

Graf Spee Commander Suicides Act Of War By Germany Feared

Large Liner Scuttled In Neutral Zone

Germans Sank Luxury Ship 250 Miles Inside American Area, Washington Thinks; Crew Huddled to New York by U. S. Cruiser.

New York, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The naval cruiser Tuscaloosa, with 579 survivors of the scuttled German luxury liner Columbus, was reported off Ambrose lightship, just outside New York harbor, at noon today.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(AP)—State Department officials disclosed today that the German liner Columbus was scuttled almost 250 miles inside American neutrality zone.

First information yesterday from Spain Early, White House press secretary, was that the scuttling had taken place when a British man-of-war came upon the big liner outside the zone.

Meanwhile, after burning and abandoning their luxurious 32,000-ton ship at the approach of the British man-of-war, 579 crew members and officers of the Columbus were being sent to Ellis Island by the Tuscaloosa.

The blazing derelict, one-time pride of the German merchant fleet, was left alone to sink beneath the waves of the Atlantic in a cloud of steam.

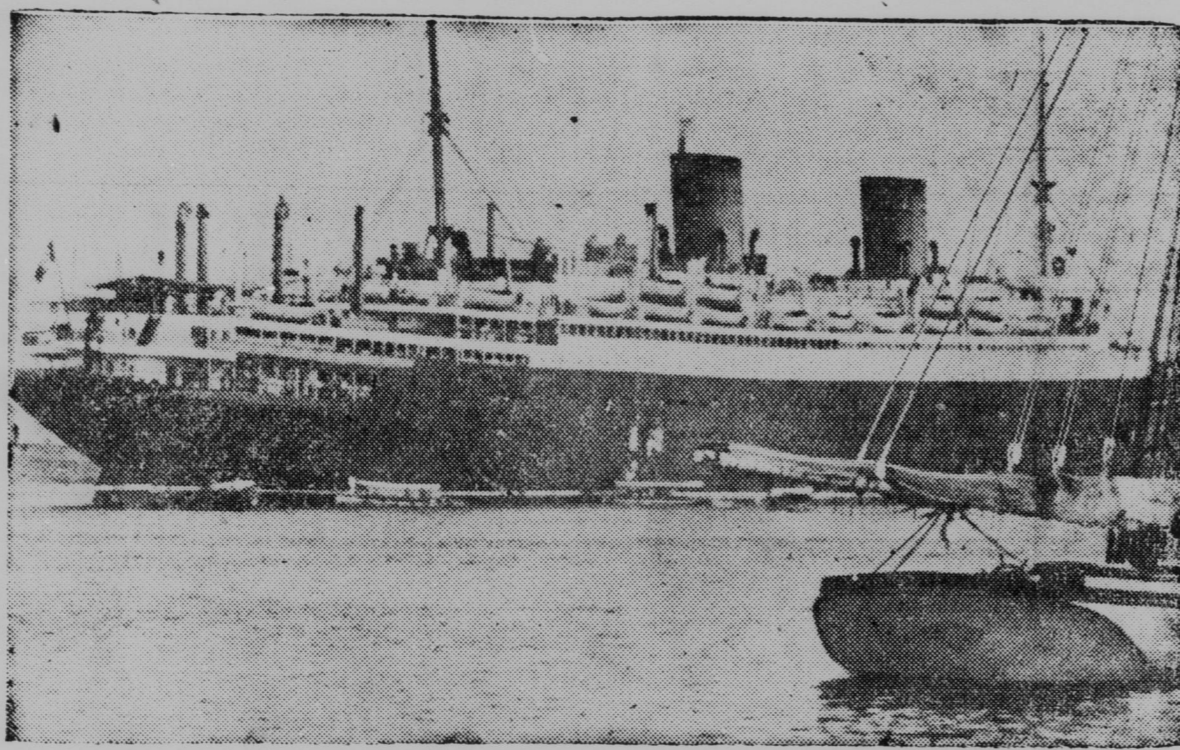
The Columbus, which failed in a desperate dash for Europe from Vera Cruz, Mexico, already was settling when the Tuscaloosa completed a dramatic rescue at dusk yesterday.

Only two German sailors were known to have been lost.

The survivors, including nine women, were due in New York harbor about 4 p. m. eastern standard time, after examination by immigration officials. If they are found to be bona fide merchant seamen, they can remain at liberty in the United States for 90 days.

It was reported that the liner was scuttled to elude the British fleet and possibly to avoid a British man-of-war which was hot on her wake, was

Nazi Liner Scuttled In American Neutrality Zone



The 32,581-ton German luxury liner Columbus, pictured here, was scuttled several hundred miles off the United States Atlantic coast Tuesday afternoon when overtaken by a British cruiser and threatened with capture as a prize of war.

New Embargo Laid By U. S. On Gasoline Of British Raked By German Planes

Moral Ban on Exports To "Certain Countries" Imposed by State Department; Done "In National Interest".

Washington, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The State Department laid down today a moral embargo on the export to "certain countries" of plans, plants, manufacturing rights or technical information for the production of high quality aviation gasoline.

Without naming any countries, the department announced that the embargo applies to countries the armed forces of which are engaged in unprovoked bombing or machine gunning of civilian populations from the air.

The announcement continued: "The department, after consultation with the War and Navy Departments, has decided that the national interest suggests that for the time being there should be no further delivery to certain countries of plans, plants, manufacturing rights or technical information required for the production of high quality aviation gasoline."

afame and sinking in the Atlantic while an American naval cruiser performed a dramatic rescue of her entire crew of 579.

London, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The Aberdeen trawler Star of Scotland was towed into port today with two of her crew dead as the result of machine gunning and bombing by German planes.

Two other fishing trawlers were unscathed during the raid, although one was attacked twice.

Captain Henry Noble, commander of one of the trawlers, said "one heavy bomb fell only ten feet from our bows; then gunners fired several hundred rounds at us, hitting our decks, but doing no damage."

The British press expressed indignation at Nazi attacks on small vessels, which the British identified as civilian fishing boats.

It was acknowledged, however, that two lost Monday were naval trawlers engaged in mine sweeping.

Philippines Floods Cause Many Deaths

Manila, P. I., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Heavy loss of life in Isabella and Cagayan provinces were predicted tonight as the result of flooding of the Cagayan river.

Hundreds were homeless. Much livestock was lost. There was heavy destruction of rice and tobacco crops in a wide area flooded by torrential rains which accompanied a typhoon.

The postmaster at Ilocos, Ilocos province, reported the flood may exceed the record inundation of 1936, in which hundreds were drowned. The Cagayan river is one largest in the Philippines.

The stricken district, northeast of Manila, practically was isolated. All communications had been cut. Red Cross units and government relief parties were rushed into the area.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(AP)—F. A. Silcox, 56, chief of the forest service, died tonight at his home in Alexandria, Va. He had been seriously ill of a heart disease for nearly a week.

Surviving are his widow, a son, five brothers and two sisters.

Helsinki, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Finnish officials announced tonight that scores of Russian tanks had been destroyed and more than 20 enemy planes shot down when the red army launched a "significant attack" with hundreds of tanks on the Karelian isthmus.

Ten tanks were destroyed behind the Finnish lines, authorities said, and several score within the Russian lines.

More than 200 airplanes participated in the attack, they added.

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Washington Offered Armed Aid To Eject Admiral Graf Spee

Brazil And Argentine Joined With United States in Extending Aid to Uruguay in Defending Neutrality Rights Sunday.

Montevideo, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Diplomatic sources of high authority disclosed today the United States, Argentina and Brazil had offered armed aid to Uruguay for execution of the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee.

The informant stated that in the last tense hours before the German raider acceded to Uruguay's demand for the ship's departure Sunday, the United States assumed a leading role in the firm stand taken by representatives of the Washington, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro governments in a meeting here.

The Admiral Graf Spee finally sailed out of Montevideo and was scuttled rather than again face the British warships it had battled last Wednesday.

It was explained that force, had its use been necessary, would have involved the American nations concerned in putting teeth into the neutrality declaration of the Panama conference, which on October 3 warned belligerents away from the coast of a wide belt reaching from Maine to Cape Horn, and back to Alaska.

Meanwhile, the British government asked the Uruguayan foreign ministry to investigate whether British warships had used gas shells in attacking the Admiral Graf Spee last Wednesday.

FORESTRY SERVICE DIRECTOR IS DEAD

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Surviving are his widow, a son, five brothers and two sisters.

Houston, Texas, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The Rice Institute committee on outdoor sports maintained a polite silence on the coaching situation today, other than to admit that Raymond (Bear) Wolf, of North Carolina, had been here for a discussion, then departed for Fort Worth.

Wolf is a Texas Christian product. The Tar Heel coach admitted he was interested in the position vacated by the committee last week with the release of Jimmie Kitts, but he declared "I'm happy in Carolina."

Paris, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Official French estimates today placed at more than fifty the number of German submarines sunk by the Allies since the war began September 3. The French estimated that when the war started, Germany had some 60 U-boats, and said that at least 12 had been accounted for by France's fast destroyer units.

The latest sinking was credited last night to the destroyer Siroco, which previously had sent two submarines to the bottom in one week.

Naval experts have said that they were destroying submarines at the rate of four a week, twice as fast as Germany's capacity to replace them.

(This is the sixteenth week of the war. If Germany had produced two submarines a week through last week, she should have added thirty to the sixty with which the British and French estimate she started the war. If 50 have been sunk, 40 would be left.)

French military sources said that French front line troops repulsed German raids yesterday between the Moselle river and the Vosges mountains. The strongest attack, they said, was broken up by artillery fire, which forced the Germans, estimated at about one company, to retire in confusion, abandoning arms and materials.

Langsdorff Kills Self In Argentine

He And Crew of Pocket Battleship Had Been Interned in Buenos Aires; Langsdorff Had Refused to Talk Further of Loss.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Captain Hans Langsdorff today shot himself to death "to share the fate of his magnificent ship", the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee, scuttled Sunday in the river Platte while an Allied jetilla stood off shore.

His body was found by an aide at 3:30 a. m., in his room at the Buenos Aires naval arsenal, where he and more than 1,000 of his crew had been interned since arriving here Monday.

Langsdorff killed himself after a three-hour talk with the officers of his staff, ending shortly after midnight. Before he left them, he made a complete circle of his comrades, shook hands gravely with each one, and retired to his room, asking that he not be disturbed, since he was tired.

"From the first moment, he made up his mind to share the fate of his magnificent ship," said a statement by the German Embassy, and

(Continued on Page Three.)

Below Zero Weather Is Aiding Finns

Russian Drive From Arctic Paralyzed by 25 Degrees Below; Finns Throw Soviets Back to Own Border On Karelian Isthmus.

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(Continued on Page Three.)

Langsdorff Had Great Personality

Buenos Aires, Dec. 20.—(AP)—A slight, alert sailor, Captain Hans Langsdorff made up in personality what he lacked in size.

He was the kind of a sea fighter who could sink nine merchant ships—the number attributed to the Graf Spee before her raiding was ended by last week's naval battle—and then declare with delight that he was thankful no loss of life had resulted from the sinkings.

One of his enemies in the war at sea had this to say to him: There is no mercy from Langsdorff when he has fighting to do, but when he is not fighting he is a fine gentleman."

It was Captain Patrick Dove, captain of the tiny British tanker Africa Snell, who said it. Dove knew, for he spent three months as an enforced "guest" aboard the Graf Spee after the Africa Shell was sunk.

German Ship May Remain In Florida

Freighter Arauca, Chased in By British Cruiser at Fort Lauderdale Fears to Venture Out Again; May Be Interned.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Dec. 20.—(AP)—A representative of the Hamburg-American Line was en route to Fort Lauderdale today to decide the fate of the German freighter Arauca, which took refuge in Port Everglades harbor yesterday after eluding a British cruiser.

The freighter's master, Captain Frederick Stenger, had assurance

(Continued on Page Three)

Brown's Fear Of Death Is Told At His Funeral

New York, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The May of Heywood Brown's conversion to the Roman Catholic faith, a dramatic account of the columnist's fear of death, and his craving for spiritual peace, was recited at his funeral in St. Patrick's cathedral today by the priest who baptized him there on May 26.

For half an hour after the solemnity of requiem had been sung, Monsignor Fulton A. Sheen spoke to the thousands of Brown's friends and admirers who filled the big church to the doors.

He disclosed that Brown received the name of Matthew when he was baptized, that he was the first person in the New York arch diocese

to be confirmed by the recently-elevated Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, and that on his deathbed last week he received the papal blessings from Pope Pius XII. He revealed among other things:

Brown's bitter disillusionment a month after his conversion at the "illiberal attitude" of "so many of my liberal friends, who spoke eloquently of freedom and would deny it to me."

"I have never, in all my life," Monsignor Sheen said, "met any one who gave me such an idea of what our Lord's love for mankind means. I have never seen a man who so loved his fellowmen; never seen such a great passion as his for mankind."

(Continued on Page Three)



Herbert Hoover

By CHARLES P. STEWART Central Press Columnist

(Continued on Page Three)

Weather

Partly cloudy and colder tonight; Thursday fair, colder in east portion.

3 SHOPPING DAYS TILL Christmas