

# U. S. Demands Explanation Of French Action In Saar

## Reported Stripping Industries In Zone

### Form Frontier Around Saar

BERLIN — (AP) — The Americans have officially demanded that the French furnish an explanation of reports that they have been stripping industries from other sections of their zone in Germany and transferring them into the Saar, around which they have now established a customs frontier. It was learned today.

Lieut. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, deputy American military governor, expressed his uneasiness over the Robert Bosch electrical plant which the French are said to have moved from Southern Westphalia into the Saar.

Clay, it was learned, requested that the French present the facts in this case to the Quadrupartite Allied Control Authority here. He rejected a French contention that it was a unilateral matter and not a matter for the Allied Control Authority.

The dispute over the French Zone industries was another phase of the French-Saar controversy which has been going on since the French first took over the Saar in 1920.

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## Deaths On Highways Total 213

### 48 Victims Of Other Mishaps

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  
The gaiety of the Christmas holiday turned to sadness today as scores of the nation's homes were black crepe replaced the green holly as a mounting toll of violent deaths, most of them in traffic accidents, were recorded since early Christmas Eve.

Generally fair weather throughout the country turned to rain and snow in the north, with many deaths on the highways, many in their new Christmas automobiles, and a record number of traffic fatalities total 213.

Violent deaths by miscellaneous causes, plane and train crashes, asphyxiation, drowning—accounted for 48 victims. The 261 total fatalities compared to 414 in 1945, which included 219 traffic fatalities.

More than twice as many of the 213 traffic deaths were far in excess of the 150 estimated by the National Safety Council from a P. M. Tuesday spokesman said the event—most of the deaths were reported in the period would be "considerably more than 300."

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## 3 Airliners Crack Up In Fog At Shanghai

### Fourth Transport Feared Lost

SHANGHAI — (AP) — Three Chinese airliners, loaded with more than 100 persons anticipating gay Christmas parties here, cracked up in a fog-blanketed Shanghai area last night, killing or injuring 85 persons. One American pilot was killed and another injured.

A fourth transport was missing and feared lost with at least ten persons aboard.

Blacklist Day  
Yesterday was Blacklist Day in Shanghai. The American-owned Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury reported that 15 Chinese citizens were killed and 15 others were injured.

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## Tidal Wave Wrecks Boat In Japanese Earthquake

### Japanese Earthquake—Japanese View the wreckage of a boat driven ashore by the tidal wave that came with the earthquake which rocked southern Japan Dec. 21. Hundreds of persons were reported dead and missing. This picture was radiated from Tokyo by the Army Signal Corps to Honolulu and flown to San Francisco. (AP Wirephoto).

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## Spirit Unquenched

### Holiday Observed All Over World

LONDON — (AP) — In France it was Joyeux Noel. In Germany it was Frohliche Weihnachten. In English, the world around it, it was Merry Christmas.

Food shortages, fuel shortages, inflation and winter weather were combined to dampen, but not to quench, the spirit of one of Christmas's holiest days—and the gladdest.

Temperatures soared unexpectedly in much of Europe and Asia. Little bit, and for a little while, one problem of a continent which has been without snow all winter.

England celebrated her merriest Christmas in eight years, cheered by King George's broadcast promise that "better days lie ahead."

Reports that butter prices had been maintained at artificially high levels for the past ten days or so to influence the January milk price paid to producers were said to have induced civic groups to demand an investigation of the situation.

The price of milk set by the Department of Agriculture was unchanged from November.

One dealer said heavy offerings from Chicago began to enter the New York market last week and one local buyer was reported to be a heavy taker.

On Friday, last week, receipts exceeded 1,000,000 pounds, an abnormal high.

## Sharp Butter Drop Taken

NEW YORK — (AP) — Butter prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange today fell 10 to 15 cents a pound from Tuesday's levels, the sharpest drop in many years.

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## W. C. Fields Succumbs

PASADENA, Calif. — (AP) — Vaudeville-actor W. C. Fields, 68, succumbed to a heart attack here today. He had been in the hospital for several days.

Fields was a frequent target for gags from the old-fashioned vaudeville crowd—on a special Christmas broadcast—his close friend Bob Hope.

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## Georgia Bid

### Herman Talmadge Quarters Opened

ATLANTA — (AP) — Supporters of Herman Talmadge opened campaign headquarters in the Henry Grady Hotel today and made ready to rally the Georgia State Legislature behind his bid for the Governorship.

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## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## WEATHER