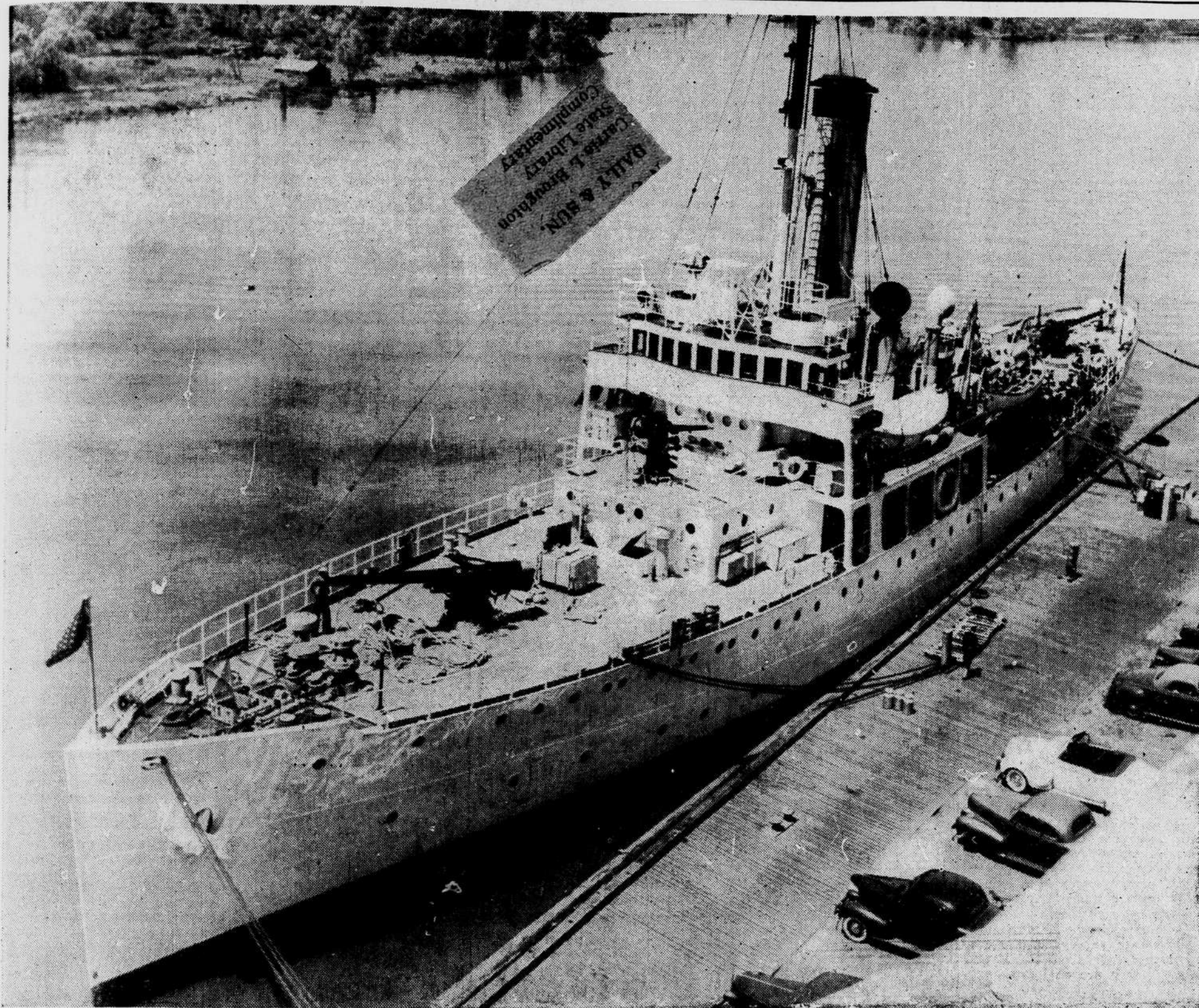


## WHAT THE U. S. MEANS BY "DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS"



Many wonder held by Wilmingtonians as to what Uncle Sam means by "defense preparedness" is forcefully answered by this striking photograph of the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Modoc, for many years based in Wilmington harbor, and, according to reports, scheduled to be transferred soon to duty elsewhere. The Modoc, docked in front of the Wilmington customs house yesterday after undergoing extensive motor overhauls and work in the New Orleans navy yards, has been fitted with powerful new weapons—a five-inch cannon in the bow, effective range, 22,000 yards; a new rapid-fire three-inch stern gun, a "Y" depth-charge gun just aft of midship, and several reinforced mounts for heavy caliber anti-aircraft machine guns. With its new armament, the cutter is said to be superior in fire-power to even the latest type destroyer. The Modoc is expected to proceed from Wilmington sometime this week for Norfolk and Boston for further equipment preparing her for the new assignment. —Star-News Photo by Humphrey

## CRETE BELIEVED NEXT OBJECTIVE OF NAZI FORCES

### CLASH NEAR SALUM

North African Front Resumes Center of State In Mediterranean Theatre

### DESSIE IS CAPTURED

Only Two Major Centers Of Italian Resistance Remain Within Ethiopia

CAIRO, Egypt, April 28.—(AP)—Advance units of a British armored division were reported in contact with Axis forces near Salum, Egypt, tonight as the North African front resumed the center of the stage in the Mediterranean war theatre.

German-Italian units, British headquarters said, made little or no progress; with the spearhead they have established six miles inside the Egyptian frontier, and in East Africa Axis forces suffered another setback with the fall of Dessie, Italian-Ethiopian stronghold.

British troops entered Dessie Sunday after a few hours of tough fighting at Kombolcha Pass, 14 miles south of the Plateau city, informed military circles said.

(This supported London reports that the town was taken by forces operating from the British-held capital, Addis Ababa, although Dessie had been attacked from all sides.)

The pass was declared to have been fortified strongly and fiercely defended. Britons said the Fascists' one under repeated attacks and yielded the summit just as Italian reinforcements were sighted.

The British were said to have charged down the road and turned the reinforcements' forward march into a precipitate retreat.

With Dessie captured, there remained in Ethiopia only two major centers of Italian resistance, Gondar, 250 miles northwest of Addis Ababa, and Jimma, (correct) 160 miles southwest of Addis Ababa.

DeGaulle's Ready (A British-Free French move to assure uninterrupted use of the Addis Ababa-Jibuti railroad was indicated in reports from Vichy, France, that De Gaulle's supported by mechanized units of the British were poised at the southern border of French Somaliland, between British Somaliland and Eritrea on the north.)

A De Gaulle airplane dropped leaflets urging the colony, of less than 50,000 population, to join Free French forces fighting alongside the British. Only about 1,100 Frenchmen were said to be in the colony.)

Elsewhere on the African front, the British continued to hold Tobruk, Libyan stronghold around which the Axis forces moved in their capture of Salum.

### Resigns



Charles A. Lindbergh

### LINDBERGH QUILTS ARMY AIR CORPS

Resigns as Colonel Because F. R. Implied Certain Things About Loyalty

NEW YORK, April 28.—(AP)—Charles A. Lindbergh resigned today as colonel in the United States Army air corps reserve because, he said, his Commander in Chief—President Roosevelt—had implied certain things about "my loyalty to my country, my motives and my character."

Thus, the thin young man who at 25 historically flew the Atlantic, became a world hero, and rose at once from captain to colonel, beseeched his government at 29 to return him to private life because he had "no honorable alternative."

In a letter to President Roosevelt, Lindbergh took exception to "implications" he said the President uttered concerning him at last Friday's press conference.

In this conference the chief executive criticized the flier and others who say the Axis powers would defeat Great Britain. The president compared them to appeasers of Revolutionary and Civil war days who insisted that defeat was imminent and that peace should be sued for promptly.

The president thus "clearly implied," Lindbergh wrote, "that I am no longer of use to this country as a reserve officer."

He told his commander that he (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

### MOPPING-UP GREECE

Fall of Island Would Spell Danger for British In Egypt and at Suez

### ALLIES ARE BLASTED

Germans Say Troops Are Poised for New Tasks In Larger Sphere

BERLIN, April 29.—(Tuesday)—The Greek island of Crete, new seat of the government which fled from Athens, apparently will be the next objective of the German army after the mopping-up campaign on the Greek mainland and in the Peloponnese is completed.

Adolf Hitler's newspaper, Volkischer Beobachter, answering British claims that the English fleet still would be able to dominate the Southern exit of the Aegean sea from bases on Crete, lends weight to this belief.

Great Danger Crete, in German hands, also would spell great danger to British strongholds in Egypt, such as Alexandria, Port Said and the Suez canal, it was pointed out.

Military reports said that German troops cooperating with the "Reich's naval forces," occupied the Greek islands of Samothrace, Lemnos and Thasos, but did not reveal whether German surface craft succeeded in entering the Mediterranean, or whether submarines played a part in the operations.

German bombers blasted British and Greek troops racing across the Peloponnese for possible escape by sea yesterday, and German observers declared that Adolf Hitler's army was poised for new tasks in a larger sphere.

These new tasks were not specified. A military spokesman, however, said action in the Mediterranean theater would continue.

Conquest of Greece was regarded here as just a phase of a larger plan now unfolding.

British shipping losses off Greece were said to total 287,000 tons, or 25,000 tons more than were lost in the Dunkerque debacle a year ago.

Lloyd's has listed 443,904 tons of shipping lost in the Dunkerque withdrawal, of which 280,556 were British and the remainder were under allied flags.)

Those tallies were chalked up by Nazi bombers in the last 11 days and another 400,000 tons of shipping was claimed to have been damaged.

Week-end British shipping losses were set at 13 ships totaling more (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

## School Bond Issue Vote Is Authorized By County

WOULD TOTAL \$500,000

Isaac Bear Grammar School Would be Converted Into a Junior High

A \$500,000 special bond election for "urgently needed" expansion of the New Hanover county school system was authorized yesterday by the board of county commissioners.

Advised by a delegation representing the board of education that the county's school facilities would be "hopelessly inadequate" to properly handle the anticipated increase in student enrollment expected by the beginning of the fall semester in September, the commission, without a dissenting vote, instructed County Attorney Marsden Bellamy to prepare the necessary election resolutions and notices for adoption at next week's board meeting.

Election in June It was indicated that the election would be set for sometime in June. Proposed in the expansion program were:

Conversion of the Isaac Bear grammar school into a Junior High (Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

## WEATHER

FORECAST: North Carolina and South Carolina—Partly cloudy with little change in temperature Tuesday and Wednesday.

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

Temperature: 1:30 a. m. 58; 7:30 a. m. 57; 1:30 p. m. 75; 7:30 p. m. 68; maximum 78; minimum 52; mean 65; normal 66.

Humidity: 1:30 a. m. 77; 7:30 a. m. 77; 1:30 p. m. 52; 7:30 p. m. 56.

Precipitation: Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00 inches; total since the first of the month 2.65 inches.

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

Wilmington High 11:48a. Low 6:58a. Masonboro Inlet 9:22a. 6:47p. Sunrise 5:25a.; sunset 8:34 p.; moonset 7:37a.; moonrise 9:45p.

Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville on April 28, at 8 a. m., 14.45 feet. (Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

## MODOC IS FITTED WITH NEW GUNS

Many Wilmingtonians View Powerful New Armament Aboard Cutter

With new armament said to give her fire-power superior to that of any destroyer afloat, and scheduled soon to be fitted with even more weapons, the Coast Guard cutter Modoc lay fast to the customhouse dock here yesterday taking on great quantities of supplies in preparation for assignment in a new field of operations.

Throng of Wilmingtonians, to whom the Modoc is no novelty, flocked to the waterfront yesterday afternoon to view the cutter's new armaments, including a five-inch bow cannon said to have an effective range up to 22,000 yards—a full 10,000 yards advantage over the heaviest cannon carried by any destroyer known. An identical gun is mounted in the aft of the cutter.

The new armaments were mounted during the cutter's motor-overhaul stay in New Orleans, from whence the vessel returned to Wilmington Saturday night.

In addition to the new five-inch bow cannon, the Modoc has been fitted with a new three-inch rapid-fire aft cannon, a "Y" depth-bomb gun and re-enforced mounts for a number of .50 caliber anti-aircraft machine guns.

Officers will arrive for duty at Camp Davis by May 15, many of them with their families, and it is imperative that suitable quarters be found for them immediately.

Mrs. Thomas J. Gause and Mrs. C. D. Maffitt represented the housing group, and Professor Frederick J. Rogers, Williston principal, spoke for the colored group.

Augusta Cooper, a service worker for the county welfare board was appointed chairman of the colored workers. (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

## New River Oil Terminals Are Destroyed By Flames

LOSS IS SET AT \$75,000

Jacksonville Concern Levied by Fire Started By Pumping Machine

JACKSONVILLE, April 28.—Starting from a small pumping engine, fire this afternoon swept through the plant and storage terminal of the New River Oil company here, leaving in its wake a loss estimated at \$75,000.

Three 100,000-gallon gasoline tanks, all filled, were caught in the fire, which was fought for two hours by Jacksonville volunteers assisted by equipment sent here from Camp Davis.

Small skiffs and rowboats tied up at docks near the terminal were destroyed as flaming gasoline covered a large surface-area of the river after the tanks burst from the intense heat.

B. J. Holloman, owner of the New River Oil company, said that the storage tanks had been filled only a few days ago. He suffered minor burns about the face and hands while assisting local volunteers combat the blaze. No one else was reported hurt.

The fire originated, Holloman said, with a small gasoline pumping engine inside the plant yard. The blaze, fed by gasoline, quickly spread to the main storage tanks and raged completely out of control for two hours.

## FAYETTEVILLE FIRE TAKES LIVES OF 3

Another Occupant of Downtown Apartment Is Injured When it Burns

FAYETTEVILLE, April 28.—(AP)—Fire swept through a downtown apartment building early today killing two men and a four-year-old girl and injuring at least one other occupant.

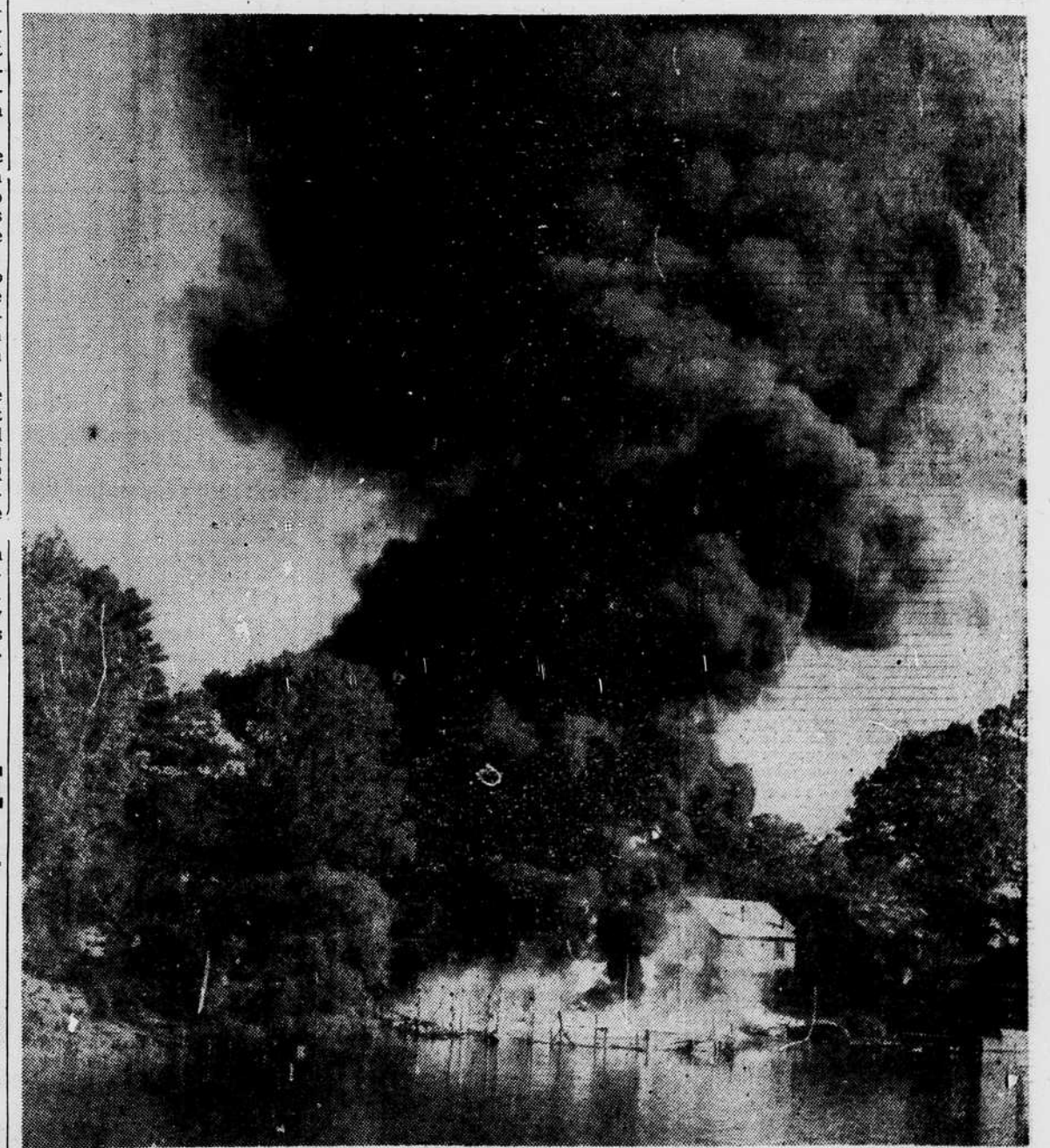
Cecil Beard, 26, a Fort Bragg civilian employee his daughter Barbara and Charles B. Holbrook about 30, of High Point, also employed at Fort Bragg were trapped and burned to death.

Mrs. Margaret Beard wife of Cecil suffered a broken leg when she leaped out of a second-floor window after dropping an infant child to Frank Speight who was standing below.

The fire in the apartment located above and adjoining Asa Holmes' stable about a block from Fayetteville's historic old market building was discovered by Johnny Greene and Ira Fox, who lived in the building about 2 a. m.

They gave the alarm and tenants began to leave the blazing (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

## Jacksonville Oil Terminal Burns



Sending billows of dense, black smoke a mile high, fire yesterday afternoon destroyed the terminals and plant of the New River Oil company at Jacksonville. Damage was unofficially placed at \$75,000, to make the blaze one of the most costly in Onslow county history.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)