Invasion Convoys Reported Closing In On Luzon

Drew Pearson

Spotlighted article in this week's Saturday Evening Post was a feature about our widely read Washington columnist, Drew Pearson. The News, with Post permission, reprints part of the article on Page 3A of this edition.

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NAZIS THREATEN STRASBOURG

FDR CALLS FOR TOTAL MOBILIZATION

Asks Quick Passage Of National Service

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt today called for "total mobilization of all our human resources" to smash Nazi Germany in 1945 and speed strangulation of Japan's "Malignant power."

Once again he called for "unconditional surrender," but this time referred specifically to "the armies of our enemies" in apparent distinction from whole peoples.

By total mobilization, Mr. Roosevelt said in a message to Congress, he means a National Service Act—and "at the earliest possible moment."

The President's message on the State of the Union, which he will summarize in a nationwide broadcast tonight, ranged over the whole field of domestic and world problems.

Broadly sketched, he made these paramount points:

HOME FRONT:

Renewed his demand for national military service and said he would ask later for postwar universal military training; called for the drafting of nurses for the armed forces; urged an expanded social security program; said taxes should be modified after V-E day but declared no general revision can be made until total victory.

FIGHTING FRONTS:

Disclosed that the Army has developed the most powerfully armed tank yet produced and said "we shall resume the attack and x x x continue the attack relentlessly until Germany is completely defeated." Said we are about to equip large new French forces for combat against the Nazis, but warned that the Germans recently have increased their U-boat activity in the Atlantic. He expressed "complete confidence" in General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

FOREIGN POLICY:

"We cannot and will not shrink from the political responsibilities which follow in the wake of battle," Mr. Roosevelt admitted frank concern "about many situations — the Greek and Polish for example." He declared this country will not hesitate to use its influence to "secure as far as is humanly possible the fulfillment of the principles of the Atlantic Charter."

Bespeaking a confident hope for enduring peace, the chief executive declared that while great problems lie ahead, "the new year of 1945 can be the greatest year of achievement in human history."

Making the nearest thing to a prediction on the end of the war which he has thus far essayed, the President said this year "can see the final ending of the Nazi-Fascist reign of terror in Europe," as well as the closing in of the forces of retribution about the center of the malignant power of imperialistic Japan."

Most important of all, he added, "1945 can and must see the substantial beginning of the organization of world peace."

It was a message on the State of the Union looking back over the course of the whole war and particularly over the past year, which Mr. Roosevelt said had been marked on the whole by substantial progress toward victory. It looked toward the future, too, and rang with notes of confidence.

The message, which Mr. Roosevelt plans to summarize on the radio tonight for the nation and the world, was read to Congress after the counting of the electoral votes that gave him a fourth term in the White House.

"In the field of foreign policy," the Chief Executive told the legislators, "we propose to stand together with the United Nations not for the war alone but for the victory for which the war is fought.

"It is not only a common danger which unites us but a common hope. Our's is an association not of Governments but of peoples—and the peoples' hope is peace."

He renewed a demand for "unconditional surrender," but applied it only to "the armies of our enemies."

That, he said, is the first, but only the first step toward the peace we long for.

ASKS UNDERSTANDING

The Chief Executive accorded recognition to differences which have arisen to plague the Allies, and he pleaded for understanding.

The nearer we come to vanquishing the enemies, he said, the more we inevitably become conscious of differences among the victors.

Assailing any use of power poli-

See ASKS QUICK on Page 11

(The full text of President Roosevelt's address will be found on Pages 10-A and 11-A of this edition.)

Foreign Policy

FDR Still Backs Atlantic Charter

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt, admitting concern over the Greek and Polish situations, declared today the United States "will not shrink from the political responsibilities which follow in the wake of battle."

In his message to Congress the Chief Executive issued a call for Allied unity at this "most critical phase of the war," warned against "perfectionism" in judging international politics and promised to strive for the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

The Allies, he said, seek a "peoples' peace," and the United States wants to see the people of Europe live together as "good neighbors."

"We shall not hesitate," he said, "to use our influence—and to use it now—to secure so far as is humanly possible the fulfillment of the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

"We have not shrunk from the military responsibilities brought on by this war. We cannot and will not shrink from the political responsibilities which follow in the wake of battle."

On other foreign policy points the President:

1. Gave no direct hint of his plans for his early February meeting with Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill.

2. Hailed the return of France to a place of world leadership and disclosed that "we are now about to equip large new French forces with the most modern weapons for combat duty."

3. Declared that "we have house-cleaning of our own to do" in building free world trade and commerce.

4. Predicted adoption of the Dumbarton Oaks plan of world organization.

5. Called for mutual understanding among peoples to safeguard peace, stating his purpose to use technological advances in communication "for the common advantage of the world."

While laying down the principles he would apply to liberated Europe, the Chief Executive refrained from saying in what way he would apply them. That is one of the problems he hopes to work out in conference with Churchill and Stalin.

The United States and its allies, he said, have a duty "to use our influence to the end that no temporary or provisional authorities in the liberated countries block the eventual exercise of the peoples' right freely to choose the Government and institutions under which, as free men, they are to live."

Two-Minute

News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Home Front

In a confident message on the State of the Nation, President Roosevelt today told Congress—and we quote—"This new year of 1945 can be the greatest year of achievement in human history."

Mr. Roosevelt called for total mobilization of all our human resources to smash the Axis, and repeated the Allied demand for unconditional surrender. But this time, Mr. Roosevelt referred specifically to the unconditional surrender of the armies of our enemies.

The President told Congress that total mobilization at home means a national service act now and postwar universal military training. In addition, Mr. Roosevelt called for the drafting of nurses for the armed forces.

Mr. Roosevelt will go on the air tonight at 10 P. M Eastern War Time, over all networks to give the nation his own summary of his annual message.

Western Front

Meanwhile, Supreme Allied Headquarters has disclosed that Allied casualties in the Nazi offensive in Belgium have been far below those suffered by the Germans. It has been estimated that German casualties are about 100,000. At the same time, a front dispatch reveals that the Germans have stiffened their stand in Belgium and have pushed back to the west as much as 1,000 yards at some points. The neck of the enemy wedge into Belgium now is said to be fourteen miles wide above Bastogne.

There is no late word on the fighting in northern Alsace, where the Germans have broken through to within seven miles of Strasbourg.

Fourteen hundred American planes smashed rails and roads in Western Germany again today. Eight hundred American heavy bombers and an escort of 600 fighters concentrated on Nazi communications along the Rhine.

Other Fronts

Here's a roundup of the situation elsewhere in Europe.

The Russians and Germans still are locked in a gigantic battle of armor north of Budapest in Hungary.

Allied troops in Italy have split German forces in the eastern Po Valley with a smashing drive north of Ravenna.

And the British say Greek capital of Athens is quiet today, although there is no word of settlement between the British and the Greek ELAS.

Bombs dropped by American B-29 Superfortresses from China ripped into Japanese industry on the enemy home island of Kyushu today. And the Japanese radio is saying the raid was co-ordinated with what the Japs call the "invasion operations in the Philippine theater." The Tokyo radio has been heard hinting that the long-expected American invasion of Luzon, the main island of the Philippines, is underway. However, Tokyo said only that Americans may be ashore on Luzon, and there is no confirmation.

Incidentally, the Japanese also tell of a Superfortress raid on Nanking, the Jap puppet capital for occupied China.

British carrier planes have raided the Japanese-occupied island of Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies, heavily damaging enemy oil installations. The British raid was made Thursday, one day after American carrier planes carried out a two-day assault on Formosa and Okinawa, islands off Southeastern China.

Japs Report Allied Ship Movements

Say Yanks May Have Landed

By LEONARD MILLIMAN
Associated Press War Editor

American assault forces are closing in and "may have landed on Luzon," most important island in the Philippines, Tokyo radio reported today as co-ordinated U. S. land, sea and air forces invaded, shelled or bombed strategic Japanese-held islands spread over more than 1,000 miles.

The quickening tempo of the Pacific war brought these developments:

1. Tokyo radio reported three new Allied convoys on the move in Philippine waters, including a heavily guarded invasion flotilla west of Luzon on which Manila is situated.

2. Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced the unopposed invasion and capture of Marinduque Island, twelve miles south of Luzon and less than 100 miles from Manila. It was the seventh island to be retaken in the Philippines.

3. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced fast U. S. carrier forces destroyed 111 Japanese planes and 27 ships in their two-day raid on Formosa and the Okinawa Islands, linking Japan and the Philippines. Sixty-eight other ships were damaged.

4. For the first time seaborne U. S. planes reached the China coast. They searched 500 miles of the coastline from Foochow to Hong Kong and reported they could have flown on to U. S. air bases in the interior.

5. Another U. S task force shelled major harbors on Haha Jima and Chichi Jima in the Bonin Islands, 650 miles south of Tokyo and 1,500 miles west of Formosa.

6. About 70 or 80 China-based Superforts bombed western Kyushu in the Japanese homeland, apparently hitting

See REFORT CONVOY on page 11

Nazis Blasted

New Secret Weapon Used By Yanks

BEFFE SECTOR, Belgium, Jan. 5—(Delayed)—(AP)—A new secret American artillery weapon, used today on a large scale for the first time, shattered German counter-attacks trying to halt the U. S. First Army drive southward in the Belgian bulge.

As a result the snow in this area was blanketed with Nazi dead.

Details of this new weapon were held up for reasons of security, but it was something the U. S Navy had developed and which was found to be of great use against ground troops.

Must Stay On Jobs

Important Draft Order Predicted

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Capitol sources predicted today Selective Service headquarters would direct local draft boards within the next 24 hours to induct men between 18 and 38 who change jobs without board approval.

Sources close to the House Military Committee said they were informed of the new order by spokesmen for Selective Service.

These sources also said the Army has agreed to lower its physical standards to accept for work units men sent to it by draft boards under a "work or fight" regulation.

The new regulations would apply to men now holding deferments of any kind, either occupational or physical, but would be aimed primarily at the physically fit group. Its purpose is to prevent labor turnover through shifting of jobs without draft board approval.

While a man under 26 have in the past faced immediate induction if they shifted from jobs for which they had been deferred, that policy had not applied generally to men of the older age groups or to 4-Fs, spokesmen explained.

TO LABOR UNITS

Frequently, they added, men ordered inducted for shifting jobs were found physically disqualified. In the future, with the lowering of Army acceptance standards, these men will be assigned to labor units.

The new Selective Service order virtually puts into effect by regulation provisions of a bill introduced today by Chairman May, Democrat, Ky., of the House Military Committee. However, it was pointed out, the legislation is necessary to provide that men inducted into the work units shall not be eligible for normal veterans' benefits and to remove misunderstandings about the use of the men in industry.

Formosa Raided

U. S. Fleet Ranges Near China Coast

By LEIF ERICKSON

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, PEARL HARBOR — (AP) — Pacific Fleet carrier planes destroyed 111 Japanese planes and sank or damaged 95 enemy ships in a daring, punishing two-day assault on China-guarding Formosa and Okinawa, Fleet Admiral C. W. Nimitz announced today.

Striking all the way across the Pacific, many planes from Vice Adm. John S. McCain's force winged down 500 miles of the China coast, searching for Japanese shipping, reported Associated War Correspondent Rembert James aboard McCain's flagship.

The Formosa attacks were made Tuesday and Wednesday (U. S. time). Twenty-seven ships were sunk. Sixty-eight ships were damaged.

Nimitz communique did not mention the first China probing flight by Navy carrier planes, apparently because no material attack targets were sighted by pilots making their first reconnaissance of the China coast, goal of a three-year fighting advance across the Pacific.

But James significantly reported that pilots who flew over China's green mainland declared they could have flown inland to American interior air bases to refuel.

This report discloses that American carrier planes possibly could make shuttling air raids on China mainland targets in major forces. After refueling and rearming at Chinese-American land fields they could fly back to their carriers.

Following closely upon Admiral McCain's air sweeps over Japan's strategically important Formosa and Okinawa air fields, another task force of Admiral Nimitz' mighty Pacific Fleet shelled Japanese bases at Haha Jima and Chichi Jima in the Bonins Friday.

In his terse report on the For-

See FLEET MOVES on page 11

Nazis Surge Against Reds

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW —(AP)— Tank, artillery and air battles virtually as fierce as any fought since Germany attacked Russia raged northwest of Budapest today as the Germans made a supreme bid to break through to their isolated garrison in the battered Hungarian capital.

The fighting has reached such a pitch that neither side has given any clear indication of how far the German penetration has gone toward the city from the Komarom area.

At last report the Russians held a zone possibly 30 miles deep, but dispatches said the whole sector south of the Danube bend now is most fluid and places are changing hands several times daily.

A Russian communique said the Germans threw 300 tanks into the battle yesterday.

The Germans were said to have brought up numerous King Tigers from the Vienna area. These met a strong foe in the Red Army's new T-34 tanks. The Germans also poured great numbers of other mobile weapons into the area in the past two days.

Strong forces of German aircraft

See NAZIS SURGE on page 11

'Hell On Wheels'

2nd Armored Division Hits Back After Halting Germans

By HAL BOYLE

WITH THE U. S. SECOND ARMORED DIVISION IN BELGIUM—(AP)—(Delayed) "Old Gravel Voice" is happy again. His "Hell On Wheels" tankmen are behind back the Germans—after an heroic action that saved the American Armies from being cut in two.

Maj.-Gen. Ernest Harmon, who has directed the killing and capture of more Nazi troops than any other division commander, is spearheading the American drive across the enemy salient to Bastogne with his hard-riding Second Armored Division.

His men have taken several hundred prisoners and re-liberated a half dozen Belgian villages in weather that would bother a polar bear.

They are back in combat after only three days rest following one of the greatest battles of the war—a head-on smash that broke Von Rundstedt's drive toward the Meuse River, kicked back the Nazis ten miles and practically destroyed a prize SS armored division.

The lifting of censorship today permitted for the first time the full story of how the "Hell On Wheels" Division, after a spectacular hundred-mile night march to the battle scene, finally halted the great Nazi drive only three miles from its river goal.

It was an epic engagement ranking with past achievements of this famous division — the capture of Palermo, Sicily, the break-through at St. Lo, and the piercing of the Siegfried Line north of Aachen.

BATTLE BOXSCORE

Here is a boxscore of the four-day battle:

Enemy losses—60 tanks, 30 artillery pieces taken intact, 211 armored cars and trucks, more than 1,200 dead, and 1,213 lost as prisoners.

Second armored division losses—four Sherman tanks and light casualties.

"And a good number of these were from respiratory diseases rather than battle wounds," said Capt. Harry Volk, former Cleveland News reporter.

Harmon's division was sitting

See DIVISION on page 11

Gains Made By Allied Forces In Bulge Area

Von Rundstedt Still Attacking In Belgium And In The South

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS—(AP)—Field Marshal Montgomery's British and American battle team fought deeper into the middle of the north wall of the Belgian wedge today as a new German offensive in Alsace threatened Strasbourg with a three-way drive.

Amid a flurry of attacks and counter-attacks, U. S. First Army units under Montgomery's command gouged out a series of gains of more than a mile, capturing Odeigne, mopping up Devantave and advancing to a crossroads near Fraiture, where they were within one-half mile of the vital Laroche-St. Vith Highway.

Suddenly reversing his apparent intention of withdrawing strength from the western tip of his bulge, however, Von Rundstedt threw a blow at British-held sectors and knocked them back for as much as 1,000 yards, recapturing Bure at the deepest point of his present penetration into Belgium.

The 82nd Airborne Division of the First Army advanced along the Salm River below Trois Ponts and southwest of Stavelot at the eastern end of the salient, Montgomery Presd.

The Second Armored Division goughed out the gain at DeVantave, four miles north of LaRoche and fourteen miles north of Bastogne. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army positions at Bastogne.

The 30th Infantry Division pushed forward against light opposition on the flank of the 82nd Airborne Division.

PACE SLOWED

The continued bad weather and intensified enemy counter-attacks along the northern rim of the salient slowed the pace of Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's offensive, involving the British Second and U. S. First and Ninth Armies.

On the south side of the salient, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army men, under the over-all command of Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, made the most progress despite withdrawals in the Bastogne area under repeated German counter-attacks.

The 80th Infantry Division crossed the Sure River and entered Goesdorf, twelve miles southeast of Bastogne.

Thirteen miles west of Bastogne other infantry drove up half a mile and cut the St. Hubert-Bastogne Road within two miles of St. Hubert, at the southwestern tip of the German wedge. Tillet, eight miles west of Bastogne, was captured.

The second German Winter drive had burst through U. S. Seventh Army lines for fifteen miles in five days southeast of Bitche in northern Alsace.

The Americans still fought to wipe out an advance guard which had filtered into Wingen on the Moder River, 9 1/2 miles southeast of Bitche and 28 miles northwest

See STRASBOURG on page 11

Yanks Bomb Nazi Spans

LONDON —(AP)— More than [illegible] American heavy bombers, escorted by nearly 600 Mustangs, attacked three road and rail bridges across the Rhine at Cologne and Bonn today and bombed several railyards and other communications centers in western Germany.

It was the 15th daylight attack by Britain-based U. S. 8th Air Force bombers and fighters in [illegible] days in support of American armies battling against the German attempt to crash through Allied lines and overrun Belgium.

Western Germany was battered overnight by more than 5,000 tons of RAF bombs.

British bombers made five raids during the night—two each against Berlin and Hannover and one against German troop concentrations in and around Houffalize, in the Ardennes salient, 19 miles northeast of Bastogne.

A terrific night air battle, "the biggest the RAF bomber command and the Luftwaffe have had for many months," was fought in the Hannover area as German night fighters sought to protect a junction point, a British spokesman said.

Thirty-three British bombers and three fighters were reported lost and 10 of the enemy planes were knocked down.

The night sweeps came as a sequel to attacks on a score of road and rail junctions yesterday on more than 1,500 U. S. heavy bombers and fighters.

American planes yesterday hit virtually every major railway link in the 150-mile German sector supporting the German Western Front offensive. The fliers dropped [illegible] tons of explosives on Bonn and Ahrweiler, two miles south from Cologne south to Koblenz, the Ruhr.

See STRASBOURG on page 11

British Made Brave Stand

BURE, Belgium, Jan. 5—(Delayed)—(AP)—It can now be disclosed that a gallant British armored formation halted one prong of the head of Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's counter-offensive toward when it reached a point about three miles from the Meuse River.

The Germans were headed toward the Dinant bridge.

By continuous slashing and hammering, British armor subsequently drove the Germans back yard by yard over the snow-covered Ardennes Hills about twelve miles.

Up to today the part British armor played in stopping the German counter-offensive was a secret for security reasons.

Stops Tanks

A Lady Lies Gallantly To Help Yanks

CELLES, Belgium — (AP) — Belgians credit the "Lady of the Pub" with stopping some German tanks penetrating west from Celles at the height of Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's plunge Dec. 24.

She was watching a German tank go west on the road before her saloon when it blew up, apparently because of motor trouble.

Shortly another Nazi tank came along and the officer demanded:

"Did that tank blow up on a mine?"

"Yes," the woman replied. "More than 2,000 Americans have been laying mines on this road all the way to the Meuse for the last two days."

The officer ordered the tank turned around and never did go farther west.

The woman had lied gallantly. The Americans had not mined the road.

WEATHER

Increasing cloudiness and slightly warmer, tonight and tomorrow; scattered showers in extreme south portion tonight and tomorrow.

Temperatures at 8 P.M. Today: High 47, Low 32. At Noon Today: 45. Sunset Today: [illegible]. Sunrise Tomorrow: [illegible].