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Nine Persons Dead, Five Critically Hurt In Morganton Crash

Two Cars Collide Head-on on Highway In Early Morning

Morganton, Dec. 2—(AP)—Nine persons were killed and five others critically injured in the collision of two automobiles eight miles west of Morganton early today.

The dead, all residents of Morganton, Route 1, and nearby Glen Alpine, were identified as Thomas Spang, returned overseas soldier; Virgil B. Merrill, soldier; Raymond Shouse, soldier; Doris Shook, Morganton, Route 1; Mattie Hoyle, Glenn Appoy, Harold Mull, Glenn Alpine; James Binfield, Morganton, Route 1; Charles Mayfield, Morganton, Route 1; and Bill Richard Mull, Morganton, Route 1.

The injured, James Powell, Clayton Chook and Ray Abernethy, all in Grace hospital at Morganton, and Michael Wilson and Ashley Carwell in the Marion hospital.

State Highway Patrolman H. O. Kelly said the two cars met, apparently at terrific speed, at the bottom of the hills known as Bottom Drop between here and Marion. The accident occurred about 3 a. m. under a light moon.

Kelly said the victims' bodies were so badly mangled and wrapped up in the twisted steel of the demolished cars that their removal was difficult.

Chamber Ted Shirley announced he would empanel a jury today and would hold an inquest tomorrow.

State Plans To Follow Up Fraud Cases

BY LYNN NISBET Daily Dispatch Bureau

Raleigh, Dec. 2—Majority opinion around Capitol Square is there will be no convictions for violation of election laws in the primary and general elections of 1944, but the two agencies chiefly responsible for handling the matter insist they are not going to pull any punches.

The state board of elections and the attorney general's office propose to follow through to the limit of their legal authority to see that persons who have disregarded statutes and recent procedure are brought to trial for such violations. There is full cooperation between the two departments, but spokesmen for both suggest that they have to work more slowly than some zealous partisans wish, because they cannot afford to violate statutes or constitutional rights in the process of establishing other statutes.

There were complaints filed from Graham and Polk counties alleging violations of the law in conduct of the primary last May. There has been some criticism because positive action has not resulted. Both are small counties with infrequent trials at court. District solicitors have investigated the charges, and there is still probability of some sort of criminal action. The matter was not regarded as vital enough to require a special term of court, and in absence of a special term the solicitor must wait until the regular grand jury is convened before he can present the evidence in hand. Officials after this day explanation rather than as alibi. Offenses alleged in those counties are not so serious as those alleged elsewhere in connection with the November election and the misuse of absentee ballots. (It is significant and creditable that there has not been a single allegation of misuse or fraud with respect to absentee ballots for military personnel.)

Pearl Harbor Punishment Is Abandoned

Washington, Dec. 2—(AP)—Any further punishment for the Pearl Harbor disaster probably will be visited upon the Japanese alone. The army and navy announced last night that no grounds have been found for court-martial proceedings against United States military personnel.

Boards of inquiry reported, however, that errors in judgment and lack of skill in both Washington and Hawaii contributed to the tragedy.

While some demand immediately arise in Congress for a separate investigation there, faith in their investigation was voiced in behalf of the two men in command at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese struck their treacherous blow December 7, 1941.

"When the entire story is unfolded, I am certain of complete vindication in the eyes of the American people," Major General Walter C. Short said in a statement issued to the press at Dallas, Texas.

"The statement of Secretary of Navy Forrestal means that Admiral Kimmel has been cleared," said Charles B. Rugg, counsel for Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel in an oral comment at Boston. Meanwhile, the inside story of why the United States garrison at Pearl Harbor was taken by surprise with result of crippling blow to the fleet

V-2 Smoke Trail



This first picture of a V-2 rocket bomb in flight was made by Lt. Charles Crane, U. S. Army pilot, of Methuen, Mass. It was taken some 29,000 feet over Germany as the rocket's smoke trail flashed past Crane's plane at terrific speed. Arrow at bottom of picture points to another U. S. plane, piloted by Lt. Donald Schultz, of Salinas, Cal., who reported seeing the V-2 disappear at a height of some 30,000 feet, four seconds after it streaked past his plane. (International)

Harbor Bill Is Urged As Job Measure

Senate Debate Over Issue Is Spirited; Flood Bill Passed

Washington, Dec. 2—(AP)—Jobs for thousands after the war were promised today as an incentive for quick Senate passage of a \$500,000 rivers and harbors authorization.

The Senate swung into debate on the bill immediately after approving by voice vote yesterday a billion dollar flood control authorization.

The two measures could authorize postwar construction of flood control, reclamation, navigation, hydro-electric power and other projects in most of the country's great river basins.

Opening debate on the rivers and harbors bill, Senator Clayton, Louisiana Democrat, advocated the big authorization as in line with the government's policy to plan for jobs when peace comes. He estimated that from 75 to 80 percent of the huge sum would go for labor.

Most of the debatable issues were resolved in the flood control measure, which contained sections intended to protect irrigation from encroachment by navigation projects, to give State governments the right to review projects and authorizing the Interior secretary to dispose of surplus electricity at dams.

The Senate stalled, however, over a few major projects. The \$66,000,000 Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway drew sharp criticism from Senator Vandenberg, Michigan Republican, who demanded a new survey.

Coblentz Is Bombed By Our Planes

London, Dec. 2—(AP)—More than 250 American heavy bombers attacked railroad yards today in the Coblentz area, fifty miles behind the German western front, and at least 22 German planes were shot down when 539 escorting Thunderbolts and Mustangs tangled with 200 enemy fighters.

An aid warning broadcast by Berlin indicated that American heavy bombers from Italy struck simultaneously at targets in southern Germany. It was the first time in almost two weeks that weather had permitted a synchronized daylight operation.

The bomber fleet which hit rail facilities in the Coblentz area had carried more than 100,000 tons of explosives.

Coblentz is as important as Cologne, immediately threatened by the American ninth and first armies, and Saarbrücken, under attack by the American third.

Coblentz is 50 miles north of Cologne. The Moselle river empties into the Rhine at Coblentz.

New York, Dec. 2—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 15 to 30 cents a bale lower, and closed unchanged to 20 cents a bale lower.

	Open	Close
December	21.63	21.6
March	21.70	21.74
May	21.69	21.73
July	21.50	21.53
October	20.75	20.78

Middling spot, 22.14.

DANGER LURKS IN METZ STREETS



ALTHOUGH METZ has fallen to the hard fighting Yanks, there is still sniper trouble—a peril that follows every conquest. Here a patrol of 93th Division infantrymen go about the city, from one corner to another clearing out the remaining Nazis. Signal Corps photo. (AP/International)

Troops Of Ninth Army Drive Into Roer Center Of Linnish

REVEAL SINKING OF TROOPSHIP IN ATLANTIC



With her stern settling rapidly, the Viceroy of India, British liner carrying American troops to England, is shown after she had been hit by a Nazi torpedo somewhere in the Atlantic. The 20,000-ton vessel, it has just been disclosed, went to the bottom in November, 1942. No details of loss of life, if any, are disclosed. This photo has just been radioed from London. (International)

Repeated Suicide Charges Costing Jap Army Heavily

Germany May Disregard All Laws Of War

London, Dec. 2—(AP)—The German high command says it is considering abandonment of international agreements on the laws of war, which among other things bar use of poison gas and provide for humane treatment of war prisoners.

Provoked by the proclamation of French Major General Leclerc that unless emptying coastal bases within five German hostages would be executed, the high command said yesterday that the "strongest counter reprisals against French prisoner in Germany would be taken as a result of such a step."

"As conditions are, an inquiry is already in progress as to whether Germany should continue to regard herself bound by the Geneva and Hague conventions, respectively, as well as by other international agreements about the laws of war, insofar as they have been broken by our enemies," said the high command statement, broadcast by the official German news agency, DNB.

Before Leclerc and his French command and captured division had a chance to carry out his proclamation, they were moved from Strasbourg. It appeared that his order, scheduled to have gone into effect today, would die a natural death.

Cotton Lower At The Close

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Tokyo Says Japs Land Paratroops Upon East Leyte

(By The Associated Press)

A Japanese imperial spokesman claimed today that airborne assault units were landed on eastern Leyte island last Sunday near two American air fields in the Philippines, and were believed to have caused considerable damage.

The communiqué, broadcast and received by the Federal Communications Commission, was wholly uncorroborated. It asserted that the troops landed in the vicinity of Butuan and Marikina, some 100 miles from the main Japanese beachhead.

Reconnaissance of the Japanese scout plane, the communiqué continued, reports that this command unit is believed to have made death-dealing penetrations at important points on these air fields and caused great war results.

Senate Rule Perils Peace, Daniels Says

Washington, Dec. 2—(AP)—Joseph Daniels, secretary of the navy in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, today said the ratification of the world peace pact is endangered by the Senate two-thirds rule governing treaty ratifications.

He urged immediate adoption of the resolution which would amend the Constitution to allow ratification by a majority of both houses of Congress.

Daniels maintained retention of the present pact is a "sword of defeat" of popular will. "While I sincerely hope and believe the failure to enter the League of Nations 25 years ago, with the ill that have come to curse us, will not be repeated and may be averted, he said, 'we cannot go to sleep in complacency that its repetition is impossible as long as a small majority in the Senate possesses power larger than should be invested in any 33 men. Under our present Constitution, 45,000,000 may vote one way and a small minority can veto the popular will.'"

Referring to present constitutional treaty provisions as an instrument which enables a minority of senators to "thwart" the will of a majority of their colleagues, Daniels stated:

"The lion in the path (of peace) today is the veto power in the hands of one-third of the senators, most of whom were not elected this year, and some of whom are known to be isolationists. They may be controlled by their constituents as to unwilling to vote for the peace treaty as drawn. Even if it did not lie in the power of one-third of the senators to defeat the treaty, I should still favor changing the Constitution because the present policy is undemocratic, and may in the future, as in the past, thwart the will of the American people. As both houses of Congress must unite on legislation of the highest importance, and both have equal voice in declaring war, both ought to be equal in declaring and insuring peace by a majority vote of both."

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Continued cold and clear to night. Partly cloudy Sunday.

German Line In Lorraine Collapsing

Strasbourg Under Strong Shell Fire of Retiring Germans

Paris, Dec. 2—(AP)—U. S. Ninth army troops battled into the Roer river bastion town of Linnich today, showing the northern arc of the Cologne plain battle within 15 miles of the Rhineland factories of the twin cities of Rheydt Munchen and Gladbach.

The ninth army men hit back into Roer Diers and Flossdorf, lost to vicious Nazi counter charges, and their first army comrades further south shot slowly through fierce resistance toward Linnich on the Roer.

Tanks of the third army lengthened the front on the Saar river, opposite Metz, to ten miles. General Patton's armor and men massed in striking position along the Saar valley.

On the right bank of this assault zone, third army forces were within two miles of Saarbrücken, and farther east doughboys were but eight miles southwest of Saarbrücken.

Seventh army troops were exploiting what seemed to be a definite collapse of the German line across northern Lorraine. They drove to the outskirts of Haguenau and in a sweeping flank attack reached a point ten miles northwest of the city, within ten miles of the Reich's border.

Strasbourg still was under heavy German shellfire from east of the Rhine. The Germans tried to reinforce their tenuous and shallow bridgehead along the west bank of Strasbourg by boats under cover a smoke screen, but United States artillery collapsed the attempt. Doughboys battled up to the staircases of apartment buildings in the eastern suburbs in an effort to punch out the bridgehead there. To the south the Colmar gap between seventh and French first armies was squeezed down to not more than thirty miles, a front dispatch said.

A savage battle raged at Linnich along the center of the American bulge toward Cologne. First army troops fought to cross the Innre river to the eastern part of the town, but were brought under heavy mortar and artillery fire. A front dispatch said the battle was one of the most intense small-scale artillery duels since the start of the offensive.

The weather retarded air operations by both sides. Leyte-based fighter planes roared through the murky overcast to bomb Japanese supply depots in the Ormoc base area.

Japanese casualties in the Leyte fighting and in attempts to reinforce their garrison there are believed to be approaching 100,000.

Demand Mixed With Stocks

New York, Dec. 2—(AP)—Selective demand continued in today's stock market, although, as in the preceding session, many leaders were unable to get into the plus column.

Ahead of intervals were General Motors, U. S. Rubber and Western Union A. On the outside were U. S. Steel and Chrysler.

Railway bonds attracted bids. Commodities were mixed.

Reds Heading For Plain Leading Toward Austria

Moscow, Dec. 2—(AP)—Russian troops, crossing the Meseck mountains, southwest of Budapest, headed today into a plain stretching to the border of Austria, 90 miles east.

In this expansion of the offensive west of the Danube, the third Ukrainian army overran more than sixty towns and villages and increased its pressure on the Hungarian capital from the rear. The Russians had beaten down hastily summoned German reinforcements.

To meet the Russian threat, Pest was being evacuated. The German radio announced. Pest is the major part of Budapest and lies on the east side of the Danube.

The Berlin broadcast said bridges were clogged with both military and civilian traffic, but that the Germans were preparing for an all-out resistance in Budapest, on the west bank of the Danube.

(The capital has been under siege by the Red army for many days.) Third army troops basing their

drive from the captured Hungarian industrial center of Pecs, marched into German defenses in two directions.

Northward the forces pressed to the outskirts of Szekesvar, and already had this stronghold encircled, although there was evidence the Germans intended to make a bitter stand in the town itself.

Other units hammered northwestward toward Lake Balaton, engaging the fortified highway junction of Saus and the village of Oskoblatos, on the Haber canal.

Having crossed the Meseck heights, the third army reached almost level terrain for vast enveloping movements, in which Marshal Tolbukhin excels.

Forces of the fourth Ukrainian army, driving westward through Czechoslovakia, forced the Ondava river, on a 30-mile front and probed within 20 miles of the important railway and highway center of Kassa.