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## YANKS TAKE NEW BRITAIN PENINSULA AREA

### Final Wreck Deaths Now Placed At 80 By Red Cross Heads

Bong! 21 Zeros



CAPT. RICHARD I. BONG of Poplar, Wis., a U. S. Air Force fighter pilot, has downed 21 Jap planes and six probables in the southwest Pacific theatre. He has been on 146 missions and has 265 hours of combat flying to his credit. Air Force photo. (International Soundphoto)

### Traffic Is Resumed Over ACL Main Line As Dead Are Hunted

Lumberton, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The task of extricating mangled dead from the wreckage of two Atlantic Coast Line trains which collided near here early Thursday sped forward today and the Red Cross estimated that the final death toll might mount to 80. Upwards of 50 others were injured.

Heavy military police and wrecking crews tugged at debris with a winch-equipped truck and tore through the smashed railway cars, recovering parts of bodies and pulling out blood-soaked clothing. The wreckage was shoved off the tracks and traffic was resumed over the Atlantic Coast Line's double track main line yesterday.

The number of known dead was reported by the Red Cross at 70 yesterday—17 service men and 23 civilians—but later the Red Cross said possibly ten more are still in one car.

The War Department announced from Washington last night the names of 25 soldiers killed, but was unable to say if the list was complete. The Red Cross identified a dozen civilian dead and the task of identifying others continued slowly.

Six more bodies—three sailors, two soldiers and one WAVE—were taken from the wreck before the tracks were cleared.

Relatives of those killed flocked to Lumberton and Stoner J. Crane, Red Cross disaster director there, said help was being provided them in identifying the dead, and in necessary cases financial aid was being given to enable transportation of the dead to their homes for burial.

Meanwhile, C. G. Sibley, vice president of the railroad, said at the road's general offices in Wilmington that a formal investigation will be held to develop the facts with respect to the action of the crews of both trains.

### FDR Foresees Peace In Our Time Likely

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Peace for this generation at least may evolve from the Cairo-Teheran conference, said President Roosevelt, back at his White House desk today after a 26-day 25,000 mile trip that was speeded, to say the least, by a treat to his personal safety.

The President got to Washington at 9:30 a. m. yesterday, promptly met with congressional leaders, representatives of the British, Chinese, Turkish, Iranian and Egyptian governments and his cabinet.

Meeting the press after this, Mr. Roosevelt revealed why he moved to the Russian embassy in Teheran, Iran, for his talks with Stalin and Churchill.

Stalin, he said, warned him that there was a Nazi plot afoot against all three Allied leaders. By moving, Mr. Roosevelt explained, it was possible for them to communicate without walking the streets because the British embassy was next door to the Russian headquarters.

### CORN CROP EXCEEDS 3 BILLION BUSHELS

Washington, Dec. 17.—(AP)—The agriculture department reported today that this year's bumper corn crop totals 3,076,159,000 bushels and the country's wheat crop is 836,298,000 bushels.

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Liquor and taxes, which started out as a separate congressional problem, turned out to be twins in the Senate today. A two-nisted floor fight, affecting both, unfolded.

The link setting up the promised strap was established this way:

The Senate Finance Committee adopted a new tax bill to yield \$2,264,000,000 more next year, less than a fifth of what the Treasury asked.

A special committee investigating the liquor shortage found that 117,000,000 gallons were stored in warehouses waiting to be eight years old, when Federal taxes can be imposed. So sentiment arose for taxing the whiskey at the age of four years, on the theory this would release much of it for the parched public, and at the same time provide an extra billion dollars to finance the gigantic war cost.

5 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT. Buy Christmas Seals.

### Threat From South Is Not Dissipated

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Threats by anti-New Deal Democratic southern congressmen to form a third party have been shrugged off by the political prophets here, but—

Although such a third party may not appear, nevertheless the threats were made and behind the threats reasons that ran deep and away back.

The suggestion by Senator Smith of South Carolina, and Senator Bailey, of North Carolina, that southerners, form a separate Democratic party in the South, with Senator Byrd, Virginia, as the presidential candidate, was not a sudden, unimpromptu outburst.

Almost a year ago Governors Sam Jones of Louisiana and Frank Dixon of Alabama called for a third party, although Jones said then that the South would not vote Republican.

Following are some of their main expressed complaints against the administration:

1. Efforts to eliminate from those southern states which still have it the poll tax as a prerequisite of voting.

2. Failure to adjust freight rates to the satisfaction of the southerners who say the present rates discriminate against their section and retard southern industrial expansion.

3. Attempts to settle the South's long-standing social problem by forcing racial equality between whites and Negroes.

### Liquor And Taxes Twin Problem Now

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### Beautiful But Deadly -- 68 U. S. Bombers Off To Bremen



ONE OF THE MOST BREATHTAKING photos to emerge from the war is this aerial view of 68 Flying Fortresses (B-17) and Liberators (B-24) of the Army Eighth Air Force as they fill the sky high over Germany. Their destination is the important shipyards at Bremen and they are part of the largest aerial force the United States has ever sent into action. The ghostly trails of vapor emerging from the bombers are the result of condensation which results when exhaust gases encounter the cold air found at high altitudes. Army Air Force photo. (International)

## Americans Closing On Nazis

### Russians Are Circling Big Industrial Center

London, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Troops of General Ivan Konev's second Ukraine armies have strengthened their encirclement of the industrial city of Kirovograd, killing 800 counter-attacking Germans, Moscow announced today as Nazis sources reported new and heavy fighting in White Russia. Capture of Kirovograd would seriously menace the German garrison at Krivoi Rog, principal source of manganese for Germany's war machine. The Germans have held to this vital mining center for months, hurling back repeated Red army frontal attacks.

### Defeat For Japs In China Is Decisive

Army Air Force Headquarters in China, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Major General Claire L. Chennault, commander of the U. S. 14th Air Force, declared today the Japanese "have been decisively defeated in their drive into Free China's rice bowl," area, and are now attempting to extricate about 10,000 troops from the Tungting late battle area.

"I believe our planes inflicted considerable casualties on the enemy in addition to holding up the withdrawal of the invaders by bombing the towns through which they passed," Chennault said.

"If their object was to loot the rice harvest, we know a lot which they sized has been sunk by air attack on boats. We still are trying to prevent them from getting out the rice. I feel very much elated that the Japs have been decisively defeated in the Chennault operations. The campaign demonstrates again that Japanese ground troops are unable to penetrate any great distance into the interior of China. The greatest penetration did not exceed 100 miles, and the Japanese were unable to hold their positions at that distance."

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Fair to partly cloudy and slightly warmer tonight and Sunday. Lowest temperature tonight, 20 to 25 in latter part; near freezing on coast.

### Yugoslavs Now On Counter Offensive On Three Fronts

London, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Yugoslav partisan troops have gone over to the counter-offensive in three sectors, seizing the initiative after breaking the heaviest German assault yet launched against the liberated territory, it was announced today.

### 3 Prisoners Beat Guard And Escape

Releigh, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Three long-term prisoners escaped from the Jackson county prison camp near Whittier about 12:30 a. m. today, attacking and severely injuring a prison guard, State Prison Director Oscar Pitts reported today.

### 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.

### Only Slim Corridor Of Escape Left for Enemy at San Pietro

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 18.—(AP)—A Fifth Army pincers movement closed in today on the heavily fortified village of San Pietro, seven miles south of Cassino, as the Eighth Army reported capture or destruction of 15 German tanks in a series of armored battles on the other side of the peninsula.

### Some Stocks Are Stronger

New York, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Liquor suffered from a slight profit-taking hang-over in today's stock market, but scattered firm impulses, rails and specialties exhibited a fair amount of strength.

### Churchill Guides War Plan Despite Serious Illness

London, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill's pulse was reported irregular but his temperature subsiding in a bulletin issued from No. 10 Downing Street, his official residence, today.

### Rail Men Confer With FDR Sunday On Strike Issues

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Railroad leaders and heads of the five operating brotherhoods will meet with President Roosevelt in Washington tomorrow in an effort to avert a nationwide strike ordered to start December 30.

### Quick Action On Mustering Pay Demanded

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Representative Rankin, Mississippi Democrat, introduced today in the House a bill that he would oppose any adjournment of Congress over the Christmas holidays until the House passes a bill to provide mustering out pay for veterans of World War II.

### Cotton Lower Around Noon

New York, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to 15 cents a bale lower.

### Americans Expanding Positions

### Air Control Seized By American Fliers Over Wide District

General MacArthur's Headquarters, New Guinea, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Troops of the United States Sixth Army have occupied the entire Cape Meritis peninsula in the Araweke sector of New Britain island, and are continuing to advance, General MacArthur's headquarters announced tonight.

This gave the invasion forces, which landed four days ago complete control of the three-mile neck of land flanking the Araweke harbor on the southwest coast of the island.

The peninsula, together with the off-lying Pileles island, which was overrun the first day of the attack, were described as the prime initial objective of the seaborne strike against Japanese occupation of New Britain, their major base in the southwest Pacific area.

"Our force near Araweke continues to expand its position, though no distinct battle line has been established," a headquarters spokesman said.

On the second southwest Pacific land front across the Vitiaz strait, Australians pressed further northward along the shore of the Hun peninsula of New Guinea and maintained contact with the enemy north of the Sanga river.

On the Solomon approach to Rabaul, Admiral William F. Halsey reported 230 more sorties by planes which monopolized the skies over Bougainville.

Far to the northeast of the Solomons, Seventh Army air force Liberators raided the mid-Pacific Marshalls, 300 miles from the American-held Gilberts for the eighth straight day.

Northwest of Australia, Liberators made a round trip flight of more than 2,500 miles to hit Japanese oil refineries at Balikpapan on Borneo.

These operations, from Borneo to the Marshalls, extended over an ocean area of roughly 4,000 miles.

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The Senate yesterday approved by unanimous vote a bill calling for discharge pay ranging from \$200 to \$500. Rankin expressed hope the House would agree to take up this bill by unanimous consent.

Senator McFarland, Alabama Democrat, joined with Senator Maybank, South Carolina Democrat, in introducing a World War II bonus bill for twice the compensation paid veterans after the last war, said he had been promised an early hearing by the Senate Finance Committee.

This bill would provide each veteran with a bond, cashable within three years after its issuance, allowing \$2 for each day of service in the armed forces in this country, with a maximum of \$1,000, and \$2.50 daily for overseas service, with a maximum of \$1,250.

The recipient veteran could draw a periodic amount monthly for educational purposes, for purchase of a home or farm, or for an industrial venture, or set the whole sum in cash after three years. He also could hold the bond until its ten-year maturity.

The bonus would be in addition to the proposed mustering out allowance.

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Table with 3 columns: Month, Price, Change. March 19.54, May 19.30, July 19.09, October (new) 18.39.