

# Allies Suffer Severe Blows

### Capture of Vital Railway Junctions May Prove Decisive, View

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON (Associated Press Staff Writer) German daring and military efficiency have dealt the Franco-British-Norwegian allies a heavy blow in Norway.

If it is true, as reported, that the Nazis have captured Stora and Dombas vital railway junctions in the Trondheim area, this might bring grave disaster to allied forces in that region, by forcing them to withdraw to sea under fire of German guns and air bombs.

It was evidently gloomy news from Norway that Prime Minister Chamberlain guarded with sealed lips before parliament. In contrast, Berlin was exultant and Hitler lavished praise upon his troops.

Unless the Allies succeed in retaking these vital links before Nazi leadership can back up its victories with heavy forces from Oslo, the whole picture of the battle of Norway has been revised, Norway has been cut in two by the twin German northward thrusts, and only the slender north coastal panhandle remains definitely out of German control.

Narvik Not Involved The allied foothold at Narvik, far-northern Norwegian port, is not jeopardized by the indicated failure of the allied pincer movement at Trondheim.

More serious consequences than these are possible. Military prestige has received a tremendous lift if Berlin's claims are fully substantiated. The results could have a powerful influence upon the attitude of all little neutrals in Europe, and of Italy and Russia as well.

There is little doubt, also, that a political crisis is impending for the Chamberlain war ministry in England and the Reynaud government in France. The German dash to relief of Trondheim was made against every disadvantage of distance and through hostile territory.

Overconfidence in the ability of Norwegian forces to hold out long enough to permit major units of allied troops to be set ashore may well have been a factor in shaping Franco-British strategy. If so, political opponents of the governments in both countries will take full advantage of the situation and call for a reckoning on the home front.

Valley Route Opened German capture of the Stora rail junction alone would have been a serious blow to the Allies. Norway's great eastern valley, the Coster, would be opened as a route through which Germany could pour reinforcements and forces to consolidate the Nazi grip on all Norway except for the slim and mountainous northern panhandle.

Flanked by German control of the roughly parallel western valley, the Gudbrands, a double route would be open for deployment of Nazi troops to virtually all Norwegian ports on the west coast south of Trondheim, and to the fjords that reach far inland from them.

The gravest implication of all, however, is the indication that German air power fulfilled its mission of balking allied efforts to put ashore forces sufficient to cope with even the light German columns advancing from Oslo; and that Franco-British sea and air power, in contrast, has failed to impede seriously the flow of German reinforcements by sea and air.

Worst Setback Yet All in all, the actual and claimed Nazi victories in the Trondheim area figure up into the most serious allied setback in nearly eight months of war. Although it still appears likely that relatively light forces were engaged on either side and that no major battle has yet been fought, the Germans have seemingly clearly out-guessed and out-manuevered their foes at every turn.

The communication lines through the parallel Oster and Gudbrands valleys may be slender but they are protected from allied flank attack by mountain ranges. The Nazi forces also have seized every pass and road to bolster their main thrusts along valley railroads and highways.

Unless the Allies quickly recapture Stora and Dombas, the whole allied effort in the Trondheim area seems at a standstill, and more of a liability than an asset.

Reynaud Slightly Ill PARIS, April 30.—(AP)—Premier Paul Reynaud is suffering from a slight cold and will not be able to hold his regular Wednesday conference with members of parliament tomorrow, his office announced tonight.

# Flood Waters Run Rampant in Ohio Valley Area



Flood scenes around Pittsburgh, Pa., as the Allegheny river reaches flood levels following eastern torrential rains. Top picture shows a stranded automobile on Pittsburgh's low-lying flooded north side. Bottom, a Pennsylvania highway foreman being rescued from raging Robinson Run, near Pittsburgh, after he had fallen in while checking flood level heights.—H.N. photo.

# Train Wreck Still Mystery



Cause of the wreck of the New York Central's Lake Shore Limited near Little Falls, N. Y., still remains a mystery following an official investigation held at Albany. Testimony showed that the "track was in good shape" and its engineer "awake" when the train leaped to destruction, killing 90 persons. Here are members of the crew who testified at the hearing, left to right, Conductor Charles Gratian, Head Brakeman John Sewak, Rear Brakeman Joseph Doran and Baggageman A. A. Hill.

# Satko Confidence In 'Ark' Unshaken

(Continued from page 1) tion for anyone who will fight for new frontiers for a new home. My sympathies are very much with them.

"On the other hand, the statutes of this state impose a grave responsibility on my shoulders in the safety of these children."

The hearing ended with a plea by Michael Wolfstone, chairman of a committee of the new order of Cincinnati (political organization) for funds to take care of the family pending final disposition of the case.

"The Satko family now is Seattle's responsibility, since those six policemen gave the keys of the city to it," he said.

Police Judge William F. Devin late today released Satko from a disorderly conduct charge, filed after police reported he resisted them when they removed his five school-age children from the Ark last week.

Judge Devin commended the officers for "doing their duty" but said Satko did not realize the import of their action and did "only the natural thing" any parent might do "to protect his children."

Halibut Catch Record ASTORIA, Ore., April 30.—(AP)—The schooner Dawn of Portland discharged a 1940 record halibut catch here today, 10,000 pounds of halibut and 3000 pounds of bottom fish.

Rainfall Is Heavy As Month Closes (Continued from page 1) amount of precipitation within a 24-hour period was .47 inch on April 7 and .45 inch on April 30.

The average amount of moisture during the month was 2.42 inches. The 1940 records are high compared to 1939 with .35 inches, the driest on record, but low beside 1937's 7.68 inches, the highest since records have been kept.

The temperature during the month ranged from 34 degrees on the 16th and the 24th to a top of 51 degrees on the 12th.

# Offer of Million For Hitler Made

(Continued from page 1) in an association of the nations with power to enforce peace."

Church told the Times the question of offering the reward had been under discussion by a group of members of the Duquesne club in Pittsburgh for two or three months.

"Finally the project has taken shape, and I was selected to make the offer public," he continued.

"There are, in the group of present sponsors, about 50 persons, some of them women."

"I have held back quite a while, not that I doubted the possibility of success of the plan—nor do I doubt it now—but because I doubted that it would strike the imagination of the world in the manner that it should."

"But I felt that there was some power in the idea, especially so because it is not in any sense an offer of reward for an assassin's aim was right, they decided to make the offer anyway on the ground that the capture of Hitler would avert untold suffering."

Church said that although the group backing the project realized the possibility of achieving its aim was slight, they decided to make the offer anyway on the ground that the capture of Hitler would avert untold suffering.

# Blasted Bridge Halts Advance

### Showdown Reported Near With Berlin Jubilant at Success Claim

(Continued from page 1) neutrals would throw to the German bandwagon.

Sir Archibald attacked what he called "apparently inspired articles" in the press suggesting allied withdrawal from south central Norway.

Nature of the shipping "precautions" was not disclosed, but it was understood many British ships were being routed via the Cape of Good Hope to avoid being caught in the Mediterranean should Italy join Germany in the war.

While the admiralty reported the loss of two British submarines, Chamberlain declined to discuss the northern war before the house of commons, saying he hoped to have "information" later in the week.

British military sources said the Germans had taken Stora and that the allied position in the Dombas sector was "difficult."

No such chary attitude troubled the joyous Germans. Authorized quarters said the victories in Norway in a short three weeks in difficult territory surpassed the fondest expectations of the military command.

Next on the program is a sweeping movement intended to brush the allied expeditionary forces from Norway's narrow mid-section into the sea.

Already, the Germans said, allied and Norwegian traps are being "pursued" in the vicinity of Dombas.

"The main rail connection from Oslo to Trondheim is in German hands," said the German high command, thus freeing the garrison in important Trondheim from dependence on the long air or sea route for supplies or reinforcements and in the German opinion cracking the southern jaw of the allied pincers movement.

The Germans say they are sending heavy reinforcements of men and stores to Oslo regularly and thus can strengthen Trondheim via rail.

Stockholm reports, however, told of continued gunfire at sea in the Skagerrak, indicative that the allies are not idle in that treacherous waterway.

In a special order of the day, Hitler said the allied aim "to force Germany to her knees by a belated occupation of Norway has been definitely frustrated."

# Firemen Join With Portland Counting

### PORTLAND, April 30.—(AP)—The fire department joined today in the drive to obtain a complete census of Portland and boost the city's official population over 300,000.

Fire fighters distributed census blanks throughout the city and the Jay Stevens disaster car toured the residential section, its loud speakers urging the people to be counted.

Mayor Joseph K. Carson enlisted the police department's aid yesterday.

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