

GERMAN BULGE IN SOUTH

Patton Drives Steadily Along Bulge Front

But Nazi Attacks To South Have Cost Yanks Foothold In Germany

By JAMES M. LONG
PARIS — (AP) — The American armored onslaught smashed 5 1/2 miles northeast of Bastogne today up the diagonal railway toward St. Vith, beating into the outskirts of Michamps and into the Maister Woods through stubborn German resistance.

But the German Army was lashing out furiously at a dozen places along the undulating 70-mile front from the Saar to the Rhine in diversionary assaults which already have cost the Americans their thin foothold on German soil northeast of Sarreguemines.

The attacks may yet prove to be another burst in Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's offensive.

So far, the American line is holding the Germans to limited gains, but the Nazis were still striking along their two-mile-deep and five-mile-long dent southeast of Bitcher. The enemy, moreover, had driven a bridged road over the Biles River east of Sarreguemines.

Snow was falling again over the Belgian bulge and there was rain farther south.

However, although snow and rain were falling, they did not support 1,100 American heavy bombers struck for the twelfth consecutive day from 800 to 4,000 tons of explosives on a 150-mile belt from Cologne to Karlsruhe.

The German command said the Third Army was using eight divisions from the Saar and one from the west in a supreme effort to encircle Nazi positions on three sides of Bastogne and admitted minor withdrawals in "fluctuating fighting."

The Germans said the battle in Luxembourg and on the Saar were taking a favorable course; that 24,000 Americans had been taken into German custody and that U. S. casualties "far exceed 50,000."

Gen. George S. Patton Jr. was gaining steadily along the whole Belgian-Luxembourg bulge front from the outskirts of St. Hubert to the northeast and east of Bastogne. His offensive thrust was widened to seven miles.

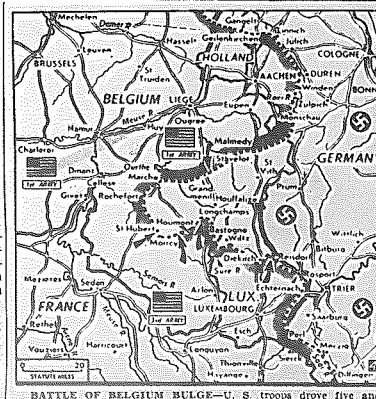
His 7,325 Germans were striking along the bulge Dec. 27. Continued reports of heavy German traffic, nearly all of it eastward, along secondary roads, suggested a German withdrawal.

Removal of the security blackouts on news broadcasts suggested a report to this morning.

Patton's most notable advance came yesterday when the Fifth Army and a half mile north of Bastogne and 21 miles short of the German front line.

The Third Army gained a half-mile to a mile more in fighting against dug-in Germans through four miles east of Bastogne. Second Army, two miles east of the bastion town, was cleared.

The American 26th and 35th Infantry Divisions were battling against dug-in Germans through the hill country of North Luxembourg.



BATTLE OF BELGIUM BULGE—U. S. troops drove five and a half miles northeast of Bastogne up the diagonal railway toward St. Vith today. The Third Army gained along the whole Belgian-Luxembourg bulge front from the outskirts of St. Hubert to the northeast and east of Bastogne. The Germans were striking along the Saar-Rhine front to the south.

Dig Nazis Out 'Bloody Budapest' Battle Rages On

By DANIEL DE LUCE
MOSCOW — (AP) — Russian storm forces were smashing through Budapest today in probably the fiercest house-to-house fighting since Stalingrad.

Making progress in what an official announcement called "fiercer encounters in fortified houses, courtyards and cellars," Red Army troops yesterday captured 22 blocks in Pest, one part of the city east of the Danube, and 33 blocks in Buda on the opposite bank.

On the basis of preliminary reports it is believed in Moscow that the enemy garrison already has lost 10,000 dead and possibly 30,000 wounded.

Although the Red Army has not officially estimated the strength of the trapped garrison, Col. Gen. Janos Palfi, commander of the provisional Hungarian Government recently set up in Russian-held territory, said last night the total may run as high as 75,000 to 100,000 Germans, plus 30,000 Hungarians.

With yesterday's advances, which brought in approximately 1,000 prisoners, the Russian army has nearly 1,000 blocks of the battered city.

Over 2,000,000 civilians estimated to be covering inside the city are surviving the struggle could only be evacuated to the village of Bonyhad.

It now appeared likely that the Russian army would not resume offensive operations in great force in the direction of the Austrian frontier until Budapest is largely overwhelmed.

New supply lines northwest of Budapest and 10 miles southeast of the Danube communications center, Komarom, fresh German armored forces drawn from Austria lashed out yesterday at the tip of Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin's salient on the main road to Vienna. It was announced that the tank track was repulsed.

Frontline Murder

Other aspects of the battle of St. Vith are becoming known.

Maj. Ben Collins, whose family name is in the Guinness Book of Records, was killed in action at St. Vith. He was the only American to be killed in action during the battle.

Several hours later a medic who occupied the position of combat command headquarters saying that Lt. Col. Fred Cummings Jr., whose name is in Southern Illinois, and eight of its members' slaying of a German officer.

The combat command pool was overrun and the infantry battalion commander was captured by the Germans, along with most of his staff.

On the morning of Dec. 22 a German patrol of 30 men attacked the command post. Capt. C. C. Denon of Northville, Mich., was taken back to his outposts.

New Session Of Congress Underway

79th Legislative Body Convened

By JACK BELL, AP
WASHINGTON (AP) — The 79th Congress was convened with war-born solemnity today as the nation girded for a critical year, both at home and abroad.

Both chambers were gavelled into being promptly at noon. Spectators crowded the galleries to watch newly-elected members formally inducted. Many of the voters had stood in long lines to await the opening of the gallery doors.

A note of political dissension came in the Senate when Democratic Leader Barkley, Kentucky, broke into the proceedings to submit unanimous consent that Senator Frank House, Casper, Wyo., be permitted to take the oath of office as a possible future decision on his seating.

The Senatorial Campaign Investigating Committee has been investigating into Caperton's election in West Virginia.

With a host of former Secretaries of State, the Senate began its ceremonies with the presentation of electoral credentials for Caperton, Forrest Donnell, Missouri, who was not present, and James P. Byrnes, Arkansas Democrat.

RAYBURN ELECTED
The House's official calendar for opening day was the routine re-election of Sam Rayburn, Democrat of Texas, to his fourth term as Speaker.

The Democrats were ready to open their organization with a list of members of the biggest standing committees—particularly those dealing with the war and Government spending.

Most business will be postponed until after the adjournment of the fourth wartime session on the state of the Union is read to members in the House.

But controversy already had begun to develop around an issue as old as the fighting itself—provision for social service benefits aimed at ex-servicemen.

The President gave a sort of preliminary address at yesterday's White House news conference. When a reporter asked if he was for that kind of a law, Mr. Roosevelt said he thought so.

He added it was up to Congress to write the bill.

The President said he was in substantial accord with the recommendations of War Mobilizer James P. Byrnes. These included an appeal for broadened Government control over men rejected by the Army as physically unfit.

Germany Hit Hard In 1944

By WILLIAM BONY
WITH AMERICAN ARMIES IN BELGIUM, Jan. 2—Delayed by the winter weather, the Third Army declared with grim memory today that eight sons of a captured supply train had been shot to death by an SS officer.

HOW IT HAPPENED
The men were manning the supply train. It was caught by a German armored column after bold attacks had knocked out five of the enemy tanks. The veterans said the men were held up in a field and an SS officer went down the line shooting anyone who tried to break for it.

The men were a break for it with a revolver. When he started down the line a second time one of the men was killed.

He was hit in the neck as he was clearing a fence. He played dead for nearly three hours and finally made his way back to his outposts.

But all the remainder were killed.

New Air War Phase Superforts Rain Bombs On Nagoya

By VERN HAUGLAND
SUPERFORTRESS HEADQUARTERS, GUAM (AP) — America's Superfortress offensive against Japan entered a new phase today when a sizable force of B-29s, directed for the first time from Guam, rained bombs upon industrial Nagoya, on Nippon's main island of Honshu.

The 21st Bomber Command, transferred to Guam from Saipan, opened its new headquarters with the Nagoya assault. The giant planes carried a bomb load equaling the largest of five jet bombers exceeding any of the three previous Nagoya raids.

JAPS SAY 90 U. S. B-29s today said the target of about 90 of the B-29s included Nagoya, Osaka and Hamamatsu, three important industrial centers.

The B-29s took off from Saipan in fine weather and expected to encounter good bombing conditions for the attack on Nagoya's war plants.

The one week lull since last Wednesday's raid was the longest since the Honshu raids began Nov. 24, and marked a period at the conclusion of the first 30 days during which the B-29s had been in constant contact and service units took stock of them.

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Draft Order Young Farmers To Be Called Up

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House today directed Selective Service to press "to the full extent permitted by law" the drafting of deferred farm workers in the 1B through 25 age class.

Asking acting President Roosevelt's authorization, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes called on Selective Service Director Lewis and War Relocation Authority Director James E. Doolittle to see that the largest remaining reservoir of potential fighting men in this age range now holding agricultural deferments.

The Army and Navy have been turning out draftees for the German Army, and the Nazis had kept the Jews at bay because all of them were irreplaceable specialists.

The Jewish engineers planned the factory's destruction, carefully carried out in just before the start of the Nazi West Front counter-offensive. All 25 of them were killed when they were taken to the factory with smuggled dynamite.

Eastern Front
Fierce battles continue in the Hungarian capital city of Budapest. The city's Nazi garrison is being shelled into an ever-shrinking area.

Turkey
The Ankara radio announces that the Turkish Grand National Assembly has voted unanimously to break both diplomatic and economic relations with Japan, effective this coming Saturday.

The Far East
The American Superfort offensive against Japan has entered a new phase, and it's now disclosed that today's B-29 attack on the Japanese island of Honshu was directed from our new 21st Bomber Command Headquarters on Guam.

Washington Today
The House greeted the new lawmakers with an announcement that farm workers 18 through 25 years old should be drafted to the full extent allowable under the law.

Weather
Increasing cloudiness and showers with light rain and sleet today; light rain and sleet today; light rain and sleet today.

Temperatures at 2:30 Today
High at 46 Low at 24
Sunrise Today 6:46
Sunset Tomorrow 6:24

Legislature Is Organized Quickly For 1945 Session

Richardson Made Speaker

RALEIGH — (AP) — The 1945 Legislature quickly organized today and passed bills increasing the pay of the lieutenant governor, informing the Governor that it was ready for business and appropriating \$3,000 for the inauguration tomorrow of Governor-elect R. Gregg Cherry.

An effort to eliminate the two-thirds rule of the House sometimes referred to as "the gag rule" was defeated, 15 to 22.

Representative John C. W. Orange led the fight to return to the 1939 rules, which were adopted in 1941 but was opposed by Representative Barker of Durham and State Representative Edwards of Swain.

Representative O. L. Richardson of Lenoir announced he was joining a two-third vote of the House to adopt a majority rule "undemocratic."

Senator Gray of Northampton introduced the bill to increase the salary of the lieutenant governor \$2,500 the year the assembly is in session and \$2,000 the year it is not.

Representative O. L. Richardson of Lenoir was elected speaker. Three other House members were named as speakers.

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Two-Minute News Roundup

Western Front
Allied officials on the Western Front today reported that the Germans lost nearly 20,000 men in offensive during the first sixteen days of their winter counter-offensive. They said that the enemy also lost about 400 tanks in the period starting Dec. 11 and ending on Dec. 31.

American Third Army tanks have crunched about one-half mile up the northeast railroad from Bastogne in their continuing push toward German-held St. Vith. Today's Nazi communique asserts that Patton has thrown about eight divisions in an all-out effort to surround Nazi positions on three sides of Bastogne. The enemy finally has made some withdrawals before this new Third Army onslaught.

The Nazis are said to be holding a bridgehead west from Third Army forces east of Sarreguemines, but our troops are holding the enemy to limited gains. And there is no word of further Nazi progress on the American Seventh Army front in Alsace-Lorraine.

Third Army Commander, Lt. Gen. George Patton has sent a special message to all his troops thanking them for achievements he says are unsurpassed in military history.

Air Warfare
Eleven hundred American heavy bombers have swept over the Western Front, setting a new record for sustained winter bombing by making this the twelfth straight day of air attacks on Nazi targets. About 600 fighters escorted the bombers, and only one German interceptor plane was spotted over the target areas.

The American heavies dumped about 800 to 4,000 tons of bombs into rail and road targets today. An air review of 1944 disclosed that American warplanes alone dropped more than 767,000 tons of bombs on Nazi targets during 1944.

Italy
Canadian troops have scored the most spectacular gains in the past 24 hours of fighting on the Italian battlefield. The Canadians official credit for capturing an unstaffed German mortar strong point near the eastern end of the front, in spite of heavy Nazi resistance.

Poland
The Polish Telegraph Agency discloses that 35 Jewish engineers have destroyed a rubber factory in Poland-Bialysta. The factory had

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