

F. R. to Hold Rail Strike Parley Tomorrow

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES
WAR BONDS
AND STAMPS

The Seattle Daily Times

NIGHT FINAL
LATEST WAR NEWS

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NAZI TANK ATTACK SMASHED; ALLIES TIGHTEN ITALY TRAP

CONFERENCE SLATED IN WHITE HOUSE

By Associated Press.
CLEVELAND, Dec. 18.—Railroad leaders and heads of the five operating brotherhoods will meet with President Roosevelt in Washington tomorrow in an effort to avert a nation-wide strike ordered to start December 30, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen's president, A. F. Whitney, said today.

SNOWBALLS AND PALMS



YESTERDAY AT CHARLESTON, S. C.—The two and a half inches of snow that blanketed Charleston made Wave Shirley Caldwell of Watertown, Conn., feel at home. It was the first time, however, she ever hid behind a palm tree for a snowball battle, she declared during the "hostilities."—A. F. wirephoto.

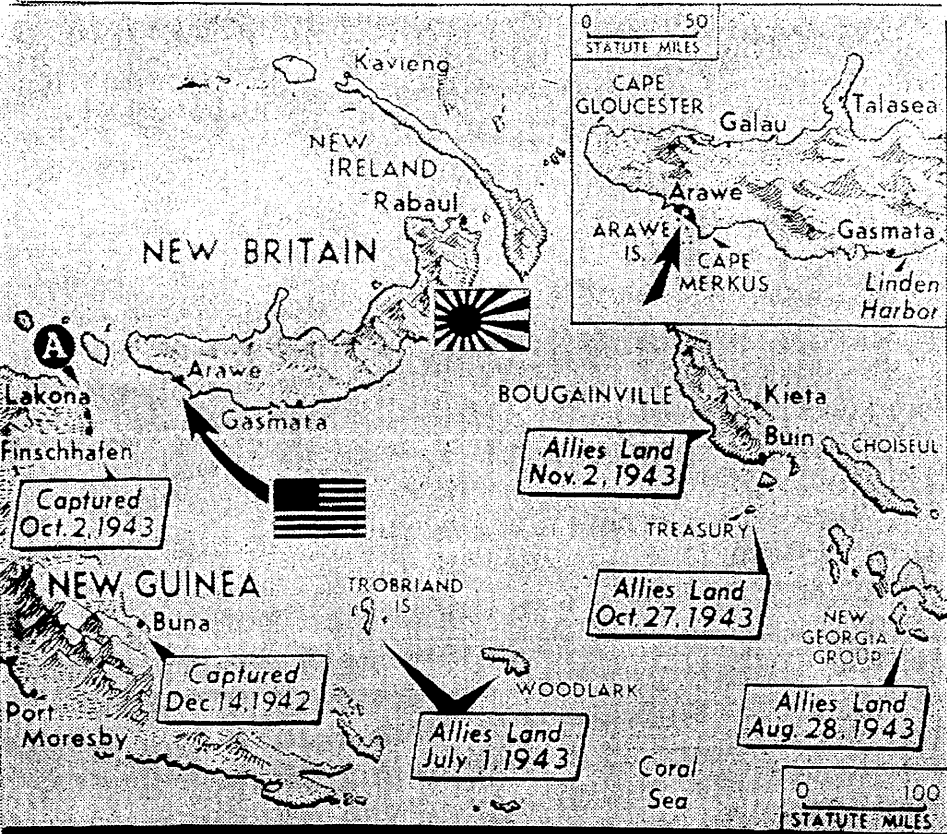
FIRM MUST BE FREE TO SUPERVISE LABOR, W. L. B. AIDE DECLARES

By Associated Press.
PATERSON, N. J., Dec. 18.—Dean Young B. Smith of Columbia University Law School, arbitrating a Wright Aeronautical Corporation labor dispute as the War Labor Board's designee, ruled that a company should not be forced to remove a supervisory employee.

CHURCHILL'S CONDITION IMPROVES

By Associated Press.
LONDON, Dec. 18.—Prime Minister Churchill's pulse was reported irregular but his temperature subsiding in a bulletin issued from No. 10 Downing Street, his official residence, today.

ALLIED MARCH ON JAP RABAU BASE



ARAWA BEACHHEAD—The American Sixth Army's grip on New Britain at Arawa has been strengthened, it was announced yesterday. On New Guinea, Australians captured Lakona (A). Dates and location of Allied moves leading to the attack on New Britain, and which ultimately are expected to pave the way for an attack on the Jap bastion of Rabaul, are indicated.—A. F. wirephoto.

DOUGHBOYS CLEAN OUT PILLBOXES

By WES GALLAGHER
Associated Press Foreign Staff
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Dec. 18.—A Fifth Army pincer movement closed in today on the heavily fortified village of San Pietro, seven miles southeast of Cassino, as the Eighth Army reported capturing or destroying 15 German tanks in a series of armored battles on the other side of the peninsula.

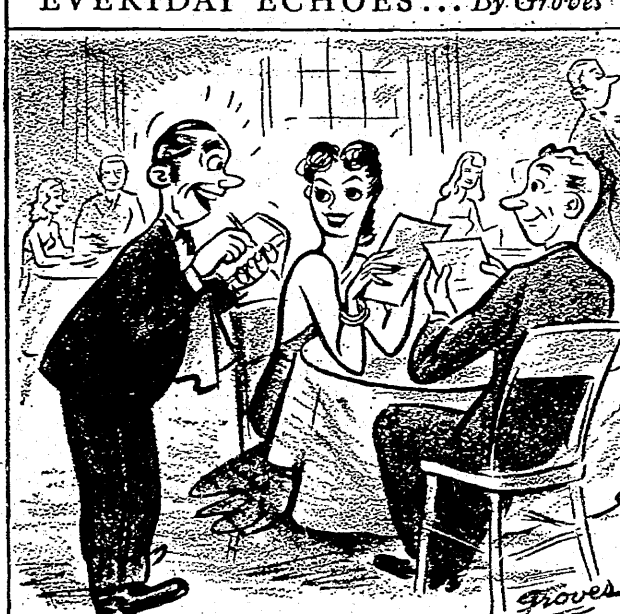
Strike Blueprint Out
The walkout would go into effect first on major systems serving vital industrial areas, a "strike blueprint" sent members of the brotherhoods showed today.

Big Roads' First
The strike, which the National Mediation Board is seeking to avert through a conference next Monday at Chicago, would hit on its opening day the New York Central and Pennsylvania Systems. Also included in the first strike call at 6 p. m. December 30, are these prominent lines:

Rationing Ends On Evening Slippers

Just in time for Christmas and New Year parties, the Office of Price Administration has "unrationed" women's and misses evening slippers and men's patent leather shoes.

EVERYDAY ECHOES... By Groves



"Of course our pies are 'home made'. We buy them from a firm that uses nothing but Centennial Silk-Sifted Flour!"

BUY WAR BONDS
Centennial Silk-Sifted Flour, Pancakes and Waffle Flour, Crack Bloomer Cakes, Flax, Oatmeal, Whole Wheat, Raisins, Dog Meal, Petalioes, Dog Food

Son Held As 'Mercy' Killer Of His Mother

By United Press.
TACOMA, Dec. 18.—The apparent "mercy slaying" of a 55-year-old Alder (Pierce County) woman was being investigated by sheriff's officers today after the woman's son is said to have admitted killing her with a fishing knife "because she suffered so much."

Penicillin Fails To Save Oregon Youth

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 18.—Ladd Robertson, 15-year-old Eugene "penicillin" boy, who had at first rallied after injections of the miracle drug, died last night from causes not fully determined by his physicians today.

Joseph McCarthy, Composer, Dies

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Thomas Joseph McCarthy, 58 years old, who composed the lyrics for such hit tunes as "Alice Blue Gown" and "Rio Rita," died today.

Pioneer of Spokane County Dies at 93

PLAZA, Spokane County, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Mrs. Susie E. Harris, 93 years old, who joined a covered-wagon train for California in Kansas in 1868, died yesterday. She had lived here since 1879.

AUTO KILLS WOMAN ON WAY TO BUS

Louise A. Monrean, 60 years old, 217 First Ave. N., a Boeing worker, was injured fatally at 6:40 o'clock this morning when she was struck by an automobile as she ran across First Avenue near Lenora Street to catch a bus.

Merchant Seamen To 'Keep Sailing' On Yule Holidays

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Several thousand merchant seamen will cancel plans for any holiday celebration this Christmas season so that the flow of material to fighting men abroad will continue uninterrupted.

Funds Asked For Columbia Basin Plans

SPOKANE, Dec. 18.—The Northwest's governors today called upon Congress to appropriate \$2,100,000 for studies of the Columbia River Basin to assure postwar projects that would help take up the slack resulting from demobilization and production shifts with the end of hostilities.

YANKS WIDEN FOOTHOLD ON NEW BRITAIN

American troops enlarged their invasion foothold on Japan's New Britain stronghold today, and Allied air forces kept the enemy on the defensive by striking at this and other vital points along the Pacific front.

Flu Deaths At New High, Says London

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Deaths caused by the present influenza epidemic soared to a new high of 1,148 for the week ending December 11, greatest since the last week of January, 1937, the Ministry of Health announced today.

Two Switchmen Die In Fog Collision

GALLUP, N. M., Dec. 18.—(AP)—Westbound Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe passenger train No. 2 crossed into a switch engine on a "crash-over" switch at the eastern end of the Gallup yards in heavy fog early today, killing two trainmen and injuring four others, one seriously.

Mountbatten Visits Burma Arakan Front

BOMBAY, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten, Allied commander for Eastern Asia has returned to New Delhi from an inspection tour of the Arakan Front in Burma, it was announced today.

Jap Farm Production At Center Is High

HUNT, Idaho, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Japanese, who cultivated 233 acres at the Hunt Relocation Center produced 2,221,512 pounds of vegetables this year, Director Harry L. Stafford reported today.

Other War News In Brief

AERIAL—Weather holds key to success as bombing attacks on Germany enter vital period. Page 2.
RUSSIA—General Konev's men kill 800 Germans as Russians tighten grip on Kirovograd. Page 2.