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GERMAN POWER WANING ALONG ROER RIVER

Five Objectives Of U. S. Foreign Policy Given By Stettinius

Legislature Meets Jan. 3 For Session

Governor Cherry To Favor Payment Of Debt From Surplus

By RALPH L. HOWLAND
Raleigh, Dec. 12—(AP)—The North Carolina Legislature, meeting for the second time in World War II, will convene its sessions January 3 with a new governor and the task of handling the largest surplus in the State's history.

Governor-elect R. Gregg Cherry, of Gastonia, a veteran legislator, has campaigned for conservative handling of the fund, expected to approximate \$70,000,000 by the end of the current biennium, and recommended that the State's indebtedness of about \$52,000,000 be paid off as soon as possible.

Cherry said here only two weeks ago that while the taxpayers were entitled to expect some relief either in the form of credits or refunds during the "temporary" surplus period, the job of revising the State's general tax schedule should be left to peacetime assemblies. He indicated he favored no general tax reduction at this time.

Although legislators generally follow the new governor's wishes expressed in his first message to them, the 1945 Assembly undoubtedly will have a multiplicity of contested issues.

(Continued on Page Five.)

Gen. Arnold Asks Where It Is That Nazis Crumbling

Beverly Hills, Cal., Dec. 12—(AP)—General Henry H. Arnold said he hates to hear stories that German defenses are crumbling. "I'd like to know where they are crumbling," the army air force commanding general said here at a press conference.

"We've attacked German factories, marshalling yards, canals, fuel bearing plants, synthetic rubber and both natural and synthetic gasoline plants," he added. "We've cut their force down to such small numbers that for months at a time some of our formations saw no planes at all. Meanwhile, thousands of our planes were in action."

"In spite of all this, the Germans still keep on fighting, and they're darn tough bitches. I don't think the war in Germany will end until we actually get to Berlin."

Bailey Has New Yadkin Flood Bill

Washington, Dec. 12—(AP)—North Carolina's first landscape project as a flood control development is proposed by Senator Bailey.

Bailey said today he has asked the Department of Agriculture to survey the Yadkin Valley as the first step toward a new type of flood control in his State.

"I believe floods can be reduced in the upper Yadkin valley by landscape care," he said in an interview.

Three weeks ago the North Carolina senator was successful in eliminating the "Yadkin-Pee Dee river basin" project from the billion dollar postwar flood control bill in the Senate. At that time he asserted the project proposed a series of dams "where absolutely no flood control is involved."

He explained that he favored a flood control project in the neighborhood of North Wilkesboro, and declared, "I believe the floods in the Yadkin valley should be ended." Landscape care is the way to reduce these floods and "I think I'll get it going," he said today.

More Foreign Trade And World Peace In Forefront of List

Washington, Dec. 12—(AP)—Secretary of State Stettinius today outlined to legislators five objectives of American foreign policy, keyed by a pledge of postwar foreign trade expansion.

Asserting that the State Department must move speedily to put into effect a reorganization program, the secretary urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to approve the appointment of six members of his staff.

Testifying in the crowded Senate caucus room in hearings having a potentially heavy impact on world affairs, Stettinius said the State Department has these five major objectives:

1. The fullest possible support in the conduct of our foreign affairs for our armed forces, so that the war may be won at the earliest possible moment.

2. Effective steps to prevent Germany and Japan, after victory by the United Nations, from again acquiring power to wage aggressive war.

3. Establishment at the earliest possible moment of a United Nations organization capable of building and maintaining the peace by force if necessary—for generations to come.

4. Agreement on measures to promote a great expansion of our foreign trade and of productivity and trade throughout the world, so that we can maintain full employment in our own country, and—together with the other United Nations—enter an era of constantly expanding production and consumption and of rising standards of living.

5. Encouragement of all those conditions of international life favorable to the development by men and women everywhere of the "characteristics of a free and democratic way of life, in accordance with their own customs and desires."

Chinese Are Chasing Japs To Southward

Chungking, Dec. 12—(AP)—Chinese troops from the north streamed southward today through Chungking as other Chinese drove down the railway in pursuit of Japanese retreating from Kweichow province, the high command said.

The high command appeared intent upon full preparation for any new Japanese assault upon the province. The site of the troop movement southward spread relief throughout this wartime capital. The populace showered the marching soldiers with gifts.

On the fighting front the Chinese took the rail town of Lanzhou and pushed on toward Lantian, former site of a U. S. air base.

There was no indication whether the troops from the north were driven from the ranks of those who have been held down by the communists, but it seemed likely.

At the same time long trains of refugees continued a miserable flight northward from Kweichow in all manner of vehicles.

3,000 Bombers In Day's Battering Of German Railheads

London, Dec. 12—(AP)—At least 3,000 heavy bombers from Britain battered three German railheads and the Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg today, while Flying Fortresses from Italy raided Blechhammer, site of a huge German synthetic fuel plant.

The U. S. 15th air force Fortresses from Italy bombed their oil forests at Blechhammer by instruments. It is the largest source of enemy synthetic oil production within range of the 15th air force, and was last hit December 2.

The attacks followed up a record assault by 4,000 bombers and fighters yesterday.

EASTERN DRIVE CENTERING ON BUDAPEST



WITH BUDAPEST apparently caught in a tight Russian trap and the Red armies smashing closer to the Austrian border, an idea of the supply problems faced in this huge offensive can be gathered from this map. When Russian forces once before appeared about to take the Hungarian capital, they were virtually 1000 miles away from their nearest Soviet industrial base. The rail line network, shown in black arrows, had been knocked out by bombs and equipment was in terrible shape. As winter approached, great tank fleets ploughed steadily toward their goal; new engines and train equipment was supplied; rail lines were repaired. But, as the Red progress, they get still further from their supply bases. Capture of Budapest would greatly speed the march on Vienna where the Hungarian cabinet is reported to have fled on Hitler's orders. (International)

Ormoc Japs Wiped Out

Britain Won't Send Troops Into Pacific

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 12—(AP)—Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, commander of the new British Pacific fleet, declared here today that Britain's contribution in the war against the Japanese in the Pacific would best be confined to sea and air support.

The British admiral made his comment in reply to a question by an interviewer whether British soldiers were coming to the Pacific.

He said the view in England was that the best contribution Britain could make would be a navy supported by air, that supply arrangements would become too complicated if troops were sent, too. He expressed the belief that a concentration of fleets in the Pacific would have considerable effect on shortening the war because Japan is dependent on sea power and air.

One effect of this marshaling of sea power in the Pacific probably will mean that the Japanese navy would not seek to engage the allied warships, but would retire, the admiral said.

"But if she does retire," Sir Fraser continued, "she (Japan) will still be dependent on transport and her supply problems will become more acute. He has got to supply his army in Burma."

Sir Fraser said all his future arrangements depended upon his seeing Admiral Nimitz, under whose jurisdiction he would cooperate.

THIS WAR IS PAST FIRST IN DURATION

London, Dec. 12—(AP)—The European war has passed another milestone, having lasted exactly one year longer than the first World War.

World War I ended in four years, 11 weeks and two days—the last shot being fired just six hours after Armistice terms were signed at 5 a. m., November 11, 1918.

The current war was five years, 11 weeks and two days old yesterday.

BUY WAR BONDS
12 DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS

Enemy Resistance On Levie Is Almost Annihilated by U. S.

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 12—(AP)—Japan's bloody but vain defense of Ormoc took on the proportions of an annihilation today as headquarters reported thousands of crack imperial troops wiped out in a deadly trap just south of the Leyte island port city.

Donkey, of the 77th and seventh infantry divisions effected a junction just south of Ormoc on Monday, and evaded the 26th Nipponese division, hopelessly caught in a vise, flanked after strategic Yank landings on the coast below Ormoc on Thursday.

Other units of the 77th, meanwhile, destroyed the entire garrison battery defending Ormoc. General MacArthur announced in his communique today. He described fighting as "of the most desperate character all the way."

Annihilated by the Japanese in the Ormoc sector, estimated the subsequent movement of the Yamashita. While MacArthur did not specify the number of enemy troops wiped out in the trap, he said that "many thousands" were in the pocket. There was little indication many could have escaped.

With Ormoc taken, the Americans turned more power to the task of clearing the enemy from the mountainous northwest shoulder of Leyte. Terrain still was virtually impassable, but MacArthur reported his 22nd division was slowly surging forward against enemy positions in the rugged corridor, which runs from Ormoc to Camiguin Bay on the north.

ELAS Forces Elast Athens

Athens, Dec. 12—(AP)—Left wing ELAS forces cut shells crashing into Athens and continued their all-out attempt to break into the center of the city today.

RAF planes at dawn shot up ELAS reinforcements moving on the capital from a town five miles to the northwest.

Several shells fell near the center of Athens, shot near British headquarters, and flames swept through numerous buildings. Fires in the market place threatened to get out of control. Water supplies were cut off in large sections of the city.

British troops installed in the post-office and ELAS forces occupying the townhall fought a three-hour battle in the night.

But this morning the ELAS reoccupied the rest of the town hall and the adjacent streets.

Peace proposals were reported being drawn up by rebel leaders, however.

Tobacco Body Seeks Rating As Essential

Philadelphia, Dec. 12—(AP)—The National Association of Tobacco Manufacturers disclosed today that it will ask an essential classification for the tobacco manufacturing and distribution industries to help ease the cigarette shortage.

The growing industry already has an essential rating, a spokesman said.

Joseph Kolinsky, executive secretary, who will appear tomorrow before a Senate committee investigating the shortage, declared in a statement that cigarettes were scarce partly because of manpower shortages in manufacturing and distribution. Kolinsky said other causes of the shortage were "hoarding," which he attributed to conflicting statements from government agencies; depleted tobacco reserves; and the distribution of acre allotments because of wartime population shifts.

He proposed that one government unit be designated as the source of all statements concerning tobacco, and asked that the War Food Administration and the Department of Agriculture increase tobacco acreage during 1945.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Fair and continued cold tonight and Wednesday; lowest temperatures 22 to 26 in the east.

NAZIS LEAVE ARSENAL INTACT



IN THEIR HASTE to retreat across the Rhine, the German forces abandoning Strasbourg, France, left much of their equipment intact. Above, an American soldier is shown examining some of the racks of machine guns that were found in the Strasbourg arsenal after the city's capture by the American forces. Signal Corps photo. (International Journalist)

U. S. Armies Closing In Upon Duren

Further Progress Is Made by Armies Along West Front

Paris, Dec. 12—(AP)—American first army infantry and tanks moved today with a half mile of Duren, Roer valley defense key, capturing six fortified villages in its approaches, and reaching the flooded river on a 1,000-yard front opposite the Hertzgen forest.

Paris, Dec. 12—(AP)—First army infantry drove to the flooded Roer river today, captured Meind and fought yard by yard and house by house through a string of fortified German villages about two miles west of Duren.

The German army's defensive effort in stout and thick works before assault of the task force was reported to front dispatches to be weakening west of the Roer, inside the Siegfried line at Dillenberg and Scharstein and in northern Albern, under repeated hammering by three American armies.

At the end of the day, three and one-half miles west of Duren, was reported during the night. The Germans still held one behind and one in front of the Roer, and the southern end of the Roer valley line, and the largest German city encircled beyond Duren.

The U. S. third army finally captured Sarguemines, pulled up to the border of the Saarland and started shelling two important German cities five and seven miles inside Germany. The third cleared out five fortified blocks in Frankfurt and a similar area in Eastern. Both are in the Siegfried line. The Germans maintained pressure around the street city of Dillenberg but interrupted no more counter attacks in the ruins of Scharstein itself, a city as devastated as Aachen.

The U. S. seventh army captured the Alsace city of Haguenau, and the drive forced to the north and reached in a little more than 20 miles to the German city of Karlsruhe, opened the Rhine.

Further south below Strasbourg, the seventh and the French first army, both within three and one-half miles of Colmar, checked more by floods than by Germans.

The French cleared eight miles of the Rhine bank from the Swiss frontier to Koblenz and faced the formidable German fortresses across the river.

The Germans appeared to have abandoned hope of holding out much longer west of the Roer, and to be making a desperate effort, which they headed the rest of their artillery and tanks to the east bank.

Freed 21 U.S. Fliers



TWENTY-ONE American combat fliers owe their freedom to Mme. Duce Leyton Tarterre, better known as actress Dorothy Leyton before the war. She faced the imminent danger of a German firing squad for close to three years in underground France so that the fliers might be freed. She ran the risks to avenge the death of her husband, Jacques Tarterre, a French Army officer killed by the Nazis while negotiating the surrender of troops at Damascus in '41. (International)

Soviet Tanks In Suburbs Of Budapest

Moscow, Dec. 12—(AP)—Russian tanks battled into the northern suburbs of Budapest today, while another powerful Soviet column drove westward past the great bend of the Danube above the city toward Bratislava and Vienna, Russian dispatches said.

The main body of motorized infantry driving down the Danube from Budapest was declared in full view of the capital and tank units ranged on ahead.

Hastily reinforced German garrisons suffered high casualties in embittered short range fighting, and there were increasing banner clashes in the outer tank zones, it was announced.

Other Red army troops edged in toward the capital from the east, south and southwest.

In gains of up to seven miles, the Russian front along the central Slovak border was extended to almost thirty miles. Three advances put the Red army troops within 30 miles of Bratislava, the Slovak capital, and 140 miles from Vienna.

Front reports indicated that while the Budapest fighting was in the fiercest stages, there still would be much resistance. The Germans are said to have thrown up virtually the same kind of anti-tank ring around the city as they did around Sevastopol. On the north it hinges on the old station town of Uj Pest and on the south on the town of Pester.

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Workers Not Essential Are Leaving Tokyo

London, Dec. 12—(AP)—The Berlin radio said that evacuation of non-essential workers from Tokyo was proceeding with a contingent of 20,000 planning to leave the city of 7,000,000.

Plans to evacuate several districts had been announced previously by Tokyo.

"Measures for the evacuation of Tokyo are progressing according to plan," the Berlin radio asserted. "Twenty thousand persons will leave the capital on Tuesday, especially the old and infirm, as well as children and expectant mothers."

"No workers in war industry, transport and press may leave Tokyo, however, as special permits are required by the police. Neither can workers in the essential industries—gas, water and electricity, doctors, chemists and nurses. The civil defense focus must also stay."

The broadcast, quoting a Transocean dispatch, said that American bombers had appeared over Tokyo again today, apparently from the Marianas bases, but had dropped no bombs.

A second group of bombers was reported over the capital tonight, dropping incendiary bombs.