Nazis Retreat, Scorch Italian Countryside

D (Continued from Page 1) D

the Germans had been strongly reinforced all along the Eighth army front.

In addition to taking vengeance upon the Italian farmers for their country's surrender to the allies, the Germans in their retreat were sowing the Fifth army's path with great number of mines and were fighting occasional artillery, mortar and machinegun actions to cover their withdrawal.

If the nazi conduct north of the Volturno is to become a regular practice in the retreat toward oRme, the Italian peninsula will be left in a more ravaged state than after the passage of marauding hordes of Vandals and Visiogoths through it centuries ago.

When columns of smoke first were observed behind the enemy lines two days ago it was believed the Germans might be burning their own supply dumps. In this, however, the allies underestimated the thoroughness with which the Germans were devastating the country, for when Fifth army troops reached these areas they found most of the smoke columns were coming from the embers of burned homes, barns and other civilian buildings.

Surviving Italians of the area were found hiding in ditches, canals and woods—terrified by the last days of occupation by their former axis partners.

The stubbornness with which the Germans clung on to the Volturno line and their apparent determination to make a fresh stand on Massico ridge, which is scarcely 10 miles beyond it, offers little hope of a speedy allied entry into Rome.

There may be many weeks more of costly fighting before the eternal city is reached. Meantime, blows being struck behind the enemy's lines by the allied air force offer the best hope of hastening land progress, because of their weakening effect on the Germans.

Aussies Lock Japs in Battle

E (Continued from Page 1) E

offensive in that sector after a series of defeats, beginning in early September, during which they lost the air bases of Lae, Salamaua and Finschhafen. These bases are on the Huon gulf, a potential springboard for allied invasion of Japan's pivotal position of New Britain.

In the Solomns, another American raid in the southern Bougainville area has resulted in the downing of 17 Japanese planes out of a force of 55, today's communique said.

More than 100 United States navy and air force planes took part in the northern Solomons offensive Monday morning during which enemy gun positions and dumps were blasted.

Mitchell medium bombers, striking in coordination with the Ramu valley drive, strafed bridges and villages along a good road which the Japanese built with Chinese coolie labor from Madany past Bogadjim. The Aussies in the Ramu valley last were reported only 20 miles from Bogadjim, which is the main defense outpost for Madang.

The communique itself made no mention of the Japanese progress above Finschhafen, saying only that ground forces north of there "repulsed several sharp attacks, the enemy leaving more than 200 dead in our hands."

Japanese aircraft sought at night to bomb Australian positions but the raid was reported unsuccessful.

The communique for the second straight day reported successful aerial action against troop-laden boats. This time it was a large barge filled with Japanese troops on a river in the Aroe islands north of Australia. Long range fighters sank it. Yesterday's communique disclosed the sinking of a troop-crowded transport near New Ireland.

House Hears War Report

G (Continued from Page 1) G

Not only was there no attempt to refute statements made by the five globe-girdling senators upon their return from an inspection of war fronts, one member said, but there was no reference to their report.

"Straight - from - the - shoulder" . . . "very convincing" . . . "highly informative" . . . "no fancy stuff, just straight talk"—these were some of the descriptions with which congressmen tagged the background, first-hand story.

"General Marshall gave us the impression that we are in one hell of a war," said one member.

Representative Ellsworth (R-Ore.) summed up what seemed to be the sentiment of most when he said the program "debunked a lot of optimism."

ON the HOME FRONT

By ISABEL CHILDS

To the Wolverines: Drop in to see me at The Statesman office sometime within the next few days—might call 9101 first to be sure I am here—for there are now some persons working on something very similar to what you have suggested. You can help. If you had signed your names, I wouldn't be having to notify you in this public manner.

—V—

And to all writers of letters. Most of the anonymous variety which come to my desk aren't really distressing. But they mean exactly nothing when they bear no signature. If a letter is worth writing or reading, it is worth signing. You have a perfect right to ask us not to use your name and if such a request as that is made, neither this nor any other newspaper I know of would make that name public.

In the case of the Wolverines, they are very apparently high school girls. I once wrote an anonymous note when I was in high or junior high school, and I'm not boasting about it now. However, the suggestion these girls make is considered only because their letter to me was not malicious and because the writers may not be expected to realize that anonymity is a sign of shame or ignorance.

—V—

Strictly not anonymous is Columnist Don Upjohn, who lectures us for a mis-spelled word in one paragraph and in the next misspells my name!

Labor Leader Asks Relaxed Wage Controls

By the Associated Press

A new demand from a top labor leader that wage controls be relaxed was heard as President Roosevelt arranged to go into session today with union chieftains —a session called against a backdrop of unrest in the vital railroad and coal industries.

President A. F. Whitney of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen asserted at Cleveland yesterday that wage stabilization "is no longer morally or politically defensible." With railroad workers talking of a strike vote, Whitney said he would not recommend acceptance of a four-cents-an-hour increase awarded the five operating brotherhoods last month by an emergenscy board. A 30 per cent increase had been demanded.

Today's White House session was called by President Roosevelt to thresh out labor problems. Invited were leaders of the CIO, AFL and railroad brotherhoods.

At Birmingham, Ala., local offcails of the United Mine Workers voted to heed UMW President John L. Lewis' plea and do everything possible to get 20,000 idle Alabama coal miners back to work.

A UMW representative warned local officials that if the Alabama walkout continued, it might jeopardize the chances of getting the war labor board to approve a new wage contract which would increase miners' earnings about $1.75 a day for a five-day-week.

Elsewhere on the labor front:

At White Pigeon, Mich., 220 men and women workers at the Eddy Paper company, manufacturers of containers used for lend-lease shipping, remained away from their jobs in a 17-day strike described by a WLB official as the first strike authorized by a union under the Smith-Connally act.

The regional WLB has ordered the strikers back to work.

School Aid Bill Written Off

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20–(AP) Sponsors of a bill to provide $300,000,000 a year in federal grants to public schools wrote the measure off as dead tonight saying it was killed by a broad anti-racial discrimination amendment which cost it southern support.

Acceptance of the amendment, offered by Senator Langer (R-ND), by a vote of 40 to 37, was followed by 53 to 26 vote to recommit the measure to the education committee.

New Chest Total $54,396

A (Continued from Page 1) A

General gifts $1669.75, total $6,245.25 or 57 per cent.

Government and edication $1306.21, total $6481.91 or 70 per cent.

Industrial $1719.25, total $8025 or 50 per cent.

Mercantile $438, total $9773.25 or 81 per cent.

Professional $257.50, total $5775.50 or 58 per cent.

Utilities $15166, total $2174.45 or 87 per cent.

Women's division $1073, total $2139 or 21 per cent.

Schools division $235.73 or 16 per cent.

Three-Power Foreign Heads Talk 4 Hours

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, Oct. 20 –(AP)– Foreign ministers of the three great allied powers grappled for four hours today without difficulties with military problems, presumably including the question of a British-American invasion of western Europe which is desired by Russia.

Whatever may be the outcome of the conference, it was learned that US Secretary of State Cordell Hull, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Soviet Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov, with their military aides, had a congenial discussion of the first subject to be thrashed out at the tri-partite conference here.

Two military men — US Maj. Gen. John R. Deane and British Lt. Gen. Sir Hastings Ismay — sat in at today's meeting. Aides participating in the conversations will change as the various problems wherein they are experts come before the conference.

Deane has been attached to the chief of staff's office of the United States army and Ismay is from the office of the British war cabinet.

The presence of the two generals at this first real business meeting of Secretary of State Hull, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Soviet Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov might mean that a western European land front was discussed or at least that the soviet union's side of the matter was heard.

A British spokesman told American newsmen that Britain had agreed to discuss anything the Russians wished to discuss. It was pointed out that before the meeting began the representatives of the three nations had exchanged agendas.

Newsmen here understood that both Eden and Hull had been favorably impressed with the proceedings to date. Hull's already high regard for Molotov was reported growing.

Persons who know Molotov say they can tell how he is thinking by the way he manipulates his pince nez spectacles. When everything is going well, they say, he removes his glasses and places them on his desk and talks without them. When the soviet foreign commissar does not like the way things are going he keeps putting on and taking off his glasses.

So far Molotov has kept his glasses on his desk.

W. Averell Harriman, the new US ambassador, is serving as Hull's assistant during the conference, and William Strang, British assistant under secretary for foreign affairs, likewise is attending the sessions.

The meetings yesterday were given over to setting the agenda for the conferences, a spokesman said, and he pointed out that there was "no challenge" to the agenda by any of the parties.

Describing a luncheon attended today by Molotov, Hull and Eden at the Spiridonovka palace an American who is a veteran of such affairs said:

"This was really something in the way of a luncheon. There was a real spirit of friendship around the table."

There were at least 15 toasts and all were offered in the spirit of friendship. There was toast to the "second front." Several Russian generals and at least one marshal were among the more than 100 persons present. Premier Stalin, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill all were toasted.

The Moscow News, an English language newspaper, today devoted most of its front page to the conference and an editorial entitled "chief task of the moment" that said:

"If the Hitlerite army has not yet been defeated it is only because there is not yet a second front in the west that would turn the present defeats of the fascist armies into a death blow for Hitlerite Germany."

The editorial concluded: "The fascist beast is seriously wounded. It has yet to be finished off, but there is no longer any doubt that it will be. The important thing is to finish it off now. This is dictated by the interests of all the allies and the whole of mankind."

Count Sforza to Head Italian Action Party

NEW YORK, Oct. 20–(AP)–Count Carlo Sforza, anti-fascist who recently returned to Italy after living for a number of years in the United States, will take over the leadership of the Italian "action party" tomorrow, Don Hollenbeck, NBC reporter, said tonight in a broadcast from Algiers.

"The action party," Hollenbeck said, is composed of "socialist groups which have come out for a progressive socialist republic in Italy."

Old Age Aid Not 'Pension,' Says Director

C (Continued from Page 1) C

and once in a while abundantly able to support them. A desire not to be a burden upon their descendants, laudable in itself, is not resognized by the law.

Three units of government provide the funds (and the regulations) for old age assistance, purely on the basis of need, Miss Bowen pointed out Wednesday, as there were presented cases of "worthy" applicants who had been refused funds because they could either support themselves as well as commission clients are supported or because some member of the family is willing to provide enough for sustenance.

"More money to fewer persons" is the basis upon which Marion county welfare monthly budgets continue to be drawn, the administrator said at Wednesday's meeting of the commission.

Largest decrease in allocations since last year is in the field of general assistance. Last November, $10,8000 was budgeted for 389 cases; this November, $10,000 has been allotted for 296 cases (in most instances, family units).

The program for aid to dependent children calls for expenditure of $8000 next month for 120 cases; last November $8400 was spent for 160.

Twelve hundred dollars has been allocated on next month's budget to blind assistance, with 35 cases on the books; last year 37 persons received $1150 in November.

Higher living costs explain the increased expenditures; the greater call for workers even from among the group so old as to have been considered unemployable a year ago is largely responsible for the drop in the number of cases, Miss Bowen said.

Chinese Admit Jap Advances In Southwest

By CLYDE A. FARNSWORTH

CHUNGKING, Oct. 20–(AP)–The Chinese high command declared today that Japanese forces seeking to strike into southwestern China from Burma still had not forced the Salween river, but acknowledged that the enemy was driving north and south along the west bank.

Artillery duels raged across the Salween and there was close quarter fighting as the Japanese columns moved north and south. The Japanese split into two forces the communique said, after they had been routed Saturday from their position opposite Luku, on the east bank.

An American announcement yesterday that US planes had bombed Japanese troops at Luku Sunday indicated that the enemy had crossed the river, but the Chinese communiques still did not explain that attack.

The Japanese column hitting southward along the Salween has reached Lichaipah, the Chinese said, and the north column "is held south of Lusui by our troops."

Food Message Due From FDR

By HOWARD FLIEGER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 – (AP) The capitol is looking forward to an important food message from the president as the likely starting gun for a new congressional fight over food subsidies, an administration device for holding down the cost of living.

The president probably will send his food message to Capitol hill tomorrow. It is expected to re-emphasize the White House preference for subsidies over higher ceiling prices as the best means of stimulating farmers to the biggest food production program in the nation's history.

Wallace Warns of Transport Monopoly

DALLAS, Oct. 20–(AP)–Vice President Wallace said tonight the "public transport is again being brought under monopoly control," and "the evil consequences are everywhere apparent."

"The day of accounting has come," he declared in a speech prepared for delivery before local civic and labor groups.

Russians Race To Cut Crimea

B (Continued from Page 1) B

lowest since the nazis lost Stalingrad, dispatches from Stockholm and the Berlin radio indicated.

The Moscow communique told of continued bitter fighting in Melitopol, south of the Dnieper bend, where for more than a week gains have been counted in city blocks as both sides grappled in fierce hand-to-hand fighting.

"Several city blocks" were captured, the communique said as the red forces beat back German counterattacks, taking a heavy toll of men and material.

South of Rechitsa, in the Gomel area, the Russians pushed their bridgehead across the Dnieper and took several towns. There was also bitter fighting north of Kiev and south of Gomel.

Berlin wallowed in gloom as the implications of the soviet advance behind the Dnieper sank in, wrote Swedish correspondents in the German capital. They said the German high command representative broke the news to them solemnly and made no effort to hide the fact that Germany's situation was critical.

Berlin radio not only emphasized the seriousness of the Dnieper bend fighting but spoke ominously of strong Russian troop concentrations in the area of Leningrad, indicating "the enemy might begin an offensive there in the near future."

The Germans admitted the Russians had thrown more tanks into the battle of the Dnieper bend than have ever been used on the eastern front, and one Berlin report said soviet artillery "is active here on a scale never known before."

The drive, which began October 15, is mounting to a crisis which will force German soldiers to muster all the morale and military courage they possess, a Stockholm report said.

Unity Pledged By Mihailovic

By A. I. GOLDBERG

LONDON, Oct. 20 –(AP)– Gen. Draja Mihailovic in his first public statement in months replied to critics today with a declaration interpreted to mean he is willing to suspend the long and bitter quarrel between his Yugoslav army and the partisan forces of Gen Josip (Tito) Broz.

The statement was issued by the Yugoslav government in Cairo, of which Gen. Mihailovic is war minister, as Tito's partisans announced they had smashed a German attempt to land on Yugoslavia's Dalmatian coast.

Gen. Mihailovic, who has been accused by Tito's supporters of cooperating with the Germans, declared that his Yugoslav army had stood fast for two and a half years in its "struggle against the invaders" and said that it is now ready to "vanquish the common enemy."

The statement contained an implied appeal for allied aid.

US Forts Hit German Plant, Dutch Airfield

F (Continued from Page 1) F

enemy aircraft, while Thunderbolts destroyed six and Spitfires three.

"Spitfires engaged in supporting sweeps.

"From these operations, eight bombers are missing."

The operations, abetted by reinforced fighter support, were the seventh major offensive action of the US army air force of the month from British bases.

It was the first time that the small Ruhr city of Duren was attacked.

An indication that the RAF meant to keep up the newly started pace, which ended a six-day lull, came tonight as several Danish and German radio stations signed off abruptly.

The Gilze-Rijen air field, 60 miles east of Flushing, last was attacked by US heavy bombers August 19.

The Duren plant was described as turning out non-ferrous metals, raising the possibility that the factory might be an important producer of lightweight metals used widely in aircraft.

Formidable Spitfire forces earlier in the day had scored a victory in a sweep over France, and later RAF Typhoon bombers and Typhoons attacked Woensdrecht in Holland and another enemy airdrome at St. Omer-Longuenesse in France. They knocked down three more nazi fighter planes.

Two fighters were reported missing from these collateral operations.

The over-all toll of planes lost in the day's activities: Lost by the enemy, 20; by the allies, eight bombers and two fighters.

War Crime Board Planned in London

LONDON, Oct. 20–(AP)–The foreign office announced today that final arrangements have been completed for the establishment in London of a United Nations commission for the investigation of war crimes (UNCIWC).

Governments represented at a meeting today were the United States, Britain, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Greece, India, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Union of South Africa, Yugoslavia and the French National committee.

Labor-Short Areas Put on 48-Hour Week

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20–(AP) The 48-hour week was decreed today in all areas of the country with acute labor shortages, meaning that 30 new areas must adopt a minimum of 48 hours before November 15.

The 30 areas include Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Fla., Oklahoma City, Dallas and Spokane.

Announcing the order, the war manpower commission said the lengthened week has proved to be helpful in reducing demand for new labor and obtaining more effective utilization of manpower.

Seventy-one areas are classified in group 1, as having acute labor shortages, but 41 of those are already under the 48 hours week.

The manpower commission also opened the door to early adoption of the 48-hour rule in areas where an acute shortage has not actually developed but is likely within six months.

There are 112 areas in this classification (group 2) and only 19 are operating under the 48 hour week. Regional manpower directors were instructed to consider the others and decide in each case whether to order the area under the 48 hour week or exempt it.

Today's order does not apply to certain types of employers such as those with less than eight workers, farmers or local governments. It does not change the system whereby the employer may apply for exemption on the ground that the 48 hour week is not practical for his type of activity, or would not reduce his labor requirements, or would conflict with law.

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