

CITY TO SEEK RFC LOAN TO BUILD PORT TERMINALS

Holly Ridge Work Scheduled To Start Saturday



COLONEL MONTGOMERY

FLAMES DESTROY PHILLIPS' HOME

Fire, Originating In Rear Room, Levels The \$20,000 Residence

MARION HARRISS GRANTED PAROLE

Wilmington Man Was Serving Five-Year Term For Attempted Burglary

Greeks Crush 'Desperate' Resistance Near Tepeleni

ATHENS, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The Greek southern army has crushed "desperate" Italian resistance in the region of Tepeleni and has stormed the heights to the northeast of that town, capturing a considerable number of Italy's Alpine troops, a government spokesman said tonight.

Montgomery, Lee Officials Confer Here

Army Officers View Site; Spees Says 'Dirt Will Be Moving By Saturday'

GRADING NECESSARY

Contracts Are Awaiting Signature Of Assistant Secretary Of War

Uncle Sam's new anti-aircraft firing center at Holly Ridge is soon to be an actuality, with the breaking of ground which will start the construction of the \$10,000,000 base scheduled for Saturday morning.

The base is to be completed within 90 days after work is started and engineers on the job said last night "we'll do it in that time."

The W. S. Lee Engineering corporation, of Charlotte, will have charge of the engineer work at the camp and officials of the corporation conferred with Col. Montgomery on plans yesterday.

Lieut. Alden E. Spees, aide to Col. Montgomery, said last night that they looked over the Holly Ridge site yesterday afternoon and that "dirt will be moving by Saturday."

J. A. Stewman, Jr., local representative on the job for the Lee Engineering corporation, said that a large amount of grading will be necessary before actual construction work is started.

Lieut. Spees said that he was unable to give any information as yet on the awarding of other contracts for the camp construction.

From Washington, D. C., last night came a report that contracts for construction at the firing center have been approved by the quartermaster corps and are awaiting the signature of the assistant secretary of war.

However, C. P. Street, a representative of a contracting firm, was in Wilmington last night for a conference with Col. Montgomery. The contractor with whom he is connected was not disclosed.

Temporary Office

Lieut. Spees said last night that they will open a temporary office in Wilmington until quarters can be set up at Holly Ridge, but that no definite location has been acquired as yet.

The Lee Engineering corporation will set up a temporary office in the Tide Water Power company building, A. C. Lee, president of the corporation, was in Wilmington yesterday to help make arrangements for starting work and for a conference with Col. Montgomery.

The Charlotte company will be assisted in the work by William M. Piatt, consulting engineer of Durham.

P. D. Davis will have charge of engineering designs and Stewman, (Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)



LORD LOTHIAN

LORD LOTHIAN, 58 CLAIMED BY DEATH

U. S. Warship May Transport Body Of British Envoy To His Homeland

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The unexpected death of Lord Lothian in the midst of his duties as British ambassador created the possibility tonight that a United States warship might transport his body through the Atlantic war zone to his embattled homeland.

Both British and American officials, however, awaited word from Lothian's relatives in England before arranging a funeral for the 58-year-old bachelor diplomat, who died of uremic poisoning at 2 a. m. EST.

Secretary of State Hull, calling at the sprawling red brick embassy to extend condolences, offered "all facilities at our disposal." State department officials declined to elaborate on the statement.

Customarily a warship is made available for taking a foreign envoy's body home. In view of wartime conditions, it was generally believed that a decision would be left up to President Roosevelt should burial in England be desired.

The President, from his cruiser in the Caribbean, sent King George (Continued on Page 12; Col. 3)

CONTROL OF VOTE COSTS CONSIDERED

Some Solons Protesting That \$20,000,000 Spent In Last Election

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(AP)—Protesting that more than \$20,000,000 was spent in the recent presidential election, some of the nation's lawmakers are considering means of curbing and controlling costs of all future political campaigns.

They predict that the next congress will revise and tighten up (Continued on Page 12; Col. 4)

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Cloudy, occasional rain, cooler extreme west portion; Saturday, cloudy and preceded by rain in east portion.

(By U. S. Weather Bureau) (Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday.)

British Rout Italians Near Sidi Barrani

Thousands Of Italian Prisoners Of War Falling Into British Hands

CLEAR BATTLEFIELD

Fascists Who Escaped Encirclement Pursued Westward Toward Libya

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 12.—(AP)—Italian prisoners of war were declared tonight by a British spokesman to be falling so rapidly by thousands into British hands that the problem of feeding and eventually moving them out of the desert is becoming troublesome.

The day's operations were two-fold: Around Sidi Barrani, the Italian base that fell yesterday, the British were occupied with clearing up a battlefield which had extended over 200 square miles.

Harassed By RAF Those Fascists who had escaped the British encirclement—and their number was said here to be small—were being pursued westward toward Italian Libya, harassed by the Royal Air Force and the navy as well as the land forces.

A spokesman at British headquarters said the official estimate of at least 20,000 Italians already captured could not yet be extended because of the difficulty of keeping in touch with the continuing successes of British troops.

Among the vast quantities of tanks, lorries and arms of all sorts captured from the fleeing Italians, he said, the lorries would be especially useful.

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BOARD TO ENFORCE AUTO CAMP LAWS

Creation Of Trailer Camps Expected Here As Result Of Defense Work

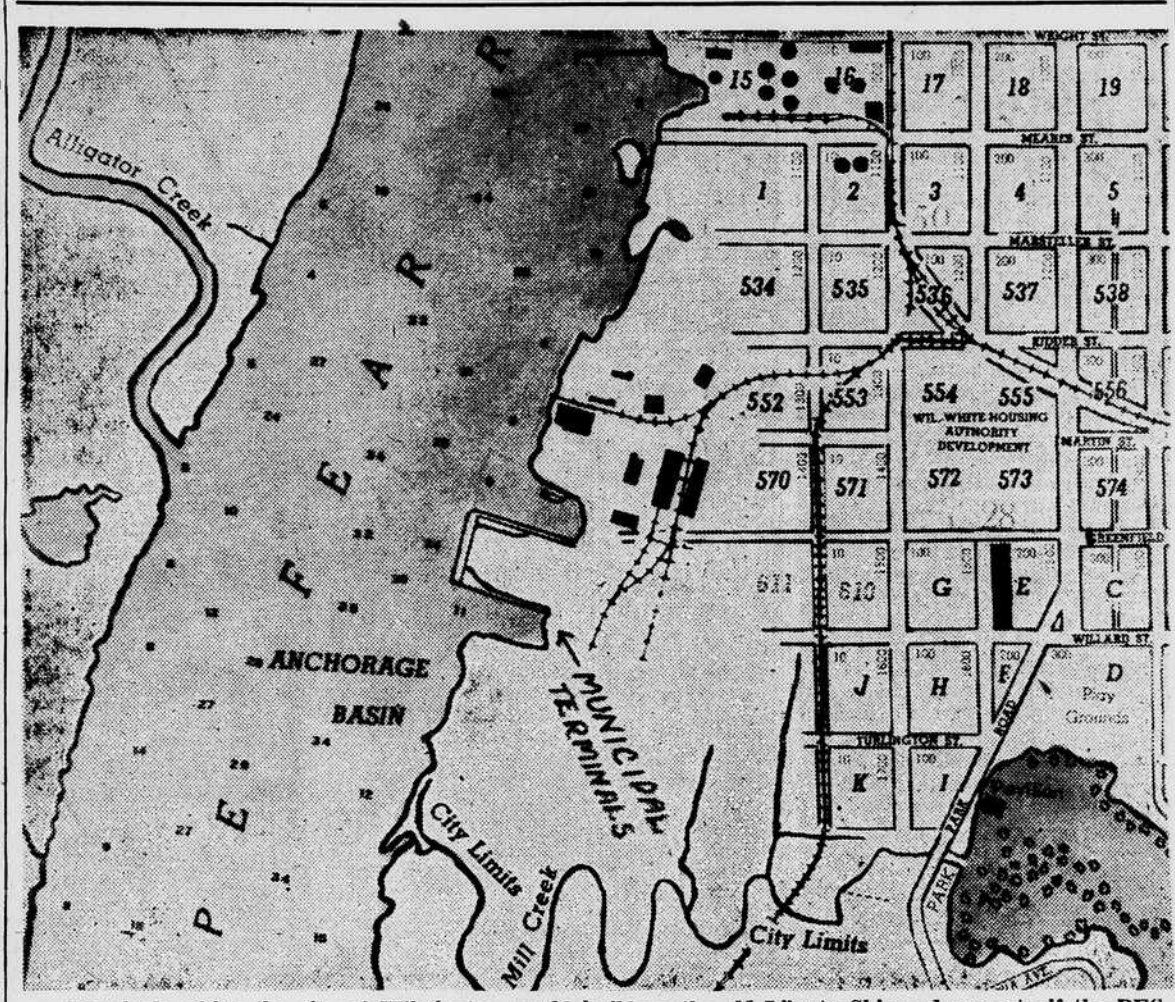
County health regulations for trailer camps, which may be created in large numbers in the Wilmington section in providing space for national defense project workers, in the immediate future, will be rigidly enforced, Dr. A. H. Elliot, health officer, told the board of health in monthly session yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Elliot said staff members of the county and state boards of health were now in the field advising store keepers and filling station operators on highway leading into the city in the matter of proper health standards for any trailer camps that may develop.

County health regulations, he said, require that all trailer camps have proper toilet facilities, adequate disposal of garbage and trash, and safeguards for problems of sanitation in general.

The drinking water of any trailer camps that may be established (Continued on Page 12; Col. 5)

Where Proposed Terminals Would Be Built



Terminals which the city of Wilmington would build on the old Liberty Shipyard property if the RFC lends it \$635,000, as requested, would be erected on property west of that now occupied under lease by the Taylor-Colquitt Creosote company.

Marines Considering Base Near Here; Holcomb Urges Corps Of 50,000 Men

IS 'VERY PROMISING'

Establishment Of Base Depends On Funds And Expansion Of The Corps

Col. W. C. James, of the marine corps in Washington, D. C., said yesterday afternoon in a telephone conversation with the Star-News that a site for the possible erection of a marine corps base in the vicinity of Marines, in Onslow county, has "been looked over and looks very promising."

An inspection board of navy and marine corps officers investigated the section recently to determine the availability of land "in the event it becomes necessary to establish a new marine corps training base."

Depends On Money Col. James said that a report of the investigation has been made to the department but decision as to where the base will be located or if it will be located, depends upon the future allocation of funds and a possible expansion of the marine corps.

He said that the site looked at is near Marines which is on the north side of New river, not greatly distant from Holly Ridge, where the army is preparing to build a \$10,000,000 anti-aircraft base.

It would be partly on the river and partly on the ocean, he said, and would more than likely afford maneuver grounds, training grounds and space for aviation activities.

Asked if the base, if it is erected, will be permanent, he replied, "That of course depends on what happens to the marine corps in the future." Asked if reports that 11,000 acres (Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

U. S. Puts Armored Division Into Field

ABBEVILLE, Ala., Dec. 12.—(AP)—The United States Army put a full armored division into the field today, writing a new page in Western hemisphere military history with what officers called the world's most powerful striking force.

Ten thousand men moved out of Fort Benning after a leisurely breakfast, roared ninety miles in parallel columns by lunchtime and settled down in bivouac areas at Blakely, Ga., and Abbeville, Ala.

The troops making up the second armored division, traveled in 1102 vehicles, tanks, combat trucks, motorcycles and a few airplanes.

Commanded by Brigadier General George S. Patton, Jr., the march set several records.

DELAY IN CALLING GUARDS ORDERED

Action Taken Because New Camps Will Not Be Ready By Original Dates

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The War department today ordered delays ranging upward to two months in mobilizing remaining units of the national guard because new camps will not be ready by the dates originally set.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

War Interpretive

BY KIRKE L. SIMPSON Steel-shod jaws of a carefully prepared British trap have sprung shut to bite off the head of Italy's boasted army of attack in Egypt, and rock Rome anew with tidings of disaster.

A grim story of defeat, more crushing perhaps in its potential effect upon the course of the British-Axis war than the Greek rout of Italian invading hosts, awaits official telling in Italy. It will test rigorously Il Duce Mussolini's boast that his war bulletins to his people are "documentations of truth."

British estimates of the number of prisoners taken are soaring into tens-of-thousands figures. Each new Cairo bulletin steps up the British desire to increase American faith in a British victory and a British design to impose "a war of nerves" on Italy.

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IS MINIMUM FIGURE

Reports Improvement In Numbers Of Efficiency Of Marine Corps Reserve

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(AP)—A marine corps force of at least 50,000 men was urged today by Major General Thomas Holcomb, marine commandant, in his annual report.

Holcomb said he considered this figure to be a minimum "in view of the existing situation and the projected expansion of the naval establishment as a whole." The current strength of the marine corps is about 38,600.

His report, covering the fiscal year ending last July 1, said there had been satisfactory improvement during this period "in numbers and efficiency of the marine corps reserve."

Sheffield Is Center Of Nazi Air Attack

BERLIN, Dec. 13.—(Friday)—(AP)—Large German bombing units picked Sheffield, the great steel center in the east English midlands, as the center of their night attacks on Britain, informed sources reported early today.

Since the fall of darkness, it was stated, German planes had been leaving bases in France and Belgium in uninterrupted succession for the assault. The weather was reported bad in the channel region, but more favorable over the midlands.

German Bombers Attack New Industrial Sections

LONDON, Dec. 13.—(Friday)—(AP)—German bombers, guided to their targets by incendiaries, inflicted damage and a number of casualties last night and early today in raids on east midlands and north-eastern industrial areas which hitherto had escaped bombings.

The Germans reported that Sheffield, world's largest steel producing center, was singled out for the night's heaviest raid.

British fighter planes went up to challenge the waves of Nazi craft which poured across the east coast and spread out to raid scattered areas.

Additional waves came over the southeast coast, and the midlands again appeared to be getting it hard. Fierce anti-aircraft barrages fol-

Applies Today For \$635,000 For Project

To Be Built On Part Of Shipyard Not Leased To Taylor-Colquitt Co.

INCLUDES WAREHOUSE

Application Calls For Loan To Be Repaid Over Period Of 25 Years

The City of Wilmington today will file with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation an application for a loan of \$635,000 with which to erect municipal port terminals and a tobacco storage warehouse.

The terminals, if the loan is granted, will be erected on that portion of the old shipyard property owned by the city and not leased to the Taylor-Colquitt Creosoting company. They would be located on the northern side of the southern slip on the property and would extend across the northern slip to the Bate Lumber company property line.

The tobacco warehouse would be erected on property in the vicinity of Fourth and Greenfield streets.

Self-Liquidating Bonds The application calls for the loan to be repaid over a period of 25 years and to be secured with self-liquidating bonds. The bonds would not be an obligation of the City of Wilmington, though if the terminals are constructed, they will become the property of the city.

The terminals would have 140,000 square feet of space inside and 52,000 on the aprons and would be of modern, fire-proof construction. If built they will be available for lease by any concern wanting to lease terminal warehouse space.

The application names J. T. Heirs, executive general agent of the Wilmington Port Commission, the engineering firm of Shourds and Bean, C. D. Hogue, and J. R. Benson as persons authorized to give the RFC any additional data that agency may require.

The application was worked up by Heirs under the direction of the Wilmington Port Commission and (Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

CONTRIBUTE TODAY TO STOCKING FUND

Only \$485.92 On Hand At Date For Santa's Visit But 12 Days Away

If you are planning to contribute to the Star-News Empty-Stocking fund, please do so today because the amount now on hand is only about one-fourth that which will be needed and Christmas is but 12 days away.

Fourteen contributions yesterday increased the fund to \$485.92 with a donation of \$50 by "A. Bachelor" being the largest of the day.

Creating much interest, was the contribution of \$3.68 in small coins by George Bailey Autry, who brought in that amount which he had saved over the past year in a little "monkey" bank.

The total so far, however, is far short of the amount needed to fill the many demands being made on (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

10 SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS