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ROOSEVELT MAKING MAJOR INSPECTION TOUR

Close Down on Rommel's Aerial Lifeline

Allied Delegates to Deal With Post-War Agricultural Problems

Washington—(P)—Chairman Fulmer (D-S.C.) of the house agriculture committee announced today that the United States delegates to the coming united nations food conference would "submit their program" to the house and senate agriculture committees before the sessions begin.

His statement was issued after the house agriculture and foreign affairs committee conferred at length behind closed doors with Assistant Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson. It follows:

"The proposed conference will deal with post-war food problems, relating to production, distribution and consumption.

Fact Finding Conference

"It is a fact finding conference. Before meeting in conference our delegates appointed by the president of the United States will meet with the agricultural committees of the senate and house and submit their program for the purpose of discussing same with these committees, giving their views thereon, as well as receiving the views of the members of these committees."

Simultaneously, Fulmer said that Acheson had told the committee that a "definite program" was being worked out to admit the press "at the proper times" to some of the conference sessions at Hot Springs, Va. Previous plans called for coverage of only the opening and closing sessions.

George told reporters he felt that present arrangements barring the press from contact with delegates and from attending any but the formal opening and closing sessions "cannot but have a bad effect on American opinion."

Wants Open Discussion

"I don't see why the whole question of the post-war production and distribution of food cannot be discussed openly and why public discussions would not be helpful," he declared.

"If the preliminary conversations have not been held which would permit public discussion of these problems, then the call for the conference is premature."

Although Democratic Leader Barkley of Kentucky told reporters the state department soon would announce an agenda for the meeting, George said there was nothing in the outline of conference plans made by Dean Acheson, assistant secretary of state, to indicate that any basis yet had been reached for anything except the most preliminary kind of talks.

Barkley said he was satisfied no commitments could be expected to come out of the conference, but Senator Aiken (R-Vt.) declared he would feel more assurance on this point if the state department would make a formal statement to that effect.

"I can't understand why it is so advisable to exclude members of the press or members of congress from the meeting," Aiken said.

REDS REPULSE NAZI ATTACKS

Moscow—(P)—Large-scale German attacks have increased in the Kuban delta area of the Black sea coast, and reports today said the Germans had attained numerical superiority in some places, but despite the weight of their attacks they were reported to have gained neither any major success or new territory.

Sharp Loss 400 Dead

Sharp midnight assaults gave them a wedge in Soviet positions in an undisclosed sector but the Russians said they had thrown the Germans out. The Germans lost 400 dead in one sector, said the midday communique.

The Nazi attacks were mounted from near the sea of Azov to the heights of Novorossisk and the German air force continued to lend the ground troops heavy support. The Germans were met, however, by determined Russian air resistance and effective anti-aircraft fire, which combined to down 17 enemy planes since yesterday.

(A German broadcast said strong air formations struck at Soviet positions, troop concentrations and supply dumps south of Novorossisk Sunday night and "again inflicted great losses of men and material.")

The German communique said a fierce struggle was taking place there.

Germans Claim 178 Aircraft

(The Germans asserted 178 Russian aircraft were destroyed from April 16 through April 19 with a loss of only 11 German aircraft.)

It was not explained whether the Germans were reinforcing their army by sea through the port at Novorossisk or were bringing troops in from the Crimea over the Kerch strait.

South of Balakleya the Germans lost 100 dead as they tried to smash into Red army bridgeheads along the northern Donets, and for the first time in a long time a German force, although a small one, attempted to attack on the Smolensk front, the Russians said.

Nekoosa Council to Choose Acting Mayor

An acting mayor of Nekoosa, to fill the unexpired term of the late Dr. George J. Poinville, will be chosen by the Nekoosa common council at its annual organization session tonight. The acting mayor will serve until April, 1944.

One new council member will be seated at the meeting, John F. Buehler succeeding Lawrence Grover in the second ward. A new council president is to be elected, and the council will act upon committee appointments to be made by the newly chosen acting mayor.

The Wisconsin Rapids city council likewise will hold its organization session tonight, starting at 7:30. The only change in the makeup of the 20-member council will be Roy Gilmaster succeeding John Johnson in the first ward. Election of a council president and confirmation of Mayor William T. Nobles' committee appointments are on the agenda.

Theodore Thoren, 77, Dies Today of Heart Ailment

Theodore Thoren, 77, of 410 Third avenue south, died at his home at 4 o'clock this morning after an illness of five days with a heart ailment. Funeral services will be held Friday, April 23, at 2 p. m. at the First English Lutheran church with his son-in-law, the Rev. A. J. Hemming officiating. Interment will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

Born in Dalsland, Sweden, on June 18, 1866, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Johnson, Mr. Thoren came to the United States 59 years ago, settling in Marquette, Mich. His marriage to Maria S. Pearson took place in Marquette on December 26, 1890. Later they moved to Scandia, Mich., coming to this city six years ago.

Besides his wife he leaves one daughter, Mrs. A. J. Hemming and two grandchildren, Ruth and Paul Hemming, all of this city, and one brother, Frank J. Johnson of Scandia, Mich.

Friends may pay their respects at the Krohn and Berard funeral home until 9 a. m. Friday when the body will be taken to the First English Lutheran church to lie in state until time for services.

MacArthur's Bombers Raid 5 Jap Bases Above Australia

(By the Associated Press)

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's head-quarters announced today that allied warplanes attacked five Japanese bases yesterday in the islands above Australia.

On both sides, the tremendous struggle for control of the southwest Pacific skies had slackened appreciably.

Targets hit by single united nations planes included the enemy air-dromes at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea; Gasmata and Cape Gloucester, New Britain; and Lae and Finschhafen, New Guinea.

A small Japanese ship was also bombed off Tanimbar island.

On the Burma front, British headquarters reported that Field Marshal Sir Archibald P. Wavell's forces ambushed 200 Japanese troops on Mayo ridge, along the Bay of Bengal, killing 25 and wounding "many more."

Several formations of American Liberator bombers kindled new fires and spread great destruction early Monday in the Burma supply port of Rangoon, already virtually denied to the Japanese by previous attacks, while other U. S. planes knocked out railroad bridges, a U. S. communique said.

Two waves of the Liberators concentrated on the central railway station which received many hits. The communique said large demolition bombs had knocked out a rail bridge northwest of Myitkyin in northern Burma with a direct hit. Another bridge was destroyed at Namti. No U. S. planes were lost.

DOWN 96 AXIS PLANES IN 48 HOUR PERIOD

Allied Headquarters in North Africa—(P)—The allied aerial offensive, continuing its scorching pace against the axis air ferry route and warplane nests, cut down 24 more enemy planes yesterday, bringing the 48-hour total to 112, of which 70 were Junkers-52 transports, a communique from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters announced today.

Smash 58 transports

Raising its total on the flaming Sunday battle over the Sicilian straits, when troop-loaded German transports tumbled out of the sky like leaves in a forest fire, allied headquarters said three more enemy fighting planes had been accounted for by American pilots and their RAF South African allies from the desert air force. This put the total of enemy losses in that single battle at 58 transports and 19 fighters.

The fierce, but somewhat slackened offensive was continued yesterday against Marshal Erwin Rommel's aerial ferry route and resulted in the destruction of 12 more Junkers-52's and eight fighters, the communique said.

Four more axis planes destroyed in other fighting yesterday, and 11 in assorted actions Sunday brought the two-day toll to 112.

Allies Lose 23 Planes

Against these losses, the communique said the allies had 12 planes missing yesterday. Eleven were announced missing the day before, a two-day total of 23.

(A Malta communique said two Junkers-25s and two Junkers-88 bombers were shot down by Malta Spitfires yesterday, and Valletta dispatches said a third Junkers-52 was accounted for from the fortress isle.)

(In London it was assumed these were in addition to the figures of See—WAR IN AFRICA—Page 7)

870 Books Donated Here Are Enroute to Service Posts

Boys in U. S. O. clubhouses and army camps throughout the country soon will be reading the 870 books donated this spring by Wisconsin Rapids people, Miss Jessie Sanford, librarian of the T. B. Scott public library said today.

The books, carefully packed, are ready for shipment to Milwaukee this week. From Milwaukee shipments from all Wisconsin are sent to the various camps, posts and fields. Trucking from here to Milwaukee, said Miss Sanford, is handled gratis by Gross Bros., which offsets a cost most other communities must pay.

"These books Wisconsin Rapids people contributed were really of an interesting and readable nature," said Miss Sanford, adding that Rapidians people were most gracious in giving the books they themselves liked—history, adventure, travel, science—not looking upon the soldiers' book donations as a chance to unload old cook books, government publications or yellowed tomes which would be of no interest to young America under arms.

HEAVY BOMBING

Allied Headquarters in North Africa—(P)—Northwest African air forces have dropped a 2,000,000 pounds of bombs on axis objectives in Tunisia, Sicily and Sardinia in the week of April 10-17, it was announced today.

Americans Bomb Jap Positions on Kiska

Washington—(P)—American fighter planes, doubling as light bombers, dropped 17 tons of explosives on Japanese positions on Kiska in the Aleutians, the navy reported today.

In the south Pacific, meanwhile, American and Japanese planes exchanged bombing attacks on Guadalcanal and Munda.



'ROUND THE CLOCK BOMBING BY ALLIES — In 'round the clock bombing of axis military objectives and arms plants on the European continent, British-based planes pounded Spezia in northern Italy, after U. S. bombers from North Africa blasted Palermo, Sicily, and battered shipping in the Mediterranean. British bombers of the desert air force also struck at Catania, Sicily. Recent allied targets included Stuttgart, Mannheim, and Bremen in Germany, and Pilsen in German-occupied Czechoslovakia.

Appropriation Funds for 1944 Agriculture Approved by the House

Washington—(P)—The house approved a 1944 agricultural appropriation of \$715,099,662 today with a limitation that none of the funds shall be used for incentive payments to encourage greater production of war crops.

The measure as adopted also deprives the Farm Security administration of any funds and discontinues crop insurance programs.

The maximum payment of farm benefits to any one person was fixed at \$500 by 119-80 voice vote.

The ban on incentive payments was incorporated in an amendment by Chairman Cannon (D-Mo.) of the appropriations committee. It was adopted on a 220 to 90 roll call vote.

Comes on Voice Vote

Final approval of the bill, which had been debated for five days, came on a voice vote.

In depriving the farm security administration of funds, the house officially underscored the recent comment of Chairman Tarver (D-Ga.) of the agriculture appropriations sub-committee, that the days of the FSA are numbered.

House refusal to approve incentive payments ran contrary to plans of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard to use this method of encouraging production of certain crops.

In urging the restriction, Cannon told the house "farmers do not want government handouts" and that subsidies are uneconomic and un-American.

"Your policy of defiance," Chairman Tarver of the appropriations sub-committee which pilots the bill through the house, recently told C. B. Baldwin, FSA administrator, "is in my opinion going to be exceedingly harmful to the farm security administration."

House Backed Tarver

The house tentatively backed up Tarver's prediction yesterday when it completed five days of debate without restoring funds for the FSA. As it now stands, the bill also curtails farm benefit payments, does away with crop insurance after this season, and embodies other economies.

"I think the farm security administration has done a lot of work that ought to have been done," Tarver also told Baldwin, "and it has accomplished a great deal of good in some of its activities; but when you take a position of defiance of the directions given you by congress in connection with the appropriation under which you operate you are likely to create a sentiment in congress which may bring about the absolute destruction of your organization, with all the good that there is in it as well as with the bad."

But even if the house decides to abandon the FSA, the senate still has something to say about it.

A. EMERSON, 45, DIES SUDDENLY

Andrew A. Emerson, 45, honorably discharged from the U. S. army last month after seven months' service, died suddenly at 10:10 p. m. Monday at his home here, a few minutes after being stricken with an acute heart attack. He was this city's first veteran of World War II to die of natural causes.

Emerson was unmarried and resided with his mother, Mrs. L. Emerson, at 150 Fourth avenue north. He was employed by the Milwaukee railroad as a car-checker since returning here from the army, and had worked Monday as usual.

Funeral Monday

Funeral services, with full military rites in charge of Charles Hagerstrom post No. 9, American Legion, are to be held at 9 a. m. next Monday at St. Peter & Paul Catholic church. The Wisconsin State Guard will provide a firing squad. The Rt. Rev. William Redding will officiate and burial is to be in Calvary cemetery.

The body will lie at the Krohn & Berard funeral home until Friday night, when it will be taken to the home until the time of the services. Legionnaires will post a guard of honor at the funeral home. Prayers will be said at the residence Sunday at 7:30 p. m.

In Army 7 Months

Emerson was inducted into the army August 17, 1942, and served at Camp Wheeler, Ga., Camp McCoy, Wis., Fort Meade, Md., Camp Carabelle, Fla., and Camp Livingston, La. While in Florida last December he was stricken with pneumonia and was in the camp hospital about two weeks. He received his honorable discharge, because of his age, at Camp Livingston on March 5.

Born at Loyal, Wis., February 20, 1898, Emerson attended school and grew to manhood there. He came to Wisconsin Rapids with his family in 1922 and had since resided here.

He is survived by his mother, a sister, Mrs. Leonard Pantzar, and a brother, Peter, all of this city. Another brother, John Emerson, died a year ago.

Pass Integrated Bill Over Goodland's Veto

Madison, Wis.—(P)—The senate today passed the integrated bar bill over Governor Goodland's veto by a vote of 23 to 9 and sent the measure to the assembly.

Proponents of the bill, which establishes a new state bar association to which all practicing attorneys would have to belong, contended that Governor Goodland was misinformed as to its purposes when he disapproved it.

The senate vote on overriding the veto was substantially the same as when the measure originally was passed in that house.

Approval notwithstanding the executive's objections required a two-thirds majority and it will need the same measure of support in the assembly before it can be enacted. It had close to that margin when the house first passed it.

10 Drown in Tragic Climax to Easter Vacation Cruise

Islip, N. Y.—(P)—Police and coast guard authorities today searched the waters of Great South Bay for the bodies of three teen age sea scouts who with seven companions lost their lives yesterday in a tragic climax to an Easter vacation cruise.

Their skipper, Fred Mayer, 30, of North Bellmore, L. I., was the sole survivor of the disaster which occurred when their 36-foot converted cabin cruiser foundered in the bay two miles from shore.

Hope Abandoned

Seven of the bodies were brought ashore to villages on the bay. Authorities abandoned hope that the three missing sea scouts could have survived.

Mayer was rescued by a passing ship after two members of the crew leaped overboard and tied a line around him as he fought to forestall unconsciousness.

The rescue vessel, under command of Capt. Robert Maynard, also recovered the bodies of five of the boys. Two other bodies were found later in the same area by coast guard searchers.

From a cot in Southshore hospital at Bay Shore, L. I., Mayer, suffering from submersion and exhaustion, related this account of the tragedy:

A huge wave smashed the hatch door of their boat, S. S. Legionnaire, sweeping one of the boys overboard. Two others launched a dinghy and attempted to rescue their shipmate, but a wave capsized the dinghy and Mayer said he saw no more of the three boys.

Begins to Sink

Waves pounded the cruiser which took water rapidly. This forced her bow downward and the Legionnaire began to sink. The boys who had donned life preservers were hurled overboard as the craft's bow sank deeper.

The next few hours were a nightmare as Mayer swam around the stricken cruiser encouraging the boys to keep their hold on the vessel's side. One by one the boys dropped off, exhausted by the waves and the chill of the water.

HITLER FACES GRIM FUTURE ON 54TH BIRTHDAY

London—(P)—Adolf Hitler celebrated his 54th birthday today with his armies on the defensive in Europe and its outposts, and little to tell the German people to relieve the grimness of the situation should he decide to make his usual anniversary address to the nation.

Listens to Broadcasts

The Berlin radio pictured him as spending the eve of his birthday at headquarters—the location of which was undisclosed—listening to broadcasts that marked the beginning of Germany's annual tribute to the Fuehrer. There still was no indication, however, whether Hitler himself would speak.

The Germans had been urged to hang out flags, and talks and marches.

DOWN WITH HITLER!

London—(P)—A powerful ghost voice interrupted the Berlin radio's birthday tribute to "our beloved fuehrer" today by shouting:

"The entire German nation curses today the hour that man was born." The voice continued:

"This henchman has been in power much too long. German people awake! The time has come to finish with the Nazi gang. Down with Hitler and his gang."

The ghost was on the same wavelength as the Berlin radio and the Nazis were unable to stifle the voice.

Partial demonstrations were to occupy the people today.

The first broadcasts brought pronouncements of Propaganda Minister Goebbels and Reichsmarschal Goering from the microphones and it was a grim birthday theme they sounded for the nation.

"End Nowhere in Sight"

"The war is in its fourth year and has reached its hardest stage so far, and the end or a way out of its burdens and sufferings are at present nowhere in sight," Goebbels said.

Goering issued a proclamation to the army and the people hailing Hitler as "the first soldier of the Reich."

"We will show the world our knowledge that our arms cannot be conquered and our certainty of the eternal greatness of Germany," he said in a tone slightly more hopeful than Goebbels'.

Highlights of Roosevelt Trip

(By the Associated Press)

Some sidelights on President Roosevelt's war inspection trip:

Soldiers guarded the rail lines the president traveled, giving special attention to bridges and grade crossings. Men in an amphibious jeep bobbed on the surface of the Tennessee river underneath one bridge.

Two dogs made the trip. One was Mr. Roosevelt's scottie, Fala, which goes nearly everywhere he does; the other was an Irish setter, Sister, belonging to Miss Laura Delano, a cousin of the president.

Eleven-year-old Gene Edwards of Atlanta almost thumbed a ride on the presidential special, but Frank R. Wilson, chief of the United States secret service, thought it would set a bad precedent.

Gene was with his dad, Mitchell Edwards, who was on a business trip through Warm Springs, Ga., when Mr. Roosevelt left there. Mr. Edwards told the lad he could win a \$100 war bond if he could get a ride to Atlanta on the special.

Gene put it up to White House officials, who sort of liked the idea, but Wilson saw some difficulties. He explained them to the disappointed boy, gave him a pamphlet on how to detect counterfeit money, brought him over for a close look at the president, and dad said probably Gene would get his bond, anyway.

Some of the WAACs at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., dashed out of their quarters for a look at the president wearing curlers in their hair.

Rationing is a problem even on a presidential train. A Baltimore and Ohio diner, which could carry supplies for only five days, made the whole trip and had to take along a stack of ration coupons so food could be picked up along the line.

April 15. Marine corps base at Parris island, S. C., where new recruits were getting basic training that turns out men for one of the world's greatest fighting units.

April 15. Maxwell field, Ala., near Montgomery, where fledgling pilots receive the rudimentary schooling which enables them to become crack aviators.

April 15. Fort Benning, Ga., near Columbus, where basic training is provided for troops that drop from the sky by parachute and top men from the ranks are pushed forward as candidates for officers' commissions.

April 15 and 16. Warm Springs, Ga., where Mr. Roosevelt spent a leisurely 26 hours seeing old friends.

See—ROOSEVELT—Page 7

Over 100 at Opening of Port Defense Class

A complete story of the present status and future plans of civilian defense in Wisconsin was presented by E. L. Neff, Milwaukee, state commander of the civilian defense corps, at the Port Edwards auditorium Monday evening. Mr. Neff addressed the opening meeting of a newly organized class for Tri-Cities defense volunteers.

Over 100 persons from Port Edwards, Nekoosa and Wisconsin Rapids attended the meeting, presided over by E. P. Gleason, commander of the Port Edwards district of the defense corps.

L. E. Smith, coordinator of the south Wood county defense council, reported on progress of the program in the area, while J. J. Plzak, the council's executive officer, described operations of the control center in Wisconsin Rapids.

In his talk, Mr. Neff discussed new air raid warning signals which will be placed in effect in Wisconsin soon.

Plead Innocent on Conspiracy Charges

Newark, N. J.—(P)—Ten of 18 defendants indicted on charges of conducting a nationwide meat marketing conspiracy pleaded innocent today before Federal Judge Thomas F. Meaney.

Assistant Federal Attorney Thorn Lord asked for bench warrants to bring four defendants—three individuals and one company—here to answer the charges. Four others had appeared last Tuesday, the day originally set for pleadings.

Military Supplies Reach French Army

Allied Headquarters in North Africa—(P)—Thousands of tons of military supplies, ranging from mess-kits to mobile tank destroyers, have begun arriving to equip the new French army in North Africa, fulfilling a promise made by President Roosevelt at the Casablanca conference.

The equipment includes medium and light tanks, reconnaissance and armored cars, mobile artillery, uniforms of distinctive design, vehicles of all kinds and additional small supplies.

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THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Continued cold tonight with lowest temperature below freezing in north and slightly below freezing in south; warmer in west and central portions Wednesday forenoon.

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 52; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 29; temperature at 7 a. m., 31.

Travels Through Southeast States by Train, Motor

Monterrey, Mexico—(P)—President Roosevelt and President Manuel Avila Camacho of Mexico met here today to talk of the war and the future of the two allied republics.

It was the first time since 1909 that chief executives of the two countries had met.

Mr. Roosevelt and Avila Camacho will deliver radio addresses tonight, to be broadcast to their countrymen and the world.

Aboard Roosevelt Train—(P)—President Roosevelt is making a second major inspection of America's expanding war effort and has seen tens of thousands of fit, bronzed troops which, he indicated, will be used to hammer out or maintain a second front in Europe.

Weaving through the southeastern states by special train and motor, he has visited a marine corps base, a WAAC training center, and five army posts, and reviewed division after division of fit-looking fighting men, with months of toughening behind them.

Ahead of them may be glory on the European continent.

"The troops you have seen will do a good job in Europe?" a reporter asked at a press conference aboard his train.

Mr. Roosevelt replied that he would say so from what he had seen of our troops in North Africa and here back home.

Permits Announcement of Tour

The chief executive permitted an announcement today that he had toured Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Arkansas as a sequel to the swing which took him from border to border and coast to coast last fall, checking up on military and war production establishments.

He left Washington April 13, and, briefly and chronologically, here is where he has stopped and what he has seen:

PREIDENT SPEAKS

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COOLER

Good Day To Buy War Bonds And Stamps

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