

BERLIN HIT IN BIGGEST BOMBING OF WAR

FR Probably Will Ignore Draft Plea

Delegates Arriving For Committee Meet, Urging Fourth Term

Washington, Jan. 21.—(AP)—President Roosevelt probably will ignore the fourth term draft noise being created by members of the Democratic national committee so completely that he may not even send an official message to the committee's meeting here tomorrow.

The President, explained Chairman Frank C. Walker, is nine days behind on his appointments because of a bout with the "flu" and besides there is a war on that leaves little time for politics now.

In spite of the searing cold, the chorus of fourth term demands grew louder today as additional delegates arrived for tomorrow's session.

The fourth term boom, started by former Governor Calvert L. Olsen of California, found recruits today in Governor Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma, a national committee member; Thomas R. King, Wisconsin's national committee member; Elmer F. Kelm, Minnesota state chairman, and Jake Moore, Iowa state chairman.

Their theme was that their state delegations would support Roosevelt, that with the President at the head of the ticket the Democrats would win, and that without him they were sunk.

Governor Kerr discounted reports of disunity within the party. These have emanated from the actions of James S. Quayle, Nebraska committeeman, in calling a meeting today of the midwestern Democratic conference. Moore, who is secretary of the conference, said the group would open its session to any complaints that midwestern state members had, but he predicted the President, who lost Iowa to Wendell L. Willkie in 1940, would carry it this year. Iowa Democrats, he said, want Henry Wallace renominated for vice-president.

Fire Sweeps Most Of Business Block In Elizabeth City

Elizabeth City, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Fire swept most of a block in the Elizabeth City business district early today, causing damage estimated by an insurance representative at approximately \$125,000.

The blaze broke out at 4:40 a. m. and raged almost three hours before it was brought under control by firemen of the Elizabeth City fire department and fire fighting units from the Coast Guard station here, the Naval air station, and the Harvey's Point Navy auxiliary station at Hertford. The city was without electric power from the time the fire started until shortly before 8 a. m.

Origin of the fire was thought to be either a short circuit or chemical combustion in the photographic studio of Charles Sharro, at Water street and Colonial avenue.

Civilian Milk Use Should Not Increase

Washington, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Civilian milk consumption must be held at present levels or quota restrictions now in effect in 412 areas will be extended to other localities, the Office of War Information said today in a report on the national milk and cream supply situation.

Estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicate that milk production during 1944 will decline to 116,000,000,000 pounds, 6,000,000,000 pounds under the War Food Administration goal of 122,000,000,000, the OWI said.

The WFS said farmers would have to increase their dairy herds by two percent in the year, and increase production per cow by 50 pounds, to attain the production goal.

The survey said the 1944 milk output depends entirely on the cattle feed situation. The total feed supply is large, but the number of animals dependent on it is even larger, the OWI found. Maldistribution of feed, with serious local shortages in prospect, could adversely affect milk production.

Front Line Dentist



WAR or no war, a toothache must be relieved. So Pvt. J. L. Williams of the British Eighth Army is having one of his teeth extracted by Capt. D. F. Glass, of the Isle of Man. The scene of the molar-extracting is near the front line at Lanciano on the Italy front. (International)

AFL Demands Overseas Vote Of Servicemen

Miami, Fla., Jan. 21.—(AP)—The AFL executive council was on record today with an emphatic declaration for congressional enactment of a law assuring every serviceman abroad an opportunity to vote. The Senate-approved measure which leaves the ballot control to individual states was condemned as "intensely restrictive."

The statement called for a "simplified and uniform soldier vote law."

A special order of business next Monday will be the report of the committee appointed to negotiate with John L. Lewis on his application for reinstatement of the United Mine Workers in the federation.

As the AFL council met, the Florida State CIO addressed a letter to the 15 members urging rejection of Lewis' application. "Lewis," said the letter, "does not speak in the interest of our war effort or in the interest of any section of labor."

The council picked Monday, also, to consider a bid from British labor leaders to attend a world conference in London next June.

EIGHT FLIERS KILLED IN FLYING FORT CRASH

Dyersburg, Tenn., Jan. 21.—(AP)—Two Flying Fortresses collided in flight last night near Gates, Tenn., a few miles from here, killing eight Army airmen and injuring two.

All the casualties were from one plane, the Army said, the other returning safely to the Dyersburg Army Air Base where both were stationed.

Rules Counties Can Sell Property When Desirable

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. BY LYNN NISBET

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—In a digest of opinions released for publication, Attorney General Henry McMillan held: A board of county commissioners can sell a tract of land belonging to the county and not being used for governmental purposes without advertisement and the sale may be made without public auction.

Tax-paid whiskey being illegally transported in any county of the State is subject to confiscation, whether the county has an ABC system or is legally dry.

A justice of the peace may hear a case outside his own township, but he cannot be forced to do so.

The judge of a county recorder's court is not authorized to perform a marriage ceremony. (This question was asked by Walter D. Siler, judge of the Chatham county court.)

A marriage may not be celebrated by proxy in North Carolina.

A married woman must file a separate income tax return if her net income (i. e., her gross income less exemptions) is a thousand dollars or over.

Where an illegitimate child dies intestate, unmarried and without issue, leaving as relatives both legiti-

Reds' Baltic Fleet Virtually Freed In Surge To Leningrad

Attempt Trap Of Nazis In That Sector

City's Siege Lifted, Novgorod Taken and 40,000 Nazis Slain

Moscow, Jan. 21.—(AP)—The Red army's great surge to the south from Leningrad has virtually freed Baltic fleet.

Locked in port for two years or more, the Baltic fleet is now free to operate in the Bay of Kronstadt and possibly beyond.

London, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Russia's northern armies, engaged in two tremendous drives which in six days have lifted the two-year siege of Leningrad, captured the ancient bastion of Novgorod and slain 40,000 Germans, rolled on today in an effort to complete the entrapment of upwards of 250,000 other Germans remaining in the Leningrad sector.

Capture of Novgorod, 100 miles southeast of Leningrad, by troops of General K. A. Meretskov's army southern Estonia. The city had opened the road to Lake Peipus and been in German hands since August, 1941.

Other Red army forces operating in the Leningrad sector under General Leonid A. Govorov were reported to have encircled large units of enemy troops caught in the 50 square mile Strelna corridor, running north from the Krasnoye Selo sector to the Gulf of Finland. These troops faced certain capture or annihilation, Moscow dispatches said.

The Soviet war bulletin said spearheads of Govorov's forces were less than nine miles from Krasnoyarski, rail junction directly south of Leningrad, through which most of the threatened enemy troops would be forced to withdraw toward Estonia in order to escape capture.

Meretskov's troops were pushing eastward from Novgorod in pursuit of the fleeing garrisons and latest reports placed them more than ten miles along the road to Estonia.

Far to the south on the 1,200-mile front, General Nikolai Vatutin's First Ukrainian army hurled back German attacks north of Kristianovka, where the Russians have been stalled in their drive toward the Odessa-Warsaw railway and Rumania.

ASKS FOR BIDS

Goldsboro, Jan. 21.—Call for bids on additions and alterations at the Goldsboro Hospital was issued Wednesday by the building committee of the board of trustees of the hospital. Deadline for submitting bids is 3 p. m., Tuesday, February 8.

Strength In Rail Stocks

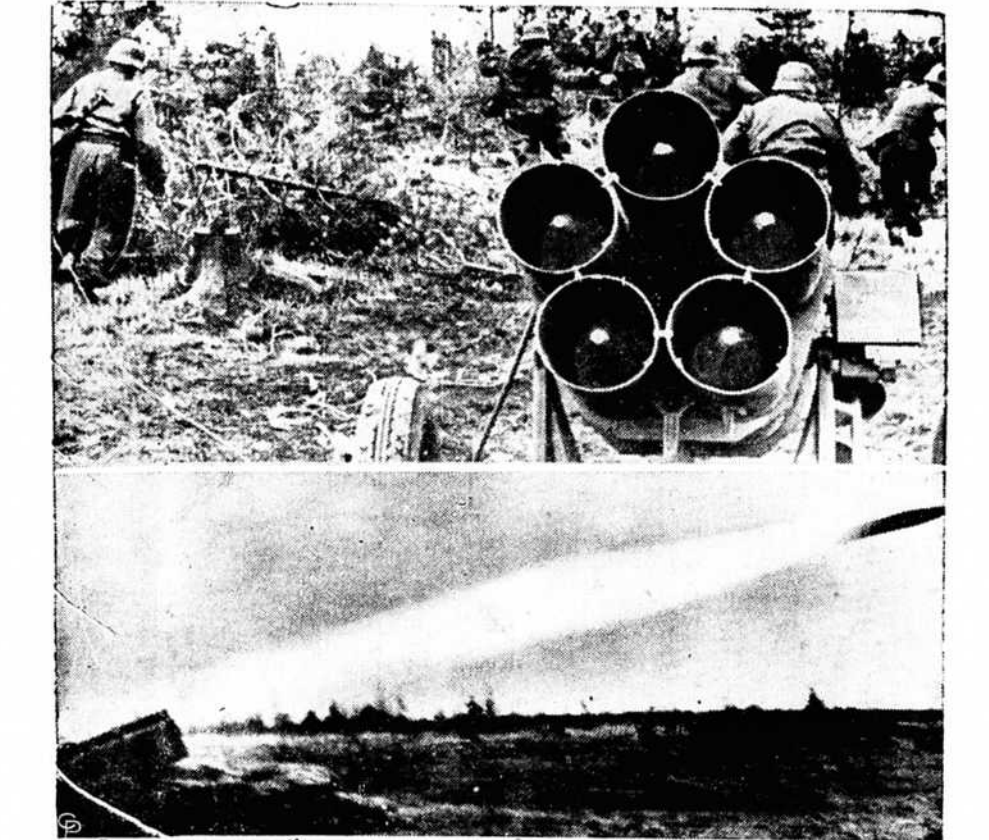
New York, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Further strength in rail and specialties was the principal bulwark of today's stock market.

Prices, slightly irregular at the start in quiet dealings, stiffened around midday and, with activity picking up a bit, gains of fractions to a point were well distributed near the fourth hour. Losers, however, were plentiful.

Bonds were steady and commodities improved.

CHERRY POINT HOUSES
New Bern, Jan. 21.—Five hundred new houses are being built at Cherry Point, to help relieve the housing shortage in that area. All the units are occupied in the former housing project there, with long waiting lists of applicants.

NAZI MULTIPLE ROCKET MORTAR IN ACTION



A GERMAN ROCKET gun crew scoots for cover just before firing the five-barreled mortar at top. This weapon, fired by electricity, has been used to lay smoke screens on the Russian front and is not to be confused with the fabulous rocket guns reported to be along the invasion coast of France. One of the rockets streaks through the air (bottom) after leaving the gun. The projectiles used in the mortar, it is said, can be fired independently. These exclusive photos came through a neutral country. (International)

Foot Of Mountain North Of Cassino Taken By French

12 More Jap Vessels Sunk

Washington, Jan. 21.—(AP)—American submarines have sunk twelve more Japanese merchant vessels, bringing to 558 the number of Japanese ships sunk, probably sunk or damaged by submarines since the war started.

The new report on damage inflicted by submarines raising the distance waters of the Pacific was announced today by the Navy.

Of the 558 total, 408 ships have been definitely sent to the bottom. In addition, our submarines probably have sunk 36 Japanese vessels and have damaged 111 others.

The Navy gave no indication of where the Japanese ships were destroyed, but American submarines have operated within Japanese coastal waters.

British Forces of Fifth Army Capture Town of Minturno

Washington, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Jan. 21.—(AP)—French troops crossing the Rapido river in difficult mountain fighting, have captured the foot of Mount II Lago, north of Cassino, and are threatening to outflank the Germans' "Gustav line" of defense in Italy. Allied headquarters announced today.

British forces of the Fifth Army, supported by the fire of cruisers and destroyers, smashed forward along the Apennine Way, capturing Minturno, 26 miles from Rome, and taking 300 prisoners. They are assaulting the twin Nazi defensive villages of Castelnuovo and Ventosa on the slopes of 1,000-foot Mt. San- ti Cosma e Damiano, six miles inland from the Tyrrhenian.

In weather which German prisoners described as "worse than Leningrad," American patrols of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army slashed across the river below Cassino in probing expeditions and retired. Eighth Army patrols likewise were active in weather that was growing colder.

Although the French push from captured Sant' Elia, north of Cassino, if continued would allow them to take Cassino from the rear, German prisoners said there was another German line of fortifications called the "Adolf Hitler line," six miles behind the Gustav belt which the Allies are now attacking.

For the first time in many weeks cruisers and destroyers of the British navy engaged in heavy action against Nazi shore defenses along the western end of the line, throwing several hundred rounds of steel ahead of the Fifth Army attack last Tuesday and Wednesday. The heavies' shelling was concentrated on the Apennine Way where the road runs close to the sea near the village of Terracina.

Minturno was taken by the British after "hard fighting," the communique said. The Germans already had announced evacuation of the town.

Russia Has Not Accepted Offer Of U. S.

Washington, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Secretary of State Hull said today the Soviet government has not yet accepted this country's offer to act in a liaison capacity looking to a resumption of diplomatic relations between Poland and Russia.

Hull made that reply when he was asked at his press conference whether Moscow had responded to the offer. He added that he was keeping in close touch with Ambassador W. Averell Harriman on the matter.

Hull's carefully worded answer left open the question whether any response might have come and also left without any indicated answer the question whether he still hoped that the offer might be accepted.

Hull announced a week ago that the American government had offered to use its good offices in bringing about a resumption of diplomatic relations between the Polish and Soviet governments.

Amendment To New Tax Bill Is Rejected

Washington, Jan. 21.—(AP)—The Senate today rejected a proposed amendment to the \$2,275,000,000 deficit tax bill which would have permitted corporations and individuals to lay aside up to 20 percent of their taxes as a postwar reserve.

The amendment, offered by Senators Truman (Mo., D.) and Hatch (N. Mex., D.), was defeated by a standing vote.

Under the plan, the taxpayers beneficiary would have been required to invest the reserved moneys in non-negotiable, non-interest bearing government bonds, redeemable after the war, and taxable as income at that time.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Fair and slightly warmer tonight, Saturday, fair with moderate temperatures.

2,576 Tons Explosives Are Dropped

Large Bomber Force Continues Offensive In Daylight Assault

London, Jan. 21.—(AP)—The RAF's heavy Lancasters and Halifaxes smashed at Berlin with over 2,300 long tons (2,576 U. S. tons) of bombs in the greatest of the 11 blows at the Reich's capital city at dusk last night and today American heavy bombers launched attacks on the mysterious targets of the Pas de Calais area of France.

The air ministry, announcing the great wake of explosives hurled down on the German capital, indicated that the attack was made by the biggest fleet yet sent to engage Berlin since the campaign against the city was launched two months ago.

London, Jan. 21.—(AP)—A large force of four-engine bombers crossed the southeast coast today to continue in daylight the new aerial offensive begun with last night's heavy attack on Berlin.

The fourth attack which broke a ten-night lull in the assault on Europe also was the signal for an end to the five-day daylight respite and RAF fighter bombers swept out across the channel toward northern France at dawn followed by Spitfire formations.

Taking off almost before dark, the RAF fleet hit Berlin about 7 o'clock after plying through one of the heaviest flak barrages ever thrown up over the capital.

Dispatches to Sweden said the Nazis had been steadily augmenting the number of anti-aircraft batteries around the capital in a last attempt to stem the relentless obliteration of the capital.

The Swedish report said the RAF had a good cloud cover over the capital itself and the formations were able to come in low for the attack. There was no reference to fighter opposition, indicating that the cloud formations forced the Nazis to fall back on anti-aircraft defenses entirely.

Reports to Stockholm said the Nazis were hastening their preparation for other Allied blows deeper in the German-controlled area, tightening blackout restrictions in parts of conquered Poland thus far untouched by the raiding planes.

The raid came at the end of a day which the axis said also the bombing of Rome for the second time in two days, the Rome radio announcing outskirts of the city were hit by "Anglo-American squadrons coming from the north" but offering no explanation for this statement.

Noon Values Of Cotton Up

New York, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 15 to 30 cents a bale higher. Noon values were five to ten cents a bale higher. March 19.90, May 19.53, July 19.28.

	Prev. Close	Open
March	19.89	19.95
May	19.57	19.61
July	19.26	19.30
October (new)	18.92	18.96
December (new)	18.78	18.80

Three Escaped Soldiers Are Recaptured

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Three soldiers, whom military police said escaped from a jail at Camp Mackall late yesterday after overpowering a guard, were recaptured in a residential section here early today by city police, highway patrolman and sheriff's officers.

The trio, object of an all-night search of a posse heavily armed and with bloodhounds to aid them, were caught as they walked along a street near the home of Captain C. F. Farmer of the highway patrol.

Captain Farmer listed the three as Pvt. Thomas G. Malcolm and Russell J. Chaney and Staff Sgt. Zach B. Martin. Military police said the three hit their guard over the head and took his automatic rifle.