

West Europe Lashed By Huge Gales

LONDON, Dec. 10 (AP)—The most destructive gales in years left wreckage, floods, snow and fog today over western Europe.

French officials sadly surveyed the damaged 951-foot ship *Liberte*, formerly the German liner *Europa*, which was deep in the harbor mud of Le Havre after snapping her moorings and gashing her side on wreckage. The French estimated the salvage would require a year or more, if the ship indeed could be saved.

Damage was especially heavy along the northwest French coast. Heavy seas carried away house terraces on the beaches and smashed dozens of fishing boats. A foot of water still covered some roads.

Gale warnings were flown on the north and west coasts of the British Isles. High tides brought floods in some areas. Fog and ice were general in north England, Scotland, Belgium and adjacent countries. Aircraft were grounded at numerous points. Two passenger trains collided in the fog near the British industrial city of Birmingham, injuring several passengers.

Heavy seas continued in the Mediterranean. Some 800 survivors of a wrecked Jewish immigration ship awaited rescue on a small island on the fringe of the Dodecanese.

About 100 homes and shops were inundated in a canal flood in Venice. St. Mark's square was so deep under water that gondolas and even motorboats cruised in it.

Youth Dies After Fall

BOULDER, Colo., Dec. 10 (AP)—De Forrest W. Meehleib, 20, Peoria, Ill., died today of injuries and more than two days' exposure on an icy mass high in the continental divide where he and two other University of Colorado students fell Tuesday. Hazel Joannette Martin, 27, New Providence, Ia., died Tuesday of a skull fracture suffered when she lost her footing and, with Meehleib and another climbing companion, toppled down an icy, rock-strewn mountain slope.

His left hand broken and his feet and hands frozen, Meehleib was brought to Community hospital here early Friday. He had lain more than 48 hours in subzero weather and gale-like winds at 13,000-foot elevation.

German Mayor Asks Denazification End

HAMBURG, Dec. 10 (AP)—Hamburg's first mayor, Dr. Max Brauer, last night demanded a quick end to denazification in an address before a meeting of city administrative officials. "Ninety-five per cent of the German people cooperated in some way with the Nazi system," Dr. Brauer said. "With the remaining five per cent we can not build a new state. We must bring denazification to an end as rapidly as possible." Dr. Brauer, who recently renounced his American citizenship so he could take over the post of mayor, said "revenge policy should not be practised through denazification."

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Ranch Hand Kills Woman With Sawed Off Shotgun

ELLENSBURG, Dec. 10 (AP)—A 62-year-old ranch hand who Prosecutor Henry Wager said had confessed slaying his 43-year-old former sweetheart with a sawed-off shotgun as they rode in a taxicab, was held today on an open charge.

Wager identified the man as Roy Essex. The dead woman was Louise O'Day, a Yakima cook. Wager said Essex declared

Atlanta Fire Probe Slows

ATLANTA, Dec. 10 (AP)—Definite cause of the devastating fire which took 120 lives in the Wincoff hotel Saturday may never be established. City Fire Marshal Harry Phillips told an investigating city council fire board last night.

But, he said, a careless cigarette smoker under the influence of alcohol may have started the fire. Liquor bottles were strewn around many of the hotel rooms, he added.

So far the investigation has pointed to a charred mattress in a third floor hallway as the possible starting point. Phillips and Fire Chief C. C. Styron said.

Two occupants of the room nearest the mattress were found but told investigators they were asleep and were unable to tell anything of the blaze's origin.

British Soldiers Stage Strike

LIVERPOOL, England, Dec. 10 (AP)—Headquarters of the western command announced today that 300 British army personnel en route to the Far East walked off the transport *Empress of Scotland* last night in protest against food and accommodations on board, but ended their demonstration eight hours later.

Oregon Man Hurt In Auto Accident

KENNEWICK, Dec. 10 (AP)—Charles Loveland of Government Camp, Ore., was hospitalized in Pasco today after a two-car collision in which Everett Dwan Schmitt, 19, of Kennewick was killed last night. The state patrol said Schmitt's machine went out of control on a curve during a windstorm and collided with Loveland's car.

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in a statement that the shooting was "a love affair" and that he had intended to slay himself but was prevented from doing so by Paul Argenbright, driver of the cab, and Marie DeWeese, 22, a friend, who disarmed him.

The prosecutor quoted Essex as saying he met Mrs. O'Day a year and a half ago while both were employed at the Herkey ranch, near Wiley City. They planned to be married, "things changed" after he ran through his \$2500 bank savings. He said he had seldom seen the woman during the past six months.

Essex's statement, as quoted by the prosecutor, said he purchased the shotgun when he came here from Ephraim over the week-end, sawed off part of the barrel and put the weapon in a cardboard box. He said he then had Argenbright called and instructed to bring Mrs. O'Day here to visit him.

The prosecutor said Miss DeWeese was along merely for the ride and knew neighbors of the principals.

Essex met the party at the bus station, got in the rear seat with Mrs. O'Day and, after riding a few blocks, Wager said, cut open the box, pulled out the shotgun and fired as the woman ducked.

Wager said the cab driver and his companion told authorities Essex immediately reloaded the weapon and as the trio fought in the moving cab over possession of the gun the cab crashed into a parked automobile. Police arrived and arrested Essex shortly afterward.

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