

RAF Over Rome For First Time; Trains Strafed

Pilot Regrets Not Finding Mussolini In Night Attack

ROME, March 26—(AP)—RAF intruder planes, taking off from battered Malta where for months the words "bomb Rome" have been chalked on the walls of ruined buildings, sallied boldly over the Italian capital and environs Thursday night, and one of the pilots on his return expressed regret at not having been able to single out the "big bullfrog" — Mussolini.

First reports from Malta quoted only the pilot who wanted to find Mussolini but later it was learned a number of attacking craft had flown over the capital area for the first time.

Early editions of the London morning papers gave the story top display and the Daily Mail headline said: "RAF Over Rome Suburbs."

Only one pilot told of what the Italian capital looks like at night from the air.

After seeing the blinking night lights of Rome, the pilot concentrated a strafing attack on trains serving the capital and an outlying railway station. "The moon was quite bright," the pilot said, "and although it was very hazy we could see flashes of electric lights or trains in Rome itself and the buildings of the city."

Enemy planes, apparently attempting a reprisal for the closest known hostile approach to Rome, caused an alert Friday on Malta for the first time in 22 days. RAF planes rose to meet them, and one enemy raider was reported downed.

The Italian high command communique acknowledged attacks Thursday night on Campo Leone, 21 miles by rail from Rome, and Cisterna, 31 miles outside the capital, but said there were no casualties. Both are on the route from Rome to Naples.

"We left Rome," the RAF pilot said, "and flew down the railway toward Naples, strafing trains as we went. In two or more instances we saw tremendous flashes, similar to those we had seen after we gunned trains outside Rome. We gave railroad signal boxes a pasting, too."

Back in Malta, where the announcement of Thursday night's sortie was hailed with great pleasure, the pilot said the plane approached Rome over the Tiber and Pontine marshes.

Germans Raze Dutch Houses For Defense

LONDON, March 26—(AP)—The Netherlands information service reported Friday that the entire coastal area of Holland for a distance of nearly 15 miles inland was being cleared of inhabitants by the Germans, who were wrecking thousands of buildings and erecting coastal defenses against an allied invasion.

It said that probably 24,000 houses had been destroyed in The Hague, as the Nazis worked desperately to perfect their fortifications.

A Tass dispatch from Stockholm estimated that at least 800,000 Dutchmen had been evacuated from their homes along the coast. Some of the evacuees were said to have been sent to camps at Arnhem and then on to Germany, presumably for forced labor.

A Paris dispatch broadcast by the Berlin radio Friday said part of the civilian population of the Atlantic port of La Rochelle was being evacuated to the French towns of Rochefort and Fouras.

The Belgian news agency Inbel reported that the Germans were extending their defenses along the Belgian coast and had ordered all former members of the disbanded Belgian army evacuated to the interior.

Storm Warnings Up

SAN FRANCISCO, March 26—(AP)—The US weather bureau said Friday storm warnings were continued until 5 p. m. Saturday on the Washington coast from Tatoosh to the mouth of the Columbia river and in the straits of Juan de Fuca. Storm warnings also were hoisted on the Oregon coast from the Columbia river to Cape Blanco.

Dismissed



ADM. JEAN MARIE ABRIAL
Former governor general of Algeria and more recently navy minister in the Vichy French cabinet, Adm. Abrial was reported Friday to have been dismissed.

Vichy Shifts Cabinet Jobs

Five Ministers Fired, As Several Diplomats Switch to Giraud

By The Associated Press

The Berlin radio announced Friday night a shakeup in Pierre Laval's Vichy cabinet in which five ministers were dismissed, and the development came amid continued desertions from the Vichy government by foreign diplomats who were switching their allegiance to Gen. Henry Honoré Giraud, French high commissioner in allied northwest Africa.

The ministers, "taking leave of Chief of State Petain," said the broadcast recorded by The Associated Press, were:

Joseph Barthelmy, justice; Adm. Jean Marie Abrial, navy; Gen. Jean Francois Jannekin, aviation; Jules Brevie, colonies; and Rear Adm. Rene Platon, secretary of state in the foreign ministry held by Laval himself.

The Berlin radio stressed that the shakeup was "harmonious, insuring unconditional support of the Laval government," and said some of the posts were being telescoped to give greater concentration of power.

Actually, most of the French ministries are obsolete because of war developments, France has lost nearly all her colonies to either Gen. Giraud or Gen. Charles De Gaulle, Fighting French leader, and the Germans demobilized all the French military services when they occupied all of France last fall following the allied invasion of north Africa.

The change occurred a short time after French Guiana had joined the allies, and appeared also to have been dictated by concern of an approaching union of the two anti-axis French leaders, Giraud and De Gaulle.

General De Gaulle in a broadcast beamed to France a few hours before the Vichy change was announced had said he was going to Algiers soon to effect such a union with Giraud. De Gaulle's liaison officer, General Cassin, already is reported in north Africa.

A clue to Laval's concern over (Turn to Page 2, Story C)

Schenk Named Farrell Aide

Appointment of Harry S. Schenk, manager of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers association, as chief deputy secretary of state, effective May 1, was announced Friday by Secretary Robert S. Farrell, Jr.

Schenk will succeed George H. Flagg, chief deputy since 1934, who is to be appointed to another office—rumored to be either that of public utilities commissioner or state liquor administrator—next month.

A graduate of University of Oregon in 1933, Schenk was employed on the Portland Journal, Eugene Register Guard and McMinnville Telephone-Register before he was named in 1939 to succeed Arne Rae as manager of the publishers' organization. He has also been serving as assistant professor of journalism at the state university.

Secretary Farrell said Schenk's administrative experience would be of value to the state department.

Farm Aid Assured In Davis

Food Administrator To Be Independent; Labor To Be Sent

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK

WASHINGTON, March 26—(AP)—President Roosevelt disclosed Friday that plans are in the making to get more machinery and labor on the farms to carry out the programs of Food Administrator Chester C. Davis, who, it was made clear, will have virtually a cabinet officer's status independent of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard.

In a press conference discussion, the president smilingly said he thought no one is going to starve, spoke in generally optimistic terms of the food outlook, and reported:

1. Davis, when he begins his duties Monday, will take up immediately the question of forming a land army of boys, girls and women to help produce needed wartime food. Mr. Roosevelt mentioned also that some communities are doing a great deal for their own initiative toward helping with farm work, and indicated this would be encouraged. He said 500,000 farm workers already had been deferred from military service, selective service estimated 3,000,000 more would be this year, and that some experienced farm workers would be furloughed from the army, but each case must be handled individually.

2. The war production board now admits it made a mistake in handling the farm machinery program, and it is being revised. Mr. Roosevelt explained, but it developed that the smaller firms lacked the distribution facilities which the bigger ones had through branch offices. Some of the bigger concerns, he said, will return to manufacture of farm machinery and also will distribute the output of smaller ones. He added that steel had been allocated for all the machinery needed.

3. Mr. Roosevelt mentioned, too, as a favorable sign last week's advice by the federal crop reporting board that a nationwide survey indicates farmers will plant 10,000,000 more acres to food and feed crops this year than last, when production records were broken.

The president released at his conference the executive order establishing the new office of food production and distribution to be headed by Davis. It said the action was taken under the authority vested in the president by the constitution, the first war powers act, the office of the presidency (Turn to Page 2, Story D)

Senate Splits On Two Farm Price Bills

WASHINGTON, March 26—(AP)—The senate Friday passed and sent to the White House—undoubtedly veto—legislation to boost farmers' incomes by prohibiting the deduction of benefit payments in computing agricultural parity price ceilings.

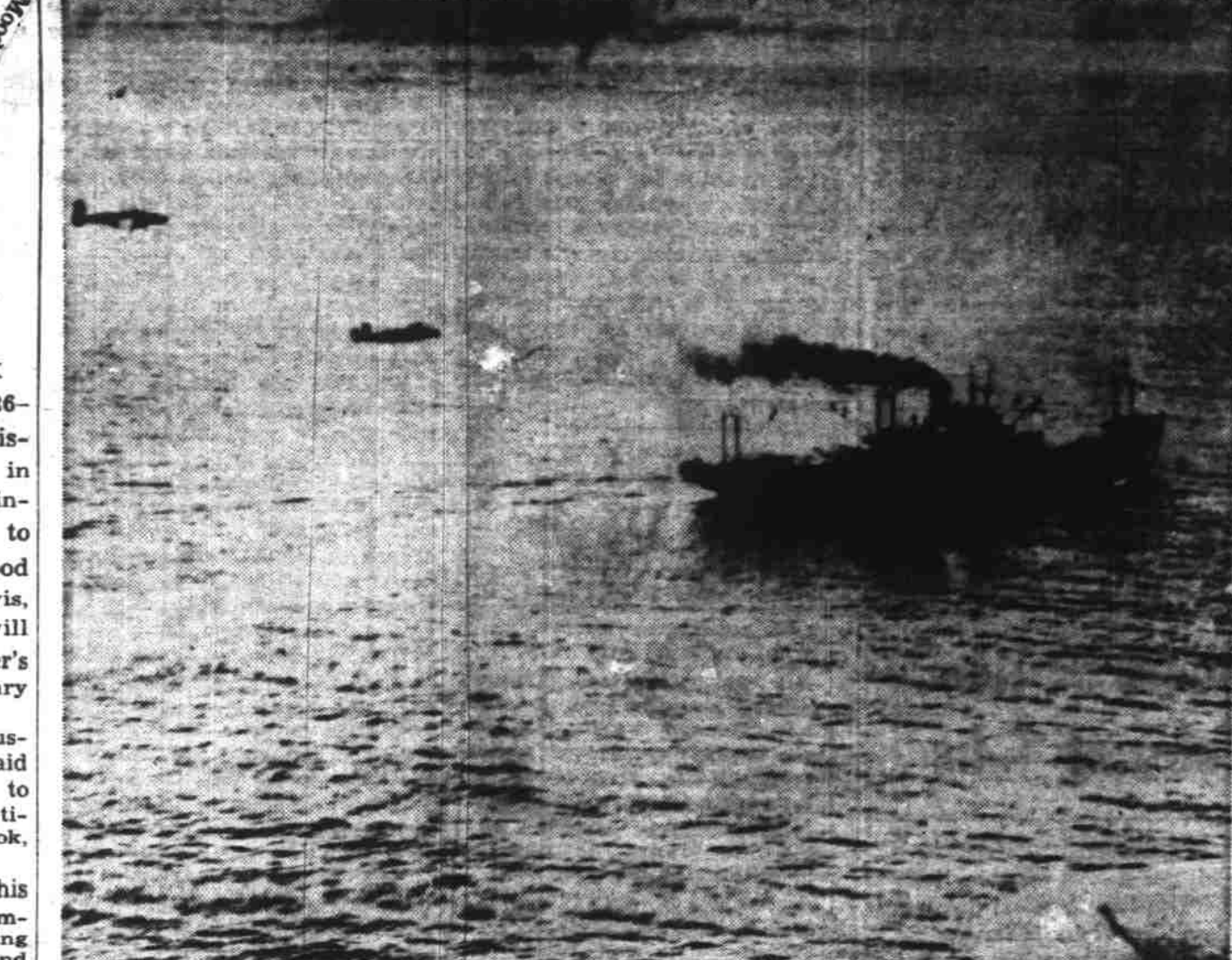
Approval of the measure came swiftly and without a sign of opposition after the faltering farm bloc conceded defeat in its effort to bring to an immediate vote an even broader bill designed to raise agricultural prices by requiring that the cost of all farm labor be included in parity standards.

The latter measure, previously passed by the house, went back to the senate agriculture committee, which approved it unanimously at a 10-minute session last Monday without the formality of holding hearings.

There was ample evidence, however, that it would be back on the senate calendar in a matter of 10 days or two weeks, there to plague the administration leaders who insisted that its passage would provide a crowbar by which organized labor could pry wage increases out of the war labor board and thus break down inflation controls.

A coalition of democrats and republicans, headed by Majority Leader Barkley of Kentucky and Minority Leader McNary of Oregon, broke the farm bloc apart to force adoption of a motion by Senator Lucas (D-III) to return the bill to committee. Although the issue had been close, the motion was adopted on a voice vote without dissent.

Jap Merchantman Attacked at Mast Height



Allied bombers blast Japanese ships in the Bismarck sea; another graphic picture of a scene in that fierce naval and air engagement which destroyed 22 Jap ships. This picture, taken from a Royal Australian air force plane, shows medium bombers attacking an enemy merchant ship at mast height during the battle. Note burning ship on the horizon.—US army air force photo from International News Soundphotos.

Eden Promises Britain to Stay

Japan Said Included As Enemy; China Assured Aid

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 26—(AP)—Britain is out to crush Japan as well as Germany, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden assured Americans Friday night; there will be no rest until both ends of the axis have been smashed.

"Let there be no mistake," Eden said in an address prepared for the Maryland state assembly and for broadcast to the nation over CBS; "we shall not rest upon our arms until every one of our enemies has unconditionally surrendered. We, no less than you, and our partner China, have a score to settle with the Japanese; nor shall we cease fighting until that evil growth in the Pacific has been cut back. We shall be with you in this to the end."

Eden had a special word of encouragement for China.

"Let China not mislead us," he said. "We shall not forget how for years she resisted aggression single-handed. . . . The day will come again when the Burma road will once again be open."

Britain's foreign secretary mentioned only briefly his fortnight of conferences with President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull and others. He said he was "well pleased at the result," but added: "You will not expect, I trust, sudden and sensational developments. For there will be none. But there has been a meeting of minds between us about the present and the future that will, we are sure, bear fruit."

Eden emphasized but did not dwell on the question of close collaboration with Russia, mentioning it only in connection with the broader theme of United Nations cooperation in war and peace.

Declaring that in the period between the two world wars the intentions of the peace loving nations were excellent but their practice weak, Eden said: "If there is one lesson we should have learned from the distresses (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Young Chaplain Poling Said Missing at Sea

WASHINGTON, March 26—(AP)—Four more army chaplains have joined the ranks of war casualties, the office of the chief of chaplains said Friday, listing them as "missing at sea in the North American area."

The circumstances of their loss were not divulged but the National Jewish Welfare board of New York said one of the four, Alexander Goode, formerly a rabbi, died when a ship was sunk in the Atlantic early in February. The board said he was the first Jewish chaplain casualty of the war.

The others: Clark V. Poling, 32, son of Dr. Daniel Poling of Philadelphia, president of the World Christian Endeavor union. A member of the Reformed church in America, he entered the chaplain service from Schenectady, N.Y., June 10, 1942. He was

RAF Bombs Ruhr Again

LONDON, Saturday, March 27—(AP)—British bombers over the industrial Ruhr region of Germany during the night, it was learned authoritatively Saturday.

There were indications that the RAF was out in force. One of the biggest raids of the year was delivered in the same area when Essen was blasted March 12.

Hunting and Fishing Said More Needed

CHICAGO, March 26—(AP)—Hunting and fishing during the war can be "justified from the cold blooded economic standpoint," Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Rid of the Izaak Walton League of America stated Friday.

He said the sports would benefit health and morale but stressed the contention that the food value of game and fish made these "wild life crops" doubly important in times like these.

"In many sections game has reached or exceeded the food or forage available for its survival during the winter," Reid set forth in a statement at the organization's annual convention.

"Should hunting be dispensed with for the duration," the statement said, "big game in many congested areas would not only starve to death in large numbers, but in the process would eat itself out of house and home with resulting devastation to the forests and other vegetation, soil erosion and other dire results."

"And in the small game field there might well be serious destruction of farm crops just at a time when farmers are urged by the government to raise all the food they possibly can."

Reid also asserted that a sound program of conservation of natural resources must be continued during the war, and during the post-war period.

Lewis Says Miners Not Obligated by No-Strike Pledge

WASHINGTON, March 26—(AP)—In a dramatic hearing, frequently punctuated by sharp exchanges with investigating senators, John L. Lewis insisted Friday that coal miners must have higher wages and contended they are under no obligation not to strike if they fail to get them.

The president of the United Mine Workers said he joined with "all Americans in hoping no work stoppage will be necessary" but repeatedly declared he was not "necessarily bound" by the no-strike pledge labor leaders made in 1941.

That agreement, he asserted, was voided by the war labor board's adoption of the "little steel" formula for fixing wages. Indicating he would insist on the full 32-a-day increase he is asking for the miners, Lewis said this figure was based on the miners' instructions to him and the increased cost of living in mining communities.

Bombers Slash Japs at Wewak

Merchant Ships Badly Damaged; Supply Installations Hit

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Saturday, March 27—(AP)—Dipping as low as 75 feet to loose their bombs, allied four-motored bombers blasted newly-constructed installations and shipping at the new Japanese base of Wewak on the north coast of New Guinea in a three-hour night attack, an allied communique said Saturday.

Using 500 and 1000-pound bombs, the Flying Fortresses scored two hits on a 4000-ton merchantman in the harbor, leaving it badly damaged, and pounded the airbase, town, and docks with 19 tons of explosives.

The 1000-pound bombs, the announcement said, "caused especially serious damage among the shore installations."

The attacking planes dived through heavy anti-aircraft fire and all returned safely, the communique said.

Wewak, 350 miles above Port Moresby, apparently was given special attention because of its position as a reinforcement and intermediate supply port for the hard-pressed Japanese holding the Lae-Salamaua sector to the south.

Wewak was the recent objective of a convoy shattered by allied airmen while trying to slip into the port from the northeast. It was believed at the time that the convoy had taken a circuitous route around the Admiralty islands from Rabaul after a 22-ship convoy was annihilated in the Bismarck sea on a more direct attempt to reinforce New Guinea.

Japanese New Guinea positions at Lae, Salamaua, Finschhafen and Mubo along the coast south-east of Wewak, also were bombed and strafed during Friday's operations.

Young Chaplain Poling Said Missing at Sea

WASHINGTON, March 26—(AP)—A graduate of Rutgers and the Yale divinity school.

(Clark Poling visited in Salem several years ago, it was recalled Friday night, when his father spoke at meetings. Dr. Daniel Poling resided in Salem in his youth.)

George L. Fox, 43, a veteran enlisted man of the first World War whose decorations included the silver star and cross de guerre. He entered the service from Gilman, Vt., July 24, 1942. A Methodist, he was a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and the Boston university school of theology.

British Troops Gain in Mareth; Americans Hold

Forces Flank Retreat Area; Air Offensive Heaviest Yet In North African Fracas

By DANIEL DE LUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 26—(AP)—Infantry of the British Eighth Army inched slowly forward into fortifications of the Mareth line under a hail of gunfire Friday while American forces 70 miles away fought grimly to keep Marshal Erwin Rommel's flank pinned to the Tunisian coast.

The seventh night of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's attack on the deep Mareth belt of minefields and pillboxes backed up by concentrations of armor and artillery found the British and the enemy still locked in a struggle reminiscent of the first World War's many "battles of position and attrition."

Reds Advance On Smolensk

Nazi Counter-Blows Thrown Back on Kharkov Front

LONDON, Saturday, March 27—(AP)—Russian troops beating against Smolensk's distant defenses wiped out a German garrison at one strategic point and captured another, while holding firm against nazi counter-assaults on the Donets river front near Kharkov in the south, Moscow announced Saturday.

The new central front gains announced in the midnight communique recorded by the soviet monitors were said to be of Bely, presumably near Dukhovschina, 32 miles from Smolensk.

A Stockholm dispatch said Russian tanks already had broken into Dorogobuzh, 50 miles east of Smolensk, in a frontal assault supporting the northeastern wedge in Smolensk's outlying defense belt.

The communique said 500 Germans were killed in the capture of the two enemy points, 300 of them in the garrison which was outflanked and then attacked from the rear after a group of red army men stole across a river.

Four enemy guns, 20 machine-guns, five anti-tank rifles and other war material was captured in one of these actions.

Several populated places were taken in this continuing drive over difficult terrain, but the communique suggested part of the Russian troops were consolidating their hard won gains in the great salient which so long had threatened Moscow.

Approximately 1100 Germans were reported slain in futile efforts to breach Russian positions between Belgorod and Chuguev in the Kharkov sector of the Ukraine during Friday's fighting which found the Germans still using a considerable number of tanks. One soviet unit alone destroyed 42 nazis tanks and wiped out a battalion of infantry.

Plane Carrier Fleet in Use

WASHINGTON, March 26—(AP)—The navy disclosed Friday that the first of a fleet of auxiliary aircraft carriers are in combat areas and scores of others are building in shipyards both on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

The primary function of the auxiliary carriers at this time is to help smash the German U-boat offensive in the Atlantic, but they are by no means limited to furnishing convoy protection, having use also as ferrying craft and in fleet operations. The greatest need for them now, however, is in the north Atlantic and indications were that that was where the bulk of the forces would be disposed.

The report of the new program was made public at a press conference of secretary of the navy Knox.

Brennan's Here!

With the amiable tenors of the US navy, Messrs. E. Linn and Tim Dunnevan (alias Force and Brains, Inc.), to back him up, Fredrick Basil Brennan, the favorite short story author of millions, makes his debut in The Statesman today with a riotously funny serial story, "They Sell Salters Elephants."

Don't miss a chapter of this new novel; tell your friends they'll find it in The Statesman. "They Sell Salters Elephants" begins today on page 4.

New Sleepers Slated

CHICAGO, March 26—(AP)—The Association of American Railroads announced Friday the nation's carriers had tentatively agreed to put into service 1200 troop sleepers of a special design and 400 army kitchen cars.