

# Petain May Give In to Nazi Plan

By UNITED PRESS  
Marshall Henri Philippe Petain, aged head of the French state, conferred Monday with Reichsmarschal Wilhelm Goering, the No. 2 man in the Government of his country's conqueror, and it was believed that he was agreeing to details of France's entrance into the Nazi's "new order."

It was the culmination of a violent campaign of segments of the Vichy government, of the German-controlled Paris press, and of pro-German Frenchmen in Paris extending over a year for full Franco-German "collaboration."

The government in Vichy announced Monday morning that Petain, accompanied by Vice-Premier Admiral Jean Francois Darlan had met with Goering and it was understood in Vichy that they would confer all day.

## HITLER NOT MENTIONED

Reports emanating from Europe by private means had suggested that Adolf Hitler himself was one of the conferees. The Vichy announcement made no mention of Hitler. It was pointed out that Petain, always a stickler for correct procedure, was being subjected to humiliation if he, the head of a state, made his journey to confer not with Hitler, the head of a state, but with Goering, Hitler's subordinate. Well-informed sources believed, therefore, that Hitler probably went

## Germans in Sight Of Kremlin, Says Berlin Communique

BERLIN, Dec. 1 (UP) — Germany's armed forces, rallying in a determined push on the Soviet capital, have driven within sight of Moscow's center, an authorized Nazi military spokesman said today.

"Moscow now is visible to the Germans with good field glasses," the spokesman said.

He declined, however, to state how many miles actually separated the German front from the center of the Russian capital.

"During the last two days, the battle of Moscow has developed very much in Germany's favor," he said.

Another military spokesman said Russia was hurling great numbers of troops, tanks and planes into an offensive in the Donets Basin near Rostov, forcing the Germans to abandon "some" positions.

On the Moscow front, the spokesman said, another great battle is raging with the Nazis slowly narrowing an iron semicircle around the Russian capital. The Russians are being slowly driven back there as the Germans achieve "very considerable advances," the spokesman added.

The Germans evidently had not expected the southern Russia army to be able to concentrate forces on such a large scale for a counterblow, some informed quarters said.

## Imperial Valley Press

Established April 20, 1901.  
Published every afternoon except Saturday and Sunday (Saturday afternoon issue now succeeded by the Sunday Post-Press, established 1935) by the Imperial Valley Publishing company, 625 State Street, El Centro, Calif.  
Paul Jenkins, publisher; A. C. Johnston, vice-president and general manager; E. A. Fitzhugh, secretary and managing editor.  
West Holiday Co., Inc., National Advertising Representatives.  
Member, California Newspaper Publishers' Association.  
Entered at El Centro, California, post office as second class matter.  
Subscription rates: In California 6c per copy.  
In conjunction with the Post-Press (Sundays), per month 75c; paid-in advance, 3 months, \$2.10; 6 months, \$4.00; one year, \$7.50; outside California \$1 per month.

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## Imperials Blast Italian Division

By WALTER COLLINS  
CAIRO, Dec. 1 (UP) — Approximately half the remaining tanks of the Italian Ariete division were destroyed east of Sidi Rezegh, in Libya, in fighting yesterday, a high command communique said today.

The Ariete division had previously suffered heavy losses in supporting the German 15th and 21st divisions in a three-pronged attack which resulted in their brief recapture of Ed Dugla, immediately north of Sidi Rezegh.

It was admitted that German infantry, with tank support, had penetrated British Imperial defenses in the Sidi Rezegh region again yesterday afternoon.

"Bitter fighting continues in this area," the communique said.

**THREE MAIN FRONTS**  
"The battle of Cyrenaica (eastern Libya) has now definitely resolved itself into three main areas," the communique said.

"Firstly—the main front south-east of Tobruk, where our forces advancing from the east joined up with British forces which had made a successful sally from the fortress."

"Secondly—the frontier area stretching from Halfaya to positions north of Sidi Omar."

"Thirdly—the southwestern or Gato area."

"On the main front of Ed Dugla-Sidi Rezegh-Bir El Hamid intense fighting continued throughout yesterday."

"In the morning an enemy tank attack from the west was repulsed by our armored forces due south of Sidi Rezegh."

"Later our armored forces turned on the Italian Ariete division to the eastward and destroyed about half of the remaining tanks of this formation, which then fled northward, pursued by British mobile columns."

**COUNTER-ATTACKS**  
"In the afternoon German infantry with tank support again attacked our positions about Sidi Rezegh, where they were successful in making a penetration of our defenses."

**AXIS HARD PRESSED**  
Around Moscow, the Germans appear to have been fought momentarily to a standstill, if Russian claims are accurate, and there is nothing currently coming out of Berlin to contradict them. In Libya, too, the Germans and their Italian allies appear hard pressed, although the battle there still is undecided.

The general war picture changed suddenly within a week. Only a few days ago, the outlook for the Russians was gloomy. The Germans had stormed into Rostov and appeared to be ready to sweep southward and eastward. Cracks appeared in the Moscow defense lines and the Russians admitted that the capital was in dire peril.

It would be easy to explain the shift in the fortunes of war by saying that Hitler has bitten off more than he can chew. Such an answer is too pat and might be gainsaid by impending developments. There could be something to it, however.

**NOT ENOUGH MEN**  
The withdrawal from Rostov makes it almost obvious that in the drive which carried them to the mouth of the Don, the Germans did not throw in enough men and equipment for the task mapped out; or if they did, they were obliged to weaken their striking power by urgent needs on the Moscow front and in Libya.

To renew their southern drive with success, the Germans are coming to need sizeable reinforcements. They could scarcely come from the north unless the drive on Moscow is to be abandoned. Hence it becomes an urgent matter for Hitler to take the capital so he can divert strength to the south.

**Today's  
War Moves**  
By Louis F. Keemle  
of the United Press  
War Desk

**Prepares for War**  
SINGAPORE, Dec. 1 (UP) — A state of emergency for the Straits settlements, including the great Singapore naval base, was extended to all of the federated Malay states today. All armed forces, including volunteers and local defense corps, were mobilized for instant service.

A series of proclamations issued on recommendation of Sir Robert Brook-Popham, air marshal who is British commander in chief in the Far East, placed British war stations from the border with Thailand in the north to Singapore in the south, in readiness for instant action.

## Nazi Raider Sent Down In South Atlantic Action

LONDON, Dec. 1 (UP) — A German armed raider was sunk by the 9550-ton British cruiser Devonshire in the south Atlantic Nov. 22 after a futile attempt to escape behind a smoke screen, the admiralty announced today.

No survivors were picked up because of the presence of a German submarine, the communique said.

The German raider, intercepted by the British cruiser, fought fire after a 10 minute shelling by its

eight-inch guns, the admiralty said, and the crew abandoned ship. It was disclosed that an airplane from the Devonshire first sighted the raider, which apparently had halted to refuel the submarine.

The communique said: "On Nov. 22 at dawn aircraft reconnaissance from His Majesty's ship Devonshire, Capt. 4. D. Oliver, to one German armed merchant on patrol in the south Atlantic, sighted a merchant vessel which had stopped."

"His Majesty's ship Devonshire closed at full speed and flew off an aircraft for a more detailed examination. This revealed that a boat was lying off the ship, containing oil drums, and the general appearance of the ship showed similarity to one German armed merchant on patrol in the south Atlantic."

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