

ROMANS TRY TO HALT BRITISH AT LIBYAN BORDER

Petaian Ousts Laval, Picks Flandin

He Disowns Vice-Premier As Successor

Vichy Chief Says 'Purge' Essential For Reasons Of National Unity

WAS PRO-AXIS LEADER

Weygand's Distrust Also Believed Behind Ousting Of Laval

BY ROBERT OKIN WICHY, FRANCE, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The world was permitted to learn tonight that Pierre Laval, No. 2 man of the Vichy government, has been forcibly shown the door but that his policy of collaboration with Germany will be continued under Pierre-Etienne Flandin.

Laval was ousted as Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister last night. Flandin took over the Foreign Ministry. The Vice-Premiership was left empty.

As the hectic events of the past 24 hours unfolded — their full story still may not be told — informed persons said the action was directed mainly against Laval's activity at home and not against the principle of German collaboration, which Chief of State Marshal Philippe Petaian has endorsed.

In Bern, Switzerland, authoritative diplomatic sources said Laval was accused by his colleagues of scheming to set himself up as head of an independent government at Paris and even of plotting to lead France into war against Britain. He was reported under guard at his estate.

Significant was the official announcement that the change had been communicated to Reichsfuehrer Hitler before the public was told, informing him that pro-German, rightist Flandin was "more

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38-DEGREE LOW PREDICTED HERE

Day Will Be Colder, With Clouds And Rain, Says Weather Bureau

A low of around 38 before dawn this morning and cloudy, probably rainy and colder weather today were predicted last night by the weather bureau here.

By The Associated Press Wintry weather chilled the northern states yesterday from coast to coast.

Subzero readings were registered in many communities between the Rockies and Wisconsin while subfreezing temperatures were recorded at many points between Illinois and

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WEATHER

FORECASTS North Carolina: Cloudy and continued cold Sunday; Monday partly cloudy, not much change in temperature. South Carolina: Cloudy, occasional drizzle, colder south portion Sunday; Monday partly cloudy, not much change in temperature.

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

Temperature High 7:30 a. m. 57; 1:30 p. m. 46; maximum 62; minimum 40; mean 54; normal 49.

Humidity 1:30 a. m. 10; 7:30 a. m. 94; 1:30 p. m. 7; 7:30 p. m. 97.

Precipitation Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. .06 inches. Total since first of the month .037 inches.

Tides For Today (From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey)

Wilmington High 4:56a Low 10:10a 4:58p 10:24p 4:58p 10:24p 4:58p 10:24p 4:58p 10:24p 4:58p

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"Men Wanted"; Taxi Brings 'Em



When winter and national defense meet head on, it means only one thing—more and speedier barracks and halls for army training camps all over the U. S. So great is the need for men at Fort Meade, Md., that the District of Columbia employment service is sending Washington workmen there daily—in taxis. Above, carpenters load their tools into cabs in the capital. Drivers transport them free—and get jobs themselves at the camp.

Crip Smith Held Here As 'Numbers' Ringleader

OLEANDER RESIDENT DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING PLANNED

Sheriff Jones Charges He 'Heads Numbers Racket' In North Carolina

George (Crip) Smith, said by Sheriff C. David Jones to be the head of the numbers racket over the state, James Irving, negro, and James Davis, negro, were arrested here Friday night on a warrant charging them with conspiring to violate the state anti-lottery laws, a felony.

Wanted In Guilford Smith was also held on a warrant from Guilford county in which he is charged with conspiring to violate the anti-lottery law there.

On the Guilford warrant he is held in default of \$10,000 bail. (Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

J. J. ANDERSON, JR. KILLED IN CRASH

Wilmington Man Fatally Hurt As Truck Leaves Fayetteville Road

J. J. Anderson, Jr., 23, of Wilmington, was fatally injured yesterday afternoon when a soft drink truck he was driving went out of control near the Cape Fear river at Fayetteville and plunged down a deep ravine.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Anderson, of Wrightsville Sound. He is survived by his parents, a widow, the former Miss Edna Mae Tilley, three brothers, Billy, Eugene and Bobby Anderson, and three sisters, Mrs. C. G. Bonner, and Misses Miriam and Inez Anderson. Funeral arrangements had not been completed last night.

Six Million More Jobs Predicted By Fall 1942

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The Twentieth Century Fund, an institute devoted to economic research, predicted today that national employment would increase approximately 6,000,000 by the fall of 1942. In a report surveying labor policy under the defense program, the fund said that "labor shortages can exist in certain localities or trades in spite of considerable unemployment in other areas."

Acute shortages of aircraft supervisors, specialized shipyard craftsmen and tool and instrument makers were cited as current examples by the research staff, which is headed by Prof. Lloyd G. Reynolds of John Hopkins university.

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Work Begun On Base At Holly Ridge

100 Laborers Make Start On Clearing Two-Acre Office Site

MATERIALS AWAITED

More Men To Get Jobs Monday If Shipments Are Delivered

HOLLY RIDGE, Dec. 14.—Work began today on the Army's new \$10,000,000 anti-aircraft training center here, though the War department has not yet announced who the contractors will be.

Unofficial reports say that F. M. Thompson, J. J. McDevitt and E. Gramis companies are to do the work, and the W. S. Lee Engineering company, also a Charlotte firm, has announced that the engineering contract was awarded to it.

Approximately 100 persons began clearing a two-acre tract this morning, preparatory to intensive work to begin Monday morning.

A. L. Hubbard, contractor's representative, said between 300 and 500 persons will start work Monday if three carloads of materials arrive.

First item of construction will be offices for army officers, contractors and their personnel, as well as the laying out of streets and shrubbing of pine seedlings.

The Atlantic Coast Line railroad company provided a second depot for Holly Ridge when it moved the Edgecomb station, a 16X20 foot frame building, eight miles to the camp site. It was hauled on two roadway motor cars.

While laborers shrubbed the grounds, red-capped army engineers (Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

NEW YORK OPENS 6TH AVE. SUBWAY

26 Million Dollar A Mile Link Added To City's Growing System

BY CHARLES FRANCIS NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The \$26,000,000-a-mile Sixth avenue subway opens late tonight, adding another link to an ever-growing transportation system built by billions of nickels from the pockets of the city's millions.

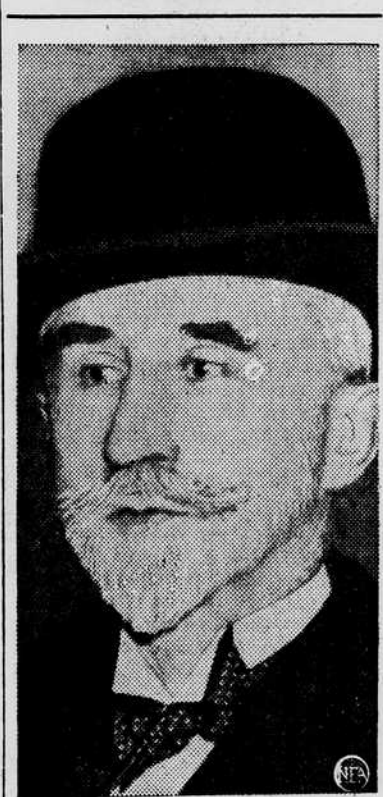
Tonight's event was to begin at a minute after midnight with Mayor F. H. LaGuardia piloting a train from its terminal in Greenwich Village to its uptown terminus in the heart of the shopping district. That it was merely an episode in a never-ending story was shown by the fact that even now projected is a plan for adding more miles to the system at a cost of \$867,347,000.

A fragment of the new program already is under way in Brooklyn where \$20,000,000 is being put into a 2-mile stretch. The rest will be added when the money becomes available.

It's a human narrative, this history of a system that, with the Sixth avenue, now runs 254 route miles under and over city streets, employs 35,000 men and women and carries 2,255,000,000 people a year. Success is in it—and so are death, failure, and last but not least, hope.

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To Rule French American Isles



Powers of virtual dictatorship over all French possessions in the Western Hemisphere were bestowed by the Vichy government on Admiral Georges Robert, above, high commissioner for the French West Indies.

BIG BRITISH SHIP REPORTS ATTACK

Liner Western Prince Is Torpedoed 550 Miles Off Coast Of Ireland

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—(AP)—The British liner Western Prince, loaded with a heavy cargo, including airplanes, and carrying British officials home for the Christmas holidays, was torpedoed today about 550 miles northwest of Londonderry, Ireland.

(At Ottawa, the prime minister's office reported receipt of a message saying that "most of the persons aboard the Western Prince were saved.") No further details of the torpedoing were available.

McKay radio here picked up an SOS call that the 10,926-ton ship had been "torpedoed" at 2:02 a.m. (EST). Nothing further was heard after the first call, relayed by the Portpatrick, Scotland, station.

Furness, Withy and company, managers of the Western Prince, identified one of the 60 passengers as C. D. Howe, Canadian minister of munitions and supply. Also aboard was Captain W. A. Charlton, one-time master of the Queen of Bermuda. The ship had a crew of 80 when she left here Dec. 6.

John Gammie, associate director of Cunard White Star lines, passenger agents, said he had "no information" on the liner.

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EMPTY STOCKING FUND IS GROWING

Christmas Cheer Fund Now Nearing \$600 Mark But Much More Needed

The Star-News Empty Stocking fund had a larger bulge in the toe yesterday, but indications are that more generous contributions are necessary if many of the children in Wilmington's underprivileged homes are to be happy Christmas morn.

Largest donations yesterday came from the Loyal Order of Moose, \$10, and the young men and boys who compose the Star-News Carriers' Association. They gave \$25.

Table listing donors and amounts: A friend 1.00, Girl's Hi-Y 2.00, A friend 2.00, Ethyl-Dow-Male Chorus 5.00, Loyal Order of Moose 10.00, Alex Kosch 1.00, The Rector's Reserve of St. James church 5.00, Lindy and Betty 2.00, Three children 3.00, A friend 1.00, Mother's Class of St. Paul Lutheran church 1.40, Star-News Carriers Assn 25.00, A friend 1.00, Total \$582.42

Greece Claims Further Advances In Albania; More Prisoners Taken

ROMANS FIGHT HARD

Athens Says Resistance Is Stiffening In Sector Near Pogradetz

DUCE PLANES ACTIVE

ATHENS, Dec. 15.—(Sunday) — (AP) — Greek troops slogging through heavy snowfalls have crushed fierce Italian mountaintop defenses all along the Albanian front, capturing more prisoners and armament, the Greeks declared officially early today.

Italian resistance was said to be especially stiff in the northern Pogradetz area on the route leading to Elbasani, but a government spokesman said it was not holding up the Greek advance.

Other Greek units were battling their way northward along the Adriatic coastline toward Chimara enroute to Valona, and also cutting toward those ports from inland trails in the Tepeleni region, reports here said.

The Greeks already have claimed a total of 7,250 troops captured, and the high command said additional prisoners were taken in Saturday's fighting, along with 60 automatic weapons.

"The news from the front is highly satisfactory," the spokesman said. "At such places we are making the usual advances whereas in others the Italians are putting up stiff resistance but everywhere it has been crushed despite the fact that snow is very heavy in the fighting regions."

Yugoslav border dispatches from the northern lake Ochrid region said Italian planes were active there, heavily bombing Greek positions in the Pogradetz area.

BEATEN OFF SALONIKI, Greece, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Italian planes attempted to bomb this area again today after a lull of several weeks but were driven off by Greek pursuit planes.

BORDEAUX BASE BOMBED BY R.A.F.

Docks At Kiel, Factories At Bremen Also Raided By Coast Command

By The Associated Press LONDON, Dec. 14.—A swift and destructive raid on the submarine base of the great southwest French port of Bordeaux was credited officially today to the bombers of the RAF coastal command.

It was the newest British counterstroke at the U-boat menace which is the outstanding peril in the siege of this island kingdom—one of a series of raids which authoritative sources declared are causing "grave concern" to German military leaders.

Pilots' reports told of these results of the raid: "A succession of brilliant blue flashes along the dock wall. . . A

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WORLD BULLETINS

VETO CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 14. President Roosevelt gave a clear indication today that he would veto the Walter Logan bill providing for court rulings of various quasi-judicial government agencies.

COMMUNIST SEATTLE, Dec. 14. — (AP) — Members of the Aeronautical Mechanics union, local 751, voted 428 to 344 today to accept a report declaring Vice President Donald R. Keppeler "guilty of communistic activities."

RIGHT TO STRIKE NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Lee Pressman, general counsel

HAVANA, Cuba, Dec. 15.—(AP)—The United States embassy announced today that the office of its naval attache had been forced "by unknown persons on the night of Nov. 30."

HAPPY HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Dec. 14.—(AP)—Jane Deegan, 16, daughter

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REPORT SALUM TAKEN

Italians Routed And Egypt 'Cleared' Of Il Duce's Invasion Forces

HITLER'S AID IS SEEN

By The Associated Press CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 14.—The Italian African army, broken into bits, harassed by unending air attack and declared here to have been effectively driven from Egypt, fought "on and about" its own colonial frontier of Libya tonight in an action that had become a defense of Fascist soil.

The term "on and about" was used by the British command itself in an official communique which did not add the obvious implication that something very near to a counter-invasion was developing with the apparent purpose of trying to destroy the entire Fascist force.

Plans Not Revealed While no military authority would discuss future British plans, it was indicated that at some points fighting already was going on within Libya.

One informant pointed out that the question of supplies and particularly water was a dominant one and said that a continuation of the British offensive probably would involve an effort to try to restrict the fighting generally to the hill regions beyond the Libyan borders.

An aspect of the future situation, he declared, was that the Italians would be seriously hampered by the loss of huge amounts of equipment, which British control of the Mediterranean would make exceedingly difficult of replacement.

A military spokesman would not confirm rumors that Salum, just within Egypt, and Fort Capuzzo, just within Libya, had fallen to the British.

The action in Egypt itself, as summarized by general headquarters, was simply one of "clearance"—a process of rounding up the stray Fascist units still in the country.

The Italian defeat was called a "rout" by the British command. As always, there was no definite figure as to the number of prisoners captured; an incomplete of

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ITALY IS HEAVY DRAIN ON NAZIS

Economic Strain, Expert Says, Becoming Burden To Hitler-Land

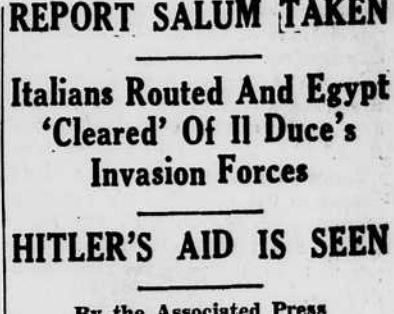
WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Indications that Italy is proving a heavy economic drain on her German Axis partner were reported today by the commerce department.

Writing in the Foreign Commerce weekly, Louis Domeratzky, chief of the department's regional information division, said that an analysis showed "not only the great economic disparity between the two countries, but also the high degree of dependence of Italy on German resources."

The full measure of German assistance to her partner cannot be ascertained because of lack of current trade statistics, he said, but the "fundamental character and scope" is disclosed in a review of their economic relations appearing in a German publication which is regarded as

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7 SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS



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