, capital of Bucovina and gateway to the Balkans, has fallen to the Red Army's advance, Premier Stalin announced tonight a few hours after Berlin acknowledged German evacuation of the strategic city.

Russian forces had broken into this third largest city of pre-war Rumania from the north and west after forcing the Prut River.

The city, which lies seventeen miles north of present-day Rumania, is astride the rail line extending northwest to Lwow, in old Poland, and south to Iasi (Jassy), Galatz on the Danube, and the oil center of Ploesti.

Its capture cut the Germans off from their supply bases in pre-war Poland and split the Southern German armies off from those of the central and eastern Ukrainian front.

In his order of the day broadcast from Moscow Stalin said the city had been captured "by storm"—a statement denying the German announcement it had been "evacuated." He termed it an "important economic and political center of Northern Bucovina and a powerful strong point of German defenses on the River Prut covering the approaches to the frontiers of Hungary and Rumania."

SALUTE FIRED

He ordered a twenty - artillery salute—salute from 224 guns to thunder out over Moscow tonight in celebration.

The early German announcement had admitted also that "German troops disengaged themselves from the lower Ukrainian Bug on the eastern approaches to Odessa but as usual claimed this was done without enemy interference.

Other Russian forces were driving through the Carpathian foothills toward the northern frontier of Czechoslovakia, following the capture of Kolomea. Prut River town on the main Berlin-Lwow-Bucharest railway 45 miles northeast of Czernowitz.

NEAR TATARS PASS

Advance units of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First Ukrainian Army were reported less than 30 miles from the famous Pass of the Tatars leading across the Carpathians into Carpatho-Ukraine, taken over from Czechoslovakia by Hungary in Hitler's reshuffilement of the Balkans.

Indicating another Russian threat to Lwow in Old Poland, the Berlin broadcast said that heavy fighting was under way with advance Red Army formations in the area of Stanislau, about 70 miles below Lwow and only 40 miles from the old border of Czechoslovakia on the Lwow-Bucharest rail line.

Another Berlin broadcast said the Russians were throwing fifteen rifle divisions and three tank corps, upwards of 175,000 men, into the battle for the White Russian peninsula to the Baltics in new smashes at the 100-mile German are between Vitebsk and Chasy. It said the new offensive had been unable to gain ground, however.

Severing of the Berlin-Lwow-Bucharest railway by Zhukov's troops cut the last German rail supply line to Czernowitz and the entire southern front, dispatches said, rendering still

See BALKAN on page 5

Air Commandos In New Burma Attack

By CHARLES A. GRUMICH

NEW DELHI, India —(AP)— Glider-borne air Commandos, in another of their slashing attacks on Japanese communications in northern Burma, have damaged the enemy's headquarters at Mohnyin, 80 miles southwest of Myitkyina, a communique from Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters announced today.

Mohnyin is on the railway to Mandalay, chief connecting line with Myitkyina, chief enemy base north of the Burma Road.

CHINESE GET ROAD

At the same time, Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's Chinese, pushing southward toward Mohkwin, cut the main road fourteen miles inside the Mogaung Valley and established a road block about a mile north of Loan, enclosing two makeshift battalions of the mauled Japanese 18th Division.

While army Chinese to the north of Shadauzup in the same valley blasted the Japanese out of a honeycomb of entrenchments with bayonet and grenade in fierce close-range combat, this force was only about 58 miles from Kalemyo and within striking distance of the Mandalay railroad.

Heavy and continuous fighting in the past 24 hours blazed along the Indian-Burma border where the Japanese are driving toward Imphal, particularly in the Somra Hills tract northeast of Imphal, but there was little change in the situation.

TUNNEL CAPTURED

Three hundred miles to the south in Arakan, the British announced the capture of the western tunnel on the Maungdaw-Buthidaung Road, further clearing the way for the offensive southward against Akyab.

The occupation of the tunnel was completed after the British had cut through the dense jungle defenses and taken positions on top of the tunnel. Then tanks drove up to the mouth of the underground fortress and fired into it point blank. Infantry patrols, penetrating the long-defended fortification, found it deserted.

Allied troops have driven Japanese forces from another vantage point on the Tiddim Road, up which they have been moving toward the Indian communications center of Imphal, and have inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

Northeast of Imphal, Allied aircraft joined with artillery units in blasting a Japanese column which was caught in the open while driving down toward that city and sent it reeling back with heavy losses, the communique added.

It was estimated that 2,500 Japanese troops have been killed on the Central Burma front since the present offensive began.

Allies Range Over Italy

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples—(AP)—Fifth Army forces repelled two small enemy attacks on the Anzio beachhead yesterday while Allied planes ranged far and wide over Italy, hitting targets in the Rome, Turin and Bolzano areas and covering across the Adriatic to bomb Sofia.

The communique made no reference to the Cassino front.

The attack on Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, was carried out last night by formations of both heavy and medium bombers, a communique said.

In addition to assaults on rail lines in northern Italy by large formations of escorted bombers, air operations yesterday included medium bomber sweeps against the Viterbo airdrome north of Rome and harbor and rail installations in northwest Italy.

Twenty-two enemy aircraft were destroyed during the day's operations against an Allied loss of eleven. The Mediterranean Allied air force flew approximately 1,800 sorties during the day.

Field dispatches said German tanks in Cassino again tried the strength of Allied defenders in the Continental Hotel area, but Fifth Army artillery dispersed them. A German patrol crossed the Rapido River south of the town but withdrew when Allied forces engaged it.

Chaplin Case Nearing End

By JAMES LINDSLEY

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—Charlie Chaplin's attorney introduced further testimony today to prove that Joan Berry, the actor's accuser in his Mann Act trial, had associated with other men.

Lionel Bonini, an Army private stationed at Ft. Custer, Mich., formerly sales manager for a Los Angeles liquor wholesale house, testified that the actor's former protege had been in his company the evening of Dec. 30, 1942, one of the dates Joan previously declared she had been intimate with Chaplin in his home.

Jerry Giesler, the actor's attorney, was completing his case with the prospect that Chaplin himself would take the stand soon.

Bonini said he and Miss Berry visited his apartment briefly and later visited two night clubs. While he spent about an hour in the latter of the two, he testified, Miss Berry remained asleep in his car, despite his attempts to awaken her.

FELL ASLEEP

Then he drove home, he said, and left the car, with Joan in it, parked in the street. He fell asleep inside his apartment and was awakened two or three hours later.

"I heard noises in the street," Bonini continued. "I went down. Miss Berry apparently had fallen on the sidewalk. People standing around asked me if I knew her."

"I helped her into my car and asked her where she lived, and

See CHAPLIN on page 5

Paper Saving Plan Urged

WASHINGTON — Declaring that "the critical waste paper shortage threatens the flow of vital supplies to our troops overseas," Representative Calvin D. Johnson, Republican, Illinois, introduced today in the Lower House a joint Congressional resolution aiming at preventing the wilful destruction of waste paper.

Representative Johnson, speaking in support of his proposal, said waste paper now has become "the Nation's No. 1 critical war material". He commented that "the war on the battlefronts is being paralyzed by a war on waste on the home front is losing ground." He called on the American public to demonstrate its often repeated assertion that "there is no sacrifice too great for us to make for our soldiers" by making waste paper salvage 100 per cent effective.

The multitude of military requirements for waste paper predicts we are surveyed in detail by the Illinois Representative. He asserted that "during each month of this year 540,000 tons of paper and paperboard, representing nearly 80 percent of the total production, will be used by the Government and war plants and that another 33 per cent will be used by industries and services that are allied with the war effort. Only 27 per cent, or about 375,000 tons, will remain for our civilian economy."

Annual overall paper and paper products requirements of the United States amount to 20,000,000 tons. He said of this, approximately one-half is recoverable, and only half of the remaining 12,000,000 tons of salvageable paper is being recovered. He said the lack of conserving a much greater part of that salvageable tonnage "is a job that calls for united womanpower, citizenpower and businesspower as well as the manpower in the great plants of the paper industry.

"To meet a crisis, we must increase our salvage to at least 8,000,000 tons annually," he declared.

Representative Johnson said it is an urgent need that each state make effective immediately a waste paper conservation program, and he appealed for "bundles of waste paper, bundles for freedom, the brother where rifle protects our home."

German Troop Trains Hit By Yugoslavians

LONDON—(AP) — German troop trains carrying reinforcements to the Balkan front have been attacked by Yugoslav Partisans, according to a communique from Marshal Josip Tito's Blue headquarters broadcast by the New Yugoslav radio station.

2 Fliers Killed In Air Crash

POPE FIELD—(AP)—Two Pope Field fliers were killed when their Army transport plane crashed near Sanford yesterday while on a training flight.

Col. Glenn C. Salisbury, commanding officer, said today the victims were:

Lt. Harry Howard Lightner, Huntington, W. Va., pilot, whose wife, Mrs. Katherine Lightner, lives at Pinehurst, and, Lt. Theodore Cole, the co-pilot, whose father, Michael Cole, lives in New York.

Red Have Not Given Badoglio Recognition

MOSCOW — (AP) — A front page editorial in the Government newspaper Izvestia explained today that the exchange of envoys with the Italian regime of Marshal Pietro Badoglio did not mean full recognition of his Government and in effect called on Britain and the United States for a change in the Government in Italy.

"The Italian question is one of the important problems confronting the Allies and it should be settled as soon as possible to help hasten victory over Germany," the editorial said.

Izvestia expressed irritation with American and British newspapers, which, it said, had interpreted the exchange of envoys as meaning Soviet support for undemocratic elements in Italy. It added the Soviet Union wishes to have immediate changes in the Badoglio Government without waiting for the occupation of Rome.

Prime Minister Churchill told Commons recently that Britain expected to consider the Italian political situation anew when the Allies reached Rome.

Nazi Wooden Bullets Used

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — (AP) — Enemy soldiers infiltrating American lines in Italy fire wooden bullets capable of wounding the Yanks but of such short range that the German lines are protected, veterans at Percy Jones Hospital said today.

The bullet, they explained, has a range of between 100 and 200 yards, a distance sufficient to wound an adversary but not enough to carry back into German lines. They said it is made in the pattern of a regulation .30 caliber shell with a brass casing and a hard wood "like mahogany" pressed inside.

"We seized four or five cases of these wooden bullets outside of Salerno," said Pvt. John B Melee, 27, of Saginaw.

Sgt. Raymond J. Michael of Peoria, Ill., who was struck on the right arm by a German grenade while fighting four miles from Cassino, said the wooden bullets were used by the Germans at night. He explained:

"The Jerries would send a patrol back of our lines and then they'd open up on our rear with these wooden things. The range was short and they were sure with them that the bullets would not go on past us and into the German lines."

Move To Put 4-F Men In Labor Duty

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Disregarding the expressed views of Secretary of War Stimson, the House military subcommittee on draft deferments recommended today that the War Department begin immediately to accept 4Fs for special labor duty and that Selective Service co-operate to get as many as possible of this group into essential jobs.

The committee said this action should be supplemented later by legislation it expects to draw during the Easter recess.

Committee members said following an executive session they desired the War Department and Selective Service to act immediately, without waiting for legislation, to force upwards of a million men between the ages of 18 and 37 who now are in 4-F to get into essential work or be induced into the Army or Navy.

The action, along lines suggested yesterday by Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, would be implemented quickly by legislation defining the status of inducted 4-Fs insofar as veterans' benefits and other matters are concerned.

The recommendations of the committee headed by Representative Costello, Democrat, California, were:

"1. That the War Department accept and use men for special labor duty and that the Department publicly so announce.

"2. That Selective Service process 4-Fs for classification, deferring those then engaged in industry or agriculture so long as they remain so engaged.

"3. That appropriate legislation be drafted to cover, and supplement if necessary, compliance with the action proposed."

Stimson had said it would be essential to draw 4-F men into the war effort, but that he would accept their induction into the Army only for labor corps only as a last resort.

Questioned at his press conference about the statement that the Army would accept induction of 4-Fs who refused to voluntarily enter employment in essential activities, Stimson replied that he agreed fully that the war effort is suffering by failure to utilize this group of men.

But he added:

"I do not think that this most vital step should be taken by indirection and by induction into the Army of men not qualified to serve in the Army."

The Secretary emphasized "very

See TAKE ACTION on page 5

Raid French Rail Points

LONDON—(AP)— RAF Halifaxes attacked railway targets at Varies, fifteen miles east of Paris, and Lancasters again raided an engine works at Lyon in Southern France last night while Mosquitos bombed Kiel, the Air Ministry announced. One bomber was lost.

It was the first time since Sunday night that the RAF's four-engined bombers had been out but it was their twelfth attack of the month on French targets figuring importantly in Hitler's anti-invasion program.

The British night operation came after a day in which the United States Eighth Air Force sent Flying Fortresses against the Brunswick area of Central Germany and Liberators to the Pas-de-Calais Coast of France.

For the first time since March 23 German fighters gave serious battle as the Fortresses and their escort of Lightnings, Mustangs and Thunderbolts roared over the Brunswick region, vital Nazi aircraft producing center.

A U. S. communique announced today that the American fliers had shot down 45 Nazi planes, escorting fighters accounting for 39 of the enemy and the heavy bombers for the remaining nine. Other enemy planes were shot up on the ground by American fighters which strafed airdromes on the way home.

Nine U. S. bombers and nine fighters failed to return from all operations of the day, including the P-38-de-Calais foray, where the only opposition was moderate to heavy anti-aircraft fire.

The Brunswick bombing, carried out with instruments through heavy overcast, was the 15th time this month that U. S. forces had attacked Germany from British bases and the 24th attack against all enemy targets, a communique said.

Casualties In Increase

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The latest reports on American casualties set the total at 173,259 for the Army and Navy, an increase of 4,947 in a week.

Secretary of War Stimson said today that Army casualties in all theaters through March 15 totaled 130,619. The latest total reported for the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard is 42,640.

The Army casualties are made up as follows: 22,570 killed, 59,124 wounded, 27,163 missing and 21,762 prisoners.

The Navy casualties are: 18,667 killed, 10,954 wounded, 9,138 missing, and 4,421 prisoners.

Of the total casualties for the sea services, the Navy had 28,043, Marines, 14,123 and the Coast Guard 454.

Stimson said that of the 53,124 Army wounded, 27,256 have returned to duty. Of the 27,742 prisoners, 1,675 have been reported by the enemy as having died of disease in prison camps, mostly in Japanese-occupied territory.

Loss Of German Ace Admitted

LONDON —(AP)— The German High Command acknowledged today the loss of one of its greatest aces, Col. Wilke, in an air battle presumably with British or American fliers over western Europe.

Col. Wilke, who claimed to have shot down 151 planes, was one of the German air force's "most eminent fighter pilots and squadron leaders," said the German communique. He was the holder of the oak leaves with swords to the knight's insignia of the Iron Cross.

Hawaii Declared In Danger Of Invasion

By LEIF ERICKSON
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor—(AP)— Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson jointly declared in affidavits filed in Federal District Court yesterday that the territory of Hawaii "now is in imminent danger of invasion" by Japanese armed forces and has been in such danger since the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

The affidavits were filed with their answers to a habeas corpus case challenging the necessity and validity of continuing martial law in Hawaii.

Nimitz is commander-in-chief of the Pacific Ocean areas. Richardson commands United States Army forces in the Central Pacific and is Military Governor of Hawaii.

Garner Anthony, former attorney general for Hawaii, has petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of Lloyd C. Duncan, former Navy yard worker who was sentenced to six months in the Honolulu City-County jail by a provost court for assault and battery of two Marine Navy yard sentries.

Anthony contended that martial law no longer was necessary and that the provost court no longer had legal standing.

Nimitz and Richardson responded that "conviction and sentencing of Duncan "were and are necessary for the prosecution in the territory of Hawaii by the United States of the war against the Empire of Japan." They did not amplify their statement about the continued danger of invasion.

Bus Service In Miami Held Up

MIAMI, Fla. — (AP) — Miami was without bus service for two hours last night while the drivers met to protest, according to City Manager A. B. Curry, the jail sentence of a Biscayne Beach railway Co. operator on a charge of assaulting a taxi driver.

Service was restored at midnight when the driver was released under $200 appeal bond.

General Manager R. D. "Buck" Freeman of the Miami Transit Co. said about 150 drivers were involved, and 25 busses of the Beach Railway Co. also were taken out of service.

Freeman said the drivers protested action of City Judge Claude C. Curry in sentencing C. L. Rogers, a Beach driver, to fifteen days at hard labor on the assault charge Tuesday.

WEATHER

Fair and slightly cooler tonight; Friday, fair and warmer.

Today's Temperatures:
8:30 P. M. 56 ..... [illegible]
Sunrise Tomorrow ..... [illegible]

Return This Newspaper For Front-Line Service

The paper on which this newspaper is printed today is literally worth its weight in gold to the war effort.

The need for paper for the boxing, packaging and wrapping of war supplies cannot be overstated. It is truly crucial.

Newspapers are doing everything possible to save paper. It actually costs nearly all you pay for this newspaper in paper and delivery expenditures, to give you the news from every corner of the world.

But, more important, the armed forces need it back—need it desperately.

Starting today, therefore, will readers of The News agree that this newspaper is simply loaned to them? It is a precious war commodity to be saved and turned back to be sent to the front.

There are several ways in which you may return this paper to service. Junior Commandos are working with The News and the Junior Chamber of Commerce in collecting waste paper. Chief Hendrix Palmer and the Charlotte Fire Department are co-operating, bins being placed at each fire station in which paper can be placed. Supt. John Barbee and the City Sanitary Dept., are helping, too. Paper will be collected by the sanitary trucks if bundled and placed alongside the garbage containers. All these agencies are doing a splendid job.

But whether you return this loaned copy of The News through the Junior Commandos, deliver it to the bins at a fire station, leave it for collection by the Sanitary Dept. or deliver it to dealers direct, it must be returned.

It is destined for front line service.

SAVE A BUNDLE A WEEK

Comfortable Night Is Spent By Hopkins

ROCHESTER, Minn. — (AP)—A bulletin issued today by Mayo Clinic physicians said Harry Hopkins, who underwent an operation yesterday, spent a "fairly comfortable night. His condition continues satisfactory."

Physicians said Hopkins, personal friend and adviser of President Roosevelt, was suffering from a "nutritional disturbance." He has been under observation here for several weeks.

New Guinea Soldiers Get Show They Want

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA —(AP)— When American Red Cross girls asked GIs at a New Guinea base what sort of show they would like to see more than anything else, the popular answer was "A fashion show with real American girls wearing the latest American dresses."

So last night they got it. Wearing everything from play suits to evening gowns, the Red Cross girls appeared before a goodly crowd of New Guinea veterans.

While the mistress of ceremonies described one gown as "the ultimate in sophistication," a soldier in the last row sang out with "and she looks good too." All of them did.