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British Shipping Is Hard Hit

Defense Spending Doubles In Five Months

Rate Is Far Behind That Budgeted

November Military Expenses for War and Navy Departments Total \$365,233,578; Congressional Probe of Spending Indicated.

Dec. 3.—(AP)—The rate today that defense spending is being made more than double in five months of the year, according to a report by the House committee on appropriations today.

The committee reported that the rate of spending for the first five months of the year was \$1,242,394,933, or 83 percent of the \$1,500,000,000 budgeted for this fiscal year.

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As Camacho Took Office



General Manuel Avila Camacho is shown (top) making his inaugural address as President of Mexico. He placed his republic beside the U. S. and all other American nations in the common cause of hemisphere defense. Pictured (lower) listening to the speech are (left to right) U. S. Vice President-elect Henry A. Wallace, U. S. Ambassador to Mexico Josephus Daniels and Don Francisco Castillo Najera, Mexico's ambassador to Washington.

Roosevelt To Embark At Miami

Official Secrecy Shrouds Details of Trip for Rest, Fish, and Information on Defenses of Panama Canal and Coasts.

Miami, Dec. 3.—(AP)—President Roosevelt boarded the cruiser Tuscaloosa today and embarked into the Caribbean with little idea, he said, where the voyage might take him.

He indicated, however, that the trip had a serious purpose by telling a press conference that there would be very little fishing.

He did not confirm or deny that he might inspect sites for naval and air bases acquired from England or that he might show up at an exercise of units of the Atlantic patrol squadron and marines near Puerto Rico.

Aboard Roosevelt Train En Route to Miami, Dec. 3.—(AP)—President Roosevelt rode down the Atlantic seaboard toward Miami today to sail into the Caribbean in search of rest, fish and information on defenses vital to the protection of the Panama Canal and segments of the North and South American coasts.

The cruiser Tuscaloosa waited at Miami with two escort destroyers to take him on a trip whose details still were an official secret.

There was little expectation that the President would make a systematic checkup on all the South Atlantic and Caribbean sites for naval and air bases acquired from Great Britain. But it was understood he might inspect some of them. And there was a possibility that he might turn up for maneuvers of units of the Atlantic patrol force near Puerto Rico next week.

Speculation on the first site which the Chief Executive might look over center on Jamaica, where a fleet anchorage is to be established.

While there has been nothing more than rumors that war vessels of European belligerents have been operating in the Caribbean and South Atlantic special precaution were ordered.

Saved as U. S. Ship Hit Mine



Overjoyed to be safe ashore again, these sailors of the American freighter City of Rouelle are pictured in San Francisco. Their ship, first U. S. vessel to be sunk in the war, struck a mine off Australia. One man of the crew of 38 was lost.

Airlines Release Engines To Army

Consignment of Engines Already Delivered to Airlines Makes Possible Completion of Unspecified Number of Planes.

Washington, Dec. 3.—(AP)—The army's warplane program got an immediate boost today in the form of some badly needed aircraft engines.

The nation's air transport lines agreed to turn over to the air corps a consignment of new engines ordered some time ago for commercial use and already delivered.

The commercial flying firms also agreed to release to the military service during 1941 approximately \$7,500,000 worth of equipment which the airlines had ordered with a view of expanding their services.

The development was in line with President Roosevelt's recently expressed intention to speed up the production of military aircraft.

At least Three Deaths Attributed to Freezing Air Mass Moving Eastward.

A cold wave sped through the middle west today, leaving in its wake at least three dead, creating hazards on highways and city streets, and driving the mercury down to all time low readings for the date in several communities.

Britain Orders 60 Ships Built In U. S.

Shipbuilding Minister Ronald H. Cross informed the House of Commons today that Britain had placed orders for construction of 60 cargo vessels in the United States and in addition would continue to purchase serviceable American ships.

Cross assured the House that "everything possible is being done to get ships" to meet the menace of Axis raids on shipping.

Old but serviceable United States vessels, including vessels belonging to the maritime commission, have been and will continue to be purchased for the British flag as opportunity offers, Cross said.

Deputy Leader Clement Attlee, answering a question, said he was not aware of any proposal for either definite or implied union with the British flag.

London, Dec. 3.—(AP)—Shipping Minister Ronald H. Cross informed the House of Commons today that Britain had placed orders for construction of 60 cargo vessels in the United States and in addition would continue to purchase serviceable American ships.

Cross assured the House that "everything possible is being done to get ships" to meet the menace of Axis raids on shipping.

U. S. Pilots Fly Planes To Britain

Baltimore, Dec. 3.—(AP)—Forty American pilots are making regular mass deliveries of American bombers to England without molestation from German nazis, one of them disclosed today, and are taking the ships across the icy North Atlantic at high altitude in approximately ten hours.

George R. Hutchinson asserted that regular deliveries had been made since early November and that none of the pilots had encountered German opposition.

Seven high speed Lockheed-Hudson bombers were delivered in the first flight last month, he said. His

Train Collision In Spain Fatal To Large Number

Zaragoza, Spain, Dec. 3.—(AP)—Fifty-three bodies were reported taken today from the wreckage of two express trains that collided at a way station between Madrid and Barcelona, and it was feared the toll might go even higher.

The accident occurred during the coldest weather of the season. Some victims, weakened with loss of blood, were reported to have perished from cold. The accident was declared due to failure to throw a switch.

Running at top speed, the express from Barcelona to the capital was reported to have plowed into the waiting express from Madrid at the Veilla de Ebro station, overturning one locomotive and splintering wooden cars.

Weather FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Fair and colder; hard freeze in interior tonight; Wednesday fair and continued cold.

North Carolina's Gas Tax Collections In November Reach Record For All Time

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENRY AVERILL

18 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT
TO BUY CANDY FOR ANNE
BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

Nazis Claim 18 Merchant Ships Sunk

Suggestion of Christmas Truce Turned Down By Churchill Last Week; Other War News Includes Report of Greek Drive.

(By The Associated Press) Avoid German claims of inflicting the greatest wholesale destruction of British shipping in the war—18 vessels torpedoed by Nazi U-boats yesterday—London officials said today.

The London ministry of information said 327,157 tons of shipping was sunk during the four weeks ending November 24 and compared this with the 881,000 tons sunk during April, 1917, when Kaiser Wilhelm's unrestricted U-boat attacks reached their peak.

Even as his appeal went out, the Germans announced that Nazi U-boats yesterday sank 18 ships totaling 148,247 tons and probably two others totaling 16,000 tons in slashing inroads on Britain's vital seaborne commerce.

The pope asked the belligerents to call a Christmas truce "spontaneously or by mutual accord" so that "new bloodshed may not disturb or miserably extinguish the heavenly joy of that hour."

Only last week Winston Churchill rejected a suggestion in the British House of Commons that an attempt be made to arrange a Christmas truce.

British Admit Sinkings. The London admiralty acknowledged that 22 merchant ships totaling 87,975 tons were sunk by enemy action in the week ending November 24—or 21,000 tons above the weekly average since the start of the war.

"It is a serious menace," a British naval spokesman admitted, "but as a nation we can take knocks."

RAF Raids. British bombers in far-reaching night raids struck at Naples, on the Italian west coast, Augusta, Italian naval base in Sicily, and pounded the German U-boat base of Lorient.

Advances on Left Wing Paces New Gains All Along Albanian Battlefield. Athens, Dec. 3.—(AP)—The Greek left wing reported to have smashed past Porto Edda, was said today to be pacing wide new gains all along the battlefield and threatening to engulf the last Italian fighting force in southern Albania.

Greensboro Gets Piedmont League Baseball Outfit

Dec. 3.—(AP)—Officers of the Rocky Mount in the league will be made up of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Wage-Hour Law Protest Group of Southern Mills File Brief With Supreme Court, Contesting Legality.

Dec. 3.—(AP)—An amendment of a Federal Administration order of 22.5 cents for textile workers is being made today in a "good will" move by the Supreme court.

Group of Southern Mills File Brief With Supreme Court, Contesting Legality.