

FDR Offers To Arbitrate Rail Issue

Offers His Services With Understanding Both Sides Accept Washington, Dec. 23—(AP)—President Roosevelt today offered to arbitrate the wage dispute between the railroads and the operating brotherhoods...

A joint committee of railroad management and representatives of the operating brotherhoods—with a strike deadline a week away—reported to President Roosevelt today they had been unable to reach an agreement on the workers' wage demands.

The carriers are now understood to be willing to concede something under the heading of vacations but it falls short of the brotherhoods' demands. The carriers' first offer was four cents an hour in addition to the four cents recommended by an emergency board...

Many Fliers Of Forts Are War Prisoners

Washington, Dec. 23—(AP)—The War Department announced today that of 581 air crew members reported missing when 60 Flying Fortresses were lost in the heavy bombing of industrial plants at Schweinfurt, Germany, 346 are alive as prisoners of war.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA Partly cloudy and colder tonight with temperatures 12 to 17 north and west portion, and 17 to 22 southeast portions.

War Veterans May Choose Work, Declares McNutt

Washington, Dec. 23—(AP)—Manpower Chairman Paul V. McNutt, declaring that returning veterans must be given "every possible assistance" made it clear today that honorably discharged servicemen don't have to take war jobs if they don't want to.

YANKS CHRISTMAS IN ITALY



AMERICAN field artillerymen, grouped around a tiny artificial Christmas tree somewhere in Italy, open their holiday presents from home.

Senate Body Influenced By Budget Bureau Slash

Washington, Dec. 23—(AP)—The Senate Finance Committee said today its decision to seek less than one-fourth of the additional revenue demanded by the Treasury in the new tax bill was "influenced" by the budget bureau's action in cutting \$11,000,000,000 off estimates of the current year's deficit.

Eventually reporting the \$2,755,000,000 increase during Congress' holiday recess, the committee asserted that the widely discussed "inflationary gap" is likely to be reduced by a tapering off in war material orders and increased production for civilian use.

Dismissing the Treasury's request for a bill that would bring in \$10,300,000,000 additional, the report declared: "Your committee was not convinced that a sum as great as proposed by the Treasury could equitably be raised at this time in the manner suggested by the Treasury."

Stocks Headed By Aircraft

New York, Dec. 23—(AP)—Aircraft and chemicals moved up in today's stock market. Except for American Ditching which dipped about four points, price changes either way were in small fractions near the fourth hour. Dealings were slow from the start.

Modest improvement was recorded for Douglas Aircraft, U. S. Steel and Sears-Roebuck. In arrears were American States Rubber, Bethlehem, American C. & N. and Chrysler.

About 100,000 now are being discharged every month. The same freedom of choice continues for 60 days after the veteran has accepted his first civilian job. In other words, if he doesn't like the first job, he has the privilege, for 60 days, of seeking other work.

Fighting In Ortona Continues

Bitter Fighting in Adriatic Port for Third Straight Day

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 23—(AP)—Eighth Army tanks and infantry fought bitterly in the streets of Ortona for the third straight day with German forces who were turning the tiny Adriatic port into a miniature Stalingrad.

The systematic cleanup of pillboxes around San Vittore, a heavily fortified village five miles south of Casimo, continued, but there was no indication that a full scale attack had yet been launched on the strong positions guarding the road to Rome.

The German Tenth Army threw new parachute troops into the battle in a desperate effort to retain its hold of the main road leading north to Pescara, the Germans' main supply line to troops inland as well as along the coast.

Nazi forces launched a small night attack on the Eighth Army positions at St. Angelo in the central mountains, but were repulsed. Although air activity in western Italy was greatly reduced by the weather, fighters patrolled the Adriatic and shot up a schooner and radio station near Zara on the Yugoslav coast and bombers supported the attack near Orsogna.

Jap Centers In Burma Hit

New Delhi, Dec. 23—(AP)—In widespread land and air fighting, American and British forces have successfully attacked Japanese rail and communications centers in Burma, a communique of the Allied Southeast Asian command announced today.

Action ranged from the Sittoung area in northern Burma down through the middle Chin hills and the Arakan front to Prome and Lomaya in central and southern Burma.

Cotton Rises At Noon Hour

New York, Dec. 23—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to twenty cents a bale lower. Noon values were ten to 20 cents a bale higher, March 19.55, May 19.29, and July 19.06.

HAYWOOD WOMAN IS DOING HER PORTION

College Station, Raleigh, Dec. 23—Mrs. Frank L. Leopard of the Ratcliffe Cove section of Haywood county, has done her part in providing the boys in the South Pacific and those in the snow-capped mountains of Italy with food for Christmas.

German Tank Drive Balked By The Soviets

CHIANGS VISIT SON IN INDIA



THE SON of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Chiang Wei-shue, points out gun emplacements to his father at a Chinese training center in eastern India.

Nazi Push Is One Of Worst Yet

Heaviest Assaults By Germans Is Made In Kiev Bulge Area Moscow, Dec. 23—(AP)—Massed Russian heavy artillery and big mobile field guns blazed away today against a gigantic new German tank offensive, described as one of the war's heaviest armored assaults.

The large scale enemy attack was sprung yesterday on a 400-mile front stretching from White Russia to the Dnieper bend, but front reports said Red Army forces were holding firm on all sectors.

Japanese Losses Total 16 Planes In Arawe Bombing

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, Dec. 23—(AP)—The Japanese have lost 16 more planes in their heaviest attacks so far on advancing American forces at Arawe, New Britain.

Field commander of troops, which General Douglas MacArthur said today were extending and consolidating positions past the beachhead seized December 15, reported nearly 100 enemy dive bombers and fighters in three attacks Tuesday caused only slight damage.

It was the first return in force by Japanese aircraft since the early days of the Sixth Army invasion in which 23 planes were destroyed.

The United States Fifth Air Force returned the Japanese Arawe visit with another pounding to the enemy's Cape Gloucester airdrome and supply base on New Britain 60 miles northeast of Arawe.

The RAF's first photograph of scars red Berlin after the sixth heavy bombing started November 14 showed at least 70 great factories, government buildings and other important structures damaged.

London morning newspapers interpreted the damage reported to mean that 40 to 50 per cent of the German capital had been destroyed, with the area of utter devastation already exceeding that of Hiroshima.

SHOPPING DAY LEFT Buy Christmas Seals

RAF And Yank Bombers Attack Rocket Gun Coast

London, Dec. 23—(AP)—Both British bomber forces have been broken into attacks against the rocket gun coast of France, it was disclosed today, with the RAF's heavy bomber fleet for the first time diverted from such targets as Berlin for slashes at targets in northern France.