

First Major Counterattack Against Germans Launched To Relieve Bastogne Group

By Tom Yarbrough

WITH AMERICAN TROOPS ON THE ROAD TO BASTOGNE, Belgium, Dec. 22—(Delayed)—(P)—The first major counterblow against Germany's admittedly serious offensive was launched with tanks and infantry before dawn today and our forces advanced (distance censored) against light resistance in three inches of snow.

American forces in the Bastogne area, who have been encircled by the Germans since Wednesday, rejected at 11:30 a.m. today a German demand that they surrender while this rescue expedition plodded ahead over the roads and rolling hills and fir forests. The steady snowfall had suddenly turned the scene into one of breath-taking beauty.

55 Tanks Hit

The American garrison holding the Bastogne sector has knocked out 55 German tanks and that is described as "a conservative estimate." It shows how badly the Germans want the road network that centers in that little town just inside Belgium near Luxembourg's frontier.

When a German carrying a white flag came forward with the demand for surrender, he gave the commander a false report that three towns far to the west were in German hands. The American commander sent him right back with "no" for an answer.

Famous Outfit

The armored outfit spearheading this thrust into the hard underbelly of the German salient is one of the most famous and spectacular in the entire US army.

With Jack Bell of the Chicago Daily News, I entered a small village late this afternoon while it still was being cleared in a house-to-house search. The Germans have been pulling back all day and the snowy, frozen stillness was broken only by occasional crackles from rifles and machine-guns.

Yanks Confident

There is a general feeling of confidence without cockiness reflected throughout our command in these parts and it is not deflated by the fact that our surrounded forces withdrew from St. Vith today. St. Vith is 27 miles northeast of Bastogne. American troops there were ordered back to a stronger line.

Along with the feeling of confidence that this grave challenge to American arms will be mastered there is an acute sense of history among the commanding offi-

Oregon Will Lose Heavily On Race Ban

PORTLAND, Dec. 25—(P)—Oregon, where \$10,691,704 was placed in dog racing bets this year, stands to lose over a third of a million dollars if the war mobilization director's racing ban stays in effect through 1945.

State revenues from racing reached \$361,737—a record amount—in 1944, or three per cent of every dollar. Total betting in Oregon, counting \$891,365 in horse wagers as well as the dog stakes, reached \$11,583,060.

The Multnomah Kennel Club's annual derby, which draws hordes of dog racing fans to Portland during the summer months, is the chief source of revenue. It will be cancelled next season if conditions which prompted the ban still prevail, officials said.

County fairs received \$217,500 of the state's collections this year, while \$35,000 each went to the state fair and the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. The Pendleton Round-up and the eastern Oregon livestock show received \$5,000 each. About \$48,000 landed in the state's general fund.

McCain's Fast Force Wreaks Havoc on Nips

ABOARD ADM. MCCAIN'S FAST CARRIER FORCE FLAGSHIP OFF THE PHILIPPINES, (Via Navy Radio)—Dec. 22—(Delayed)—(P)—Fighting at sea and in the air for reconquest of the Philippines, Vice Adm. John S. McCain's fast carrier task force in two months has put out of action 1521 Japanese airplanes, and sunk or destroyed 89 enemy ships and damaged 92 others.

"Actually, Japanese losses were probably higher," said McCain's operations officer, Cmdr. John S. Thatch, Fordyce, Ark. "These figures are conservative."

During the same period, in November and December, US task force losses were 104 planes.

The actions were made in direct support of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Leyte and Mindoro landings. The totals covered five strikes in November and one in December, all on the great island of Luzon.

Allied World Sends Up Christmas Prayer For Quick Victory and Enduring Peace

By the Associated Press

Around the world last night a prayer went up in all Allied nations and on all Allied battlefronts—a prayer for quick victory and enduring peace—on the sixth Christmas day of bloody global warfare.

For Americans, celebrating their fourth Yuletide at war, attention was riveted on the flaming western front in Europe, where US soldiers were locked in a death struggle with a desperate enemy staging his supreme effort to turn back an Allied tide.

Those Americans abroad who were not occupied with the grim business of fighting marked the holiday in as nearly traditional ways as possible—and some were lucky enough to have real Christmas trees or real Christmas dinners.

King George Speaks

King George VI of England voiced the prayer of all Allied peoples. In an address from the royal fireside, heard in the United States and the commonwealth, the monarch expressed the hope that "before the next Christmas the story of liberation and triumph will be complete."

In like vein, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands sent her people a message of hope and confidence in speedy liberation, telling them that "the message of Christmas enables us to call a courageous and convincing 'no' to the dark powers that threaten us with destruction."

Asks Lasting Peace

Pope Pius XII, who Sunday had called upon the nations of the world to form an organization for lasting peace, attended a Christmas day distribution of gifts to children of refugees, in the main auditorium of the pontifical Gregorian university in Rome.

Americans in London, grimly following the reports of the great battle in Belgium, joined their British friends in what probably was the quietest Christmas celebration on record here. A one-day strike of workers on London's vast subway system paralyzed the capital's transport network, and many American and British alike had to give up their plans or walk miles to keep their Christmas engagements.

Airmen Celebrate

Hundreds of American airmen in action at noon had their Christmas turkey dinners and celebrations later in the day at bases scattered all over Britain.

In the far east other Americans celebrated the day. In north Burma, the land of jungles and Bud-

dha temples, some army units built Christmas trees of bamboo and others received real Christmas trees flown in from India by 10th air force planes.

In Myitkyina there were 11 church services, attended by Americans, British, Indians, Chinese, Burmese and Kachins. The Red Cross presented a pageant of the birth of Christ. It was staged only a few dozen yards from a statue of Buddha.

All the Americans in Myitkyina had turkey for dinner.

China's war capital, Chungking, spent its eighth Christmas of the conflict heartened by the failure of the Japanese to make good a boast—the boast that Kunning and Chungking would be theirs by Christmas.

Mexico Has Quiet Holiday With Feasting

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 25—(P)—Mexico enjoyed today a quiet Christmas tempered by May day weather and punctuated by the popping of rockets and firecrackers.

Many people slept until noon after the midnight mass ("misa del gallo"), which filled the churches, and the last and merriest of the "posadas" late parties held in private homes throughout the previous nine days, according to Latin American tradition.

In many homes the Christmas dinner—obligatory piece de resistance—turkey fiery with chili sauce—was served in the early morning after the mass and the "posada," since Christmas eve was the day of semi fasting.

Christmas trees, presents and Santa Claus were more in evidence throughout Mexico today than ever before, as north American customs have become more popular.



ON the HOME FRONT

By ISABEL CHILDS

The Great Day is over and it's back to the tin mines for thousands of Willamette valley women.

That's not funny. "Salvaged tin cans are the only tin mines in the United States," E. J. Nelson, regional salvage manager of the war production board, is reminding the public today as he reports that 90 per cent of the natural resources of tin is still in the hands of the Japanese.

In a cheery mood, we might reply that no wonder the Nips' war effort seems tinny—come a good rain and it should be rusty. Although we know it's no joking matter, we still wonder how we're going to get the tin for salvage with these new ration regulations on canned vegetables.

Navy Hospital Patients Have Happy Holiday

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Dec. 25—(P)—There were no long faces among the wounded today at the U. S. naval hospital. It was Christmas, but more important, Christmas in the United States.

Lying in the first bed of an orthopedic ward, Pvt. James E. Cody, Jr., marine from East Syracuse, N. Y., brought smiles to all who walked by him with the greeting "Merry Christmas" printed in bright green across the case which covered his chest.

A few beds farther along a wounded sailor had decorated in red and green the suspension which held his bullet-riddled leg aloft.

On every bed was at least one present from the Red Cross and other groups which sent the 12,000 patients 16,000 gift boxes.

10 Soldiers Die, 17 Injured in Airplane Crash

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 25—(P)—An army transport plane crashed into fog-ringed Roundup mountain early today, killing ten soldiers and injuring 17 others.

"It was the worst sight I ever saw," said Fire Chief William Vogelsong of nearby New Cumberland, one of the first to reach the scene in a heavily wooded section known as Reeser's Summit, five miles from Harrisburg.

Vogelsong said the plane hit a tree and a wing and the engines were on fire when he arrived with the New Cumberland fire company in response to a telephone call from a resident.

"The men were in the plane crying for help and we had to cut our way to them with an ax. Part of one wing was on a tree 200 feet from the plane."

The Middletown air technical service command withheld names of the casualties as well as destination of the plane and its home base.

First reports were the soldiers were on their way home for Christmas but Middletown said as far as it was determined, they were not believed on furlough.

Fifteen of the injured, with fractures and burns, were brought to the Harrisburg General hospital. The other two, one with a broken leg and the other with a shoulder fracture, were taken to the New Cumberland army reception center hospital.

The crash occurred at 4:27 a. m. three miles west of the New Cumberland airport.

Western Oregon Has Mild Christmas Day

PORTLAND, Dec. 25—(P)—Brilliant sunshine and a minimum temperature of 31 degrees made this a mild Christmas day in Portland, but northeast Oregon and the Cascades were greeted with traditional snow.

The most frigid spot was Meacham, Ore., where the mercury dipped to 17, and the Willamette valley also was chilly. Salem reported 27 degrees, and Astoria shivered at 24. North Bend had 33.

Thumbnail of War!

(By the Associated Press)

Western Front — German troops burst toward the Meuse in fierce new show of armored power against toughened Yank resistance.

Russia — Red army drives to western city limits of Budapest, cutting last railway escape routes westward for the Germans.

Greece — Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Minister Eden arrive in Athens in effort to settle the 23-day-old Greek conflict.

Pacific—Gen. MacArthur says the Leyte campaign is over, giving Japan's Yamashita the greatest defeat in the military annals of his nation.

RAF Fighters Hammer ELAS

ATHENS, Dec. 25—(P)—British Beaufighters blasted left wing ELAS forces' concentrations with rockets and cannon fire today in the northern suburbs of the Greek capital as Christmas day brought no letup in the bitter fighting in Athens.

Artillery fire also was heard resounding in the central part of the city.

2 Salem Students On U-O Honor Roll

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Dec. 25 — Two university students from Salem were among an all-campus total of 106 listed on fall quarter honor roll, released Friday from the office of Clifford L. Constance, assistant registrar. All students named have received a grade point average of 3.5, half A's and half B's, or higher, for the fall term.

Listed from Salem are Jean A. Carkin, senior in music, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Carkin; and Robert R. Schott, senior in business administration, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Schott.

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