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You keep buying
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Reds Increase Pressure On Odessa Nazis

Escape Routes Blasted
By Planes; Skala Falls,
Tarnopol Trap Unbroken

MOSCOW, April 7—(AP)—The Germans have rushed special units into line with orders to defend Odessa at "any cost" and are battling on the close approaches to that Black sea port from favorable positions behind the many lagoons and lakes protecting the stronghold, Red Star dispatches reported today.

While the Germans struck out in strong counterattacks from the almost beleaguered base, Russian planes pounded at the city's defenses and escape lines of communications.

Inside the rapidly constricting arc, harassed Germans and Rumanian troops were being herded closer to the shores of the Black sea and their last remaining escape corridor across the Dniester estuary, 20 miles southwest of Odessa.

Tarnopol Battle Continues

Three hundred miles to the northwest the Russians engaged in stiff battles against large groups of enemy tanks, infantry and self-propelled guns sent to another besieged German garrison at Tarnopol.

The attack came after Marshal Zhukov's First Ukrainian army had captured more than half of the area within the city. Street fighting has been reported going on since Monday.

Attempts to lift the siege yesterday were repulsed with heavy losses, the communiqué announced, but added that fierce fighting is continuing.

The Germans, it appeared, were attempting to rescue both the Tarnopol garrison and the remnants of 15 divisions encircled in the Skala sector northeast of Czernowitz and have thrown formidable forces into the drive to crack the red army cordons.

Skala Bastion Falls

Zukov's troops, however, were reported to have tightened their ring of encirclement near Skala by capturing important defense strongpoints, including the fortified town of Skala itself.

The Russian communiqué announced the capture of huge stocks of war booty in the Skala

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THE Russians continue to dominate the news. It seems increasingly apparent that when Germany's back is broken, it is Russia that will have done the bulk of the breaking.

IN the far south, the reds take Razdelnaya—thus closing the last direct rail route by which the Germans (and Rumanians) in Odessa could have escaped. To get away now, they'll have to cross the wide mouth of the Dniester by ferry and board trains on the other side. Compared with a direct rail route, that is slow and dangerous.

There are supposed to be some 200,000 Germans and Rumanians in Odessa.

ODESSA is no longer of GREAT strategic importance. Its final fall will merely symbolize the driving out of the Germans from ALL southern Russia.

They're ALL BUT driven out already.

FAR to the north, the unstoppable reds are closing in on Lwow (if you pronounce it "Wuff" you won't be far wrong). To understand the importance of Lwow, you must look at your map. It is the nerve center of an amazing spiderweb of railroads and highways. The Germans have used it to supply the whole southern half of their eastern front.

The Russians are driving toward it inexorably. Sooner or later, they will take it.

IT looks now as if Rumania and its oil are the next goal of the

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Gov. Dewey "Continues His 'Not-a-Candidate' Stand; Mum on Draft-Nomination

ALBANY, N. Y., April 7—(AP)—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey stuck diligently to his state duties today after indicating strongly that he will not be stamped into a declaration that he wants or will accept the republican nomination for president.

In his first press conference since Wendell L. Willkie's withdrawal from the presidential race, Dewey stood adamantly last night upon his previous statements that he is "not a candidate" for the nomination.

The 42-year-old New York governor declined to comment upon Willkie's withdrawal.

The governor, announcing that he was not going to comment "on any political question," told reporters:

"I am wholly engaged in attempting to dispose, in a 30-day period, of the 900 bills left by the legislature."

Then he listened smilingly as a reporter asked:

"In view of Mr. Willkie's withdrawal from the race and your own long lead for the nomination, will you become an avowed candidate?"

Mum on "Draft" Query

The governor repeated his "no

comment" but amplified it quickly with assertion that "I have discussed that subject so many times, my position on it is entirely clear."

Dewey has declared repeatedly that he is not a candidate for the republican presidential nomination, but has remained silent on whether he would accept a draft-nomination.

The governor said he has "no plans" to make any speeches outside the state, aside from his scheduled appearance in May before the governors' conference at Hershey, Pa.

NEW YORK, April 7—(AP)—Cheerful but non-committal on his political future, Wendell Willkie came home today from a campaign tour on which he staked and lost his bid for the republican presidential nomination.

He declined to add anything to the statement he made in Omaha in which he said he was withdrawing his candidacy because "it is obvious I cannot be nominated."

To all questions asked by newsmen as to whether he would support the candidate of the republican national convention and, specifically, whether he would support Governor Thomas E. Dewey should he be the nominee, Willkie merely smiled.

"I made my statement in Omaha," he said. "It was completely comprehensive and I don't want to add to it."

Oregon Swing to Dewey Reported

PORTLAND, April 7—(AP)—Increased Oregon support for Governor Thomas E. Dewey was predicted by state republican leaders today should Wendell Willkie formally withdraw from the Oregon primary.

Niel R. Allen, republican state chairman, said that reports from every county showed a heavy swing toward the New York governor. "If the election were held tomorrow, and assuming Willkie's withdrawal from the Oregon ballot, Dewey would win in an avalanche on a write-in," the Grants Pass man said.

Willkie's withdrawal, however, was not yet certain. The Oregon Journal said Ralph H. Cate, Willkie's campaign manager, said in a telephone call from New York that he would confer with Willkie shortly and announce his decision today or tomorrow. If Willkie does not withdraw, Oregon delegates will go to Chicago still pledged to him.

Political observers pointed out that, without a withdrawal, Willkie could exert some leverage at the convention, by releasing the 15 Oregon delegates at the auspicious moment.

Zagreb, Croat Capital, Given Air Bombing

Germans Lose 16 Planes,
Americans 3 in Battle;
Italian Front in Lull

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, April 7—(AP)—Bombers of the U. S. 15th air force again attacked a Balkan target yesterday, hammering this time at a German airfield in the Croatian capital of Zagreb as ground action on all Italian fronts remained at a virtual standstill.

Zagreb was vigorously defended by some 120 German planes. Sixteen were shot down in battles over northern Yugoslavia, headquarters announced, and three bombers were lost.

Returning crewmen reported that the fight was hot and heavy, but there was nothing here to substantiate German reports last night describing the battle as "one of the greatest strategical defeats suffered so far" by the 15th air force.

On the contrary, the allied communiqué listed the raid as small.

Nazis Mount Huge Guns

A dispatch sent from the Anzio beachhead last night by Associated Press War Correspondent Kenneth L. Dixon said the Germans had ringed the allied defenses with several huge guns capable of combing the entire beachhead from the front line to the coast.

"These include some railroad guns with a potential range up to 54,000 yards (more than 30 miles), which means that the Germans could literally sit in Rome and shell shipping in Anzio bay," Dixon wrote. "How many of these guns are operating against the beachhead either has not been ascertained or is not being divulged."

In all air operations yesterday 28 enemy aircraft were reported destroyed and the communiqué listed three bombers and four fighters as missing in addition to the three heavy craft.

In Cassino, the Germans made a tentative push out of the Continental hotel but their infantry was immediately brought under the fire of allied artillery.

Bombers had a busy day in Italy, blasting runways of the Perugia airfield in northern Italy, a hydro-electric plant at Terni, a railway station at Ca-

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Four of One Family Win in City Election

JUNEAU, Alaska, April 7—(AP)—The Peratrovich family almost took over Klawock on Tuesday's election. Frank Peratrovich was reelected mayor by 14 votes over George Demmert. John, Nick and Robert Peratrovich, Jr., were elected to the city council along with William Smith, Alfred Widmark and Charles Williams.

Yankees Win Bloody Battle for Bougainville Hill



(NBA telephoto)

Infantrymen of the Americal division, under command of Lt. Renato Rocco (arrow) of Brooklyn, N. Y., warily prepare to storm the banyan tree atop Bloody Hill 260 on Bougainville. The Japs were entrenched around the tree's base and from there resisted a terrific barrage for days. Armed with flame-throwers, bazooka rifles and grenades, these men pushed to the hilltop, were repulsed and finally counterattacked to take the hill. Signal corps photo.

Rhine, Ruhr Areas, Hamburg Bombed

(By the Associated Press)

British Mosquito bombers deposited two-ton bombs on Hamburg, the Ruhr and Rhineland last night, disrupting German repair work. One bomber was lost. The German radio said single planes were flying over the northern reich today.

The German battleship Tirpitz was disclosed to have sustained 24 bomb hits in Norway's Altenfjord April 3, when it was attacked by planes from the largest group of aircraft carriers ever concentrated against a single ship. The 41,000-ton dreadnaught was left burning and wrecked, unable to intervene in the approaching invasion.

Preparing for D-day, U. S. Liberators dropped 600 tons of bombs on the French invasion coast around Calais yesterday, while Thunderbolts shot up airfields and other targets in northern France. Neither group had a loss.

Red Cross Fund Nearly \$20 Million Under Goal

WASHINGTON, April 7—(AP)—The Red Cross war fund is nearly \$20,000,000 short of its minimum goal of \$20,000,000, Leon Fraser, national chairman of the fund campaign, announced today. "We have asked chapters which haven't raised their quotas to redouble their efforts to finish without delay," Fraser said. "A little more than 60 per cent of our chapters already have reached or exceeded their goal."

War Power Must Back Voice of U. S., Gen. Hershey Says

WASHINGTON, April 7—(AP)—Draft Director Lewis B. Hershey declares that only with the backing of military strength will the voice of the United States be heard at the peace table.

Coinciding with the announcement that the army today is at its planned maximum strength of 7,700,000, Gen. Hershey indicated that huge monthly quotas of men will be poured into the draft mobilization must be slow.

He said that 150,000 men a month—"a very conservative estimate"—would be required merely to maintain the army and navy at full strength in wartime and he hinted that many inductions might be required even after the war is won.

If his estimates are right, Hershey said, we must be prepared to produce at least 150,000 men a month "until such time as the international picture indicates that this nation can support its vital national interests with a smaller number."

"To maintain the results for which we have fought," he said, "depends to a very large degree upon the evidences we possess that we are prepared to back with force our recommendations. * * * America, with possessions unusual in this world, can not afford to shut her eyes to the fact that this world leaves to a nation only those things for which it is not only willing to fight, but for which it is constantly prepared to fight."

Tax Levy Plan for Fair Grounds Is Explained

The ballot title for the county fair proposal to be submitted at a special election called by the county court and to be held simultaneously with the primary election May 19, will call for an initial tax levy of \$30,000, or not to exceed one mill, County Clerk Roy Agee reported today. The money to be raised is to be used for purchase and improvement of property to be used for county fair purposes. If the project is approved, the county court will be given further authority to levy an annual tax of one-fourth mill, or approximately \$8,000 for maintenance and improvement purposes. The levy of \$30,000 is to be for the initial purposes only and not an annual tax as previously reported, Clerk Agee said. The project is sponsored by the Douglas County Mounted Police reserves.

Soldiers Do Not Forget Easter and Mother's Day

BOUGAINVILLE, Solomon Islands, April 7—(AP)—American soldiers are not so busy fighting on Bougainville that they have forgotten Easter and Mothers' day. They have ordered \$57,432 worth of flowers.

Japs Continue to Filter Into Area Of Imphal Road

NEW DELHI, April 7—(AP)—Allied troops have repulsed several small isolated Japanese attacks in the Imphal area in northern India while further south patrols have been hacking at enemy communications lines west of the Chindwin river, Admiral Mountbatten's headquarters announced today.

To the north, however, Japanese troops who earlier had erected road blocks between Imphal and Kohima were reported to have filtered into territory west of the road where allied troops engaged them in battle.

American bombers attacked the new Japanese-built Burma-Siam railway on Wednesday, the communiqué reported. They destroyed three bridges and probably destroyed five others, while other direct hits scattered long sections of track.

Four locomotives and many freight cars were heavily damaged or destroyed and railway buildings and equipment set on fire in the sweep, and the bulletin said that RAF fighters followed the Americans in to strafe the same targets with good results.

Other allied planes carried out similar missions in southern, central and northern Burma blasting river and bridge targets at a cost of two planes.

CHUNGKING, April 7—(AP)—Nine Zeros were shot down, three probably were downed and three others damaged from a 32-plane Japanese fighter-bomber force which attacked an allied airbase at Nanning in Kwangsi province April 5, Lt. Gen. Stillwell's headquarters disclosed today.

Gilbert Cobb Fined \$600, Given One Year in Jail

Gilbert Cobb, Roseburg, who, Judge Thomas Hartfield reports has been in the Roseburg justice court seven times in the past two years for various offenses, was sentenced today to a fine of \$500 and one year in the county jail, following his conviction on a charge of drunken driving. Cobb also stood trial today on a charge of failure to stop at the scene of an accident and was fined \$100 following conviction. The fines were not paid.

Drunkenness Alleged In Auto Death Case

McMINNVILLE, Ore., April 7—(AP)—Carroll Loren Cram, 18, was under indictment today for manslaughter in the automobile death of Wanda Henderson, 14, here March 26. Earl Nott, district attorney, said Cram was intoxicated. The girl and her brother, Allen, 18, who also succumbed were passengers in Cram's automobile.

Report Shows Boon, Claim Of Roosevelt

Living Costs Held Down In Year's Test, Bogey Of Inflation Dispelled

WASHINGTON, April 7—(AP)—President Roosevelt made public today—with an indirect endorsement—a report from his top economic advisers which declared present wage and price control policies must be continued.

Coming at a time when organized labor is pressing for relaxation of wage controls, the report said the stabilization program has worked so well that "the cost of living as a whole" is actually lower today than it was a year ago and that wages have been stabilized.

"We must not jeopardize these gains by any change of policy or relaxation of effort in the critical months ahead," it said.

Mr. Roosevelt described the report as important because it showed how the government was trying to keep prices from going up through the roof and ultimately bankrupting everybody in the country.

"On this first anniversary of the issuance of the 'hold-the-line' order," the document said, "we can report that the task of stopping the rise in prices has thus far been carried out. * * *

As a result the cost of living, which before the 'hold-the-line' order was rising three-quarters per cent a month, has for a solid year been held without change of any consequence."

Tangible Benefits Claimed.

As a matter of fact, the report said, the cost of living as a whole is slightly below the levels of a year ago.

The report declared that "stabilization has brought tangible—indeed bankable—benefits to all groups." It declared stabilization had paid off on every hand in lasting rather than illusory benefits, and had been of benefit particularly to some 20,000,000 persons whose incomes cannot be boosted to keep pace with rising prices.

"The need for continued restraint and continued cooperation with every phase of the stabilization program is evident," the report concluded.

"Obviously, too, we should cling to the policies and machinery which have served us so effectively so far."

Wage Inequalities Noted.

The report conceded there had been price increases in some lines—clothing, for example. But it said these had been offset fully by reductions in prices of other items, notably foods. The record of a year of stable living costs, it said, is unprecedented in this war or the last one.

On the wage question, the report noted that some adjustments had to be made to correct gross inequalities, eliminate standards of living, and give effect to the little steel wage formula. The

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Sight Given Blind Man by Gift Eye

NEW ORLEANS, April 7—(AP)—Richard Bienvenu, practically blind all his life, now can see by means of a gift eye donated to him by a stranger, Mrs. E. E. Johnson, of Marrero, La.

The attractive matron, hearing that the 33-year-old broommaker might be able to see through the transplanting of a live cornea to his left eye, donated her right eye in which she lost sight at the age of eight by being accidentally struck by a rock.

The surgeon who performed the delicate operation here lifted Bienvenu's bandage yesterday and found that sight had been restored.

Bienvenu was overjoyed. And so were his wife and their five-year-old son, Richard Bienvenu, Jr. The three journeyed to Marrero and thanked Mrs. Johnson for the gift.

Mrs. Johnson, embracing the child, told Bienvenu that she was "glad it worked out all right."

"I can still see out of my left eye," she said.

Lovely Fact Rant

By L. F. Rasmussen

Give Dad a war bond on Father's day, June 18, is the nation-wide decree. A bond costs a lot more than the traditional gift necktie, but it's worth the difference to impart happiness by the affection-token of the bond that ties as against the ordeal of wearing the tie that binds.