

YANKS' WEDGE IN BASTOGNE AREA WIDENED

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3 Jap Destroyers Bagged at Luzon

Yank Bombers Also Destroy 5 Cargo Ships

Russia's Entry in War Against Japan Would Be Welcome, Nimitz Says

(By the Associated Press)
Land-based American bombers on Mindoro have opened attacks in force to the far reaches of invasion-menaced Luzon island, bagging three enemy warships and five cargo vessels in one such strike 150 miles above Manila, but signs also are accumulating of attempted enemy counteraction against Mindoro.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

AS this is written the tip of von Rundstedt's "wedge" has been battered back 12 miles from its point of farthest penetration and its width back toward the base has been reduced to 16 miles at the narrowest place. (It is really no longer wedge-shaped. It is now more like a sack.)

We've won back about a third of the original area gained by the Germans.

THIS is on the basis of reports that are still from 36 to 48 hours delayed. Our high command says it will return to current reports as soon as it is safe, but it isn't safe yet.

AT its narrowest point, the German salient is commanded by our artillery, shooting in from both sides.

We learned in Normandy, however, that this isn't as bad for the enemy as it sounds. In such a situation, our guns fire at each other and we are apt to suffer from our own artillery.

It is even worse in foggy weather, such as now prevails.

THIS is the \$64 question:

Is von Rundstedt pulling out, or is he sticking? Or is he building?

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Woman Dies as Auto is Hit By Switch Engine

PORTLAND, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Death of Mrs. Thomas Baird, 47, when an automobile driven by her husband was hit by a switch engine put Portland's traffic fatalities for the year at two today.

Traffic Patrolman Howard Blaufus said the husband tried to beat the engine to the crossing.

War Problems Given Top Priority in New Congress, but Proposals of Byrnes Fail to Elicit Endorsement

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—(AP)—The war and its problems got a top priority from the new congress today.

But pre-session discussions by members uncovered no great enthusiasm building up for such sweeping proposals as that of James F. Byrnes, the war mobilization director, who yesterday proposed Capitol Hill intercession to force 4-Fs into the war program as they are needed.

Speaking generally, without reference to Byrnes' report, Speaker Sam Rayburn said: "I hope we won't have a session with a lot of new proposals to stir up the people. We must devote ourselves to winning the war."

"The war comes first," agreed Minority Leader Martin (R. Mass.). "After that is over we can talk about a program."

Both party spokesmen granted a place on the legislative calendar to a universal training act for a year's government service from the nation's youth. Neither thought the matter of sufficient urgency, however, to be hurried through the 79th congress which meets tomorrow.

Major Issues Listed
Mr. Roosevelt has not yet conferred with leaders of the new

Two German Saboteurs Nabbed by FBI

Draft of 4-Fs, Laws Backing Orders of War Labor Board Advised by Mobilizer Byrnes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Drastic manpower proposals, edging closer to the "work or fight" act which lawmakers have long avoided, were thrown today into the battle on the home front.

Advanced by James F. Byrnes, the program would force 4-F men into war roles and put statutory teeth into manpower rules if present labor controls fail to spur the nation's armament output to needed levels.

The suggestions, made by Byrnes last night in his first report as director of the Office of War Mobilization and Conversion, are still merely threats. They are, moreover, at the mercy of a congress which has shown reluctance to interfere with a man's freedom to choose his job.

But war agency officials prophesied that the whip-cracking document would add momentum to the home front effort merely by disclosing the sternness of enforcement measures which the administration is willing to support.

Stern Action Urged
Flatly predicting that larger draft calls in the next few months would aggravate the manpower shortage, Byrnes proposed stern measures for 4-Fs doing es-

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Wage Cut Order Rescinded; Work at Plant Resumed

Work was resumed at the Springfield Plywood company plant and logging woods at and near Sutherlin today after the War Labor Board has withdrawn an order for wage cuts in various departments, holding the matter in status quo pending a decision on appeal.

Representatives of the company and CIO union met with the WLB last weekend following receipt of the order to cut salaries from 10 to 30 per cent in the several departments.

Following a conference at Portland, it was announced, the WLB has agreed to permit wages to remain unchanged until an appeal can be filed and a decision obtained.

Reports of a walkout were erroneous, union officials stated, the men having been made idle as the result of a machinery breakdown. Over the holiday weekend workmen made repairs and loaded out several carloads of lumber.

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Stranger's Helping Hand Costly for Beneficiary

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Friendly hands aided Darwin A. Palmer when he slipped and fell on an icy street near his home. The unidentified man not only assisted Palmer to his feet but insisted on walking him home.

Later, Palmer reported to police, he discovered that the stranger who gave him a helping hand apparently had relieved him of his wallet containing \$20, a cigarette lighter and case and other articles he valued at \$145.

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Mr. Roosevelt has not yet conferred with leaders of the new

congress, but in other conversations he has indicated he puts these things high on his legislative list:

1. A universal training act (different from the Byrnes statement on universal service).

2. Creation of a permanent fair employment practices committee.

3. A rivers and harbors program setting up power and conservation programs similar to the Tennessee Valley authority.

The congressional chieftains arranged to receive Mr. Roosevelt's annual "state of the union" message next Saturday—the day the senate and house meet jointly to count the electoral ballots. The president's budget message will be delayed until next week, probably reaching congress around Tuesday.

Train Crash Dead 48; List Of Injured 83

OGDEN, Utah, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Names of only seven persons remained undisclosed today in a toll of 48 killed in 1944's worst railroad accident, a Sunday collision involving two sections of Southern Pacific's Pacific Limited.

Announced were the names of 14 civilians, 15 navy personnel, 11 soldiers and one maritime serviceman.

Two other servicemen, a coast guardsman and a marine, were killed but announcement of their names waited notification of next of kin. Five civilians, two men and three women, were not fully identified.

Eighty-three persons were injured. Of these 39 were civilians, including 16 railroad men, and 44 were in the armed services. Eleven of the injured have been released from hospitals.

A coroner's inquest into the accident was ordered for Jan. 9.

The tragedy occurred early Sunday when the Pacific Limited's mail and express section smashed at high speed into the seager unit, on the rock causeway of the first section, a passenger train.

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85 Hospitalized After Rescue From Blizzard

BOWLING GREEN, O., Jan. 2.—(AP)—Upward of 85 persons, rescued from drift-blocked highway 25 south of here, were admitted to emergency hospitals today for treatment of frostbite and exposure.

More than 200 other persons caught in the drifts piled up by a sudden blizzard that swept across Ohio yesterday, were brought in to Bowling Green by school buses after bulldozers rammed a path through hard-packed drifts that reach as high as six feet.

With the mercury at five below zero, the hospital ran out of coal about midnight and a group of navy V-12 trainees stationed at the school carried coal all night from a reserve pile on the campus.

Execution of Folkes Slated for Next Friday

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 2.—(AP)—The execution of Robert E. Lee Folkes, 23-year-old negro dining car cook convicted of the "lower 13" murder, has been scheduled for 9 a. m. Friday. Prison Warden Alexander announced today.

Alexander said Folkes does not appear nervous, and that he is eating well. He is gaining weight rapidly.

Governor Snell has a plea from relatives and friends of Folkes to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. If the governor does grant clemency, he would issue a statement.

But if he refuses clemency, it is his custom not to issue a statement, because of the chance that some new evidence might be discovered at the last minute.

Holiday Period Tragedy Deaths Mount to 254

(By the Associated Press)
A total of 254 persons were killed in the United States during the three-day New Year's holiday weekend.

The death toll this year was boosted by 48 fatalities in a collision of two Southern Pacific trains near Ogden, Utah, Sunday. Otherwise, traffic mishaps accounted for 96 deaths, with 54 attributed to fires and 56 from miscellaneous causes.

Last year the New Year's death toll was 242, traffic accidents causing 150 fatalities.

Wage-Hour Law Covers Piece Workers, Ruling

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—(AP)—The supreme court ruled today that the wage-hour law is applicable to piece workers.

Justice Murphy delivered the court's 8-1 opinion with Justice Roberts dissenting.

"A worker is as much an employee when paid by the piece as he is when paid by the hour," the majority held. "The time or mode of compensation, in other words, does not control the determination of whether one is an employee within the meaning of the act and no court is justified in reading in an exception based upon such a factor."

Pvt. Donald R. Thiessen Wounded in Germany

Private Donald R. Thiessen was wounded in action Dec. 12, while fighting in Germany, according to word received by his mother, Mrs. Roy Walker, 345 S. Pine St., Roseburg. The information received by Mrs. Walker was that Private Thiessen's wounds were not of a serious or critical nature.



AERIAL GUNNER — Second Lieutenant Carl E. Wimberly, Jr., above, son of Circuit Judge and Mrs. Carl E. Wimberly, 621 E. Lane St., Roseburg, was graduated last week from the army air forces combat gunnery officer's school, Laredo, Texas. He successfully completed a five weeks' course in flexible gunnery, including tactics, maintenance and theory.

Lawmakers of Oregon Find Sleeping Quarters; Session to Open Monday

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 2.—(AP)—Nearly all of the state's legislators have found sleeping accommodations for the session which opens next Monday, Secretary of State Farrell said today.

Many of the lawmakers will stay in private homes and apartments, but some managed to find hotel rooms. One senator offered to pay \$150 a month for a house, but got no replies.

Both houses will caucus Sunday evening at the Marion hotel to elect Rep. Eugene Marsh, McMinnville, as speaker of the senate, and Sen. Howard Belton, Canby, as president of the senate. Both houses also will elect their principal employees.

Governor Snell will deliver his message to the legislature at a joint session in the house chamber at about 2 p. m. Sunday.

German Thrust Into Serchio Valley Halted

Rome, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Fifth army patrols probed enemy positions in the Serchio valley sector of the Italian front, where the short-lived Nazi thrust of last week appears definitely ended.

At the same time, allied pressure was maintained further west in the Tyrrhenian coastal area where the Germans were last reported massing men and equipment.

Pair Landed By U-Boat On Maine Coast

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—(AP)—An alert 17-year-old Maine schoolboy was credited today with spotting the two alleged Nazi saboteurs, who, the FBI said, landed by U-boat Nov. 29 near the boy's Hancock Point home.

Deputy Sheriff Dana Hodgkins, of Hancock Point, said his son, Harvard, a high school senior, was returning from a dance when he saw two strangers walking along a road in the snow. He followed the pair until they disappeared into woods, then told his parents who notified the FBI.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—(AP)—A desperate third attempt to send saboteurs ashore on the east coast had been thwarted today, the FBI said, with the arrest of two men, one an American, who landed by U-boat Nov. 29 near a lonely Maine fishing village.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the men, arrested several

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Woman Killed By Deer Spotlights

ALBANY, Ore., Jan. 2.—(AP)—Mrs. Charles Duncan was killed last night while dishwashing in her trailer home by a hunter who mistook the windows' reflection for the eyes of a deer, Deputy Coroner John Summers said today.

The hunter, thinking the deer had not yet fallen, continued firing through the trailer until Duncan rushed out crying "Stop! You've killed someone." One bullet narrowly missed the Duncans' infant, asleep in a crib.

Summers identified the hunter as Lee G. Matthews, logger, who called state police of his own accord. Summers quoted Matthews as saying that he and three friends were spotlight hunting deer when they glimpsed what they thought a deer's eyes about 500 yards away.

The accident took place about 30 miles east of here, on a logging road near Snow Peak Logging company camp, where Matthews was employed.

Von Rundstedt Idled By Bad Stomach, Report

LONDON, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Unofficial sources here which claim contact with the German underground said today they had received a report that Marshal von Rundstedt was temporarily out of action because of the recurrence of a serious stomach ailment.

There was no official confirmation.

When von Rundstedt was withdrawn from his command in the west after the allied invasion, a stomach disorder was given as the reason.

Germans Attempt to Salvage Armor as Air Force Hammers Their Lines of Communication

(By the Associated Press)

American Third army troops, driving into the narrow waist of the Germans' Ardennes bulge, have broadened to three and a half miles their arrowhead salient above Bastogne and in two days of bitter fighting have repulsed desperate German attempts to pinch off their supply line to the Belgium town. Indications were that the Germans were now extricating what armor they could from the flaming cauldron.

East of the Third army, 1,000 U. S. bombers blasted German tank and troop concentrations, bridges, road intersections and railroads.

The German army kept lashing out in attacks widely scattered along other sectors of the western front, apparently to take advantage of any weakness in allied lines which might result from the shifting of forces to deal with the Belgium bulge.

So far, the enemy was not meeting much success. It seemed clear, however, that von Rundstedt was not through trying.

German troops gained some ground in a wooded region south of Hammstein, five miles southeast of Bitche, but the Seventh army has been able thus far to turn back or hold their efforts elsewhere along this front.

Allied artillery today beat off a German self-propelled gun which the enemy ferried across the Mass (Meuse) river under cover of darkness north of Capelle, in western Holland. This was the boldest enemy thrust on this long-dormant Canadian front in six weeks.

Luftwaffe Blow Costly
Another indication that the Germans were beginning to feel the allied pressure came yesterday (Mon.) when they threw their carefully hoarded planes in a series of heavy attacks upon allied airfields in France, Belgium and Holland.

In the swirling series of air battles that followed, the Germans lost at least 188 planes despite the fact that they had achieved an element of surprise. Thirty-three additional enemy planes were destroyed in other operations during the day.

First reports said the allies lost 25 planes, but this did not in-

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Douglas and Coos Await Report On "Battle of Bonds"

Douglas county 6th War Loan campaign workers today were eagerly awaiting final official figures on the outcome of the "Battle of Bonds" between Douglas and Coos counties. The Federal Reserve bank report received today covered clearings through Dec. 29, at which time Douglas county had a percentage lead of 14.3 points.

Douglas county's E bond sales were \$510,417, or 106.3 per cent of the \$480,000 quota. Coos county, with sales of \$570,333, had reached 122 per cent of its quota of \$460,000.

Both counties were well over the total assigned quota. Douglas county's sales in all series amounting to \$1,757,599 or 174 per cent of quota, while Coos county had total sales of \$2,133,684 or 114.1 per cent of total quota.

The contest, confined to E bond sales to individuals, closed Dec. 31, the final tabulation to be made at the Federal Reserve bank following the close of business tonight.

Thief Gets \$11,000 in Life Savings From Trunk

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 2.—(AP)—George Naldenoff, 59, looked forward gleefully today to returning to lumber camps once more in a effort to rebuild the \$11,000 life savings stolen from a trunk in his hotel room.

He returned to New York this morning to find the room had been ransacked during the night. Naldenoff told police the thief took the \$8,800 obtained from a sale of his car, \$2,325 in war bonds and three watches valued at \$200.

"I worked in logging camps before 1920 and I can do it again, I guess," he said. "One thing's certain: I won't be buying the restaurant I'd planned on."

Admiral Ramsey, Allied Naval Commander, Killed

PARIS, Jan. 2.—(AP)—Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, 61, allied naval commander in chief on the western front, was killed today "in an accident" while flying to a conference in Belgium, supreme headquarters announced.

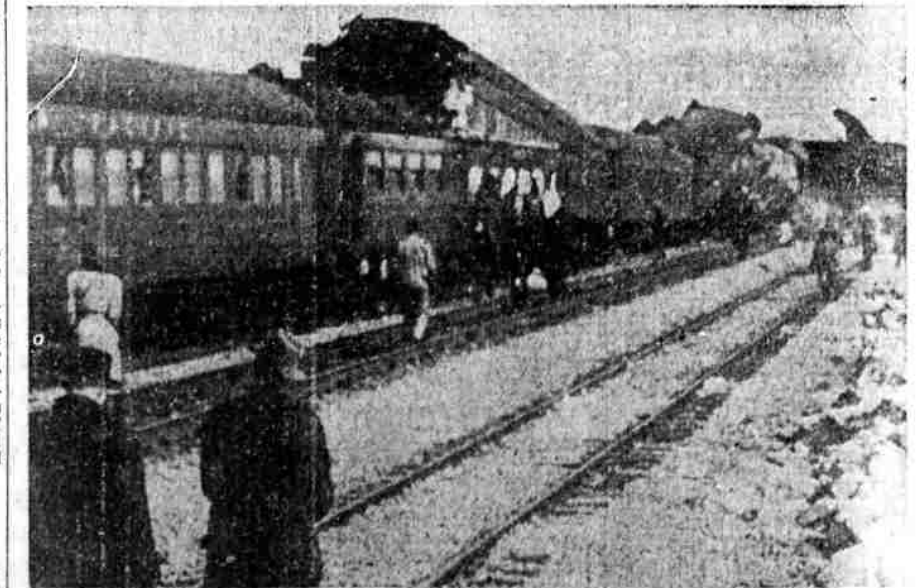
Sir Bertram, who engineered the Dunkerque rescue of 335,000 British and French soldiers, commanded the naval phases of the western invasion under General Eisenhower.

He was considered perhaps the world's foremost expert on planning and organizing vast sea expeditions.

Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Reizenstein

During the recent German breakthrough on the western front, Gen. Eisenhower's forces apparently had plenty of Gen. Sherman tanks but they lacked Gen. Grant whiskey.



SCORES KILLED OR INJURED IN TRAIN WRECK—At least 50 persons were killed and probably 100 others injured Sunday in the nation's worst rail disaster since the last war. It occurred at the marsh backwaters of Great Salt Lake, near Ogden, Utah, when the second section of the S. P. Limited crashed into the rear of the first section, which had been halted by a preceding freight train experiencing mechanical trouble.