

# Capital Journal



First in News Photos

With the Associated Press Telemat service the Capital Journal is enabled to present photos of world events within a few hours of their occurrence. Also, the Capital Journal gives you Today's news Today.

**Weather**  
Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday with fog on coast; temperature above normal, gentle variable wind. Monday max. 74, min. 47. Rain 5, river -1.3 ft. Northeast wind, clear.

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## GERMAN DRIVE NEARS CHANNEL

### Pinchers Closed Around Allies in Belgium

#### Order Warship Work Speeded At Navy Yards

Additional Shifts to Employ 15,000—President Consults Admirals

Washington, May 21 (AP)—Naval air strength of not less than 10,000 planes and 16,000 pilots to man them was proposed in legislation introduced today by house and senate naval committee chairmen after a conference with President Roosevelt and ranking admirals.

Washington, May 21 (AP)—All navy establishments were ordered today by Lewis Compton, acting secretary, to speed up defense preparations by working additional shifts and by increasing civilian shipbuilding forces by at least 15,000 within three months. Compton sent a letter to the commandants of all naval districts, yards and stations, all bureaus and offices of the navy department and to headquarters of the marine corps.

The proposed increase of 15,000 in shipbuilding forces, the navy said, would be distributed between the Portsmouth, New York City, Mare Island, Philadelphia, Boston, Charleston, Norfolk and Puget Sound navy yards.

#### 66 Warships Building

There are 66 warships under construction or projected, including 8 battleships.

#### Germans Claim Battleship Hit

Berlin, May 21 (AP)—A battleship, probably of the 29,150-ton "Resolution" class, was hit heavily twice near the forward turret and a heavy cruiser also hit with heavy bombs yesterday off Narvik, Norway, the high command reported today in a special communique.

#### Reynaud Hints At Fifth Column

Premier Promises Punishment for French Officers' Conduct of Meuse Campaign Which He Says Badly Disorganized—Still Believes in Victory

Paris, May 21 (U.P.)—France fought grimly today against the "disaster" of a German offensive toward the channel ports, but Premier Paul Reynaud—blaming the advance on "unbelievable faults"—promised that the allies yet would conquer, even if a miracle is needed to save them. Promising punishment for those responsible for the German break through the River Meuse, Reynaud said that failure to blow up bridges had been partly responsible for the Nazi success and he charged that the army of Gen. Andre Corap failed to reach the river in time to oppose the German Panzer (mechanized) division attacking defenders who were "badly officered, badly trained and thin-skinned."

The premier, addressing the senate, referred to the German advance in terms of "disaster" and admitted that the important cities of Amiens and Arras as well as Peronne and Ham on the River Somme, had been taken by the Germans.

Referring to the "total disorganization" of the French armies defending the Meuse in the Sedan sector, Reynaud said: "You now understand the disaster. . . . This is how the hinge of the French front was broken. . . . Yet, if tomorrow, someone came to me saying 'a miracle is needed to save France' I would believe that a miracle would come because I believe in France. The two great peoples of two great empires. . . can not be beaten. They will conquer."

#### General Giraud Said Captured

Berlin, May 21 (AP) (via radio)—The Berlin wireless broadcast a description today of the capture by the Germans of "General Giraud," whom it identified as the newly transferred commander of a French army.

"The high command said the general and his staff, from the French seventh army, had been taken in action which 'crushed' the ninth French army."

"His predecessor had been discharged by order of the high command of allied troops and had already left his army," the wireless account said.

#### Germans Again Burn Library of Louvain

With The German Western Armies, May 21 (AP)—Another World war tragedy has been repeated. The library of the University of Louvain, burned in 1914 and rebuilt in 1928 with American funds, is charred wreckage once more.

#### French Admit Nazi Progress On Two Fronts

Amiens and Arras Ablaze In German Hands—Drive On Paris Stalled

Paris, May 21 (AP)—The Germans, striking with devastating force, hurled their armored cars today almost to the English channel.

Amiens and Arras, on the edge of the coastal plain, were ablaze and in German hands. Nazi motorcycle vanguards had reached the outer environs of Abbeville, 12 miles from the channel. (The Germans said they had taken Abbeville.)

The French had withdrawn from Laon, on the southern edge of the Nazi "bulge" into France.

#### Arras, Amiens Masses of Ruins

London, May 21 (AP)—Arras, the birthplace of Robespierre, "is dead and buried" under the German onslaught in northern France, I was told this morning just before returning to London with other war correspondents who have been with the British expeditionary force.

"Arras as we knew it last fall is dead and buried," a British officer told me, "its buildings are demolished; its people have fled and are dead."

Amiens, when I saw it Friday, was jammed with pathetic refugees from France, Belgium and Holland. Now it has felt the weight of Mars' fist.

#### Yugoslavia Border Closed by Italy

Skopje, Yugoslavia, May 21 (AP)—The frontier between Yugoslavia and Italian-held Albania was closed today by Italian order.



German Leader Confers With Aides At Front—Fuehrer Adolf Hitler (left) with Reichminister Hermann Goering (second from right), according to the German approved caption to this radiophoto from Berlin, listens to a report being made by Adjutant Colonel Schmudt (right). The exact location was not disclosed. — Associated Press Photo.

#### President Vetoes River-Harbor Bill

Washington, May 21 (AP)—President Roosevelt vetoed today a bill authorizing appropriations of \$109,985,450 for river and harbor improvements and surveys. In a message to the house, he said he believed projects already authorized supplied "a sufficient backlog" and that "regardless of every other consideration, it seems to be that the non-military activities of the war department should give way at this time to the need for military preparedness."

#### Dock Workers Resume Parley

San Francisco, May 21 (AP)—Negotiations for a new Pacific coast longshore labor contract were resumed today Monday where they left off a month ago, Frank P. Poisie, president of the Waterfront Employers association, said today.

A date for resuming negotiations was set at the request of Harry Bridges, president of the CIO International longshoremen's and warehousemen's union.

#### Big Guns Heard In English Towns

London, May 21 (AP)—Heavy rumbling like distant thunder was heard tonight in the east coast towns of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, stirring speculation among residents that it was gunfire on the continent.

#### Italy Preparing to Enter War with Nazis

Rome, May 21 (AP)—Italy, Germany's non-belligerent ally, appeared today to be preparing to enter the war as she ordered black-outs and air raid drills in her chief industrial areas for a three-day test beginning tonight.

#### Nazis Within 15 Miles of Sea Coast

French 9th Army Crushed and General Captured—Successes Claimed

Berlin, May 21 (AP)—In a lightning break through, the nazis declared today that they had stormed to within 15 miles of the English channel while their vanguards on the southern front pushed within sight of the Eiffel tower in Paris.

The Germans reported these successes: 1. Capture of Abbeville, Amiens and Arras in the drive toward the English channel; 2. Crushing of France's ninth army and the capture of a French commander, General Giraud, with his staff; 3. Elimination of the last allied resistance in Rethel, the capture of Lano and an advance to the Aisne-Oise canal on the southern edge of the "bulge" in northern France;

4. Capture of the last fort in Belgium's Namur fortifications, attacks east of Ghent and frustration of an "enemy attempt to force a way out southward from Valenciennes"; 5. Heavy damage by air attack to transports, merchantmen and war vessels on the French-Belgian coast; bomb hits on a British battleship and heavy cruiser off the Norwegian coast.

#### Correspondents Called Back

London, May 21 (AP)—American correspondents who had been with the British army in Belgium returned today to London. Among them were Drew Middleton of the Associated Press and Arthur Mann of Mutual Broadcasting System.

#### More U. S. Warships In Portuguese Waters

Lisbon, May 21 (AP)—Additional United States warships are expected in Portuguese waters, it was reported here today.

#### Balloon Barrage Volunteers Called

London, May 21 (AP)—The air ministry called today for more men of 30 to 45 "for duties with the balloon barrage," the system of balloons attached to steel cables by which a defensive cordon has been placed around London and other cities and along Britain's coasts.

The so-called balloon barrage, "floating in the air like mine fields in the ocean," is intended to snare enemy bombers under conditions of poor visibility. Both Germany and England employ them.