

EISENHOWER TO HEAD INVASION

Roosevelt Reveals Choice Of Commander for Allies In Christmas Eve Address

Hyde Park, N. Y., Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt today announced the appointment of General Dwight D. Eisenhower as commander of the forthcoming allied invasion of Europe.

In a Christmas eve radio address to the nation and men of the American armed services around the world, Mr. Roosevelt said as a result of the international conferences at Cairo and Teheran, Eisenhower, now allied commander for North Africa, had been given the task of leading the new "combined attack" against Germany.

Briton to Be Successor

Eisenhower, the president said, will be succeeded in the Mediterranean by a British officer whose name will be announced by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Eisenhower will have command of "air, sea and land power" in tackling Germany from new "points of the compass," and he will be assisted by Lt. Gen. Carl Andrew Spaatz, who will command "the entire American strategic bombing force operating against Germany."

Mr. Roosevelt, speaking from his home where he was spending Christmas for the first time since he entered office, reported at length on his recent overseas conferences, saying that the United States, Great Britain, China and Russia were in agreement after the war "international force" would be used if necessary to preserve peace.

Heavy Casualties Coming

He also struck at those who see the war's end near at hand, saying "we shall have to look forward to large casualty lists," and that the end is "not yet in sight."

In telling the news of Eisenhower's new command, the president painted in general terms the plan of global battle that came out of the talks in the middle east with Churchill, Premier Josef Stalin, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

"The Russian army will continue its stern offensives on Germany's eastern front," he said in discussing plans for Europe, "the allied armies in Italy and Africa will bring relentless pressure on Germany from the south, and now their encirclement will be complete as great American and British forces attack from other points of the compass."

"The commander selected to lead the combined attack from these other points," Mr. Roosevelt announced dramatically, "is Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. His performances in Africa, Sicily and Italy have been brilliant. He knows by practical and successful experience the way to coordinate air, sea and land power. All these will be under his control."

"Lieut. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz will command the entire American strategic bombing force operating against Germany."

Spaatz now commands the American strategic bombing force in the Mediterranean.

Like Foch in World War I

Eisenhower thus assumes the role approximately to that occupied by Marshal Ferdinand Foch, who late in World War I was appointed generalissimo of allied forces. The appointment left the American top command unchanged. Gen. George C. Marshall, fresh from conferences in the Pacific, remains as army chief of staff in active charge of the nation's global war plans. Adm. William D. Leahy continues as President Roosevelt's personal chief of staff.

Mr. Roosevelt promised Eisenhower's successor in the African and Mediterranean theater "that our powerful ground, sea and air forces in the vital Mediterranean area will stand by his side until every objective in that bitter theater is attained."

Hailing the Cairo and Tehran conferences as being eminently successful, the chief executive said the four powers rejected the enemy doctrine "that the strong shall dominate the weak."

"But at the same time, we are agreed that if force is necessary to keep international peace, international force will be applied—for as long as it may be necessary."

Warning to Non-Cooperationists

Seemingly as a warning to nations that refuse to cooperate with the allies, the president added:

"It has been our steady policy—and it is certainly a common sense policy—that the right of each nation to freedom must be measured by the willingness of that nation to fight for freedom."

Mr. Roosevelt far from ignored the war in the Pacific, saying that he and Churchill had settled with the Chinese generalissimo not only "definite military strategy," but also had discussed "certain long-range principles which we believe can assure peace in the Far East for many generations to come."

"These principles," he explained, "are as simple as they are fundamental. They involve the restoration of stolen property to its rightful owners, and the recognition of the rights of millions of people in the Far East to build up their own forms of self-government without molestation."

The president emphasized that "essential to all peace and security in the Pacific and in the rest of the world is the permanent elimination of the empire of Japan as a potential force of aggression."

"Never again," he said, "must our soldiers and sailors and marines be compelled to fight from island to island as they are fighting so gallantly and so successfully today."

Greater Effort Needed at Home

"The massed offensives which are in the making—both in Europe and the Far East—will require every ounce of energy and fortitude that we and our allies can summon on the fighting fronts and in all the workshops at home."

Mr. Roosevelt obviously directed this passage about the need for greater effort in the "workshops at home" at strike threats for higher wages and the preoccupation of some industrialists over reconversion of peacetime production.

The president said he would tell more about the Cairo and Tehran conferences when he delivers his state of the union message to congress in about two weeks.

"And, on that occasion, I shall also have a great deal to say about certain conditions here at home."

That meant plainly that the president will again take up the cudgels publicly for support of his anti-inflation program which now is under attack from many points in congress and out.

In disclosing the new invasion command for Eisenhower, the president did not overlook General Marshall, army chief of staff who was reported erroneously some time ago as slated to be "global commander" of the allies.

Faith in Leaders Affirmed

"To the members of our armed forces, to their wives, mothers and fathers," he said, "I want to affirm the great faith and confidence we have in General Marshall and Admiral King (U. S. fleet commander) who direct all of our armed might throughout the world."

The president was blunt and harsh in his treatment of "cheerful idiots in this country" who hid behind their isolationist policies, and he was plain-spoken in spiking theories of a quick victory.

"The war is now reaching the stage," he said, "where we shall have to look forward to large casualty lists—dead, wounded and missing."

"War entails just that. There is no easy road to victory. And the end is not in sight."

MEDFORD

United Press—Full Leased Wire

Thirty-eighth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1943

United Press—Full Leased Wire

NO. 234

Allies Hurl Knockout Punches Across Channel

Merry Christmas Yourself!



Baby LeRoy, child actor, appears overwhelmed by jolly old St. Nick, who brings forth surprises for all from his wondrous pack.

Christmas Occupies World From Fox Holes to Homes

By United Press

In Bethlehem, the president's home, the war worker's cottage, the army camp, and even in the fox-holes of the world's battlefields, the last-minute preparations were being made today for Christmas.

U. S. SUB GRAYLING PRESUMED LOST

Washington, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—The navy announced today that the 1,475-ton U. S. submarine Grayling is overdue and presumed lost.

Although the navy did not say where the craft disappeared, it presumably was in the Pacific or the Far East where the preponderance of the U. S. undersea fleet is carrying on a destructive campaign against Japanese supply lines.

The Grayling, which carries a normal complement of 65 men, was skipped by Lt. Cmdr. Robert Marion Brinker, 33, of Park Ridge, Ill.

Jap Officials Plan Flight From Tokyo

Chungking, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—High-ranking Japanese officials are preparing to flee from Tokyo to emergency headquarters in Shanghai in the event the Japanese capital becomes a target for mass allied air raids, a former Shanghai editor said today.

Chao Cheh Hao, editor of the discontinued Shanghai Shun Pao, expressed that belief on his arrival at Chungking with his wife and four children and two former employees. They fled Shanghai disguised as peasants.

ACTOR WALTER PIDGEON BECOMES U. S. CITIZEN

Hollywood, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Screen Star Walter Pidgeon was admitted to citizenship today in a ceremony he considered the finest Christmas present he had ever received.

Pidgeon came to the United States from Canada in 1918. The Immigration bureau meanwhile announced it had withdrawn protests against citizenship for Rudolph Sieber, 45, scenarist husband of Film Actress Marlene Dietrich. Sieber was reported ill in New York.

NO PAPER DEC. 26

In order to conserve paper under the government's rationing program, the Mail Tribune will not publish on Sunday, December 26.

2 BROTHERHOODS AGREE TO SUBMIT TO ARBITRATION

Trainmen and Engineers Willing to Leave Wage Problem in F. R.'s Hands.

Washington, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Spokesmen for the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers announced at the White House today that they will call off their scheduled strike and submit the issues to President Roosevelt for arbitration.

The announcement was made in the White House lobby by A. F. Whitney, of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and Alvanley Johnston, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

Three Decline Offer
The unions represented by Whitney and Johnston agreed late yesterday to accept President Roosevelt's offer to arbitrate the wage deadlock, but the other three operating railroad brotherhoods declined the offer.

Referring to their decision to issue a statement later calling off "any strike for any future date," Whitney told reporters:

"We feel that the public is entitled to this information now as a Christmas present. We feel that this will be bad news for Hitler and Hirohito."

To Go Ahead
Whitney also revealed that War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes had told him and Johnston this morning that President Roosevelt has decided to go ahead and arbitrate the case for the railroad trainmen and locomotive engineers regardless of whether the other three operating unions agree to submit to such a plan.

Meanwhile, Byrnes called a meeting of the non-operating unions at the White House for 2 p. m., apparently to give the government's answer to their wage proposal.

BANGKOK BOMBED BY YANK AIRMEN

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Tokyo radio said today a Thai government spokesman announced that American bombers, based in China, raided Bangkok Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

The raids caused "numerous" casualties and damaged civilian homes, Tokyo said in a broadcast recorded by United Press.

The Japanese report of the Thai announcement said that no damage was inflicted on "other installations."

(There has been no Allied announcement of recent raids on Bangkok, capital city of Thailand.)

JAP REINFORCEMENTS SEEN AT KWAJALEIN

Pearl Harbor, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Army and navy Liberators bombers, carrying into the tenth day non-stop American raids intended to knock out Japanese air strength in the Marshall Islands, have uncovered further evidence that the Japanese are rushing reinforcements into the region.

A communique by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said that 20 Japanese ships were sighted Tuesday at Kwajalein lagoon, which stretches 40 miles between Kwajalein and Roi islands of the boot-shaped Kwajalein atoll.

CHRISTMAS IN TARAWA

Washington, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—It's Christmas in Tarawa now. Christmas came at 8:01 a. m. EWT, today to American fighting men on the newly-won Gilbert Islands where rows of crosses mark graves of those who gave their lives to help bring peace on earth, good-will to men.

RUSSIANS CRASH NORTHERN RIM OF VITEBSK DEFENSE

Stalin Announces Victory in Order of Day—New Drive Opens in White Russia.

London, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—A fast-moving Russian offensive crashed through the northern rim of defenses guarding the approaches to Vitebsk today as the German high command reported that the Red army had launched a new onslaught in lower White Russia and regained the initiative in the see-saw battle of the Kiev salient.

Premier Marshal Josef Stalin, in an order of the day broadcast by the Moscow radio, announced that the 1st Baltic army stormed and captured the German stronghold of Gorodok, 18 miles north of Vitebsk on the Vitebsk-Nevel railroad line.

Big Force Involved
Stalin revealed that at least four rifle divisions and a number of smaller units, possibly 75,000 or more men, were involved in the capture of Gorodok, which posed a grave flanking threat to the Nazi garrison defending Vitebsk.

An official Berlin broadcast said the Russians attacked in force along the upper Dnieper northeast of Zhitobin, key rail junction of southern White Russia. It added that "heavy fighting" is going on, significantly giving no hint of the trend.

Soviet attacks southeast of Korosten and east of Zhitobin had collapsed, the Nazis reported in their customarily oblique acknowledgment that the initiative again was in Russian hands. It was in the region of those towns west of Kiev that the Nazis apparently had expended their supreme effort to reverse the sweeping gains of the Red army's summer and early winter offensive.

15 KNOWN DEAD IN LODGING FIRE

New York, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Fire ate through a small factory and into a cheap West 42nd street lodging house today, trapping many persons inside the building.

At 4 p. m., police and fire officials at the scene said there were 15 known dead. Ten bodies had been removed from the building at that hour and five had been counted inside.

FARMERS BEWILDERED

Washington, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Technological bewilderment was blamed by government officials today for the fact that midwest farmers are calling recent party payments "gift checks"—because they arrived without explanation.

Pope in Christmas Message Says War Breaking All Laws

London, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Pope Pius XII, in a Christmas message to the world, said today that the war was breaking all laws and exceeding all moral barriers.

"The horrible pages of past history fade away in comparison with the bloody disaster happening today," he said in a broadcast over the Vatican radio.

The present is witnessing a "moral decadence which is burying all humanitarian sentiments, but in the midst of this dark night, the light of Bethlehem must shine," he said.

"Only Christ alone can alleviate the dark sentiments . . . only Christ can alleviate the tor-

Dr. Erb Dies



Dr. Donald Milton Erb, 43, president of the University of Oregon, who died yesterday of pneumonia after an illness of only a few days. Seventh president of the university, he has served in that position since 1939.

BRITISH HAMMER LAST GERMANS IN BLOODY ORTONA

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—The British 8th army hammered the Adriatic wing of the German line across Italy today, pounding the last enemy stronghold in Ortona, capturing the nearby village of Vezani and driving against Villa Grande on the road running inland.

Americans of the 5th army fought through a downpour to capture more high ground in the Acquafredda sector above Cassino on the Rome road, but yielded a hill three miles to the south to strengthened German counterblows.

Bombers Hit Railroad
Marauder medium bombers of the northwest African air forces braved bad weather to attack the coastal railroad on the Italian Riviera, plastering targets at Ventimiglia near the French border and Imperia 30 miles to the east.

The battle of Ortona was carried through another day of bloody fighting by a last-ditch German stand in the northwestern outskirts. Struggling to hold the anchor post at all costs and delay a general fallback on the Adriatic, the Nazis were fighting to the last man at some strong points amidst the rubble of Ortona.

New York, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, replying to a Soviet attack on American labor leaders, today accused Russia of "unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of the United States."

ROCKET COAST IS TARGET IN WORST POUNDING OF WAR

U. S. Heavy Bombers Join Onslaught After Berlin Given 1,000-Ton Blasting

London, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—American heavy bombers swarmed into the unprecedented aerial onslaught on the French "rocket coast" for the first time today after British night raiders strewn flaming destruction through Berlin with more than 1,000 tons of bombs.

The allies were hurling every type of plane in their British arsenal against the Pas De Calais area of France, across the narrowest stretch of the channel, in one of their biggest and most concentrated and most sustained bombardments.

Skies Full of Planes
Four-motored bombers of the United States eighth air force made their first attack on the strip of gun-studded continental soil. American marauder medium bombers struck at the same area.

The skies over the straits of Dover throbbled all day with the beat of motors as allied bombers and fighters shuttled back and forth ceaselessly, carrying the attack on the French shore to a new peak of intensity and past its fifth day.

(The Dutch Aneta News agency reported in London that invasion-jittery German forces were hurriedly strengthening their defenses in Holland and intensifying measures of suppression against the civilian population.)

Berlin Visit Continued
Big British bombers still were returning to their bases from the heavy attack on Berlin when the daylight formations headed for France.

The aerial traffic picked up progressively until the American heavy bombers, escorted by fighters, crashed their bombs on the Pas De Calais strip around Boulogne and Calais.

Marauder medium bombers of the Eighth air force, also accompanied by allied fighters, joined the big parade.

Early reports made no mention of the specific targets. Speculation over the aerial concentration on the French coast had dwelt on unofficial reports that the Germans had mounted their "secret weapon," a rocket gun for bombing London and other objectives in Britain.

NAME SUCCESSOR TO EISENHOWER

London, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson is succeeding Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower as Allied commander in the Mediterranean theater, it was announced tonight.

Gen. Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander, Eisenhower's deputy commander, takes over command of the Allied armies in Italy.

Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the British 8th army, will command the British forces under Eisenhower.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Fire Chief Roy Elliot presiding over his annual dinner for the fire ladders and serving up a super-duper menu of wild goose and venison mince pie.

Jack Boyd sneaking a cigar out of a box which he had just presented as a Christmas gift.

Bob Shepherd and Peter Shepherd exuding charm and cheer at the University club open house.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!