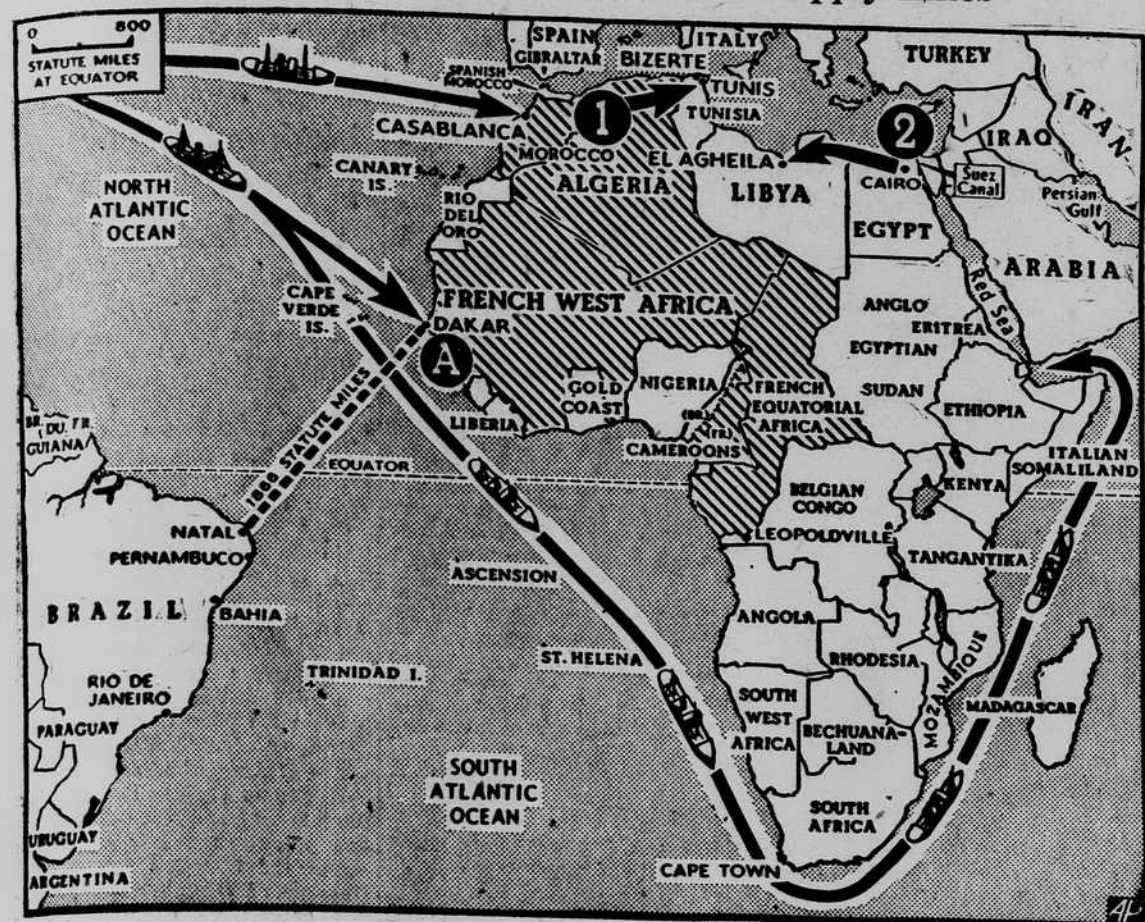


## Dakar Gives 'Safety Zone' For Allied Supply Lines



Now that the important port of Dakar (A) has become available to the United Nations as a transport base, all of French West Africa and French North Africa, with the exception of Tunisia, becomes an Allied camp. The lined area on this map denotes the vast extent of the territory. It also gives the Allies a valuable base for guarding sea supply lanes (black arrows) to Africa and Suez. Moreover, it shortens considerably the route for flying bombers to the African battle zones and provides a port from which to battle the Axis U-boat menace in the South Atlantic. The net effect is to make easier the problem of supplying Allied armies fighting near Tunis and Bizerte (1) and near El Agheila.

# TWIN GERMAN COLUMNS HURLED BACK BY ALLIES IN TUNISIAN ENCOUNTER; RUSSIANS DESTROY AXIS TRANSPORTS

## REDS ADVANCING

Occupy Heights Of 'Strategic Importance' Near Velikie Luki

## 36 TANKS DESTROYED

60 Large German Troop Planes Knocked Down In Stalingrad Sector

MOSCOW, Saturday, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The Russians have destroyed 60 more big Axis transport planes in the Stalingrad area, making a total of 133 in four days, and the Red army has "occupied heights of considerable tactical importance" in the area of Velikie Luki on the frozen central front, the Soviets announced early today.

The midnight communique said the Russians destroyed 36 Nazi tanks and killed more than 1,000 Germans during yesterday's operations which were marked with repeated German counter-attacks on both fronts and Russian consolidation of positions wrested from the enemy.

### Not Much Change

Aside from the "violent engagements" near Velikie Luki which resulted in the capture of important hilltops, the Russian bulletin did not mention any changes in the general situation.

Fighting a steady war of attrition amid snow storms after the early momentum of their twin offensives had slackened, the Russians appeared still to be trying to encircle and reduce the two German strongholds of Velikie Luki and Rzhev on the central front northwest of Moscow. Segments of the railroad highway between the two points were reported to have been recaptured by the Russians weeks ago.

But the Germans still were counter-attacking in several sectors. The communique said several Nazi efforts were beaten down yesterday near Rzhev where the Germans lost 21 tanks and several hundred men. The enemy also lost heavily in numerous charges across the snow near Velikie Luki, it was said.

Two Nazi infantry companies also were reported wiped out and five tanks disabled on the eastern bank of the Don river northwest of Stalingrad. The Germans lost seven more tanks, all they em-

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

## Water No Barrier To U. S. Troops In New Guinea



United States soldiers, laden with packs and followed by native porters, wade into a turbulent jungle stream in New Guinea in their advance toward Japanese bases on the northeastern shore of the island. Allied forces have driven a hole in Jap lines and have reached the beach near Buna, principal Japanese base in that area.

# Repeated Jap Attempts To Break Out Of New Guinea Trap Repelled

## JAPANESE STAB AT YUNNAN LINE

About 6,000 Troops Begin Offensive Against Chinese Defenders

CHUNGKING, Dec. 11.—(AP)—Veteran Japanese troops, with fresh reserves from Burma, are stabbing repeatedly at the far-flung Chinese lines defending the mountainous heart of Yunnan province from invasion, the high command reported tonight.

About 6,000 Japanese, striking in three columns, began offensive operations December 6 against Chinese forces in western Yunnan in the area north of Tengyueh and west of the Salween river's upper gorge, a communique said.

The report did not specify whether the fighting, heavy the first two days and still continuing, was the start of the large-scale enemy drive that an army spokesman here had forecast would be made with Kunming, Yunnan's capital, as its ultimate objective.

Resisting fiercely, lightly-armed Chinese infantrymen were said to have held their lines in the face of repeated Japanese assaults. Rifle and machine-gun fire checked a series of light charges December 7.

The old Burma road to Kunming runs south of the Tengyueh area, where hostilities have resumed, but a Japanese advance across the Salween there would constitute an out-flanking of Chinese forces beyond the small slice of Yunnan territory which was occupied after the fall of Burma last spring. Since Burma's conquest, scores of American army transports have been flying lease-lend supplies from India to China across Yunnan, with Kunming as a refueling point.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

## Allied Hold On Narrow Beach Head Impregnable To Enemy Assault

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA Saturday, Dec. 12.—(AP)—Repeated Japanese attempts to break out of the Allied lines pinning them on a narrow strip of New Guinea coast in the Buna area have been "bloodily repulsed," the Allied high command reported today.

The Japanese struck south of Sanananda, between Buna and Gona, but, as on the previous day when they counter-attacked in vain, they were unsuccessful in breaking the allied hold.

The allied command reported that Japanese planes dropping supplies operated over the Buna area yesterday.

"South of Sanananda, the enemy repeatedly counter-attacked but was bloodily repulsed," the noon communique from General Douglas MacArthur reported regarding the

## HITLER CONTINUES PARTY DOMINATION

Nazi Chief Carries Policy Step Further Following Staff Shake-Up

LONDON, Dec. 11.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler carried the policy of Nazi party domination over Germany a stride forward today following the shakeup of the high command which has made Gestapo-trained General Kurt Zeitzler the chief of the general staff.

A decree broadcast from Berlin by DNB said Gauleiters, heretofore simply district party leaders, henceforth would have the authority of district defense commissioners. As such they are responsible to no one

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

## BIG ARMY BOMBER UNLUCKY TO JAPS

Flying Fortress Knocks Down 5 Zeros Over New Georgia Island

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(AP)—A lone Army Flying Fortress recently fought off 15 Japanese Zero fighters over the island of New Georgia, destroying five of them, and returned safely to its base, the Navy announced today.

A communique reporting this incident announced also that the auxiliary cargo ship Alchiba, a 6,198-ton vessel taken over from the Moore-McCormack lines had been sunk in the Solomons area by enemy action.

Reports reaching here indicated that only three men were lost in the destruction of this ship and those were listed as missing. The skipper, Commander James Shepherd Freeman, 42, of Jasper, Ala., was reported to have survived.

The communique gave no details of the encounter between the Flying Fortress and the squadron of enemy fighter planes except to say the big Army bomber was on a reconnaissance flight over New Georgia, in the central Sol-

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

## Mayor Yow Named Director Of N. C. Municipal League

Mayor Edgar L. Yow has recently been appointed League director for the third district of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, to fill the unexpired term of Hargrove Bellamy.

The acting executive secretary of the League informed Mayor Yow of his appointment in a letter, a copy of which was received by the Star Friday.

## AIRCRAFT ACTIVE

New Fighter Planes Play Big Part In Stopping Nazis

## FOE'S TANKS DISABLED

Many Armored Units Left Behind In Retreat Of Enemy Troops

LONDON, Dec. 11.—(AP)

(Delayed) — Newly-arrived fighter planes, hitting in perfect coordination with Allied ground troops, played a big part yesterday in stopping and hurling back twin Axis armored columns that struck at the Allied Tunisian base of Medjez El Bab, 35 miles southwest of Tunis.

One of the Axis columns lashing out in a threatening flanking movement to the main Allied forces before Tebourba was struck by a sharp allied counter-attack and driven back with the loss of a number of tanks, a report from Allied headquarters reported.

### Get Concerted Blasting

The second Nazi column, approaching from the east, was permitted within 2,000 yards of Medjez El Bab before it came under a concerted blasting from Allied tanks, artillery, infantry and aircraft and was sent reeling from the field, leaving a "substantial number" of its tanks behind. In both clashes Allied tank losses were said to have been "much lower" than those of the enemy.

An Allied spokesman was lavish in praise of the aerial support giving the defending forces, saying that fighter planes swooped to attack the Nazis quickly after the battle began and "strafed the enemy like hell."

Both U. S. fighting planes and British Spitfires participated in the assault on the retreating Germans, he said, while American forces in General Grant tanks "distinguished themselves."

After repulsing the twin attacks the Allies were said to be still in possession of high ground northeast of Medjez El Bab, and the result of the day's fighting was described as "encouraging."

The Allied spokesman acknowledged that American and British forces in recent days had withdrawn from the crescent-shaped line which they had held between Tebourba and Mateur and said that their line between those two

## OPA HEAD DEFENDS FUEL RATION IDEA

Henderson Says Complicated Program Good Job Done In A Hurry

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(AP)—Price Administrator Leon Henderson defended his system of fuel oil rationing today after a Senate committee had said the complex formula would render many homes "uninhabitable" in winter months.

Henderson addressed his remarks to a press conference after

DATES EXTENDED  
NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—(AP)—The dates of expiration of fuel oil ration coupons numbered one and two have been extended one week each, the Office of Price Administration announced here today.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 7)

## Population Of City Set At 90,000 By Officials

Wilmington is estimated to have a population of 90,000 at present and New Hanover county, including Wilmington 120,000, exclusive of Army personnel, F. O. Fockler, secretary of the local chamber of commerce, told members of the House Small Business committee Friday morning in Charlotte, where a special study is being made of war problems in the south.

The Congressional committee hearing was scheduled to learn first hand from the various communities of North Carolina just how the War Industrial program is affecting the state.

"Our problems in Wilmington, in all probability, will appear quite different from any other community in North Carolina, and with few exceptions, in the south," Fockler told the Congressional committee.

He first pointed to Wilmington as it appeared two years ago with a population in 1940 of 33,407, and New Hanover county, including the city, 47,935.

"Our port, one of our most valuable assets as always and on its way to becoming increasingly more important, handled \$70,000,000 to

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

## YOUTH ARRESTED FOR THEFT HERE

E. J. Bellamy, White, In Custody Charged With \$470 Wallet Robbery

E. J. Bellamy, 19-year-old white youth was apprehended by investigating officers Harry E. Fales and Sergeant W. D. Thompson late Friday night, and charged with assault and highway robbery when he made a full confession to the robbery of \$470 belonging to T. N. Tillis, railroad boiler-maker.

The officers said that Bellamy had \$238 in his possession when he was arrested, and that he had spent over \$100 Friday in downtown stores on clothes and a wrist watch.

Bellamy, living at 308 South Second street, came here Wednesday from Fayetteville. Fales and Thompson said Friday night that he had been placed in jail, and a hearing would be scheduled in Recorder's court as soon as Mr.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

## WEATHER

Forecast: NORTH CAROLINA. Rain east portion today.

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

Temperature  
1:30 a. m., 51; 7:30 a. m., 51; 1:30 p. m., 59; 7:30 p. m., 52. Maximum, 60; minimum, 48; mean, 54; normal 50.

Humidity  
1:30 a. m., 92; 7:30 a. m., 96; 1:30 p. m., 75; 7:30 p. m., 88.

Precipitation  
Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 0.05 inches.  
Total since the first of the month, 1.07 inches.

Tides For Today  
High Low  
Wilmington 12:51a 7:53a  
1:26p 8:36p

Masonboro Inlet 11:17a 7:46a  
11:40p 8:21p

Moore's Inlet 11:22a 4:51p  
11:45p 8:36p

New Topsail Inlet 11:27a 4:56a  
11:50p 8:41p

(All Times Eastern Standard)

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

## EX-SERVICEMAN NEEDS AID HERE

Invalid And Family Wait Patiently For A Bit Of Christmas Cheer

A serviceman from the last World War, his wife, and his five children are looking to the Empty Stocking fund for their Christmas cheer, Captain James Neighbors said Friday. This veteran of the 1918 campaign is in the hospital, and the entire income for his family is in the form of a small pension check, inadequate for the needs of seven persons.

If it was now Christmas night, there would be only two dollars for food, clothing, medicine, and toys for each of the 100 families to be covered by the Empty Stocking fund in 1942 — not nearly enough. The pennies, the nickels, the dollars that some readers have already sent in are being put to good use, but more of them are wanted if every stocking in the

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 7)

## S. S. POCAHONTAS TO BE LAUNCHED

Virginia Students To Take Part In Sponsoring Of Liberty Ship Here

The fine participation of Virginia school children in the recent nation-wide scrap metal campaign will be recognized Sunday afternoon at the North Carolina Shipbuilding company as it launches the Pocahontas, named by the youngsters, with a delegation from the Old Dominion state present as the guests of honor.

The privilege of selecting a name for the Liberty ship was given the young salvage collectors as reward for their good work in the campaign. It will be the second built here whose name was proposed in that manner.

According to arrangements made by shipyard officials, the exercises will open about 3:30 o'clock.

The program will include presentation of the second Maritime commission Gold star to the shipyard for continued outstanding achievement in production of Liberty ships. The award will be made by Morales C. Vendig, resident plant engineer of the commission at the shipyard. The company received the commission's \$80,000,000 annually in business.

Our population had remained at a fairly level point over a period of a good many years, our industries' employment remained steady ex-

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

## Fuel Rationing Coupon Work Will End Shortly

"We expect to get the majority of the fuel rationing cards out by next Thursday, December 18," O. H. Shoemaker, chairman of the local war price and rationing board, said Friday.

Mr. Shoemaker urged citizens to hold fast to their fuel coupons, for once lost they cannot be replaced. "We have been issuing fuel ration for only 48 hours now," the chairman declared, "and already two persons have lost their

coupons. Money can't buy them any more."

The war price and rationing board further advised: Improper and impatient conduct in the ration office may cause a person's title to all rationed products to be entirely removed; there have already been revocations because of unsightedly conduct.

Mr. Shoemaker reiterated that his board cannot allow extra gasoline for funerals, for Christmas driving, or for furloughs. "This order is final," he said.

## Fire Chief Expects To Report On Probe Into Hazards Here

Chief Ludie Croom of the fire department announced Friday that data from his fire inspectors is being turned in to him, and he would probably have a report next week on the results of the inspection.

Chief Croom had previously announced the undertaking by his department of an inspection for the purpose of determining if all public gathering places in the city had adequate fire proof facilities.

Chief Croom said Friday that his inspection was also including all hotels, rooming and boarding houses, downtown stores, and night clubs.

## NOTICE!

If your carrier fails to leave your copy of the Wilmington Morning Star, Phone 3311 before 9:00 a. m. and one will be sent to you by special messenger.

## Axis Temporarily Loses Initiative, Declares FR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—(AP)—President Roosevelt said today that the Axis has lost the initiative on a global scale "temporarily at least," and revealed that American troops overseas will total more than 10 million.

At the same time he reported that lend-lease assistance to America's allies aggregated \$2,367,000,000 in the quarter which ended on November 30. The figure was almost a third greater than that for the preceding quarter, he said,

and represented an annual rate of \$10,000,000,000 or about 15 per cent of the nation's over-all war expenditures.

Mr. Roosevelt informed Congress of these developments in his seventh quarterly report on lend-lease progress, a document which placed heavy emphasis upon the interdependence of all the United Nations, a necessity for a "single world strategy," and joint operations both in the war zones and



Shopping Days till Christmas

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)