

Foreign Policy Defense

Churchill Receives Vote Of Confidence

LONDON—(AP)—In fighting mood today, Prime Minister Churchill defended Britain's intervention in Greece and Italy—and won a resounding 279-30 vote of confidence from the House of Commons.

The 70-year-old leader received his ninth vote of confidence after declaring that Britain had acted in Greece only to avert gangster rule. He stood by the British Government's opposition to Count Carlo Sforza, whom the United States has supported in the Italian Government crisis.

His rise aroused by bitter, Left-wing denunciations of his stand, Churchill himself demanded the vote of confidence as justification for continuance of his policy.

Simultaneously with the vote of confidence, British cabinet members voted to support Churchill's policy of clearing Athens and the Aegean region of all Axis troops.

Upholding the use of tanks and troops against the Axis forces in Greece, Churchill said Britain held no intention of using its tanks and troops to assist the Axis forces.

As for American-supported Count Carlo Sforza, Churchill told Commons British simply did not support the long and costly Italian campaign.

Churchill bluntly declared Britain would not stand for a "gang of men from the mountains" overthrowing the elected authority by violence in Greece.

Asserting British troops had to fight left-wingers as well as the Axis, Churchill said he was not in a position to make any statement about the use of tanks and troops to assist the Axis forces.

Churchill's repeated objections to Sforza by declaring: "We do not trust the man who has been in the hands of the Germans."

News Roundup

Western Front: American Third Army troops have pushed over one-half mile farther into Germany's Siegfried Line defenses east of the Saar River. The drive has carried the Patton force eight miles into the Reich.

New Understanding Halifax Says U. S., Britain Are Agreed

WASHINGTON—(AP)—British Ambassador Halifax said today that the United States and British Governments had achieved a "new understanding" on the Greek and Italian political issues.

He spoke to reporters after a conference with Secretary of State Cordell Hull at the State Department.

Halifax said he did not define "understanding" or say whether there was an agreement between Washington and London on the future handling of political issues in Italy and Greece.

Fighting between Left-wing forces and British troops was continuing in Athens east of Churchill's office, the Ambassador said.

Halifax said he believed the result of the current clash of views would be to strengthen the unity of the United States and Britain by making both sides be more careful hereafter to consult on every issue of common interest.

He said now should be one of substantial understanding in the certainty that it will be the purpose of the two Governments to consult together on all future occasions and to share their opinions on all matters.

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Yanks Roll Near West Leyte Port

13-Ship Nippon Convoy Sunk

By C. YATES McDANIEL, GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines (AP)—Eleven 7141 Division Yanks from Guam, danglely put ashore by the Navy to the rear of more than 25,000 trapped Japanese, rolled rapidly north today toward the enemy's west Leyte reinforcement port of Ormoc, less than three miles away.

The surprise landing Thursday in Ormoc harbor, under the guns of Seventh Fleet destroyers and swarms of fighter planes, cut in half the heavily defended Yamashita defense line.

Coming on the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor the Ormoc attack was a bloody dash that reminded the Japanese that American arms have grown powerful and lethal since that day, which plunged the United States into war.

This bold penetration of the Philippines island sea to West Leyte, made while Yanks on Ormoc were hunting down and killing the bulk of 200 Japanese paratroopers' halt on abutment, caught the Japanese strategists off guard.

At the hour of landing, a 13-ship enemy reinforcement convoy bound for Ormoc was spotted and it was wiped out together with the 4,000 troops and equipment aboard, during the heavy fighting.

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Knockout Blow B-29's, Warships Hit Bonin Isle

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A sizeable task force of B-29s dropped a "record load of bombs" on Iwo Jima, in the Japanese Bonin-volcano islands yesterday. The strike was in co-ordination with attacks by Navy surface ships and other aircraft in an obvious effort to neutralize the airfields in the volcanic islands from which the Japanese have launched raids on Saipan.

The Japanese base is 750 miles north of the Superfortress base at Saipan.

Informally, the 20th Air Force announcement explained that the "record load of bombs" meant that it was the biggest tonnage per plane dropped so far by any B-29.

Bombing was done through heavy clouds without interference from either Japanese fighters or anti-aircraft. It was announced that the text of 20th Air Force communication No. 39.

A sizeable task force of Superfortresses from Brig. Gen. H. S. Hensell's 21st Bomber Command struck heavily at Japanese military installations on the island of Iwo Jima.

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Saarbrücken Withered By U. S. Gunfire

90th Division Knocks Out Many Pillboxes North Of Saarlautern

By JAMES M. LONG PARIS—(AP)—The Third Army bored a mile and a half into the Siegfried Line at points eight miles inside the Saarbrücken, capital of the Saarland, today and steadily reduced Saarbrücken and its steel mills with long toms and heavy howitzers firing three miles or so from that capital.

The 90th Division advancing steadily past Dillingen knocked out a number of thick pillboxes in the wooded area three miles north of Saarbrücken.

The Paris Radio broadcast that the Third Army had captured Forbach, rail city of 15,000, three and a half miles southwest of Saarbrücken.

On the Third Army's right, the Seventh Army of Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch rolled the Germans toward the Saar and Palatinat on a 35-mile front and advanced within four-and-a-half miles of the frontier.

Saarbrücken, capital of the Saarland and center of its industry, was being ripped to pieces by artillery within sight of the burning city of 135,000, for the ninth consecutive day. The Germans themselves were wrecking Saarbrücken with their own artillery, trying to hamper the American buildup of assault forces in the arsenal valley.

Signs of enemy movement in little villages east of the Rhine, east and southeast of Julich. Thunderbolts bombed two bridges on the Erft river and Canal which the Germans are likely to defend outside Cologne and other Rhineland cities about the Allies force the flooded Roer.

The Seventh Army, captured Moutonshausen, four miles south of the Maginot stronghold of the Roer, east and south of the Rhine, east and southeast of Julich. Thunderbolts bombed two bridges on the Erft river and Canal which the Germans are likely to defend outside Cologne and other Rhineland cities about the Allies force the flooded Roer.

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Earthquake Hits Tokyo

By ASSOCIATED PRESS TOKYO—(AP)—A major earthquake today caused a tidal wave which covered a wide area of the city and damaged buildings.

After almost a day of deluge, the Japanese news agency Domei admitted that Tokyo was inundated houses.

The Domei dispatch, intercepted by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, said: "The seismic center of the earthquake while the city district yesterday afternoon was in the sea of Enshu."

The district affected by the earthquake include Hamamatsu, Shizuoka, Nagano and their vicinity, where some damage was caused to dwellings.

In Shizuoka prefecture, roughly 125 miles southwest of Tokyo, tidal waves caused some houses to be inundated, while in Nagano damage was slight, with only a few houses being broken.

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Trust Ruling Is Affirmed

CINCINNATI—(AP)—The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals today affirmed conviction of three of the nation's largest tobacco companies on charges of violating the anti-trust laws.

Plaintiffs aggregating \$25,000,000 were assessed in U. S. District Court in Lexington, Ky., in October, 1944, after a five and one-half month trial.

Defendants in the original actions were: The American Tobacco Co., American Supply Co., Inc., George Washington Hill, James E. Lipscomb Jr., Paul M. Harlan and Vincent Ridge. In one case, Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co., James W. Andrews, William A. Brown, Edward R. Thurston, and George H. Whitaker, in the second case: R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., William N. Reynolds, S. Clay Williams, James A. Gray, James W. Glenn, and Edward A. Darr, in the third; the three appeals were grouped before the court of appeals.

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Soviets Move On Budapest

By DANIEL DE LUCE MOSCOW—(AP)—The heavily armored right wing of the Russian Third Ukraine Army was reported little more than fifteen miles from Budapest today in the heavily contested Danube valley.

Field dispatches said the forces of Marshal Fedorov, Tolbukhin's second army, were pushing the Germans back in the Danube valley, but resistance by the Nazis, reinforced by troops rushed up from Vienna, increased as the battle moved toward Budapest.

Sekefervar, junction of six main roads, was captured by the Soviets. Budapest, was temporarily bypassed by the Russians in their accelerated drive up the Danube's bank.

The Soviet Supreme Command was all about on what operations were planned for the Danube valley. Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukraine Army may be undertaking to seal off Budapest from the northeast, but he had not yet appeared, perhaps to coordinate closely their assault to complete investment of Hungary's greatest city.

Taking prisoners at the rate of 2,000 a day, Tolbukhin also widened his grip along the Danube. Within 10 miles of the Croatian capital of Zagreb, through which German divisions in the Balkans hoped to escape into Austria.

Three new German divisions were identified as joining Tolbukhin's 44th and 71st Infantry from Italy and the 71st Infantry from the Western Front. Dispatches said those had been shifted suddenly into the danger of the Danube. Already they have been heavily mauled by the Russians.

Weather: Cloudy and cool with light rain. High 45, low 35. Wind light and calm. Fog in morning. Slightly warmer tomorrow.

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Churchill Enjoys Self In Speech

LONDON—(AP)—Winston Churchill, one of history's greatest orators, obviously enjoyed himself today in his foreign policy speech, heckling his hecklers, swatting out punches and spicing solemn declarations with touches of humor.

Only once did he seem angry and the butt of his own wit. Lady Astor, a foremost hostess, who had interrupted him, "You are treated with extraordinary tolerance and great consideration in this House and you must learn to keep your mouth shut. It is my duty for a few minutes," she snapped at him.

Other MPs chattered. At one point when members of the House cried "speaking," the Prime Minister asked a glass of water and remarked he would like to have "a little lubricant."

Spicing briefly, he turned to the House and said: "I know it will please the honorable lady to see me drinking water."

Veronica Lake Is Free To Wed Andre De Toth

LONDON, December 7.—Veronica Lake is free to marry Andre De Toth, film writer-director.

France Was Never Like This, Say Crew Members At Ormoc

By JAMES HUTCHINSON, BOARD OF INVESTIGATION, ENROUTE FROM ORMOC, Dec. 7—(Delayed)—The weary, unshaven, heavy-eyed crew of this hard hitting destroyer, chomped tonight, "We're back to Normandy."

That was the unanimous response of crewmen in company with the Philippines campaign. The landing was an outstanding tactical success. There was no enemy naval reaction as the daring amphibious action caught the foe by surprise. Even enemy anti-aircraft men apparently were caught asleep or away from their guns when the ships began bombarding the beaches at 6:40 A. M.

Only one three-inch gun returned the ship fire. Its few shells steadily crept toward us until one whined over the bow and splashed close to the other side. The ship was hit. BATTERY SILENCED.

Spotted through the shore clouds through binoculars for enemy gun positions. They finally flashed from a battery of about a dozen guns on a treeless hillside. Ships guns poured deadly fire from their fire buckets into the area and quickly silenced the battery.