

Possession of Crete Admitted By Germans to Be Vital in Carrying on Near-East War

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Special to The Statesman

The battle of Crete is attaining such proportions that it appears to be a major Nazi move against Britain on the confused checkerboard of the struggle in the east.

There is a tacit German admission in the mounting fury of the air-sea assault that possession of the Greek island is vital to Nazi grand strategy. Unless they capture it or effectively neutralize it, the Nazi leaders may have great difficulty in converting the war in Iraq or the Franco-British clash in Syria into a major threat to the Mediterranean and middle eastern life lines of the British.

It has been obvious all along that the British defensive system in the eastern Mediterranean was powerfully bolstered by acquisition of the Crete base at the outset of the Italian-Greek war. It afforded the British a defensive triangle, the other two corners of which are the British island of Cyprus between the Turkish and Levant coasts, and Alexandria.

That almost equilateral triangle stands athwart the Aegean island stepping-stone route southward across the Mediterranean. British planes based at Crete or Cyprus are poised on the flank of the Aegean-Syrian air route to Iraq which the Nazis have already used to an uncertain extent.

British submarines and lighter naval craft operating from those island outposts render any effective use of the sea itself to carry German or Axis troops toward Iraq a perilous business.

It seems certain therefore that reduction of Crete and Cyprus is essential to German hopes of crushing British power in that sea or cutting the British off completely from oil resources in the Mosul fields.

Failure to knock out the British-Greek defenders of Crete could force a drastic revision of Nazi war plans. It would also tend to stiffen Turkish resistance to Germany's high-pressure diplomacy since it would give the Turks added confidence that they could hold their own Dardanelles-Bosphorus waterfront with British help.

Moreover, another Russian about-face might follow successful defense of Crete. It would certainly be construed as bolstering British hopes of halting Nazi attack at the sea shore, east or west.

Ford Workers Cast Votes

DETROIT, May 21 (AP)—Final relays of the more than 80,000 employees of the Ford Motor company in its giant River Rouge factory and the smaller Lincoln motor plant cast their votes Wednesday night in the biggest employee election ever held by the national labor relations board.

The voting, which began at 4 a. m. today, was to decide whether the workers wished to be represented in collective bargaining negotiations with the company by the United Automobile Workers (CIO), the American Federation of Labor's federal union, or neither.

Counting of the votes will begin tomorrow with the result expected to be announced late in the afternoon.

Box Scores

Salem (5)	Vancouver (9)
Lightner, 4 0 3 0	Wright, 3 0 1 0
Bates, 4 3 4 0	M'Ginn, 4 0 1 3
Petersen, 5 3 0 0	Lingus, 4 0 1 1
Bergstrom, 1 4 2 3	Jewell, 4 0 0 0
Lanfer, 3 4 0 2	Brenner, 1 4 1 1
Shinn, 3 5 3 2	Jewell, 3 0 1 0
Griffiths, 5 2 1 0	Wright, 1 3 1 1
Adams, 4 2 6 0	Callix, 2 3 1 5
Oliver, 3 0 0 0	Griffiths, 1 1 0 0
Warren, 1 0 0 0	Jonas, 2 1 0 0
Totals 28 14 24 3	Totals 21 7 27 12

1—Batted for Oliver in 9th.

Salem 103 010 000—5

Vancouver 220 000 02X—8

Score: Jewell Callix, 6; Oliver 8 innings at bat, 31 hits, 7 runs, 6; responsible for 6. Struck out six; base on balls, 4; Greenlaw 2½ innings at bat, 14 hits, 8 runs, responsible for 2; struck out 2; base on balls 3; Jones 6½ innings; at bat 24, hits 6, runs 1, responsible for 1; struck out 6, base on balls 3; hit by pitcher, Wright; by Oliver; by Jones; Bates by Jones; Passed balls—Lingus. Left on base, Salem 12; Vancouver 7. Home runs, Jones, Three base hits, Greenlaw, Shinn, Two base hits, Petersen, Burns batted in, Brenner 2, Greenlaw, McGinnis, Bergstrom, Griffiths, Jones, Lingus. Double plays, Callix to Wright; Jewell to Wright; Jewell to Wright.

Time: 2:15

Umpires: Kallis and Weisgerber.

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Here's Start of Great Trek South of US Troops



Photo shows a general view of Fort Lewis, Wash., on the morning of May 19, when part of the 1000 trucks that took 6000 troops on their way to California for the gigantic war games to be held there got under way. In all, 35,000 troops will leave for the southland, some by train and others by truck, constituting the second largest troop movement in American history. When the trucks took to the highway they stretched out in a column 70 miles long—and that was only the first contingent. Each of the five daily units pass through Salem.

juice, bread, butter, coffee, milk and sugar.

Late Wednesday afternoon officers and men alike ate tender roast beef, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, boiled cabbage with bacon, coffee, milk and sugar, canned peaches and bread and butter.

Movement of troops from Fort Lewis, Wash., through Oregon to southern California for summer military maneuvers, has resulted in little inconvenience to motorists, Charles P. Pray, superintendent of state police, reported Wednesday.

The 2000 men of the 15th infantry which camped at the state fairgrounds Tuesday night moved out of Salem before 7 a. m. Wednesday.

Due early this afternoon is another sub-column of infantry.

Marion county will have contributed 204 of her men to the United States army via the selective service route after the June 16-18 call, Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten, state selective service director, announced Wednesday.

The June 16-18 call includes: Marion county board No. 1 (Salem), 15 men; Marion county No. 2 (Stayton), 10; Marion county No. 3 (Woodburn), 9; Polk county board, 10; Yamhill county board, 12.

Men called to date by various boards include:

Linn, 74; Marion No. 1, 75; Marion No. 2, 49; Marion No. 3, 46; Polk, 52; Yamhill, 62.

ROSEBUR, Ore., May 21 (AP)—The first fatal accident of the current movement of the army to California for war games befell the Third division Wednesday at the 600-mile-long column serpentine into southern Oregon mountains.

Private Edwin Dow, 21, a conscript from Portageville, Mo., was crushed to death when a 24-passenger troop truck overturned on a soft shoulder and rolled down an embankment. Fifteen others in the unit, commanded by Lt. Byron Burns, were hospitalized at Rains Pass, Ore.

All except two were able to resume the journey south later in the day. John Cunningham and Joe Kotren, both Ohioans of Company C, Seventh infantry (Dow's company), suffered a fractured arm and hip bruise, respectively.

Near Canyonville, Ore., a motorcycle ridden by Private Ralph Kraby, MB Co. 209, Seventh infantry, and an automobile driven by Rev. T. E. Mack of Prescott, Mich., collided. The soldier suffered internal injuries and was taken to the veterans' hospital here.

41st Outfit Bivouacs at Klamath Falls

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Major General George A. White, 41st commander, will join lead trucks of his division Thursday for entry into California.

Brigadier General Jesse C. Drain, commander of the 81st brigade heading the 41st division lead group, said he was forwarding reports to the war department on lessons learned on the gigantic motorized march.

He found that the division's heavier trucks lagged behind in mountainous country, such as that traveled in the past two days, so they were placed at the heads of columns Wednesday, resulting in smoother, better spaced movement.

At one point on Wednesday's journey the troops were well above mile-high altitude.

Surprising officers, who expected some trouble in the 41st's leading section—341 vehicles carrying more than 1800 men—the third day of the trip from Fort Lewis to California passed without a major accident.

General Drain credited the record to well-trained drivers, well spaced and timed marching groups and aid of Oregon state policemen and local police in eastern Oregon.

Odd Fellows Name Chiefs

BAKER, May 21 (AP)—C. L. Myers of Tillamook was named grand patriarch of the grand encampment of Odd Fellows, in session here this week.

Other officers included: Oswald Olson, Springfield, grand high priest; A. H. Knight, Canby, treasurer; Ed Bowman, Hillsboro, representative for two years, and William Bloom, Tillamook, grand marshal.

The Association of Ladies' Auxiliaries of the Patriarch Militant elected Ruth Lee Curry, Albany, president; Lillian Smith, Pendleton, vice-president; Ethel Pease, Medford, treasurer, and Laura Farlon, Albany, secretary.

Guests of Brother

UNIONVALE—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Turner and son Lloyd of the Ventura oil fields left for home Sunday after ten days spent at the home of the former's brother, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Turner and family.

Small Plane Carriers Seen

Knox Says US Rushes Work to Protect Merchant Shipping

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tion program had been expanded to turn out 500 four-motored bombers a month.

Without disclosing when he expected to attain this production schedule, he told reporters that "letters of intent" have been sent out ordering additional numbers of the bombers from the Ford Motor company, and the Boeing, Lockheed, and Douglas Aircraft companies. Ford will construct the craft at a new plant at Ypsilanti, Mich.

Jesse Jones, federal loan administrator, followed up this announcement with a disclosure that he had allocated \$650,000,000 to build new, government-owned plants for the manufacture of planes, aluminum and magnesium.

Jones said the OPM had requested this action in order to carry out the bomber program and that locations of the plants will be determined by that agency. The plants, after being built by the government, will be operated by private companies under contract.

This Soldier Out-Ranked by Former Flame

CAMP LEE, Va., May 21 (AP)—

It wasn't the fact that he discovered a high school sweetheart in the role of a drunkard's wife that disturbed Private William Gettel of Company L, seventh quartermasters.

True, the New York soldier sat down at the piano and played a lamentation, but it was no manifestation of a tortured mind.

What bothered Gettel as he sat there at the keyboard was that intangible but very firm social barrier that separates officers and men.

Eleven years ago Bill Gettel attended high school in Raleigh, N.C., where Vida Corcoran was also a pupil. They became very good friends and high school dances found Vida and Bill together.

They grew up and went their ways — Bill to New York and Vida to Pittsburgh.

They didn't meet again until the other night when Bill went into a recreation hall at this army replacement center to play the piano for a rehearsal of a camp play "Ten Nights in a Barroom." There was Vida in the role of Mrs. Morgan — ill-treated wife of the drunkard.

The meeting was pleasant and friendly. But there was no chance of going out together to talk over old times.

Bill is a private in this new army. The girl is a member of the army nurse corps and as such is Second Lieutenant Vida Corcoran.

fastest possible time.

"I do not think we are near war," Mott said.

"I have never thought that and if we can get our defense program completed we'll never get into war."

"I do not think and never have thought the president wants to get us in war."

"I think we are doing the thing right now most to our advantage and to the advantage of Great Britain—furnishing 90 per cent of our war munitions to Great Britain."

"I do not believe Great Britain wants us as an active participant in the war and does not want an expeditionary force. Germany does not want us in the war and Japan is trying to avoid war with us."

"With this situation there seems no reason for us getting in the war."

"We should complete our national defense program in the quickest possible time and be so strong no dictator would dare attack us."

Mott said the naval building program was a year ahead of schedule and with the completion of a two ocean navy the United States could not be attacked successfully.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., May 21.

(AP)—Senators Pepper (D-Fla.) and Wheeler (D-Mont) with ver-

Cotton States Tough Circuit Upon Scorers

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., May 21.—(AP)—The Hot Springs Cotton States league baseball club lost its second official scorer in two weeks today.

Ralph Taylor, Hot Springs newspaperman, announced his resignation as scorer after last night's 44 hit game in which Texarkana defeated the Bathers 26 to 15 and 112 batters faced seven pitchers.

Roy Benson, who started the season as scorer, resigned when 68 runs were scored on 80 base hits in two games.

bal fireworks expanded Wednesday an announced debate on the convoy issue into a discussion of general war effort before an enthusiastic audience at the General Federation of Women's clubs convention.

Pepper, supporter of convoys, was loudly applauded when he said "If we propose to stop that dark genius, Hitler, we must keep him in Europe."

When Wheeler, foe of convoys, walked to the rostrum of Convention hall he was cheered and from the balcony a woman called "God bless Wheeler."

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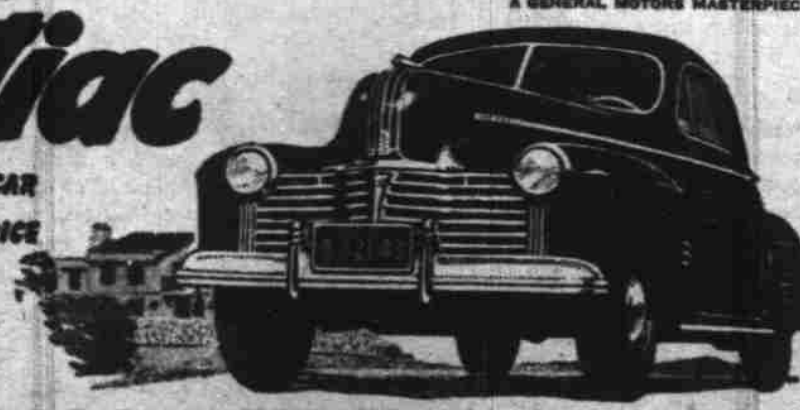
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