

RUSSIANS WITHIN TEN MILES OF FRONTIER OF POLAND



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Two-Pronged Drive Knives Reeling Nazis

Enormous Quantities of War Materiel Seized; Prison Cages Jammed

LONDON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Driving within 15 miles of the pre-war Polish border, advance Russian forces today captured Novograd Volynsk, last major obstacle between the Russian armies and the old frontier in the Zhitomir region, Premier Stalin announced tonight.

The Russian drive toward Poland thus became a race between two advance columns of Gen. Vatutin's army. The second column, farther north in the Korosten area, was reported earlier to have smashed into Poyaski, only 10 miles from old Poland.

Novograd Volynsk railway station 40 miles southwest of Korosten and the same distance northwest of Zhitomir, fell to "a decisive offensive of tank and infantry formations," Stalin said in the special order of the day.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Russia's triumphant First Ukraine army today virtually in sight of old Poland after the capture of Poyaski, last main fortified stronghold on the Kiev-Warsaw railway ten miles from the border.

The latest communique, announcing the capture of Poyaski, northwest of Korosten, placed the Red army only 10 miles from the old frontier and disclosed that Gen. Vatutin's First Ukraine army had made a spurt of 17 miles in a day in some places—a pace which if continued in the Poyaski sector would put it inside of Poland today.

At the same time other units of the victorious First surged Southwestward toward Zhmerinka, key rail junction on the Odessa-Warsaw rail line serving the lower Ukraine, less than 50 miles from the Rumanian frontier.

The whole German line from Korosten south to Berdichev appeared to be crumbling before the unflagging Red army onslaught and the exhausted remnants of Gen. von Manstein's once imposing army of 22 divisions were being slashed to ribbons.

Enormous Booty Taken.

The Russian communique told of tremendous stores of Nazi war materiel being abandoned—fleets of tanks, parks of field guns, armored carriers, trucks, rolling stock and huge ammunition dumps—and reported that more than 4,000 Germans were killed yesterday on this front alone.

Prison cages behind the Russian lines were filled to overflowing with "long lines of German prisoners, underfed and grey from privations, and many suffering from frostbite," a Moscow broadcast said in emphasizing the desperate plight of the retreating Nazis.

(The Moscow radio, in a broadcast recorded in New York, quoted Stockholm sources as asserting that Gen. Kurt Zeitzler, chief of the German army general staff, and Gen. Alfred Jodl, Adolf Hitler's chief of staff, were among the prisoners.)

Explosion Sinks U. S. Destroyer

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—(AP)—A United States destroyer sank in lower New York bay today after an explosion of undetermined origin.

There were at least 163 known survivors, including 105 injured. Fifty-four of them, many with third degree burns, were at the army hospital at Fort Hancock, N. J.

There was no announcement regarding loss of life. The war-time complement of a destroyer, depending on the type, varies from 150 to 300 men.

The explosion, which occurred at 6:18 a. m. (E. W. T.), as the ship, which anchored three hours earlier six miles northeast of Sandy Hook, N. J., was preparing to move, was so terrific, the navy said, that men were blown overboard.

Lovely Fact Rant

Esquire magazine has been banned from the U. S. mails chiefly because of its illustrations of the shapely Varga girl. Just a case of "canned peaches" that may never be released to the public.

ALLIED INVASION OF YUGOSLAVIA REPORTED IMPENDING

Bridgeheads Said Made on Coast Isles

Slav Factions United by Allied Leaders; Nazis in Italy Begin to Weaken

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 3.—A Budapest dispatch to the Stockholms Tidningen today said rumors circulating in Belgrade said that the allies were setting the stage for an invasion of Yugoslavia by making landings and establishing bridgeheads on the small islands off the Dalmatian coast in the Adriatic.

The dispatch added that a large majority of the partisans and guerrillas operating against the Germans in Yugoslavia and Greece have now been united under the leadership of Marshal Josip Broz (Tito).

The dispatch said many of Tito's divisions now were commanded by allied officers, presumably American and British.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Heavy fighting raged today north of Ortona where Canadian troops have fought their way to within nine miles and artillery range of the strategic Adriatic port of Pescara, allied headquarters announced today.

Rain, snow and high winds limited ground operations elsewhere in Italy to patrolling, but strong forces of bombers attacked rail communications at Taggia, Ventimiglia and Arma Riva on the Italian Riviera yesterday, while other bombers attacked the rail yards at Terni, 49 miles northeast.

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Pro-Nazi Government Of Bulgaria Collapses

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Jan. 2.—(Delayed)—(AP)—All telephone and telegraph communications with Bulgaria were broken off today, and it was rumored that the Bulgarian government of Premier Bogdanov had fallen.

It was rumored also that the pro-German regency was having difficulty forming a new government.

The regency headed by former Premier Philov, Prince Cyril and Queen Mother Ioanna, was formed following the mysterious death of King Boris last August 28.

Boris' six-year-old son, Simeon II, succeeded to the throne under the regency after his father's death.

Victory Won at Cape Gloucester



Commander of U. S. Marines who spearheaded the invasion of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, is Maj. Gen. W. H. Rupertus, above. A veteran of World War I, he led marine landings on Tulagi and other Solomon islands in August, 1942, and won the navy cross for heroism under fire.

Registrant Must Report Before He Can Test Draft

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—The supreme court ruled today that a draft registrant who objects to the classification given him by a draft board must report for duty before he can test in the courts the validity of the board's action.

The 8-1 opinion by Justice Black, with Justice Murphy dissenting, said it was "well understood" that "dire consequences might flow from apathy and delay" and that the selective service act was "passed to mobilize national manpower with the speed which that necessity and understanding required."

Black explained that an order to report for induction is not the "equivalent of acceptance for service" because "the selective may still be rejected at the induction center and the conscientious objector who is opposed to non-combatant duty may be rejected at the civilian public service camp."

"Thus," Black asserted, "a board order to report is no more than a necessary intermediate step in a unit and continuous process designed to raise an army speedily and efficiently."

Oregon's One-Man Town Of Millican For Sale

MILLICAN, Ore., Jan. 3.—(AP)—This town is for sale.

Its lone resident, W. A. Rahn, is going to move to western Oregon after 23 years. He's not getting lonesome, he says, but the 5,000-foot elevation is too much for him now.

His age forced him to retire as postmaster recently and close the Millican postoffice which served the scattered ranchers of the high central Oregon plateau.

And now, he says, his health makes him offer his store, service station, auto court and airport for sale.

All offices—from mayor on down—go with the town.

Boy Perishes in Fire That Destroys Home

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 4.—(AP)—Lawrence Powell, 10, perished in a flaming two-story frame residence today as a stairway collapsed, thwarting rescue attempts by firemen and the boy's father, L. B. Wrenn.

Mrs. Wrenn and a neighbor succeeded in getting the boy's two half-brothers, Robert Wrenn, 2, and John Wrenn, 4, from the blazing structure.

Cause of the fire was not determined immediately.

Yanks Seize Saidor Port of New Guinea

McArthur's New Blow Traps Nippons Battling Australians in Jungle

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Americans landed at Saidor, New Guinea, captured the harbor and airfield and pinched off Japanese forces struggling in the jungle against advancing Australian troops, Gen. MacArthur announced today.

The landing, third offensive strike by MacArthur's forces in 18 days, is a testimonial to the swelling striking power of allied arms against the Japanese and to MacArthur's ability to catch the enemy by surprise.

First reports from the landing scene, on the north coast of New Guinea, indicated the Japanese offered no opposition to the landing by Michigan and Wisconsin troops comprising elements of the 32nd division, and only slight opposition after the airstrip fell.

The new American beachhead lies 55 airline miles southeast of the big Japanese supply base of Madang. Saidor is more than 100 airline miles from Finschhafen, nearest allied-held coastal base to the south on Huon peninsula.

Between Saidor and Finschhafen on the coast is a battered force of Japanese being steadily pushed northward by Australian fighters. MacArthur's communique said these enemy troops are now "trapped with no source of supply, and they face disintegration and destruction."

Another force of Australians is moving toward Madang by pushing up the Ramu valley, across the towering Finisterre mountain range from Saidor, and last reported within 15 miles of Bogadjim, a coastal base linked with Madang by a modern 20-mile highway.

No Air Resistance

American Sixth army forces swept ashore at Saidor yesterday morning after an air and naval bombardment had dumped 200 tons of explosives on the area. A smoke screen covered the landing. Brig. Gen. Clarence Martin commanded the entire task force; Col. Slade N. Bradley headed the

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New Year's Weekend Posts 242 Tragic Deaths

(By the Associated Press)

The nation awoke from another gay New Year's weekend today to find violent accidents had taken at least 242 lives.

During 54 hours preceding last midnight 150 persons were reported killed in motor vehicle accidents, and 92 died in fires, drownings, gas poisonings and other mishaps.

Gasoline rationing and other factors was believed to have kept traffic deaths down considerably. The National Safety council estimated the normal automobile death toll for a three-day holiday period would have been at least 225.

Highest death toll for any state was that of California, where 39 persons were killed.

Spare Stamp No. 2 Good For Five Points of Pork

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Pork-eaters received a new war-ration bonus today from the OPA.

OPA ruled that spare stamp No. 2 on No. 4 ration book is good for the purchase of five points worth of fresh pork and sausage until January 15. The stamp will not be good for buying smoked or cured pork.

The new stamp replaces, in point purchasing power, the old No. 1 spare stamp, which was good for five points in pork buying until yesterday.

OPA said validation of the new stamp was made necessary because of the larger number of hogs sent to market.

Gave Penicillin To Combat Ills



Above is the latest picture of seldom-photographed Professor Alexander Fleming, who, 14 years ago discovered penicillin, since developed as the wonder drug of modern medical science. Professor Fleming is now associated with London university and St. Mary's hospital, London.

Top Officer Only Survivor of 14 In Bomber Crash

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Jan. 3.—(AP)—A thunderous explosion cracked out of the stormy sky and thousands of persons looked up to see a four-motored army Flying Fortress plummet to earth in flames near McClellan field, killing 13 men aboard. Seven of the dead were from Washington state.

One motor, a wingtip and other parts littered a wide area, and down from the thick overcast drifted a lone parachutist—the only survivor of the strange and tragic ending to a Sunday flight from McChord field at Tacoma, Wash., to Los Angeles.

Major James H. Wergen of Salinas, Calif., commanding officer of the Yucca (Ariz.) gunnery school, was the survivor. Before being put under an opiate he told medical officers he had no recollection of jumping or of pulling the rip-cord of his chute.

He could shed no light immediately as to whether the big bomber was struck by lightning or exploded from another cause.

Wergen came down at high speed on a cement aircraft parking area and suffered a possible hip fracture, lacerations of the face and the loss of four front teeth.

Witnesses said the plane, based at Kingman field, Ariz., must have been a mile high when it exploded. It seemed two minutes or so later that it emerged from the low-hanging clouds, "like a ball of fire coming down," and crashed at the edge of McClellan field, ripping down some power lines.

Two Die When Train Hurls Auto Against Pole

(By the Associated Press)

Oregon, which went through the Christmas holiday with no violent deaths, recorded two over the New Year's weekend.

The victims were Wilma Green, Corvallis, and Sherwood Faught, a soldier from Raleigh, Tenn. They were killed in an automobile which hurtled through the air and sheared a power pole after being struck by a southbound Southern Pacific passenger train at the outskirts of Albany Saturday.

Mrs. Lela Green, mother of the dead woman, was injured seriously.

Fresh Rain of Bombs, Fire Lashes Berlin

RAF Admits Loss of 28 Planes; Chancellery Of Hitler One Target

LONDON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Berlin, the RAF's first target for 1944, was given its second seething bath of fire and bombs of the new year today by British airmen who delivered their 10th great blow against the charred capital.

The newest attack came while fires still were burning from a 1,000-ton or bigger assault that was made early Sunday and while German rescue workers still were digging dead and injured from the ruins.

The air ministry describing today's attack as "heavy," said 28 aircraft were lost in the Berlin raid, Mosquito stabs in Western Germany and Northern France and minelaying operations in enemy waters.

The RAF's second 1,000-ton assault in less than 24 hours on the crumbling capital was made after the bombers fought their way through the stiffest fighter and anti-aircraft resistance encountered in many weeks, returning airmen said.

"The flak was so thick we could have stuck our wheels down and ridden on it," was the way Flight Sgt. M. Sherman of Toronto described the heavy anti-aircraft fire thrown up by ground defenses.

Hitler's Den Hit

Swedish reports said Hitler's new chancellery on the Wilhelm-

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Rep. Curley Again Indicted on War Contracts Charge

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Representative James M. Curley (D-Mass.) was indicted for a second time today by a federal grand jury here in connection with the operation of Engineers' Group, Inc., described by the department of justice as "a government war contracts brokerage racket."

In addition to Curley, the three-term mayor of Boston, former governor of Massachusetts and now the state's democratic committeeman, the indictment named six defendants, five of them previously indicted. The new defendant is David E. Desmond, Boston, described as a salesman for Engineers' Group Inc.

The indictment, alleging violation of the mail fraud statute, contains 16 counts.

All the defendants except Desmond were indicted on identical charges September 16, 1943, but the indictment was set aside November 1 on the technical grounds that the order impeding the grand jury had not been signed by the chief justice or the senior associate justice of the District of Columbia federal court.

Other defendants and their connection with Engineers' Group, Inc., as reported by the department of justice:

Donald Wakefield Smith, of Washington and Pittsburgh, an attorney and former member of the National Labor Relations board, treasurer, vice-president, assistant secretary and director.

James G. Fuller, formerly of Washington but now serving a five-year term in a federal penitentiary for sending fraudulent securities through the mails, executive vice-president and director.

James Barton Underwood, formerly of Washington but now serving with the Greek army at Cairo, Egypt, president and director during January and February, 1942.

Bert Hall, formerly of Dallas, Tex., now of Tulsa, Okla.

Marshall J. Fitzgerald, Chicago and Washington, secretary and director.

His Army Being Smashed by Reds



Commander of the German army verging on total collapse in the Ukraine province of southern Russia is Gen. Fritz von Manstein, above, who previously was ousted by the Russians from the Crimea.

Cargo of Whiskey Brings \$500 Fine, Fifty Cases Seized

Fifty cases of whiskey were confiscated here Saturday by state policemen who arrested Nick Architect, 38, and Wayne W. Wasson, 36, both of Fresno, Calif., Justice of the Peace Thomas Hartfield reported today. Architect pleaded guilty to a charge of illegal transportation of whiskey and paid a fine of \$500, Hartfield said. Wasson arrested and charged jointly with Architect was at liberty under \$500 cash bail. He had not entered his plea. Architect also paid a fine of \$10 for operating an overloaded truck, the judge stated.

A fine of \$100 was paid by Leonard E. Devereaux, 31, who pleaded guilty, Judge Hartfield said, to a charge of drunken driving. A 30-day jail sentence was suspended. Devereaux's license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for one year.

Other fines reported paid into the justice court included Lee R. Powell \$10, failure to stop at a railroad crossing, and Cecil F. Bowyer, \$10, no chauffeur's license.

Six Girls Escape From State Industrial School

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 3.—(AP)—Six inmates of the state industrial school for girls, who escaped last night during a New Year's entertainment in the school auditorium, were still at large today.

The girls are Ann Colbert Starr, 17, Portland; Robert McDone, 16, Cherry Grove; Ruby Johnston, 16, Hillsboro; Betty Klaus, 16, Port Orchard, Wash.; Maxine Harrington, 16, Eugene, and Ester Mumford, 13, Cottage Grove.

Ft. Lewis Officer Found Dead Beneath Viaduct

TACOMA, Jan. 3.—(AP)—The body of Lieut. Robert W. Johnston, 24, of Fort Lewis, was found today on the Pacific highway beneath the 85-foot Tacoma avenue viaduct from which, Police Detective Sam Blake said, he believed the officer had jumped to his death.

Argentina Recognizes Bolivian Rebel Govt.

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 3.—(AP)—The Argentine foreign minister announced formal recognition today of the Bolivian government of Maj. Gualberto Villarroel who was put into the presidency on December 20 by a coup d'etat.

Argentina thus became the first of the American republics to recognize the new regime.