

Yanks Consolidate Positions After New Britain Invaded

Over Fifty Injured In Rail Tragedy

Continues Search Of Wreckage By RALPH S. HOWLAND LUMBERTON — (AP) — The toll of dead in the Southeast's worst railroad disaster mounted to 79 today, including 47 soldiers, as more bodies were located in four tele-scoped passenger cars that still blocked the Atlantic Coast Line's double-track mainline from New York to Florida.

The Red Cross at Atlanta said bodies of 47 soldiers and 20 civilians had been recovered and that seven more bodies were known to be in one of the cars and five in another. The four steel cars, stacked on top of the other, were so jammed together that they were little bigger than one car normally. The tele-scoped trains were able to move the pyramided coaches only six feet and also to pull the two double plump of the train.

Rail Wreck Casualties

LUMBERTON — (AP) — The known toll of casualties included: Clarence H. Lou, 23 W. 3rd St., Potomac, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. George Spindel, 8 Jamaica Ave., Long Island, N. Y. Mrs. Hazel Northrop, 1855 Glenwood Blvd., Schenectady, N. Y. Lt. Lt. Roy A. Griffin, student chaplain at Harvard University. Mrs. Jean E. Stein, wife of Julius Stein, stationed at Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Fla. Mrs. Mary T. Villancourt, wife of Capt. M. J. Villancourt, stationed at Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Fla. Miss Mary Theresa Mithrogh, 23 C. St., Farmingham, Mass. Miss Helen Goldmer, 148 Dixie Lane, Miami, Fla. and 1027 1/2 Lefferts Blvd., Richmond Hill, N. Y. Mrs. Eva Mae Dunn, Charlotte, S. C. Navy Yard. THE INJURED: Al Abrams, Cpl Edward A. 104 Chapin St., Birmingham, N. Y. Allison, Herbert, 1623 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. — — — — — Hall, Edward, 134 Barnett Bldg., Jacksonville, Fla. Bass, John Eugene, U. S. Navy, St. Andrews, Va. Bourgeois, C. J., 200 S. Wilson St., Galveston, Va. Boyer, Mrs. Josephine S., 192 20th St., New York, N. Y. — — — — — Call, Mrs. Stanley S. and baby, 113 Hillside Ave., West Toronto, Canada. Chapin, Mr. and Mrs. E. M., 185 St. Paul St., Brookline, Mass. Clarke, Seaman T. c/o Francis H. Charleston. Collier, Raymond A., 722 N. 5th St., Allentown, Pa. Connor, Pvt. Raymond C., Air Corps, Raymond, S. C. Cook, Mrs. George, 337 Sherman St., Meadville, Pa. D-Greer, Sgt. G. L. Moultrie.

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French Troops Go Into Italy Action

By WES GALLAGHER ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS — (AP) — French troops, entering the war on the European mainland for the first time since 1940, have scored outstanding successes against the Germans in mountain fighting in central Italy. It was announced today.

See FRENCH TROOPS on page 6

Americans Repel Jap Air Attacks

Little, If Any Opposition GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, NEW GUINEA — (AP) — American troops that invaded the Arave Peninsula of New Britain Island Wednesday are consolidating their positions, while the American Air Force has successfully repelled several Japanese air attacks.

See AMERICANS on page 6

Rabaul's Capture Would Knock Big Hole In Jap Ring

Implications Of New Britain Campaign Enormous In Pacific By WILLIAM FRYE WASHINGTON — (AP) — The invasion of New Britain obviously aimed at conquest of the entire island and seizure of Rabaul, not only threatens the Japanese with the irrevocable loss of that key base but presages the first real strategic setback of the war for the Rising Sun empire.

See RABAU on page 6

Hundreds Of British Bombers In Big Attack

Report Transport Paralyzed LONDON — (AP) — Stricken Berlin heaved up fields of flame and smoke again last night as hundreds of giant black R.A.F. bombers loosed thunderous explosives on the Nazi nerve center for the 41st time this year.

See BRITISH on page 6

Live Lives Of Danger To Obtain War Films

By HAL BOYLE AN AMERICAN AIR BASE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, Dec. 12. (Delayed) — A chunk of film slipped up within eight inches of the figure of Major John T. Craig as he knelt on the camera, grinding away with his camera, grinding the open barrel of the B-24 Liberator. The target was a German air base in the days when the Germans could strike at will from the air above it with ease.

See REPORTER'S on page 10

Germans Rush Mountain Troops From Russia To Battle In Italy

By DON WHITEHEAD WHILE THE 7TH ARMY IN ITALY, Dec. 16. (Delayed) — The Germans have rushed mountain troops from Russia and put them into the battle line to help bolster defenses against heavy assaults by the Fifth Army, it was disclosed today.

See GERMANS on page 6

Reds Hold Upper Hand

By HENRY C. CASBIDY MONTECOV — (AP) — Gen. Nikolai Vatutin's First Ukraine Army appeared to have firmly established the upper hand west of Kiev today after more than five weeks of desperate fighting against heavy German infantry and tank attacks.

See REDS on page 6

Low-Cost War Era Ends For America

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER WASHINGTON — (AP) — The start of the long-awaited campaign for Rabaul, together with the costly conquest of New Britain, closes that period of the war in which the United States frequently has been able to buy victory at low cost.

See LOW-COST on page 6

Churchill Improves

LONDON — (AP) — General improvement in Prime Minister Churchill's condition has been maintained, a bulletin from his bedside announced this afternoon.

See CHURCHILL on page 6

Senate Votes To Hold Security Rates Down

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Senate voted today to freeze the Social Security payroll tax at the present rate of 1 percent each on employers and employees for the first two months of 1944.

See SENATE on page 6

Weather

Fair and continued cold, low temperature, 15; Saturday, fair and slightly warmer.

See WEATHER on page 6

Tumultuous Welcome Given FR Upon Return To White House

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL WASHINGTON — (AP) — Bounced and snubbed but in need of a haircut — President Roosevelt came back home to the White House from his long trek into the Middle East today and found a tumultuous reception awaiting him there.

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