

## LINK JAPAN AND FLEET SHAKEUP

Sources in Congress Point To Suggested Expansion In Asiatic Unit.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (U. P.).—Responsible Congressional sources suggested today that President Roosevelt ordered a reorganization of the United States fleet to re-emphasize the "big stick" policy this country has adopted toward Japan.

Establishment of three powerful fleets—the Atlantic, Pacific and Asiatic—was described by the Navy Department as "routine." But in other quarters it was said the move was designed to assure efficiency in setting up a two-ocean Navy and to let Japan know that an expansion is likely in our Asiatic unit.

The Navy declined to reveal the present strength of the Far Eastern force, known in the past as the Asiatic squadron. Last available figures showed that the squadron consisted of approximately 50 vessels of all types.

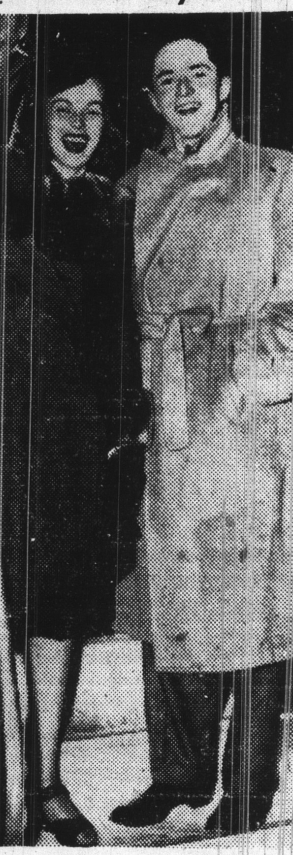
Meanwhile, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced that Caribbean defenses—Puerto Rico, Panama and Trinidad—are being placed under one command headed by Lieut. Gen. Daniel Van Voorhis. Mr. Stimson's announcement indicated that the new base at Trinidad—one of those leased from Britain—will be developed as a major American stronghold in the Caribbean.

Whether other bases leased from the British would be brought under the new unified command depends on whether sufficient troops are garrisoned at those points to warrant such action, Mr. Stimson said.

The new Caribbean commander, Gen. Van Voorhis, is the present commander of the Panama Canal Department and a prominent exponent of Army mechanization.

Mr. Stimson said that the first troops to be sent to Newfoundland, another of the bases acquired from Britain, will sail from New York about Jan. 15 aboard the transport America.

## On Honeymoon



Wrigley Offield, grandson of the late William Wrigley, chewing-gum tycoon, and his bride, the former Edna Jean Headley of Cincinnati, O., pose at Chicago airport just before departing on a flying honeymoon.

## CONVICTED PAIR GET CHANCE TO ENLIST

ROCHESTER, Ind., Jan. 9 (U. P.).—Judgments against two Indiana youths who pleaded guilty to second-degree burglary charges in Fulton Circuit Court were withheld today pending efforts of relatives to arrange for their enlistment in the Army.

The youths, both on parole from the State Reformatory, are Charles Gibson, 24, of near Rochester, and Charles Burch, 21, of near Akron. Judge Robert Miller granted the extension until their enlistments are approved.

They were charged with breaking into a local garage Nov. 9 and stealing \$48.

## AXIS RIDICULED BY CHURCHILL

Declares 'Military Failures Echo Around World; Bids for U. S. Aid.

LONDON, Jan. 9 (U. P.).—Prime Minister Winston Churchill today listed Axis military failures which have echoed around the world and said that "the future of the whole world and civilization depend upon relations between the British Empire and the United States."

At a Pilgrims Society farewell luncheon to Viscount Halifax, who plans to leave for his post as new United States Ambassador next week, the Prime Minister said that the smug of the British Army of the Nile against the Italians in Libya stands "as one of the greatest feats of arms in military history."

"The identity, purpose and persistence of the Axis powers, prevailing throughout the English-speaking world more than any other fact determine the way of life open to generations and perhaps to the centuries which would follow our own," Churchill said.

"If co-operation between the Empire and the United States fails, the Empire might well be its way through against the spirit of totalitarianism and preserve its life and strength for inevitable renewal of conflict on worse terms under an uneasy truce."

"But the chance of setting the march of mankind clearly and surely along the high roads of human progress in the world would be lost and might never return."

The Prime Minister paid tribute to President Roosevelt and called him a "pre-eminent figure."

"I call it as a most fortunate circumstance that at this awe-striking climax in world affairs there should stand at the head of the American Republic a famous statesman long versed and experienced in the work of Government and in whose heart burns the fire of resistance to aggression and oppression," Churchill said.

"Not less do I rejoice that this pre-eminent figure should newly have received the unprecedented honor of being called for a third time to lead the American democracies."

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Mr. Mason

## War Moves Today

By J. W. T. MASON  
United Press War Expert

British consent to the importation into unoccupied France of supplies for children is a response to the growing recovery of French morale which Germany is trying to check.

Whatever stimulates return of self-confidence to France adds to Germany's difficulties and increases the possibility of eventual resistance to the Nazis by the French fleet and the French colonies.

It is toward that objective that British influences are working. The Germans understand the importance of the situation and undoubtedly are much concerned about the changing complexion of opinion at Vichy since the dismissal of Pierre Laval.

Reports from London say if the present experimental distribution of supplies from America works well in France, further relaxation of the food ban may be made. The reason for this new attitude is to give further encouragement to French pro-British sentiment, if that can be done without adding to Germany's own food reserves.

Future developments may make food assistance to France a form of military strategy. If moderate importations of food into France serve to strengthen Vichy's opposition to German military demands, the tactical advantage would rest with the British.

The French food problem, in preceding months, was differently construed because it seemed that certain French influences were definitely working for a German victory. It appeared possible that Vichy might become an active ally of Germany. That caused Prime Minister Churchill to make his radio appeal last autumn to Frenchmen against such a betrayal.

Now, however, evidence is increasing that Marshal Petain has a different vision. Where last summer he saw no possibility of Germany's defeat, he is now apparently beginning to believe American aid to Britain may have an influence on the war.

The Germans know about the changing trend in Vichy. A few days ago, it was stated in Berlin that a clique in Vichy was working against Germany and veiled threats were made of punishment to be inflicted if this political sabotage continued.

Marshal Petain's control over the French fleet and France's well-equipped colonial troops, however, gives him a weapon which the Germans cannot ignore. Hitler cannot become ruthless in France without incurring the danger of French naval and military retaliation in the Mediterranean, Africa and Syria.

It would seem that some degree of diplomatic delicacy has become essential in Germany's negotiations with Vichy. The Fuehrer was unable to compel Petain to restore Laval to favor, which marked a definite defeat for Nazi policy in France.

The gradual effect of that German reverse is beginning to be evident in the rising influence of the anti-German clique at Vichy which has earned Berlin's public rebuke. Germany cannot afford to encourage the growth of this movement by making unilateral changes in the armistice terms that might increase Axis power in the Mediterranean.

Behind the scenes, however, it appears as if the Germans have not abandoned hope of being able to counteract the changing policy at Vichy. They are handicapped especially by Italy's defeats in Albania and North Africa, but pressure on Vichy still continues.

The relief of food shortage, if it becomes really serious this winter, may become a way of stimulating French public opinion in Britain's interest. The question now seems under consideration as the first experimental shipment from America sets forth.

Roosevelt to visit home in Hyde Park.

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The President's daughter and son-in-law, Anna Roosevelt Boettiger and John Boettiger, are expected to be there.

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