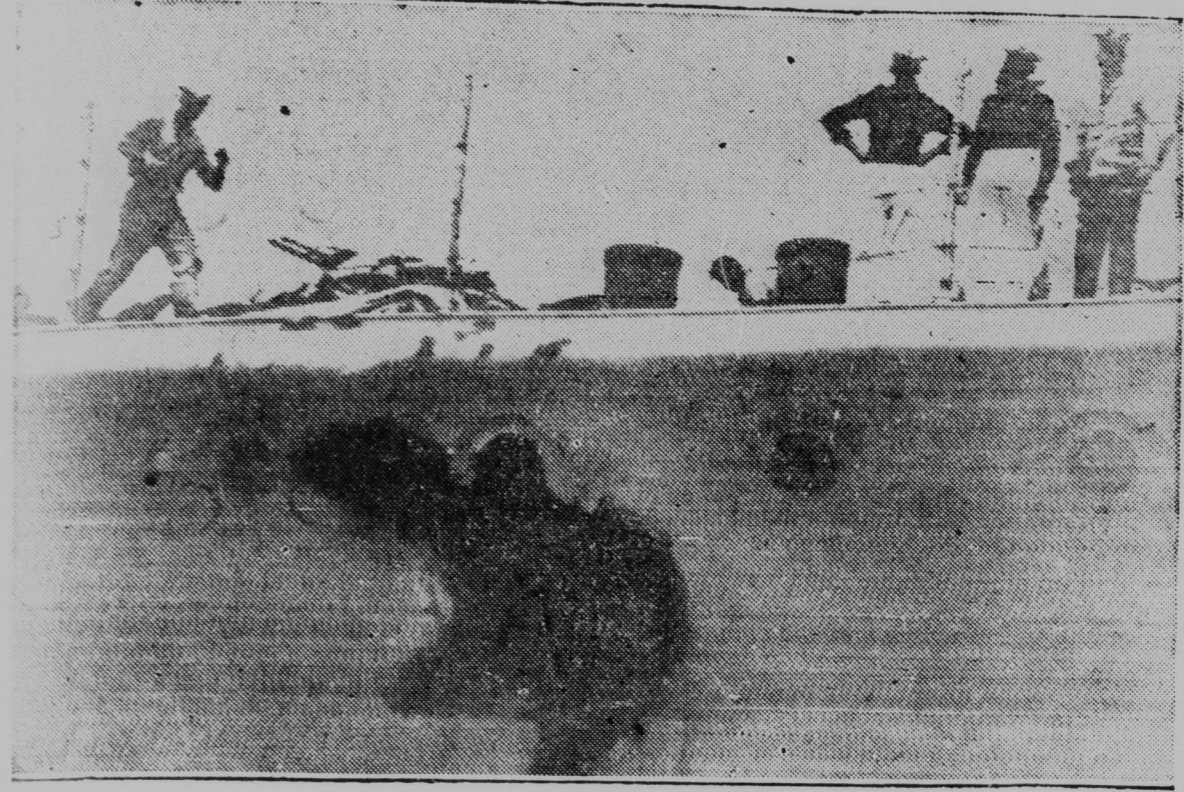


## Graf Spee Ponders Dash To Sea

### WHAT BRITISH GUNS DID TO THE ADMIRAL SPEE



A large hole in the side of the Nazi pocket battleship, Admiral Graf Spee, attests the marksmanship of the British navy. This was one of the many wounds the German ship received in its spectacular fight with three British warships in the South Atlantic off Uruguay. The picture was taken in the harbor of Montevideo where the Graf Spee had fled after the fight. It was flown to Buenos Aires and flashed from New York by radio.

## Italy Is Neutral By Agreement

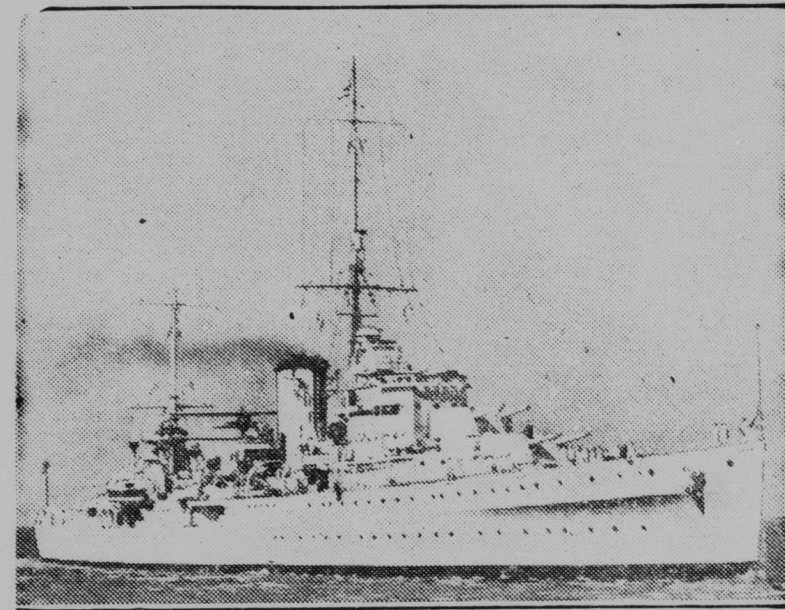
### Count Ciano Says Hitler Understands

#### Foreign Minister Says Mussolini Still Ready To Help Restore Peace; Explains Italy's Foreign Policy At Meeting.

Rome, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano declared today Italy is staying out of the European war by agreement with her ally, Germany, and re-affirmed Premier Mussolini's readiness to help restore peace. Ciano, in a lengthy explanation of Fascist foreign policy to the Chamber of Fasces and Guilds, disclosed that Germany and Italy agreed at the Milan conference last May, when their alliance was signed, to avoid raising any question which might arouse any new disputes in at least three years, while both countries completed their re-armament. The Italians regarded three years as necessary for "perfection of internal reconstruction and completion of military preparations," Ciano said, adding that the Germans estimated their period at four or five years. This agreement showed, according to Ciano, that Germany and

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### Ready for the Graf Spee



Pictured above is the Achilles, British cruiser which set a death watch on the damaged German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee, determined the Nazi raider should not escape from Montevideo, Uruguay. The Achilles, Ajax, and Exeter engaged the Spee in battle off Uruguay which ended with the badly damaged Spee rushing for safety. (Central Press)

## Internment Or Death At Sea Waiting

### Britain And France Concentrating Armada of Great Strength To Grab or Destroy German Pocket Battleship If She Sails.

Montevideo, Dec. 16.—(AP)—The alternative of life in internment or possible death on the high seas faced Germany's shell-torn pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee today. The Uruguayan government, accepting the report of a naval board that the warship was seaworthy, gave its commander, Captain Hans Langsdorff, until 5 p. m. Sunday (3:30 p. m. eastern standard time) to sail or let his ship become a prisoner here for the duration of the war between Great Britain and Germany.

Lurking outside the harbor was a squadron of British warships, including the cruisers Ajax and Achilles, which, with the cruiser Exeter, battered the German vessel from waterline to fighting top in a 14-hour battle Wednesday.

All indications were the Allies were concentrating an armada of great strength and speed to greet the Admiral Graf Spee should she make her dash. Waterfront reports said a heavy German ship, presumably the battleship Dunkerque, had joined the British.

German sources here said the British flotilla included an aircraft carrier, a battle cruiser, one heavy cruiser, two light cruisers and two or three destroyers.

The German battleship missed a chance to slip out to sea under the cover of fog when rain stopped in mid-morning and visibility increased. An inspection showed the crew of the Nazi ship cleaning her guns, loading materials from a barge alongside, and repairing battle damage. Workmen also were preparing to install new armorplate.

## Graf Spee's Commander Tells Story

### Captain Hans Langsdorff Describes His Plight And Praises Daring of Inferior British Ships in Naval Battle.

Montevideo, Uruguay, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Depleted fuel and daring British seamanship, which was "more than seemed credible," forced the Admiral Graf Spee into a running fight dangerously near shore, Captain Hans Langsdorff told port authorities today.

In the first authoritative account of Wednesday's 14-hour battle with three British cruisers, the German commander spoke with matter-of-fact objectivity. About 6 a. m. Wednesday, he said, he glimpsed the British cruiser Exeter off the Brazil coast. The Admiral Graf Spee headed to the south, for Langsdorff said his ship already was in a critical condition due to a lack of fuel.

While Langsdorff was taking stock of the Exeter, he suddenly found himself in the presence of the British cruisers Ajax and Achilles, and by this time was opposite the Uruguayan coast.

The two smaller, faster vessels maneuvered so the German pocket battleship was between them and the shore. Fearing he might go aground in shallow water, and yet unable to run to sea for an open fight, because of little fuel, Langsdorff said he found himself between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Therefore, he went on the offensive and opened fire on the Exeter with his 11-inch guns. The Exeter replied with 8-inch cannon, and a thunderous duel ensued. Langsdorff said he damaged the Exeter severely before the Ajax and Achilles could bring their six-inch guns to bear.

When the smaller ships did so, (Continued on Page Four)

## Labor Board Policy Was Intimidation

### Former Regional Director Tells House Probers He Was Taught to "Make Industry Fear Him And The Board."

Washington, Dec. 16.—(AP)—A former regional director of the National Labor Relations Board testified before a congressional investigating committee today that a member of what he called the board's "goon squad" had told him to make industry "fear" him and the board. James P. Miller, who served as regional director at Cleveland, Ohio, told the House committee investigating the board that such advice was given him by Fred Krivonos, of the Washington staff of the labor board, during the latter's visit to the Cleveland office.

Krivonos, Miller said, was sent to Cleveland after Nathan Witt, board secretary, had written a letter complaining of cases involving the Hoover Steam Cleaner Manufacturing Company. The witness quoted Witt's letter as saying that it was plain that a new independent union of the Hoover company's employees was the same company dominated union which had been disestablished earlier.

The letter just burned us up," Miller asserted, because it had "no foundation in fact." Then, he continued, a "goon squad" member was sent to him. Any time you disagreed with Mr. Miller, he said in reply to questions, Krivonos, Miller said, immediately wanted to know why the CIO union electrical workers had not filed charges of company domination with the board. Miller said he told Krivonos there was no basis for such charges.

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## Panama President Is Heart Victim

Panama, Panama, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Dr. Juan Dornosthenes Arosemena, 59-year-old president of the Republic of Panama, died of heart disease today at Penonomé, 150 miles in the interior. He suffered an attack here November 8, but was reported out of danger the next day, and after six weeks in a hospital, apparently was restored to health. The first vice-president was sworn in as provisional president.

## Finns Claim Russians Are Hurling Back

Helsinki, Dec. 16.—(AP)—The Finnish high command announced tonight that Russian attacks on the Kaakelani isthmus, supported by fifty tanks and "severe artillery fire," had been repulsed with "great enemy losses."

A communique announced that fourteen of the tanks were destroyed, while four "drove up to our position and surrendered."

Russian attack in a number of other sectors also were repulsed with losses, it declared. The communique announced destruction of one Russian patrol boat when Finnish shore batteries drove off attacks on islands in the eastern Gulf of Finland.

The battle on the central front, where the Finns previously had reported Russian units cut off, is progressing toward a conclusion," the communique said. Previously, Russian troops were reported advancing steadily through northern Finland, but military sources said the Finns were preparing a counter attack.

However, just north of Lake Ladoga, in the middle of the little country, the Finns were said to be driving Russian troops before them toward dangerous swamps, with the spoils of war increasing.

## U. S. Presses Export Ban For Planes

### All Plane-Making Materials Placed Under "Moral Embargo" For Nations That Bomb Civilians; May Hit Germany Also.

Washington, Dec. 16.—(AP)—The United States government undertook today to stop the shipment of plane-making materials to nations which bomb civilian populations. It reminded manufacturers who export war materials that the "moral embargo" previously invoked against plane sales to Russia and Japan applied as well against any materials essential to the manufacture of aircraft.

Speculation arose in the capital as to whether the broadened ban might pinch Germany as well as Russia and Japan, even though she has not mentioned specifically by name.

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## Intensify Search For Schooner Off Cape Fear Coast

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 16.—(AP)—Another coast guard cutter and plane joined the search today for the two-masted schooner Centurion, overdue at Wilmington, N. C.

The auxiliary sailing vessel, believed to have two men aboard, notified the passing steamship Dakotan Monday that she had lost her prober, but would try to make Wilmington under sail. She asked the Dakotan to notify the coast guard if she failed to reach Wilmington by Wednesday. The Centurion was last reported about 200 miles off Cape Fear.

The cutter Modoc left Wilmington at 6 a. m. today to join the Sebago, which has been hunting for the schooner since Wednesday.

## Maxwell Meets Head-On Anger Of Oil Truck Men

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In The Star Water Hotel

Raleigh, Dec. 16.—Commissioner of Public Safety A. J. Maxwell and his department in particular the Highway Patrol Division and the Highway Patrol have now fairly embarked upon a campaign of head-on meeting with the uncharted and troubled sea of legislative proposals that have arrived for enacting. The date has arrived for enacting all the rules and regulations which have been laid down for trucks and trailers transporting gasoline and other combustibles on the roads.

The main, truck owners and operators, big and small, have agreed to cooperate with the commissioner as far as possible. They do not like the rules; but they have been forced to make a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea. The rules are legislative restrictions or regulations and the wish of departmental interference. They have chosen the latter, and it now remains

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## 'Santa Claus' Held For the Murder of An Infant Stepson

Paterson, N. J., Dec. 16.—(AP)—Samuel J. Dunning, 34, who a week ago played Santa Claus for a charitable organization, was held without bail today on a charge of beating to death his five-months-old stepson, Robert.

His wife, Elsie, also 34, was held with him, the complaint against her alleging she displayed an "attitude of passiveness, and without protest witnessed the murdering and pounding to death of her son" as he lay in bed. The child died in Paterson general hospital yesterday.

Arraigned before Recorder Hugh Sponow in police court today, Dunning and his wife were held without bail on charges of murder to await action of the grand jury. They pleaded innocent.

## Preacher, 92, And Girl 28, Both of Wilmington, Marry

Georgetown, S. C., Dec. 16.—(AP)—Rev. Joseph P. King, 92, and Miss Lucile Carney, 28, both of Wilmington, N. C., were married here today. It was the third marriage for the bridegroom, and the first for the bride.

The ceremony was performed in the office of the Georgetown county judge of probate by Sylvan L. Rosen, a notary public. "It's the first time I was ever married by a Jewish rabbi," was the groom's comment after the ceremony.

## Manteo Plans Tomorrow To Honor Wrights

Manteo, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Thirty-five years ago tomorrow the Dayton, Ohio, bicycle-makers, Wilbur and Orville Wright, with a strange contraption looking more like a box kite on wheels than anything else, flew 1,000 feet.

Tomorrow, beneath the flight pylon on Kill Devil Hill, site of man's first flight in a heavier-than-air craft, the community will lay a wreath at the base of the memorial and aircraft will dip in salute. This year, 50 young pilots, trying their wings for the first time in cross-country flight, are coming here from colleges in North Carolina and Virginia to pay homage to the inventors of the airplane.

## Bloody November Smears Safety Record Of State

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In The Star Water Hotel

Raleigh, Dec. 16.—A bloody November which showed 103 deaths on the highways smeared red all over North Carolina's 1939 safety record and left it squarely up to the last month to determine whether the year will end with any improvement whatsoever over its predecessor.

Not all the 103 were properly chargeable to November, as 14 of the death lists were accounted for by accidents happening in previous months (7 in October, 5 in September and 2 even prior to that), but they were reported during last month and are, of course, a part of the year's grim toll. This toll stood at 834 as of December 1, just one below the 835 killed

## Finns in New Defense Lines While Russians Speed on Their Heels; Villages Burned And Lake Ice Dynamited in Retreat.

Svanvik, Norway, Dec. 16.—(AP)—(Near the Finnish Border)—The possibility of a decisive battle in northern Finland appeared likely today near Pitkarjarvi, 20 miles south of here, as motorized Russian troops rolled south.

The Finns were reported to have occupied new defense lines near Pitkarjarvi, close to the Norwegian-Finnish frontier after their retreat southwest from Salmijarvi.

## Villages Are Burned And Ice Dynamited in Retreat

Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Leaving villages in ashes, the Finns were reported falling back today before the onslaught of Soviet Russian forces in the mining sector of Salmijarvi, key objective in the Soviet Arctic campaign. Bridges were dynamited and the ice on lakes blasted by the Finns as they prepared to face the

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## Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Cloudy and unsettled tonight and Sunday, preceded by light rain in west portion this afternoon; somewhat warmer tonight.

## WEEKLY WEATHER.

Scattered light rain about middle and at close of week; otherwise generally fair; mild temperatures followed by colder latter part of week.

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## Russia To Ignore Finland's Appeal

Moscow, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Soviet Russia was expected today to ignore the broadcast of Finnish Foreign Minister Valno Tanner, appealing for a halt to hostilities and resumption of negotiations with Moscow.

A foreign office spokesman said he had no knowledge of the broadcasts, and Russian newspapers did not mention it. Most observers expressed belief the Soviet was too far committed against the Helsinki government and its military campaign to turn back now. This view was underscored by an authorized statement which described Russia's expulsion from the League of Nations on Finland's charge of aggression as an "absurd decision."

## Film Actress Dies In Drop Ten Stories

New York, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Lola Laszlo, 21, Hungarian motion picture actress, and daughter of Aladar Laszlo, composer, plunged to death early today from the tenth floor apartment of Baron Frederick von Oppenheim, of Cologne, Germany. Her body crashed into the marquis of the Gladstone hotel in 52nd street, where the wealthy baron resides.

Passersby heard a shriek from the air and looked up to see the black evening-gowned figure hurtling downward. Detectives William Fox and James Brady said Von Oppenheim, who described himself as a longtime friend of the Laszlo family, told them he and Miss Laszlo had been on a party celebrating his planned departure today for California, Japan, China and finally Germany.

He said he had purchased gifts for her and her parents, and that, while Miss Laszlo was looking at them, he stepped into another room. He returned, he told the officers, to find her missing, and a low-silled window open.

6 SHOPPING DAYS TILL Christmas

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