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SHIPYARD HERE GETS CONTRACT TO BUILD 53 ADDITIONAL CRAFT

\$80,000,000 Award Represents No. 1 Business Story Of Year Here
SHIPLEY EMPLOYMENT
Pending Also Will Be Expanded; Ships Are To Be Completed By 1943

Announcement of the award of a more than \$80,000,000 contract for 53 additional Liberty freighters to the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company by the Maritime Commission Monday was generally regarded in Wilmington business circles as the number one story of the year, tantamount in importance to the first announcement of the shipyard's foundation last year.

Most of the 53 additional crafts, which makes a total of 100, has given the shipbuilding company contracts to build, are expected to be completed by the end of 1943.

Increases in the number of Liberty ships to be built, a number of the shipbuilding company's employees of the company will be making every effort to get the new program and better than possible, he added.

Thousand Of Men, Forming New AEF, Landed In Ireland

BY RICE YAHNER
WITH THE AEF IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Several thousands of steel-helmeted yanks "all pepped up and rarin' to go"—landed here safely today as the vanguard of United States troops dispatched to Europe in the second World War.

Escorted safely by the U. S. and British navies, their commander, Maj.-Gen. Russell P. Hartle, 52, stepped ashore to the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner," and waves of cheers from those lining the dock.

Building Of Drydock Here Is Considered

Project Contemplated As Naval And Shipbuilding Aid At Wilmington

BY HOWARD SUTTLE
Wilmington Star-News Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Serious consideration is being given by government officials to an appropriation for construction of a drydock to cost \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 in Wilmington. It was learned here today as the Maritime Commission announced award of contract of 53 more freighters to the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company.

Such a program, it was said, would insure permanency of the Wilmington shipyards.

Today's contract award by the Maritime Commission brings to a total of 1,038 the number of Liberty ships in the merchant's fleet program, and to 90 the number contracted for by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Co.

The Wilmington yard has contracted for delivery of 37 vessels by the end of this year. Two have already been launched, and production and launching schedules have been so arranged as to insure delivery of the remaining 35.

17 Billions To Finance Navy Asked

Proposed Fund Would Enable It To Control Sea, Air Wherever It Is
DEBATE OPENS TODAY

Measure Tops By \$5,000,000,000 Largest Outlay Asked For Defense

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—(AP)—The greatest appropriations measure in United States history, a \$17,722,565,474 proposed outlay to finance the Navy's aim of gaining complete control of the seas and the air wherever it operates, was presented to Congress today.

Debate on the huge bill is scheduled to start tomorrow in the House. Congressional leaders indicated belief there would be little, if any, opposition to the Naval expansion program, which the House appropriations committee described as "stupendous."

Allen Hartle, able bodied seaman of Baltimore, Md., one of 21 survivors brought ashore at Norfolk by a vessel which picked them up after they had drifted for 38 hours in a lifeboat, told newsmen that "those Boches are certainly smart. They fooled us completely."

WILMINGTON BOY DIES OF WOUND

Jimmy B. Williamson Accidentally Shoots Self While Cleaning Gun

Jimmy B. Williamson, 21 years old, an employe of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, was fatally wounded Monday night at 9:45 o'clock when the gun he was cleaning at his home, 702 Park avenue, Winter Park, accidentally discharged. The bullet lodged in his chest.

A. W. Allen, New Hanover county coroner, who viewed the body, said young Williamson was shot "accidentally while cleaning his gun" and an inquest was deemed unnecessary.

U. S. SUBMARINE TORPEDOES JAPANESE AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN MACASSAR STRAIT BATTLE

U-Boat Sinks Ore Freighter Off N. C. Coast

Masquerading As A Lightship, Sub Lures Vessel Close For Kill
22 OF CREW MISSING

Nineteen Believed To Have Drowned When Lifeboat Is Swamped In Sea

By HARRY NASH
NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 26.—(AP)—Masquerading as a lightship to lure her prey closer for the kill, an enemy submarine shelled and torpedoed the American ore carrier Venore off the North Carolina coast early Saturday, leaving the ship floating on her side and 22 members of her 43 man crew unaccounted for.

Allen Hartle, able bodied seaman of Baltimore, Md., one of 21 survivors brought ashore at Norfolk by a vessel which picked them up after they had drifted for 38 hours in a lifeboat, told newsmen that "those Boches are certainly smart. They fooled us completely."

PRICE CONTROL BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

Measure Is Dispatched To Senate Where Speedy Action Is Anticipated

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—(AP)—After a three-hour attack by republicans and a few democrats the wartime price control bill was approved finally by the house today and sent to the senate, where speedy action was forecast.

Wilmington Will Hold Air Raid Test Tonight

Wilmington is to have another air raid warning test Tuesday night at 6:45 o'clock—this time to determine how well and how far the alarm signal can be heard.

Surface Warships, Flying Fortresses Take Further Toll Of Convoy

11 SHIPS DESTROYED
23 Others Heavily Battered Since Great Engagement Opened

Allied Forces Exact Heavy Toll Of Japs

By WILLIAM R. SPEAR
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—(AP)—An American submarine torpedoed and probably sank a Japanese aircraft carrier in the battle of Macassar strait today while surface warships and big flying fortresses took further terrific toll of an invading enemy convoy.

Air And Naval Arms, Striking With Great Power, Smash Convoy

BATAVIA, Netherlands East Indies, Jan. 26.—(AP)—The allied air and naval arms, falling with terrible power upon invading Japanese convoys in the Macassar strait, have exacted the highest price yet paid by the enemy in a single operation since the Pacific war began.

County Stands Firm On Reconsidering Price Tender For Tract

The Schutt property valuation controversy received another airing Monday at the meeting of the county commissioners when John A. Stevens, attorney, appeared before the board to ask for a reconsideration of the offer of \$11,000 made by the commissioners for the property which is needed to complete the north runway of the Wilmington airport. Mr. Stevens, appearing for the owners of the property, voiced the opinion that the valuation placed on the property by a special committee of appraisers named by the commissioners, might not reflect the true worth of the property as it stands today.

COLD WAVE GRIPS ALL OF EUROPE

BERN, Switzerland, Jan. 26.—(AP)—From Spain to Turkey and from Stockholm to Naples a bitter cold today added to the woes of Europe's ill-fated, poorly clad people whether they were in fuelless homes or on the battlelines.

Manpower Mobilization Board Proposed To FDR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Creation of a manpower mobilization board with far-reaching powers to say where and how men and women should work during the war has been proposed to President Roosevelt by Paul V. McNutt, Federal security administrator, it was learned today.

At least 11 ships have been positively sunk and 23 others heavily battered by American and Dutch forces since the great engagement began last Friday between Borneo and Celebes islands.

Northward in the Philippines, a tiny torpedo boat zipped again into Subic bay, past net and boom defenses and heavy shore batteries, and sank another 5,000-ton enemy vessel, duplicating a similar daring attack of last week.

So fierce was the action and so brilliant the success of American arms, supported by Dutch forces, against the Japanese invasion convoy in the Macassar strait, approach to Hava that a Navy communiqué late in the day said it was "still impossible to estimate total damage inflicted by our combat vessels" but that "the known results are substantial."

It also was not ascertained whether the torpedoed aircraft carrier went to the bottom but it was "believed to have sunk," the communiqué announced. Authorities here credited the Nipponese last October with eight aircraft carriers built and two under construction, angling from 7,100 to 28,900 tons.

The sinking of the second 5,000-ton enemy ship in Subic bay brought the count of Japanese vessels definitely sunk by American action since the Pearl Harbor attack to 51—50 if the aircraft carrier be counted.

A torpedo boat commanded by Ensign George Cox of Watertown, (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

RANGOON, Burma, Jan. 26.—(AP)—American volunteer pilots added still another stunning defeat to the Japanese air force today in the utter rout of 40 enemy raiders approaching Rangoon while on the land front in southern Burma British Imperial forces held the invader to a standstill.