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## THE NEW FLEET AT ANGI

### Gamelin Says 'French Fooled By Vaunted Maginot Line'

(This is the third of a series of articles on France's defeat by the maginot line for five years before and during the war.)

By GEN. MAURICE GUSTAVE GAMELIN (Copyright, 1945, by the Associated Press)

PARIS—I have a passion for definition before discussion. Therefore, I ask "what was the Maginot Line exactly?" On this point, there are still some serious ambiguities. There are many people even in France who believed the country lay sheltered behind "La Ligne Maginot" and that it protected all our dangerous frontiers. To calm public opinion and to give confidence, our Governments never thought it necessary officially to correct this error. Our propaganda itself permitted the misapprehension to be uttered and believed, even though it fell to me finally to protest. For I believe that in democracy, it is always necessary to proclaim truth, however disagreeable it may be.

The name "Maginot Line" was given after his death, a regrettable loss for us, to a system of permanent fortifications erected between 1929 and 1931 on our eastern frontier. (Gamelin's reference is to Andre Maginot who, after becoming French Minister of War in 1929, secured the money to carry out fortification plans on which the military had been working for nine years.) Not that Maginot was the originator of it. It was worked out by a military commission headed by Gen. Guillaumat, one of our most remarkable leaders in the last war. His proposals were approved by Marshal Foch, who also partially influenced the preliminary work, not so much in the installations themselves as in the drawing of the line; and by President Poincare, who then was Minister of War. But it was Maginot, who in 1929 and 1930 obtained from Parliament the necessary appropriations.

From a technical point of view, the system was composed of a series of installations, that is to say, of varying strength connected by bastions. There were two "fortified zones" between the Rhine and the Luxembourg border which we called "the fortified zone of the River Lauter" and "the fortified zone of Metz."

The first fortifications were erected from the Rhine at the same level as the southeastern horn of the Meuse. From Metz to the east, we built the Vosges wall of blocks. The second extended from the tip of the Metz horn to the old town of Thionville in the Moselle. A third was a narrow line between Metz and the bank itself and completed in full view of the German bank and the other on the level of the first villages of Alsace.

**PETAIN HONORED EXTENSION OF LINE**  
In 1934, Maginot obtained approval to extend the system from Thionville to Longwy, that is to say, to the level of the Moselle. In 1932 the question was raised of beginning in the same way the extension of the system to the northern border where there were only a series of pillboxes on the edge of the Belgium frontier.

But Marshal Petain torpedoed the plan in 1935, stating that it could not be carried out in detail, having been closely linked with the affair.

Then, in 1936, the system fell to pieces to the west of Longwy, a "breakdown" which was caused by the change of the cap between the two fortifications.

At this time, I considered that the Maginot Line was a system of pillboxes and other bastions, various types that could be finished at the moment of mobilization by troops destined to occupy the position.

To close gaps in our system of fortifications and progressively to extend it up to Dunkirk on the left, and to the Jura Mountains on the right by merely creating what I called "a loose framework" for the battlefield composed of pillboxes and blockhouses and other bastions, various types that could be finished at the moment of mobilization by troops destined to occupy the position.

In these circumstances, it may be understood that the Maginot Line, consisting of pillboxes, blockhouses, etc., was not a system of permanent fortifications. It was a system of pillboxes and blockhouses, etc., which could be finished at the moment of mobilization by troops destined to occupy the position.

### 'Big Three' Conference Swings Into Full Stride

#### Hold Second Formal Talk At Potsdam

#### Pressing World Problems Discussed

By ERNEST B. VACCARO (AP) — The "Big Three" conference swung into stride today with the second formal meeting of President Truman, the chairman, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin.



STALIN, TRUMAN AND CHURCHILL MEET IN POTSDAM. (Generalissimo Stalin (left), President Truman (center) and Prime Minister Churchill stand before the opening session of their victory conference at the Kaiser Wilhelm Palace at Potsdam, Germany, at 11 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. (AP Wirephoto from Signal Corps Radiophoto from Paris)

The President first contrasted and the conference with the Potsdam meeting of the Big Three in 1945. He said that the Potsdam meeting was a preliminary one, and that the Potsdam meeting was a formal one.

Mr. Truman was selected yesterday as conference chairman. With him on at least the latter side was Secretary of State James V. Forrestal. The Soviet side was headed by Premier Stalin.

There was no definite information as to whether another formal conference was scheduled for later this afternoon. However, it would be true to say that an official meeting in which any informal agreement which might be reached during the personal visits.

Truman's visit to the other two members of the Big Three followed the order in which they followed him—Churchill on Monday and Stalin on Tuesday.

Chief among the aims of the American President was a speech from Stalin on the subject of the Potsdam conference.

WELLESLEY, Mass. is capital of the state. It is a town of 10,000 people. It is a town of 10,000 people. It is a town of 10,000 people.

WASHINGTON (AP) — An additional appropriation within the next few days is expected for the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1945.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House today passed a bill to provide for the construction of a new highway bridge over the Potomac River.

### Finance Plan Test Passed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House today passed a test of the Finance Plan proposed by Senator Tom Pendergast.

It was a new and far more important test than the one passed by the Senate in 1944.

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### USS Nevada Hit Famed Ship Takes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veteran of two wars, the battleship Nevada absorbed damage from a flaming suicide plane and five hits from an Okinawa shore battery, but stayed in the fight.

The Navy today told the story of the actions which occurred at the famous old ship was operating as part of a formation designed to obliterate enemy installations on the island.

The kamikaze strike took place during March 27, causing 20 casualties, including ten killed and one officer killed and 20 seriously injured.

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### Nips Watching Sea And Sky For Next Blow

#### Enemy Radio Reports New Shells And Air Raids Have Already Come

By LEIF ERICKSON

GLAM — (AP) — Through smoke that spiraled from shattered war plants north of Tokyo, Japan, watched today for the next blow to be loosed against the home islands by the combined might of American and British warships.

Tokyo made no effort to conceal its fear of new bombardment by Admiral William F. Halsey's Third Fleet and its companion British ships. Radio silence has congealed their coast since they broke off shelling Honshu's east coast at 12:05 A. M. today.

The Japanese radio said new attacks already had come. London reported hearing a broadcast that the Honshu east coast was bombarded for an hour at noon today by sixteen Allied warships.

Tokyo said American and British carriers sent 1300 planes back over the Tokyo area today, following yesterday's raid by 1300 carrier aircraft.

The enemy admitted Japanese helplessness by stating that the Allied fleet was able to attack us at any chosen time and place.

More than 2000 tons of explosives were showered on targets in the Tokyo area today. The Honshu coast in the night bombardment. The fleet went about the job, released, kept its radio working as it covered only six miles offshore.

Targets were picked carefully from the Tokyo area, 100 miles north of Tokyo and 10 miles from the coast to Hitachi and Sukagawa, 100 miles north of the capital. With no opposition, the results were devastating.

Associated Press Correspondent James Lindbergh with the U. S. Third Fleet, reported that an enemy aircraft carrier, a steel plant, a power station and a gas station were destroyed along the coast.

Neutralization strikes on Formosa and throughout the Indies and blockade patrols along the Asiatic coast kept the enemy sea and air traffic paralyzed through out the southern portion of the empire.

Other U. S. AF Liberator hit Usa on northern Kyushu, while Mitchells dropped fragmentation bombs on Yamaguchi airbase on the island's east coast. Thunderbolts and Mustangs strafed locomotive and rail installations caught and dived the enemy aircraft as it took off from fired Kamamoto airfield and strafed tanks and barges of Cape Harbor on Kyushu's west coast.

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### Liberators Hit Amami

MANILA (AP) — Four East Air Force bombers and fighters in more than 200 sorties over southern Japan made widespread duty today Sunday on a strike of enemy lookout islands on the direct line of flight from Okinawa to the southern tip of Kyushu.

More than a score of 7th AF Liberators worked over air installations and probable air warning posts on Amami, the northernmost of the Ryukyu islands.

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**Weekendburg Casualties**  
Statistics Inside

**Traffic Bottlenecks**  
Potsdam Parley Likely To Hear Red Plea For Outlets To Ocean

**Cow Killed In Fall Out of the Pasture**

**Baby Dies In Bus Plunge**

**23,000 Americans To Stay In Italy**

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