Henderson Daily Dispatch

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300 U. S. Planes Strike Greece

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Russians Threaten Two German Strongholds

"NO POWER ON EARTH can prevent the destruction of the German armies . . . and their war plants from the air," read the proclamation of the Big Three at the Cairo conferences. Thus every industrial area in the Reich becomes an automatic target for the Allied bombers as a prelude to the vast invasion program blueprinted at Teheran. "The RAF will bomb every city in Germany by night and we will by day," adds Gen. Henry H. Arnold, U. S. Army Air forces chief. This map indicates the doomed cities. *(International)*

Nazis Hurl New Forces Upon Reds

Germans Fear Blow By Red Parachuters; Kiev Battle Fierce

Moscow, Dec. 15—(AP)—The Germans hurled tanks and troops into Smela, 11 miles southwest of captured Cherkasy today, seeking to hold off strong attacks by Soviet parachute troops threatening the vital railway junction from the northwest.

(A Reuter's dispatch from Moscow said Soviet forces driving up from Kremenchug had established contact along the Dnieper river with the Cherkasy Red army group.)

From frontline dispatches it appeared that Lt. Gen. Koropeyev, operating under the command of General Ivan Konev's second Ukrainian army, already has a substantial group of parachutists well armed, especially with mortars, near the village of Svidovok, between Cherkasy and Smela, and there are indications that he is pouring in more.

While the parachutists, now joined by the advanced group that took Cherkasy, moved westward toward the Kiev-Dnepropetrovsk railway and Smela, other Red Army forces advanced in the direction of Smela from north of Zvenenka and west of Kremenchug.

Konev's new offensive, powered by perhaps 200,000 men, threatens to engulf the important industrial targets of Kirovograd and Krivoi Rog, farther down the Dnieper bulge.

(At Kirovograd, the German communique said, the Russians "temporarily" succeeded in breaking into the German lines. The Nazis added, however, that the Soviets had been thrown back later by German attacks.

(The Germans also reported "very heavy" fighting "in the difficult forest and lake districts south of Nevel.")

Russian troops in the Kiev bulge, meanwhile, battled desperately to halt Field Marshal von Manstein's reinforced Nazi armored divisions, which were reported pushing on toward Kiev from the highway junction to Radomyl.

Throwing in wave after wave of tanks and infantry in apparent disregard for the cost in men and materials, Von Manstein seemed determined to recapture the capital of the Ukraine.

Ivey Resigns As Planning Board's State Chairman

Raleigh, Dec. 15,—(AP)—George Ivey, of Charlotte, chairman of the reorganized State Planning Board, has resigned since a meeting scheduled for Chapel Hill today has been cancelled, Governor Broughton said.

In making the announcement today, Governor Broughton said that Ivey's personal business affairs were too heavy for him to carry on with the State, especially since the board had been unable to find a managing director during the three months it had been in office.

Governor Broughton indicated another chairman would be named and efforts intensified to find a director whose principal duties it will be to map postwar plans for the State, cities and counties. The job will pay up to $6,000 a year.

NEGRO BAND LEADER DIES.

Kansas City, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Fats Waller, 39, noted Negro dance band leader, died today on a train in the Kansas City union station.

A representative of the coroner's office said after a preliminary examination that he had suffered a heart attack. The body was removed to an investigating parlor and a further examination was expected to be made.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA:

Clearing and much colder tonight; temperatures five to 12 in extreme west portion; 12 to 18 central; and 18 to 24 in extreme east portions. Thursday fair and very cold.

F.D.R. DECORATES CLARK IN SICILY

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT pins the Distinguished Service Cross on the field jacket of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, Allied Fifth Army chief, in Castelvetrano, Sicily. The President visited Sicily after his historic conferences at Cairo and Teheran. He also reviewed Gen. Patton's Seventh Army. This is a U. S. Signal Corps photo. *(International Soundphoto)*

Rommel May Be Chosen Supreme Commander For Blow At Invaders

London, Dec. 15—(AP)—High Nazi leaders were understood today to be considering vesting supreme command of the German army in Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in an effort to tighten anti-invasion defenses as well as to forestall any anti-Hitler coup by the professional generals of the Junker caste.

Rommel recently has been reported touring northwest Europe as a kind of anti-invasion chief, and there are indications that Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt may soon be removed from command of western defenses, a post he has held for nearly two years.

Von Rundstedt, a leader among the military aristocracy, repeatedly has been reported waiting for the opportune moment to attempt an anti-Nazi coup and extend a peace bid to the Allies in the hope of winning time which would permit salvaging of enough of Germany's war machine to set in motion another try at world domination in the future.

There have been recurrent reports in London that the junker clique already has unofficially approached the Allies with just such terms, which fell far short of the unconditional surrender formula.

Refugees from Germany, who reported on their arrival here that the Nazis were thinking of elevating Rommel to supreme command said also that their information indicated that the Germans had sent word that the Allies will be in possession of Denmark and Norway almost any day.

The German air Luftwaffe has been plagued by continued losses and rumors, despite the strict dictatorship they established over the country on August 29, after a British air raid and mass recall.

While the Nazis were reported to fear an Allied Baltic thrust, and a fighting but a losing battle has been in the Russian war, confirmed by the appointment of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., commander of the Third Army, Seventh Army and the 15th Army, which have been kept secret since the Sicily invasion, there is no hint that he is slated for a new command.

Soviets Plan For Biggest Drive Yet

London, Dec. 15—(AP)—A Moscow broadcast to the Red army today declared "this winter will see a Soviet offensive on a larger scale than ever before."

"Winter is a most convenient time for Red army operations, as the past two war winters have shown," said the broadcast, recorded by the Soviet monitor.

"It is the best time for outflanking movements, surprise raids, encirclement and annihilation of the enemy."

Tale Of Nazi Attack Plans Called Hoax

Washington, Dec. 15—(AP)—The story being told by German soldiers captured in Italy that Germany is husbanding its forces for a great spring offensive was regarded in military quarters here today as ludicrous propaganda.

Authorities emphasized, however, that Germany still is fully capable of lashing out with locally successful counterattacks.

But the claim of captured Nazis that vast quantities of military equipment, including new weapons and aircraft, are being hoarded for a final great drive is treated as propaganda dished out by a government which still hopes for a stalemate peace among the Allies.

Don Whitehead, of the Associated Press, reported in an Allied dispatch from Italy that German soldiers were reciting this doggerel to boy out this "Verzweiflungsschlacht" was of revenge:

"If the German is questioning the current lack of Nazi planes over the front it is because, as the unfortunate lad, he says, he is all there are no fuhlers, the heavy bombers are grounded. If there were any numbers protecting numbers the reich would be just there. Germany being crushed is a great day. Germany will last out the winter. Germany is going to repeat. Yes, we seemed incredulous to us that the Germans could believe those things, but they do."

Whatever the Germans may believe, no such report is given credence by the Allies. Enough cut and replies are indicative to the German front lines, it is said, the Germans do not have them to have the transportation facilities. Germans, though, are not because they are being crushed.

Athens And Piraeus Hit By Bombers

British Approaching Ortona, Italian City; U. S. Patrol Clashes

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 15—(AP)—More than 300 American bombers and fighters struck Nazi-occupied Greece the greatest Allied blow yesterday, and 12 German of the air war over the Balkans fighters were downed in a big aerial battle, Allied headquarters announced today.

This giant air attack against three air fields in Athens and Piraeus, harbor city, in Corinthe and Italian troops left an English Army attack that captured Chieti, six miles from Ortona on the Adriatic coast, and cost the Germans 200 prisoners.

Canadian troops in a daring night raid on the village of Boiano, [illegible] miles south of Ortona, captured the commanding village of the 26th Armored Grenadier Division, [illegible] and 110 men.

Patrol clashes near Venafro marked the Fifth Army fighting. A German prisoner on this sector said his commanding officer had told him they were fighting "tough will men from Texas."

Clinging weather could not stop the seventh air force [illegible] formations into the air.

The great fleet of bombers and escorting fighters dealt a smashing blow against German air force nests just outside Athens.

Flying Fortresses delivered the first blow at Piraeus harbor, key Grecian port which was almost destroyed during the early days of the German invasion of Greece in April, 1941.

Thirty-five German fighters which rose to challenge the waves of Fortresses, Liberators and their escorting Lightning P-38's were brushed aside in a blaze of gunfire which sent 12 of the Germans crashing to earth.

In other air activity during the day, three additional German planes were shot down, bring a the 24-hour bag in this theatre to 15, against an Allied loss of five, with one pilot safe.

An Allied officer announced that two bridgeheads across the Moro river, forced by the Canadians on the coast and the Indians further inland, now have been merged into one. It is about a mile in depth and five miles wide. This bridgehead includes Caldari.

Scourge Of Illness Is To Increase

(By The Associated Press.)

More than a million sufferers of respiratory ailments were reported throughout the nation today and it appeared that the figure might rise as officials generally agreed that public weather would not abate the spread of illnesses.

Absentees from already short war plants continued to mount, but deaths were few. Numerous schools were temporarily closed and in the homes [illegible] on average [illegible] Many war plants were operating with reduced manpower.

Health authorities said the illnesses were mild and usually lasted only about two days. They declared that persons suffering from respiratory infections should stay at home and away from other persons.

Health authorities stressed that the situation in this country could not be compared with the influenza epidemic of 1918.

Recovery In Cotton Mart

New York, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to 25 cents a bale lower. Noon values were 10 cents a bale higher to 10 cents lower. December 19.54; March 19.56; and May 19.34.

	Pv. Close	Open
December	19.56	19.65
March	19.55	19.51
May	19.34	19.30
July	19.12	19.08
October (new)	18.92	18.91

'One-Man Army'

Lt. Charles E. Kelly of Pittsburgh, Pa., is—according to his family—the "Commando Kelly" mentioned in news from Italy as a "one-man army" who single-handed held a village against the Germans and routed a Nazi unit by heaving live mortar shells against it. Given up for lost, the storied Kelly came back and demanded more ammunition, declaring that those (censored) Nazis weren't going to drive him out of town. (International)

Nazis Beaten From The Air In Yugoslavia

London, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Mounting Allied air assaults along the Yugoslav Adriatic coast have forced the Germans to abandon Ulbano island opposite Zara, and played a big role in the heavy defeat inflicted on the invaders by Yugoslav ground forces near Zara, headquarters of Marshal Tito announced today.

Tito's communique broadcast by the Free Yugoslav radio, also declared that Moslems—previously recruited from scattered tribes in eastern Yugoslavia, had joined his partisans, with the Moslem sixteenth brigade capturing a town in eastern Bosnia, and forcing the Nazis to retreat.

The Berlin radio reported an Allied seaborne excursion against Pag island, north of Ulbano island. It declared coastal batteries on Pag had sunk a fully-manned landing boat and turned away other boats "trying to reach the island."

It true, this German account meant the Allies had made a bold penetration of the outer screen of numerous islands to reach Pag, which lies within the sheltered approach of the Fiume naval base.

Later a Budapest broadcast said Germans and Croats had landed on Pag and occupied the town of the same name.

Italians Demanding Abdication Of King

Liberation Group Says He Obstructs Nation's Re-Birth

Naples, Dec. 15—(AP)—The Italian Committee of National Liberation, representing the six major non-Fascist political parties, issued a statement today describing King Vittorio Emmanuele as "one of the gravest obstacles to the re-birth of the nation."

At the same time, Benedetto Croce, venerable Italian politician and philosopher, declared unequivocally that the king's abdication is a prerequisite to reconstruction of a united Italy.

In another statement, published in Naples' only newspaper and broadcast by the Naples radio, Croce raised the possibility of a formal trial of the king, adding that he hoped legal proceedings would never be brought against the sovereign for, he said, the result could only be complete condemnation of the monarch.

The king should voluntarily abdicate, he continued, not only for his own sake, but for the sake of the monarchy itself.

Croce's statement was the second recent intimation that actual court proceedings against Emmanuele were within the range of possibility. A Naples newspaper editor recently wrote, "The king's crimes against the Italian people are greater than those that have caused others in Europe to lose their heads."

Mighty Assaults Upon New Britain Made by Bombers

Southwest Pacific Allied Headquarters, Dec. 15.—(AP)—One of the mightiest aerial assaults of the war on New Britain island, Japan's bulwark in the Southwest Pacific, was reported by General Douglas MacArthur today.

In the Gasmata area, important enemy supply center on the south store, more than 100 Liberator heavy and Mitchell medium bombers, in a three-hour midday attack Sunday, dropped 218 tons of bombs.

The bombers struck from minimum altitudes, also sweeping the ground with machine gun fire. Only 19 Japanese interceptors rose to meet the attackers, which included Lightning fighters, and two of the enemy were shot down. All our planes returned.

U. S. Military Mission In Saudi Arabia

Cairo, Dec. 15—(AP)—The first American military mission ever to enter Saudi Arabia has just completed successful introductory talks with King Ibn Saud on economic and military matters, it was officially disclosed here today.

Amid all the pomp of that of rich country, which can be entered by invitation only, Major General Ralph Royce, American Middle East commander, talked for three days with Ibn Saud and his foreign affairs, mining and military advisers before returning here.

Royce left behind in Jidda, on the Red Sea, four military experts on economics, public health, radio broadcasting and military affairs, who will continue the investigations and consultations.

It was reliably reported that the original conversations produced no signed documents, but were in the nature of a "get-together" with the Saudi Arabian chieftains.

DR. JOHN KELLOGG, NOTED DOCTOR, DIES

Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 15.—(AP)—Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, famed physician, health authority and head of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, died during the night at the age of 91.

He had been in failing health for about six months and had not been at his office for about five months. He died at 11:30 p. m., at his residence.

He was a leader of a health movement that bans meat from the diet, emphasizing the food value of grains, fruits and vegetables.