

U. S. Planes, PT Boats Blast Another Jap Convoy

(Story in Column 2)

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The third international conference of the year, that dealing with aviation, is winding up in Chicago. Its radius of agreement is far shorter than that of the financial conference at Bretton Woods or of the peace organization at Dumbarton Oaks. The air conference split squarely in the middle between the rivalries of Great Britain and the United States. About all that has been agreed to by all the participating nations is first, setting up an international organization, initially with consultative powers only; and, second, agreeing on a system of rules for flying, like laws of navigation for ocean-going vessels or rules of the road for motor vehicles.

There was considerable discussion over the so-called five freedoms, and while there was agreement among some of the nations respecting such freedoms it was by no means unanimous. These freedoms are:

1st. Right of innocent passage. That is generally conceded. Planes on peaceful errands should be permitted to fly across other countries.

2nd. Right to land for service or repairs. This is also generally recognized.

Resistance comes on taking the next steps up the ladder:

3rd. Right to deliver passengers and cargo in another country and

4th. Right to pick up cargo and passengers for the return trip.

5th. Right to carry intermediate traffic. For example, on a route from Canada to India, should a Canadian plane be permitted to handle business between Paris and Rome?

A sixth freedom was given little attention but is still a higher step.

(Continued on Editorial Page)

Reds Rip Open Wide Gaps in German Lines

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 13.—(AP) The red army ripped open a wide gap in the enemy's defense lines northeast of Budapest yesterday with the capture of the rail fortress of Godollo, while bayonet-wielding Russian vanguards were reported fighting the enemy in the eastern suburbs of the bombed, shell-torn capital.

The supplement to the Soviet war bulletin said the swiftly retreating Germans abandoned 400 dead on the approaches to Godollo, 10 1/2 miles from the capital and the last major enemy bastion controlling the entrances from that direction.

The communists did not confirm the entrance into the Budapest suburbs, reported in earlier Moscow dispatches. A German military commentator admitted a "great breach in our lines," but claimed it had been sealed off later.

Gates Soldier Victim of War

GATES, Dec. 12.—Pvt. Carl Schroeder was killed in an accidental explosion in France November 19, his mother, Mrs. Lucy L. Short has been informed by the war department.

Schroeder was inducted into the army Jan. 3, 1944, and received his training at Camp Maxey, Texas. He went overseas in September after spending a three week furlough with his family. He was stationed in Scotland before he went to France.

Survivors are his mother, Mrs. Short and five brothers, Pvt. Ernest Schroeder, U. S. army in Belgium; Earl, Everett, Clyde and Bud Schroeder all of Gates.

Fireworks Fail to Go Off as Stettinius Says His Aim Is 'Liberal Foreign Policy'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(AP) The much-advertised fireworks failed to go off today as Secretary of State Stettinius led six chosen aides before inquiring senators and declared his aim is a "liberal foreign policy."

As the foreign relations committee heard statements from Stettinius and the nominees, questions were few and far between. And when the questioning led into areas that Chairman Connally (D-Tex.) considered improper, he flagged the questioners down.

Stettinius, who became secretary of state a fortnight ago, gave his first detailed enunciation of the policies which will guide him. They were devoid of gaudy innovations.

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7th ARMY DRIVES 8 MILES

Seven Of 11 Ships Destroyed

3 Others Badly Damaged; 50 Nip Planes Downed

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Wednesday, Dec. 13.—(AP) Three Japanese destroyers and four transports of an 11-ship convoy attempting to run reinforcements to beleaguered Japanese troops on Leyte island, were sunk by American planes and PT boats Monday and Tuesday, Gen. Douglas MacArthur said today.

One other enemy destroyer and two freighter-transports were so severely damaged in the 36-hour running fight they may have sunk. They were left dead in the water and burning, the communique said. Fifty Japanese planes were destroyed in the battle. The Americans lost eight.

One Escapes

Only one Japanese vessel, a destroyer, escaped unscathed from the fury of the army lightning fighters, marine Corsairs and the speedy, hard-hitting navy PT boats. The battle occurred off the northwest coast of Leyte.

The convoy will be badly missed by the Japanese ground troops who are being pushed into the northwest corner of Leyte island by American attack.

Nip Planes Attack

Some 30 Japanese planes attacked an American convoy retreating from a supply run to Ormoc at dawn Sunday, but were met by marine fighter planes which downed 14 of the enemy. The American supply ships suffered some damage, the communique said.

Late reports from western and northern Leyte showed little change in the ground war situation.

The Seventh and 77th US divisions were mopping up and consolidating their positions around Ormoc, the west coast port town captured by the Yanks Sunday.

Board Okehs Speaking Aid

Salem school board Tuesday night approved a recommendation of Supt. Frank B. Bennett for the purchase of additional facilities for the public address system in senior high school auditorium. The additions will provide a control, amplifier and turntable. Bennett is asking for the purchase of the facilities said at present it is impossible to control volume at the microphone and that there is no provision for playing of records.

The board accepted the resignations of two teachers when the superintendent announced he had secured one replacement and had assurances of a second. Miss Tena Martin, second grade teacher in Bush school, will be succeeded by Mrs. Helen Patton Merriam of Stayton. Successor to Miss Dorothy S. Merriam, fifth grade teacher in Richmond school, was not announced. Miss Martin and Miss Merriam will leave after the holidays.

Japanese Start Evacuation Of Non-Essential Civilians From Tokyo Reports Berlin

Pastor and Hymn Books Land With Troops on D-Day

LONDON, Dec. 12.—(AP) — A knapsack full of hymn books along over his shoulder, the Rev. J. Fraser McLuskey parachuted into France deep behind the enemy lines soon after D-Day, it was revealed here today.

The 6-foot, 2-inch British pastor went among groups of special air service troops who also were operating behind the enemy lines and conducted services with men singing loudly in safe areas, and in whispers elsewhere. The favorite was "Stand Up for Jesus."

Tokyo Reveals Bombs Fall on Palace Grounds

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 13.—(AP) — A Tokyo home broadcast, recorded in Melbourne, said today that bombs had fallen recently in the imperial palace grounds.

The broadcast said a manor house had been damaged. (Only a few days ago photographs taken from US Superfortresses and published in the United States disclosed that the B-29's had flown squarely over the palace, but there was no indication that it was a target for bombing.)

The precincts of the imperial palace, never open to sightseers, consist of the inner enclosure and the outer gardens, the inner enclosure being jealously guarded against intrusion by unauthorized persons.

Community Property Law Valid in State

The Oregon community property law is still valid in spite of the recent decision of the United States supreme court that the Oklahoma law upon which it was modeled could not be used to permit husbands and wives to file separate federal income tax returns, Attorney General George Neuner advised Gov. Earl Snell here Tuesday.

The 1251 Oregon married couples who have elected to come under the law may be restored to their former status by legislative enactment, either repealing the law or providing some system by which husband and wife could get out from under the provisions of the act in manner similar to that by which they chose to take advantage of its provisions.

No means of escaping from provision of the law is provided in the statute adopted by the 1943 legislature. The attorney general stressed that both husband and wife would have to elect to get out from under the community property law and that it would be impossible for some couples to do so, particularly those who have been divorced while their property was community.

By Romney Wheeler

LONDON, Dec. 12.—(AP) — The Japanese have started a mass evacuation of non-essential civilians from bombed and blacked out Tokyo, the Berlin radio reported today.

There was no confirmation directly from Tokyo, but a broadcast from the Japanese capital declared American Superfortresses

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—(AP) Superfortresses in sizeable force attacked industrial targets on the Japanese home island of Honshu today.

A war department communique said "This is another attack on the Japanese mainland by Salpan-based B29's in the mounting aerial drive on enemy strategic targets."

dropped incendiary bombs tonight (Japanese time) in the fourth appearance of the sky giants over Tokyo in one day.

A German Transocean dispatch from Japan said 20,000 persons had been ordered to leave the capital today.

The dispatch added that measures were "progressing according to plan" for evacuation of Tokyo, which is being rocked by Salpan-based Superfortresses.

First to go were the aged and infirm, children, and expectant mothers, Berlin said. There was no indication whether Emperor Hirohito and his household would flee to safer quarters, or whether changes were contemplated in plans for a meeting of the Japanese diet in Tokyo December 24.

"No workers in war industry, transport and press may leave Tokyo, however, as special permits are required by the police," Transocean said. "Neither can workers in the essential industries (gas, water and electricity, doctors, chemists and nurses). The civil defense forces must also stay."

Germans Hint New Weapon

LONDON, Dec. 12.—(AP) — The German radio hinted tonight that a new secret V-weapon—perhaps V-3—was being fired at Belgian cities.

The broadcast quoted "well informed circles in Berlin" in stating that "the projectiles fired at Antwerp and Liege are noticeably different from the flying bombs fired at London. They are said to be shorter and thicker and are thought to be a completely different weapon."

Berlin has hinted several times that V-3 was ready for use, and New York was mentioned as a possible target. The broadcast may be manufactured propaganda, or a search for information.

Britain Tells EAM Its Terms

Leftists Throw Peace Feeler as Fight Continues

By William Fry

LONDON, Dec. 12.—(AP) — With Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander and minister of state Harold MacMillan both in Athens, the Greek Eam-Elas fighters threw out a peace feeler today but were told that surrender of arms and a halt in hostilities were prerequisites to a settlement of the civil strife.

While fighting raged on grimly in Athens and Piraeus, and British reinforcements arrived, the British foreign office announced that the British terms had been handed to militiamen Porphyrogenis, representative of the Eam (national liberation party), by Maj. Gen. Ronald Scobie, British commander in Greece.

Porphyrogenis, communist former minister of labor in the cabinet of Premier George Papandreou, which the British are supporting, was told that the Eam—fighting arm of the Eam—must obey British orders and that the forces in Attica province, which includes Athens, must lay down their arms and cease resistance.

"As soon as these requirements have been fulfilled," said an announcement which the foreign office made public here, "Gen. Scobie would initiate the necessary steps to put an end to the present turmoil in Greece and restore to all Greeks, whatever their opinions, peaceful enjoyment of their democratic liberties, the first step to which must be the abandonment of all private armies."

East Covered With Snow Up To 23 Inches

By the Associated Press

A lashing gale yesterday covered the east with snow ranging up to 23 inches. Meanwhile the midwest started to dig itself from under 18 inches of snow from the same storm.

Forty-six persons died in the United States and 13 in Canada from the storm.

War plants throughout the east and midwest reported hampered activities and a high rate of absenteeism due to the clogged roads.

The cold winds gathering moisture as they met warmer air from the south, moved in a roughly semicircular path across the middle west from central Canada.

First Army Advances



Arrows indicate U. S. First army drives. Americans reached the Roer river after and advance in the area of Bergstein, which has been captured, and farther north they took Merode in their push toward the stronghold of Duren. (AP Wirephoto map)

Intensive Drive Underway To Meet Marion Bond Goal

With only four days to raise a million and a quarter dollars, mostly in large individual purchases, the Sixth War Loan campaign committee Tuesday launched an intensive drive to contact every possible buyer in the county.

Under the leadership of Arthur Smith, special solicitation chairman, large investors in Salem and nearby communities were being urged to increase their subscriptions. Unless big purchasers do more quickly to meet their \$1,300,000 quota, Marion county will not go over the top by Saturday night, Chairman Douglas Yeater warned.

Buyers of E bonds with more than 75 per cent of their \$1,500,000 goal in sight also were lagging, but officials hoped that last-minute reports would materially increase this figure. Corporate allocations already were close to their two-million-dollar mark with more coming in every day.

Only a few tickets remained with the issuing agencies for the bond premiere at the Elsinore theatre tonight, but many purchasers were looking with longing upon the \$4000 Victory dream house fund which will go to some lucky buyer of E bonds at the close of the drive. A second prize of two acres of land south of Salem also will be given away.

Proceeding the Elsinore bond premiere tonight will be a stage show with the "Singing Sentinels", Portland radio artists from the Oregon Shipbuilding corporation as the main attraction. Headed by Del Von Zethen, this group appears every Sunday night over KOIN in a show entitled "Song of the Columbia."

Music for the Elsinore show will be provided by the 66th air corps band from Vancouver, which was here for Pearl Harbor day last week. Additional details on page 2.

Paratroops Raid Athens

ATHENS, Dec. 12.—(AP) — Paratroops raided the Athens radio station, deep in ELAS territory last night, removed the equipment and withdrew, it was announced today.

Defense Plant Representative Visits Local Alumna Layout

Upon foresight and imagination necessary to increase greatly the use of aluminum in the years immediately following the war may depend the profitable operation of such plants as that now under construction at Salem's north boundary for removal of alumina from clay.

This is the belief of F. H. Berquist, Defense Plants corporation representative, from Washington, DC, who Tuesday inspected the alumina plant and discussed the future of the western light metals industries with representatives of the Salem Chamber of Commerce.

Planning an economic use for millions of pounds of alumina must go beyond the pots and pans

which American homemakers want and will buy in the years of peace, Berquist pointed out, urging builders and industrialists to consider seriously its value for performance of specific tasks. Possibility that the Salem Chamber of Commerce office might serve as a clearing house for suggestions from persons or organizations not interested in capitalizing on their own ideas, was expressed by Manager Clay Cochran.

In Salem with Berquist were F. W. Draper of the Bonneville administration, N. L. McGoun, divisional engineer for DPC, and F. A. Schenck, supervising engineer for DPC, all of Portland.

Half-Mile To Duren For First

Germans' Roer River Salient Virtually Gone

By Austin Bealmeier

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Paris, Dec. 12.—(AP) — Fighting through the old Maginot defenses, the US Seventh army stormed more than eight miles northward from liberated Haguenau today while the First American army drove within half a mile of Duren and virtually eliminated the Germans' Roer river salient blocking the route to Cologne.

At the same time the Third army crossed the Blies river northeast of Sarreguemines, forcing a new edge across the German border, and the French First army rolled up new gains in the Vosges foothills at the southern end of the long western front.

Planes Give Support

The steady advances of the ground forces were strongly supported by allied planes, which hammered Nazi targets in and behind the battle zone relentlessly throughout the day.

More than 30 towns and villages—at least seven of them, inside Germany—fell during the day as Gen. Eisenhower's armies pounded at the last barriers guarding the reich's three main industrial areas. At some vital points enemy resistance appeared to be slackening, although this might be explained as German withdrawals to previously prepared positions.

Gain Mile an Hour

Battlefront dispatches said Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's Seventh army was forging ahead at the rate of a mile an hour. These American troops surged through Langensoultzbach and struck farther northward toward Mettstal, 11 miles north of Haguenau. They also thrust within eight miles of the important frontier highway junction of Wissembourg by capturing Merwiller.

Yanks of both the Seventh and Third armies spread out to the west and continued to close up to the German border in a great wheeling movement pivoting on Sarreguemines. At one point Patch's troops had reached within 2 1/2 miles of the border.

Defenses Collapse

In the north German defenses west of the Roer river had virtually collapsed as Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' First army pushed up to the river on a 1000-yard front east of Hurtgen forest.

A staff officer at First army headquarters declared the war in the west had reached a stage comparable to the breakthrough period of last July in Normandy.

Chinese Take Railway Town

CHUNGKING, Dec. 12.—(AP) — Chinese troops, advancing a dozen miles into Kwangsi province down the Kweichow-Kwangsi railway, captured the railway town of Nantun and the nearby town of Mangchang today, the Chinese high command announced.

The Japanese, now ousted from Kweichow after an ambitious invasion of that province, are retreating toward Hochih, 35 miles farther down the railway, the Chinese said, after having suffered heavy losses.

An American communique said close air support was being given to the advancing Chinese.

10 SHOPPING DAYS

NO SPEED UP YOUR BUYING

BUY CASH SALES