Interpreting

The War

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Associated Press War Analyst

confronted home front readers

this Christmas Eve week-end but

reassuring gleams were not lack.

It seemed clear that the week

old Nazi surprise counter attack

in Belgium and Luxembourg was approaching a crisis. It had hure

led deeply through American First

Army forward echelons on that

once dormant sector but was

slowing up short of any decisive

result beyond throwing Allied

winter offensive plars out of gear,

American losses, unquestionably

heavy both in battle casualties and

material, are yet to be revealed.

The cost to the foe also still is to

be reckoned except for one factor

of tremendous significance. Ev.

ery man, tank, plane or gun put

out of action in enemy ranks rep.

resents relatively a greater inroad into German reserve strengta

than does any similar American

or Allied loss.

Bleak battle news from Europe

The Sunday Star-News

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MEMBER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With confidence in our armed forces-with

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1944.

Roosevelt's War Message.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY Comes again the Holy Night As in days of long ago; Waiting hearts again should see Heaven alight and hearts aglow. For the Father heart of God Throbs with yearning love the same And the Saviour longs to save As when first to earth He came. FRED SCOTT SHEPARD.

Extension Of The Limits

We hope there now will be reasonably complete agreement on the proposal for extension of the city limits.

The latest plan, published last Sunday, appears to have received careful study and while it may have some imperfections, it seems

Representative-elect LeGrand's approval for but that's no proof that they are not there. suburban residents that their interests will be considered and that city services will be furnished with reasonable promptness. The bill pe mits the people to have the final say at the polls on the extension question. It is not likely with such a proposition.

Britain's Tactlessness

The commentator Gabriel Heatter, recently reporting on a conversation with a cab driver, on the Greek imbroglio, said the driver turned and said: "You know what I think? I think this is the first battle of World War Three."

Certainly it is to be hoped that the difficulty can be adjusted before this kind of thinking becomes general. The fighting in this greatest of all wars will have been a fruitless and ghastly thing if it turns out to have been only the prelude to an even more devastating world struggle. The issues are so involved and the locale so remote that it is no easy mington's postwar prospects. Certainly all thing to pass judgment on the Greek situation. The British contend that they only want to maintain the status quo long enough to permit a free election, and that their interest for the present is to prevent the radical factions from seizing control by force.

Admitting the truth of this, it must be said that Churchill and the British army have been tactless in the extreme. Surely there can have Leftists as gangsters and ruffians. One has no for them, they will go to other localities or have on Britain's Russian ally.

The urgency of an early meeting between the leaders of the three great Allied powers daily becomes more apparent.

Don't Repeat The Mistake

The war in the Pacific has reached a stage where it can be said that Japan virtually has lost the great island empire which it wrested from the United States, the Netherlands and other powers in the first months of the war. Our position on Leyte island in the Philippines seems secure, and the invasion of Mindoro is meeting with such easy success that naval bases looking directly upon the South China sea seem assured. With sea and air dominion over the Philippines area already established, the Japanese soon will be sub. Rationing office. stantially cut off from access to the Dutch

timely optimism such as characterized our by ration - applicants who have squandered attitude about the European front. The war their fuel coupons on two cold spells and find with Japan almost certainly is farther from themselves now bereft of heat for the remainan end than the German war. After the island ing 89 days of winter. strongholds are liquidated or left to die on the vine, there will remain the tremendous to a number of circumstances, of which some task of an invasion of the Asiatic mainland, a re valid excuses and some are not, but none on the Japanese home islands. It would be pons, Some applicants sheepishly admit that foolish in the extreme to suppose that suc- they expected V-E Day, with a concomitant cess in these endeavors will come as readily relaxation in east coast oil restrictions, to as it has come in the island offensive. The have arrived ere now. Some are temporary island campaign leads itself to the use of our residents who weathered last winter in sumnaval and air arms, and with naval supremacy mer-style houses at Wrightsville Beach and there almost is no limit to what we can kindred communities, but have been caught the majority of the year, he must maintain fair price schedule. Rickshaw achieve in the way of tactical surprise. These short by colder weather and lessened oil allot- two homes. More and more of his time is rates were posted to keep paydayconditions will not prevail in a land offensive ments this year. against the centers of enemy strength.

on the home front can be relaxed.

Is There A Santa Claus?

In answer to many requests, the following editorial written by Francis P. Church in 1897 for the New York Sun is reprinted:

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor-I am 8 years old, "Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. "Papa says. 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.'

"115 West Ninety-Fifth Street."

they see. They think that nothing can be potential terminal for east-west flights. of truth and knowledge.

abound and give to your life its highest beauty drop. and joy. Alas! how dreary if there were With air freight, NAA says, New Hanover this existence. We should have no enjoyment,

Not believe in SANTA CLAUS? You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get to appear on the market in quantity. your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa acceptable generally. We hope it will be intro- CLAUS coming down, what would that prove! duced in the General Assembly and approved Nobody sees SANTA CLAUS, but that is no there, that the referendum provided in it will sign that there is no SANTA CLAUS. The most the proposal will then be ratified by the voters. | children nor men can see. Did you ever see The method suggested in the bill bearing fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, bringing about the extension is a democratic Nobody can conceive or imagine all the won-

> You tear apart the baby's rattle and see strongest man, nor even the united strength and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah. VIRGINIA, in all yond. Is it all real? Ah. VIRGINIA, in all the one who leaves the room. Let the unaffected ecstacy of my first one to be telling You, the one who leaves the room. Let the unaffected ecstacy of my first orange with a hole cut in top by a my bising a position could be developed at a superior of the control of the control

now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from Maine to Florida, an air years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Wilmington After The War

scale air tourist movement up and down the feasible with adjacent cottages where the traveller, out for a weekend hop, could stay overnight.

Development of such facilities, NAA contends, would attract thousands of air tourists annually to Wilmington for sightseeing, recommendation and the feasible with adjacent cottages where the traveller, out for a weekend hop, could stay overnight.

Wilmington After The War

scale air tourist movement up and down the secret dreams lie sleeping, but who give off no glow at all when you look at the part that shows.

Help me and all those others, Lord, to wake up those ideals and urge them into action. Help me ample grace to hear the poor device of the form of the secret dreams lie sleeping, but who give off no glow at all when you look at the part that shows.

Help me and all those others, Lord, to wake up those ideals and urge them into action. Help me ample grace to hear the noor device of the still have ears to hear it.

Let me not cravenly turn my loved ones is not eloquently manifest in my words and actions; let mot my preoccupation with other that shows.

Help me and all those others, Lord, to wake up those ideals and urge them into action. Help me ample grace to hear the noor device of the part the poor device.

They are getting tired of cupping their actions and the part thought of putting an ample system in the enace of the part that the part thought of provided the part that the part that the part that the part thoused ones is not eloquently manifest in my words and actions; let me not cravenly turn my loved ones is not eloquently manifest in my words and actions; let me the part the part that the part the part that the part tha

The bad news from the European front may be no time to renew the discussion of Wilnecessary energy should be put forth in this community as in all others to support our

But at the same time, we should not lose war is a matter of supreme importance to April 3, 1943. Wilmington and New Hanover county. The cessation of wartime activity will leave thoudifficulty in concluding what effect this must on the breadline, and the community would face a crisis of unprecedented proportions.

> We suggest that every citizen be giving clared: thought to this problem, and let no reasonable prospect for new post-war industry go unnoticed. Suggestions for such industries may be directed to the City Planning Board, at the City Hall. The Board is making plans for developing post-war industry and employment, and suggestions will be of great value.

A Wailing Wall

The construction at Front and Red Cross streets of a Wailing Wall, counterpart of that built in Palestine from the stones of Solomon's Temple, is being seriously considered by fuel oil officials of the Wilmington War Price and

The Jerusalem wall is open for lamentation East Indies, perhaps even from Singapore and only on Fridays, whereas the Wilmington weeping-place could easily be filled daily, the But we should not fall into a state of un- Office of Price Administration people think,

The over-use of oil allowances is ascribed

Bound by rigid rulings against the urgings between his community and vernment. Like iff. Then the vexing problem of The Nation must be prepared for a long and of their own sympathies, the fuel office clerks other white-collar workers, he has been caught costly struggle in Asia, and must not make bemoan their inability to help the shivering in the rise of cost of living. the mistake of assuming that the war effort prodigals, but if the wall goes up, they promise, they will gladly join in the wailing.

CAROLINA

FROM THE

CAPITAL

By ALLEN J. GREEN · Star-News Washington Bureau -

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23-With Eluethentha Field, a Class V airport, scheduled to revert to public ownership after the war. Wilmington "Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa is in position to become a leading Southern air center, in the opinion of the National Virginia O'Hanlon Aeronautic Association, if some advance planning is done now.

Expansion of Bluethenthal by the Army dur-VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. ing the war gives the city a field suitable They have been affected by the skepticism of for the largest aircraft now flying and a logia skeptical age. They do not believe except cal stop on north-south air routes as well as a

Bluethenthal's facilities, NAA officials pointwhich is not comprehensible to their little ed out, makes it ideal as a terminal for short minds. All minds, VIRGINIA, whether they "feeder" airlines, operating in between localibe men's or children's, are little. In this great ties not on the main air routes with freight the unbounding determination of our people—
we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help universe of ours man is a mere insect, an field to New Hanover truck farms point to ant, in his intellect, as compared with the speedy development of an air freight service boundless world about him, as measured by after the war. Air freight, in carload and less the intelligence capable of grasping the whole than carload shipments, has become a reality despite the war and one commercial airline is now carrying carload lots of spinach, lettuce Yes. VIRGINIA, there is a SANTA CLAUS. and other perishable vegetables from Cali-He exists as certainly as love and generosity fornia fields to Eastern markets at feasible and devotion exist, and you know that they rafes to growers. As postwar competition develops, air freight rates can be expected to

no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith growers can extend their market range-can then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable take advantage of the best prices offered on a dozen Eastern and Northern market centers.

NAA's position, however, is that commercial except in sense and sight. The eternal light air developments are only a small part of the with which childhood fills the world would be post-war aviation picture. With manufacturing advances made during the war, private planes -safe and well within the average person's price range as today's automobiles- are going

This postwar private plane, according to NAA, is potentially as useful and necessary to the average person as his automobile. The Claus, but even if they did not see SANTA hitch is that the private airplane is now comparable to an automobile without a road on which to operate since airports are not convenient to downtown areas.

In order for cities like Wilmington to take be called as promptly as possible, and that real things in the world are those that neither advantage of the air age, NAA argues, it becomes essential for the city to provide facilities like those now provided for automobiles. Which from the NAA point-of-view isn't as hard as it sounds.

NAA, a non-partisan, non-profit aeronautical one, and offers adequate safeguards to the ders there are unseen and unseeable in the association, is conducting a nation-wide campaign for airparks, flightstops, and airharbors

that there can be anything seriously wrong of all the strongest men that ever lived, could into town to work, or shop, or for the tourist cleanse the soul and bring peace mighty. tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, stopping over. Edges of the metropolitan air- to the troubled heart. romar :e, can push aside that curtain and view park could be used for park and recreational purposes. Cost would range from an estimated This morning, O Heavenly Father, instead of so living that evil things tales of bygone hangovers. . .and minimum of \$25,000 up.

his world there is nothing else real and abidng.

NO SANTA CLAUS? THANK GOD! he lives.

NO SANTA CLAUS? THANK GOD! he lives.

A though disconting the airnardor for aircraft equipped for a real shiny and bright, inside, amphibious operation could be developed at a cost ranging from \$1,000 up for a ramp and hangar facilities. With the anticipated largeare all shiny and bright, inside, still have ears to hear it.

I'm a fine one to be telling You, amphibious operation could be developed at a cost ranging from \$1,000 up for a ramp and hangar facilities. With the anticipated largeare all shiny and bright, inside, still have ears to hear it.

reation and hunting and fishing-and spell the difference between a town on an airline and

TAR HEEL HONORED

Maritime Commission will name another Liberty ship, now under construction at Sa-needs today, and as a personal the vacant lot, turned out to be What I mean is-while You need vannah, for a North Carolina merchant ma- habit, Lord, help me to be toler- the ribs of my corduroy breeches, all of us so much-let me play an rine hero. The vessel will be christened the ant, even of intolerance. Let me rubbing against each other. George R. Poole in memory of a Frleigh-born, not only cling close to the doc- Teach me to think again the sim- that's in me. . .let me pyramid 53-year-old assistant engineer who died in the trine of live-and-let-live with my ple thoughts. sight of the fact that employment after the torpedoing of the SS Gulfstate, a tanker, on

CAREER NOT ENDED?

Tar Heels around the Capitol read political been little reason for designating the Greek sands without work. Unless jobs are provided motives in Sen. Robert R. Reynolds' farewell cial, religious or personal require to think as I thought on a day in With all my heart I ask it, Lord speech in the Senate last week-and point out dice which does not spring from my childhood when I found a late Amen. that the junior senator, who declined to stand for re-election, left himself a springboard for re-entry into politics if he so desires. He de-

"Mr. President. in reference to statements as to the rebirth of large-scale isolationism, as a humble citizen of the American republic, I wish to express my opinion to the effect that within two years from now the people of the United States of America will have turned again to isolationism and to real, genuine American nationalism.

"I wish to say further, Mr. President, that in my humble opinion, if we had stuck by isolationism and attended to our own personal business, today we would not be involved in wars everywhere upon the face of the earth. As I have repeatedly declared in this body for years gone, unhesitatingly and unblushingly, I am today more thoroughly in favor of isolationism for America, more thoroughly an American firster and an American nationalist than ever I was in my life, because I have thority, lovelorn editor and infor- artists were giving Americans observed without any difficulty whatever the mation supervisor. That's PFC. C. results of internationalism, what it has brought J. (Chick) Breckinridge, who used while that day's going rate was about in Greece and Poland and elsewhere to manage a small Chicago loan 260 to 1. At that rate, a money abroad, and the consequences of our having office at 1 North Pulaski street. changer could net a profit of \$75 indulged in that which is contrary to American firstism and to American isolationism."

Should events prove him right, and the rest fice nine months ago, a detail of of his colleagues wrong, Sen. Reynolds, who the Army Special Service Forces. exchange rate daily and announc- tions of that country and had startplans to open a law practice here next year, He was supposed to help bewil- ed it to shop-bound soldiers. When ed work at Debrecen to establish may again return to the political arena.

CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISES

When the new Congress convenes in January, the representatives and senators are going to nirs, silks and jewels for the girls T-bones So this "Chicago Mandabe confronted, once again, with the delicate back home. Breck admits he did rin" toured the approved restau- nouncement, recorded here by the question of raising their own salaries. A bill not know his elbow from a bale of rants and taught cooking. Now a Soviet monitor, said the 230-memto raise the salaries of both groups from \$10,000 hay in Chinese when he first to \$15,000 a year died for want of action last came. to \$15,000 a year died for want of action last came. to be followed by the supreme test—an attack of which is likely to procure additional cou- week and its supporters are planning to reintroduce it.

The idea is more logical than it might ap- that made Chicago the Nation's checked. The word goes out from many and join with the United Napear at first blush, its supporters argue. In "freight handler" has been trans- Breck's office that some one is past days, a senator or Congressman was in planted to this town where pigs sharpshooting, and GI business Washington perhaps six months out of the are still toted to market in wheel- disappears. This crude OPA sysyear, could devote the rest of the year to barrows. maintaining his private business. Now, in ad- An index was made of Chengtu dition to being required to stay in session for shops, including an approximate authority on where, what and required to handle non-legislative problems happy GI's from blithely paying between his community and various branches eight to ten times the normal tar-

Pay raises proposed in the Vinson bill, ident. and from \$15,000 to \$20,000 hand. which will be reintroduced, are from \$10.000 for the vice-president speaker of to \$15,000 for representatives and senators; the house' and cabinet members. China and Chinese, has been given form College.

THE GREAT MYSTERY



A Prayer At Christmastide

-nor has ever lived-who could not the cowardly smirk of agreement, ed in early ice.

I wish You would turn me wrong- may not be said of me when I'm let me taste, instead, in memory

get control of the little things: the il's story for what it may be hard to my chest flow over me words and deeds that are blemishes on what You intended to be my immortal soul. Then, the things ry and futile fears. . . remind me tience. . . as well as when I see that matter most will take care of of that dark night of boyhood, when him in soldier - cowboy-airplane

To bulwark the unity our nation me, faster and ever faster, across These are just samples, Lord. everyday neighbors, but make me Let me be brave enough to say of work that will really count. . man enough to reason calmly with I don't like smutty stories or, if for my family, . .for my friends. . my friend when he unthinkingly that be inconsistent with tolerance, for my country. . .for my fellow

the ghostly foots'eps which pursued dreams on his midnight pillow.

echoes some banal but deadly opin- let me at least refrain from reply- man. . . and through them all for ion or epithet-charged with ra- ing in kind. . . and cause me instead You.

Let my shame at needless pro- er and his staff obviously believe

aign for airparks, flightstops, and airharbors to bring the private flier to the city.

The first control of the city to bring the private flier to the city.

Wilmington, it points out, will probably in
Paul Warwick, which appeared in pride. . and let me feel the same stead of one second after, the imwhat makes the noise inside, but there is a augurate a slum clearance program after the The Atlanta Constitution. Read it. degree of warm self - satisfaction pulse to utter blasphemy. . . and let within the next few days. veil covering the unseen world which not the war. Part of the area cleared could be de- Clip it. On Christmas morning, from the friendly smile of my low- me remember more often the revoted to an airpark—a small field right in the heart of the city for the average citizen flying corner and read it again. It will the infrequent handshake of the stormswept shore. Stay my tongue from gossip and Guard me from illusion that lis-

backbiting. . .and make me think teners are held in thrall by my

when eager, confident questions When I wander into frantic wor- are about to irk me into impa-

everlasting parley on the little good my worthwhile emotions into a job saying.

By TOM REEDY WASHINGTON Dec. 23 .- F-Some senators want microphones

for Christmas. They are getting tired of cupping

it in the 79th Congress. Senator Andrews (D-Fla) has a resolution to install microphones His Florida colleague, Pepper wants to go even further. . . has a proosal to put the Senate

proceedings on the radio. Support is coming from those senators whose hearing isn't s good any more. Half the time the aon't know what the other half

'The Senate is working with the most important business of the Ine Senate has to solve some

presented by the senators them selves. They walk around aimless ly from desk to desk, talking all tne while. You just don't know what part of the chamber they l

raised is that the Senate may have to go into secret sessions and some of the members don't want any wires around that can be tapped Senate Secretary Edwin A. Halse, said that objection has been vo ed before and it carries a lot of

Some system of portable micro phones might be worked out. However they do it, there'll be loud huzzah from the press ga leries. Some days I forget my e trumpet and miss a lot of good

JAPAN PROTESTS ALLEGED SINKING OF MERCY VESSEL

By The Associated Press Japan's Domei news agency ported today an official protest had been made to the United States government over the alleged sink December 13.

thorized to set up would rival the

cast in English and intended for American consumption.

The wing of a bee makes 190

110; of a fly, 330.

WITH THE AEF

Meet The OPA Of Chengtu

BY JOHN GROVER

CHENGTU, Szechwan, China-Administrator of Chengtu," the Yankee pocket lettuce and the ex- chow mein parlor in Chicago after boss of the downtown ward of this change rates had the doughboys the war. 2,200-year-old west China metrop- fiscal foolish. When they were Breck is the only son of Dr. and olis. And he's a GI Joe who handed a bale of crisp, new bank- Mrs. C. J. Breckinridge of Chicouldn't order chop sucy without notes totaling \$4,800 Chinese for cago. pointing to a menu in his native one U. S. \$20 bill, it seemed like Chicago 18 months ago.

On his job, he's a combination

in the Chengtu Military Police of- day. the town's more than 500,000 to chisel. equally puzzled Chinese.

The GI's wanted steaks, souve-It's all different now. Some of

Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon Chinese currency had to be licked, here and manage postwar enter-Chinese merchants - and none prises, but he says he'll speak his Delayed) - (A) - He's the "OPA are smarter-like the feel of GI- Chinese in a Wentworth street financial manna.

Breck and helpful, ethical Chiinternational banker, etiquette au- nese, learned that some exchange only \$240 Chinese for \$1 U. S. "Breck" was assigned a desk U. S. without much trouble every

So Breck got the dope on the dered GI's find their way among GI Joe knows the score, he's hard

with American memory

feature "double thick steaks."

em works. To the Yanks, Breck's the final

when. From buck private to generals, they consult him on living, shopping and dining. He's stuck, though, when asked

from \$75,000 to \$100,000 for the pres- otherwise, Breck has Chengtu in der of the Reform Church in Hung-Already, Breck who has learned

money exchange in war-inflated several flattering offers to stay

NEW HUNGARIAN REGIME PLANNED TO HELP ALLIES

LONDON, Dec. 23.-(AP)-Moscow announced tonight that a provisional Hungarian National Assembly had been elected in liberated pora new provisional government Then, Chinese steaks didn't jibe which would cooperate with the of United Nations The broadcast of the Moscow an-

The infrequent merchant who sued an appeal to the Hungarian the Midwest's "git up and git" jacks up prices beyond reason is people to break with Hitler's Ger-The new government as it is au-

> puppet regime of pro-Nazi Ference Szalasi which has fled from besieged Budapest to Sopron on the Austro-Hungarian border. The assembly elected as its pre-

sident, Bela Zede, professor of the jurisdical academy at Miskolc. professor at Debrecen University ship in accordance with the Gent where could a guy get a date?" professor at Debrecen University Chinese girls don't "date." But, and Dr. Sandor Yuhadnagy, a lea-

It met in a building of the Re-

That is the factor that in the long run will crush Germany in total defeat. That is the circumstance which inspired the ringing battle order call by the Allied generalissimo, General Eisen hower,, to his troops. "By rushing out from fixed defenses the enemy may give us the chance to turn his great gamble

into his worst defeat," the Eisennower order said. There was no "backs-to-the-wall" or "die-at-your-post" flavor to his summons. On the contrary the general told his armies in effect that Nazi desperation had given them an opportunity they could not otherwise have foreseen for weeks or months of slogging, slow pressure against deeply fortified German defenses.

By every sign available the crisis for the Nazis cannot be long deferred. The German commander has ful-

ly committed to this action fourth or more of his total available divisional strength in the west, and a far larger proportion of his crack field units as distinct The man or woman does not live patriotic motives. Save me from autumn flower, fullblown, imprison- from Fortress troops. If he has overreached himself as Eisenhow-

generation and this is not time, ency feel, to be missing anything problems before it can install ma crophones however. One of the biggest difficulties is

turn up in next. Another objection that is being

weight.

ing of a Japanese hospital ship the Muro Maru by American planes in a raid on Manila harbor Domei said the hospital ship was bombed and strafed and that

sank several hours later as the result of the attacks. The Federal Communication Commission, which picked up the Domei report, said it was brown

Domei asserted the U. S. gove. ment had been notified last Jan uary through neutral channels that the Muro Maru was a hos

movements a second; of a wasp