

ITALY QUIT TUBRUK AIR BASE AS BRITISH PRESS ON ALBANY

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

(Continued from Page One)

ficers 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 further up the Libyan Coast had been carried out yesterday, but the full details of the results could not be ascertained.

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 20 Italian divisions, possibly 30,000 troops.

Already the British have eliminated an estimated 94,000 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, and 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 was the subject of speculation mounted that Germany plans to aid Italy directly in Africa as well as to move actively on the Balkan front.

Any move to rescue Italy from the hard-hitting British desert offensive would be facilitated by German bases on French Mediterranean Coast, and in French North Africa, and by a threat to British control of the entrance to the inland sea at Gibraltar.

While reports and rumors of German Balkan action have been repeatedly publicized, 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 stands behind 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.

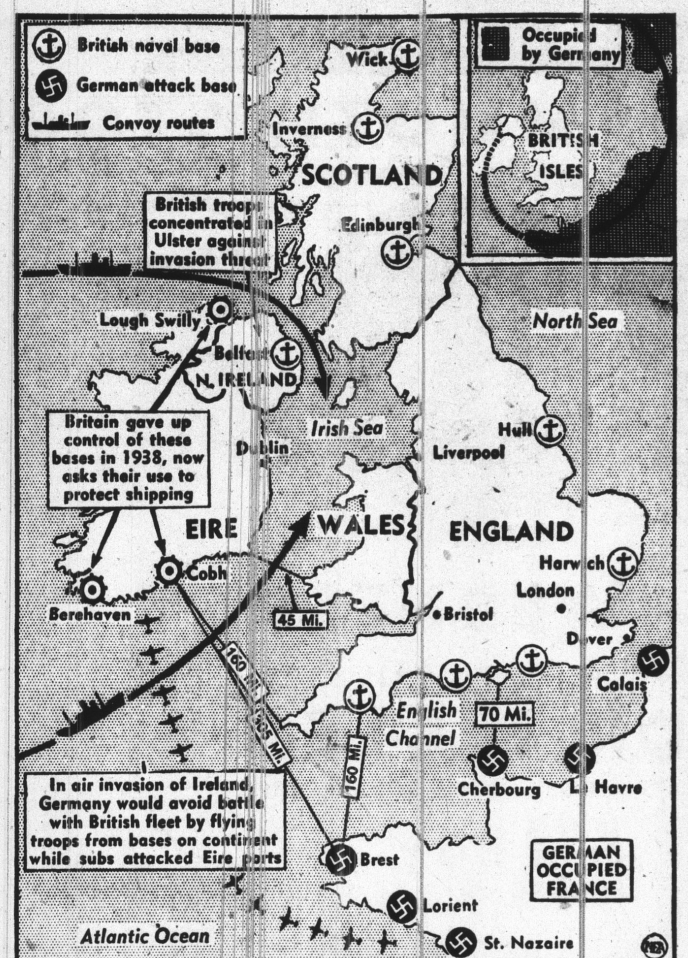
Balkan sources said Germany was aware of the fact that Bulgaria was in a state of indecision.

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 in Europe.

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 bring 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 Bari, in Albania, was reported. Bombs were reported to have burst among buildings and warehouses in the vicinity of the harbor 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 the bow of a German tanker of about 5,000 tons off the Netherlands Coast, the Air Ministry said.

Berlin claimed that German planes yesterday attacked military

objectives in southern England despite bad weather.

A low level attack was said to have damaged a number of soundings and a flying field and it was claimed that railroad lines were hit and that bombs fell on a chemical and a ball bearing factory.

A communiqué said that German bombers raided London several times, shooting down several barrage balloons in flames during one raid.

In Rome, Benito Mussolini and his Council of Ministers, meeting today, proclaimed the complete faith in Italy's alliance with Germany and Japan and in the fortitude of the Italian people.

The Council also proclaimed its admiration of the Italian Army which is heroically fighting on various fronts against the forces of British imperialism and its satellites.

Before its adjournment, until Feb. 22, the Council approved the budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, providing for expenditures of 38,764,450,295 lire (\$2,013,760,740). The budget showed a deficit of 8,794,056,295 lire (\$440,954,500).

Dr. H. F. Garton, Le 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 Severin 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. Jeffrey, Indianapolis, fourth vice president and publicity chairman; Dr. Harold C. Clune, Ellettsville, fifth vice president and educational chairman; Dr. A. C. Anderson, Ft. Wayne, re-elected secretary-treasurer.

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U. S. RELEASES WARPLANES FOR GREEKS' BATTLE

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

(Continued from Page One)

translate that into legislation to be introduced soon in Congress.

Mr. Roosevelt revealed no new details of that plan, but it was learned later that it may be 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 progress 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 2590 planes of all categories on Jan. 1, 1941. Admiral Towers said. He told Chairman Carl Vinson of the committee that the Navy 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. In the day President Roosevelt planned to set up the new super defense agency to co-ordinate the effort.

Cover Wide Front 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 \$226,088,632 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, 259 in March; 334 in April; 333 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 1300 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 Bureau of Engineering, and Samuel Robinson, 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 \$15,000,000 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 of the war.

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 \$10,000,000,000 for routine Government expenditures.

ALGER WILL FACE KENTUCKY CHARGE

PERU, Ind., Jan. 7 (U. P.).—Gene Alger, 32, Indianapolis ex-convict, today faced removal to Covington, Ky., to face a charge of armed robbery.

Alger was cleared of a bank robbery charge here Saturday by the confession of Robert Early, 26, Washburn County. Police said Early admitted robbing the Denver branch of the Washburn Valley Trust Co. last May 8.

Alger is charged with robbing the Community Loan Co. in Covington last Sept. 9. Jack Williams, 38, also of Indianapolis, is in the Covington jail under \$10,000 bond on charges in connection with the robbery.

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Binnie Barnes a Blushing Bride as She Bares Modesty in Brief, Black Undie Statement

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN
United Press Hollywood Correspondent.
HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Charging that she had been duped into appearing on the screen in black underwear, with lace around the edges, Binnie Barnes today demanded that Columbia Studios remove her and her unmentionables from public view, or face an injunction suit.

Her husband was kicking, she said. Otherwise, she wouldn't have minded. At least, not so much.

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"Well, think press agent stunt when I get a court to suppress the picture," Miss Barnes retorted. "He'll have still another thing when Mike catches up with him. I thought he was taking a silhouette. And there I am in person, and I mean in person. All I've got on is panties and a brassiere. And to make it worse, they're black. It probably wouldn't be quite so bad, but here I am, a bride, and Mike is furious."

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