Henderson Daily Dispatch

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CHURCHILL URGES IMMEDIATE CONFERENCE

U. S. Seventh Army In New German Invasion

Nazi Lines Shelled At Weak Points

New Punch Aimed At Ludwigshafen And Mannheim Area

Paris, Dec. 15—(AP)—The U. S. Seventh army invaded Germany today, driving across the northeast tip of Alsace into the old Bavarian salient, less than seven miles from Karlsruhe and 35 miles from Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, all great industrial cities of the Rhineland.

The Siegfried line was being shelled at perhaps its weakest point. The Germans said American artillery was entering Karlsruhe itself. American divisions charged to within two miles of Wissembourg, on the border, key to the Nazi German land between the Basel range and the Bavarian forest. That French fortress town is 16 miles west of the Rhine.

General Hermann Balck, commander of German army group G, rushed reinforcements to his battered first and 19th armies. He also tried to relieve pressure by reinforcing the 600-square-mile pocket around Colmar below Strasbourg.

His counterpart, Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers, threatened envelopment of his palatinate and the Saarland to the west and rear.

Devers' 14 or more American and French divisions stood on or near the Rhine for 165 miles from Switzerland to the border town of Lauterbourg, against which the Americans were charging.

The U. S. third army of Lt. Gen. Patton continued its incessive battering of the Siegfried fortifications at Saarlautern and Dillingen. This force, on Devers' left, widened its front inside Germany by crossing the border six miles east of Sarreguemines.

The seventh army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Patch, and part of Devers' sixth army group, was presumably closest to Karlsruhe. Patch indeed had already opened his assault upon the Siegfried line with eight-inch shells and 240-mm. howitzers. Allied planes bombed the westwall defenses and rail lines supplying the German front and funneling in reinforcements. His arrival at the Bavarian boundary represented an advance of more than 500 miles since his veteran divisions waded ashore in southern France exactly four months ago today.

State Is Trying To Develop Pulp By Cotton Test

Raleigh, Dec. 15—(AP)—The governor and the Council of State have allocated $7,760 from the emergency and contingency fund for completing experiments looking toward the utilization of cotton as a source for high grade pulp.

Governor Broughton said today the experiments were being conducted by Dr. Frank Cameron, professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Cameron's services are being rendered at no cost to the project, the governor said, adding that the allocation is to be used for essential equipment and assistance.

"These experiments," the governor said, "have been given added importance in view of the grave problem that confront this State and the entire South in respect to the cultivation and production of cotton. Many substitutes for cotton have already been successfully developed, and also production of cotton in areas outside the United States have proceeded to a point that constitutes a threat to the position of the South in this important phase of its agriculture."

CLARE VISITS TRENTON HERO

A WOUNDED LAD from Trenton, N. J.,—Corp. Glenn Remer—gets a surprise visit from Representative Clare Luce Booth, of Connecticut, when she visited the 12th Evacuation Hospital in France during the Congressional tour of the European battlefront areas. Here she is admiring his Purple Heart award. U. S. Army Signal Corps photo. *(International)*

FDR Creates Three High Admirals, Four Generals

President Quickly Acts Upon Signings New Congress Bill

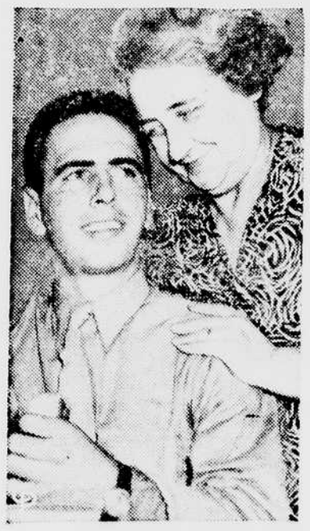
Washington, Dec. 15—(AP)—President Roosevelt signed a bill today creating the ranks of fleet admiral of the navy and general of the armies. He then nominated three admirals and four generals for the new ratings.

To be admiral of the fleet, the first in decades, the President nominated William Leahy, his personal chief of staff; Ernest King, commander-in-chief of the fleet and chief of naval operations, and Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet and all Pacific ocean areas.

To be generals of the army, Mr. Roosevelt named George C. Marshall, army chief of staff; Douglas MacArthur, commander in the southwest Pacific; Dwight Eisenhower, Allied commander-in-chief in Western Europe, and H. H. Arnold, commanding the army air forces.

General John J. Pershing, retired, holds the unique rank of general of the armies of the United States. Under the bill passed by Congress, Mr. Roosevelt still may name one more fleet admiral.

Her Plea Answered



A MOTHER'S PLEA to President Roosevelt for the return of her remaining son, after two others were killed in action, resulted in this reunion of Marine Cpl. William J. Deagan and his mother in their Philadelphia home. The Marine came back from a year of service in South Pacific. *(International)*

Canadian Troops Make Bridgehead On Italian Front

Rome, Dec. 15—(AP)—Canadian troops of the eighth army have established a bridgehead west of the steeply banked Naviglio canal in a night attack and are holding its against strong opposition, Allied headquarters announced today.

The advance was made by the same forces who two days ago smashed their way through stiff German defenses in crossing the Lamone river due west of Ravenna. Allied headquarters said the Canadians turned back a number of German counter attacks, but heavy fighting continued.

Bowles Warns Of Efforts At Price Boosts

Washington, Dec. 15—(AP)—Congress, press and public were on notice from Price Administrator Chester Bowles today to guard against pressure group tactics from three industries for price increases.

Bowles denounced as "misguided minority" of stove manufacturers and an unidentified publicity firm for attempting to "counterfeit public opinion" in a drive for higher profits on stoves.

"I am told that other such plans are in preparation by other small minority groups in three industries," he said last night. "Already sincere and honest business men have warned us of three of them. We are watching these developments with interest."

Small Gains For Cotton

New York, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to 20 cents a bale higher. Noon prices were 15 to 30 cents a bale higher. December 21.83, March 21.88, May 21.85.

	Pv. Close	Open
December	21.79	21.79
March	21.84	21.88
May	21.79	21.82
July	21.41	21.44
October	20.41	20.42

Jap Planes Neutralized Upon Luzon

American Carrier Bombers Devastate Enemy's Airfields

Aboard Vice Admiral McCain's Flagship of a Carrier Force Off the Philippines, Dec. 15—(AP)—Employing startling new and devastating seaborne airplane tactics, Vice Admiral McCain's great air armada by day and by night pinned down the Japanese air force on Luzon island and held it there while others of his Hell Cats sank their claws into Japanese military targets.

Every one of Luzon's airfields, numbering almost 100 and including Manila's Clark field, were smothered by the rocket-bearing Hell Cats. Of the Japanese 300 or more planes, few got their wheels off the ground or their gun barrels warm.

Admiral McCain's carrier planes swept in from cloudy morning skies, which gave good coverage, and caught the Japanese by surprise.

The effectiveness of the Hell Cat umbrella over Luzon's 40,000 square miles was demonstrated by the helplessness of the Japanese to strike back by air. Sweat-soaked, grinning pilots returning from the early strike said they met no airborne opposition, and that the planes they caught and destroyed in the air were there by accident. An early score indicated that at least 85 planes were destroyed—14 in the air and 71 on the ground.

Admiral Nimitz, in a communique issued at Pearl Harbor Thursday, said that American planes had destroyed 91 Japanese planes, 14 in the air and 77 on the ground.)

It was the first time American carrier planes had been over the Philippines since November 28, when the last of five major carrier strikes against Luzon, seat of the Japanese-held Philippines capital.

Wells Says Churchill Should Quit

London, Dec. 15—(AP)—Novelist H. G. Wells declared that Prime Minister Churchill has "outlived" his role as Britain's fighting symbol and asserts that "it is high time he retired upon his laurels before we forget the debt we owe him."

In an article published yesterday, the historian said the prime minister's intervention in the Greek situation was a "discredit" to the nation. He declared Churchill had "lost his head completely" and become a "would-be British fuehrer."

Wells asserted the British policy in Greece resulted from Churchill's "pro-royalism," his "lavishness" and limited range of ideas." The article was entitled, "Churchill Must Go."

SAL Strike Called Off On FDR Move

Washington, Dec. 15—(AP)—Presidential action forestalled the strike called for today on the Seaboard Air Line railway.

An emergency mediation board named by President Roosevelt last night will explore the dispute between the carrier and the brotherhood of locomotive firemen and enginemen.

Referring the case to this board halted the proposed strike at least until the board determines the issues.

The Seaboard's general manager said the railroad will accept any decision of the emergency board. The proposed strike threatened to affect interstate commerce in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, and to deprive part of the national essential transportation service.

The union president said the strike had been called for noon today because the railroad refused to grant the union the right to represent members employed as engineers in handling their individual grievances and claims against the company.

SOLONS VIEW PACIFIC AIR MIGHT

ABOARD A NAVY CARRIER DECK, Congressmen visiting the Pacific area observe the accuracy of Navy gunners firing at a towed sleeve target. Shown peering through the binoculars in the front row is Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean areas commander-in-chief. At his right is Congressman J. J. Heffernan of New York and at his left is Congresswoman Margaret C. Smith of Maine, first woman Representative to visit this Pacific war area. U. S. Navy photo. *(International)*

New Storms Pose Greater Problems For Outer Banks

Elizabeth City, Dec. 15—(AP)—Freak storms lashing the coast this week have cut a 200-foot inlet through the outer banks a mile north of the storm-battered village of Avon, again severing communications with the country southward of Hatteras, except by boat, and newly-made shoals in Pamlico Sound make navigation precarious, according to reports reaching here today.

No material damage has been reported in Avon or elsewhere down the outer banks. High tides in the upper reaches of the sound inundated the recently improved causeway connecting Roanoke island with the outer world.

Red Cross officials and private relief agencies in Greece [illegible] reported in the retreating Germans today to begin organization measures instituted by the Red Cross after the September, 1943, withdrawal of several weeks ago. The Red Cross reported that more than 700 towns had been damaged in the fighting, storm and rebel violence to totally more than 200.

Greek King Hesitates To Step Aside

Athens, Dec. 15—(AP)—Left wing ELAS hammered British positions with fresh artillery and rifle fire today in fluctuating rain-sodden fighting.

Unofficial reports persisted that word was awaited from King George II of Greece on proposals that the archbishop of Athens become temporary regent. The clergy was believed ready to attempt formation of a government acceptable to all parties, pending a plebiscite to decide whether the country is to remain a monarchy or become a republic.

However, in Athens, there was no indication that King George would agree to the plan. The king is in London.

Infiltrating ELAS laid fuller mines and engaged in a brief skirmish with British parachute troops last night before withdrawing. British headquarters said they retired before the mines were properly laid and the explosives later were cleared.

The British reported further progress by British reinforcements in the port of Athens, where the neck of the main peninsula has been secured.

LT.-GOV. BALLENTINE, MRS. PHOENIX MARRY

Raleigh, Dec. 15—(AP)—Lt. Gov.-elect J. Y. Ballentine, former State senator from Wake county, and Mrs. Bessie B. Phoenix, of Raleigh, executive secretary of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, were married here last night.

The marriage was performed by Dr. M. O. Sommers, pastor of the Raleigh First Presbyterian church, and only a few of the couple's immediate families and friends attended.

Mrs. Ballentine was the first woman president of the North Carolina Young Democrats.

Superforts Blast Tokyo Twice A Day

Jap Propagandists Say No Panic Now, Then Intimate It

(By The Associated Press)

American Superfortresses, the Japanese announced in an unconfirmed broadcast, flew over Tokyo and dropped incendiary bombs in two desperate incursions today (Japanese time). At the same time the Japanese branded American attacks as "nuisance raids" and repeated previous threats against American aviators.

[illegible] the Japanese news agency and the Japanese government would "hold responsible under the stipulations of international law those enemy nationals who are already found to have deliberately broken the established rules of warfare."

Japanese propagandists said the American people are daily intoxicated [illegible] merely indulging in wishful thinking if they think that the Tokyo people have been thrown into a panic by the raids." At the same time they announced evacuation of children and expectant mothers, the aged and the ill from Tokyo is proceeding. The broadcast said [illegible] attention is being paid to construction of bomb shelters.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Fair tonight; warmer in west portion tonight, with little change in temperature in east; lowest temperature tonight 20 to 24 degrees. Saturday fair and warmer.

Backs Stalin In Demands Upon Poland

Hints Catastrophe In Unity of Allies If Discord Grows

London, Dec. 15 — (AP) — Siding with Russia in the Polish dispute, Prime Minster Churchill today confessed disappointment at delays in reconvening the "big three" and bespoke unity among the great powers, lest a new structure of world government die in its inception.

The prime minister virtually abandoned the London Polish government, at least as now constituted, and supported as reasonable the Russian demands for territory in old Poland, which the exiled government has refused to yield.

Once Churchill spoke of conditions "if" the great powers agree. Again, he mentioned "how much a failure on the part of the three greatest powers to work together would damage all our hopes for the future structure of world government."

A quarrel among these powers, he declared, would fatally rupture this world organization. He said Russia was entitled to certain territory in the east of old Poland, as a matter of reassurance about her western frontiers. Poland, Churchill said, would be compensated for its sacrifice of Lwow and territory near the Ukraine by tracts of East Prussia and Danzig, to be wrested from Germany.

In one of the most significant Commons addresses of the war, a speech which drew from one member the comment that the Atlantic Charter has become a ghost, the prime minister also appealed to President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin to meet him at the earliest possible moment. Apparently distraught over diplomatic developments which have raised differences among the United Nations, the prime minister confessed disappointment that it had "been impossible to arrange any meeting of the three great powers."

(This coincided with a copyright Associated Press dispatch from Washington forecasting no such meeting could take place before the end of January.)

Firmly warning that the "largest battles fought in this war" will occupy the spring and summer, Churchill reported that 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 Germans already had been killed.

London, Dec. 15 — (AP) — Prime Minister Churchill, calling for adjustment of Polish frontiers at Germany's expense, appealed directly to President Roosevelt and Premier Stalin today to come to Britain "for a meeting at the earliest possible moment."

Although suggesting Britain as a meeting site for the "big three," Churchill agreed to go to "any place" if such a session could be arranged.

"There ought to be a meeting of the three great powers at the earliest possible moment," he said. "So far as I and the foreign secretary (Anthony Eden) are concerned, we will proceed to any place at any time under any conditions where we can meet the heads of our two chief allies.

"We should welcome above all a meeting in this island—a meeting in Great Britain which has waged the war from the outset and risked without flinching national annihila-

(Continued on Page Six.)

Russian Flying Columns Flank Nazis In Slovakia

Moscow, Dec. 15—(AP)—Russian flying columns of tanks and motorized infantry have engaged a German elite SS force in savage battle along the Ipoly river, north of the Danube bend, and little more than 85 miles east of the Slovakian capital of Bratislava, dispatches said today.

This powerful thrust by elements of the second Ukraine army was closely coordinated with joint operations by the right wing of the fourth Ukraine army seeking to cut off the Germans in eastern Slovakia from a chance of escape.

These Russian attacks, against the strongest natural defenses still guarding the shortest invasion route to Vienna, 115 miles to the west, came while Budapest, the outflanked Hungarian capital, quivered under siege warfare.

It is expected that if the armies are able to consolidate and reinforce positions along the Ipoly, the next great lunge forward would be aimed at reaching the immediate approaches of Bratislava, and the Vienna plain.

The alarmed German command, however, is reported here to have rushed reserves into the line to meet the threat.