

# Henderson Daily Dispatch

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR

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HENDERSON, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 28, 1944

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EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY



THIS PHOTO, taken from a roll of captured German film, shows four Yanks of the First Army lying on a road somewhere in Belgium. They valiantly gave their lives to stem the enemy breakthrough staged by Von Rundstedt. German soldiers are in the background. Note that the two dead Yanks on the left have been stripped of their shoes. Also note censored signpost. U. S. Army Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International Soundphoto)

## Capital Is Ready For Legislature

Gavels Will Fall On Next Wednesday; Many Appointments

By LYNN NISBET  
Daily Dispatch Bureau

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—This holiday period may not be exactly the lull before the storm, but Capital Square expects it to be the last quiet week until spring. The legislature is coming, and this legislature is one of those alternate sessions that begins with a new State administration, with many changes preceded by many hours of uncertainty among high appointive officials.

Constitutionally the General Assembly will convene at noon next Wednesday, January 3, 1945. Actually it will convene the night before when the Democratic caucuses to select a speaker, principal clerk and one or two other clerical assistants, and a sergeant-at-arms. As a matter of fact, many members will arrive in Raleigh Sunday and Monday getting ready for the caucus.

Opinion around the square is there will be considerable hurry of

(Continued on Page Four.)

## Press, Radio Praised By Mr. Stimson

Washington, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Secretary of War Stimson said today that "it is too early to pass judgment as to whether any person or group should be censored in connection with the German breakthrough on the western front."

His comment was in reply to a news conference question.

"There is no doubt," Stimson said,

"that the Germans took advantage of every physical possibility in effecting a secret concentration against a portion of our line—weather conditions, long periods of darkness which prevail at this time of year, the wooded terrain and excellent staff work—all would facilitate a secret concentration."

In his war review, Stimson said "the attitude of our press and radio commentators and reporters has been rather remarkable for restraint and freedom from yielding to the temptation to make violent criticism follow any reverse."

Propaganda designed to split the Allies, Stimson said, undoubtedly was one consideration of the Germans in launching their offensive. The secretary added:

"Since we entered the war, the enemy has exerted all his cleverness of propaganda to effect a cleavage in the British-American front of a free press, and he has been particularly vicious in his efforts to effect a division between the Russians and ourselves in the coordination of our military enterprises."

The Germans are utilizing their present offensive to further his effort, and it is most important to avoid falling into their trap."

## WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA  
Partly cloudy and cool tonight; mostly cloudy and cool Friday.

### DEATH TAKES NO HOLIDAY ON BELGIAN FRONT

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# NAZI FLANK CRACKING UNDER AMERICAN BLOWS

## *Belgian Bulge Now Generally Menaced*

Americans Make Four River Crossings; Some German Pockets Are Surrounded

Paris, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Field reports today indicated that Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's whole southern flank for 35 miles back to the German border was sagging under a doughboy and armored attack menacing the Belgian bulge.

American tanks and infantry, resuming their advance in the underbelly of the enemy salient, had crossed the Sure river at four places by Wednesday dawn and were holding a narrow but firm relief corridor to the garrison of Bastogne.

After more than and south of the salient were within twenty miles of the junction that would cut off the enemy head which has been thrust within a few miles of the Meuse river.

It was too early to foresee the outcome, for the Americans in their counter attacks now under way faced formidable obstacles.

But there were clear indications the bold Nazi bid for a great December victory had butted into serious trouble.

The German army had been held for more than 48 hours up to Wednesday dawn without a significant gain.

German pockets were surrounded in the western head of the enemy salient and on the southern bank, and were under tempests of shell fire.

Southeast of Echternach, the Germans were retreating east northwest of that ancient hinge of the salient they were preparing an escape bridge under American fire, and were preparing to pull back into Germany across the Sure.

Three of the American crossings of the Sure river, which Berlin broadcasts said were by the United States third army under the command of General Patton, were near Bouillon, two and one-half miles northwest of Echternach. The fourth was at a place three miles northeast of Marche-en-Famenne, and all the crossings were within about fifteen miles of Bastogne.

Non-Rommel's promised patrol

problems toward the Meuse were being faced in full fury, though one did not go far enough south of Celles to the vicinity of Battice, only three and one-half miles from the French border.

"The rule of battle east of the Meuse definitely has turned, with depleted enemy power almost everywhere on the defensive," said a field dispatch.

(Continued on Page Four.)

## Babson Predicts Slight Business Drop For 1945; Offers Annual Forecast

### THUMBNAIL OUTLOOK FOR 1945

Look for these developments: FARMERS' CAN INCOME will approximate that of 1944, which was \$20 billions. Both INDUSTRIAL and ANTHRACTIVE mining will run 5% below a year ago. PETROLEUM output will be up 5%. IRON and STEEL will decline 10%. A similar drop is in prospect for CHEMICAL MANUFACTURES. LUMBER output will increase 5%. The PAPER and SHOE industries will run along on the same levels as during 1944. INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT will be 5% less and factory PAY ROLLS will decline 10%. Greatest single expansion will come in the CONSTRUCTION and BUILDING group, which will show an increase of 25% from the low levels of 1944's first six months. Look for a sharp drop in RETAIL TRADE, especially in luxury items. ELECTRIC POWER OUTPUT will be reduced 5% as war contracts are cut back. For basically the same reason railroad freight tonnage will fall 15%.

By ROGER W. BABSON  
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Financial Bureau, Inc.  
General Business.

1. A year ago the United States Babsonchart Index of the Physical Volume of Business registered 146.6; today it registers 136, indicating no forecast of a year ago. The Canadian Babsonchart Index of the Physical Volume of Business registers 266.9; a year ago today it registers 197. 1945 will show a reduction of more than ten percent both in United States and Canadian business. Furthermore, most of the following comments apply to both countries.

2. War production is already be-

ing cut back and this reduction will largely continue through 1945. Even those railroads and industries which expect to benefit from a long war in Japan will be disappointed.

3. The reconversion of industry from war to peace business will increase during every month of 1945. Furthermore, time required for reconversion will not be as great as most people believe.

4. Inventories quoted at their price volume, rather than volumes, will continue, as a whole, during 1945 about as during 1944. Raw material piles will be larger, but manufac-

turing cut back and this reduction will largely continue through 1945. Even those railroads and industries which expect to benefit from a long war in Japan will be disappointed.

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7. The rule of battle east of the Meuse definitely has turned, with depleted enemy power almost everywhere on the defensive," said a field dispatch.

(Continued on Page Two.)

## Greeks Agree To Formation Of Regency

German Invasion General Resigned, Then Killed Self

By The Associated Press

The British radio said in a broadcast received by the OWI today that a newly received copy of a German high command order August 31 confirmed that Nazi Field Marshal Von Kluge had killed himself.

"In view of the depressing responsibilities for the outcome of the battle of Normandy," the order was quoted, "Von Kluge resigned from his post as commander of the western front and subsequently committed suicide."

Other comments on this incident are banned."

Von Kluge had relieved Field Marshal Von Rundstedt as supreme commander of German forces on the western front early last summer. Von Rundstedt was returned to the command later.

## U. S. Sub Seawolf Now Overdue And Is Assumed Lost

Washington, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The United States submarine Seawolf is overdue from patrol and presumed lost.

The navy's announcement today said the vessel was under command of Lt. Com. Albert M. Bentler, of White Plains, N. Y., who is listed as missing.

The 1,500-ton submarine was of a class which normally carries a complement of 62 men. No announcement was made of the number lost, but the navy said next of kin of all casualties had been informed.

The Seawolf brought to 31 the total of United States submarines lost during the war—four sunk, 28 overdue and presumed lost, and two destroyed to prevent capture. This is the 239th naval vessel of all types lost since the war began.

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## Doomed Nazis Hurled Back In Budapest

Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—During the next three months the Civil & Committee Board will tackle the bulk of 827 applications for air line companies for postwar passenger, mail and express service still awaiting decision.

The fast report of the board showed 395 applications under active consideration, 362 applications for new routes or changes in previous applications awaiting consideration, five rate cases and 43 miscellaneous cases awaiting consideration.

In considering applications, the board first holds a pre-hearing conference, when preliminary data is gone over. A formal hearing date is set later. In some instances following the hearing an oral argument is scheduled before the board ruling on the case.

These pre-hearing conferences have been scheduled:

Southeastern States case—January 22, when 39 applications for service in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia and the District of Columbia will be considered.

(Continued on Page Four.)

## Army Seizes Ward Plants Located In Seven Cities

Chicago, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The sprawling Montgomery Ward & Company properties in seven cities today under a presidential order in a show-down with the company's refusal to comply with War Labor Board directives.

Major General Joseph W. Byron, director of the special service division, Army Service Forces, Washington, accompanied by his staff, served the seizure order on Sewell Avery, chairman of the board, in Avery's private office.

Meantime, a strike was called at the Chicago properties—the second time this year—by the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees union. Strikes already are under way among Ward's employees in Detroit, Kansas City and Baltimore, while the firm's plants which would come under the Federal control order are in Denver, St. Paul, Portland, Oregon; San Rafael, Calif., and Jamaica, N. Y.

### TAKE NAZI WOLF IN GI CLOTHING



AN AUTHENTIC AMERICAN SOLDIER guards a Nazi who was wearing a Yank uniform when he was captured during the German drive into Belgium. The German soldier wore a German blouse under the raincoat. Two officers thus camouflaged were shot as spies under the rules of war. U. S. Army Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International Soundphoto)

## Japs Suffer Badly In Pacific Attacks

### Tokyo Blow Leaves Great Damage There

Two U. S. Warships Damaged in Trade Of Blows in East

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Heavy units of Japanese and American naval task forces traded raiding blows Tuesday and Wednesday on island bases 1,500 miles apart, but the Nipponites came off worse, with three destroyers sunk, a battleship and cruiser damaged.

The Japanese suffered damage to two aircraft carriers.

The Japanese sank Mindoro, central command ship of the China Sea fleet, said General MacArthur's headquarters.

The Americans sank their third battleship this month within 750 miles of Tokyo, commanded Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from the Pacific Fleet. In late, Admiral Nimitz disclosed sinking of Peleliu.

The enemy warships—a battleship, carrier and six destroyers—accomplished some trifling and inaccurate shelling of the Yank invasion scene in southwest Mindoro, MacArthur said. From the time the warships approached at dusk until they withdrew around midnight, they were under attack by Mindoro-based Mitchell bombers and swift torpedo boats.

A dozen Japanese planes today sank the naval units—damaged the enemy's carrier and six smaller vessels.

Similar to this American task force, reflecting its attack with planes of the strategic air force, Panguanian air force, counted coastal and air strip installations of two Iwo Jima, set a landing ship afire and blew up a gas boat. Enemy coast guns score the hit on the warships.

### Governor Reduces Death Candidates Friday to Three

Raleigh, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Governor Broughton today granted a 40-day reprieve to William Dunheen, ex-service man sentenced in Guilford County to die for the fatal shooting of his sweetheart from ambush. Dunheen was one of eight originally scheduled to be executed tomorrow.

Those now scheduled to enter the death chamber tomorrow are Bessie Mae Williams, 19, and Ralph Thompson, 18, Negroes convicted in Mecklenburg county of the slaying of a taxicab driver; and Melvin Wade, Scotland county Negro convicted of raping a 12-year-old Negro.

The postponement, granted on stay of execution on the ground defense attorneys' motion for newly-discovered evidence, automatically sets Dunheen's death date for February 23. The motion said evidence of insanity had been found.

## Casualties Of War Rise At Fast Rate

Washington, Dec. 28.—(AP)—War casualties of the armed services reached 628,441 December 14—two days prior to the big German offensive in western Europe.

Secretary of War Stimson said today the latest army total is 547,323. This report's casualties through De-

(Continued on Page Four.)