Henderson Daily Dispatch

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Victory Now Very Near, Churchill Tells Party

Freedom Of Enterprise Is Pledged

Premier Determines To Guide His Nation In Trials of Peace

London, March 15.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill held out hope today of victory over Germany this spring, pledged his dominant Conservative party to promotion of free enterprise in the postwar period and served notice that he intended to guide Britain in the trials of peace.

"Victory lies before us certain and perhaps near," he told the Conservative party conference. He said the war in Europe might conclude "before the summer ends, or even sooner."

The 2,000 delegates gave their leader a tumultuous ovation as he concluded his 45-minute address.

He cautioned the Conservative party against "humbug and blandishment" and against bidding for votes and party popularity by "promising what we cannot perform."

He jeered obviously and after recent sharp exchanges with left wing critics in Commons, the prime minister struck out at "our socialist friends," and their program "for nationalizing all the means of production, distribution and exchange."

He asserted that would imply "not only the destruction of the life of the whole of our existing system of society and life and labor, but the creation and enforcement of another system or systems, borrowed from foreign lands and alien minds."

By contrast, he declared that "at the head of our mainmast we fly the flag of free enterprise."

Iwo Island Taken Over By Our Men

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, March 15.—(AP)—Waving atop a Japanese bunker, the Stars and Stripes caught the breeze today over blood-stained Iwo, 750 miles from Tokyo, signaling that the island has been cut away from the island empire of Nippon after 55 years.

But the 25-day-old fight for the island went on with three Marine divisions resigned to the grim task of killing the last enemy and adding them to a toll already exceeding 20,000. The desperate foe is even booby traps to dead Marines to slow the advance.

While stubbly resisting survivors of the Nipponese garrison yielded ground up to 400 yards yesterday to the Marines near the north end, the U. S. flag was raised formally at the south end in the shadow of Mount Suribachi.

Jury To Get Meadows Case Late Friday

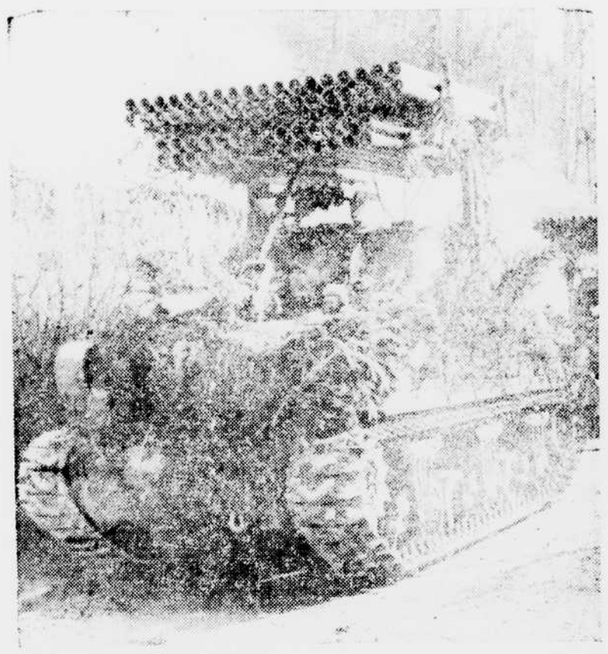
Greenville, March 15.—(AP)—The trial of Dr. Leon R. Meadows, charged with embezzlement of funds while president of East Carolina Teachers College here, neared its end today.

As arguments continued, it was indicated the case would be given the jury late Friday afternoon after Judge Clawson L. Williams expounds the law.

Judge Albion Dunn of Greenville, chief defense counsel, who commenced his argument, the last for the defense, before noon yesterday, resumed his appeal in behalf of the defendant this morning, and will be followed by Solicitor D. M. Clark for the State, making the last of six arguments to the jury.

The prosecutor was expected to require the remainder of today's session in the final summation as he sought to convince the jury that the defendant, as the State charges, had misappropriated funds entrusted to his care.

DEATH TUNE FOR THE NAZIS



SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED. These American General Sherman tanks with greatly augmented firepower are now in action on the German front. They are fitted with overhead "pipe-organ" racks of rocket launchers which give them an extra knock-out punch. When all the rockets have been fired, the rack is jettisoned and the tank depends on the 76 mm. gun for its firepower. Sitting in the driver's seat here is T/5 Stanley Nortavage of Pennsylvania. (International)

Army To Receive Most Inductees In Bracket Under 21

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—The army's growing need for young infantrymen to replace combat losses will take practically all inductees under 21 for the next three months.

Beginning today, the army and navy announced jointly, the only exception to army assignments to men drafted is that age bracket will be the comparatively few who qualify for such specialized navy duty as radio technicians and combat air crews.

Last night's announcement made no mention of and presumably does not affect the navy's policy of enlisting 17-year-olds.

About 80,000 youths reach their 18th birthdays monthly, and the recent decision has been understood to assign 55,000 to the army and 25,000 to the navy.

$23 Million Spent Upon 1944 Politics

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—Senator Green, Democrat, Rhode Island, told the Senate today that approximately $25,000,000 was collected and $23,000,000 was spent in last year's political campaigns.

The chairman of the Senate campaign investigating committee contended in a prepared address that Federal prohibitions had been ineffective in preventing large expenditures. The committee recommends elimination of present ceilings.

The investigator split sharply over a Republican proposal to prevent future political spending by unions.

They agreed there was "no clear-cut violations" of the corrupt practices act on the part of the CIO Political Action Committee in the 1944 campaign, but suggested revision of the act proposed by Senators Ferguson, Michigan Republican, and Ball, Minnesota Republican, drew Democratic majority dissent.

The Republicans sought a prohibition against "expenditures, as well as contributions, made in connection with any Federal election by a corporation, bank or labor organization."

Lower Trend For Cotton

New York, March 15.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to fifteen cents a bale higher. Noon values were unchanged to 10 cents a bale lower.

	Pv. Close	Open
March	22.16	22.13
May	22.15	22.16
July	21.88	21.90
October	21.27	21.30
December	21.13	21.19

Nazi Peace Feeler Made In Sweden

Snubbed By British Because Nazi Regime Would Have Remained

Stockholm, March 15.—(AP)—An unofficial British statement today confirmed reports that a German approach to Allied representatives was attempted here a few days ago, with a view to a possible armistice, but said it was immediately rejected.

"An approach was attempted a few days ago through a third party by a junior member of the legation staff," the unofficial British statement said.

"This third party was at once told that neither the British legation nor the U. S. was interested in any such approach."

Apparently the German effort to make contact with the Allies came only through the British because the American legation denied that any feeler had been attempted there.

The British source mentioned in the statement was described apparently with the British legation staff, who was also described as a junior Nazi official.

Responsible Allied officials generally regard the incident as a carefully planned German maneuver in an effort to split the Allies by causing misunderstanding and suspicion of double dealing.

The Stockholm newspaper Vendes Journal, which reported the attempt a month earlier today, said the Germans had asked the Allies to begin negotiations for an armistice while Germany was still strong enough to hold out as a bulwark against the Russian menace.

Vernon Bode, AP war analyst, said the attempt failed because the German representatives indicated their bid on the premise that the Nazi government would continue in office.

This was illogical, and the approach to the Allies was made early this year.

COAL NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER POSTPONED

Washington, March 15.—(AP)—Bituminous coal operators faced further postponement today of a reply to John L. Lewis' sixfold demands.

Lewis announced in delaying the answer that the talks between the United Mine Workers and operators committees may tentatively scheduled to resume tomorrow.

Candidates Active In Legislature

Pearsall Will Be In Speaker Race; Four as Governor

Raleigh, March 15.—(AP)—Representative Thomas J. Pearsall of Nash county, chairman of the House Appropriations committee, today became the No. 1 contender for speakership of the 1945 session.

While he did not formal announcement, he let it be known that he was "seriously considering being" a candidate. Mr. Pearsall has announced.

Meanwhile, Representative E. F. Wallace of Lenoir said that he would make an announcement, perhaps tomorrow, on whether he, too, would be a candidate for speaker in 1947.

Serving his third term, Wallace has been active in sponsoring legislation, particularly agriculture. Governor Cameron Broughton appointed him a member of the Advisory Budget Commission a year ago, and said at the time of the appointment that Pearsall had been endorsed by agricultural leaders.

As the legislature headed toward final adjournment, the several political factions became unusually active. Lines were being drawn for the next governor, pro and con, and names, most of them entirely unofficial, were thrown into the hopper. Among those mentioned were John Kerr of Warren, 1943 speaker; Senator D. L. Ward of Craven; Judge Henry L. Stevens of Wake; Lt. Gov. J. Y. Ballentine, of Wake county. The next governor will come from the east.

The House passed bills to allow the State Board of Education to appoint five of its members to study the school building program in North Carolina and to authorize the board of trustees and grounds to study the feasibility of placing an elevator or escalator in the Capitol.

A joint session was scheduled for tomorrow to confirm the governor's nominations for members of the State Board of Education. The legislature, as directed by a constitutional amendment, recently divided the State into eight educational districts, each to have a member on the board.

Super-Highway Hinted Cut In The Ruhr Area

Tokyo Sizzles After Fire-Raid

Hours after U. S. Superfortresses plastered Tokyo with a record tonnage of incendiary bombs, smoke, a pictures still rising from fires that devastated large sections of the nation's capital. The palace area, still undamaged, is indicated by the arrow. (USAF) 21st Bomber Command photo. (International Soundphoto.)

New Soviet Crossings On Oder Listed

Stage Is Being Set For Huge Assault On Nazis' Berlin Line

Moscow, March 15.—(AP)—Special Russian attacks from the vicinity of the Oder to the vicinity of Frankfurt improved Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's first army bridgehead positions today for a new offensive as operational silence prevailed along the crucial Berlin front.

There were persistent German reports that the Russians have thrust across the Oder in force between captured Kustrin and Frankfurt but they have not been confirmed by Moscow.

While the Red army's top ranking field commander was setting the stage for a huge assault against the Nazi Oder river line, other Russian troops scored additional gains in sectors as far removed as southwestern Silesia and East Prussia.

The Silesia campaign was revived with a flourish by Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's second Ukrainian army with the capture of Zyolen, heavily fortified German base on the upper Iron river.

Malinovsky carried the fight almost to the outskirts of Bielsko-Bystrica, headquarters of last year's gallant Slovakian uprising, ten miles north of Zyolen.

Moving west over the steep forested shoulders of the low Tatra mountains, his troops reached within 12 miles of Kremnica, outside the enemy's most important lateral communications east of the Vah river.

The wooded, rugged terrain still was heavily defended by the Germans, who were anxious to keep the mortar and cannon of their Danube front from being turned on them.

The third White Russian army, pushing in the Kostrzyn area, 37 miles southwest of the East Prussian capital, moved again under cover of darkness around Arnswalde, Red Army headquarters announced. Two thousand prisoners were taken, 80 perished taken yesterday in the vicinity of Bromberg.

Aged Nazi Prisoner

THIS GREY-BEARDED VETERAN of the Wehrmacht was among the Nazis made prisoners of war by American Third Army troops in their drive to the Rhine River, above Coblenz, Germany. Many of the troops taken in this area were either very old or very young. (International)

Allied Bombers Rip Reich Again In Long Attack

London, March 15.—(AP)—Allied war planes ripped into the Reich again today in the thirty-first day of a continuous aerial offensive which saw RAF raiders unleash a new weapon yesterday—the explosion super-bomb credited with knocking out the vital Berlin-Ruhr railway dryduct, at Bielefeld, 80 miles east of the Rhine.

British raiders were active during the night, striking at Zweibrucken and Hamburg, while Mosquitoes rocked Berlin for the 23rd straight night.

U. N. C. Debates Scheduled.

Chapel Hill, March 15.—A University of North Carolina debating team will meet teams from Agnes Scott College and Georgia Tech in Atlanta this week-end, March 22, 23, 24, and travel northward the following week-end, March 29, 30, 31, to debate teams at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Randolph-Macon College, the University of Richmond, William and Mary, and Johns Hopkins.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Considerable cloudiness and warmer today; continued warm tonight and Friday. Showers in west portion Friday, beginning in the mountains tonight.

Gains Made To The East Of Remagen

Bridgehead Across Moselle Is Set Up, Menacing Coblenz

Paris, March 15.—(AP)—The German radio said today that the new U. S. 15th army had gone into action in the east Rhine bridgehead at Remagen to swell the assault force to 100,000 men.

Paris, March 15.—(AP)—American infantry virtually cut the Ruhr-Frankfurt super-highway today in a mile and one-quarter advance east of the Rhine and established a nine-mile bridgehead across the Moselle, gravely threatening besieged Coblenz.

First signs indicating edging into the heavily wooded hills east of the expanding Remagen bridgehead were within a half mile of the super-highway as 9:35 a. m. (Indochinese time), and an unconfirmed Brussels radio broadcast forty minutes later said the road had been cut.

American machine gun fire swept the concrete highway, built by Hitler as a military road serving the Rhineland and the Saar district.

Infantry advanced to Bremsberg, Gyr and a half miles east of the Rhine and one-half mile southeast of the super-highway junction city of Sinzig. Other first army assault forces pushed north of Honnef and still others were fighting in Notzenich, six miles east of the Rhine and seven southeast of Honnef. The Germans were building up their strength due east of Remagen, and made the wholly unconfirmed assertion that their bombings had destroyed the Ludendorff bridge and nearby pontoon bridge supply upwards of pigboat and tank troops the enemy could move in the fifty minute lull at the German heartland.

To the south of Mainz, Brigadier General Harrold M. McNair's 13th Armored Division, one of the eighth army advanced east and north of captured Bingen, and began clearing the Columbus peninsula this week.

22nd Island Invaded In Philippines

Manila, March 15.—(AP)—United States forces, making their 21st and 22nd invasions of the five months old Philippines campaign, seized two small islands in the Sulu Sea Tuesday.

Your invaders on Mindanao island pushed five miles east of captured Zamboanga in an accelerated drive.

General Douglas MacArthur reported today that Major General Frederick Irving's 24th infantry division, veterans of Leyte, Bataan and Corregidor, invaded Basilan and Sinamalao islands of Mindanao and attained complete tactical surprise.

The Japanese garrisons were wiped out. U. S. American losses were light.

Basilan and Sinamalao are strategically situated in the heart of the islands-studded island sea of the central Philippines. Their capture strengthened the American hold on the main shipping route from the United States to Manila.

On Luzon island, Major General Verne D. Mudge's first cavalry division and the 43d under Major General Leonard F. Wing drove eastward from captured Antipolo on the strategically-defended watershed east of Manila, while Major General Edwin D. Patrick's sixth division turned back several counter attacks on high ground to the north, inflicting heavy casualties.

To the south of Manila, Brigadier General Hurford H. McNair's 13th Regiment battle combat team of the eighth army advanced east and north of captured Batangas, and began clearing the Columbus peninsula this week.

Stocks Move Cautiously

New York, March 15.—(AP)—Stocks, with scattered exceptions, continued to jog over a narrow course in today's market. Improved were U. S. Steel and DuPont. Declines were posted for New York Central and Chesapeake & Ohio.

PREPARE FOR UNITED NATIONS COAST PARLEY

MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION to the United Nations conference in San Francisco are shown as they met with President Roosevelt in Washington for their first pre-conclave meeting. Secretary of State Edward Stettinius had called them to the Capital to go over preliminary details. They are, left to right: Rep. Sol Bloom, New York; Mrs. Virginia Gildersleeve, Dean of Barnard College, New York; Sen. Tom Connally of Texas; Sect. of State Stettinius; Commdr. Harold Stassen, U. S. Navy, of Minnesota; Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan and Representative Charles Eaton of New Jersey. (International Soundphoto)