

## BRITAIN WAITS FOR STRUGGLE WITH IL DUCE

Prepares for Battle With Italy Over Artery to East, Simms Says.

By United Press  
LONDON, July 14.—The Rt. Rev. George Kennedy Allen Bell, bishop of ancient Chichester, and James Bunting, 85-year-old movie scenario writer, were the central figures today in an incident for which scholars vainly sought a precedent in the recent history of the Church of England.

It was a formal ban, almost approximating one of excommunication, by the bishop on the young scenarist; an application of one of the laws which the Bible says God gave to Moses and his people on Mount Sinai: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Such is the meaning of last night's terse announcement that Britain will refuse for the present to annul her pact with Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia for mutual assistance in the Mediterranean.

Bombers, not battleships, today command that watery expanse. Were Italy and Britain to come to grips over the vital British artery of commerce and war, Greece and Turkey, now aerial crossroads between Europe and Suez, might well decide the issue.

### Losses Mediterranean

To defend Egypt, the Sudan, Kenya and her East African colonies, India, Hong Kong, the British East Indies and Australia, Britain must at all cost have safe access to the Mediterranean, Suez and the Red Sea.

Today she has lost such access. The Italian navy and the rapidly growing Italian air force make that route extremely hazardous. And now Rome has not only annexed Ethiopia, further endangering the Red Sea lane, but is reported to be contemplating an alliance with Berlin, Budapest and Vienna, strengthening her position in still another direction.

Plans are under way for building a great British naval base at Cape Town for use if and when the Suez short-cut is severed. That is merely an emergency measure. The solution will have to be found in the Mediterranean.

Mussolini Is Key  
One solution is to bring Italy into a Mediterranean pact along with France, Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The terms of such a pact, dominated by Britain, would be of such a nature as to give that country maximum security in those waters.

Thus the diplomatic game being played across the European board at this moment is hectic in the extreme. What the outcome will be nobody can foretell. Given another two years of peace in which to rearm, Britain will be strong enough, if necessary, for a showdown—if by that time she has not won her game by diplomacy.

For somehow, she must have a new deal in the Mediterranean, cost what it may.

### WRECK KILLS MERCHANT

Heart Attack After Car Hits Bridge Blamed for Death.

By United Press  
BLOOMFIELD, Ind., July 14.—A heart attack while driving his auto was blamed today for the death of Edwin Scott, 67, Newberry hardware merchant, after his auto struck a bridge abutment on State Road 67. Spencer Hollingsworth, 75, tenant on Scott's farm, was injured slightly. Scott is survived by the widow, a son and three sisters.

### POLICE COOLER BALKS

Headquarters Air Conditioning Plant Produces Heat.  
Even the air conditioning equipment in the dispatcher's and desk lieutenants' offices in police headquarters refused to work early this morning.

Jack Hart, dispatcher, observed a woman was walking through the conditioning ducts. Investigation revealed a belt had slipped from a wheel, causing friction.

### GIVEN HUSBAND'S POST

Widow of Grant County Clerk to Complete Term.

By United Press  
MARION, Ind., July 14.—Mrs. Mildred L. White, widow of County Clerk Clarence L. White, has been appointed to serve the unexpired term of her husband. Grant County Commissioners announced today. Mr. White died last Friday. Two years and six months of his term remain.

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## KERN ASSERTS MERIT SYSTEM PLAN TO STAND

No Immediate Change in City Setup Likely, Mayor Says.

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They knew of no impending changes, affirming the mayor's statement that the bi-partisan clause preventing true merit system operation.

Mayor Kern said partisanship would enter the merit system picture so long as the bi-partisan clause remained. A true merit system for fire and police appointments may be easier in the future with improved economic conditions, he added.

"We do not anticipate immediate changes in the present system," Mayor Kern said, "for although we realize many of its defects, we also want more experience before we suggest permanent changes. I have decided, after conferring with W. Rowland Allen and other members of the merit commission, that a series of meetings with interested civic clubs, citizens and our Safety Board will be undertaken before the Legislature convenes."

Safety Board members also said

examination papers for 50 police applicants probably will be predominantly Republican," Mayor Kern said today, assuring changes in the merit system are not likely to be made in the setup here before the next State Legislature meets.

The police force, Mayor Kern

said, is to include about an equal number of men from each major political party before the year is over. After that, to maintain the bi-partisan aspect required by statute, the next school would include a majority of Republicans, it was explained.

The present system is to become a virtual civil service, he said, but the bi-partisan feature first must be eliminated.

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