Jan. 1 – President Benito Juarez admits temporary defeat in a proclamation, but appeals to his countrymen to continue the armed struggle against Maximilian in Mexico.

Jan. 1 – The Northern press announces that the Confederates claim they have 50,000 prisoners in their hands.

Jan. 2 – Rumors that Gen. R. E. Lee is “mature a plan that would astonish the world” brings a statement from the Alexandria (Va.) Journal that a plan was seriously discussed by Southern leaders for the sudden massing of all their forces in Virginia in the event of their affairs becoming desperate and of marching into the Northern states “with the determination to conquer peace or die in the attempt.”

Jan. 9 – Newspapers report that Francis P. Blair, elderly statesman and friend of both Presidents Davis and Lincoln, has left Washington en route to Richmond to talk terms of peace with Davis. They add that “it is understood now that he goes without any official authority.”

Jan. 10 – The New York Times, commenting dubiously about the Blair report, says in an editorial: "Peace, when it comes, must not come as a concession from Jeff. Davis, or through him as the agent of an organized community. To admit his rightful power to make peace is to admit his rightful power to make war," This statement appears simultaneously with a report that the Confederate Congress has appointed a commission of 15 men to proceed to “some convenient point” for the purpose of negotiating terms of peace.

Jan. 10 – James D. Bulloch, Confederate purchasing agent in Europe, writes letter to Confederate Navy Secretary Mallory announcing the purchase from Denmark of a French-built, armor-clad ram that is preparing to take to sea as the C.S.S. Stonewall.

Jan. 10 – The Richmond Enquirer appears with this paragraph: "A call is out for a convention of the Confederate States. The intention of the authors of the call is to revolutionize the revolution, to depose Mr. Davis, appoint a dictator in his stead, wipe out the Confederate Congress, and perhaps surrender to the enemy."


Jan. 15 – After two days of steady bombardment, a final attack is made on Fort Fisher, bringing its surrender at 10 o’clock at night.

Jan. 15 – The U.S. monitor Patapsco is sunk by a Confederate torpedo in Charleston Harbor with a loss of 60 officers and crewmen.

Jan. 16 – Blair returns to Washington from Richmond and goes into conference with Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward.

Jan. 16 – Four vessels loaded with bacon and other supplies from Nassau, unaware of the fall of Fort Fisher, try to reach Wilmington and are captured.

Jan. 23 – The Confederate fleet hemmed up in the James River near Richmond tries to run past Union batteries and get to sea, but grounding of some of the vessels forces it to turn back, with a loss of one man killed and two ships sunk.

Jan. 27 – After a second trip to Richmond, Blair returns and, according to the press, reports his visit "a total failure." He also reports that the only basis on which President Davis will talk peace is "two independent nations and an armistice."

Jan. 29 – Three Confederate peace commissioners, A. H. Stephens of Georgia, R. M. T. Hunter of Virginia and A. J. Campbell of Alabama, appear under flag of truce in front of the lines at Petersburg and ask to see Gen. U. S. Grant, but their request is not immediately honored, Seward is reported on his way from Washington to meet them.

Jan. 30 – The Confederate guerrilla leader Mosby, reported dead following his wounding in a home near Upperville, Va., appears in the halls of the Confederate Congress at Richmond and is given a privileged seat amid much applause.
THE "CAIRO" IS RESURRECTED

Nationwide attention has focused on the Yazoo River in Mississippi, where unifying efforts in the face of countless adversities finally reaped fruits with the recent raising of the Union gunboat "Cairo."

The 512-ton ironclad was one of the hard-luck vessels of the Civil War. Constructed at Mound City, Ill., in 1861, she was commissioned at the city for which she was named in January, 1862. One difficulty after another plagued the ironclad; then, on December 12, 1862, while on patrol on the Yazoo, the "Cairo" struck two Confederate mines sink immediately. Fortunately, her entire crew of 160 men escaped.

For 94 years the exact whereabouts of the "Cairo" remained a mystery. Then, in November, 1956, three citizens of Vicksburg pinpointed the ironclad in the muddy bottom of the Yazoo. Limited funds, initial failures, and other problems hampered the first attempts to raise the gunboat. The latest attempt at salvage operations began in August, 1964, and culminated last month—102 years after the ironclad sank—when the "Cairo" was raised from her watery grave.

The above photographs (courtesy of the Vicksburg Evening Post) show scenes in the final salvage operations. At left are the men long associated with the "Cairo" project. Standing on the casemate shield is a few moments after the ironclad was raised, they are (left to right): State Senator H. V. Cooper, Capt. Billy Bissio of the salvage crew, Vicksburg NMP historian Edwin C. Beards, and Ken Parks of Jackson, one of the first men to show an active interest in raising the ship. Diver Sam Groenovelt is seated on the casemate post.

The photograph at right shows the ironclad's casemate shield and paddle wheel spiders as the vessel is lifted toward the surface by one of Capt. Bissio's derricks. Moments later, one of the lifting wires cut deeply into the craft and frustrated efforts to raise the ironclad in one piece.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CWCC

The members of this active organization are in-
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

On November 7 the New England centennial commission held their seventh and final joint conference on the campus of Boston College. The Massachusetts CWCC was host for the all-day meeting. Those who played key roles at the very successful conference were (left to right): Dr. Thomas H. O'Connor, Chairman of the History Department at Boston College; Sheriff Charles W. Hedges, Chairman of the Massachusetts CWCC; Cong. Fred Schwengel, Vice Chairman of the National Commission; and Edmund C. Gass, Asst. Executive Director of the National Commission.

Cong. Schwengel gave the principal address and spoke on the topic, "Why Study History?" Mr. Gass reviewed accomplishments of the Centennial and made long-range observations on the effects of the Centennial in the years to come.

THE FAUQUIER COUNTY (VA.) CWCC has just released a valuable composite of printed materials on that county's participation in the Civil War. The Years of Anguish is the title of the 350-page book; 20 pages of plates are also included. The work contains rosters, heretofore unpublished diaries and letters, and other data on Northern Virginians who served and suffered during the period of the Confederacy. John K. Gott, co-chairman of the Fauquier Centennial Committee, is one of the compilers of this volume. The book is available from The Fauquier Democrat, Box 631, Warrenton, Va.; the cost is four dollars per volume.

BERT SACK, president of the Civil War Memorial Committee of the Bronx, recently announced that his organization has made new strides in renovating the West Farms Soldier Cemetery. Six missing gravestones of Civil War veterans have been replaced, and new wheels for naval cannon in the cemetery were obtained. Persons interested in the restoration of this New York burial plot may contact Mr. Sack at 388 East 141st Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10454.

DR. BELL I. WILEY, chairman of the National Commission's Executive Committee, returns this month from a 5-month lecture tour through Europe. Dr. Wiley spoke on the Civil War and the Centennial under the auspices of the State Department, and his itinerary included speeches in most of the major countries of Europe.

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS continue to come into National Commission offices. The Subcommittee on Awards has tentatively scheduled a meeting in March at Commission headquarters. Those persons and agencies wishing to make nominations are urged to do so immediately. Final awards by the National Commission will be announced at the Eighth National Assembly in Springfield, Ill.

NEW CIVIL WAR MARKER IN MICHIGAN

Shown at right is a plaque-map that the Dearborn (Mich.) Historical Commission recently erected and dedicated on the wall of the Commandant's Quarters of the U.S. Arsenal in Dearborn. Elements of two Wolverine units, the 1st Sharpshooters Regiment and Battery M of the 1st Light Artillery, trained at the arsenal preparatory to embarking for the front. Funds for the marker came from voluntary contributions and donations from the Dearborn Historical Commission, Allied Veteran's Council, Museum Guild of Dearborn, Dearborn Historical Society, and the Dearborn CWCC.