

BRITISH WRITER CLAIMS WILLKIE FOE OF BRITISH

Charges Branded As "Pure Bunk"—Speeches Cited As Evidence.

London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The Sunday Dispatch, in a report from New York, charged tonight that Wendell L. Willkie has launched a series of "unrestrained attacks upon so-called British imperialism and British leaders."

The Dispatch's story, from its New York correspondent, Don Iddon, charged that the result of Willkie's attacks was "to create a lack of faith in British war aims among people of power and influence in the United States."

The motive behind the campaign, the Dispatch charged, "is known only to Willkie himself and possibly a small group around him."

The Willkie speeches, said the report, are supposed to be off the record but actually are being "quoted up and down the country."

Willkie was described as addressing large groups of newspapermen, bankers and industrialists, making much the same speech in each instance. The Willkie speeches were described as private "but the charges he has made are echoing in clubrooms and restaurants of New York and Washington."

Iddon reported he attended one such meeting held in a huge hotel ballroom in New York where Willkie talked for two hours while "waiters, bellboys, elevator operators, policemen and numerous strangers wandered in and out."

New York, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Wendell L. Willkie, commenting tonight upon the London Sunday Dispatch story concerning him said:

"The article is pure bunk and fictional writing. I made an off-the-record talk to a group of newspapermen some three or four weeks ago on their invitation."

"The report of the talk as carried by the Dispatch does not bear the slightest resemblance to the facts. I could not so reflect on any Allied leader or the British war effort as I hold them and it in the greatest respect."

Singapore Now Used By Japs As Base

London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Exchange Telegraph agency today quoted the Berlin radio as saying that all naval installations in Singapore, including the base at Selat with its floating drydock, had been restored and that Singapore now was used as the main Japanese naval base in southern east Asia.

WILLIS Loves PHILLIS!

(See Page 3)

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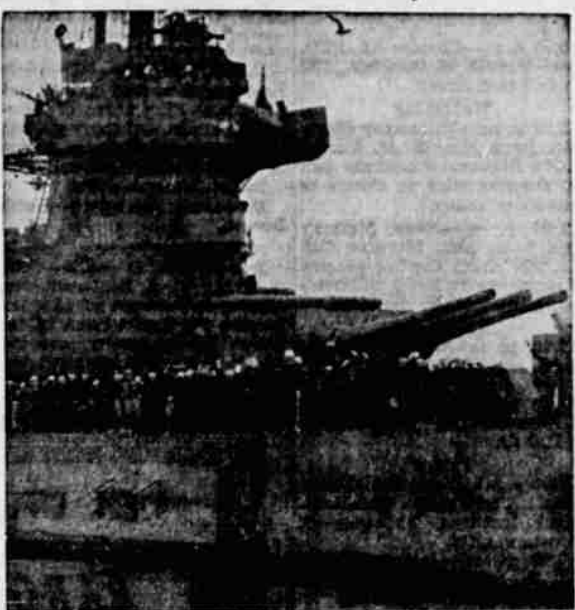
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The U. S. S. San Francisco, the cruiser which bested a Jap battleship in recent action in the Solomon Island area, is shown returning to her "home town" for a well-deserved rest for herself and crew, which lines the rail.

AIRMEN ANXIOUS TO DEAL GERMAN RUIN FROM SKIES

London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Those American and British air fighters who believe that the best way to win the war is to "bomb hell out of Germany" are eating their hearts out in the control rooms of a hundred airdromes today while the war rages on other fronts.

They are young pilots and crewmen eager to prove that the Reich can be pounded into submission from the skies with great, roaring fleets of bombers operating day after day, night after night until German production and communications are blasted into chaos.

As Italian cities have good reason to testify, a still mightier aerial striking force is based in the British Isles. Flying fortresses and other giant bombers still raid the fringes of Hitler's continental system periodically. But these, to the allied airmen, are just a sample of a real air offensive.

Six months ago, these men saw the dreams of Gen. Billy Mitchell and other great prophets of mass air power about to take tangible form. But today there are no thousand-plane raids, no 24-hour, day after day raids.

The answer lies partially in the weather of Northern Europe. But the real answer, observers believe, is the dispersal of air power which always has plagued the allies and which our fliers think is robbing them of a chance to show the world how to win a modern war.

Nobody here denies the importance of the Tunisian and Libyan campaigns, nor the necessity of patrolling the North Atlantic and blanketing the Pacific. At the same time, our airmen in Britain believe that they alone are in position to snap the mainspring of the Axis. Whether air power alone could knock out Germany is beside the point, they argue. Men who have devoted years of study to air attack and who have convincing photographs to show what the RAF has done to Germany and the United States air force to industrial and naval targets in Northern France, believe that air power can make war production and communications so punch drunk that they will begin to crumble.

TEST STOPPED HIM
Coeur d'Alene, Ida., (U.P.)—A charge of draft evasion was filed here against Carol Pratt Taylor, 20, who told FBI agents the reason he did not report for physical examination was because his religion forbade the pricking of the skin—even a finger—to draw blood for a blood test.

YOUNG AMERICAN PILOTS NOW FLY GOODS TO CHINA

Calcutta, Dec. 6.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—Eight young American pilots who only a few months ago were ferrying bombers across the Atlantic to Britain now are flying vital war supplies to China over one of the world's most hazardous air routes.

Happy-go-lucky, despite the knowledge that a forced landing means almost certain death in the jungle, all are veterans of at least five years' flying experience, and all of them are "damned glad to be doing a useful war job again."

Like a score of American volunteer group fliers who signed up last July, the eight men have become transport pilots of the China National Aviation Corp., which now is engaged almost entirely in carrying supplies which no longer can be moved over the Japanese-held Burma Road.

One of their number—James Browne, Winnetka, Ill.—has been missing for the last two weeks. He took off from the terminal at the China end of the route and never was heard from again. His pals have scoured the jungle-clad mountains with their eyes on every subsequent trip, to no avail.

The eight pilots clubbed together constantly during their 14 months as members of the air transport auxiliary of the Royal Air Force Ferry Command. They said they had decided to come to India in order "to do our part on this side of the world."

WAR HEAD WARNS AFRICAN BATTLE WILL BE BLOODY

United Press Correspondent Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said today that the battle of North Africa will be long, arduous and bloody.

"My idea that there is to be no further toil and sweat and blood," he said at a press conference, "would simply lead this country to a tremendous disappointment."

Nevertheless, he added, the nation may be proud of the way American troops—never before tried in battle—are standing up against the Germans in Tunisia. "These forces," he said, "are getting a chance to get over their 'buck fever' at being up against the strongest nation in the world on land."

"They have had a chance to make a show of themselves which has been very gratifying to them and undoubtedly disheartening to the enemy."

Stimson said the surprise element of the North African offensive, which accounted for its spectacular initial success, had worn off and that the battle was now entering a second, more difficult "step-by-step" phase.

He described the current actions as "merely feeling-out and harassing operations on both sides."

"The big work," he said, "is still to be done when the steps—the foundation steps—are laid by which we get air superiority."

NAZIS BUILD NEW FRENCH DEFENSES

Stockholm, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The newspaper Tidningen said today that a traveler in France had brought back reports of the Germans building a new defense line north of the Aisne river which they called the second defense line against possible Allied invasion. The paper also told of extensive guerrilla warfare in France resulting in heavy German casualties and damage to railroads.

MARINES GET ACTOR

Hollywood, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Actor Glenn Ford, whose name has been linked with that of Eleanor Powell, dancing star, will be inducted into the marine corps tomorrow morning, his studio announced tonight.

WILSON NAMED AS PRODUCTION BOSS ALL WAR PLANES

Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson, formally terminating a prolonged dispute with the armed services, has placed in WPB Vice-Chairman Charles E. Wilson complete control over the 1943 war plane production program and wide supervisory powers over the output of other munitions, it was revealed tonight.

Nelson signed four administrative orders which bore directly upon the authority which Wilson will have over arms output during the coming year, and specifically over the vital role of scheduling production which heretofore has been done by the army and navy.

Nelson transferred scheduling powers to the services last March, and when he sought to recapture this authority the army and navy opposed him. Upon specific instructions from President Roosevelt that they work out the problems in conferences, an agreement finally was reached.

WILSON NAMED AS PRODUCTION BOSS ALL WAR PLANES

The agreement has never been made public and a sketchy outline of it announced by Nelson was subject to several interpretations as to who won. Nelson's associates felt that he had emerged triumphant. Army and navy sources said the services had fared well. A third group regarded the pact as a compromise.

Wilson's role is clarified by the administrative orders signed by Nelson on Dec. 9. They have not been made public, reportedly due to a desire by Nelson to avoid a renewal of friction with the services.

URGES CLEAN-UP OF TIRE HAZARDS

Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The nation's 130,000,000 citizens were asked by Rubber Director

William M. Jeffers tonight to act as a committee of one in riding streets, alleys and highways of broken glass, nails and other tire hazards.

"As our tires get older and thinner, they are less puncture-proof," he said in a statement.

"It is important that we all do whatever we can to keep our streets puncture-free."

PRISONERS UNSHACKLED
London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Great Britain and Canada struck the chains from German prisoners of

war today in reply to a proposal of the Swiss government, but Germany said that its decision on the matter of unshackling allied prisoners was still in "the stage of diplomatic negotiations."

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