

NAZIS STRIKE AGAIN

Greeks Get Regent Blue Lake Plant Razed in Hour; Cause Not Known

Corridor Hit From All Sides

Americans Hammer Heavily on Enemy 'Bulge'

By Edward Kennedy
PARIS, Sunday, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Three German divisions have been hurled by Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt at both sides of the Bastogne corridor held by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's US Third army, a field dispatch reported last night as American troops hammered heavily all along the shrinking perimeter of the German bulge.

The hard-won corridor supplying Bastogne was hit by two of Von Rundstedt's divisions from the west and by a third from the east while in Bastogne itself US artillerymen poured withering shellfire into the 16-mile-wide escape gap of the Germans' hour-glass shaped front and blasted areas where the Germans have been gathering for new thrusts.

The renewed attacks—breaking a four-day lull—came as Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's hard-driving forces broadened their front along the south of the German bulge to nearly 50 miles, struck west of Bastogne, sheared supply roads and threatened to cut off an enemy armor thrust to within 23 miles of Sedan at Libramont.

American counterblows had re-won nearly one-third of the territory overrun in the Germans' surprise counteroffensive, badly narrowing the maneuvering ground for Von Rundstedt's three armies. Progress of the new battle was not at once disclosed, nor was the time at which it broke.

Smash From East
The German refusal occurred Friday and Moscow announced that soviet troops yesterday had smashed into the eastern side of the city for the first time. Soviet dispatches said they had linked up with the western invasion wing on Danube islands in the heart of the burning Hungarian capital.

Moscow also announced that the new soviet-sponsored Hungarian government headed by Premier General Bela Miklos had declared war on Germany. The declaration, issued by a regime set up in Debrecen in eastern Hungary and dated Thursday, said that Germany forced Hungary into the war against Russia and "attacked and occupied" Hungary March 19, 1944, imposing a nazi regime on the country.

Salem Residents Experience Driest Year in 7 Years

Salem residents in 1944 experienced the driest year for the past seven years, with only 25.13 inches rainfall registered at the airport weather bureau. However, 5.27 inches fell in January and 4.30 inches in November. This compares with an all time average precipitation for Salem and vicinity of 36.13 inches per year. Coldest days in 1944 were January 9 and December 14 and 15 when minimum temperatures of 20 degrees were registered.

Warmest day was on September 5, with a maximum reading of 103 degrees. This was the highest maximum temperature in the past two years.

Manchuria Nips Used in Effort To Halt Yanks

GEN. MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Sunday, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur disclosed today, while a new Mindoro-bound convoy pressed on under Japanese attack to reinforce his conquering forces, that the enemy had drawn troops from Manchuria in an effort to stop him on Leyte island.

The American commander's communique said Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita had lost in the futile defense of Leyte four army divisions and the elements of two more, besides a naval brigade and other special forces.

Total Japanese losses, including 801 more killed in recent mop-up operations, reached 116,770, the communique said.

In a "historical resume" of the Japanese forces of Yamashita's 35th army, destroyed on Leyte, MacArthur said one division, the 16th, had participated in the battle of Bataan against him early in the war.

George II Finally Gives Up

Monarch Won't Return to Athens Unless Called

By John A. Parris, Jr.
LONDON, Dec. 30.—(AP)—King George II of Greece tonight announced appointment of Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens as regent of his strife-torn country, taking a step generally regarded here as tantamount to relinquishment of his throne.

The 54-year-old monarch's road has been rocky for years and most observers in London's diplomatic quarters believe the Greek people, who are swinging to the left would vote against a monarchy in a plebiscite which is expected to be held.

Appointment of the regent was announced in a royal proclamation issued after a statement in Athens that the archbishop probably would assume his duties as regent tomorrow.

The proclamation, stating that the king had deeply considered the "terrible situation" into which Greece had fallen, said he had resolved not to return to the country "unless summoned by a free and fair expression of national will" and authorized Damaskinos to "take all steps necessary to restore order and tranquility."

Churchill Coyvines
The king, reported to have opposed the regency, was believed to have been convinced of the necessity of the measure by Prime Minister Churchill, who had just returned from Athens. Reliable sources said Churchill told the Greek king that a regency would be established by the government in Athens regardless of his consent.

Establishment of a regency had been unanimously agreed upon by the all-party conference convened by Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden last Tuesday in an effort to restore peace in Greece.

Blue Lake Plant Razed in Hour; Cause Not Known

Midnight Blaze Threatens Much Of Town as Embers Shower on Homes; Canned Goods Explode

More than a half million dollars went up in flames which razed the frame buildings of Blue Lake Producers canning plant in West Salem in 60 short minutes this morning. Great embers dropped on frame residences over an area of several blocks and threatened the entire northeast section of West Salem.

Origin of the blaze was still undetermined at 1:30 a. m. as last of the great timbers was falling into the artillery of exploding canned goods. But a night watchman who discovered the first smoke at 12:30 said it was rolling over the office, coming apparently from the boiler room.

Idle Friday and Saturday, except for a labeling crew, the group of buildings mushrooming over a territory larger than an average city block were practically without heat, plant executives declared.

Third Big Fire
Third fire in West Salem within a three-weeks period, second cannery blaze in the Salem district and third industrial loss of more than \$100,000 in recent months, the blaze brought suggestions of incendiarism from crowds who lined streets of West Salem and downtown Salem to view the spectacle.

Owned by a producers cooperative association since 1938, the cannery from 1932 to 1938 was owned and operated by the Hillman Packing company, of which Grover Hillman, Salem, was president.

Expansion Planned
Extensive plans for expansion of operations had been made, a plant executive said, and considerable new equipment secured even in wartime, under war food priorities.

The two-year-old brick and tile dehydration plant at the south end of the cannery, though an oven early today, could not be greatly damaged by fire, Charles Martin, president of the Blue Lake association, said.



IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Squire

The only prediction it seems safe to make for 1945 is that there will be two eclipses of the sun and two of the moon, and I borrow this from the astronomers. All else is vague, the crystal ball cloudy.

Watch Night Parties Set

Many Salem people will observe the old year out and the new year in at Watch Night parties scheduled in a score of Salem churches. Most of the other churches are marking the end of 1944 with year-end sermons scheduled for the morning services.

Marion's Tin Goal 15 Tons Per Month

A monthly quota of 15 tons of salvaged tin has been set for Marion county for the first quarter of 1945. Claud Seranus, state salvage committee chairman, Saturday notified Gardner Knapp, Marion committee head. The setting of quotas in tin salvage, a new system "designed to effect necessary increases," was decided upon because "America's shortage of tin is a real, not an imaginative condition," Seranus declared.

Fall of Budapest Near; Red Term Bearers Killed

SILVERTON, Dec. 30.—(Special) Pte. Arlo Boime has written his father, Oluf Boime, that he recently tasted beefsteak for the first time in many months. He added that it was as tough as shoe-leather, but none of the men minded so long as it was meat. Private Boime has been in the Dutch East Indies for some time. He has been overseas for 12 months.

Marion Share In Red Cross Set at \$73,500

Marion county's share of the national Red Cross goal in the annual fund raising campaign set for next March is to be \$73,500, F. C. Leserer, chapter war fund chairman, was notified Saturday.

Vinson Okehs Pay Increase For Steel Men

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Steelworkers received an okay from Stabilization Director Fred Vinson tonight for war labor board-approved wage increases estimated to average 5 to 7 cents an hour.

Panama Head Won't Resign

BALBOA, Panama Canal Zone, Dec. 30.—(AP)—President Ricardo Adolfo de la Guardia of Panama declined tonight to resign as demanded by a group of political leaders, lawyers and business men known as the "Junta de notables."

Earlier the president's brother-in-law, Augusto Boyd, had said that de la Guardia was ready to resign if that were the only means of returning the country to normalcy.



Louis F. Lochner

High British Source Says Hess' Flight Was Entirely Without Knowledge of Nazi Fuehrer

As the battle rose in fury the enemy fought back with mortars and artillery, bent on holding the town to the last.

Australia Will Play Vital Role in Philippine War

CANBERRA, Australia, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Acting Prime Minister Francis Forde in a New Year's statement today said Australian fighting forces in 1945 would "play a vital part in the Philippines operations."

War Year 1944 Takes Big Toll Of Service Men

The stepped-up tempo of war was reflected in a recapitulation of deaths of men from the mid-Willamette valley area today.

High Command Shake-up Due Report Papers

LONDON, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Reports that a shake-up in the allied command on the western front was imminent were displayed prominently today by the London afternoon press.

Yank Planes Pound Enemy

LONDON, Dec. 30.—(AP)—More than 2000 British-based American bombers and fighting planes pierced through fog today and pounded German supply lines to the western front for the eighth consecutive day.

Holiday Calm Over Ward's

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—(AP)—A New Year's holiday calm settled over Montgomery Ward and company today.

Eight bombers and three fighters were reported missing from these operations.

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