

## Fierce Air Battle Fought as Germans Raid Dover Convoy

Two Axis Supply Ships, Fired Off Netherlands Coast, Believed Sunk

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, June 7.—British bombers set afire and probably destroyed two 5,000-ton Axis supply ships off the Netherlands coast today and a British convoy escaped unscathed from an early morning Nazi air raid supported by big guns on the French coast, the British announced tonight.

An Admiralty communique said naval vessels escorting the convoy downed two attacking German planes with no losses to the British.

A fierce duel developed over the channel when R. A. F. planes challenged Luftwaffe units pouncing on the convoy in Dover Strait and the British craft flew on to the French shores to blast heavily at the Nazi gun emplacements.

London experienced its first night bombing since May 11 when Luftwaffe raiders, gliding in with motors throttled, attacked the capital last night. Several houses were damaged and there were a few casualties.

Another night raid was made on a southeast coast town and 12 casualties were reported there.

83 Axis Ships Claimed.

British-made planes of the R. A. F. bomber command, using special delayed-action bombs, were credited officially today with destroying 83 Axis ships, severely damaging 18 and causing "some damage" to 54 others in a daylight offensive launched March 12.

Air Marshal Sir Richard E. C. Peirse, chief of the bomber command, made the figures public in a "well-done" message to the fliers.

The marshal said the daylight offensive included assaults against land targets, too, and that "severe damage and casualties have been inflicted on the enemy both in Germany and in occupied territories."

Most British daylight raids were made from a level "so low that special bombs were used, which explode a few seconds after impact when the aircraft get beyond range of the blast," the Air Ministry news service said in elaborating the account.

Aim to Relieve Railroads.

"With spring and coming better weather, more ships were certain to begin creeping along the coast, taking the German convoys from invaded countries and war supplies from Germany to bases from which she attacks Britain," the service said.

"By using the sea route, Germany reportedly aimed to relieve over-loaded railroads between Germany and the west."

"On the first day this new offensive of fast bombers set out without any escort of fighters to make a long sweep of the Dutch coast."

"These sweeps on the enemy's sea boards without cover of cloud or darkness and without escort fighters continued every day weather allowed. On March 31 two tankers of 6,000 tons, well guarded by flak (anti-aircraft) ships, were attacked and set on fire near Le Havre."

"By this time the search for shipping became routine. Along more than 1,650 miles of coast line from Sogne Fjord in Norway to Bordeaux, from dawn to dark, the enemy never knew when a ship was on the R. A. F. strike."

As a result of the British attacks, the service said, the Germans began employing standing patrols of fighter planes to protect convoys.

German supply ships usually carry several guns, the service said, particularly light anti-aircraft guns to guard against low-level attacks. The flak ships accompany small convoys and destroyers, and fighter aircraft watch over anything of special importance, the service reported.

The German defenses have taken a toll of British bombers, the service revealed, but their number was not revealed.

Six D. C. Girls Will Get Degrees From Vassar

Six Washington girls are among candidates for degrees which will be conferred at the 76th annual commencement exercises at Vassar College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., tomorrow.

Included are Miss Mary A. White, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Stanley White, 1420 Sixteenth street N.W.; Miss M. Patricia Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Morris, 2401 Kalorama road N.W.; Miss Nancy Lee Masten, daughter of Mrs. William Masten, 3117 Woodley road N.W.; Miss Molly Schwartz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Schwartz, 2860 Woodland drive N.W.; Miss Celia Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben J. Martin, 2649 Woodley road N.W.; and Miss Anne Underwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Underwood, 3021 Cathedral avenue N.W.

Henderson Demands Cut In Price of Plywood

By the Associated Press.

Leon Henderson, price administrator, yesterday asked manufacturers of plywood to reduce prices from \$30 to \$28 a thousand square feet on one-quarter-inch plywall and to reduce all other plywood prices in the same proportion.

"Unless this is done immediately," Mr. Henderson said, "it will be necessary to impose a ceiling price."

The manufacturers also were asked on all future quotations on Government projects to allow a 5 per cent jobber discount to the Government contractor.

Officials said that Mr. Henderson's request was issued after a price increase of approximately 5 per cent in bids received by the War Department this week for 60,000 feet of plywood for delivery in Milan, Tenn.

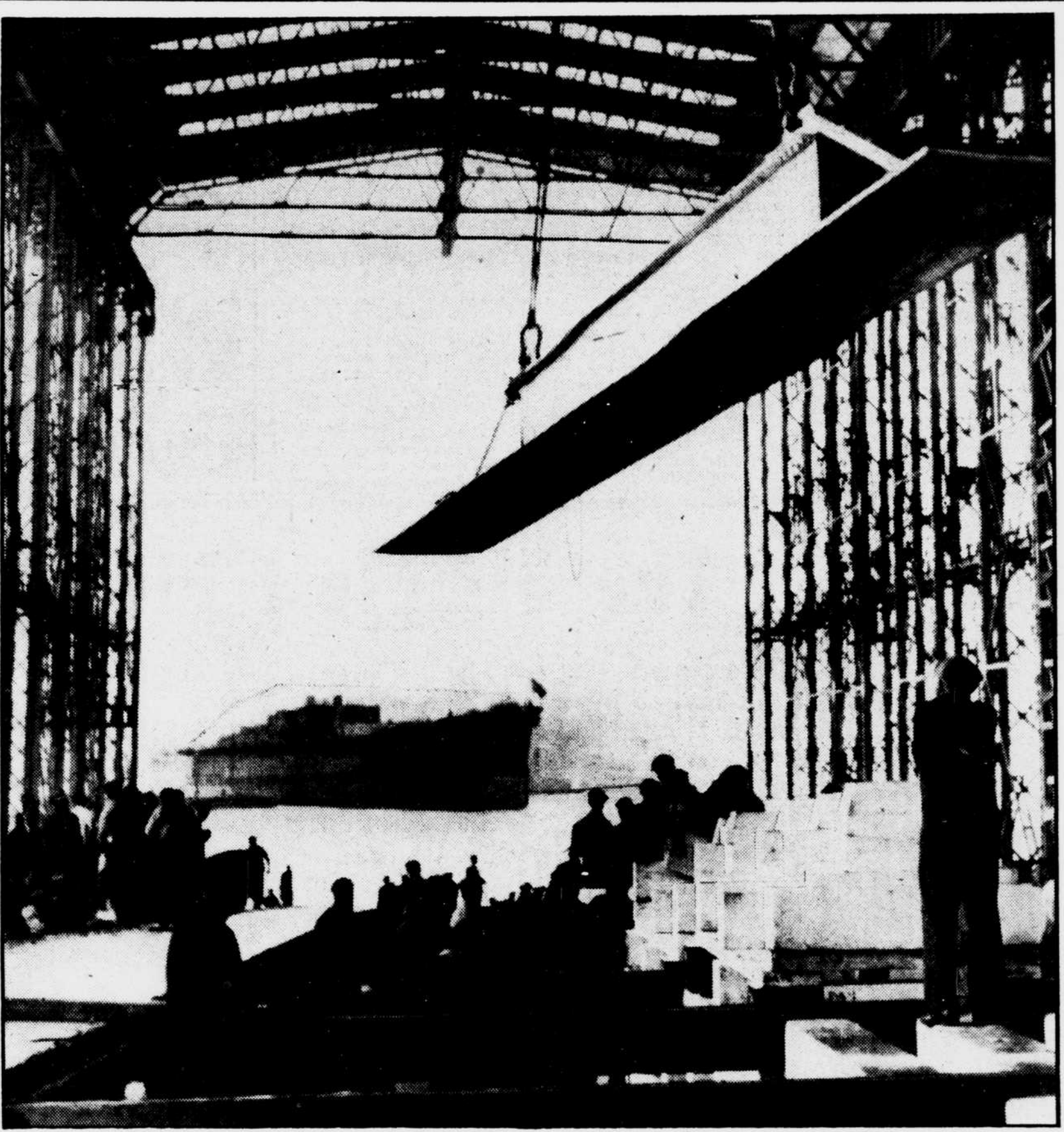
Radio Comedienne Mary Kelley Dies

By the Associated Press.

HOLLYWOOD, June 7.—Mary Kelley, 47, radio and vaudeville comedienne, died of a heart attack today.

The wife of Ray Myers of Los Angeles, she had done radio work on the Burns and Allen program with Phil Baker, Walter O'Keefe and Fred Allen.

Her most recent work was on the Jack Benny program two weeks ago.



CAMDEN, N.J.—NEW CRUISER'S KEEL LAID BEFORE WAYS ARE COOLED FROM BATTLESHIP LAUNCHING—With the ways still warm from the launching of the 35,000-ton battleship South Dakota (background), the keel was swung into place yesterday afternoon for the 10,000-ton cruiser Santa Fe, which will be built on the same ways. The scene is the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Corp.

terday afternoon for the 10,000-ton cruiser Santa Fe, which will be built on the same ways. The scene is the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Corp.

—A. P. Wirephoto.

## One of 41 New U. S. Destroyers Will Be Named for Gen. Butler

Remark About II Duce Recalled, List Includes Late Navy Secretary

President Roosevelt has selected names for 41 new destroyers, and included in the list is the name of the late Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler, one-time stormy petrel of the Marine Corps.

Thus a destroyer is to be named for the man who once was ordered court-martialed for a Philadelphia speech in January, 1931, in which he is said to have referred to Premier Mussolini as a "hit and run" driver. International tempers were on edge for a short time, and Secretary of State Stimson hastily delivered a note of apology to the Ambassador from Rome.

Before the trial could be held, Gen. Butler, an outspoken officer with a brilliant record, and holder of two Congressional medals, sent a letter of explanation and regret to Secretary of the Navy Adams.

Following that, the court martial was dissolved, and Gen. Butler merely was reprimanded. The Italy Embassy was said at the time to have intervened in the interests of international amity, and to have indicated its willingness to forget the incident.

Served as Safety Chief.

In addition to his career with the Marines, Gen. Butler served a stormy year as director of safety in Philadelphia. He was placed on the retired list in 1931, and died last year.

Many other well-known persons, including Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy from 1861 to 1869 and two United States Senators are in the list for whom names of the destroyers are used. Full names follow:

Comdr. Roderick S. McCook, Rear Admiral J. R. Madison Mullany, Lt. James R. Caldwell, Rear Admiral Joseph Bulloch Coughlan, Seaman Danke Frazier, Commodore Gert Gansvoort, Maj. Archibald H. Gillespie (Marine Corps), First Assistant Engineer James M. Hobby, Lt. Stanton F. Kalk, Acting Master Charles Kendrick, Midshipman Henry Lamb.

## Congress

(Continued From First Page.)

bill which would give the President drastic powers to take over and operate plants shut down because of strikes, was regarded as a move to forestall the War Department property seizure bill. The latter measure was sent to Congress last week and the broad authority which it proposed to give the President to take any kind of property, real or intangible, which he deemed necessary for national defense, brought a storm of protest on Capitol Hill.

Certainly, if the proposed authority is granted the President to take over struck national defense plants

goes through there will be a slowing down of the property-seizure bill, on which hearings are not due to begin until next week, before the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

Terms of Amendment.

The new amendment, as now drafted, was described in the following general terms:

During the full emergency declared by the President on May 27, the Chief Executive could act through the War or Navy Department or another agency he might designate, to take immediate possession and lease or operate by Government personnel plants in which there was an existing or threatened failure of production. Neither strikes nor lockouts would be mentioned specifically.

Such plants would be defined as those already equipped, or which the Secretary of War or Navy held could be equipped to manufacture, construct, repair, alter or store defense articles.

These articles would be described as products of facilities required by the Army, Navy or Maritime Commission or "useful" in national defense.

The amendment also would carry a provision that the authority granted the President under its terms should be in addition and not in lieu of other legal authority already given him.

Connally Seeks Action on Bill.

Senator Connally, Democrat, of Texas recently offered a bill authorizing the President to take over plants in which strikes have tied up national defense orders. He issued a statement last night declaring he intended to press for early action on this bill. As a matter of fact, his bill may become the model for the Draft Act amendment.

than at any other time since the beginning of the emergency.

"These strikes have got to stop. The people demand it. The Congress must take necessary action to stop them. The administration and Government authorities must exert their influence and power to stop them."

There was considerable feeling on Capitol Hill that the seizure by the Government of industrial plants to put an end to strikes was not the best way to deal with the situation. However, it is entirely likely that Congress will support a measure giving the President this power.

Senator Ball, Republican, of Minnesota advanced last night a proposal that combines some of the proposals of both the War Department property seizure bill and the Connally bill, and adds some important proposals of his own. The Minnesota Senator proposed that moderate and democratic "cooling off" periods of arbitration be used first as a means of averting strikes in defense plants.

If his amendment, whether offered to the draft amendment bill or to the War Department property seizure bill, were adopted the Government would be required to seek settlement of strikes through mediation and conciliation, while private operation of defense industries continued, and the President would be authorized to "draft" these plants only as a last resort.

In deference to objections by labor spokesmen, Senator Ball plans to leave out any stipulated number of days' time limit for the cooling off period.

Instead, his proposal calls for a definite series of steps in the conciliation process which would have to be used before the Government could seize a plant.

Senator Ball said that thus far in his work on his proposal he has developed three steps which would be required before the Federal Government could deem that efforts to avert a strike had failed, and that therefore the plant could be taken over.

Alarm in Labor Circles.

The first would be an effort of labor and management to reach an agreement by direct negotiations without stoppage of industry. The second would bring in the Government conciliation service. The third would bring in the Mediation Board with power to arbitrate. If all these failed and interruption of production became actual or threatened, then the President's power to

take over the plant could be invoked as a last resort.

Ad Agency Wins Honors

The Henry J. Kaufman Advertising Agency of Washington was awarded top honors at the 11th annual convention of the National Advertising Agency Network last week in Chicago. The agency received recognition for the best research and market analysis job performed during the past year and for the best network radio program.

Safety Society to Elect

Officers will be elected at a dinner meeting of the Washington Safety Society at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Government Printing Office. The program also will include reports of the District Fire Defense Committee and the Committee on Industrial Safety.

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## State Delegation Watches Launching Of South Dakota

Special Train from D. C. Takes Group to Camden For Ceremonies

By CLAUDE A. MAHONEY, Star Staff Correspondent.

CAMDEN, N. J., June 7.—The Navy launched its third new battleship within a year—the 35,000-ton South Dakota—here today, and South Dakotians from Washington joined Secretary of the Navy Knox and other officials in making a holiday of the occasion.

A special train brought members of the South Dakota Society of Washington to Camden for the ceremonies. Mrs. Harlan J. Bushfield, wife of the Governor of South Dakota and sponsor of the ship, smashed a bottle of champagne on the prow of the battleship.

An emergency crew put huge hydraulic jacks into play to start the battleship on its path down the greased ways.

In a specially arranged performance, a giant crane swung the first piece of the keel of the new cruiser Santa Fe into place above the ways as the South Dakota slipped into the Delaware River from the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Co.

Dedicated to War Prevention.

As the ship was being turned in the river, Secretary Knox spoke briefly and dedicated the South Dakota to the prevention of war. "God go with you, South Dakota," he said, "in the mission we built you for is not war, but the prevention of war, if God will."

The Secretary told the guests and employees that "we seem to be living in a world of force, and so we must also have that force that is necessary to protect us. We must establish and maintain the greatest sea power the world has ever seen, and with the air arm's power, we must make it all-powerful."

He gave the company workers the President's greeting and assured them that work of the nature they were doing was just as important to national defense as that done by the men in uniform.

As the South Dakota plunged into the river the Washington High School Band of Sioux Falls played "Anchors Aweigh." The band received notice less than an hour earlier after President William Green of the American Federation of Labor had been asked to aid in lifting a ban imposed on the band yesterday by James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians.

Mr. Petrillo had ruled out the band on grounds that it was non-union and because of union restrictions against non-union music on radio broadcasts. The restriction was lifted today.

Congress Members on Hand.

Miss Vera Manaken was chairman of arrangements for the pilgrimage of the South Dakota Society to Camden. Senators Bulow and Gurney were present, as well as Representatives Case and Mundt.

The South Dakota will carry nine 16-inch guns in triple turrets and 20 dual-purpose guns in twin turrets and an unnamed number of anti-aircraft guns designed for protection from any angle. The South Dakota is a sister ship of the North Carolina and Washington, both commissioned this spring.

These ships are the type that Col. Knox recently said could have taken all the punishment the German Bismarck took from British guns before sinking. He has frequently called them the "most formidable ships afloat."

Original cost of the South Dakota was listed at \$52,794,000 in the contract. Navy officials said her final cost probably would be \$62,997,780 for construction of hull and machinery. In addition to this the Navy will equip her with armor and guns to cost approximately \$20,000,000 more.

Rear Admiral A. E. Watson, commandant of the Navy Yard, said the battleship would be ready to join the fleet early next year. She will be 18th battleship of the line in the United States Navy.

16,600-Ton Tanker Launched at Chester

CHESTER, Pa., June 7.—The 16,600-ton oil tanker S.S. Stanvac Wellington, the third vessel built for the Petroleum Shipping Co., Ltd., subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, was launched today at the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Co.

The tanker, destined for use in the Netherlands-Indies and Australia, was sponsored by Mrs. A. H. Tomlinson, wife of a Standard Vacuum Oil Co. director.

Two other vessels for the Petroleum Shipping Co., the Stanvac

Melbourne, launched March 29, and the Stanvac Palembang, launched May 10, are nearing completion here.

Red Cross to Make Awards

Certificates will be awarded women completing the Red Cross home nursing course at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Hampshire House, 1105 New Hampshire avenue N.W. The course was given by the District chapter of the Red Cross in co-operation with the local Department of Health and the Council of Social Agencies. A new home nursing course will begin Tuesday at the chapter house, 1739 E street N.W. The classes will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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