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"Invasion Rehearsal" Raids Hit France; Berlin Blasted

Gobs Find Honolulu Anything But Merry

(This column, usually by Hal Boyle, is written today by William L. Worden.)

HONOLULU — (Delayed)

(AP)—The two sailors had been in the Aleutians; that meant two liberty days since May, and those in Kodiak and Ketchikan. So they started out the cab windows and nudged each other when they saw two girls standing on a street corner. The older sailor was in his forties, but he stared just as hard as the younger. "Look," the younger sailor said. "There are some. I don't think there were any girls left in the world."

"Gee," said the older sailor. "I've never seen more than one here. They had been here, I heard, but I didn't get ashore to see that."

The taxi was caught in the four-wheel traffic and it took a long time to go from Pearl Harbor to Honolulu. The two sailors kept talking about the girls, and

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'Rocket Shell' Report False

LONDON.—(AP)—The German High Command announced today that its naval base batteries had shelled targets at Dover, Deal and Folkestone, across the Channel from Nazi-controlled France. Translators of the German radio had led to believe the German "rocket shells," but a check showed the phrase employed by the German "Lehrtruppen" meant "flame shells" or "tracers." "Lehrtruppen" is a phrase which could reasonably be translated "rocket," but in the case of a direct reference to the current talk about alleged German plans to use giant rocket guns to shell London, the Germans made their original translation in this connection.

There have been many Allied air attacks on the coast of the French coast which has come to be known as "rocket gun coast" because of supposed German emplacements for such guns may be located there.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy, not quite so cold today. Steady clouds and rain Saturday.
Today's Temperatures:
5:30 P. M. 29
Sunrise Today 8:12
Sunset Tomorrow 5:29
Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 2.

Yanks In Great Day Attack After RAF Rocks Berlin

By GLADWIN HILL.
LONDON.—(AP)—A great fleet of American Flying Fortresses and Liberators, guarded by searing swarms of fighters, joined in possibly the Allies' heaviest daylight assault of the war today for a Christmas Eve attack on the Pas de Calais "rocket-gun coast," hard on the heels of the RAF's seventh smashing night blow at Berlin.

An unending all-day procession of heavy, medium and light bombers was in the air today. More than 1,200 aircraft of the Eighth U. S. Air Force were in the task force which attacked the Pas de Calais area of France today. Army Headquarters announced tonight. This included the largest number of heavy bombers ever dispatched by the Eighth Air Force on a single mission.

French coast, popularly thought to be the site of the German invasion, fighter-bombers and fighters roared across the channel for the fifth successive day of hammering the enemy's defenses.

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW.—(AP)—The Russians have recaptured the initiative in the bulge west of Kiev and the Germans today were on the defensive over a large area in this sector.

No point in the bulge do the Nazis currently hold the upper hand.

In one of the greatest accomplishments of this war, Russian artillery had turned the tide of battle in the great struggle which has raged for weeks in the area 35 to 40 miles west of the Ukrainian capital.

For the last three days, Soviet guns, mobile cannons and tremendous squares of anti-tank rifles have sapped and bludgeoned the ranks of the German armor.

LONDON.—(AP)—The Red Army stormed its way today into Gdansk in Poland. Ivan G. Bagdasarian's advance force, heavily-armed, captured the city in an order of the day broadcast by the Moscow radio.

The German tank divisions, inflicting one of the highest tank casualty rates of the whole war.

Within the last 48 hours, the Russians have driven the Germans around in the Korosten direction south of Malin and in the Zhitomir area. The Germans and their armor, both on the Odessa-Leningrad railway, were highwater marks in the initial Russian drive and both towns were recaptured by the Germans in their counter-offensive.

Seven miles west of Kiev, the Germans exerted great tank pressure today in the White Russian area south of Zhitomir, but dispirited patches from that front said the Red Army was standing up to the test.

Two Rail Unions Call Off Strike

But Other Three Stick To Plans

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Brotherhoods of Railroad Trainmen and the Locomotive Engineers announced at the White House today they were calling off the strike set for Dec. 30 as far as their two unions are concerned.

They said they were acting in view of President Roosevelt's proposal to arbitrate the whole wage dispute, involving both operating and non-operating Brotherhoods. A. F. Whitney, president of the Trainmen, and Alvin Johnson, head of the Locomotive Engineers, made the announcement to newsmen after conferring with War Mobilization Director James B. Burns and Economic Stabilization Chief Fred M. Vinson.

The whole situation was to withdraw their strike call, to be taken this afternoon and tomorrow morning, was decided on despite the fact that the three other operating unions had declined to go along with the strike.

By WEG GALLAGHER
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS.—(AP)—Fighting in snow and rain, the Eighth Army has driven forward the last of the winter attack on our enemies as quickly as possible and from many different points of the compass.

On Christmas Eve there are over ten million men in the armed forces of the United States alone. One year ago 1,700,000 were serving overseas.

Today, this figure has been more than doubled to 3,400,000 on duty overseas. By next July that number will rise to over 5,000,000.

That this is truly a World War was demonstrated when arrangements were made with our allies in the Mediterranean. There was no time to speak today to our soldiers, sailors, Marines and merchant seamen in every part of the world.

In fixing the time for the broadcast we took into consideration that at the moment here in the United States, and in the Caribbean and on the northeast coast of Alaska and in Hawaii and the mid-Pacific it is all morning.

In the Southwest Pacific, in Africa, in Italy and the Middle East, it is now evening.

In the Southwest Pacific, in Australia, in China and Burma and India, it is already Christmas Day. With our eyes on the East at this moment, in those far Eastern parts where Americans are fighting, today is Christmas.

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Wills Lead Mighty Attack On Hitler

Roosevelt Announces Appointment; Churchill To Give Name Of British Commander In Mediterranean

HYDE PARK, N. Y.—(AP)—President Roosevelt announced in a world wide broadcast today the appointment of General Dwight D. Eisenhower to the supreme command of the Anglo-American forces which will open a second front against Germany.

He made no reference as to the future of General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army, who had been reported earlier as the choice for the vital European invasion command.

A British officer who will be announced by Prime Minister Churchill of Britain will take over Eisenhower's present Mediterranean command.

Mr. Roosevelt, in a Christmas Eve address to his fellow countrymen at home and in the armed forces overseas, made it clear that the selection of Eisenhower had been approved at the highest level of the government.

He said that Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt had agreed that the selection of Eisenhower had been approved at the highest level of the government.

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American Troops In Pilgrimage To Shrines Of Christendom

By GEORGE TUCKER
JERUSALEM.—(AP)—Americans of all ranks—coming from battle stations in stored Persia, Syria, Egypt, Africa—throughout the humble pilgrims to this shrine of Christianity today to pay homage to the Prince of Peace.

The News Will Publish On Christmas Day

The Charlotte News, as has been its custom since Pearl Harbor, will publish on Saturday, Dec. 26, in Palestine. It was the custom of The News to suspend publication on Christmas Day but under wartime circumstances editors have issued every week day in the year. A small staff will handle the Christmas Day edition and a special effort is being made to enable all employees with "small children" to have the day off. Those who work on Christmas Day

Allied Leaders Make Forecasts Of Triumphs In The Coming Year

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
From around the world today come confident forecasts of decisive victories for Allied arms before another Christmas rolls around.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean (and now European invasion commander), had words of encouragement for these "soldiers who are fighting under deplorable conditions in each of the armies" in Italy. He expressed "tremendous respect" for their "magnificent work."