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British Launch City Campaign Against Greeks

Athens Is Scene of Three Pronged Drive As Civil War Flares

Athens, Dec. 29 (UP)—British and Greek troops launched a three-pronged offensive against rebel forces in southeast Athens at dawn today and four hours later the attack was reported going "according to plan."

The offensive opened the second phase of a campaign to clear all southern Athens of left-wing E.L.A.S. troops. Southwest Athens already has been cleared virtually up to Omonias square and by dusk, the British hoped to hold half the entire capital.

Drive to Stadium
Attacking at 7 a. m., one British prong drove toward the stadium area of southeast Athens, another British column pushed into the cemetery south of the stadium and a Greek force advanced from the east.

The Greeks had gained 1,000 yards against stiff resistance by 8:30 a. m. Mortars, artillery and tanks supported the offensive. Spitfires buzzed overhead at rooftop level, spotting enemy movements.

Arduous Hill
Arduous hill, a gray-green mound directly behind the glistening white marble stadium, was half hidden in the morning mist, but British mortar bombs glowed orange through the haze as they burst on the slopes, a scant 1,200 yards from government headquarters in the Great Britain hotel.

Troops Attack
E.L.A.S. troops attacked Likivitos hill in northeast Athens at 3 a. m. under cover of darkness, but were beaten back by British artillery and newly-formed Greek national guard battalions.

E.L.A.S. units also set an armoured car into the Omonias square area during the night, the first time they have used armor, but a British manned Sherman tank reportedly knocked it out.

During the nearly three weeks of fighting, it was revealed, British and Greek government forces have taken 7,500 prisoners.

German Raiders Blast Hospital

With U. S. Forces in Belgium, Dec. 29 (UP)—German raiders who missed the target on their first two tries blasted an advanced field hospital to bits with two 500-pound bombs Wednesday, killing 15 persons and injuring more than 50, it can be revealed today.

The bombs landed on a brick building between two big red crosses, burying patients, doctors and nurses under tons of debris.

A nearby ambulance from another field hospital was bombed while evacuating battlefield casualties.

The bombing was carried out by two German JU-88's at high altitude on a day when visibility was perfect.

Score Near Misses
The fact the enemy planes tried twice previously and scored near misses was viewed by hospital attaches as definite evidence the Germans were going all out in ruthless warfare. This type of warfare during the present offensive has brought the massacre of captured American soldiers and the murder of women, old men and children in captured towns.

Charles B. Hastie, congregation chaplain of Grand Rapids, Mich., was stunned and hurled to the hospital floor by the concussion.

So Sorry, No Cigs, So Man Uses Pipe
Portland, Ore., Dec. 29 (UP)—John R. Poloudakis, grocery store proprietor, today was not attempting to solve the cigarette shortage any more by telling his disappointed customers to "use a pipe."

He was resting in a hospital, where stitches were taken in a three-inch head cut after a fagless smoker did use a pipe.

When a young man entered Poloudakis' store and heard the old refrain, "Sorry, no cigarettes," he produced a length of iron pipe and trapped Poloudakis smartly on the head and fled, still without cigarettes.

LAPINE MAN WOUNDED
Lapine, Dec. 29—The war department announced today that Pvt. Charles W. Mitchell, son of Walter P. Mitchell of Lapine, has been wounded in action in the European theater.

May Prove Death Pocket



The Germans are reported to have been stopped in their drive toward the Meuse river, and news from Europe today revealed that the American 1st and 3rd armies were cutting into the northern and southern flanks of the German salient in a move that may turn the Ardennes into a death pocket.

Nips Report Big Convoy Sighted in Island Waters

Allied Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 29 (UP)—The battle of the Philippines went into a temporary lull today as Gen. Douglas MacArthur prepared for the next phase of his liberation campaign.

A Japanese communique said 30 American transports with an escort of 20 or more cruisers and destroyers were sailing westward through the Mindanao sea, perhaps to launch a new invasion in the Philippines. Japanese planes sank six of the large transports and damaged two others heavily in attacks Thursday, the communique said.

Routine mopping up operations continued in northwest Leyte with 912 additional enemy dead and 16 prisoners counted Wednesday, but neither ground nor air activity was reported from Mindoro, 300 miles to the northwest and just south of Luzon, MacArthur's ultimate objective in the Philippines.

Japs Steam Away
The Japanese task force which shelled Mindoro Tuesday failed to return, apparently having suffered sufficient damage from American planes to discourage further attacks for the present.

Three of its six destroyers were sunk and a battleship and a heavy cruiser damaged Tuesday night.

An officer who witnessed the shelling said it caused slight damage, but failed to hit the American airfields, only 145 miles from Manila. The cruiser and destroyers laid down considerable fire for about 20 minutes, he said, but the battleship did not participate.

Available reports indicate that the Japanese made no attempt to land troops on Mindoro during the bombardment.

SOLDIER GETS AWARD
Sisters, Dec. 29—Pvt. William E. Short of Sisters, a member of the "Patrol" division which recently invaded the southern islands of the Japanese-held Palau group, 500 miles east of the Philippines, has been awarded the combat infantryman badge, it became known here today. The badge is awarded for exemplary conduct and skill in action against the enemy.

Canadian Flier
Warrant Officer Newton Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Moore, Bend, now stationed in the Hebrides Islands, off Scotland, is a member of a Lancaster bomber crew that received a citation for destroying a German blockade runner, it has been learned here.

"We just dropped a few 'eggs' on the ship," was the radio gunner's comment.

Attached to the Royal Canadian air force, Warrant Officer Moore, before going overseas, spent six months on sub patrol in the Caribbean sea, based at Nassau, in the Bahamas islands. He was based in England and Wales for a year.

The young warrant officer trained in Alberta, Canada.

American Fleet Is Now Largest in World; Operations Plans Menaced By Lack of Labor

Washington, Dec. 29 (UP)—The U. S. fleet entered its fourth year of war with 1,167 fighting ships and 37,000 planes—but the navy warned today that operation plans for 1945 are threatened by lagging production schedules caused by a "severely critical manpower shortage."

The total of combatant ships is now more than three times the number on hand when the war started three years ago and is backed by 59,878 landing craft and various auxiliary vessels, the navy revealed in a report on naval production in 1944.

Patton's Third Army Strikes Under Flank of German Bulge

Nazis Burning Large Sections Of Budapest

Soviet Armies By-Pass City and Head Up Valley On Front of 90 Miles

By Bruce W. Munn
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
London, Dec. 29 (UP)—Russian armies struck up the Danube valley toward Austria on a 90-mile front today far beyond Budapest, where the trapped German garrison blew up all the Danube bridges and were burning whole sections of the city as they fell back.

Soviet front dispatches reporting the razing of Budapest said the area around the royal palace was engulfed in smoke and flame, the city hall had been blown up, and streets adjoining parliament buildings were dynamited.

The Hungarian capital was reported swamped by one of the most violent holocausts of the war in the east as Russian besiegers and German-Hungarian defenders battled savagely through the streets, on the rooftops, and in the cellars.

Regiments Trapped
Moscow relayed front reports that German SS regiments trapped in Budapest were carrying out the systematic destruction of public buildings as they retreated toward the center of the city under the crushing blows of Red army assault units smashing in from all directions.

They scattered mines in all the streets and touched them off whenever they were forced to give ground. Gates, doors and windows of thousands of houses had been converted into booby traps in the last ditch, hopeless defense of the doomed city.

Reds Near Vienna
Russian tanks and cavalrymen in great strength were reported barely 90 miles from Vienna at the edge of the western Hungarian plains below the Danube, while equally-strong forces to the north battled for a crossing of the Iron river only slightly farther from the Austrian capital.

The Soviet morning communique said the Germans and Hungarians were retreating slowly westward, suffering "enormous" losses in men and material, particularly in the area west of Budapest between the Danube and lake Balaton.

Swaying tank battles raged at a half-dozen points on the 55-mile front as Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army struck again and again in an effort to breach the enemy lines and turn their retreat into a disorderly rout.

Isle of Iwo Jima Again Under Fire
Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 29 (UP)—Liberators of the Pacific strategic air force bombed Iwo Jima for the 21st consecutive day of a sustained campaign to knock out Japan's sole airbase on the route from Saipan to Tokyo, a Pacific fleet headquarters announcement reported today.

Planes of the Mediterranean Allied air force flew 2,600 sorties yesterday. A communique reported 11 of the planes were missing. Heavy bombers of the 15th air force hit oil and rail targets in Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia and RAF heavies attacked in the vicinity of Casarsa in northeastern Italy last night.

Italian Front Reported Quiet
Rome, Dec. 29 (UP)—The Italian front was quiet on all sectors today as headquarters reported that fighting had died down in the Serchio valley where German troops launched a surprise attack three days ago against Fifth army units in the Ligurian coastal area.

It was acknowledged officially that the American forces yielded the village of Galliciano Dec. 27 under pressure of the German advance which carried three miles in the direction of Lucca.

Activity along both the Fifth and Eighth army fronts was confined to patrolling.

Prince Humbert of Italy recently flew to Forli and Ravenna to visit Italian troops serving with the Eighth army, it was announced today.

Nip Sub Father Reported Dead
London, Dec. 29 (UP)—The German Transocean news agency reported in a Tokyo dispatch today that Adm. Nobumasa Suetsugu, known as the father of the Japanese submarine force, died today.

No details were given.

He was placed on the reserve list in October, 1937, retiring from the post of commander of Japan's imperial combined fleet and in 1938 became home minister in the cabinet of Prince Fumimaro Ko-noye.

Sky 'Forts' Raid Jap Isle

By United Press
Tokyo radio reported that undesignated American planes were raiding the south-central section of Honshu, principal Japanese home island, tonight (Japanese time) in the wake of three attacks on the same area by single B-29 Superfortresses from bases in the Marianas.

The broadcast, recorded by FCC monitors, said the planes had been sighted approaching the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan district at 9 p. m. (5 a. m. PWT), but after an air raid siren was sounded, changed course and "now are circling over the northern section" of the Kwanto district.

The Kwanto district in south-central Honshu includes the large industrial cities of Kobe and Osaka.

Tokyo said the Superfortresses made the three reported raids beginning at 8:30 p. m. last night and continued until 5:30 a. m. (Japanese time) this morning, during which incendiary bombs were dropped.

The first two attacks were centered on the "eastern sector of the capital," the broadcast said, but did not clarify whether the raid was made on Tokyo itself or on a prefecture. The Japanese claimed no damage was inflicted.

In the third attack, Tokyo said, a single B-29 raided the "south Kwanto area" of southeastern Honshu with incendiary bombs which caused "only a little damage to civilians."

Washington, Dec. 29 (UP)—No information was available at the war department today on Tokyo reports that U. S. planes were sighted approaching the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan district at 5 a. m. PWT. In the absence of information about the planes here, it was assumed they were on reconnaissance missions.

Escaped Convicts Arrested in Bend

Two men found asleep in the cab of a truck at the local terminal early today, proved to be escaped convicts from the Washington State prison at Walla Walla, it was reported by city and state police today. The men were said to have fled from the northern penitentiary on Christmas day.

Held in the county jail for Washington authorities are Arthur Maynard, alias Harry Minton, 33, and Marwood Daily, alias Thomas L. Springer, 25.

The capture was made by Police Officers Chester Nordstrom and Walter Greisinger as they were on a routine patrol at 3:40 a. m. Seeing the men asleep in the cab, the officers stopped and questioned them. When taken to police headquarters, the officers recognized them from descriptions broadcast by state police yesterday. Confronted with these facts, the pair was said by police to have admitted their identity and the fact that they had escaped from the Washington prison.

Pair Released
Descriptions of Maynard and Daily were broadcast late yesterday following their successful evasion of detection at The Dalles.

The pair had been arrested there for hitch-hiking, and had been released from the Wasco county jail before their true identity had been established through fingerprints. They were released from The Dalles jail yesterday.

They were believed by police to have concealed themselves on the truck while it was bound for Bend and then to have availed themselves of the cab after the driver had left.

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Leaving Service

Col. Frank S. Besson, who headed Camp Abbot when it was rated the outstanding training center in the nation, is to retire, it was announced from Fort Lewis today.

Besson already has taken his pre-retirement physical examination and has turned over the command to his deputy, Col. Charles F. Baish.

In 1943 Besson activated the engineer section at Camp Abbot, Ore., where it was rated as the outstanding training center in the nation. A year later the unit was moved to Fort Lewis.

A West Point graduate of 1909, the colonel is a veteran of world war I and commanded the first engineers of the first division at Toul, Cantigny and Soissons until the armistice. For this service he was decorated with the French Fourragere for outstanding achievement.

Since the first world war, Colonel Besson has been graduated from the command and general staff school, Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and from the army war college, Washington, D. C. A year prior to assuming command at Camp Abbot, he headed the engineering replacement center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

County Revenue Bill Considered

Salem, Ore., Dec. 29 (UP)—A bill which would provide that the counties of Oregon would receive 20 per cent of the state highway commission road funds, with a minimum of \$2,500,000 yearly, will be introduced to the 1945 legislature, the Oregon County Judges' association executive committee voted at a meeting here yesterday.

The counties at present get 15.7 per cent, with a minimum of \$2,000,000.

Officers Seeking Slayer of Girl

West Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 29 (UP)—Specially-trained police dogs today joined in the hunt for the slayer of Jenny Conroy, 22-year-old north Vancouver girl, whose battered body was found on a lonely road near Englewood drive here yesterday.

She had been beaten to death with a hammer or axe.

Police were working on the theory that the girl kept a rendezvous with an unidentified man somewhere on the north shore Wednesday night and was slain at dawn Thursday.

Foe Reported Building Forces For New Blow

By J. Edward Murray
(United Press War Correspondent)
Paris, Dec. 29 (UP)—American forces today punched the nose of the German salient back a good 15 miles, lifting any current threat to the Meuse river line, and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's fighting Third Army hammered solid blows into the under flank of the German bulge in an effort to force a general German withdrawal.

But at the northern corner of the Nazi salient in the Monschau forest area, signs increased that Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt is beginning to build up forces, possibly for the second phase of his offensive.

United Press correspondents with the First and Ninth American armies reported that signs of the build-up for a possible new breakthrough attempt had been observed and U. S. commanders were on the alert.

Width Reduced
By pounding on both sides of the Nazi salient the Americans had reduced its width at the narrowest point to less than 15 miles and were hammering hard in an effort to trap the Nazi forces in the forward extension of the bulge.

At the western end of the Nazi finger which had tried vainly to penetrate to the Meuse the Americans were making steady progress and had forced the Germans to fall back on Rochefort, more than 10 miles back of their deepest penetration and a good 15 miles from the Meuse.

The Americans captured Jambinne, four miles west of Rochefort, and United Press war correspondent Jack Fleischer reported they were "pursuing fleeing panzer columns" into Rochefort.

Units Regrouped
Boyd Lewis, United Press war correspondent, reported that von Rundstedt was hauling back his most forward units to regroup them for another Sunday punch and an attempt to break through once more. The American high command is aware that von Rundstedt has crack troops which have not yet been committed to the offensive.

These reports indicated that the Nazis were pulling back in many places in the salient, covering their withdrawal with small counter-attacks.

Along the Roer front, above the salient, heavy movement of German transport was observed as well as increasing artillery fire, possibly in preparation for a new thrust.

Nazis Dig In
The Germans were digging in strongly in the Grandmémil area in the center of the north side of the salient, evidently regarding this as a strong pivot for further operations. The defense also is necessary to prevent a juncture of the American First and Third armies which would cut off the western tip of the salient.

On the southern flank, Patton throwing in the fourth armored and 80th infantry divisions, had won a secure grip on the path to Bastogne. What yesterday had

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30 Inches Snow Falls on Summit

The current storm has deposited 30 inches of new snow along the Santiam summit, the state highway headquarters reported here today, with a slight snow still falling at noon all along the Cascades. And to the south a heavier snowfall than visited the Bend area fell, with eight inches being reported on The Dalles-California highway north of Klamath Falls.

Reports were lacking from the Wapinitla and Willanette highway maintenance crews, leading local officials to believe that conditions there were "normal."

The heavy snowfall in the Santiam region promised excellent week-end skiing at Hoodoo bowl, just south of the Santiam summit.

Liquidation of Nippon Fleet Is Tentatively Set for 1945

Pearl Harbor, Dec. 29 (UP)—Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, former commander of famed task force 58, was back in the Pacific today with a prediction that the Japanese fleet probably will be liquidated in 1945 "if the present rate of attrition is maintained."

"By next summer, the Japs will be sitting on a decidedly uneasy seat in their empire," he said yesterday in his first interview since his return from Washington to the scene of his greatest triumphs.

Mitscher's new job remains a naval secret, but it will be in the Pacific area.

He conceded that many things could happen either to shorten or prolong the war, but he said the Japanese had reached the point where they "will throw in everything" in an effort to stave off defeat.