

ALLIED STRATEGIC PLAN

British Home Fleet Winner In Sea Battle

German Warship Meets Doom In Struggle With English Units

By ROGER GREENE
LONDON (AP)—The possibility that the German battleship Scharnhorst carried her entire crew down with her when she was sunk by British Home Fleet units off the Norway north cape today when no word came of any survivors.

It was here the case last night's sinking of the 26,000-ton vessel in a blinding Arctic action would parallel the sinking of the big battleship Bismarck by the British Navy in May, 1941. Only a relative handful of the Bismarck's crew were saved. About 1,500 men presumably were aboard the Scharnhorst.

Allied military experts hailed the sinking of the Bismarck as one of the most spectacular triumphs of the Royal Navy and as a bitter defeat for Hitler in the latest desperate gamble to halt the flow of American and British supplies to Russia.

Admiral Sir William James, chief of British Naval Information, told reporters: "The striking power of the German fleet is being slowly but steadily whittled away."

GRAF SPEE CASE
The sinking of the Graf Spee, the last of the German capital ships, has been in the line of a series of victorious actions which may be overhauled," he said.

Further official news of our main fleet only came through obscurely on three occasions but when they did it was in a big series of victories which may be overhauled," he said.

Now he has more than 1,000 men under him. At 28, he is the youngest leader of an American combat group in combat and has been for almost a year the commander of "The Libertines."

Three days ago he and his Liberator "Big Big" headed his company 20th combat mission and his own flight. The most devastating raid yet made on Tatoi Airbase at Athens. That ended his present tour of duty as combat pilot and I went to the frontiers the boys held to celebrate.

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1944 Is The Year: Eisenhower Sees Victory

By WES GALLAGHER
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, chosen to lead the main Allied invasion of Europe from the west or north, flatly predicted today that "We will win the European war in 1944."
Cool, but dynamic, with careful choice of words, the Trans-har general made the unqualified prediction as he faced American and British correspondents at a formal press conference before leaving for Britain to take up his new command.

Previously, he had held a series of conferences with Allied generals in Italy.

The new strategy commander said he was retaining an issue to qualify his prediction of victory in 1944, and modestly added that only time would tell whether he was right or wrong for the job ahead of him.

He indicated he would depend on the success of his new duties and said his task would be to create an Allied staff to run the job.

"My own personal job immediately is to get on with it. That is to weld the different units into a whole in a way that no real friction ever develops, that people trust each other, work in unity and get into this thing with full conviction. I believe I have been given the opportunity to do so."

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Landings Form Second Island Invasion Front

Two Beachheads Firmly Established Without Loss of Man By Marines

By ROBERT EUNSON
ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NEW GUINEA (AP)—United States Marines swarmed ashore in two simultaneous landings at Cape Gloucester on the western tip of New Britain yesterday to establish a second invasion front on Japan's island stronghold in the Southwest Pacific.

Within two hours of both landings by veterans of the Guadalcanal campaign, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters announced today, both beachheads were firmly established without the loss of a man.

A heavy aerial and naval bombardment accompanied the landings.

One ship was lost and three damaged in the operation. In addition to seven planes destroyed, the Japanese, however, lost 20 bombers and 25 fighters in desperate attempts to stem the invasion tide.

The first wave of landings was completed by 11:30 A. M. Dec. 26 (AP). The second wave landed today with an arrival in the afternoon of the main force.

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Berlin Observers Fear Invasion Is At Hand

By JOHN H. COLEBURN
STOCKHOLM (AP)—Some Berlin observers, still guessing nervously at the new hero for the Allied invasion of Western Europe, said today they believed the blow might fall this week, even before the start of the new year.

Dispatches to neutral Sweden from the German capital said this talk in Nazi military circles was based on the re-organization of German forces in the Channel coast being completed.

The dispatches quoted these Nazi military commentators as believing that Germany is preparing for a possible invasion of the British Isles.

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Reds Cut Highway

By HENRY C. CASBY
MOSCOW (AP)—The Red Army's new winter offensive across the Kievan highway today reached the Kiev-Zhitomir highway (topping a Kiev-Glinsk tank and motor column) in the Ukraine.

Gen. Nikolai Vatutin's First Belorussian Army pushed west along both sides of this road, advancing in a series of attacks.

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'Helldiver' Comes Out

By JAMES J. STRUBBS
Associated Press Aviation Editor
WASHINGTON (AP)—The new "Helldiver" carrier-based dive bomber, the Hellcat, was unveiled today with an official name that "gives the Navy the most modern and powerful carrier-based aircraft in the world."

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Roosevelt Works On Labor Disputes

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL
WASHINGTON (AP)—Cutting short the Christmas week-end spent at his home at Hyde Park, N. Y., President Roosevelt returned to the White House today to try to iron out labor disputes threatening paralysis of two key war industries—steel and rail transportation.

Confronting him, too, was the task of drafting an annual message for delivery to Congress in a formal address on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1943, the year which will go to Capitol Hill a day or two later.

Even before war was declared, a wage dispute with the carriers and a strike by the railroads were being handled by the President.

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Partisans In Zagreb Area

LONDON (AP)—Yugoslav Partisans have penetrated the Zagreb area and destroyed the Vukovar air base less than ten miles southwest of the Croatian capital.

The Partisans, who are active in the Balkans, have been fighting against the German and Italian forces in the area.

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Over 135,000 Steel Workers Idle As Scores Of Plants Shut

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The number of idle steel workers passed the 135,000 mark this afternoon as headquarters of the CIO United Steel Workers and the War Labor Board maintained silence about President Roosevelt's urgent plea for a speedy settlement of a contract controversy which led to the shutdown.

Warships Hurl Fire & Planes Strike As New Landings Made

By DEAN SCHEIDT
ABOARD A LIBERATOR COMMAND PLANE OVER CAPE GLOUCESTER, DEC. 26 (AP)—The Japanese, rocked back by days of terrific shelling from the United States Navy, were unprepared for the surprise landing of the main force of the invasion force on the western coast of New Britain yesterday.

Christmas Eve Fire Takes 18

NEW YORK (AP)—A fire broke out in the Christmas Eve Hotel which took the lives of 18 people and injured many others.

German Capital Still Burning

STOCKHOLM (AP)—A fire broke out in the German capital, Berlin, on Christmas Eve, which took the lives of 18 people and injured many others.

Weather

Fair, slightly cooler tonight. Clearing—increasing cloudiness and mild followed by light rain.