EXTRA GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS EXTRA

VOL. LX, NO. 143. ★ UNITED PRESS ASSOCIATED PRESS GREENSBORO, N. C., SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1941. INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE HUNDREDS OF STATE CORRESPONDENTS PRICE: DAILY—FIVE CENTS

JAPS BOMB U.S.

PLANES DROP BOMBS ON AMERICAN ISLAND POSSESSIONS TO PLUNGE NATION INTO ANOTHER WORLD WAR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Japanese air attacks on the American naval stronghold at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and on defense facilities at Manila were announced today by the White House.

Only this terse announcement came from President Roosevelt immediately, but with it there could be no doubt that the far eastern situation had at last exploded, that the United States was at war and that the conflict which began in Europe was spreading over the entire world.

A brief presidential statement disclosing the attacks was dictated to news agencies and press associations by Stephen Early, White House secretary. It said:

"The Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor (in Hawaii) from the air and all naval and military activities on the island of Oahu, the principal base in the Hawaiian islands."

Then a few minutes later, he dictated this:

"A second air attack has been reported. This one has been made on the army and navy bases in Manila."

This disclosure had been accepted generally as an indication this country had all but given up hope that American-Japanese difficulties, arising from Japan's aggression in the far east, could be resolved by ordinary diplomatic procedure.

The White House said that Japan had attacked America's vital outposts in the Pacific—Hawaii and Manila—at 3:20 P. M. (E.S.T.) and that so far as was known the attacks were still in progress.

Announcing the President's action for the protection of American territory, Presidential Secretary Stephen Early declared that so far as is known now the attacks were "made wholly without warning—when both nations were at peace—and were delivered within an hour

HONOLULU, Dec. 7.—(AP)—A naval engagement is in prgoress off Honolulu with at least one black enemy aircraft carrier in action against Pearl Harbor defenses.

or so of the time that the Japanese ambassadors had gone to the state department to hand to the secretary of state Japan's reply to the secretary's memorandum of the 26th.

The news quickly spread over Washington and brought expressions of incredulity from many members of Congress.

Only last night the state department had disclosed that President Roosevelt had dispatched a personal message to Emperor Hirohito of Japan in an effort to avert a clash of arms between the two nations.

Promptly, navy officers said that long prepared counter measures against Japanese surprise attacks had been ordered into operation and were "working smoothly."

There was a disposition in some quarters here to wonder whether the attacks had not been ordered by the Japanese military authorities because they feared the President's direct negotiations with the emperor might lead to an about-face in Japanese policy and the consequent loss of face by the present ruling factions in Japan.

No official used the word war in reporting any of the developments, but with the series of events there could be no doubt that the far eastern situation had at last exploded, that the United States was at war, and that the conflict which began in Europe was spreading over the entire world.

And within a few minutes, the war department ordered all military personnel in this country into uniform.

The army's order affected not only the thousands of officers on duty in Washington, who have thus far performed their functions in civilian clothes to avoid a "militaristic" appearance, but all officers in every corps area, the United States possessions and outlying bases.

Washington was expected to blossom tomorrow as a city of uniforms, because huge numbers of officers have been pouring into the city for months to perform the army's "overhead" functions.

Early said that so far as the President's information went attacks were still in progress at Manila and in Hawaii. In other words, he said, "we don't know that the Japanese have bombed and left."

Japanese Attack Staggers London

LONDON, Dec. 7.—(AP)—President Roosevelt's announcement of Japanese air attacks on United States Pacific bases staggered London tonight, which awaited fulfillment of Prime Minister Churchill's promise to declare war on Japan "within the hour" if she attacked the United States.

The prime minister's promise, made in a speech November 11, was recalled on every hand.

It was then that he said United States naval operations in the Atlantic had freed Britain to send formidable elements of her naval power to the Pacific.

Excitement swept this capital. In a strained voice, a B.B.C. announcer broke into a Sunday evening program to tell the news.

Officials of the ministry of information said their first knowledge of the Washington announcement came from Washington. They expressed amazement.

There was an instant flurry as spokesmen made contact with their departments but all official sources declined to make any immediate comment.

American Planes and Guns Open Fire On Jap Airmen

Eye Witness Tells of Japanese Opening Attack On Pearl Harbor and Frightful Din That Followed; Civilians Kept In Order

By EUGENE BURNS.

HONOLULU, Dec. 7.—At least two Japanese bombers, their wings bearing the insignia of the rising sun, appeared over Honolulu at about 7:35 a. m. (Honolulu time) today and dropped bombs.

Unverified reports said a foreign warship appeared off Pearl Harbor and began firing at the defenses in that highly fortified post.

The sound of cannons firing comes to me here in Honolulu, as I telephone this story to the San Francisco Associated Press office.

Reports say that the Japanese bombers scored two hits, one at Hickam field, air corps post on Oahu island, and another at Pearl Harbor, setting an oil tank afire.

Shortly before I started talking on the trans-Pacific telephone, I saw a formation of five Japanese planes flying over Honolulu.

American antiaircraft has set up a terrific din, and the sky also is filled with American battle aircraft.

The sound of cannonading coming from the direction of Pearl Harbor, has been continuing for an hour and a half. So far, there are no reports of casualties. No bombs have fallen in Honolulu itself, so far as I could determine before making this call.

There is much commotion going on, with planes in the air and antiaircraft firing.

The citizens of Honolulu have been cleared from the streets by military and naval units, assisted by civilian volunteers, all carrying arms.

But a lot of citizens have left the city for hills, to watch the planes and antiaircraft, and get a general view of the excitement.

I heard one man say, as he passed me en route to the hills: "I'll bet the mainland papers are going to exaggerate this."

U.S. Seizes Finn Ships In America

Action Follows British War Declaration

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—(INS)—The United States tonight moved swiftly to take over all Finnish flag ships in United States ports as an initial measure to endorse Britain's declaration of war against Finland.

Disclosure of the American action came from Finnish Minister Hjalmar Procope, who further admitted that the Finnish legation had been informed of the forthcoming seizures "some days ago."

Procope declined to elaborate on the number of ships that would be involved explaining that it might be "10, 20 or more."

The navy later announced that it had instructed the coast guard to take six Finnish vessels known to be in United States ports into protective custody.

Lists Six.

The navy listed the ships as the steamship Olivia, known to be at Boston December 4; the Kuurtanes and Saimaa at New York, the Advance at Philadelphia, the Aagot at Baltimore, and the Aurora at Newport News, Va.

American seizure of Finland's flag ships followed by only several

OTTAWA, Dec. 6.—(AP)—Canada followed Britain's lead tonight and declared war on Finland, Rumania and Hungary. Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, who made the announcement, said similar action is being taken by Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

hours a state department conference between Procope and Undersecretary of State Welles.

Responsible quarters tonight considered the ship seizure as only the first of a series of economic restrictions by the United States against Finland.

Secretary of State Hull told his press conference today that American relations with Finland were unchanged because of the drastic British war declaration.

The American tone toward the long-esteemed Baltic democracy, however, has gradually undergone a sharp change.

On at least two occasions Hull has represented his government as disturbed over Finland's prosecution of the war against soviet Russia despite British and American demarches invoking Helsinki to desist from collaborating with Germany's program of conquest.

Only last week Hull roundly condemned Finland's adhesion to the anti-comintern pact and scored Helsinki's evasive replies to America's request that Finnish military operations against Russia be brought to an end.

Tonight's ship seizure was the first such move since German and Italian ships were taken into "protective custody" late this spring to prevent acts of sabotage by axis nationals. Danish ships were subsequently taken over.

On May 29 congressional legislation authorizing the United States to take over foreign vessels in U. S. ports for reasons of defense became law by presidential signature. As a result, a total of 83 flag ships of foreign nations, including 36 Danish, 26 Italian and 14 French became American property.

The state department at a late hour was without comment, but one official indicated that similar moves might be in preparation for the ships of Rumania and Hungary.

BRITAIN MOVES QUIETLY TO PUT WAR INTO EFFECT

LONDON, Sunday, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The British quietly and formally went to war against Finland, Hungary and Rumania this morning because they were fighting on Germany's side against soviet Russia.

Even before the zero hour of a

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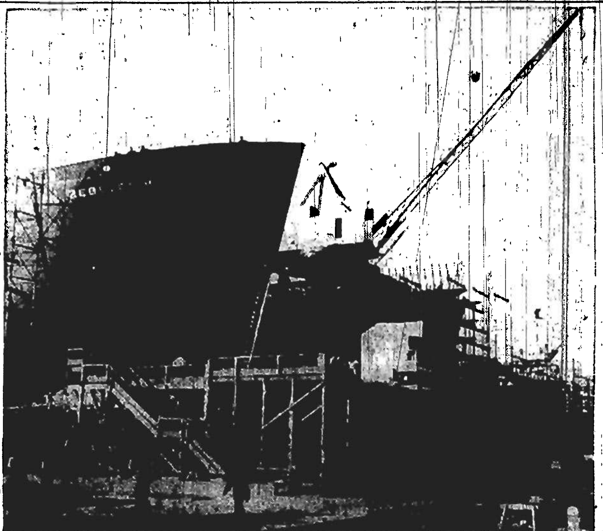
Youth Admits Burying Victim Of Gun Accident

LOWVILLE, N. Y., Dec. 6.—(AP)—A 16-year-old youth admitted today, District Attorney Dwight N. Dudo said, burying a 13-year-old hunting companion he had accidentally killed because he was "afraid of being sent away."

Dudo said the youth told him his .22 caliber gun discharged as he was climbing a fence yesterday and the bullet entered the head of Charles West, Martinsburg. The youth admitted, the prosecutor asserted, dragging the body 600 feet and then burying it under a pile of rocks on an abandoned mine in northern New York's Adirondack forests.

No charge has been placed against the youth, who is being [illegible]



WILMINGTON YARDS' FIRST 'LIBERTY' SHIP

The Zebulon B. Vance, 10,000-ton merchant vessel constructed for the maritime commission, is shown here in its shipway at the North Carolina Shipbuilding company in Wilmington before formal christening ceremonies were held yesterday. It was the first of more than 30 "liberty" ships under contract to the Wilmington concern to be launched. Stretching to the right of the Zebulon B. Vance can be seen shipways containing five other merchant vessels under construction. The first ship was built in seven months. (Photo courtesy NYA).

Nazis Reported Massing Huge Force For New Moscow Drive

Soviet Capital Facing Direct Peril of War

LONDON, Dec. 6.—(AP)—Moscow appeared tonight to be in her direst peril although informants here could provide no confirmation for an axis declaration that the Russian capital had become the target for 1,500,000 advancing troops, 8,000 tanks and 1,000 guns.

The Italian radio, which relayed the axis claim, said that this great mass of men and arms, although opposed by congealing cold of 31 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit) and a blood-hot defense, were executing "the most terrific offensive of all time."

(United Press reports from Kuibyshev said German forces are "retreating in disorder" on two vital sectors of the Moscow front under the blows of terrific soviet counterattacks. Germans were sent reeling backward in the Mozhaisk sector and in the Volokolomsk sector, the reports said.)

The soviet midnight communique said nothing of specific fighting at Moscow—only its customary formula: "Fighting on all fronts continued throughout the day."

Evidence that the German air force was pounding Moscow was the communique statement that three German aircraft was brought down on the approaches to the city during the day.

Without specifying the area, the

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Welders Call For Walkout

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Dec. 6.—(AP)—A nationwide walkout of welders, which had its beginning in a jurisdictional strike of 67 men on a $40,000,000 ordnance plant, today was called for Tuesday unless there is government intervention.

At odds with the American Federation of Labor over rejection of demands for a separate union, the United Brotherhood of Welders, Cutters and Helpers announced the strike would be effective throughout the country Tuesday morning.

Lloyd Payne, brotherhood secretary, in announcing the executive board's decision in Washington, said 75,000 men would leave their jobs in shipyards and defense construction projects. The union claims 125,000 members.

In Los Angeles, where one small shipyard was closed and another—at work on cargo vessels aggregating more than $75,000,000—was seriously hampered by a walkout several weeks ago, welders forecast almost immediate lockouts because of persistent refusal to pay up dues in the A. F. L. [illegible] union.

Mystery Surrounds Double Killing Near Elizabeth City

ELIZABETH CITY, Dec. 6.—(UP)—The multilated bodies of a pretty brunette mill worker and a coast guardsman who had been missing since Thursday night were found late today on the bank of an abandoned railroad track near a "lovers lane" a mile south of here.

The victims were Miss Florence Walston, 20, Camden county, who worked in a hosiery mill here, and Robert Old, 23, St. Bride, Va., who was on leave from the Berkely, Va., coast guard station.

The double slaying was committed by two people acting because of jealousy, according to Pasquotank county and Elizabeth City police investigating the murders. However, no suspects were named.

Labor Bill Action Near

Country Shows Great Interest

Daily News Bureau and Telegraph Office
823 Albee Building (By Leased Wire)

By W. A. HILDEBRAND.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Persons whose recent travels have taken them from here to the Pacific coast region have returned with the impression that Main street, almost to a man, as well as many people in the larger cities, are manifesting a greater degree of interest in pending labor legislation than in the war.

This is in part borne out by letters received by members of Congress, and it is therefore assumed that upon the present occasion, even with Christmas just around the corner, it is going to be more difficult for the labor lobby and their assistant new dealers to forestall action on the Smith and kindred bills.

Senator Thomas, chairman of the committee on education and labor, has called a meeting of his committee for Monday to consider matters of procedure, and there is talk of hearing witnesses next week. Taking account of public pressure, and the resentment over the attitude of labor leaders who have opposed any sort of legislation, however mild, this action of the new deal chairman of the labor committee looks bit like business. And, as stated at the outset, parliamentary plays for delay may encounter more resistance than upon previous occasions, but nevertheless suspicion and distrust abound to a noticeable degree.

President Roosevelt, in some of his private papers, has admitted that inequities are to be found in the Wagner act, but when the house, again by a two to one vote, sought to remove those inequities the friends of Mr. Roosevelt in the senate, and the same committee to which the Smith bill has been referred, promptly placed the house amendments in a pigeonhole from which they have never emerged.

Those amendments, designed to ease the straight jacket into which private industry has been forced, and which would have promoted

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Vance Slides Down Ways

State Launches 10,000-Ton Ship

WILMINGTON, Dec. 6.—(AP)—Mrs. J. M. Broughton smashed a bottle of bubbling champagne upon the prow, and the 10,000-ton freighter Zebulon B. Vance slid gracefully down the ways into the waters of the Cape Fear river here today in impressive launching ceremonies.

The $1,610,000 vessel is the first large ship built in North Carolina since world war No. 1. It is to be followed by 36 similar ones.

An estimated 13,000 persons turned out in crisp weather to witness the brief ceremonies.

There was no music, but flags were displayed about the yard of North Carolina Shipbuilding company, builder of the vessel.

Homer L. Ferguson, president of the board of the company, presided at the exercises, which he opened with a brief talk.

"I have always wanted to build a ship in my native state of North Carolina, and now I've done it," he said. Addresses by Governor Broughton and Capt. Edward Macauley of the U. S. maritime commission followed.

Governor Speaks.

The governor, expressing pride in the construction of the ship, said, "we welcome the revival of the ship-building industry in Wilmington, and our cup of joy would be complete if this ship could find her first cargo in this port."

Even as he spoke these words, local interests were at work to this end. Efforts were under way to have the Vance loaded with lease-lend cargo when she is ready for service about three months hence.

Governor Broughton commented that the ship had been built without any interruption of work by strikes or labor disputes. This he attributed to the "comradeship be-

(Continued On Page 12, Col. 3)

Navy Said World's Best

Knox Reports To Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—(AP)—Secretary Knox told President Roosevelt today that the American navy was the finest in the world but must be increased rapidly to be a match for any combination of powers. "Our aim must always be to have forces sufficient to enable us to have complete freedom of action in either ocean while retaining forces in the other ocean for effective defense of our vital security," the navy secretary said in his annual report.

"Anything less than this strength is hazardous to the security of the nation and must be considered unacceptable—as long as it is within our power to produce and man the forces necessary to meet these requirements."

Knox introduced his report, covering the navy's activities for the fiscal year ended last June 30, with a declaration that "the American people may feel fully confident in their navy."

"In my opinion," he said, "the loyalty, morale, and technical ability of the personnel are without superior. On any comparable basis, the United States navy is second to none."

"But the international situation is such," Knox added, "that we must arm as rapidly as possible to meet our naval defense requirements simultaneously in both oceans against any possible combination of powers concerting action against us."

In the section of his report dealing with operations, Knox [illegible]

for further speeding up of the naval construction program, which has been unofficially reported to be about a year ahead of schedule.

"The recent acquisition of bases stretching from Newfoundland to British Guiana has proven an asset to our defensive problems in the Atlantic," the secretary said.

As accomplishments of the navy during the 12 months which ended last June 30, Knox reported the commissioning of 325 new ships, acquisition of 2,059 new airplanes, progress on base construction and a net increase of personnel of 15,259 officers and 100,292 enlisted men.

Man, 80, Stricken On Visit To Mother

HOMER, Ga., Dec. 6.—(AP)—Eighty-year-old Charles Andrew Scott died while planning a Christman visit to his mother.

The parent, Mrs. Elizabeth Scott, of McConnellsville, Ohio, is 100.