

MACARTHUR'S FORWARD MARCH

Roosevelt Signs Bill Freezing Social Security Taxes

Yank Guns Duel With Cannon Of West Wall

Germans Battle To Stem Drive

By EDWARD KENNEDY PARIS (AP) — The U. S. Seventh Army poured more troops into its four-pronged invasion of Germany today, seized the French border town of Lauterbourg only two miles from the Rhine, and beat against the first pillboxes of the Siegfried Line in the Bavarian Palatinate.

German West Wall artillery raged violently and a fresh Nazi armored division was flung as reinforcement in attempts to stem the Seventh's thrust.

The 45th, 79th and 103rd Divisions of the Seventh Army were battling into Germany, the first along a 17-mile front, meeting heavy resistance. U. S. artillery thundered in a duel with Siegfried Line cannon.

Four crossings of the Nazi border were forced by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's veterans, with the 79th Division entering the Reich as two points near Lauterbourg.

79TH IN HOT FIGHT

The German command built a barrier of pillboxes and machine guns along a 17-mile front, meeting heavy resistance. U. S. artillery thundered in a duel with Siegfried Line cannon.

Production Order Civilian Goods' Volume Frozen

By STERLING F. GREEN (Copyright, 1944, by The Associated Press)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The W.P.B. in a drastic new move to meet vital war needs, has ordered that all civilian production be frozen indefinitely at present levels.

The order, dated Dec. 7 and circulated within the War Production Administration, is designed to discourage the movement of labor from war plants into peacetime activity while heavy demands continue for some vital products and materials.

"HOLD THE LINE"

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Some slight leeway for expansion was left, however, by two mechanisms provided in the order, which was signed by Samuel Anderson, W.P.B.'s program vice chairman.

First, the Office of Civilian Requirements for other agency spokesmen.

F. R. Gives Reluctant Approval Levy To Remain At 1 Per Cent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Roosevelt "reluctantly" signed today a bill freezing Social Security taxes for another year at the 1 per cent rate.

He announced he planned soon to recommend a comprehensive plan for broadening and improving the Social Security system.

In a formal statement, Mr. Roosevelt rapped the knuckles of Congress for freezing the Social Security tax. This tax is now 3 per cent each on the payroll of employers and the paychecks of employees. Without legislation, the rate would have automatically increased on Jan. 1 to 2 per cent.

Declaring it would be incumbent upon the next Congress to review thoroughly methods of financing Social Security benefits, the President's statement added:

"At an early date I plan to submit to the Congress a comprehensive plan for broadening and improving the Social Security system. At that time, I hope to have a clear understanding of the government's financial responsibilities for social security will emerge and that the program will be able to meet the needs of the Government. Mr. Roosevelt asserted, will always stand ready to help Congress work out an satisfactory solution."

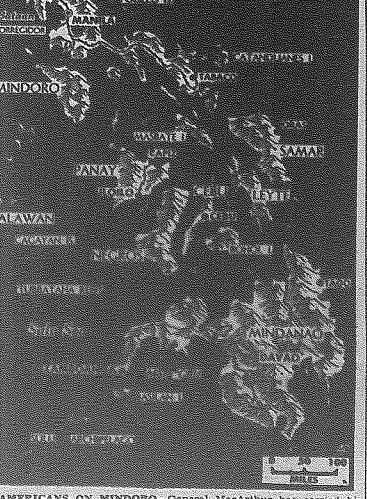
VEVO WAS EXPECTED

The President's statement also announced that he had signed the bill by majority vote in the House, where he had been delaying a departure in speculation of a roll call on the question of overruling a presidential veto.

The President's statement, released at the White House, said that he had signed the bill after he had scheduled increases in the Social Security vote, which have been disclosed to the press. He said that an increase was contemplated in each wartime fiscal year.

He said he was sure Congress would support the bill as well as the benefits built up in the past.

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AMERICANS ON MINDORO—General MacArthur has carried his invasion of the Philippines a giant step forward with a landing on Mindoro Island, within 155 miles of Manila. Little opposition was reported.

Mindoro Isle Invaded By U. S. Forces

Losses Low As Landing Made On Island 155 Miles From Manila

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines—(AP)—A huge, twenty-mile-long American warship convoy, moving 600 miles, enemy islands of the Central Philippines while carrier planes knocked out upwards of 300 Japanese aircraft, landed mechanized troops Friday on Mindoro within 155 miles of Manila, headquarters disclosed today.

They swarmed ashore "with little loss."

"This boldest amphibious stroke of the Pacific war, unlocking the sea approaches to embattled China by crossing to the western side of the archipelago from Leyte, was completed with stunning ease but preparations were made for violent Nipponese reaction."

(Tokyo Radio reported today, without Allied confirmation, that a violent sea and air battle already is raging off Mindoro.)

The huge beachhead on southern Mindoro were overrun at dawn Friday by Sixth Army troops of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger who were greeted excitedly by Philippine natives. The island under bombardment of destroyers and rocket ships.

AMERICANS GREAT RELY

Between that beachhead and the big American base on Leyte, the Philippines, and Philippine guerrillas were disclosed today to have seized strategic airfields, ports, and other facilities. Negroes, Cebu and Bohol as well as a 125-mile stretch of coast on Luzon, Mindanao.

The guerrillas, some of whom fought the losing battle of Bataan, did their best work at the huge convoys working south and west from Leyte with a view to dominating the sea and air routes which reach to the China coast, some 800 miles away.

General Douglas MacArthur said:

"Conquests of Japan to the south are rapidly being isolated, destroying the legendary myth of the Greater East Asia co-prosperity sphere. The Japanese are being driven to the Pacific, and the American people are being reminded of the old motto: 'The Japanese are our enemy, and the Japanese are our enemy.'"

Road To Vienna

Russians Invade West Slovakia

LONDON (AP)—Striking into Western Slovakia for the first time, Russian troops today pressed a bold offensive from captured Ipolyg (Sahy) junction, attempting to smash open the roads to Vienna, 115 miles to the west, and at the same time trap German divisions to the east.

Ipolyg, on the Budapest-Bratislava-Vienna Highway, was seized by Red Army spearheads which had crossed the border from Hungary 34 miles northwest of beleaguered Budapest, Danube.

Straddling capital already two-thirds encircled by the Soviets, the Ipolyg bridge fell Thursday after a bitter night fight in which 800 German soldiers were killed. It is a half-mile inside Slovakia. In taking the Russians skirted the 2,700-foot mountainous terrain between the town and the big Danube river bend to the south.

NAZIS REEL BACK

German troops reeled back into Slovakia along a 125-mile front from Ipolyg eastward to Satoral. In the face of the increased tempo of the Russian drive.

Reports reported the Russians also were attacking more heavily in the Debrecz-Tarom area of southern Poland, and announced these renewed thrusts may be the beginning of a winter offensive aimed at the Danube.

The stroke northward from Hungary by Second Ukrainian Army troops appeared only to aid a fighting force of 25,000 Czech-Slovak troops.

Other Red Army troops skirted the northern Buzovnya Mountains and reached positions leading southward into the plains extending westward to Bratislava.

Moscow said the combined drive toward central and eastern Slovakia had swept through 21 new localities, among them the manufacturing center of Serech, twenty miles north of Ipolyg. It added 35 miles northwest of Budapest.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece

Terms for settling the battle in Athens have been handed to the British by leaders of the Greek EAM militia who stop fighting if a new Greek Government is established that disarms guerrillas. The EAM also asks that Greece suspected of collaboration with the Nazis be brought to trial.

A British radio correspondent in Athens, however, said that British leaders still insist on a condition—the disarming of all EAM forces in Athens—as a preliminary to a truce.

The minister in charge of Greek information services in the United States, Nicholas Levy, told newsmen today that what he termed "suspicions of cooperation between Germans and Greek Communists" have been confirmed, according to his sources.

Western Front

American Seventh Army troops have run into the first Siegfried Line defenses in the Bavarian Palatinate. The first of the armored reinforcements in to fight the American advancing into the Reich from French Alsace.

On the Cologne front, the Germans have blown up the last bridge across the river's west bank. The demolitions followed new American gains in clearing up Nazi resistance on the river's west bank.

Air Warfare

Heavy bombers from Britain are supporting the Seventh Army drive on the Western Front. Fighter-bombers are attacking other Nazi positions. The Berlin radio says Allied bombers from Italy struck in the direction of Bavaria and Czechoslovakia today.

Norway

The Norwegian Government in London has announced that Norwegian patriots have ousted a wave of saboteurs to hamper German troops moving down from Oslo.

Division In Lines At Last

By WILLIAM F. BOND

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY in the West, the 30th Infantry Division is fighting under the First Army command.

The division has been taken the focus of Kofevitch, Rostovsk and several other villages north of Moscow.

It first went into combat at A. M. last Wednesday after joining the First Army on Dec. 15, 1942.

Since its activation Aug. 15, 1942, of Camp Butler, N. C., the 74th has been under command of Maj. Gen. Edwin Parker Jr. of Whytheville, Va., whose wife now lives in Richmond.

The 74th had a peculiar history in that for almost a year of its existence it was a training outfit which prepared between 50,000 and 60,000 men for service in the Pacific and European theaters. Even as late as April of this year when it was moved out of maneuvers to Camp Pickett, Va., it lost all its regimental commanders as well as every private first class.

The 74th was activated in the United States Oct. 14, spent three weeks in England, and then disembarked in France at Rouen and La Havre.

Islands Cut Off By Naval Planes

Landing Shielded

By REMBERT JAMES

ABOARD VICE ADMIRAL JOHN S. MCCAIN'S FAST CARRIER FORCE FLAGSHIP OFF THE PHILIPPINES, Dec. 15 (Delayed)—(via Navy Radio)—(AP)—Shielding Gen. Douglas MacArthur's new Mindoro Island landing, a large force of Navy planes today kept the 7,008 islands in the Philippines cut off from the Japanese Empire for a second day.

No enemy ship and hardly an empty plane moved in the North. Philippines without drawing the attention of Vice Admiral John S. McCain's carrier planes.

From early yesterday, when the around-the-clock combat patrol began hovering over Luzon, a total of 347 enemy planes have been put out of commission up to mid-morning today.

Of this total 41 were shot out of the air; 191 were burned on the ground, and 115 were damaged on the ground.

Twelve enemy jet-bombers, including one large transport plane, were sunk during the same period.

A fire which returned to its carrier for more gasoline, bombs and bullets to resume the day's night fighting during the afternoon over some 100 enemy air fields on Luzon said that the Japanese were being driven back in places from Formosa, but that so far they have failed to return.

"This is the first time in the history of naval aviation that the American carrier has been able to blanket off fighter planes day and night over any land area, even approaching the Pacific and Chinese theaters of Luzon."

There are approximately 100 fields on the island which is more than 300 miles long. Adding to the difficulty of maintaining air control in the fact that Luzon lies within easy flying distance of Formosa, the great Japanese war center.

"One of two secret agents succeeded in saving his life by jumping down in time," said DNB. "The other was destroyed by a fall hit, whereby the rest of the German soldiers lost their lives."

Nazi Story

The official German news agency, DNB, said in a propaganda broadcast today that American forces on the First and Third Army fronts were using divisions and German planes of war, as missiles and bullet catchers.

There was no comment from Allied quarters.

DNB said the German forces did not withdraw their fire.

"Near Dillingen, for instance, American tanks chased civilians that had been rounded up by the Japanese, and several children in front of their tanks in order to prevent German soldiers from firing at them."

In the Hurliger area, DNB declared, three German war planes were forced to land in front of three U. S. tanks that were attacking.

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German Dismantling Factories At Vienna

BERN, Switzerland—The Basel-Ardler-Zeltweg steel works, the German air-blasted blast furnaces, and other facilities are being dismantled and transported from Strasbourg, Neustadt and Linz.

Say Mindoro Fighting Hot

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japanese imperial broadcasts today said American warship convoys were engaged in a series of "outrage" attacks on the American convoy approaching Mindoro and in addition by sinking four transports, heavily damaged and set adrift. The following:

- Eight transports.
- Two cruisers.
- Two destroyers or destroyers.
- Six ships of unidentified category.

The Japanese in an earlier broadcast said a "violent sea and air battle" was unfolding in the South Sea.

Acknowledging landings on Mindoro, the Japanese said that their position "was not changed" and that the enemy forces and fighting is now in progress.

American reports from the scene said the initial landings were virtually bloodless.

The Japanese said about one division of American troops made the initial landing at San Jose, Mindoro, within 24 hours.

Despite Japanese claims, American correspondents with the American convoy reported only meager Japanese air activity during the time the convoy was in the Philippines. They reported that the Japanese had destroyed and damaged transports and supplies.

Claim 30th Division Is Badly Torn

LONDON (AP)—The German radio asserted today that the U. S. 30th Division had been so badly mangled in a German counter-attack northwest of Colmar on the Seventh Army front that it had to be withdrawn.

"Latest Supreme Headquarters announcements placed the 30th Division on the Colmar property board."

The division in question was appointed former Governor Robert Hurley of Connecticut and Lt. Col. Robert H. Taylor, who opened today with charges that they lack experience. That statement was made by Republican Senator Warren Austin of Vermont.

Democratic Senator A. B. Chandler of Kentucky commented that some Republican Senators seem to believe that a Democrat disqualifies a man to hold office.

Claim Yanks Use Germans As Shields

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Chinese Troops Outflank Hochhik

CHUNOKING (AP)—Chinese troops outflanking Hochhik on the south have driven deep into Kwang Province to a point 35 miles southeast of that Japanese-held city, the Chinese High Command announced today.

Japs Tell Of Measlik That Cooks On March

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Something new has been added to the Japanese news reports. It's a measlik that cooks the while the soldier marches.

The Japanese news agency broadcast the report that a Nipponese inventor had perfected a "portable measlik" and stove, enabling one to cook rice even while on a march. One and one-half pounds of flour can be cooked in a measlik.

Federal Communications Commission monitors recorded the broadcast.

Weather

Partly cloudy and slightly warmer today; light breeze; cloudy and light again tonight—90-95; partly cloudy and cool tomorrow.

Temperature at 7 A. M. today: High 84, Low 62 at 9:30 p. m. today: 64.

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