

Great Air Fleet Built By British

Vast, Hidden Stores of Bombers and Fighters Ready for Battle

U. S. CRAFT ARRIVE

Beaverbrook Says Planes Have Reached the Highest Total in British History

By EDWIN STOUT
LONDON, March 23.—(AP)—British announced today that huge four-engine bombers had landed in England from the United States and that vast, hidden stores of bombers and fighters were ready to take the air in the Battle of Britain.
Secreted in "storage houses distributed everywhere" are the greatest reserves of bombers and fighters in history, Lord Beaverbrook, minister of aircraft production, declared.
He called it a "record surpassing anything that has gone before, anything in the history of aviation," and added that "this applies to fighters and bombers alike. Both types have reached the highest total in our history."

Numbers Secret
Although the numbers of British planes are a closely guarded secret, black headlines in the Sun Chronicle proclaimed that Britain now is producing 3,200 of all types each month and that her production peak has not yet been reached.
Arrival of the first giant bombers from the United States with range enough to bring the remotest corners of German-dominated territory into the Royal Air Force's target area was disclosed in a communiqué from Lord Beaverbrook's ministry.
It did not give the time or number of the arrivals but said the first to come were what the British call "liberators"—long range, heavy bombers produced by the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation of San Diego, Calif.
These planes, with a power plant of four Pratt and Whitney engines which develop 1,200 horsepower at the take-off, are said to have a range of 3,000 miles—enough to bomb any point in Italy, Germany or Nazi occupied countries from RAF bases in England.
They could fly non-stop from England to Egypt or from England to Sofia, Bulgaria, and back and are credited with a top speed of 335 miles an hour.
The air correspondent of the authoritative Press Association

FRENCH PRISONERS TO BE FREED SOON

Nazis Believed to Have Agreed to Continue Negotiations With French

VICHY, France, March 23.—(AP)—The belief grew among observers today that the Germans, for the first time since Pierre Laval was ousted as vice premier last December, have agreed to continue French-German negotiations.
Supporting this belief were dispatches from Paris quoting Georges Scapini, the blind deputy who had been negotiating with Germany for the release of French prisoners of war as saying 29,000 to 30,000 would shortly be freed.
Observers here took that as an indication that the Germans had accepted Vice Premier Admiral Jean Darlan as a substitute ne-

WEATHER

FORECAST
North Carolina: Cloudy, occasional rain, warmer in extreme east portion Monday; Tuesday partly cloudy, colder and west central portions.
(By U. S. Weather Bureau)
(Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday.)
Temperature
1:30 a. m. 47; 7:30 a. m. 42; 1:30 p. m. 61; 7:30 p. m. 53; maximum 63; minimum 41; mean 52; normal 55.
Humidity
1:30 a. m. 76; 7:30 a. m. 79; 1:30 p. m. 57; 7:30 p. m. 50.
Precipitation
Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00 inches. Total since the first of the month 1.82 inches.
Tides For Today
(From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.)
Wilmington High 7:19a Low 1:37a
7:41p 2:22p
Asanboro Inlet 5:29a 11:31a
5:45p 11:32p
Sunrise 6:10 a. sunset 6:29p; moonrise 1:10p; moonset 3:47p.
Lake River stage at Fayetteville on Monday at 8 a. m. 11.0 feet.

Buzzing 'Blade' Cuts Through Clouds



Banking above a level sea of billowy clouds over Randolph Field, Texas, this army training plane makes a picture of peace in sky far removed from scenes of aerial warfare abroad we so often see.

Damaged British Warship Heading For Norfolk Yard

MAY ARRIVE TODAY

Baltimore Sun Says Large Vessel Is Scheduled to Undergo Repairs

BALTIMORE, March 23.—(AP)—The Baltimore Sun said tonight it had been advised by a usually reliable authority that a "British heavy cruiser is heading for the Norfolk, Va., navy yard for repairs."
The source, refusing to be quoted, said it was "possible the warship would arrive there tomorrow morning."
At Philadelphia Commander D. D. Mercer, admiralty attaché of the British consulate, said he had heard "rumors" a damaged British cruiser would put into Norfolk, Va., "within three or four weeks" for repairs.
He said he knew nothing further.
The naval attaché at the British embassy in Washington, Rear Admiral H. Pott, said that he knew of no British warship of any kind coming to this country for repairs "in the near future" and that he would have been advised if such action were planned.
He indicated that no plans of this nature were likely to be made until after the enactment of the \$7,000,000,000 appropriation bill for the lease-lend program, which is now before the senate.

NAZIS CONTINUE RAIDS ON MALTA

Germans Claim to Have Crippled British Cruiser And Passenger Ship

BERLIN, March 23.—(AP)—Three air attacks in two days on Malta, Britain's Mid-Mediterranean island base, and scattered new blows on British shipping from the North Atlantic to the Eastern Mediterranean were reported by the Germans today.
Nazi dive bombers bore down on the Maltese harbor of Valletta when bombs smashed it and set it on fire.
Trains also were attacked at Af dem and Gota with machine gun fire, a large concentration of Italian motor transport was bombed and machine-gunned on the road between Urso and Awash, while another attack was made on Italian positions in the Marda pass area.
In the aerial campaign in Eritrea, the communiqué said, Fascist positions around Cheren were bombed, the railway station at Asmara attacked and two Italian fighting planes shot down.
The British said they took 130 prisoners in the Cheren area.
(In London the air ministry news service said the South African air force had strewn wrecked Italian aircraft all over Eritrea and that one squadron had destroyed nearly 80 Italian planes in Sudan.)

British Continue Ethiopian Campaign By Taking Important Town Of Neghelli

CAIRO, Egypt, March 23.—(AP)—British forces driving north to Addis Ababa from Kenya colony and Italian Somaliland have captured the strategically important southern Ethiopian town of Neghelli, a British communiqué announced today.
As the fast mechanized columns which started the northward march from Dolo and Mega early this month closed in on Neghelli, planes of the RAF and the south African air force raided other Ethiopian towns, bombed and machine-gunned trains on the Addis Ababa-Jibuti railway, and pounded at the Mardda pass defenses in the Jijiga area south of the railway.
The communiqué also reported some local successes in Eritrea where the British have besieged the railroad town of Cheren, which bars the road to Asmara, the capital.
(Neghelli, capital of Galla Bora province, was only a stockaded village in January, 1936, when Marshal Rodolfo Graziani's "hell on wheels" column drove into it. The Italians hailed it as a mighty victory pointing out that the capture gave them control of all water holes within 250 miles of Dolo. Premier Mussolini sent Graziani his personal congratulations. The town lies about 240 miles from Addis Ababa and has an important air field.)
In the area of Jijiga, which the British captured last week, a fresh drive was going on towards Harar, provincial walled capital. The next step beyond that was expected to be Dire Dawa on the Addis Ababa-Jibuti railroad which the British hope to cut.
At least one train was destroyed on the Addis Ababa-Jibuti railroad, the communiqué said.

British Aid Tax Study Demanded

Senate Is Expected To Approve \$7,000,000,000 Appropriation Today

NYE TO ASK TAXES

Measure Will Be Sent Directly To F.D.R. if Okehed In Present Form

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(AP)—Opponents of the British aid program, conceding that the senate would vote overwhelming approval tomorrow of the \$7,000,000,000 appropriation to finance it demanded today that congress begin immediate consideration of new taxes to raise this tremendous fund.
Senator Nye (R-ND) said he and some others who had opposed enactment of the lease-lend bill, would move later to impose \$3,500,000,000 additional taxes annually for the next two years.
LaFollette Views
On the other hand Senator LaFollette (prog-Wis.), another opponent of the program, said it seemed obvious to him that no such amount could be raised without levying prohibitive taxes that would damage the economic structure of the nation.
Senator Clark (D-Mo.), who announced he would vote against the appropriation, said he planned to tell the senate in no uncertain terms that unprecedented increases in taxes were likely to follow enactment of the measure, a viewpoint Senator Wheeler (D-Mont) said he shared fully.
Nye conceded that there would be only a "handful" of votes against the \$7,000,000,000 bill. He was not at all sure he said that he would vote against it or offer an amendment he sponsored unsuccessfully in the appropriations committee to cut the immediate appropriations in half. LaFollette also said he was undecided on the course he would pursue. Wheeler announced he would vote for the appropriation.
Unchanged since its approval in the house the measure would be sent directly to the White House if passed by the senate in its present form.

Approved By Committee

As approved unanimously by the senate appropriations committee yesterday, the measure would provide \$1,343,000,000 for ordnance, \$2,054,000,000 for aircraft, \$362,000,000 for tanks and other vehicles, \$629,000,000 for ships, \$260,000,000 for miscellaneous equipment and supplies, \$75,200,000 for plant expansion and facilities, \$1,350,000,000 for purchasing farm and industrial commodities, \$200,000,000 for repairing ships, \$400,000,000 for unspecified purposes and \$1,000,000,000 for administrative expense.
Nye said testimony received by the senate committee in closed sessions led him to conclude that this fund was only one of several that might be requested by the President under authority of the lease-lend bill.
"These estimates" he told reporters "are based entirely on British needs and do not take into account material that may be furnished to Greece, China or any other countries."
"I have no doubt that there will be additional requests for funds as this program of underwriting conflict all over the world unfolds."

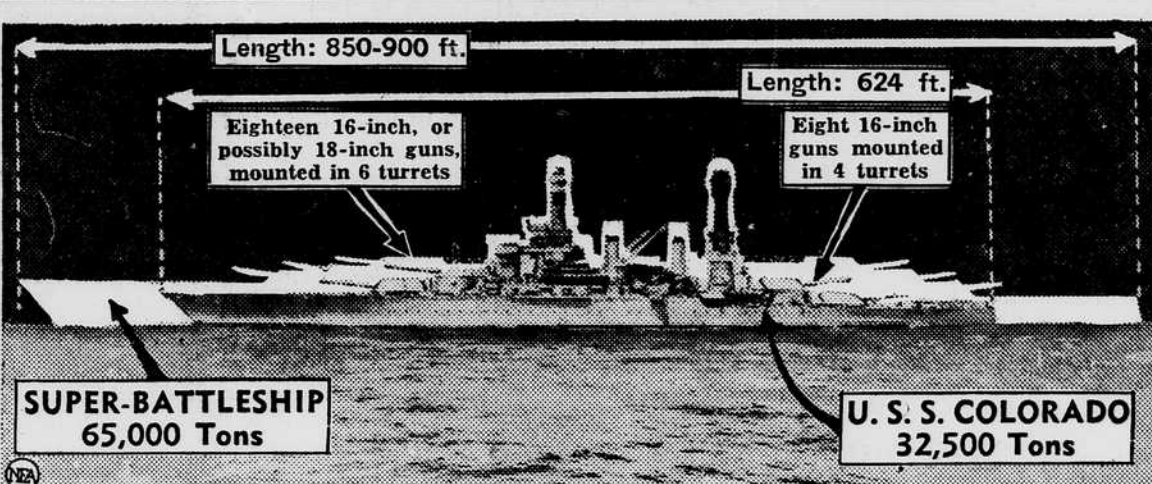
PORT OF QUIBERON IS RAIDED BY RAF

German Barrack Block Destroyed; Escort Vessel Is Hit Near Brest

LONDON, March 23.—(AP)—The RAF rode the wind down the French coast from Calais to Brittany today for a smashing attack on the port of Quiberon, close to the Nazi submarine base of Lorient, the government announced.
A communiqué said high explosives destroyed a German barrack block in the town while another bomb was sent crashing into a German escort vessel—an anti-aircraft ship—near Brest.
Two of the bombs which hit the barracks exploded simultaneously, the air ministry news service said, and with such terrific force that a British plane 1,000 feet above was shaken.
The British skimmed the coast at such low altitude that they could see French fishermen and people on the beaches look up and wave "cheerfully" as they recognized the British markings.
There was some aerial activity over Britain itself, and an official announcement said "two enemy bombers" were destroyed, one by anti-aircraft fire in north Scotland, the other by RAF fighters in south England.
Another raid crashed in flames near Arundel, south England. Two crewmen were imprisoned.
Some homes on the south coast were damaged by bombs in the evening when four raiders tried to cross the coast.
On the whole though the day was quiet. Mist covered the strait of Dover.

Yugoslav Leaders Are Unable To Prepare Cabinet That Will Agree To Capitulate To Nazis

Double Size Battleships Proposed In Navy Program



Here is how one of the proposed 65,000-ton U. S. battleships would encompass one of the navy's largest modern warships now in service, the half-as-heavy Colorado. Five super-battleships, to displace 65,000 tons when fully armed and loaded, are reported included in current naval appropriations.

Japan's Foreign Minister Stops Briefly In Moscow

EN ROUTE TO BERLIN

Matsuoka Says Tri-Partite Pact Is Japs' Greatest Foreign Instrument

By HENRY C. CASSIDY
MOSCOW, March 23.—(AP)—Yosuke Matsuoka, Japan's foreign minister, arrived here today for a one-day stopover en route to Berlin and Rome axis conferences, and said he would like to stay longer "to meet leaders here" on his return trip to Tokyo.
Matsuoka spoke at an interview in the Japanese embassy three hours after receiving a courteous but unostentatious welcome to the Soviet Russian capital.
Some Japanese authorities suggested before his departure that he continue his trip from Berlin to Rome to London and Washington.
No Definite Itinerary
The Japanese minister said he had no definite itinerary or plans, but hoped his trip would not take more than six weeks. He related that the German and Italian foreign ministers, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Count Galeazzo Ciano, invited him by telephone to make the voyage immediately after the signing of the three-power treaty last Sept. 27.
"The tri-partite pact is the greatest foreign instrument for Japan," Matsuoka said. "Japanese foreign policy will revolve around it as a pivot."
"Now, it is natural for the foreign minister of Japan, who had something to do with conclusion of the pact, to meet and know the leaders of the other countries. That

ITALIAN VESSEL MOVED UP RIVER

Villarperosa Is Tied Up at Horseshoe Bend Because Engines Torn Down

The 3,500-ton Italian merchantman Villarperosa, in port here by orders of the Italian government since Italy's declaration of war on Great Britain, was moved yesterday from its berth opposite the customhouse to Horseshoe Bend, a mile above the city on the Cape Fear river.
The move was ordered by John Bright Hill, collector of customs, as a "precautionary measure," it being explained that the vessel's motors are torn down, leaving the ship at the mercy of the tides should she break away from her moorings. Horseshoe Bend basin has less tidal and stream current, and should the ship lose her moorings, she could do little damage before grounding herself, it was said.
Commander O. V. Marron of the U. S. Coast Guard carried out Hill's orders.
The Villarperosa was ordered by the Italian government to remain in Wilmington.

Jaycees Push Campaign For City Manager Plan

Encouraged by what is signalized as evidences of success, a large corps of volunteer workers today will begin the final week of a community-wide campaign aimed at giving Wilmington the city manager form of government.
The campaign concludes with a special municipal election next Monday.
Launched by the Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce several months ago, the city manager campaign has attracted widespread attention and equally widespread support among citizens of all ranks of life in Wilmington. Officially and unofficially, dozens of business and professional leaders of the city have joined the movement to inaugurate the city manager form of government, legally known as Plan D, the Jaycees said last night.
This week as the campaign speeds to its climax, volunteer workers—men and women alike—will make a house-to-house canvass over districts of the city not already covered, explaining to those less informed the merits of Plan D, emphasizing their conversations with documentary evidences of the success of city manager government in hundreds of other cities, large and small, throughout the country.
Briefly, Plan D would substitute for the present three-man, form of commission government a municipal government composed of five councilmen, elected at large. From among their own membership, the councilmen would select a mayor and a city manager. The council will receive salaries of not more than \$200 per year for each member, excepting the mayor, whose salary cannot by law exceed \$700 per year.
(Continued on Page Two, Col. 1)

PEOPLE ARE ANGRY

Plans for Chiefs to Sign With Axis in Vienna Tuesday Hit Again

TROOPS ARE RESTLESS

Greece Warns Yugoslavia Against Giving Nazis Right to Use Trains

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 24.—(Monday)—(AP)—Yugoslav government leaders, beset by angry demonstrations throughout the kingdom, failed early today to complete a cabinet agreeable to capitulation to Adolf Hitler and thus their plans to sign with the Axis in Vienna tomorrow were scrambled again.
Regent Prince Paul, his premier, Dragisa Cvetkovic, and his Foreign Minister, Aleksander Cincar-Markovic, retired shortly after midnight without issuing an expected communique announcing that the cabinet crisis had been solved.

ELECTRIC POWER PLANNING ASKED

Plan for Giant Tie-Up of High-Capacity Lines in East Investigated

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(AP)—The federal power commission reported to congress today that "careful planning" was necessary to avert an early power shortage such as caused lightless nights during the 1918 war boom in manufacturing.
In an effort to assure an adequate and dependable supply of electricity to meet defense requirements, the agency said, utilities and the commission are investigating the feasibility of a giant tie-up of high-capacity transmission lines throughout the industrial east.
The commission's suggestion that the current industrial expansion might cause a power shortage coincided with a report from the commerce department that construction of new factories in the first three months of 1941 had surpassed any similar period in American history.
Lowell J. Chawner, department economist, estimated that if the present rate continued the year's expenditures for plant and equipment would total \$3,500,000,000. This would compare with \$2,300,000,000 last year, \$2,700,000,000 in 1929, \$3,200,000,000 in the peak year of 1920 and \$2,500,000,000 during the war effort of 1918.
The power commission asked for more rigid control over interstate pipe lines and questioned the desirability of a proposal to pipe natural gas from Texas to New York City.
On another defense phase, the report said that the commission had prepared confidential instructions to power companies for the protection of generating plants "against sabotage or other hostile acts," in accordance with instructions from the President.
In 1918 a power sabotage caused curtailment of production in many war industries, and some cities went without lights at night so that more power could go into munitions manufacturing.

Mount Holly Resident Is Killed by Auto

CHARLOTTE, March 23.—(AP)—Charley Hayes, 30, of Mount Holly, was killed tonight when he was hit by an automobile on Wilkinson boulevard.

ITALIANS ASSERT BRITISH REPULSED

Rome Claims English Storming Cheren Driven Back In Bloody Fighting

ROME, March 23.—(AP)—British forces storming Cheren, mountain key to Italian Eritrea, were "repulsed everywhere in bloody fighting" and Axis air forces destroyed 18 "enemy" warplanes, the Fascist high command reported today.
General Sir Archibald P. Wavell's army of the Nile, Virginia Gayda declared, has been heavily depleted to backstop the Greeks and the British.
(Continued on Page Two, Col. 1)

Army Orders

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The War Department released the following orders yesterday, dated March 20:
COLONELS
Pinger, R. W., Ord. Dept., President of San Francisco, Calif., orders to the Philippines revoked.
Smith, W. A., Inf., to command Fort Devens, Mass.
LIEUTENANT COLONELS
Murray, P. Inf., to command Camp Edwards, Mass.
Brooks, H. A., Cav., Fort Bliss, Texas, to CCC Fort Bragg, N. C., April 3.
Bausket, W. T., Jr., Cav., Fort Knox, Ky., to the J. Franklin Bell, Fort Mason, Calif., to sail from New York about April 5.
Branson, H. L., Cav., Pueblo, Colo., to the Henry T. Allen, Fort Marion, Calif., April 15.
Burgess, T. B., Inf., detailed in General Staff Corps, Hawaii.
Buckley, H. A., Cav., Alameda, Calif., to 1st Armored Div., Fort Knox, Ky., to San Francisco, Calif., May 15.
Regnier, C. A., Cav., Washington, D. C., to 1st Cav. Div., Fort Bliss, Texas, March 25.
MAJORS
Neary, J. S., Ord. Dept., Wright Field, Ohio, to the Philippines, via New York, April 8.
Berkey, P. A., F. A., Fort Slocum, N. Y., to 351st F. A., Camp Livingston, La., April 1.