

Yanks Capture Mt. Spinuccio In Snowstorm

Sofia and Athens Bombed—8th Army Advances Toward Tollo

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 21 (AP)—American Fifth Army forces have lunged forward two and a half miles in a snow storm to capture 2,600-foot Mt. Spinuccio, while U. S. 15th Air Force heavy bombers escorted by long-range fighters attacked Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, and an Athens airfield, it was announced today.

In a companion drive, Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army forces pushed ahead in "stiff fighting" toward Tollo in the central sector of the Adriatic front, improving their positions near Ortona, the allied headquarters communique added. German resistance was said to be increasing.

28 Planes Downed
Allied planes shot down 28 enemy planes in the twin attacks on Sofia railroad yards and the Eleusis airfield in Greece and in other operations which included fighter-bomber raids on rail and motor targets in the Rome area. Eleven allied planes failed to return.

This brought the Luftwaffe losses in two days' sky battles to 71 planes plus three more shot down by American anti-aircraft fire during two German attacks on newly-captured San Pietro.

Another announcement said that American motor torpedo boats, which gained fame in the Pacific, teamed up with British craft to fight a vigorous night attack Dec. 18 off the island of Elba with two Nazi destroyers on which torpedo hits were probably scored.

Many Nazi Fighters
Apparently trying hard to keep their Balkan satellites from being bombed out of the war, the Germans threw large numbers of fighters into the air.

Fighting American infantrymen, who have been ceaselessly attacking for several days, swarmed up the slopes of Mt. Spinuccio, two and a half miles west of recently-taken Lagone, under severe conditions. All of the mountains in this area are covered with snow and many of them tower above 3000 feet.

On the remainder of the fifth army front, only patrol activity was reported.

Brisk Air Combats
The American attacks on Sofia and Athens followed powerful aerial blows, aimed from bases in this theater of operations, on Augsburg in Germany and Innsbruck in Austria both of which are on the Brenner pass route, vital to the supply of the Nazi forces in Italy.

Brisk air combats with enemy interceptors were reported by today's allied communique to have taken place in yesterday's American Balkan raids.

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Revolt Flares In North Italy

Naples, Dec. 21 (AP)—Northern Italy is flaming with revolt against the German military command and its puppet Italian Government, trustworthy information reaching Naples showed today.

At the same time, it was reported that the Germans, following the tactics employed in Naples, have forcibly evacuated whole areas of Rome, presumably to permit German engineers to plant mines and dynamite on a large scale. This may indicate a decision on abandonment.

The situation behind the German line was described as being "more serious than in any of the European countries that are under complete German occupation."

Axis radios gave heavily censored confirmation. They reported that funeral services were held today for Aldo Resega, federal fascist commissar, Pierre Deangeli and Primiere Lambert, officials of the fascist squadristi organization. The men were shot by Italians described as "terrorists."

At the same time the German military commander for Rome ordered the suspension of all street highway and railway traffic inside and outside of the city between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Significantly the new order declared that "doctors, ambulances and Red Cross vehicles" could obtain special passes permitting them to pass through the streets during the prohibited hours. Germans must carry identification papers at all times.

The death penalty has been attached to violation of the ordinance.

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Japs Evacuating Southern Bougain

Russian Drive Towards Latvia Nears Vitebsk

London, Dec. 21 (UP)—The Vichy radio reported tonight that "the entire front is on the move" in the Dnieper bend from Cherkasi to Nikolopol, where the Russians are throwing "enormous" numbers of men and machines at the German lines.

Moscow, Dec. 21 (UP)—The Germans were reported officially today to be abandoning large quantities of arms and ammunition in a precipitate retreat toward Vitebsk and Polotsk, key strongholds on the Moscow-Riga railway guarding the approaches to Latvia and Lithuania.

The pursuing 1st Baltic army plunged through a 50-mile gap in the German defenses below Nevel in an advance that already has outflanked Vitebsk and carried to within 20 miles north of the city.

70 Towns Liberated

(The London News-Chronicle said the Russians had driven 15 to 20 miles west of the Vitebsk-Nevel railroad, which if true would place the Soviets only 40 miles northeast of the old Polish border).

Seventy more towns and villages were swept up in the latest advance, boosting to 570 the number liberated in the past six days. 1500 Germans were killed when the remnants of several shattered enemy units attempted a stand before the Soviet steamroller.

In another sector, the Soviets wedged the German defenses and seized several heavily-fortified strong points, killing 300 Germans in the fighting for only one of them. Twelve guns, 80 machine guns and a large supply column, in addition to a number

(Concluded on page 12, column 2)

Bombers Raid Japs in Burma

New Delhi, Dec. 21 (AP)—A combined American and RAF bombing force attacked objectives in Bangkok, Thailand, the night of Dec. 19 in the first long-range operation of the newly-formed eastern Asia air command, it was announced today.

A communique said a strong formation of United States bombers attacked the docks while the RAF raided the enemy arsenal area.

Widespread attacks were also announced in southern Burma, the RAF bombing by night and the USAAF by day.

"Targets from Akyab to Henda on the railway south of Prome were attacked Dec. 14 and on the three following nights," the communique said. "On Dec. 15, American heavy and medium bombers hit oil installations at Chauk and Yenangyaung, starting large fires."

British fighters also made repeated attacks during the period on rail, road and river traffic, the bulletin added.

Canol Oil Project Received Approval of Roosevelt

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—President Roosevelt said today that he approved the army's controversial Canol oil development in Canada at a time when it appeared there might be great military action in the Alaskan and Aleutian area. He added that at the time he would have approved anything to get a new source of oil in that part of the world as a war measure.

His comment was made at a press-radio conference in response to a question whether he had known of the \$130,000,000 cost of the project when he approved it. The president said he thought he knew at the time what the cost would be.

Two democratic members of the senate's Truman committee defended the development today, but their support probably came too late to save the project from a spanking at the hands of their colleagues.

Senators Connally (D., Tex.) and Hatch (D., N.M.), put in plugs for Lt. Gen. Brenton Somervell, army champion of the oil development, who explained the undertaking for the committee yesterday in detail. Somervell said the project,

Knox Declares Enemy Forces Moving North

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said today there were indications that the Japanese are evacuating the southern part of Bougainville island in the Solomons.

Knox said most of the evacuation apparently was taking place by way of land but a naval aide at the conference said that some of the Japanese appeared to be quitting by sea, using "lots of barges."

Yanks Have Air Superiority

Knox, emphasizing American aerial superiority in the Pacific, said that during the week of Dec. 13-20, army, navy and marine corps planes in the Pacific carried out 71 missions involving more than 1500 light and heavy bombers with fighter escort.

"This is more than 10 missions a day," Knox said, "and enemy air opposition was negligible. On some missions not a single enemy plane was found in the air."

In the central Pacific, he said, the air forces carried out nine bombing missions against the Japanese held Marshalls. The box score for those operations was Japanese losses—19 planes definitely shot down, seven probably destroyed. U.S. losses—three shot down.

1400 Aircraft Used

In the South Pacific during the same week airmen carried out 61 missions in which more than 1400 aircraft participated. In addition there were seven large scale naval task force raids. He also noted that during that week there was an air task force raid on Nauru, Japanese base on the fringe of the Gilberts.

He said the forces in the southern part of the island were moving northward. He told his news conference that since the enemy's forces are scattered it was obvious that they would attempt to concentrate to meet the expanding American threat in the Empress Augusta bay area.

Fletcher in Command

The area from which Knox said the Japanese appeared to be moving is around Buin-Faisi, where the Japanese have maintained elaborate air establishments. However, Knox said, American air forces have rendered unserviceable every enemy flying field on Bougainville.

Knox revealed that Vice Admiral Frank J. Fletcher had taken command of the North Pacific area, succeeding Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, who is now in command of the Southwest Pacific naval forces.

Fletcher also maintains command of the northwest Pacific sea frontier but relinquishes command of the 13th naval district which has been placed under Rear Admiral Sherwood A. Taffinder.

Stalin 64 Today

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—Premier Josef Stalin of Russia was 64 years old today.



Americans Wade Ashore in Arawe Invasion (AP)—Rifles ready, American troops waded ashore for the invasion of New Britain island at Arawe as they drove forward to wipe out the strong Japanese base at Rabaul by future advances. This is one of the first pictures on the newest South Pacific invasion. (AP wirephoto via signal corps radiophoto.)

White House Parleys To Avert Rail Strike

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—White house conferences designed to settle the railroad wage dispute—and avert a scheduled strike—were resumed today, fast on the heels of a presidential statement that the best Christmas present the American people could get would be an assurance there would be no general transportation stoppage. The operating Brotherhoods have already set Dec. 30 as the date for starting a progressive walkout, and the 15 non-operating unions today set the same date for their own strike to coincide with that of their fellow-workers.

Leaders of the five operating railroad Brotherhoods went back to the White House in the early afternoon to discuss with the president his proposal for settling their wage case by supplementing a previous four-cent-an-hour award with an additional four cents in the form of overtime compensation.

The Brotherhood chiefs discussed the situation with their executive committees for several hours earlier in the day. It was understood that the leaders were not prepared to pledge an outright acceptance of the proposal but would ask, in addition, an allowance for vacations.

The exact method the president had in mind for calculating a supplementary four cents an hour for overtime was not immediately clarified. However, Mr. Roosevelt said he hoped that railway executives and employee representatives could get together on a formula which would provide earnings increases.

Seizure of the Cape Gloucester area would sever the Japanese northern barge line from New Guinea to Rabaul and would leave the latter stronghold entirely dependent on Truk—800 miles to the north—for its supplies and reinforcements.

U. S. sixth army forces continued their advance inland through the broken Japanese defenses in the Arawe sector, capturing the Arawe air strip and extending their lines six to nine miles northeast of the Arawe peninsula.

French Leaders Under Arrest

Algiers, Dec. 21 (AP)—Five Frenchmen formerly high in their nation's political life, including former Premier Pierre-Étienne Flandin, were arrested today by the French national committee with treason. Justice Commissioner Francois De Menthon, who acted at the direction of the committee following an investigation of the five cases, said the arrests of the five—Flandin; Marcel Peyrouton, former Vichy interior minister; Pierre Tixier-Vignancourt, former Vichy secretary-general of information; former Governor General Pierre Boisson, French West Africa, and former French deputy Andre Albert—began two days ago and were completed this morning.

The commissioner declined to divulge details of the charges against them except that they were accused of crimes against the French nation.

Flandin had been under surveillance pending investigation by a commission probing suspected collaboration with Vichy.

Churchill Keeps Growing Stronger

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—The condition of Prime Minister Winston Churchill continues to improve, an official announcement said today, and his cabinet colleagues expected momentarily the resumption of the flood of directives which normally pour in when he is abroad.

FDR Sends Greetings To Vets in Hospital
Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—President Roosevelt in a Christmas and New Year message transmitted to war veterans in government hospitals assured them of the nation's gratitude for service "so bravely and honorably rendered."

"Now that we know in our hearts that ultimate victory is certain," his message stated, "we can face the long, hard struggle ahead with confidence and fortitude, and let the spirit of Christmas pervade our thoughts and bring us comfort and happiness."

"The people of the United States, as well as myself, when I assure you of our gratitude for the service you so bravely and honorably rendered and of our continued solicitude for your welfare and contentment. A merry Christmas to each of you—may the new year be for you and yours a happy one."

Attached to the White House greetings was a Christmas message from Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines.

Weather
Fair and continued cold tonight and Wednesday, with valley fogs. For past 24 hours max. 47, min. 25. No rainfall. River today -1.3.

Censor Second Front Gossip

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—British and American censorship authorities were understood today to be preparing to ban publication and broadcasting of all speculation originating in either country on the opening of a second front in western Europe.

Speculation originating in neutral countries or picked up from axis radio broadcasts or newspapers would not be affected by the order, it was believed.

Military authorities in London and Washington were said to be dissatisfied with the widespread discussions over here, when and how an invasion of western Europe will be launched.

British newspapers have been adhering fairly well to broad censorship directives permitting them to speculate only along the line suggested in official announcements or speeches of high government authorities and to report foreign speculation of any kind.

The censorship discussion reached a new degree of urgency over the week-end with the appearance of dispatches telling of convoys shuttling big detachments of American troops to Britain and speculation over whether Gen. George C. Marshall, U.S. chief of staff, or Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme Mediterranean commander, would take over the command of invasion forces.

Reports that British and American censors were preparing to ban speculation on a new fighting front were dismissed today by President Roosevelt as just another London story. The question was raised at his news conference.

Anchor Brings Up Jeep

An Advance South Pacific Base, Dec. 15 (AP)—A freighter here discharged its cargo and was preparing to head for home. The anchor came up with a slime-covered jeep hooked to it. The jeep was lost overboard several months earlier.

Yugoslav Partisan Army Of 250,000 Nears Zagreb

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—The 250,000-man Yugoslav partisan army of Marshal Josip Broz (Tito) announced today it had advanced into the vicinity of the Croatian capital of Zagreb, in a campaign which London termed a major battle.

Tito's resilient forces were declared in London to be engaging nine German and three puppet divisions in the main fighting areas in addition to containing three to four Nazi divisions in sporadic combats in the Istrian peninsula bordering Italy. The Germans and their mercenaries were said to have six divisions in Croatia, two on the Dalmatian coast and four in the Mostar region, including the Prince Eugene as elite outfit.

Partisan strategists, in a secret meeting with high U. S. and British staff officers in Alexandria, "agreed fully" on plans for a military campaign in Yugoslavia. The Chetnik forces of Gen. Baha Mihalovic, war minister of King Peter, were not represented. Almost

Second Strike In Montreal

Montreal, Dec. 21 (AP)—Montreal's second strike of municipal employees within a week started today, with an estimated 2,000 city hall clerks and stenographers out to enforce demands for higher wages.

The white collar workers turned down an offer from the provincial government, through the Quebec municipal commission, for an arbitration board to investigate their wage demands. A week ago today, employees of the police, fire and public works departments staged a 14-hour strike that won them union recognition for the Canadian Congress of Labor.

Those striking today were members of the National Syndicate of Municipal Workers and two smaller unions who joined forces with the syndicate, recognized by the city as bargaining agent for the white collar workers.

The vote was 950-40 to strike at last night's mass meeting.

Frankfurt Blasted by 2000 Tons Of Bombs as Climax to 36 Hour Air Drive on 7 Key Targets

Mannheim-Ludwigshafen Smashed—Mosquitos In Western Germany and Belgium—Fortresses Strike Bremen and Sofia—Allies Lose 90 Planes

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—Hundreds of RAF bombers gave Frankfurt its most crushing blow of the war last night, raining 2,000 long tons of incendiaries and explosives on the German chemical and armament center.

In this and subsidiary attacks the RAF lost 42 bombers. The great air offensive against Germany reached a new intensity with these additional attacks during the past 24 hours:

RAF subsidiary formations attacked Mannheim-Ludwigshafen, Mosquitos stabbed at Western Germany and Belgium and mines were laid in enemy waters.

Heavy formations of American Liberators and Fortresses in daylight struck heavily at the German u-boat campaign by bombing Bremen.

American bombers based on the Mediterranean for the fifth time in recent weeks blasted the rail yards of Sofia, capital of war-weary Bulgaria, and Eleusis airfield near Athens.

U. S. Air Force Marauders, escorted by allied fighters, bombed military objectives in northern France for the second straight day, army headquarters announced this afternoon.

American and British medium bombers spread destruction on targets in northern France.

90 Planes Lost
The allies lost more than 90 planes in the 24-hour operations. This includes 33 (counting 25 heavy bombers) over Bremen, 42 in the RAF sweeps including an unspecified number of heavies, 11 in the Italian-Balkan area and six fighters over northern France.

Last night's RAF attack probably placed Frankfurt in the category with Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg and Kassel as Germany's most bombed cities. It was carried out in near top strength by a force which possibly numbered 800 or more heavy bombers.

Huge fires were left burning in the city of more than a half million which already had been so badly devastated in 41 raids that a large proportion of the populace had been forced to leave.

Daylight Raid Following
Continuing the air offensive, a steady stream of medium and light bombers winged across the southeast coast towards France in daylight today, backing up heavy assaults begun yesterday on what may well be German rocket gun emplacements.

Mannheim-Ludwigshafen (two cities on the Rhine where I. G. Farben-Industrie has the largest chemical works in the world, have been subjected to at least six bombardments of (Concluded on page 11, column 8)

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Senate Adjourns for Christmas Recess

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—The senate adjourned at 12:47 p.m. today, bringing to a close the first session of the 78th congress for that chamber, and beginning the Christmas recess which will continue until January 10.

The adjournment resolution went to the house, which was still disposing of eleventh hour business when the senators began leaving the capitol.

3 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

The main fighting was near Zagreb, 70 miles east of Ljubljana on the Belgrade-Trieste railroad, Tito's communique indicated.

The bulletin, broadcast by the free Yugoslav radio, said that one column of Tito's forces had entered the town of Koprivnica, near the important Nazi-held base on Dec. 15, while another column had occupied the town of Vojnic, 35 miles to the southwest, on the same day.

Buy Christmas Seals