

Nazi Spearheads Drive 35 Miles into Belgium and Luxembourg

Superforts Raid Jap Industries In Manchuria

Mukden and Dairen Again Attacked, Along With Honshu Centers

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—Superfortresses destroyed 15 enemy planes, probably destroyed seven, and damaged 11 during a raid on the Japanese arsenal city of Mukden, Manchuria, the war department announced today.

Two superforts were lost due to enemy action. The raiders reported "good results" at the target, which was the Manchuria Airplane Co. plant. The attack was carried out shortly before noon December 21, Jap time.

Tokyo Reports New Raids
The Tokyo radio meantime reported widespread new attacks by allied air power at points as widely separated as Iwo Jima (700 miles from Tokyo), Hongkong, Davao in the Philippines, and Sabang, Sumatra.

Tokyo radio also said that Japan soon may expect round-the-clock bombings every hour or half hour by the superfortresses taking off from expanded air fields now being completed on Saipan. Completion of the airfields, the broadcast said, would permit night landings and assembly of large B-29 formations at Saipan.

Visual Bombing
On the Mukden raid the target was struck by visual bombing in clear weather, though haze and smoke partially obscured results. Enemy fighter opposition was described as "moderate to strong," though anti-aircraft fire was meager.

Iwo Jima Also Raided
The enemy broadcasts said Iwo Jima was raided by a formation of 15 superfortresses accompanied by P-38 Lightning fighters; 40 China-based P-51 Mustang fighters hit Hongkong; superfortresses and B-25 Mitchell medium bombers hit Davao, important port on Mindanao island; and British carrier-based planes raided Sabang, one of the world's best natural harbors.

The Japanese also said that Dairen in southern Manchuria was attacked and that two pairs of B-29s flew over Honshu last night and early today.

A Tokyo broadcast recorded by the FCC said one of the braves of Saipan-based superforts dropped bombs on Shizuoka and Aichi prefectures in south central Honshu. The aircraft manufacturing city of Nagoya is in Aichi.

The Japanese-controlled Hainan radio said approximately 30 planes bombed Mukden and Dairen, the latter at the southern tip of Manchuria, from high altitudes at 10:30 a.m. (6:30 p.m. Wednesday, PWT), causing "extremely slight damage." Four planes were said to have been shot down.

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OPA Exactions Closes Market

W. L. Lewis, owner of the Paramount Market on North Liberty street, announces that due to difficulties with the OPA he is closing the store as of Saturday, December 23.

He stated that when OPA classifications started his store was classified in the No. 2 group. However, he stated that the volume has grown until it has become greater than that allowed under the No. 2 classification and as a result it has been ordered upped to a No. 4 or chain store classification. He stated under the circumstances it is impossible to operate and he is closing the doors as he gives service in credit and delivery.

Mr. Lewis has been operating meat markets for 17 years in the same vicinity, having been with the old Cross market, later taking over the Steusloff market at the corner of Liberty and Court, then the Paramount meat market and later the whole store.

Under his management, as stated, the volume has increased to a great extent. He said the store has encountered no trouble with the local board but difficulties have arisen in connection with outside investigators and OPA representatives.

The Weather

Cloudy with light rain tonight clearing gradually Friday. Warmer. Max. 42, min. 30. Wednesday rain, 31 in. River, -24 ft.

Capital Journal

56th Year, No. 304

Entered as second-class matter at Salem, Oregon

Salem, Oregon, Thursday, December 21, 1944

★ ★

Price 5 Cents

Yanks Mop-up Jap Remnants In North Leyte

Allied Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 21 (AP)—The Leyte campaign reached the mop-up stage today with three American divisions pursuing isolated and steadily weakening groups of Japanese into guerrilla-infested hills in the northwest corner of the island.

The fall of Libongao, 11 miles north of Ormoc, and Kananga, two miles farther south, to two converging columns at last reported only a mile apart completed the destruction of the Yamashita line and smashed the enemy's last integrated, or organized, resistance.

Drawing to an End
"The battle is rapidly drawing to an end," Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported in a communique just two months after American invasion forces first stormed ashore on the central Philippines island.

(A Tokyo broadcast said today that Japanese planes damaged an allied warship, presumably a cruiser, in an attack on a convoy west of Leyte.)

On Mindoro, 300 miles northwest of Leyte, combat engineers completed the first of a series of oil-surfaced airstrips to cover the next phase of MacArthur's campaign to liberate the Philippines. The mile-and-a-half long strip was finished in the record time of four days.

Mindoro Undefeated
No ground opposition yet has been encountered on Mindoro, MacArthur said, and air attacks continued light. Nine enemy planes were shot down by naval units and shore anti-aircraft batteries Tuesday.

The 77th division, which landed at Ormoc only 12 days ago, captured the Leyte stronghold of Libongao in a four-mile advance from Valencia, while the first cavalry division moved south to within a mile of the 77th after seizing Kananga.

The enemy abandoned 1541 dead in his retreat Tuesday, MacArthur revealed.
"His cohesion is now completely broken, he is no longer capable of an integrated defense and the small remnants of his forces divided into isolated groups are able to resist temporarily only at independent points," MacArthur asserted.

Chinese Closing in On Hochih, Kwangsi

Chungking, Dec. 21 (AP)—Chinese troops were reported closing in on Hochih in northern Kwangsi province today while another column thrust to the vicinity of Chinchengkiang, 180 miles northwest of Liuchow, site of a former American airbase.

A communique reported that more than 100 Japanese were killed in the fighting outside Hochih Wednesday.

On the north central Burma front Chinese forces recaptured three villages near the Bhamo-Namkhan road and reached terrain which is on the downgrade to Namkhan.

British Open Tank Attack On Insurgents in Athens

Athens, Dec. 21 (AP)—The British opened a tank assault against ELAS concentrations today after expiration of an ultimatum from Lt. Gen. R. M. Scobie that the insurgents stop fighting. Rocket-firing fighter planes joined in the attack.

Sherman tanks climbed monastery-topped Likabettus mountain and sent 75-mm. shells crashing into ELAS positions around Averoff prison and the military academy.

Scobie's ultimatum, which expired at 9 a.m., had warned that any ELAS forces continuing to hold out would be attacked "with all the arms at my disposal."

At Omionia square, tank-supported parachute troop patrols made a series of sorties, demolishing a sniper's nest and taking numerous prisoners.

The billet of the U. S. air force transport command rocked with the shell blasts as buildings behind the requisition-

Russians Launch New Drive in West Hungary

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—Berlin reported today that the red army had resumed its offensive in western Hungary and the Danube, throwing at least 10 divisions of more than 100,000 troops into an onslaught which breached the German lines.

Nazi broadcasts said the main weight of the new soviet drive was centered in the area of Szekesfehervar, 32 miles southwest of Budapest and midway between Lake Balaton and the Danube.

Budapest in Pincers
The Hungarian capital already was flanked to the southwest by the drive which constituted the lower arm of a pincer whose jaws were reported less than 20 miles apart, bringing the last rail line out of the city under soviet artillery fire.

To the northeast the Russians battered through stiff opposition in the southern Slovak mountains.

At the same time, Stockholm reports credited to anti-Nazi German sources said the German high command was preparing a gigantic "Christmas offensive" on the eastern front to coincide with the new drive in the west.

Nazis Plan Huge Drive
These reports, which thus far were not supported by Moscow dispatches or the latest German propaganda outpourings, said perhaps 250,000 Nazi reserves would be thrown into the new offensive on an undisclosed sector of the eastern front.

Stockholm said fresh troops were being released for the action through the mobilization of additional Volksturm, or people's army, units in the Reich. Both Russian and German accounts of the east front fighting today, however, centered on the fierce struggle raging along the mountainous Hungarian-Slovak border.

Roosevelt Sends G I Greetings

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—President Roosevelt and leaders of the armed forces, in holiday greeting messages to service men and women throughout the world, today hailed American military progress in 1944 and promised new and powerful blows against the enemy in 1945.

"On behalf of a grateful nation," Mr. Roosevelt said, "I send to the men and women of our armed forces everywhere warm and confident good wishes this fourth Christmas of war. On Christmas day, more than on any other day, we remember you with pride and with humility, with anguish and with joy. We shall keep on remembering you all the days of our lives."

In a special message to wounded and ill fighters, he said they "have given your blood and health to restore to Christ-mas its meaning and to make the spirit of Christmas genuinely prevail throughout the world."

The congressmen said that in their army-conducted travels they saw everything there was to see, including the supply lines in the rear and the actual fighting at the front, and were with-in rifle-shot of German soldiers at Duren, on the western front.

As acting chairman of the returning group, Costello (D., Cal.) summed up the trip by saying the committee "found things in excellent condition."

"They are doing an exceptionally fine job," he added.

Lancasters Bomb Fortress of Trier

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—Lancaster heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force today attacked the stronghold of Trier, in southwest Germany, near the Luxembourg frontier in the southern sector of the German offensive.

Fighters of the United States ninth air force escorted the British bombers which attacked Trier without loss.

V-Bombs Batter Britain
London, Dec. 21 (AP)—The Germans continued to batter southern England with V-bombs last night while pressing their offensive on the western front. A government announcement reported both casualties and damage.



Examine Mystery Balloon (AP)—Officers examine a Japanese-inflated balloon that was found at Kalispell, in northwestern Montana. The men are (left to right): Maj. J. F. Bolgiano, Capt. W. B. Sianore, and FBI Agent W. G. Banister.

Supply Problem on Front Found Superbly Handled

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—House members back from Europe left the definite impression today they found everything going well at the fronts—although more ammunition could be used. Hoarse and travel-weary, fifteen members of the military committee returned last night by army plane and arranged to tell General George C. Marshall and Secretary of War Stimson of their four-weeks inspection tour of battlefronts.

Although bound by a self-imposed censorship not to discuss in detail what they had seen until they had talked with army bosses, the returning legislators left these impressions with interviewers:

American troops want for nothing, including cigarettes, gasoline and supplies of all kinds; their morale is high, although they want to get the war over with quickly and return home; the supply organization from buttons to tanks, is as one member put it, "just simply amazing and will be recorded by history as the greatest job of its kind ever undertaken."

This appraisal of the situation followed recent expressions of alarm by military men over the output of heavy ammunition, trucks and other critical items. Even the selective service regulations have been revised to help increase this production. However, most of these calls were based on increasing output to meet greater demands which are developing, rather than on actual combat shortages now.

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Stimson Sees Nazi Offensive Shortening War

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—War Secretary Stimson said today that if the German counter-offensive fails it definitely will shorten the war.

He coupled with this assertion, however, the statement that the Germans' ability to launch the huge offensive is significant. He said the Nazis had penetrated allied territory for distances ranging from five to 20 miles.

Sector Loosely Held

Stimson in his weekly review of the war given at a news conference, said the Germans chose for their attack a sector "which had been loosely held by both sides. It was a terrain which had not offered to the allies much incentive for exploitation."

The secretary commented that the Nazis did not have a great deal to lose in risking the offensive and that it might gain for them a few months of time before they must account for "the misery they have inflicted upon the world."

Effort to Halt Allies

Discussing the power of the German thrust, Stimson said that despite losses suffered by the Nazis in land and air attacks in recent months "they have been able to build up on the west wall a very substantial force for this attack."

Interpreting the enemy offensive as "an all-out effort to halt our advance into the Cologne plain and the Saar basin," he added:

"I have the utmost confidence in the wisdom, energy and aggressive fighting attitude of General Eisenhower and his leaders."

Recalls Old War

In response to a question Stimson said he based his statement concerning a possible shortening of the war on his recollection of events 25 years ago when he fought in World War I. Referring to the enemy offensives in the latter stages of that war, he said:

"I was there when they drove almost to the channel, again almost to Armentieres. Again when they drove to the Marne, I remember how we felt—as if they would never stop. And then I remember how, suddenly, on the 18th of July (1918) we bit into the German salient and it shriveled up like a toy balloon. "And I remember how it seemed a very short time after, the surrender came."

Stalin Celebrates 65th Anniversary

Moscow, Dec. 21 (AP)—Joseph Vissarionovich Djugashvili, better known to the world as Premier Joseph Stalin, celebrated his 65th birthday today with a complete absence of official fanfare.

Although the Soviet Union took no formal notice of the occasion, telegrams from all over the nation, as well as from many of the world's capitals, poured into the Kremlin.

Neither press nor radio made any mention of the occasion, but—like Washington's birthday in the United States—the date is known to every Russian.

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Army Suffers Worst Setback Since Loss of the Philippines

Paris, Dec. 21 (AP)—This is the payoff. The United States army has suffered in Belgium and Luxembourg its worst setback since the loss of the Philippines in 1942.

The Germans still are advancing, and their counter-offensive probably has yet to reach its peak.

Supreme headquarters acknowledges that the situation is grave and that it may become a lot graver before the tide of battle turns.

"We are confident that we are going to win this battle," an official spokesman at supreme headquarters said last night, "but we are not going to win it this week and probably not next week."

In the first three days alone, the Germans penetrated deeper into Belgium than we have been able to drive into Germany in three months, Luxembourg,

Yank Vets Stop Cold Further Push to North While Others Chop 7 Miles Into Base of Nazi Salient

Nazi Thrust Develops Into 2 Deep Wedges As Massive Formations of Armored Divisions and Infantry Pour Into Breach Under Clouds and Fogs

Paris, Dec. 21 (AP)—Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's armor and infantry had driven 35 miles westward into Belgium to a point about 14 miles south of the fortress of Liege by noon Tuesday, it was disclosed at supreme headquarters today.

But veteran 1st army formations, rushed up to the northern flank of the deep German salient, stopped the Germans cold today in their effort to push northward, and badly mauled large tank units in a heavy engagement.

Other American forces, hurried into action along the German north flank at Mouschau, chopped nine miles into the base of the German salient.

The deepest German thrust was 14 miles west of Malmédy where tank columns cut the Liege-Bastogne-Arlon road and reached the village of Houyoumont.

Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's winter rush across the allied lines of communication had developed into two deep wedges as massive formations of from five to six armored divisions and eight to nine infantry divisions poured into a wide breach under concealment of fog and cloud.

Luxembourg Drive
The second deep wedge had penetrated three-fourths of the way across Luxembourg. This drive farther south appeared directed toward Sedan, scene of the 1940 breakthrough.

This drive carried 14 miles from the frontier town of Vianden to just east of Wiltz, 10 miles east of Bastogne and 48 miles northeast of Sedan. Wiltz is 28 miles north of the city of Luxembourg. A parallel German column was in the vicinity of Clervaux, seven miles northeast of Wiltz.

These were the positions at noon Tuesday.

To Run All Week

Supreme headquarters still did not permit up-to-the-hour pin-pointing of German positions, and field dispatches quoted "good authority" on the 1st army front as saying the German drive was not likely to be checked this week although the northernmost prong of the German attack had been stemmed.

First army reinforcements rushed to the scene by Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges since Saturday, when the German counter-offensive was unlimbered, had succeeded in stopping any northward push from the line running through the American-held towns of Mouschau, Butgenbach, Malmédy and Stavelot, front line reports said.

But the German drive was reported turning south and west of St. Vith, farther south, in the most potent threat.

Smash Trapped Tanks
American tank destroyers going into the attack in a fog that limited visibility to 50 yards fought a great engagement today outside Stavelot, and smashed the efforts of German armor to break through and rescue the remnants of 60 Nazi tanks trapped near the embattled village.

Blazing round after round, the Americans destroyed five American Sherman tanks and a tank-destroyer that had been captured and manned by the Germans.

"We have destroyed approximately 30 of their 60 tanks and knocked out about 50 of 200 supply vehicles caught with them," the commander there reported.

The new German attack, made on the fourth successive day they have attempted to rescue the trapped tank outfit, was launched less than two miles southeast of Malmédy, the funnel through which the Germans poured their armies toward the great city of Liege in August, 1914.

Before the Nazis retreated American artillery shattered their columns and killed scores of their infantry who had counted on the fog to enable them to surprise the American outposts.

In addition to capturing five tanks, American anti-tank gunners knocked out one of their own tank-destroyers that had fallen into German hands.

As the enemy tried frantically for the fourth straight day to battle through to the rescue of a large panzer force bottled up near Stavelot, American infantry and tank units continued methodically to chop this trapped outfit to pieces.

The German command has thrown so much into its assault—150,000 to 225,000 men and perhaps as many as 600 tanks—that it may aim to slash through to the North sea, a development that might set the allies back six months.

The troops are the finest in the German army—veterans of battles on the eastern, southern and western fronts. Gone in most sectors are the old men and young boys who fell back before the first breach of the Siegfried line.

(Concluded on page 13, column 4)

Claim 20,000 Yanks Captured

London, Dec. 21 (AP)—The German high command declared today that Nazi spearheads had cut the Liege-Bastogne highway, which runs 12 miles west of Stavelot and taken 20,000 prisoners in this week's offensive.

The highway runs from Liege, Belgian fortress city, to Bastogne 43 miles farther south. It was cut "on a broad front," the bulletin said, without specifying where the raid was crossed.

A penetration to Stavelot, 20 miles inside Belgium, has been the deepest announced by the allies.

Enemy supply columns moving toward the Meuse river were caught up with and overtaken by German tanks. Freshly-brought up American units were split up into single groups and did not succeed in checking our advance," the broadcast communique said. Advanced German units have "penetrated into the Ardennes," it added.

Americans in the Schnee Eifel forest in Germany "far behind the front were either wiped out or taken prisoners yesterday. Seven thousand Americans were captured," the bulletin asserted. "In yesterday's fighting 43 tanks and armored vehicles as well as 50 guns were captured."

Elsewhere on the western front allied attacks continued without success, it added.

Yanks Smash Trapped Tanks

By Hal Boyle

Outside Stavelot, Belgium, Dec. 21, 2:30 p.m. (AP)—American tank destroyers today smashed attempts by German armor to break through and rescue remnants of a Nazi force of 60 tanks trapped near this embattled village.

Firing blazing round after round through a thick mist, the anti-tank gunners destroyed five captured American Sherman tanks manned by German crews which were spearheading a fresh drive to crash through Yank positions between Stavelot and Malmédy.

The new attack was launched about a mile and a quarter southeast of Malmédy, the funnel through which the Germans poured their armies toward the great city of Liege in August, 1914.

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