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## 4th War Loan Drive Opens; Rally Is Set

### \$4,859,000 IS GOAL

Retail Stores Will Open Today At 10 a. m.—Premier Slated

New Hanover county will start steps to reach its goal of \$4,859,000 today, as the Fourth War Bond campaign formally opens with a "kickoff" bond premier movie at 8 p. m. tonight at the Bailey theater.

Having accepted a major role in this great bond sale undertaking, the city's retail merchants and their employees are expected to set the pace of the campaign by offering unqualified support at a mass meeting at 9 a. m. at the Bailey theater, when Judge Henry L. Stevens, of Warsaw, presiding at superior court here this week, will deliver a war bond pep talk.

All city retail stores will open at 10 a. m. Tuesday, in order for employees to attend the mass meeting, where it is expected that each store worker will accept for himself a goal of \$200 worth of bonds or stamps to be sold during the campaign Jan. 18-Feb. 23.

## SENATOR FAVORS NEW STRIKE BILL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich.) declared today that Federal legislation outlawing "in unequivocal terms" all interruptions in war production would be preferable to the national labor draft act proposed by President Roosevelt.

"Organized labor gave us a notable 'no strike' pledge which has been widely kept. Unfortunately, however, it has also been abused. It makes no difference in net results that this 'abuse' has often been unauthorized."

"If the President, at long last, is now ready to face this problem unequivocally, I want to cooperate. But I am unable to understand why we must regiment every adult male civilian and particularly every adult civilian woman in order to achieve the desired result."

## Loss of Life Expected To Mount Far Beyond 500 In Andean Town

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Latest government reports from quake-stricken San Juan said tonight the loss of life is expected to mount far beyond 500, with 900 to 1,000 seriously injured and 4,000 less seriously hurt.

The government press bureau said it was too early for an accurate calculation of the material loss but estimated it would reach at least \$75,000,000.

## Southern Governors Say Dixie Is Still Democratic

### Believe Disputes Can Be Handled Better By Democrats — Broughton Is Present

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The South may not be entirely happy about its treatment under the Roosevelt administration but it is still dependably within the Democratic party fold, Southern governors agreed today.

The governors expressed this view in advance of a White House tea to which they were invited by President Roosevelt. Summed up, their general attitude was that quarrels, over freight rates and States Rights can be handled better within Democratic ranks rather than with a Republican administration.

## REYNOLDS BACKS INCOME CEILING

### Sen. Maybank Vainly Tries To Get Tax On Oleo Repealed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Senator Reynolds (D.-N.C.) advocated a post-war tax ceiling of 25 per cent on individual earnings today as the Senate entered its second week's debate on a \$2,275,000,000 revenue bill.

"It is absolutely impossible to do it now," he told the Senate, "but as soon as this war is over we've got to begin thinking about tax reduction."

Reynolds supported the pending tax bill, denounced by the Administration because it falls far short of the \$10,500,000,000 revenue goal set by the Treasury. President Roosevelt said last week the bill fails to pass the test of a "realistic tax law."

The Senate's drive to pass the new tax measure stalled today behind a day-long fight which wound up in defeat for an attempt to abolish for the war's duration a tax of 10 cents a pound on the sale of yellow colored oleomargarine.

Senator Maybank (D.-S.C.) brought the repeal attempt into the tax debate and stirred an immediate outburst from dairy state senators who argued it was an effort to give oleomargarine equal standing with butter on the nation's dinner tables. Maybank's proposed repealer was defeated 55 to 23 on a roll call vote.

## LEGION SUPPORTS DRAFT OF LABOR

HIGH POINT, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Warren A. Thornton of Stockton, Calif., commander of the American Legion, said in a speech here tonight that enactment of the National Service Act "can shorten the war and save lives."

Addressing the closing session of the North Carolina Department's Post Officers conference, Thornton said the Legion had urged enactment of a universal service act for the last 20 years and essentially this was the same legislation which the President recently said was needed to win the war.

He commended the loyalty of the American workers who aided in making production hit an all-time peak, but called "traitors" those who "defied our commander in chief, and their own leaders, who turned deaf ears to the prayers of mothers whose sons are in action, and stopped production."

# Nazis Say Entire Eastern Front Blazing

## Russian Troops Drive Toward Latvia; Great Britain Accused Of Seeking Peace

### RUSSIANS SURPRISED

#### Pravda Labels Story As A 'Rumor' From The Beginning

MOSCOW, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The Communist party organ, Pravda, today published a report which although plainly labeled as a rumor from Cairo, amounted to an unofficial accusation that Britain was sounding out Germany on the possibility of a separate peace.

The 10-line dispatch, published at the top of Pravda's foreign news page under a Cairo dateline and credited to "a special correspondent of Pravda," said two British Southerners will forget an inclination against a fourth term. On

It said "it is understood the meeting did not remain without results"—a phrase which carried to Russians the positive connotation that it had met at least a partial success.

Excited interest and surprise were stirred among Russians by the strange and disturbing story. Allied quarters were incredulous. British officials said they could not understand either the report or the publication of it, and that they did not believe it.

There was no hint as to the identity of the Britons reported engaged in the negotiations. A Bern dispatch said the Ankara radio had quoted Pravda as saying "two former British statesmen" had met Ribbentrop.

The Pravda dispatch in its entirety was as follows: "Cairo, Jan. 12.—(By Special correspondent of Pravda)—According to information from reliable Greek and Yugoslav sources, a secret meeting took place recently in one of the seacoast cities of the Pyrenees peninsula between two English officials and Von Ribbentrop.

"The meeting had the aim of finding out the conditions of a separate peace with the Germans. It is understood the meeting did not remain without results."

Pravda made no comment, nor did Soviet officials. Although this story was printed in the official organ of the Communist Party, it did not bear the weight of a dispatch of the official news agency, Tass. The newspaper itself was careful to label it as a "rumor."

Nevertheless its mere publication raised an interesting point at a time when Britain, the United States and Russia appeared to have sealed their United Nations

The eleventh annual appeal for funds with which to carry on the work of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis was begun here Monday, with the quota for New Hanover county set at \$2,900.

The Rev. James B. McQuere is chairman of the drive, and J. D. Carr, vice chairman, Harry Doshier, who handled the campaign here last year, was appointed to handle public relations.

Doshier stated yesterday that the drive here was to effect in no way the campaign of the Fourth War Loan. "After all," he said, "we are only asking for dimes."

Officials of the campaign said that if people who were thankful for the wonderful work carried on by the foundation in previous years would begin saving their dimes two or three months before

### Gable At Carole Lombard Ship Launching



Capt. Clark Gable (left) watched as Film Actress Irene Dum christened the Liberty ship at Wilmington, Calif., named in honor of his wife, who was killed in an airplane crash two years ago. (AP Wirephoto)

## Poles Awaiting Further Action In Border Row

LONDON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Healing of the breach between the London Polish government and Soviet Russia appeared to hinge on whether diplomatic relations can be reestablished through the efforts of the United States and Britain. Poles, who feel the problem concerns all the United Nations, welcomed the offer of the United States to help and waited to see whether negotiations with the Soviet government could be attained in the face of the stern Russian reply to the Polish statement Saturday.

## JAP SHIP SUNK, 2 ARE DAMAGED

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Tuesday, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Bombs from Navy Catalina patrol planes sank a 10,000-ton Japanese vessel and set afire two other merchantmen of a six-ship enemy convoy caught off the Japanese base at Kavieng, New Ireland, Sunday night. Allied headquarters announced today.

The Allied planes, members of the South Pacific command Black Cats squadron, spotted the convoy of four cargo vessels and two warships, possibly cruisers, 45 miles off Kavieng, the happy hunting ground of Allied patrol aircraft in recent weeks.

Left burning were an 8,000-ton ship and another of 6,000 tons. Enemy escort craft put up stiff anti-aircraft fire, but none of the Catalinas was hit. Both of the damaged ships were observed still burning when reconnaissance planes visited the scene Monday.

The Japanese have stepped up their air activity, communicate reports indicated, and Allied fliers continued their blows on enemy bases at Rabaul, New Britain, and along the northeast coast of New Guinea.

An attack on the American invasion area at Sidor, on the New Guinea coast, cost the Japanese 17 fighters and one divebomber.

## TRIBUNAL RULES IN CARRIER CASE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—A railroad must make every reasonable effort to settle a labor dispute before it is entitled, under the Norris-Laguardiana act, to a court injunction restraining striking employees from committing violence against the road, the Supreme Court ruled today.

Specifically, the court held that the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railroad, a 238-mile road between Keokuk, Iowa, and Effner, Ind., had not made that effort and reversed a Federal district court at Quincy, Ill., which granted the carrier an injunction during a strike of 104 employees two years ago.

### RAIL CENTER IS NEARED

## Slaughter Of 2,300 Germans Is Claimed By Moscow

LONDON, Tuesday, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Northern Russian troops hammering toward the Latvian frontier 70 miles beyond drove to within seven miles of the rail junction of Novosokolniki yesterday, while far to the southwest another Red army plunged to within 14 miles of Rovno, an important communications hub for all eastern Poland.

A Moscow communique early today said the Russians had killed a total of 2,300 troops yesterday, 1,200 of them in the reduction of five German strongpoints in the north where the Red army's latest offensive had entered its fifth day.

Berlin accounts said, however, that 250,000 Russians were attacking all along a 250-mile front below Leningrad.

Fierce German counter-attacks were reported continuing in the Uman region of the southwestern Ukraine. The Russians said their troops successfully repulsed all of them, destroying 80 tanks, 16 armored cars, six big guns, 200 trucks and other equipment.

Uman is 12 miles south of Yarovatka, where the Russians previously had cut the Smela-Khristi-Novka railway, one of the Nazi escape routes leading out of the middle Dnieper River area.

The capture of Tuchin put Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin's forces of the First Ukrainian Army only 14 miles northeast of Rovno, and Moscow dispatches said Rovno's capture, an early possibility, would imperil the German grip on a vast area of southern Russia.

Soviet troops first by-passed Tuchin, said the bulletin broadcast by Moscow and recorded by the Soviet monitor. Then, "taking advantage of the panic that broke out among the Germans, Soviet fighters wiped out about 300 Hitlerites," and captured several guns, an ammunition dump, and other booty.

Rovno, 40 miles inside pre-war Poland, is an objective of troops attacking on the southern side of an 85-mile Russian bulge inside that territory. It is a junction on the Berdichev-Warsaw and Sarny-Lwow railways, and also astride the hard-surfaced Kiev-Warsaw highway.

On Sunday other Russian units (Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

## U. S., FRENCH HIT AT GUSTAV LINE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS ALGERS, Jan. 17.—(AP)—American and French troops, smashing at the Nazis' Gustav line along a 30-mile front, reached the Rapido River and other points favorable for launching an attack on the key city of Cassino today as their commander-in-chief, Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, declared that the Germans would be hit wherever and whenever the opportunity offers on the Mediterranean front.

Rome, itself, is the immediate objective of present Allied operations in Italy. Wilson said at his first press conference here, adding that he was "optimistic" that the Eternal City would fall to the Allies before long. He said other attacks might be expected along its western extremity, the Pyrenees, to its Balkan terminus, where the River Maritza flows into the sea.

Promising easier terrain for Allied troops once they break the enemy's present defenses before Cassino, the man who has been nicknamed "Jumbo" because of his size said that, given luck, the Allies might win the war this year (Continued on Page Three; Col. 7)

## Reynolds Becomes N. C. Recreation Chairman For National Group

Jesse A. Reynolds, Recreation Director, has agreed to serve as state chairman for the North Carolina, for the Society of Recreation Workers of America, of which the headquarters are in Washington, D. C.

## GEN. EISENHOWER READY FOR TEST

### Bradley Is Senior U. S. General Heading Yank Ground Troops

LONDON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—With good humor, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower declared today he had found the pre-invasion machinery rumbling briskly when he reached Britain, and disclosed that Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley was senior American general heading the great and swiftly mounting numbers of U. S. ground troops in the United Kingdom.

Eisenhower, giving his first London press conference as supreme Allied commander in the west, went no further in defining Bradley's role, but disclosure of Bradley's presence was widely accepted as tantamount to announcement that the zero hour would find him commanding all American landing soldiers, just as Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery will head all the British.

It was strongly indicated outside the conference that the choice for the over-all American ground command had not been finally decided. But Bradley, who proved himself as commander of the second corps in Tunisia and Sicily, has been in Britain many weeks, and seems a logical choice. Even if someone else is chosen for the post, the square-jawed infantryman seems a certain bet for command of an army.

Choice of the American ground leader will complete the western (Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

## New Soviet Break-Through Shapes Up As Opening Of Baltic Battle

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON, Associated Press War Analyst

A new Russian break-through to cut the Leningrad-Odessa railroad north of Novosokolniki shapes up as the opening of the battle of the Baltic flank in the east even before the crisis is reached on the Black Sea wing of the front.

Russian forces astride the Novosokolniki-Dno link of the railroad stand within less than 100 miles of Pskov. That is the vital supply and escape corridor south of Lake Peipus for all German forces on the Leningrad-Lake-Imen-Lovat river front.

The site of the new operation, which Berlin estimates is backed by at least 1,000,000 fresh Russian troops, suggests that an attempt to roll up the Nazi Baltic wing from the south has started. The new break-through came south of the tremendous marshes of the Lovat which have guarded the Nazi defense line for 125 miles from Velikiye Luki to Staraya Russia.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

## WEATHER

FORECAST NORTH CAROLINA: Fair and warmer Tuesday. Wednesday partly cloudy and continued mild. (Eastern Standard Time) (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., yesterday.

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