

BLOCKADE PORTS SEIZED BY BRITISH

Portsmouth Flames Visible
105 Miles Away; 44,000
Italian Casualties.

(Continued from Page One)

Bardia were said to have been 44,000 officers and men.

The Greeks claimed that the Italian resistance in southwest Albania was crumbling and that the Fascists were "in full retreat" from Kila, which the Greeks captured yesterday, toward Berat.

Russia-U. S.

In London the Roosevelt proposals to Congress for almost unlimited aid from America's new "arsenal of democracy" were hailed as the "key to victory" over Germany. The British press devoted almost its entire attention to the American aid question and gave scant attention to the new German-Russian trade agreement. The British view was that Russian assistance to Germany had never amounted to more than a "trickle" and that the aid which paper agreements would appreciably change the situation.

Berlin took a directly contrary line, devoting its major attention to the Russian agreement which, it was claimed, would bring unprecedented shipments of foodstuffs and vital raw materials to Germany. The American plans were dismissed as "too late" to avert a British defeat.

Adolf Hitler's paper, the Volkischer Beobachter, referred to Mr. Roosevelt as a "Messianic." All the German press published summaries of the Administration's proposals and the first comment on them was a charge by the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung that the proposal for repair of foreign warships in United States ports would be "a direct violation of the Hague Convention of 1907, in which the United States joined."

"Two Mightiest in Europe"

The important Italian newspaper Popolo di Roma advanced the thesis that the American people opposed Mr. Roosevelt's "all-out" aid to Britain. The Italian paper concentrated on the German-Italian action in the Mediterranean.

The official Moscow press presented the agreement as strengthening "peace and friendship" between Germany and Russia which were described as the "two mightiest powers in Europe."

Ivestia replied for the first time to President Roosevelt's fireside chat which had characterized American aid to Britain as "no more unusual" than the sale of war materials by Sweden and Russia to Germany.

Ivestia said "some leading statesmen" of the United States and Great Britain were "juggling" international law by trying to place U. S. war aid to Britain in the same category with Soviet cereal sales to Germany.

The newspaper said that the Soviet Union is ready to conclude trade agreements with any nation, belligerent or non-belligerent. Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador, has discussed a trade agreement at the Kremlin repeatedly without avail. There were reports in London that Britain might now ask the United States to reduce or end Pacific shipments to Russia, lest the goods aid Germany.

Balkan Accord Hinted

The Russian press declared that Russo-German relations had been ruled by "friendship and mutual understanding" since the signing of the Berlin-Moscow pact on the eve of the war's outbreak.

There were reports, as yet, that the new Russo-German agreement covering trade, the new Lithuanian-German boundary and repatriation of German nationals in the Baltic states implied that an understanding had been reached by the two countries concerning the Balkans.

Air Warfare

The joint Italo-German air attack on British fleet units was described as occurring off the south coast of Sicily, which has been reported to be the base of Nazi air reinforcements sent Italy.

The German and Italian communiques left some uncertainty as to how many British warships were reported hit but apparently the claim was that the British had shot one aircraft carrier and a destroyer while torpedo-carrying planes hit another aircraft carrier and a cruiser.

The German attack on Portsmouth was described as the heaviest of the war on that naval city. The Germans admitted that six of their planes had not returned.

Libyan Front

Operations around Tobruk today were intended to prevent any escape of the Italians there to Derna, 130 miles away, or the arrival of any reinforcements from Derna.

The British announced at Cairo that they killed and captured a total of 44,888 Italian officers and men in the siege of Bardia. This report brought known Italian casualties, killed, wounded or captured, since the start of British desert operations in the neighborhood of 100,000 men, while it is believed that nine Italian divisions, totaling possibly 120,000 men—almost half of Marshal Rodolfo Graziani's total force—have been destroyed as effective military units.

Albanian Front

Greek airplane pilots who bombed Valona today and British pilots who attacked Italian columns north of Kila, said that Italy's "troops and motorized convoys were in full retreat toward Berat. Kila, which was occupied yesterday, and they found it "devastated, pillaged and burned down" after a month-long siege.

Athens reported the capture of 600 Italian prisoners, 20 officers, a battle flag, four big guns and some tanks at Kila and said that there were 400 Italian dead in one spot in the town. Rome today admitted a total of 12,379 casualties in the Greek war so far, including 2061 killed.

CLAIMS FIRST LADY WANTS TO BE QUEEN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (U. P.).—Rep. Clare E. Hoffman (R. Mich.) charged today that "the Roosevelt administration has been in some way, gotten the idea that they are entitled to receive homage and applause as our king and queen."

In an 11-page statement attacking the first lady's criticism of Republican members of Congress for their failure to applaud the President's address on the State of the Union Monday, Rep. Hoffman said: "She and the President have entertained so many royalists from abroad that apparently they have come to believe that from all America should come unquestioning adulation and praise."

Rep. Hoffman charged that Mrs. Roosevelt "has evidently reached that state of mind typical of dictators and tyrants; who can see no other views but their own."

"If Mrs. Roosevelt were an accurate observer," he said, "she would have noticed that not only Republicans but Democrats are silent during the greater part of the President's address."

DRAFT RACKET CHARGED

DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 11 (U. P.).—A Selective Service official said today he was informed an 18-year-old National Guardsman was selling forged draft registration cards to Des Moines high school students so they could "prove" they were 21, old enough to buy beer and cigarettes.

MEETINGS TODAY

Farm Security Administration, meeting, Hotel Severn, 9 a. m. Middle West and South, meeting, Hotel Severn, 10:30 a. m. United Rubber Workers, meeting, Hotel Severn, 8 a. m. Annual Forum of the American Association of University Professors, luncheon and meeting, Clapp Hotel.

Kelley College of Physical Therapy, meeting, Hotel Washington, 2 p. m. dinner at 8 p. m.

United Paper Box Co., local 31, dinner at 8 p. m., Hotel Washington.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

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

Ray C. Baumgart, 29, of 4188 Carrollton; Elizabeth P. Smith, 24, of 2418 Shelby.

Alfred McCall, 24, of Anderson, Ind.; Alice E. Smith, 24, of Anderson, Ind.

Wilfred Angleton, 26, R. 2, Box 440; Mary A. Green, 23, of 834 W. 26th.

Donald E. Clark, 29, of 834 W. 26th.

John W. Wells, 29, of 834 W. 26th.

Emily J. Myer, 25, of 21 N. Whittier.

DEATHS

Alvira Evelyn Pitts, 48, at 1897 E. 24th, carcinoma.

Isaac A. Ploce, at City, hypertension.

Pauline Griffith, 31, at Methodist, pneumonia.

John McLaughlin, 71, at 2108 Highland, cerebral hemorrhage.

John W. Wells, 29, at 16 N. Dearborn, chronic myocarditis.

Arthur Stern, 23, at 3401 N. Illinois, arteriosclerosis.

John W. Wells, 29, at City, bronchopneumonia.

ROW FLARES ON AD-ALLIES BILL

House Military Committee
Demands Right to Study
Proposal.

(Continued from Page One)

United States. It girded for a long and determined fight to kill virtually the whole proposal.

Former President Herbert Hoover and Governor Alf M. Landon, the 1936 Republican nominee, who never enough, however, that some time bombs caused authorities to order whole areas cleared of civilians.

The British said that "hundreds" of German raiders came over in three separate assaults, dropping "thousands of bombs" and starting "hundreds of fires, some of them big. Some hospitals were evacuated. Liverpool had a long 'nuisance' raid last night and the siren and anti-aircraft guns went into action at London early tonight.

The British daylight raids in France yesterday were the first attacks by British bombers escorted by fighters since the capitulation of France. London claimed they were evidence that "the R. A. F. is now strong enough to be matched against the Luftwaffe in the open over German-occupied territory." The British described the raids as "a new long-range Short-Stirling bomber and a new eight-gun Hurricane naval fighter plane into action."

Modification Proposed

While sentiment was slow to crystallize, initial indications pointed toward the possibility that the modificationists and the outright opponents, together, might have sufficient votes to put some restrictions into the bill. Most discussed were these suggested limitations:

1. A two-year limit on the President's authority to provide war materials and repair warships for "any country" whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States.
2. A provision to maintain the existing law that ships, airplanes, guns and other equipment now in the hands of the U. S. Army and Navy cannot be disposed of unless the Chief of Staff or Chief of Naval Operations certify that they are not essential to the United States own defense.
3. A revision to prevent outright gifts of war materials. The bill as drafted would authorize the President "to sell, transfer, exchange, lease, lend, or otherwise dispose of such material."

Asks Publicity for Bill

The "indirect benefit" clause, it was contended, left the way open for outright gifts.

Chairman Walter George (D. Ga.) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said the Administration did not intend to give away anything and that the section was "not definite enough."

Senator George withheld comments on the bill as a whole but pointedly said he hoped its provisions would be widely publicized "so the American people can see" that it would give belligerent warships "the freedom of our ports" and would permit disposal of war materials already on hand as well as that which is still to be made.

Brooklyn Navy Yard Cited

The President's proposal to permit outfitting and repairing of belligerent warships at American yards excited great interest. Congressmen were curious about the example cited by Administration Leaders Alben W. Barkley and John W. McCormack in their joint statement explaining the bill.

The shipyard section, they said, "could conceivably mean that the British battleship Renown could be repaired in the Brooklyn Navy Yard if the President considered it in the interest of our national defense to do so."

Manila to Puerto Rico

Mr. Barkley and Mr. McCormack made it clear, however, that the bill was intended to authorize British ships to make repairs or outfit ships at any American Navy yard or air base from Manila to Puerto Rico, as well as on the mainland.

The bill would set aside provisions of the present neutrality law in order to permit belligerent warships to use our ports. This section also would counter to principles of international law as set forth in the 1907 Hague Convention and Declaration of Panama made by all the American republics in 1939. After the American Civil War, Great Britain paid large damages to the United States for permitting Confederate ships to outfit in British ports.

Supporters of the bill seemed little concerned on that score, however. They took the attitude that Germany already had tossed international law into the discard and that no provisions of the old code should be permitted to stand in the way of helping Britain combat the Axis.

IT PROBABLY WAS

RED BANK, N. J., Jan. 11 (U. P.).—It probably was instinctive, Red Bank policeman Frank Mazza said today in reporting that he had captured a red fox in a furrier's doorway on Broad Street early this morning.

Back to Class for Bride, 13



Mr. and Mrs. Floyd West... separated by court.

ADRIAN, Mich., Jan. 11 (U. P.).—Mildred Coats West, the 13-year-old bride of a city employee, is ready to go back to her sixth-grade classroom Monday, prohibited by court order from living with her 25-year-old husband, Floyd West. West and Mildred's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Coats, fear possible further action by Juvenile Judge Lyle Weaver of Bryan, O., where the couple was married Dec. 31. The three adults pleaded guilty Thursday to charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor before Judge Weaver after they had waived extradition.

Dark-haired, blue-eyed Mildred was made a ward of Judge Weaver and placed on probation.

War Moves Today

By J. W. T. MASON
United Press Staff Writer

Announcement of a new Russo-German boundary and trade agreement coincides with reports from Bucharest this week (officially denied by Moscow) of Russia's Black Sea fleet maneuvering for German-held Rumanian ports and being warned away.

Berlin statements today that the new treaty counteracts American aid to Britain are propaganda for the German people and have no realistic basis on the German side. They concern simple Russo-German relations in areas where there is no reason for serious controversy at the present time. The seeds of Baltic and Polish trouble are for future sprouting.

Slight Increase Expected

Exchange of Russian grain and oil for German machinery and other manufactures has been proceeding since the start of the war and before. A new treaty at this time, therefore, would not change the situation, in any essential manner.

Germany and Russia naturally are open to expanding their commerce, but maximum figures of possible quantities written into a treaty do not mean actual accomplishments. There are strict limits to the export abilities of both nations.

Recent demands of German war industries have seriously curtailed the output of heavy industries for peace-time machinery. Germany has neither the raw material nor the manpower to manufacture goods for barter at present in large quantities.

Transportation Difficult

In recent barter negotiations with Central and Southern European countries, the Germans have had to arrange for postponed and post-war deliveries. The same condition must now prevail regarding barter with Russia.

The Russians on their part, have been encountering obstacles in delivering grain and oil to Germany since the war began. Transport, especially, has been difficult.

The Germans have been receiving food supplies from Russia but certainly not in great quantities. The limitations are known because of rationing enforced on the German people.

Russian oil, too, has been delivered only in comparatively moderate amounts.

Surplus Doesn't Exist

It is not credible that Russia has suddenly acquired a heavy excess of grain and oil much beyond previous shipments to Germany and that only treaty signatures have been necessary to release the new supplies. Even if some reorganization of transport will allow an increase in Russian export, it is fantastic to think of Russia's surplus as comparable with American possibilities of production.

The essential Russo-German political problem remains unchanged despite any trade agreement. It concerns conflicting national interests in Southeastern Europe, and Asia Minor as well.

The German encroachment on the Rumanian shore of the Black Sea is a special menace to Stalin which no satisfaction over a short term commercial treaty can counterbalance.

NAVY'S 'JINX TUG' GETS GOING AGAIN

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 11 (U. P.).—The U. S. S. Okisko, jinx tug of the Navy, reported to Coast Guard headquarters here at 5 a. m. today that it was aloft and "proceeding" after having run aground near the entrance to St. Augustine Harbor.

The Coast Guard said the tug was not badly damaged and was proceeding in charge of its crew and commander, Lt. M. J. Blanco.

The Okisko has been called the "jinx tug" because of several accidents. Last week it had to be towed into Port Everglades on its trip to Florida from Charleston, S. C., because of water in her fuel tanks.

Hitler Faces Crisis

Potentially, the United States-British Empire coalition, de facto though it remains at least for the time being, is immeasurably more powerful than the already badly cracked Rome-Berlin-Tokyo combination. Steel is what modern wars are won with, and the United States alone has more of this than all the belligerents put together. Admittedly, fabrication is lagging but there is reason to believe that before the year is out this lag will have been overcome.

Accordingly, Germany, Italy and Japan are seen as facing a compelling crisis in their war effort. They must strike soon, and decide going into the next 90 days—or jeopardize their chances of victory.

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STEPHENSON'S PLEA REFUSED

Governor Abides by Board
Decision in Refusing
Ex-Dragon Parole.

(Continued from Page One)

before the Commission during two days of hearings this week, reviewed the evidence.

"The evidence without conflict showed that the death of Miss Oberholzer was not due to the poison she took but to the infection caused by bites on her breast," Mr. Remy said.

"The evidence showed that her breast was badly mutilated, which she, in her dying statement, stated was caused by bites made by Stephens. Many persons who did not hear the evidence have been led to believe that the death of Miss Oberholzer was due to the poison. The doctors on the trial testified she would have recovered from the poison, had it not been for the infection caused by the mutilation of her breast."

"Humiliated by Assault"

The former prosecutor said the evidence showed Miss Oberholzer took poison because of the humiliation of the assault.

Mr. Remy testified that the character of Miss Oberholzer "has frequently been questioned by those who favored Mr. Stephenson's release."

"They had ample opportunity at the trial to attack the girl's reputation and they could not do so," he said. "I made a searching investigation of Made Oberholzer's character. I could find no blemish there."

The former prosecutor told the Commission also that Stephens' charge that he did not have a fair trial has been before the courts "on numerous occasions" and "on every occasion he has either withdrawn his charges or the courts have decided against him."

"The judge who presided in his case was a gentleman of unquestioned probity, since elevated to a judgeship on the U. S. Court of Appeals, whose reputation for integrity has never been assailed," he said.

Judges' Politics Vary

"The judges who have since passed upon Stephens' case have been members of both political parties and as far as I know have been men of integrity."

"At least three different Attorneys General of Indiana, representing both political parties, after careful investigation, have opposed his release."

"I do not believe, therefore, that the question of the guilt of Stephens has ever been successfully challenged and I do not believe this board would have any justification for paroling the prisoner on the theory that his guilt has not been established."

"If the board feels that under all the circumstances Stephens has served enough time, I shall not object to any action it may see fit to take."

He believed that Stephens had, by his own acts, done more to delay a parole than any other person and that if he had not continually kept himself in the headlines by his numerous court actions, he might have been free before this.

Attorney General Samuel D. Jackson opposed a parole in his testimony before the Commission Thursday. He offered the Commission official records which he said "tended to be adverse to the petitioner's interests."

"The Attorney General's office, through my predecessors and through me, has vigorously resisted these numerous attempts of this applicant to be set at liberty and I remain firm in this policy," Mr. Jackson said.

Relatives of the murder victim, including Mrs. Matilda Oberholzer, the girl's mother and Marshall Oberholzer, the victim's brother, testified in protest of a parole.

The parole petition was sponsored by George Weber, South Bend manufacturer, and Albin Smith, La Porte attorney, who has handled litigation for Stephens for many years.

Mr. Smith, when informed of the Governor's verdict, declined to comment. He refused to say whether another petition might be presented to the new Clemency Commission after Governor-elect Henry F. Schricker takes office next Monday.

YOUNG GOP LEADER DEFENDS MEASURE

Indiana's Republican legislators have no intention of stripping Governor-elect Schricker of his right to pardon, Robert H. Loring, Indiana's Young Republican national committeeman, declared here last night.

He spoke to the Washington Township Republican Club at its clubrooms, 61st St., and College Ave.

"The purpose of the Republican members of both houses is to carry out their promise to the people to end 'one-man rule' in Indiana," Mr. Loring declared. "If these measures are unconstitutional in the eyes of the Democratic Supreme Court, then Indiana has operated under unconstitutional government from its first days of statehood up until the inauguration of one Paul V. McNutt."

GUN WOUND IS FATAL TO CARROLL RANGER

LOGANSPORT, Ind., Jan. 11 (U. P.).—Lea Sylvester, 30, Carroll County farmer, died in Case County Hospital here today of a bullet wound in the head.

Police said Sylvester's wife found him unconscious in a truck at the side of their home last night. A revolver was lying nearby.

She told authorities he had been in poor health.

HOOSIER KILLED IN N. Y.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 11 (U. P.).—Everett Waldon, 26-year-old Crawfordville truck driver, was killed last night when his truck sideswiped a freight train near Avon, N. Y., according to word received by relatives.

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Joe Penner Dead



Joe Penner... curtain comes down for "Yokel Boy."

HEART ATTACK IS FATAL AT 36

Stage Star Dies in Sleep;
Hollywood Burial Is
Planned.

(Continued from Page One)

said they returned to the hotel, where Mr. Penner conferred briefly with his attorney and retired about 4 a. m.

Yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Penner went to her husband's room. A piercing scream over the telephone brought Mr. Crawford running to the room, where he found Mrs. Penner shaking the comedian to rouse him from what she believed was a deep sleep.

After an autopsy coroner's officials said he had been dead 10 hours.

Mr. Penner was born Josef Pinter on Nov. 11, 1904, at the village of Magyabek Kerek, near Budapest, Hungary. He came to the United States in 1913 and began a theatrical career which carried him through amateur contests to carnival work and then to the stage, screen and radio.

The major break of his career came in 1933 when he appeared as a guest on Rudy Vallee's radio program. Quickly he became a star in his own right, with the meaning, "Wanna buy a duck?" becoming nationally known.

Dropped from first to third place among radio comedians in 1934, he said he "saw the handwriting on the wall" and planned a new career. He made several full-length motion pictures in which the duck routine gradually was written out, and enthusiastically accepted an offer to play the star role in "Yokel Boy."

He made his last appearance Thursday night. The show was closed last night and officials said it was not likely to be reopened.

Mrs. Penner, who was under a physician's care, planned to leave for Hollywood today with the Crawford, and the comedian's body was expected to go on the same train. Mrs. Crawford said services probably would be held next week.

4-Man Welfare Board

The Welfare Department bill provides for a four-man board, with two members to be appointed by the Governor and two by the Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Dawson is to cast the vote in case of a tie.

The Police Bill provides also for a four-man board with the Governor appointing two members, and the Lieutenant Governor appointing two members. The bill provides that two of the appointments to the various ranks of the personnel of the State Police Department shall be made so as to create, and maintain, a peaceful change of not more than one-half of the ranks adherents to any one political party.

Secretary of State James Tucker and State Auditor Richard T. James, Mr. Tucker's former deputy, will have control of two state divisions under the Decentralization Bill which have only about 1000 employees.

Mr. Tucker will be chief administrator of the Department of State, which will have a total of 500 employees, most of whom will be in the Motor Vehicle Bureau.

The Gross Income Tax Division, with 200 employees, and the Board of Accounts, with 80 employees, will be in the Department of Audit and Control, of which Mr. James will be chief administrative officer. This division will have a total of about 400 employees.

Control Own Aids

Mr. James and Mr. Tucker, of course, will have control of the employees in their own departments, as will Mr. Dawson and Mr. Givens.

Mr. Dawson's political alignments in the G. O. P. are mostly centered around the forces that backed State Senator Jenner in the latter's unsuccessful race for the Republican Governor nomination.

Mr. Dawson's nomination at the State G. O. P. convention was said to have been accomplished through a deal with delegates who had been supporting Senator Jenner before the latter was defeated for the nomination by Glen R. Hillis.

Through all the pre-assembly caucuses, Senator Jenner, whose forces are in control of the Republican majority legislative machinery, worked closely with Mr. Dawson.

At the same time, Secretary of State Tucker, regarded generally as a factional rival of Senator Jenner, has not been in on many of the legislative conferences.

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Mr. Dawson's political alignments in the G. O. P. are mostly centered around the forces that backed State Senator Jenner in the latter's unsuccessful race for the Republican Governor nomination.

Mr. Dawson's nomination at the State G. O. P. convention was said to have been accomplished through a deal with delegates who had been supporting Senator Jenner before the latter was defeated for the nomination by Glen R. Hillis.

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