

ITALIANS FLEEING INTO DEATH TRAP

British Capture Thousands More in Egypt; Greeks Take Porto Palermo.

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ply ship of 4000 tons off the Norwegian Coast. The Admiralty said that the supply ship was "deeply laden and probably was carrying a large cargo of ore to Germany."

Egyptian Front

In Egypt there was a tacit Italian admission that the whirlwind offensive of Gen. Archibald Wavell was rolling toward Sollum, on the Libyan frontier.

The Rome communiqué reported terrific battles from Sidi Barrani to Sollum. There still was no formal Italian admission of the fall of Sidi Barrani. Of Greek operations the Rome communiqué was noncommittal.

Stand at Border Possible

London said the Italians were fleeing toward a potential death trap at the desert bottle neck at Sollum. Retreating west from Sidi Barrani the Italians have only one good highway as they approach the Libyan frontier. This road is close to the coast where British warships have been bombarding the Italian columns.

Some British military experts suggested that Benito Mussolini might have to call out the Italian fleet to engage the British Mediterranean fleet if he was to avoid a possible debacle at the bottle-neck.

However, London suggested that the British advance in Egypt should not be expected to continue indefinitely—a possible hint that it may cease at the Libyan frontier where, it was believed, the Italians have substantial fortifications.

It was pointed out that the advance would be handicapped by sand storms and the need for overhauling mechanized equipment.

Prisoners Major Problem

The task of handling Italian prisoners was becoming a major problem, it was said.

The British also are taking huge quantities of Italy's most modern war equipment.

The retreat is so rapid that even mechanized forces are hard put to keep in contact with the Italians, who are abandoning equipment of every sort, it was asserted in Cairo. Many crack units of Fascist Black Shirt militia, Mussolini's pride, were reported to have been captured almost intact.

News reaching Cairo said that the British attack was made at the bayonet point over an gap of some 45 miles.

British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops stormed the Italian fortified camps screening the Sidi Barrani area one by one. As the camps were overwhelmed, the British Empire forces closed in, in an ever-diminishing arc, until the Italians, surrounded on three sides were hemmed in with their backs to the sea, from which the British fleet, in complete control of the Mediterranean, shelled them.

Make Fierce Stand

The Italians made a fierce last stand, according to reports, and there was savage fighting before the British Empire troops entered the town.

Gen. Wavell visited the British advance headquarters in the desert yesterday and conferred with Gen. Sir Henry Wilson, commander-in-chief of the army in Egypt. Egyptian forces were jubilant over the British victory, Cairo reported. They felt that the Italian threat to Egypt had been averted for a long time if not for good.

Greek-Italian War

Reports circulated in Athens—based apparently on the talk of a captured Italian officer—that the Italian High Command was split on the question whether to ask the Greeks for an armistice or allow Greek troops to penetrate farther into Albania's mountainous interior. The Italian High Command was split on the question whether to ask the Greeks for an armistice or allow Greek troops to penetrate farther into Albania's mountainous interior. The Italian High Command was split on the question whether to ask the Greeks for an armistice or allow Greek troops to penetrate farther into Albania's mountainous interior.



Field Marshal Rodolfo Graziani—Italian general's spearhead in Egypt snaps off under British pressure.

confirmation in official Greek or Italian quarters. The Fascist officer was quoted as saying that, in any event, Italy planned a great spring offensive to recoup her position in Albania.

35 Miles From Valona

Capture of Porto Palermo brought the Greek spearhead to within 35 miles of Valona, Albania's second port where freighters were reported standing by to evacuate Italian troops, if necessary.

It was believed the Greeks would soon push to Chimara, five miles farther north on the old coastal mule track, now cluttered with fleeing Italians. On the northern front in the vital Mokra mountains which protect the central Italian base of Elbasan Greek successes against Alpine ski troops were reported.

Frontier reports to Yugoslavia said the Greeks had driven to positions about two miles south of Tepelini and that the situation of this Italian base north of Argirokastro was believed critical.

Shells Start Fires

Fires were started in Tepelini by Greek shells and some reports said the Italians had started to move troops north to the village of Dukaj on the road to Valona.

The Italians were described as retreating from village to village, fighting a rear guard action.

Heavy cannonading was heard off the Italian port of Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia and it was believed British ships might be attacking Italian transports en route to Dan Giovanni di Meua, northernmost port of Albania.

Balkans

Turkey believed that danger of an Axis blitzkrieg through the Balkans had been averted until spring by the Greek and British successes against Italy and apparent Russian opposition to spread of Nazi influence further southward toward the Dardanelles.

The new Hungarian-Jugoslav treaty of friendship, signed yesterday, was cited as evidence of lessening of Balkan tension.

VESSELS SIDESWIPED

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (U. P.).—Two steamships which sideswiped each other in dense fog outside New York harbor late yesterday docked under their own power today, neither seriously damaged. The S. S. Berkshire, of New York, was sideswiped by the S. S. Charles L. O'Connor, 2351 tons was outward bound lightly loaded at the time.

POLICE, BENCH PASS THE BUCK ON AUTO TOLL

Privately, Each Blames Other for the 87 Deaths in City Traffic.

(Continued from Page One)

ed for speeding again on N. Senate Ave.

When he appeared in court Wednesday on the Saturday night violation, he was convicted, but judgment was withheld—he went free without any penalty.

When he again appeared in court yesterday to answer to the Sunday night charge, he was convicted by Judge McNelis and fined \$2 and costs, which amounts to \$12.

In some instances, the court tempers justice generously with mercy. Take the case of the woman who pleaded guilty to crashing a traffic signal on West St. When Judge McNelis found she could pay only \$2 of her \$2 fine, he suspended the whole thing.

After court was over yesterday, Judge McNelis discussed with reporters his point of view toward the traffic situation on the bench.

A judge can't merely look at the violation in passing sentence, he said. He must take the individual—his background, his resources, his previous traffic record—into consideration as well.

Police Favor Stiff Fines

For most violators, Judge McNelis believes, the tribulation and discomfort of sitting several hours in a densely packed, overheated courtroom where the air is stale and fetid is punishment enough.

Covertly, Police officials disagree with this point of view. They favor stiff fines—even days at the State Farm for major violations. This disagreement has persisted for years.

Police slides believe something could be done toward a meeting of the minds if both sat down around one of City Hall's grass-topped conference tables. But neither has yet made the offer.

164 Fined \$1.70 Average In 'Fairly Heavy Day'

In the traffic court of Judge John J. McNelis yesterday, 164 persons convicted of traffic violations paid average fines of \$1.70 apiece. On the average, 22 speeders paid \$6 while the average fine for reckless driving was 40 cents. Altogether, 172 cases were tried and fines totaled \$279. This was described by Judge McNelis as a "fairly heavy day."

WHAT'S IN A NAME? THIRTEEN LETTERS

Although accurate figures on the matter were not available, there are many persons in Indianapolis with 13 letters in their names who have birthdays on the 13th, some of whom become 13 years old today and others who don't. Still others are connected in other ways with No. 13, in a great deal more than 13 different ways.

Among those who have 13 letters in their first, second or full names are Bill Schneider, 429 Moreland St., who is 3 today; Molly Margaret Chapman, 115 N. Greely St., who is 1 today and a 13th grade child; Johnny Vincent Wampler, 410 N. Wallace St., who is 13 months old today; Susanne Decker, 3307 E. Washington St., who is 5, and Bettie J. Willis, 444 S. Collier St., who is 13 today and using the "Bettie" spelling rather than "Betty," which she sometimes uses.

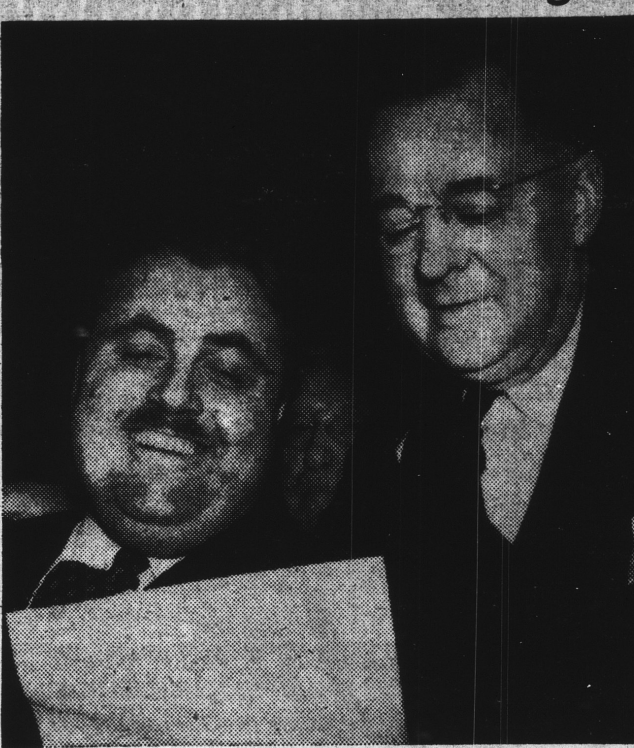
Bettie—or is in the 7B grade at the Fleming Garden school and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Willis.

Margaret Ellen Hogan, who also has 13 letters in his first two names, is 13 today and there may be a party for her at her home, 318 N. Forest Ave.

JUST QUAKE, NOT BOMBS

LONDON, Dec. 13 (U. P.).—An earthquake shook northwestern Wales for 12 seconds last night, rocking the town of Pwllheli, Carnarvon County until inhabitants ran into the street believing there was an air raid.

Before the Battle Began



Friendly rivals, President Herman B. Wells (left) of Indiana University and Dr. Daniel B. Robinson of Butler University traded gossip before the start of hostilities at the red-hot Butler-L. U. basketball game here last night. (Details of the game, Page 36).

A Man Remembers When Clothe-A-Child Helped Him

(Continued from Page One)

uring Ted Weems and his orchestra, will be dedicated to Clothe-A-Child.

THE TIMES LATE YESTERDAY was forced to discontinue accepting additional applications from families seeking clothing for children.

Already there have been more applications received and checked than can possibly be clothed. The Times regrets that it must take this action, but feels that it is necessary as few families as possible will be disappointed this Christmas.

IF YOU HAVE NOT yet taken part in Clothe-A-Child, there are three ways you can help:

1. If you want to shop with a child yourself, call Riley 5551 and ask for "Clothe-A-Child." You can meet the child at campaign headquarters, 44 S. Capitol Ave., and go directly to the store with the youngster.

2. If you want The Times to act for you, mail a check or money order to "Clothe-A-Child, The Indianapolis Times" and an experienced shopper will do the rest.

3. You can join with others in your office, church, club, sports team, lodge, sorority or fraternity. Just select a treasurer and shopping committee and then let Clothe-A-Child know how many children your group desires to clothe.

All the lists of children are checked by the social service department of the Indianapolis public schools and with social service agencies to avoid duplication. The cost of outfitting depends on the child's needs. It usually runs from \$8 to \$12. The average is \$10.

Your contribution will bring happiness to some child and his parents. Don't delay. Call Riley 5551 now. Just ask for "Clothe-A-Child."

ANNA E. BRISENTINE OF IRVINGTON DEAD

Mrs. Anna E. Brisentine, a life-long resident of the Irvington area, died yesterday. She was 70.

Mrs. Brisentine, whose home was just east of Irvington, is survived by three sons, Raymond and John Brisentine and Dora Ewy; six daughters, Mrs. Ethel Tyler, Mrs. Ives Earle, Mrs. Edna Iversing, all of Indianapolis; Mrs. Jessie Roth of Martinsville and Mrs. Bertha Amick of Anderson.

She also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Bertha Irwin and Mrs. Cora McFarland, Indianapolis, and a brother, Fred Wagner, Los Angeles.

She was a member of the Crawfordville M. E. Church.

Services will be at 2 p. m. Sunday at the Moore & Kirk Irvington Mortuary, with burial at Anderson Cemetery.

GERMANS CONFIRM SCUTTLING OF SHIP

BERLIN, Dec. 13 (U. P.).—Scuttling of the German merchantman Idarwald to avoid capture by the British cruiser Diomed Tuesday in the Atlantic near Cuba was confirmed today by the German official D. N. B. news agency.

(The Idarwald was one of three German vessels which made a run for home from Tampico, Mexico.)

TWO PRINCIPAL AIMS ACHIEVED IN RECREATION

Mayor's Committee Hopes For Closer School-City Program Next Year.

Members of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Recreation reviewed achievements of the committee's first year and outlined aims for the ensuing year at a conference yesterday in the Mayor's office.

The two principal objectives of the committee for the first year have been accomplished. They were the appointment of an assistant recreation director and establishment of a training course for summer playground workers with their selection to be made from successful trainees.

Among the goals outlined for the coming year are more time spent in interpreting the program to the taxpayers, enlisting increasing aid from volunteers, and creating a closer link between the Recreation Department, Butler University and the state universities for assistance and as a source for personnel.

Other Goals Listed

Other goals listed were fostering of closer relations with the Civic Theater, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and other musical organizations "whose services can contribute to a richer cultural program than our budget can support," and an active campaign to enlist the cooperation of industry with the Recreation Department by giving jobs to unemployed youths and financial aid for the recreation program.

The committee recommended that the training course for summer playground workers be repeated with a view to establishing a permanent staff, and that in-service training of the year-around staff be continued with rating and promotion sheets.

Also recommended is the creation of a functional budget for the use of the Recreation Department, analyzing and listing requirements for summer playground programs by Feb. 15 with special attention to delivery dates, and working out a more efficient and economical method of negotiating small purchases than by formal bids.

WPA Aid Lessens

The report commented that with the gradual lessening of Marion County WPA recreation assistance, it is probable that fewer playgrounds can be operated this year, and recommended appointment of a committee for careful analysis of the location of these areas.

It was recommended also that a typed report of progress in the Recreation Department be distributed monthly at Park Board meetings.

In conclusion, the report asserts that whereas the Park Board and the public have been accustomed to consider municipal recreation as primarily for children, "we now should begin to visualize a department which serves the whole family in its own community and to which, in turn, the family gives of its abilities in volunteer services and to the support of the necessary budget."

Attendance Rises

Statistically, it was reported that the 70 school and park playgrounds had a total attendance this year of 712,130, an increase of 213,044; attendance at swimming pools increased to 407,783, and at wading pools to 130,857.

Committee members attending the conference were Harvey B. Hartsock, School Superintendent; Dr. W. L. Morgan and Business Director A. B. Good; William H. Book, Chamber of Commerce executive vice president; Park Board Members Albert H. Giesler and Miss Gertrude V. Brown; Recreation Director H. W. Middlesworth and his assistant, Patrick Rooney; Mayor Sullivan, City Librarian Luther L. Dickerson, John F. White, Evans Woolen Jr., Mrs. Joseph Miner, Mrs. Meredith Nicholson Jr., Mrs. Carl Manthel, Mrs. Dorothy Buschmann, Mrs. George Clark and Mrs. Thomas Sheerin.

INVALID WOMAN, 38, BURNED TO DEATH

LOGANSPORT, Ind., Dec. 13 (U. P.).—Mrs. Goldie Griffin, 38, an invalid, burned to death early today when fire destroyed her home and two adjoining buildings at Ora, Ind.

Her brother, Peter Mitchell, 32, a semi-invalid, is in Winamac Hospital after neighbors carried him from the burning house. They were called by her son, Clarence, 13, who awoke when smoke filled his room.

Firemen were called from Knox and Winamac. The origin of the blaze is undetermined. Five buildings directly across the street burned down in September, 1939.

Strauss Says:



WE'RE OPEN SATURDAY FROM 9 IN THE MORNING UNTIL 9 AT NIGHT

(We're also open Monday night until 9)

If There Is a MAN (or men) you especially wish to remember—don't forget, please, that he has a strong hankering for certain glowing red boxes. You can understand the impulse, "He will open his Strauss gift box first."

If it's a BOY—a real boy—he will shriek with joy (at least a "yippee") if it's something from The Man's Store, his Dad's store (you can't "blame" him!)

If it's a Charming LADY—with tailored tastes—she would cherish a gift from The Specialty Shop that devotes itself to the simple, beautiful clothes for an active or casual life!

You should see the ROBES, and the gossamer, gorgeous Dездеle STOCKINGS.

If you can—shop in the morning. If you can't—come in when you can any time till 9 at night. We'll do our dandiest to serve you with all that we have!

L. STRAUSS & CO. INC. THE MAN'S STORE

Here Is the Traffic Record

County City Total

1939 40 52 92
1940 50 87 137

—Dec. 12—

Injured 4 Accidents 13

Dead 0 Arrests 66

THURSDAY'S TRAFFIC COURT

Violations Cases Convicted

Speeding 25 22 \$153

Reckless driving 14 14 6

Failure to stop at through street 6 6 10

Disobeying traffic signals 5 3 0

Drunken driving 3 2 95

All others 119 117 43

Totals 172 164 307

MEETINGS TODAY

Exchange Club, luncheon, Hotel Severin.

Optimist Club, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Air Conditioning Council, dinner, Riley Hotel, 6 p. m.

Pri Delta Delta, luncheon, Canary Cottage, noon.

Delta Tau Delta, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Kappa Sigma, luncheon, Canary Cottage, noon.

Indiana Implement Dealers' Association, annual convention, Hotel Severin, all day.

Annual Indiana History Conference, Hotel Lincoln, noon.

Indianapolis Pressmen's Union, meeting, Hotel Severin, 7:30 p. m.

Lithographers' Union, meeting, Hotel Severin, 8 p. m.

Eastlake Life Association, Christmas party, Hotel Severin.

Shedlar Reding Co., luncheon and meeting, Hotel Severin, noon.

American Communications Association, meeting, Hotel Washington, 8 p. m.

Electric League, luncheon, Claypool Hotel, 12:15 p. m.

County Assessors, meeting, Claypool Hotel.

Variety Club, dinner, Claypool Hotel, 7 p. m.

MEETINGS TOMORROW

Telephone Co., employees, Hotel Severin, 3 p. m.

Commercial Motor Freight, Hotel Severin, 10:30 a. m.

Indiana Road, luncheon, Hotel Severin, 12:30 p. m.

Indiana Federation of Labor, Claypool morning and afternoon.

Indiana Society of Professional Engineers, Claypool, 8 p. m.

Indiana Intercollegiate Conference, Claypool, 10 p. m.

Secondary Principals' Association, Claypool, 8 p. m.

Society of Planners, Claypool, 8:30 p. m.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

(These lists are from official records in the County Court House. The Times is not responsible for errors in names and addresses.)

Vernon Stedd Jr., 21, of 1606 Spann Dorcas Denison, 17, of 1234 Fletcher

Blanche Bolin, 21, of 1901 W. Morris, Duane Allen, 21, of 1901 W. Morris

land, Cecelia Mae, 21, of 2215 Kenwood

Walter C. Kendall, 21, Cambridge City, Ind., Jane Hale, 19, of 1316 Bellefontaine

Bickling, Naomi Beard, 24, of 308 Bickling, Cecelia Mae, 21, of 2215 Kenwood

William C. Petty, 41, of 3658 Rockville Road, Dorothy F. Wagoner, 21, of 871 Creston Drive

Alvin Leonard Cohen, 24, of 4603 Park Meridian, Borinstein, 24, 4137 N. Meridian

Lois LaVerne McCullough, 20, of 157 W. Westfield Blvd., Esther Louise Jervis, 21, of 1807 N. Pennsylvania

Robert Whitaker, 22, Franklin, Ind.; Mary K. Morgan, 20, of 553 E. Raymond

BIRTHS

Twins—Boy and Girl

Thomas, Mary Anna, at 2211 Columbia, Girls

Patrick, Ruby McNelis, at St. Francis, Herschel, Elizabeth Lile, at City

Claude, Mary Gann, at Coleman, Sam, Fayne, Houston, at Methodist

James, Bonita Donadio, at Methodist, Paul, Lela Crany, at Methodist

Edward, Florence Brooks, at Methodist, Wayne, Helen McLeod, at Methodist

Edward, Mary Reeser, at 1822 N. Emerson, John, Helen, Douglas, at 513 W. Merrill

William, Mary Toler, at St. Francis, Dr. Justin, Nellie Seal, at St. Francis

Virgil, Beulah Wilson, at St. Francis, Irvin, Mildred Worton, at City

Thomas, Betty Blingsley, at St. Vincent's, Perry, Gertrude Goldstein, at St. Vincent's

Kenneth, Mary Nugent, at Methodist, William, Mary Ball, at 237 Oakland

Lewis, Lewis, at 553 Warren, Mary Catherine Moss, 75, at Methodist, labor pneumonia

DEATHS

Lewis Harvey Hehricks, 67, at 1301 S. Keystone, June, at 3635 N. Penna

Myrtle Myers Kie, 58, at 3635 N. Penna, Walter Cox, 48, at Methodist, uremia

Frank, at St. Vincent's, multiple emboli to lungs

Michael Trinkle, 3, at St. Vincent's, acute intestinal intussusception

Karl F. Johnston, 61, at 3814 Park, cardio vascular renal disease

Mary Alice Rexford, 73, at 1411 N. New Jersey, carcinoma

William A. Wren, 82, at City, polycystic kidneys

Silen Outland, 83, at 3001 N. Arsenal, chronic myocarditis

Mary Catherine Moss, 75, at Methodist, labor pneumonia

OFFICIAL WEATHER

U. S. Weather Bureau