

News Blackout Veils Events In Romania and Bulgaria

By GEORGE WELLES

Times Foreign Correspondent

ISTANBUL, March 21.—Where the slender tongue of Turkish soil lies in Europe history ends and darkness begins.

What is happening today in Bulgaria and Romania no American correspondent knows.

That is because, apparently, it is impossible for American newspapermen to enter these countries openly and legitimately, write

frankly what they see—and yet leave themselves free to return again in the same above-board, recognized manner.

Eight months of history have unrolled since American bombers and fighters—combined with Soviet ground troops—freed the central Balkans from aggressive German forces.

This made it possible for the British to occupy a Greece, emptied of resistance.

Since then Bulgaria and Romania have been banned to the free press. Some correspondents entered before the Soviet authorities had consolidated political controls.

Since the American state and war departments were late in providing similar political action, parallel to the 15th air force's strategic action, American correspondents found themselves without status.

What Kind of Peace?

But the correspondents' predicament is only a detail of general American political impotence in the Balkan scene.

Today it is actually easier for an American businessman to enter on private affairs than for an American correspondent who wishes to inform the interested public what Bulgaria and Romania do with their freedom and what the Russians do with lend-lease.

What kind of peace has been bought with American and Soviet blood and arms in the Balkans remains a mystery.

A Political Setback

All that is clear is that when the American air force's principal role in Balkan liberation as the smasher of the Luftwaffe was written off politically in the Balkans, U. S. foreign policy suffered a defeat.

This was comparable to those other unrecognized setbacks in the Franco-Soviet and Australia-New Zealand pacts.

It is known that nearly 1300 officially admitted executions have occurred in pro-Soviet Bulgaria. How and why, nobody knows.

One neutral observer, recently returned from that country, estimated that about 30 per cent of the condemned in Sofia are genuine collaborationists. The rest being simply passive accomplices.

Plan Trials in Romania

In regions where the line between willing pro-Naziism and merely bureaucratic adhesion is sharper, the authentically guilty are said to number about 80 per cent.

The new Peter-Groza government in Romania is about to begin similar trials.

Its eagerness to prove that it can take a stronger hand with collaborators than the former Premier Nicholas Radeanu—and the Maniu cabinet—may roll up a toll higher than Bulgaria's since Romania has more numerous anti-Russian elements.

Can't Blame All on Reds

While some American circles place the responsibility for the Balkan blackout uniquely at the Soviet door—pointing out the difficulties which until recently baffled even officials—stabilizer observers withhold judgment.

In the case of Yugoslavia the Soviets were wrongfully blamed for creating difficulties for the free press when it was ascertained that, actually, high officers in the British and American commands in Rome were responsible for the Yugoslav blackout.

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NAVY INDUCTS 14 FROM INDIANAPOLIS

Recent inductions into the navy here include the names of 14 Indianapolis men.

They are Norman Moorefield, 2219 Terrace ave.; Aaron Ratliff, 1309 Mills ave.; Melvin Smith, 2234 N. Spencer ave.; Ronald Wiltman, 1236 E. Tabor st.; Morris Barker, R. R. 16, Box 597-D; Robert Elkins, 1234 E. Minnesota st.; Everett Terrell Jr., 2237 Union st.; George Boyd Jr., 2138 Pleasant st.; Richard Folger, 1101 River ave.; Gerald Casper, 1141 Mickey ave.; Myron Guy, 2214 Avondale pl.; Francis Lee, 3261 College ave.; Albert Miller, 3001 E. 21st st.; Donald Newkirk, 1669 E. 59th st.

HEALEY MEMORIAL SCHEDULED MONDAY

A memorial meeting to the late Gen. George H. Healey will be held by the Gen. Edwin M. Lewis patrol of Mexican Border Veterans at 7:30 p. m. Monday in the Columbia club.

Officers for the coming year and delegates to the meeting of the National association will be named.

CIVIC CLUB TO MEET

The Lowell Civic club will meet at 8 p. m. tomorrow at Lowell school, Raymond st. and Hunter rd. Chester Anderson is arranging the program and Mrs. Pearl Brady, president, will preside.

RATION CALENDAR

MEAT—Red stamps Q5 through S5 good through March 31; T5 through X5 good through April 28; Y5 and Z5 and A2 through D2 good through June 2. E2 through J2 are valid through June 30. Meat dealers will pay two red points and 4 cents for each pound of waste fat.

CANNED GOODS—Blue stamps X5 through Z5 and A2 and B2 good through March 31; C2 through G2 good through April 28; H2 through M2 are good through June 2. N2 through S2 are valid through June 30.

SUGAR—Stamp 35 valid for five pounds through June 2. Another stamp will become valid May 1.

GASOLINE—A-14 coupons good for four gallons each and are valid through today. A-15 coupons become good for four gallons each tomorrow and are valid through June 21. B5, B6 and B7 and C5, C6 and C7 are good for five gallons; E1 and E2 good for one gallon; R1 and R2 are good for five gallons.

SHOES—No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 "airplane" stamps in Book 3 good indefinitely.

FUEL OIL—Periods 4 and 5 of 1943-44 heating season and Periods 1 through 5 of 1944-45 heating season good. Approximately 84 per cent of fuel oil supply should be used as of March 19.

TIRES—Commercial vehicle tire inspection every six months or every 5000 miles.



Mr. Weller



There is no civilian decoration comparable to the Red Cross Blood Donor's Button—The blood you give—enables others to live—and more to come back home for Victory Day! You'll note the little Red ribbon with the Button—It indicates "membership" in the "Gallon club"—(He has given 8 pints) The Red Cross maintains out of its funds—(out of your Hundred dollars or Six dollars)—these healing—life-giving centers for Blood Donations.

FOR \$100—YOU, ALL ALONE, CAN SUPPORT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS ALL OVER THE WORLD—(FOR 16 SECONDS)

FOR \$6...YOU, ALL ALONE, SUPPORT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS...ALL OVER THE WORLD (FOR 1 SECOND)

YOUR \$100 or \$6

to the Red Cross makes available vitalizing life-giving blood to maimed and drained bodies—and bandages to the wounded.

YOUR \$100 or \$6

brings, through the facilities of the Red Cross, to lonely men, and the fearfully homesick—the warmth and friendliness of home!

YOUR \$100 or \$6

puts the Red Cross in 782 Army and Navy hospitals—and in 1,117 Army and Navy camps and stations.

FOR YOUR \$100 or \$6

you can lift the heartache—and the crushing worries of Service Men regarding the welfare of wife and family at home. (The Red Cross "Home Service" is right on hand.)

YOUR \$100 or \$6

will aid the Red Cross in recruiting Army Nurses—vital to the health and life of the boys at the front.

FOR YOUR \$100 or \$6

you can arrange loans to Service Men—get messages through from them—provide the avenue through which he can get gift packages—cigarettes.

WITH YOUR \$100 or \$6

you hold in your hand the fate of many PRISONERS OF WAR—The Red Cross packages, of which there are millions annually, not only contain food and clothes and medicine, but the packages are also packed with the hope and solace from HOME!

AND SHOULD misfortune or tragedy strike right here in town, your \$100 or \$6—will bring promptly on the scene the Red Cross with its facilities, well organized and equipped to cope with the conditions.

It costs a bit more than \$6 a second to operate the American Red Cross. We know of no deeper feeling of accomplishment that a civilian can fake to his heart than the realization that he (or she) alone is supporting the Red Cross—all over the world—in this, the most fateful day in America's history—even though it were but for 1 second—or for 16 seconds—(What a thrill of satisfaction it would be to support it, the whole works for, say, an hour—at \$22,500.)

