

NAZIS LOSING IN ITALY

ALGIERS-Fighting in snow and rain, the Eighth Army in Italy has driven forward and captured the village of Vezzani, three miles southwest of Ortona, and the Canadian First Division is digging the last Germans out of Ortona with bayonets. it is anounced. Ortona, where Canadians and Germans are engaged in street to street, house to house, is the centre of the most sanguinary fighting in Italy. The Canadians are driving the enemy from firmly entrenched positions with rifles, bayonaets, hand grenades and flame throwers. Brenner Pass railway lines have been heavily attacked from the air.

ATLANTIC AIR ALERT

NEW YORK - The Eastern Defence Command Christmas night put the Atlantic coast on an alert for several hours against the possibility of an enemy Christmas night attack which did not materialize.

next. The Soviet forces are only ten miles from Zhitomir and have broken the Zhitomir-Odessa railway line in the Kiev area. A fierce battle of tanks is going

The Nazis have been counterattacking southwest of Jovin in White Russia but have been held by the Russians.

Cairn Unveiled

In Memory Of

Private Olsen

working and harder fighting mission in the Royal Canadian sisters who have returned still to come. There should be Navy in which he has served England from serving in the loss of eight American machno dreams of an easy victory.

British infantrymen go forward on a road north of Rinero, Italy, getting nearer to the Sangro, German winter line which was smashed by the Eighth Army of General Bernard L. Montgomery.



for seven years.

central Mediterranean war the-

week-end and, at last reports, holiday.

peated destructive bombing as- order. Such drunks as needed saults, made a full scale land- attention were not taken into ing on Cape Gloucester of New custody and there were only. Britain during the Christmas three prisoners in jail over the

were advancing into the jungle The police authorities admit toward Rabaul against limited that the restrictions on sale of Japanese resistance. The bomb- liquor and beer doubtless had ing attacks continue without a beneficial effect on maintainlet-up as the marines move in- ing law and order. Only one beer land. Light and medium tanks parlor was open Christmas Eve are concentrating on Target and it was doing business only for a couple of hours. In an aerial battle which

planes were shot down with the Babies Born ines. The Secretary of Navy



the public spent more money this year than it did last year. a mood to spend an even greater amount if there had been goods Christmas. to spend it on.

The survey also revealed that the public taste had swung away from the usual run of Christmas fripperies and had focussed on more expressive articles designed for durability and utility.

The good incomes which were Joyed by most families durng the last year are credited by was almost double that of last nerchants as the factor causing year. he accent on quality rather Jewelry stocks were said to

than price. "Most people have managed to pecially silverware and china,

put themselves on a sound with wrist watches and rings the basis in the past year and they biggest sellers. One store had orhave taken this opportunity to year but had received about 40 get things that they really per cent more.

wanted" was the way one store- "We figured on a 50 per cent summed up by the manager.

The operator of one clothing during the immediate prestore said that, since as far Christmas buying but it did re-Furthe more, the public was in back as August, he had been re- main steady, with sales ranging serving stock in anticipation of from small fur pieces to expensive fur coats.

"It was a good thing too for. Shortages in Christmas decwithout the extra stock, we orations and the complete abmight not have been able sence of mechanical toys were satisfy all our customers." he reported in the novelty line. said. "As it was, I do not recall A leading store which sells seeing anyone go away disapbooks, cards, records and paper pointed. If we did not have exproducts was said to be doing actly what they wanted, they about 15 per cent more business found something else that satisthan last year. They had orfied them." He said his business dered double the stock of a year ago and had received less than

half what they ordered. Lack of appealing variety was their difbe depleted in some lines, esficulty.

"People came in expecting to spend \$5 on goods and left dered stocks double that of last having bought about 50 cents worth," was the way it was

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A view of the Volturno river in southern Italy where the swirling muddy waters sweeping past the two pontoon bridges that were thrown across the flood-swollen stream by Allied engineers during the victorious drive of the Fifth Army against the Nazis. The dynamite-shat tered arch is all that remains of one of the riv er's main bridges, blown up by the retreating Germans. Nevertheless the Allied armies get across.

Over to War Department

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 28 (CP) - The Army took possession of the vast railroad system of the United States Monday night after President Franklin D. Roosevelt had ordered the seizure so that transportation of war materials could continue in the face of the strike threat. The President ordered the seizure as a move essential

to the prosecution of the war rates. Starting immediately, they even though seventeen of twenty will get a five cents an hour inrailroad unions had abandoned crease in addition to four cent plans for a strike December 30. per hour increase in basic wages The operation of the railways previously awarded by emerhas been placed in the hands of gency boards. the Secretary of War.

Philip Murray, president of The President gave immedi- the United Steel Workers of ate wage increases to two union America, yesterday called off brotherhoods of locomotive en- the steel workers' strike on the gineers and trainmen and understanding that any wage awarded them a week's vacation adjustments would be made reeach year with pay at basic troactive.