

Fair today and somewhat warmer with highest temperature about 48 degrees. Moderate west and southwest winds. Yesterday's temperatures: High, 45—Low, 23.

Wilmington Morning Star

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND BATAAN

Yanks Invade Mindoro South Of Manila; Churchill Preserts Exiled Polish Regime; Seventh Drives Three Wedges Into Reich

Russia Aided In Demand For New Frontiers

Prime Minister Draws Map For Changes In Reich Borders

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Anthony Eden told the House of Commons today that by mixing in the Soviet-Polish disagreement "we have, if you like, burned our fingers."

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill dumped overboard the present Polish exile government today, backed Russia's demand for a new Western frontier, and drew a map for Central Europe in which Germany would lose vast tracts of her northern and eastern territory.

In an historic address, he suggested a "practical" approach by the United States to Poland's future and, inferentially, to that of all Europe, and disclosed a new strategy in plans for a new meeting with President Roosevelt and Premier Stalin.

Rivalling in world significance the dramatic "blood, sweat and tears" pronouncement which called Britain four years ago, Churchill bluntly made these main points today in the House of Commons:

Poland must accept Russia's demands for a western boundary running along the old Curzon Line, including the loss of Lvov.

Poland, with British-Soviet backing, would be free to expand to the west, taking over all of East Prussia south and west of Konigsberg, including once-free Danzig, and extending to the Baltic.

Churchill technically remained within the provisions of Article One of the Atlantic Charter in that he sought "no aggrandizement, territorial or otherwise," for Great Britain, but he disclosed no intention of approving territorial desires on the part of his Allies.

For Poland, acceptance of Churchill's proposal would mean establishing herself as a satellite of the British power, for in addition to her excellent port of Gdynia she would gain Pillau and Danzig.

For Russia it would mean gains of both Polish and German territory, and an increase of her ports on the Baltic.

Churchill's refusal to comment on the Polish question is tied up with Churchill's speech, William Playter of the New York Post, asked the Secretary of the United States' attitude depended on Churchill's speech.

Stettinius refused to comment on the Polish question.

Patch's Men Reach Goal After 500-Mile Campaign

PARIS, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Three divisions of the U. S. Seventh Army drove into Germany's industrial Palatinate today at three points along a 12-mile front, four months to the day after they stormed the Mediterranean shore and began chasing the Germans 500 miles across France.

The first to make the crossing was the 103rd Division, which pushed across at 1:05 p. m., against sporadic opposition north of Climbach and four miles west of the French frontier city of Wissembourg in the northeastern corner of Alsace.

Forty-five minutes later the 45th Division crossed the border along wooded ridges at an undisclosable point, but in the same general area.

Ten minutes later, the 79th Division burst the Lauter river line at the frontier near Scheibenhart, nine miles east of Wissembourg, and plunged into the fastnesses of Bien Wald forest on the Rhine plain some 11 miles west of the Baden province capital of Karlsruhe.

A late front dispatch said the vanguards of Lt. Gen Alexander M. Patch's divisions, which moved up to the frontier while the Siegfried Line's guns were singularly silent, had come under fire of the fortifications and were pressing against outpost bunkers and pillboxes.

Other elements of the 103rd Division, overrunning at least seven towns in their path, were within a mile and a half south of Wissembourg, standing at the entrance of a gap leading into Germany.

Forces of the 79th Division smashed into Lauterbourg, at the east end of the invasion front between the Vosges and the Rhine, and were fighting within 10 miles of the city.

Without relaxing his grip on Budapest, two-thirds of which was encircled, Marshall Malinovsky skirted the northern edge of the 27,000-ft. Borzsony mountains and reached a road leading downhill into the plains stretching westward to Bratislava and Vienna.

The German east Slovakian stronghold of Kassa (Kosice) lies 113 miles northeast of Ipolyzag, and other Russian forces steadily were cutting into the southern side of this great Axis salient.

Without mentioning the battle around Budapest, one-third of which already was destroyed according to a Paris radio report, Moscow said that Russian forces driving toward the central and eastern Slovakian frontiers had swept through 31 more localities, including the rich iron, coal and manganese center of Szekes, 20 miles north of fallen Miskolc.

Four of the U. S. Eighth Air Force's bombers and two fighters were missing from the attack.

Meanwhile RAF Lancasters escorted by Spitfires bombed a boat pen at Ijmuiden, entrance to the North Sea canal running to Amsterdam in northern Holland, and Liberators hit supply and other targets in Rosenheim and Amstetten in Germany, Linz and Salzburg in Austria and rail yards at Innsbruck, northern terminus of the Brenner Pass route.

That is why the First Army's advance has been slowed to an average of scarcely more than a mile a week in the past three months.

If, on penetrating the Siegfried Line, the First Army had sufficient supplies for a lightning blow before the Germans installed such defenses behind the line, it might have reached the Rhine. But supplies are short.

Every town behind the Siegfried Line has been turned into a fortress. Every forest has been filled with minefields and cut by trenches big enough for tanks to move in. Improvised pillboxes have been built in the rubble and even after towns are lost snipers left behind harass the advancing Allies.

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Russian Army Smashes Into West Slovakia

Drive Aimed At Cutting Off Germans In Eastern Area

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—The Red Army invaded western Slovakia today, crossing the frontier 34 miles northwest of besieged Budapest in a bold operation aimed at cutting off German troops in eastern Slovakia and breaking open the roads to Vienna, 115 miles to the west.

Hurling the Ipoly river frontier, the Russians seized the Slovak town of Ipolyzag (Sahy), a half mile beyond and 87 miles east of Bratislava, Slovak capital, a Moscow communique announced.

The stroke by Marshall Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukraine Army also was likely to draw into the open again a compact fighting force of 25,000 free Czechoslovak troops which not long ago were driven out of their headquarters at Banska Bystrica, 46 miles north of Ipolyzag.

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Mindoro island, due south of Luzon, lies only 150 miles from Manila. Its capture will give American air power a chance to strike at the Japs on Luzon.

U. S. Can Pound Luzon From Bases On Mindoro

By MORRIS J. HARRIS
WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—American landings on Mindoro island in the Philippines places MacArthur in one bold stroke within deadly range of the grand prize of Luzon and Manila.

The daring thrust has lopped off about half the 315 air line miles between Leyte and Manila Bay. If American air power can be established on the southern shores of Mindoro, Luzon and all that it contains will be in stone's throw distance to U. S. flyers.

Another key to the recapture of the Philippines, Corregidor island in the mouth of Manila Bay, also comes into easy air distance when a hold is established on Mindoro.

The Mindoro landing will beyond doubt throw further consternation into the Yamashita forces of Japan seeking to stay MacArthur. The American has advanced deep into territory held by the Japanese.

That he has done it proves he believes he has the power to maintain it and that very fact will be a further smashing blow against Japanese determination to carry on the fight throughout the islands.

From a position on Mindoro, United States forces will be in a position to deal with the Japanese island-to-island route by which the enemy reinforces his troops on the Leyte battlefield.

Despite the supreme efforts of American naval and air forces the Japanese have filtered a more or less steady stream of reinforcements south through the chain of islands and waterways to Leyte.

The Senate acted as swiftly as the White House, approving the nominations unanimously without even referring them to committee, despite scattered questions on the wisdom of the move.

Senator Russell (D-Ga.) told the Senate he thought it "perfectly absurd" to create a "super rank to the rank of admiral."

They are: For the new Navy rank—Admiral William D. Leahy, the President's personal chief of staff; Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the Fleet and chief of Naval Operations; and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet and of the Pacific Ocean areas.

For the new Army rank—General George C. Marshall, chief of staff; General Douglas MacArthur, commander in the Southwest Pacific; General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied commander in Western Europe; and General H. H. Arnold, commander of the Army Air Forces.

At the northern end of the corridor the U. S. 32nd Division tightened its pressure on the hemmed in enemy force, the only one of any size remaining on Leyte.

Although the Nipponese already had suffered 82,554 casualties, more than half of them dead, in the futile effort to hold Leyte, it was believed the corridor force numbered many thousands, American casualties in the reinvansion of the Philippines had reached 10,409, including 2,176 killed.

JAPS ARE GASPING
Radio Reporter Says Foe Will Come Back Soon

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Royal Arch Gunnison, Mutual Radio reporter in the Philippines, broadcast tonight that Gen. MacArthur's invasion of Mindoro Island, adjacent to Luzon on which Manila is situated, "left the Japanese gasping."

Sixth Army Hits Beach With Scant Opposition

MacARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Dec. 16.—(AP)—A naval-borne U. S. Sixth Army force crossed the Philippines and gained a virtually bloodless beachhead on Mindoro island, within 150 miles of Manila, Friday morning (Philippine time), Gen. Douglas MacArthur disclosed today.

The daring amphibious break spanning the heart of the Japanese-dominated Philippines established for the Americans an east-west corridor through the archipelago which will give them access to routes leading to the coast of China, the supreme commander said.

Swarms of carrier-based planes that day and the day before scoured virtually every Nipponese airfield in the farflung archipelago, destroying more than 200, perhaps 300, enemy aircraft.

MacArthur called it a 600-mile advance but did not disclose the route. The air-line distance from eastern Leyte, where the Americans first landed October 20, to the southern tip of Mindoro is about 260 miles. The difference suggests that the American force took a circuitous route southwestward around Mindanao island.

The corridor, which MacArthur said cut the Philippines in two for the Japanese, evidently was established with the generous help of guerrillas who seized strong points and airfields and wiped out several Japanese contingents on islands lying directly between Leyte and Mindoro.

Although enemy forces attacked the Mindoro-bound convoy several times, they were surprised as to the landing place, and U. S. losses were negligible, MacArthur reported.

From the Mindoro convoy, commanded by Rear Adm. A. D. Struble, Associated Press Correspondent Murlin Spencer reported the surprise was so complete that lights ashore were burning brightly when the Yanks moved in for the landing just before dawn.

Three hours after the first assault waves hit the beach the Army took over, still without encountering resistance from shore. The convoy ships, protected throughout by Rear Adm. Russell S. Berkley's close covering force and Seventh Fleet carriers under Rear Adm. T. G. Rudderick pulled away for the return voyage.

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"However," he added, "the landing is too close to Manila to expect that Japan will take this blow without a terrific comeback."

He quoted Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, Sixth Army commander, as saying "we must take chances when the chances appear worth the risk."

Guerrilla activity on Mindoro in the past months made the landing comparatively easy, Gunnison said.

STETTINIUS SILENT

Secretary Promises Frank Statement On Policy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Secretary of State Stettinius promised today to give a frank statement soon on American policy with respect to British and Russian moves in Europe.

Stettinius backed off answering any new conference questions on Poland saying he had only fragmentary reports of Prime Minister Churchill's speech this morning and had not had time to analyze it.

He said the whole Polish question is tied up with Churchill's speech, William Playter of the New York Post, asked the Secretary of the United States' attitude depended on Churchill's speech.

Stettinius refused to comment on the Polish question.

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