

# ITALY QUILTS TOBRUK AIR BASE AS BRITISH PRESS ON IN LIBYA

London Raided in Daylight; Bucharest Hints Nazis May Be in Bulgaria.

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Officers and 38 men were taken prisoners, a Government spokesman said.

## Libyan Front

Prospects were that a siege of Tobruk might start almost at once.

The R. A. F. said that the Italians had evacuated the Tobruk air base because of the powerful British bombing attack and added that raids on the Italian bases at Derna and Martuba farther up the Libyan Coast had been carried out yesterday, but the full details of the results could not be observed.

At Tobruk the bombing attack was centered on the harbor and military objectives.

Units of the Mediterranean fleet prepared to give the R. A. F. and the Army of the Nile the same support that aided in the fall of Bardia, with isolation of Tobruk by land, air and sea as the first aim of the British.

British military opinion seemed to regard Tobruk as a less difficult nut to crack than Bardia, which held out three weeks. It was believed that Tobruk was defended by more than two Italian divisions, possibly 30,000 troops.

Already the British have eliminated an estimated 34,000 men from Marshal Rodolfo Graziani's original force of 250,000. Some 70,000 Italians have been taken prisoner and another 24,000 killed or wounded.

British casualties were placed at less than 2,000, an infinitesimal number in view of the British victories.

## Diplomatic Front

What form an Axis rejoinder to the British victories in Libya and Albania might take still was obscure but speculation mounted that Germany may plan to aid Italy directly in Africa as well as to move attack on the Balkan front.

Any move to rescue Italy from the hard-hitting British defense would be facilitated by German bases on France's Mediterranean Coast and in French North Africa and by a threat to British control of the entrance to the island sea at Gibraltar.

While reports and rumors of German Balkan action have been repeatedly publicized, both Germany and France have been silent on specific issues of dispute between them, although both have admitted tension.

If German demands relating to the Mediterranean have been pressed on France, the views given American reporters today at Vichy by the newly arrived U. S. Ambassador, Admiral William D. Leahy, acquire significance.

Leahy told reporters that he would emphasize to the French Government the solidarity with which the United States backs Britain and the great American interest "in the world situation" and the Far East, where France's colony of Indo-China is under pressure from both the Japanese and Thailand.

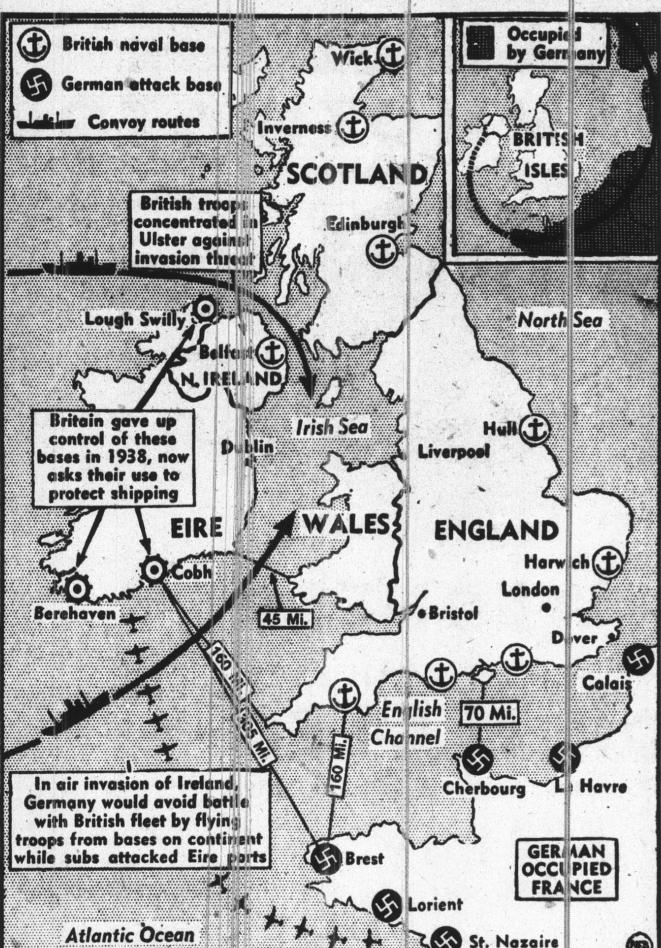
Balkan sources said Germany was aware of Turkey's determination to fight if Bulgaria was invaded.

They cited this factor in support of their belief that Germany is encouraging the circulation of alarming rumors about the Balkans as part of a war of nerves at a time when large-scale military operations are not feasible.

The Balkan diplomats continued to insist that they had no confirmation of reports that Germany has given Bulgaria an ultimatum concerning movement of Nazi troops into that country or that Bulgaria has yielded to such an ultimatum.

## Air Warfare

German air activity over Britain last night was cut to small proportions by raging snowstorms and high



Bombs over neutral Ireland have suggested the possibility of a German invasion. Here, the possible Nazi strategy is shown, with an inset map showing how Hitler then would ring Britain from Norway to northern Ireland.

winds over the Dover Straits. French and Spanish roads and rail transport also have been blocked by unprecedented snowdrifts accompanied by bitter cold.

German newspapers from Bremen belatedly brought confirmation of the heavy damage claimed by the Royal Air Force in three punishing raids that ended with the week-end.

The Bremen papers put casualties at 19 killed and 101 wounded, admitted big fires that razed parts of the city and damaged factories as a result of raids of unusual persistence.

It was the first time a German account had described British air action in anything but slighting terms.

Another British attack on the important Italian harbor of Valona in Albania was reported. Bombs were reported to have burst among buildings and warehouses in the vicinity of the Valona docks and several fires started.

A British Blenheim bomber severely damaged one of three German merchantmen off the coast of Norway yesterday and other Blenheims scored a direct hit on a bow of a German tanker of about 5,000 tons off the Netherlands Coast.

The Air Ministry said the Air Force had destroyed the tanker.

Berlin claimed that German planes yesterday attacked military

## LA PORTE MAN NAMED BY OPTOMETRISTS

H. F. Garton, La Porte, is the new president of the Indiana Association of Optometrists. He was elected at closing meetings of the annual two-day convention in the Sevier Hotel yesterday.

Dr. Don R. Peck, Elwood, was elected first vice president and chairman of the executive committee; Dr. W. L. Van Osdol, Indianapolis, was re-elected second vice president and membership chairman; Dr. Roy E. Denny, Indianapolis, third vice president and legislative chairman; Dr. Charles O. Jeffreys, Indianapolis, fourth vice president and publicity chairman; Dr. Harold Cline, Elkhart, fifth vice president and educational chairman; Dr. A. C. Anderson, Ft. Wayne, re-elected secretary-treasurer.

A life membership was presented to Dr. F. H. Edmonds, Richmond.

## Claims Street Hides Fortune

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7 (U. P.)—John H. Ryan of Hollywood asked permission today to dig up a city street for the "log of a Christopher Columbus" voyage and a chest bulging with gold and jewels.

His application to the Public Works Board said a man in a "vision" told him "this log is buried beneath the concrete covering of the parkway at Beaudry Ave. and Figueroa St."

Board members left the request for the city engineer.

## WILKEN'S CONDITION SERIOUS

The condition of Ed Wilken, 61, of Indianapolis, remained serious. Henry F. Wayne, re-elected secretary-treasurer, remained in Methodist Hospital today operated on yesterday for an intestinal disorder.

A life membership was presented to Dr. F. H. Edmonds, Richmond.

## IN INDIANAPOLIS

### Here Is the Traffic Record

County City Total  
1940 ..... 0 0 0  
1941 ..... 0 0 0

—Jan. 6—

Injured ..... 5 | Accidents ..... 23

Dead ..... 0 | Arrests ..... 15

MONDAY TRAFFIC COURT Cases Convic- Fines  
Violations tried paid  
Speeding ..... 8 8 \$102  
Reckless driving ..... 3 0 0  
Failure to stop at through street ..... 1 0 0  
Disobeying traffic signals ..... 8 7 12  
Drunken driving ..... 1 0 0  
All others ..... 30 19 8  
Totals ..... 51 34 \$122

### MEETINGS TODAY

Indiana Association of District and County Farmers, Hotel Lincoln, all day.

United States Trotting Association, District 2, Board of Review, meeting, Hotel Sevier, 10 a. m.

Ind. Bureau Co-Operative, luncheon, Hotel Lincoln, noon. American Chemical Society, luncheon, Hotel Sevier, noon.

Indiana Inders of Photoplas, meeting, Indiana Dressers, 1 p. m. and Cametologists, meeting, Hotel Lincoln, 7:30 p. m.

Ind. Engineers Service Club, luncheon, Hotel Sevier, noon.

Ind. Men's Club, luncheon, Claypool Hotel, noon.

Alpha Tau Omega, luncheon, Board of Governors, Hotel Lincoln, noon.

Theta Chi Club, luncheon, Spink-Arms Hotel, noon.

Universal Club, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

University of Michigan Club, luncheon, Hotel Franklin, noon.

Knights of Columbus, luncheon, K. of C. Clubhouse, noon.

Indiana Service Club, luncheon, C. A. C. Cottage, noon.

Indiana Service Club, luncheon, Spink-Arms Hotel, noon.

Indiana Motor Truck Association, luncheon, Hotel Lincoln, noon.

Charles Jansen, luncheon and dinner, Claypool Hotel.

Ind. Life, meeting, Claypool Hotel, morning and afternoon.

Ind. Lumbermen's Builders' Association, luncheon, Claypool Hotel.

Mental Hygiene Advisory Council, dinner, Hotel Washington, 6:30 p. m.

MEETINGS TOMORROW

Automobile Owners, luncheon, Hotel Washington, 12:15 p. m.

Ind. Chiropractic, luncheon, Alpha meeting, Hotel Washington, 1 p. m.

## U. S. RELEASES WARPLANES FOR GREEKS' BATTLE

### Quick Action Taken to Aid Democracies; Probe of Rearmament Begins.

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translate that into legislation to be introduced soon in Congress.

Mr. Roosevelt revealed no new details of that plan, but it was carried out by giving the Army and Navy unlimited authority to make available to countries needing it whatever material aid they consider prudent in the light of American defense.

Navy Adds 445 Planes

Admiral Towers told the House Naval Affairs Committee which opened an investigation of the progress of naval rearmament that the Navy added only 445 planes to its air force this year.

Most of these planes were obtained in the last three months. Since Dec. 4 they have been on the highest priorities ranking.

The fleet air arm totaled 2,500 planes of all categories on Jan. 1, 1941, Admiral Towers said. He told Chairman Carl Vinson of the committee that frankly he was not satisfied with the progress.

"I am very impatient about it," he said.

Mr. Vinson's inquiry was part of a double drive by legislative and executive departments to speed rearmament. Later in the day President Roosevelt planned to set up the new super defense agency to co-ordinate in probe in Probe

Mr. Vinson explained that his investigation would cover aviation procurement, aviation base development, naval shipbuilding and naval shore base development. He noted that for aviation procurement Congress provided for 1941 \$226,088,62 cash, \$500,000,000 in contract authorizations and \$60,000,000 for expanding plant facilities.

Of the 445 naval planes acquired in the last year, Mr. Towers said, most of them came in the last three months. He expects to get 263 in January; 263 in February, 299 in March; 334 in April; 393 in May; 372 in June; 352 in July; 365 in August; 365 in September; 329 in October; 275 in November and 299 in December.

He said that 1,300 planes, including 324 of latest type fighters, remain to be ordered under 1941 appropriations.

Admiral Towers is expected to be followed by Rear Admirals Ben Morell, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks; Samuel Robinson, chief of the Bureau of Engineering and W. R. Furling, chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.

Mr. Vinson moved yesterday to finance expansion of Naval shipbuilding and Naval ordnance producing facilities by introducing a bill calling for a \$315,000,000 appropriation for shipyard expansion and \$149,000,000 for enlarging ordnance output.

Hope to Cut Red Tape

Informed sources said the executive order creating a new super defense agency would name William Knudsen director and Sidney Hillman co-director of the new defense agency—the office for production management. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Navy Secretary Frank Knox will be other members of the O. P. M., but they will serve largely in an advisory capacity.

The agency will be charged with smashing through the barriers and red tape impeding armaments production.

Mr. Knudsen and Mr. Hillman, according to reliable information, will have to share the responsibility of whipping arms production machinery into high gear. These sources said the order would specify that Mr. Knudsen and Mr. Hillman exercise their administrative functions jointly. Previously, it had been reported that Mr. Knudsen was to have the final say.

The four-man agency will be given the broadest powers the President may constitutionally delegate.

Further indications of what Mr. Roosevelt's program of aid to the "embattled democracies" probably will be contained in Mr. Roosevelt's budget which he will submit to Congress tomorrow. The budget is expected to call for about \$10,000,000 for routine Government expenditures.

Others are Howard N. Hamilton, Oaklawn, interviewer with the State Employment Service; Roscoe Ashby, 2614 N. Sherman Dr., pharmacist; James L. Houston, R. R. 12, Box 491, farmer; Richard E. Dice, 1047 W. 36th St., painter and decorator; Edward P. Dean, 3848 N. Delaware St., Dean Brothers Pump Co. vice president; Charles C. Dawson, 4963 Ralston Ave., customers' service man with the gas utility.

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