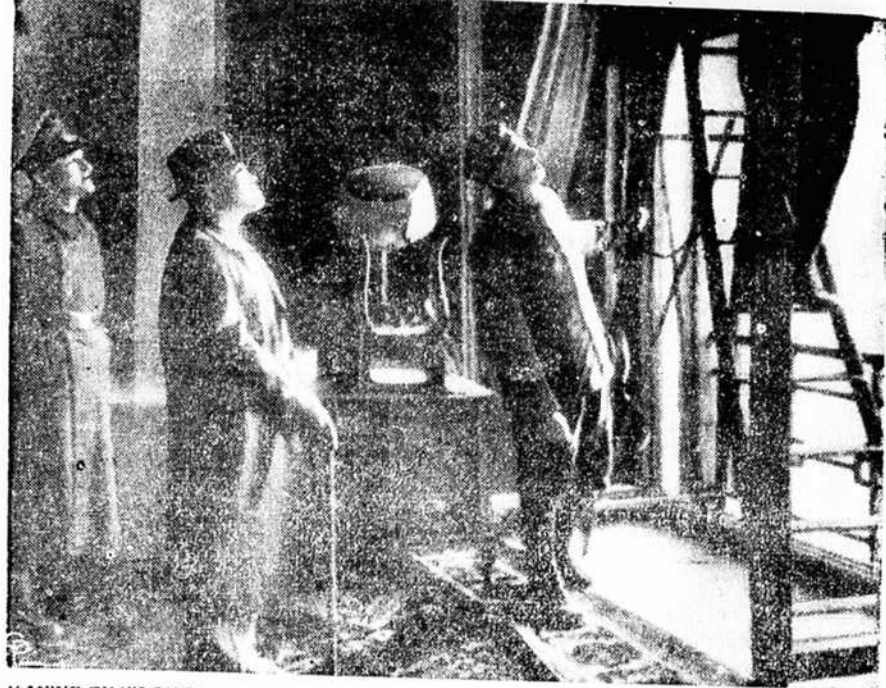


75 DEAD IN ACL WRECK

17 Cargo Ships Sunk By Germans

Fast Streamliners Pile Up After One Derails At 1 A. M.

AFTER RAF CALL ON JAP EMBASSY IN BERLIN



LEANING ON HIS CANE for some needed support, Jap ambassador to Germany Oshima looks over the damage to his embassy after the recent RAF blitz on the German capital. Two Nazi soldiers help to remove some of the shattered masonry as a military attaché leads what moral support he can to Hirohito's harassed helper. This is an exclusive photo radioed from Stockholm to New York. (International)

Attacks On Convoy In Italy Harbor

One of Worst Blows Yet by the Germans On Allied Shipping

Washington, Dec. 16—(AP)—About 30 German bombers, making a surprise raid on the Allied supply port of Bari, Italy, sank a total of 17 United Nations merchant ships within a few minutes.

The story of the Allied loss, one of the worst single blows taken by United Nations ships, was established today on unopposed authority.

The raid occurred about two weeks ago.

The German bombers came flying very low and very fast, over the Bari area just at dawn. They caught the city's defenses entirely by surprise as frequently happens in an air attack made at dangerously low levels.

The raiders were not interested in port installations as much as in the ships in harbor. A convoy apparently had arrived only a day or so before and the work of unloading ships had been going forward at top speed. But some of the vessels had become completely empty, others had discharged portions of their cargoes.

In all, there were about 30 big merchant ships in harbor, possibly a few more or a few less.

The attack lasted only a few minutes. When it was over, harbor shipping was a wreck and 17 merchant vessels lay useless on the bottom of Bari harbor.

The raid, so far as could be established here, did not have any extremely disruptive effects on Allied strategy in Italy.

The Eighth Army suffered badly in supplies for two or three days, but rapidly recouped its supply position. The more significant was in the loss in shipping and the harbor clearance work made necessary at Bari.

One of the main difficulties with the defenses at Bari appeared to have been that they were weak in fighter planes. The British air

May Wed Soon



PRINCESS Elizabeth of England, heiress to the throne, who will be 18 in April, may have a husband chosen for her when she reaches her official majority within a few months, according to well-informed persons in London. It is rumored that the future king consort may be either Hugh Fitzroy, 21, Earl of Euston, or Charles Mansel, also 21, the tenth Duke of Rutland. (International)

Wreck Occurs in Frigid Temperatures Near Lumberton, With Trains Crowded

Lumberton, Dec. 16—(AP)—Two crack passenger trains of the Atlantic Coast Line piled up in a double wreck at Bute, a hamlet in southeast North Carolina, early today and witnesses at the scene at dawn said "scores" were killed.

Prefers This Rank



A FORMER Michigan state senator, Pfc. Harry Glass of Grand Rapids, Mich., is putting the broom to good use as orderly with the U. S. 5th Air Force in New Guinea. He says he would rather be an enlisted man than an officer, adding, "after this thing is over, we'll be in the majority." (International)

The streamliner *Tamiami*, west coast champion, southbound from New York to Tampa, partially derailed at about 1 a. m. eastern war time, survivors reported.

A few minutes later, the "Tamiami" east coast champion, bound from Miami to New York, plowed through the wreckage which had spilled over on the parallel double-track line.

Meagre reports were made to the 300th and 400th transportation sections, by witnesses who talked to survivors.

Highways to the scene were sheathed in snow and ice and one Atlantic Coast Line agent said that lines of communication were down. First reports said that the three east coast coaches of the southbound train were derailed, precipitating the whole accident.

Passengers in the front coaches said they did not even know there had been an accident until the northbound train crashed into the derailed cars.

The Atlantic Coast Line office at Rocky Mount, 100 miles from Bute, said it was informed that about 75 persons were killed on one train and one person on the other.

Atlantic Coast Line general headquarters in Wilmington said nine cars of the northbound train were derailed.

All the cars on both trains were of all-steel construction, the office said.

Dr. S. W. Fleming, of Highsmith Hospital, Fayetteville, who arrived at the scene at 3 a. m., and administered first aid for 150 hours, said he believed there were "at least fifty dead." He said rescue workers still had not rescued one car when he left the scene at 8:30 a. m. He declined to estimate the number of injured.

About fifty injured were admitted to Highsmith hospital, twelve of them civilians. Blood plasma was given some of those most seriously hurt.

The conductor of the northbound train said travel was heavy, that he had 250 passengers in three coaches.

Dr. Fleming said both were long trains, estimating each had at least 15 cars.

The Rocky Mount office disclosed the engineer on the northbound train No. 8, was Frank Belknap, and that William Myers was the engineer on southbound No. 91. Both are from Rocky Mount.

One witness at the scene at 2 a. m., said "scores" were killed.

Twenty-five injured were packed into two Lumberton hospitals at 9 a. m.

In a statement on the cause of the wreck, C. G. Staley, vice president, said of the railway's headquarters in Wilmington.

"Investigation disclosed that the cause of the derailment of the three

(Continued on Page Three)

Fight Upon Rail Wages Is Renewed

Bill Major Threat To Stabilization, Vinson Tells Group

Washington, Dec. 16—(AP)—Economic Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson today reiterated his belief that the proposed general eight cents an hour pay boost for the nation's non-operating railroad workers constituted a major threat to the wartime wage and price stabilization program.

He told the House Interstate Commerce Committee that every consideration of president Roosevelt, at the separation of powers, of general legislative policy, or constitutional propriety, of economic wisdom, and, above all, of equal justice under law, dictates the rejection of the unprecedented proposal, and added:

"Only a misunderstanding of the

Service Vote Issue May Enter In 1944 Campaign

War Casualties Now Are 131,098, Statistics Show

Washington, Dec. 16—(AP)—The latest casualty total of the armed forces of the United States stands at 131,098.

Secretary of War Stimson said today that from the start of the war to November 30, Army casualties in all theatres totaled 98,594. Of these, 15,331 were killed, 55,019 wounded, 25,725 missing and 24,486 were prisoners of war.

The latest Navy total, covering reports received up to today, is 32,501, divided as follows: 15,983 killed, 5,868 wounded, 8,106 missing and 1,247 prisoners.

Of the 35,019 Army wounded, Stimson said, 18,011 have been returned to duty or released from hospitals.

Dealings For Stocks Slow

New York, Dec. 16—(AP)—Diverse price movements continued to check the stock market today.

Generally lower tendencies prevailed at the start and few recoveries were in evidence near the month's hour. Dealings were relatively slow.

American Distilling and Park & Tilford ran up as much as five points after the opening, but the former eventually slipped.

Casualties included U. S. Steel, American Telephone, Douglas Aircraft and Chrysler. Canada Dry hit a new 1943 high.

Bonds and commodities were mixed.

Churchill Ill Of Pneumonia In Mid-East

London, Dec. 16—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill, who marked his 65th birthday while attending the three-power Teheran conference, is suffering a "mild case of pneumonia in the left lung," Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee told the House of Commons today.

Attlee indicated that Churchill is now recuperating in the Middle East. A bulletin issued at No. 10 Downing Street, Churchill's official residence, which gave the first indication of the prime minister's illness, said:

"His general condition is as satisfactory as can be expected."

That is the second attack of pneumonia suffered by Churchill in less than a year.

The prime minister was reported suffering with a heavy cold, with temperature more than 100, when he sailed from London to attend the conference with President Roosevelt, Marshal Stalin and Marshal Chiang Kai-shek and President Inonu of Turkey.

On his arrival in Cairo, his cold became worse and the prime minister had lost his voice, but in a day or so found his arduous labors.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden commented that he had never seen even the hard-working Churchill exert himself so much in a day and night as at the Teheran and Cairo conferences, where he helped by the party as a transatlantic aerialist on Ger-

Brenner Is Hit By U. S. Big Bombers

Smashing Blows Upon Communications Lines Reported by Allies

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 16—(AP)—Strong forces of American 15th Air Force bombers struck three smashing blows yesterday at German Brenner Pass communications, one of them a heavy attack on Innsbruck, in Austria, it was announced today.

An air communication said forces of heavy bombers, escorted by fighters, made an "accurate and concentrated attack" on the railway junction at Innsbruck, 35 miles south of Munich; Bolzano, about 46 miles below the Brenner Pass, and an Aesei river viaduct near Bolzano.

The communications and all the attacks were "very effective."

In the ground fighting in Italy, the Fifth Army captured an important hill, while the British Eighth Army made progress in stiff fighting in the vicinity of Cassino, some 15 miles inland from the Anagnino. Heavy fighting was said to be still in progress near Ortonovo.

Headquarters at a dispatch to London, said the Eighth Army had reached the Ostia road in three places, and said that the town of Bracciano, near San Leonardo, north of the Tiber river, had been captured.

Fifth Army patrols captured a number of prisoners, the official announcement said, adding that valuable information was obtained.

Headquarters announced that since the start of the Sangro river battle November 17, the Eighth

Cotton Prices Rather Mixed

New York, Dec. 16—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to ten cents a bale higher. Noon values were 25 cents a bale lower to 20 cents higher, December 19.59, March 19.61, May 19.43.

	Previous Close	Open
December	19.61	19.59
March	19.63	19.61
May	19.42	19.44
July	19.21	19.23
October (new)	19.02	19.00

Paper Boys Will Collect Double

The newspaper carrier boys of the Henderson Daily Dispatch in the city and vicinity plan to make double collection from subscribers on their routes this week-end, collecting for the week ending December 25 as well as the current week. This is being done in order that the boys may have Christmas day as a holiday.

Your co-operation will enable the young men who deliver your papers to have a more enjoyable Christmas season and will be greatly appreciated by the carrier organization.

Reds Again Go On Offensive

Moscow, Dec. 16—(AP)—General Nikolai Vatutin's first Ukrainian army has gone over to the offensive for the second time this week in the battle of the Kiev bulge, and in a series of swift counter attacks has driven the Germans from several strong points along the Terpy river salient, 65 miles west of the Ukrainian capital, Marshal Manstein's powerful armored divisions were unable to withstand the concentrated artillery fire from the Russian position, field dispatches said.

Red army gains, aided by Stormochn

7 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

Get your jump on Santa!

Buy Christmas Seals

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Bombing Of Jap Base Is New Record

Southwest Pacific Allied Headquarters, Dec. 16—(AP)—A record 310-ton bombing which derailed the Japanese base at Araxe, on the southwest coast of New Britain, was reported by General Douglas MacArthur today.

For seven hours Tuesday more than 100 Liber, B-29 Superfortresses and B-24 bombers and B-25 bombers blasted at two points in the biggest Allied aerial attack ever staged in the southwest Pacific.

Without interference in the air and but little from the ground fire, the planes also swept the enemy with 174,000 machine gun bullets. The bombs were concentrated in an ammunition plant, west of Araxe village and on islands at the harbor entrance.

Many fires were observed and the devastation of barges, of stores, and among enemy personnel was widespread. All our planes returned.

Tuesday's raid on Araxe, with the absence of enemy interception, which has been widely noted of late, emphasized claims of Allied air superiority in this theater.

7700 less bombs weight but no less freedom of the air, 16 planes of A-19 and William S. Halley's command in the Southwest Pacific pounded Japanese supply points and ground defenses on Bougainville island in the Solomons, where Americans have established an air strip on Empress Augusta bay, only 250 miles southeast of Rabaul.

In 200 sorties the Solomons fliers shot 150 tons of bombs, mainly on the Bougainville area on the north coast of Bougainville. The Japanese did not send up even one plane.

A spokesman at Hq's headquarters declared that the Japanese position on Bougainville, which was reported garrisoned by 40,000 enemy troops, is deteriorating steadily.

Eye Witness Tells About Rail Tragedy

Fayetteville, S. C., Dec. 16—(AP)—A passenger on one of the two wrecked Atlantic Coast Line trains smashed together at Bute, N. C., today, told how an expectant mother with both legs mangled held up bravely until aid arrived and how a navy captain did heroic rescue work.

"I was a passenger on the Tampa, west coast champion, southbound to Tampa, Fla., which derailed at about 1:10 a. m.," said William Wood, publisher of Small Goods Guide Magazine, inhart in the wreck.

Captain P. W. Allen, of the Navy, Wilmington, D. C., and I took charge of helping the injured and trying to reach the dead. We got blankets from the Pullman cars and hot coffee and whiskey from the diner and they made fires on the snow-covered ground.

"Captain Allen did some heroic work. Through State highway patrol radio we reached Robert Somers at Lumberton, who brought ambulances to get out the dead."

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Fair and continued cold to night; lowest temperature 12 to 14 in east and central portions; Friday fair and continued cold.