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THE KLAMATH NEWS

IN THE SHASTA-CASCADE WONDERLAND

WEATHER NEWS

Shows
High 83; Low 40; Midnight 40
24 hours to 5 p. m. .01
Season to date .89
Normal precipitation 9.22
Last year to date 15.56

(Every Morning Except Monday)

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1941

British Fleet Pounds Italians In Great Battle

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

PLENTY of war news today—foreshadowing probably the ending of the winter lull and the beginning of the long expected shooting.

CLOSEST home—and therefore, by all the accepted rules, most important—is the seizure by the United States of interned German, Italian and Danish ships; some 60 of them, totaling around 300,000 tons, the dispatches say.

Sabotage by their own crews given by Washington as the reason for the seizure. The REAL reason, we may take it for granted, is that ships are badly needed to get supplies to Britain.

GERMANY (the real axis) says comparatively little about the ship seizure. Italy, who hasn't much left to go to war with and is therefore free to talk, says it is an act of war.

THE Yugoslavian situation seems to be set on a hair trigger.

Germans and Italians are pouring out of the country. An "unofficial German source" in Belgrade (Yugoslav capital) says Hitler is waiting only until his Germans get out of the country, then if the Yugoslavs fail to meet an ultimatum to demolish their army he will set his war machine to rolling.

Simovic, the new Yugoslav premier, is said to have threatened to attack Albania if the Germans attack Greece. "Yugoslavia," he is alleged to have said, "is not going to be enclosed. If the Germans go to Saloniki, Yugoslavia must get to the sea by way of Albania."

It sounds like both sides mean business. But we must remember that a tall game of bluff is being played. We won't know the line-up until the shooting starts.

AS belated reports come in, it appears that the British have won a great victory in the Mediterranean, just about wiping up Italy's navy as a menace.

They claim destruction of three and possibly four Italian cruisers and two, possibly three, Italian destroyers, along with serious damage to an Italian battleship. The Italians admit the three cruisers and two destroyers but claim one British cruiser sunk and two other warships damaged.

The British say no British warship was hit and there were no casualties on any British vessel. They admit loss of two planes.

ONE guesses that the axis need to break up transfer of British forces from Africa to Greece was so great that the Italian fleet was ordered to forget its fears and get into the fight.

Again Mussolini has failed Hitler in his hour of need.

AMONG today's significant news events, don't overlook this one: British warships attempting to stop a French convoy "carrying important war supplies for Germany" are fired on by French shore batteries in Algeria (Africa). The British warships reply. Casualties not given out.

Hitler apparently is pressing the French to get into it on his side. It sounds like the French may be yielding to the pressure.

PUD ELECTION

SALEM, March 31 (AP)—Election on the creation of the proposed Baker county peoples utility district probably will be held May 27, the state hydro-electric commission said today.

Estimated 4000 Men Reported Lost In 'Weird Engagement'

By GRATTAN P. MCGROARTY
United Press Correspondent
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ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, March 31 (UP)—Italy's war fleet, shattered by the greatest naval battle since Jutland, lost an estimated 4000 officers and men, probably its most powerful battleship, four cruisers and three destroyers, British officers who fought the weird engagement said tonight.

British quarters estimated that 3000 Italian officers and men went to the bottom of the Ionian sea in addition to 900 to 1000 fished from the sea by the British before attacking German bombers reportedly stopped rescue work.

Stern Down
British pilots who repeatedly torpedoed and bombed the 35,000-ton battleship Vittorio Veneto—the Italian flagship—suggested tonight that it probably sank before reaching port. They believed it had been hit by at least three torpedoes and said that when last seen it was badly down by the stern.

Additional evidence that this newest and biggest warship in the Italian navy was sunk came from British fliers on reconnaissance over the area the next day. They saw several hundred men clinging to rafts or lifeboats and believed them to be part of the Vittorio Veneto's crew of 1600 officers and men as no other Italian ship was known to have been sunk in that area.

Late reports also indicated that an Italian 6000-ton cruiser and another destroyer had been sunk, in addition to three 10,000-ton cruisers and two destroyers previously reported lost.

First Sighted
British officers disclosed tonight the 7215-ton British cruiser Orion first sighted the Italian fleet at a distance of 15 miles. The Orion notified the main British fleet and spent the remainder of the morning flitting with (Continued on Page Two)

Four Strikes Settled By Mediators

By The Associated Press

The new defense labor mediation board created by President Roosevelt to try to speed production in industry announced today that the first four strikes turned over to it had been terminated.

In three instances negotiations will continue between the management and unions in regard to wage increase and other demands. The fourth strike was settled before the board took any formal action.

Negotiations Set
Dr. Frank P. Graham of North Carolina, representing the public on the mediation (Continued on Page Two)

Allis-Chalmers Strikers Violent As Plant Operates

MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 31 (UP)—Police drove a six-ton armored transport car into a crowd of 3000 CIO strikers at the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing company's West Allis plant today and dispersed the pickets with tear bombs.

It was the first outbreak of violence in a 68-day old strike at the plant.

The company reopened Friday in defiance of the CIO strike when the government appealed for resumption of work on \$45,000,000 worth of key defense orders.

Police Intervene
Striking union members lined the factory gates as the day shift left the plant at 4:20 p. m. A squad of 150 police patrolled the area.

When strikers started to stop automobiles containing employees who had violated the strike edict, police intervened.

A squad manned the huge riot car, a reformed truck impervious to gunfire. They drove straight into the mob, which fled in confusion.

From firing-sites in the side of the car, police sent round

Pickets Cheer Strike's Ending



Pickets cheer and throw away their posters after hearing that an agreement had been reached between union officials and the Bethlehem Steel Works at Bethlehem, Pa.

F. R. MOVES TO PREVENT TIEUP

Continuance Of Talks Urged In Threat Of Coal Union Strike

ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL EN ROUTE WASHINGTON, March 31 (UP)—President Roosevelt intervened personally tonight to prevent shutdown of the soft coal industry in eight Appalachian states.

A few hours before expiration of contracts between the United Mine Workers union and 21 signatory bituminous mine operator associations, Mr. Roosevelt asked that negotiations be continued beyond the midnight deadline set by the Congress of Industrial Organizations today.

NEW YORK, March 31 (UP)—Acknowledging receipt of a telegram from President Roosevelt asking that contract negotiations in the bituminous coal industry be continued Tuesday, John R. Steelman, of the labor department's conciliation service, said tonight that he already had advised the president that representatives of the United Mine (Continued on Page Two)

Escapades of Man Told by 'Spirits'

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31 (UP)—Fred Field, retired contractor, testified at his divorce trial today his wife told him she had three spirits named "Hokey," "Salami" and "Bologna," who kept her informed of his "escapades."

"Why, those spirits even told her I was playing around with an 83-year-old woman," Field, 65, said. "To me it was just a lot of hokey, salami and bologna."

Mrs. Field, 54, former school teacher, is contesting the divorce action filed by her husband.

Storm Warnings

Southeast storm warnings were hoisted from Point Reyes to Point Conception. On the official weather map, a storm "low" was charted as being nearly stationary about 400 miles west of the San Francisco bay region, offering little hope for an immediate respite.

Vollmers, Shasta county, reported 7.60 inches during Saturday (Continued on Page Two)

Six More Selectees Leave Monday For Army Service

Replacing six men rejected by Army medical corps examiners from third and fourth call Klamath county selectees, a like number of youths Monday night entered at the Southern Pacific depot for Portland and induction into Uncle Sam's new army.

The established departure ceremonies bid the group farewell from the station. Several members of the two Klamath county draft boards were on hand as well as Major Ted Case, local selective service director.

One man, William J. McDonnell, is filling the single vacancy left by a lone Board 1 rejection.

The five other men, all from Board 2, follow: Hollis K. Powers, Sprague River; Frederick W. Hyde, Chiloquin; Herman E. Fielden, Shasta Way; Leonard Lyendecker, Merrill; and Sam Republic Smith, Route 1.

British Take Railway Point In Ethiopia

NAIROBI, Kenya Colony, March 31 (AP)—Diredda, on the Addis Ababa-Jibuti railroad, has been in British hands since Saturday, it was announced officially today.

This puts the British only 200 miles east by railroad from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital and in control of the only railroad link between that inland city and the coast.

(The Italians acknowledged yesterday that Diredda had been abandoned.)

The British now have pushed about 500 miles into the newest colony in Italy's east African empire since the capture of Fer Fer, on the Ethiopian-Italian Somali line, March 6.

Milestones in the advance to the railroad were the capture of Jijiga March 19 and Harar, one of Ethiopia's most important cities, March 27.

An earlier communique today said the British had occupied Carsa, 20 miles beyond Harar on the way to Diredda.

Rains Causing Flood Threat In California

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31 (UP)—The upper Sacramento river, fed by the heaviest rainfall of the season in the Siskiyou mountains and torrential rains over all of northern California, was rising rapidly tonight, bringing the threat of new floods with the prediction of more showers tomorrow.

E. H. Fletcher, Sacramento meteorologist, predicted the river "will rise to high, and in some places dangerous, stages from Red Bluff to Knight's Landing."

Storm Warnings
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Woman Hit

Men grasped at their eyes and shouts of pain were heard. One woman was reported hit by a tear-gas cartridge.

The rolling fortress pushed onward, then retreated to the plant gates and started again. Within 40 minutes the crowd was completely scattered.

Capt. William Hannon said 150 tear-gas shells were fired. Hannon also reported Special Deputy Harold Plumb had turned in his badge after the brief riot. He gave no reason.

Police said they had not expected trouble. They went into action, a squad captain said, when the CIO pickets stopped workers from boarding street cars and automobiles. He said the strikers had started to overturn some of the cars.

He estimated the number of pickets at 3000 men and women. The company announced it had operated at about 70 per cent of normal through the day with 3169 employees. The plant normally employs 7800 workers in three shifts daily.

AGENTS WEIGH LOCAL STRIKE

Labor Bureau, NLRB Send Men Here To Study Kalpine Case

Definite steps toward settlement of the four-week Kalpine Plywood strike appeared Monday to be in progress as a series of conferences were held by both a national labor relations board agent and a department of labor conciliator with representatives of the AFL, CIO and company.

Charles Wheeler, U. S. department of labor conciliator who arrived here Monday morning in response to an AFL request telegraphed to Washington headquarters Saturday in the morning conferred with the AFL negotiating committee and Monday afternoon was closeted with a similar CIO group.

Robert E. Davies, NLRB representative here following an appeal sent to the labor board Friday by the Klamath county chamber of commerce, was also in conference during most of the day with agents of the three squabbling parties.

Only concrete development as round table activity soared was a long statement issued by the CIO, answering, point by point, the company stand set forth Saturday in an equally comprehensive release.

The statement claimed the company substituted a larger payroll for the disputed card count than was originally shown to a CIO committee, explained why the strike was called when it was and intimated the CIO would not go back to work pending an election.

At a meeting marked by expressions of opposition to parking meters, the Klamath Falls retail bureau decided Monday to carry petitions through the business district asking business men to indicate whether or not they want the meters.

With about 30 present, all comment at the meeting was adverse to parking meters, which have been recommended by the city planning commission along with parking lots.

Merchants To Vote On Parking Meters

At a meeting marked by expressions of opposition to parking meters, the Klamath Falls retail bureau decided Monday to carry petitions through the business district asking business men to indicate whether or not they want the meters.

BULLETIN

Southern Pacific's siren sent a wrecking crew toward Chemult early Tuesday morning where it was reported a box car was derailed in a switchling error. The car was said to have obstructed tracks, halting trains from north and south. Company employees here could give no indication as to how long the tracks would be blocked. No one was injured.

The War 25 Years Ago

By The Associated Press

March 31, 1916—Russians repulse Germans on eastern front near Jacobstadt and Lake Narocz.

Protests Launched On Ship Seizures

NAZI MINISTER TO JUGOSLAVIA RETURNS HOME

Relations Critical; Germans Continue "Ice-Cold" Waiting

BERLIN, March 31 (UP)—Relations between Germany and Yugoslavia became critical tonight.

An official spokesman confirmed the German minister to Yugoslavia, Viktor von Heeren, was leaving Belgrade for Berlin, probably tonight. All German nationals have been ordered out of Yugoslavia.

German authorized spokesmen said the anti-German movement in Yugoslavia was "waxing rather than waning" throughout Monday and the reich government was maintaining an attitude of "ice-cold observation."

They were "not able" to say whether concrete measures, such as a reported German ultimatum demanding demobilization of the Yugoslav army, had been decided upon.

"Sharper Terror"
The official DNB agency in a Belgrade dispatch said political circles believed the Belgrade government conferences would not be ended before the middle of the week, and did not expect a government declaration of foreign policy before Thursday.

The Voelkischer Beobachter, organ of the Nazi party, carried this front page headline: "Sharper terror against Germans in Yugoslavia."

A sub-head spoke of Yugoslavia as a "land of seven borders" and, perhaps significantly, quoted a Bucharest newspaper pointing out the weakness of Yugoslav defense.

Other featured stories de- (Continued on Page Two)

Leaders Seek Agriculture Bill Passage

WASHINGTON, March 31 (AP)—Farm leaders, intent on a substantial slice of 1941's big congressional appropriations, sought quick senate approval today for a record-breaking \$1,340,610,744 agriculture bill.

The measure exceeded President Roosevelt's budget estimates by almost a half a billion dollars, but administration leaders were expected to let it slide through without reduction.

It generally was agreed that a joint senate-house committee would use the paring knife later when the legislation goes to a conference between the two chambers. The house voted only (Continued on Page Two)

Bridges Deportation Trial Opens; Communism Charged

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31 (UP)—Deportation hearing of Harry Bridges opened today with the charge that Bridges either now or at some time since his entry into this country 21 years ago has been a member of an organization advocating overthrow of the government.

Drastically broadening the scope of its case against the California CIO director, the government said the 1940 alien registration act forbade an alien to cooperate in any manner with the communist party.

Charged by Goodwin
"Support of the communist party is as inimical to the interests of this country as actual membership in the party," said Clarence Goodwin, former Illinois jurist representing the U. S. bureau of immigration. Goodwin outlined the government's case against the Australian-born labor leader in the crowded federal courtroom.

Goodwin additionally charged Bridges was an undesirable, deportable alien under terms of the 1940 act because Bridges actually joined the communist party. He said Bridges became (Continued on Page Two)



Marjorie Smith Slesmore, above, wife of District Attorney L. Orth Slesmore, passed away in Portland late Saturday. Funeral services will be held here Tuesday.

—Kennell-Ellis.

MATSUOKA FOR PEACE PARLEY

Jap Envoy Disavows Hope Of Mediating World Peace Table

ROME, March 31 (UP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, in an interview with Italian and foreign newspapermen tonight, said that Japan stands for international peace and advocated a general get-together of the leaders of all nations.

The foreign minister, who spoke in general terms, disavowed any intention, however, of attempting mediation of the European war.

International cooperation, he said, best can be achieved by statesmen who have a personal acquaintance and for that reason a personal meeting among the leaders of the great powers would seem desirable.

In line with his belief in personal contact, the minister said, he would like to visit the United States during his present journey but cannot do so because of a lack of time.

The minister, who received newspapermen at the Villa Matruoka, vigorously stressed the desire of the Japanese people for peace and his opinion that more can be gained by negotiation in a spirit of mutual understanding than by war.

Japan's mediation of the border conflict between French Indo-China and Thailand was under (Continued on Page Two)

69 MERCHANT SHIPS NABBED BY U. S. FORCE

Surprise Action Made To Prevent Sabotage By Vessels' Crews

By ARTHUR F. DEGREVE
United Press Correspondent
WASHINGTON, March 31 (UP)—Germany and Italy today formally protested against United States seizure of 30 German and Italian merchant ships in the face of clear indications from President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull that the protests would be firmly rejected.

The protests were filed at the state department by Dr. Hans Thomsen, German chargé d'affaires, and Italian Ambassador Prince Colonna.

Hull Takes Stand
The texts were not made public immediately. Hull, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox went into conference.

Earlier, Hull had taken a strong stand in defense of the seizure of the ships. He said he had no intention of officially notifying the Italian and German governments of the seizures. He explained action speaks more effectively than words.

Asked whether this government would protest acts of sabotage aboard 30 of the 26 Italian vessels which led to their seizure, said no one had questioned the legality of this country's maneuver. He reiterated the United States took protective control of the vessels to safeguard American harbors from sabotage.

The Danish legation said tonight it would not protest seizure of 38 Danish ships, which also were taken over for precautionary reasons.

President Roosevelt reflected the temper of the government toward any axis protest when he intimated to reporters, while enroute back to the capital from a Florida vacation, that the ships were seized on his orders.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (AP)—The German embassy said today that it had dispatched a note to the state department protesting the seizure of two German ships docked in Boston and Port Everglades, Fla.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (AP)—Sixty-nine German, Italian and Danish ships were seized by armed forces of the United States over the weekend to protect them against acts of sabotage by their crews.

The treasury made public a compilation covering 25 Italian, 2 German and 35 Danish ships taken into custody by the coast guard and the army and navy in ports of the United States and the Panama Canal zone. Four other Danish vessels were taken over by the navy in Philippine waters.

The treasury said that the crews had been removed from (Continued on Page Two)

Woman Stripped, Picture Taken By 'Union' Men

PORTLAND, Ore., March 31 (UP)—A 40-year-old married woman told police today three men entered her apartment last night, forcibly stripped her of her clothing, photographed her, and then warned her not to return to work at the non-union cleaning establishment where she is employed.

Captain of Detectives John J. Keegan, who did not identify the woman, said she returned to work today despite the warning. Keegan said the woman told him that the men identified themselves as representatives of "a union" when they entered her apartment without knocking.

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