New Series

"The Reich plans a long war"—so writes Curt Riess, noted author and journalist, in his first dispatch from Europe to the NEA Feature and The Charlotte News. Turn to Page 8-A for Riess' story of the Nazi decision to fight on.

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NAZIS 14 MILES FROM LIEGE; YANKS BRACE ON NORTH FLANK

Reds Shove Nazis Back In Slovakia

Battle With Nazi Garrisons

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW — (AP) — The Red Army pushed the Germans back on a 125-mile front in Southern Slovakia today and battled with battered Nazi garrisons on the outskirts of the strongholds of Kassa and Rimaszombat.

Soviet columns last night were on three sides of both these heavily defended Southeastern Slovakian towns which control highways and railways connecting with direct routes to Bratislava, Vienna and Prague to the west.

In advances up to five miles, a communique said, the Russians captured 13 towns in the Rimasombat area in a drive aimed at the key citadel of Losenc, 17 miles westward. Chief of them was Tornala, 13 miles east of Rimaszombat and a strongpoint of formidable enemy defenses on the east bank of the Slana River.

Latest reports had Soviet forces preparing a climactic attack on the Torysa River fortifications two miles outside Kassa.

Front reports said the great battle raging further to the west north of the Danube Bend, was going favorably for Red Army troops struggling for other routes westward toward Bratislava and Vienna.

The German High Command was reported throwing in large numbers of reserves and new air units in an effort to check the Soviet push, which threatened to split out across the Danube and block escape routes from beleaguered Budapest.

Berlin Reports Big Red Offensive Launched

LONDON —(AP)— The Berlin Radio reported today "the Russians have launched their long expected offensive between Balaton Lake and the Danube" in Hungary.

WELCOME HOME—Scenes like this are taking place throughout the nation as GI dads come home for the Christmas holidays. A youngster tuga at his soldier father's leg while the latter is busy wishing his wife a "Merry Christmas." This picture was made in Washington. (Acme.)

Says Nazis' Gamble May Shorten War

Stimson Warns Of Danger, However

WASHINGTON — (AP)— War Secretary Stimson said today that if the German counter-offensive fails it definitely will shorten the war.

He coupled with this assertion, however, the statement that the Germans' ability to launch the huge offensive is significant.

Stimson, in his weekly review of the war given at a news conference, said the Germans chose for their attack a sector "which had been loosely held by both sides. It was a terrain which had not offered to the Allies much incentive for exploitation."

The secretary commented that the Nazis did not have a great deal to lose in risking the offensive and that it might gain for them a few months of time before they must account for "the misery they have inflicted upon the world."

STRONG FORCE USED

Discussing the power of the German thrust, Stimson said that despite losses suffered by the Nazis in land and air attacks in recent months "they have been able to build up on the West Wall a very substantial force for this attack."

Interpreting the enemy offensive as "an all-out effort to halt our advance into the Cologne plain and the Saar basin," he added:

"I have the utmost confidence in the wisdom, energy, and aggressive fighting attitude of General Eisenhower and his leaders."

In response to a question Stimson said he based his statement concerning a possible shortening of the war on his recollection of events 25 years ago when he fought in World War I. Referring to the enemy offensives in the latter stages of that war, he said:

SAW BIG DRIVES

"I was there when they drove almost to the channel, again almost to Armentieres. Again when they drove to the Marne. I remember how we felt—as if they would never stop. And then I remember how suddenly, on the 18th of July (1918)

See NAZI GAMBLE on page 6

Germans Push 35 Miles Into Belgium

First Army Cutting Neck Of Nazi Salient But Big Danger Is In Westward Drive In Belgium

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS—(AP)—Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt's armor and infantry had driven 35 miles westward into Belgium to a point about fourteen miles south of the fortress of Liege up to noon Tuesday, it was disclosed at Supreme Headquarters today.

But veteran First Army formations, rushed up to the northern flank of the deep German salient, stopped the Germans cold today in their effort to push northward, and badly mauled large tank units in a heavy engagement.

Other American forces, hurried into action along the German north flank at Monschau, chopped nine miles into the base of the German salient.

The deepest German thrust was fourteen miles west of Malmedy where tank columns cut the Liege-Bastogne-Arlon road and reached the village of Werbomont.

Von Rundstedt's massive Winter rush across Allied lines of communication had developed into two deep wedges as massive formations of from five to six armored divisions and eight to nine infantry divisions poured into a wide breach under the concealment of fog and cloud.

DRIVE TOWARD SEDAN

The second deep wedge had penetrated three-fourths of the way across Luxembourg. This drive farther south appeared directed toward Sedan, scene of the 1940 break-through.

This drive carried 14 miles from the frontier town of Vianden to just east of Wiltz, 19 miles east of Bastogne and 48 miles northeast of Sedan. Wiltz is 38 miles north of the city of Luxembourg. A parallel German column was in the vicinity of Clervaux, seven miles northeast of Wiltz.

These were the positions at noon Tuesday.

Supreme Headquarters still did not permit up-to-the-hour pinpointing of German positions, and field dispatches quoted "good authority" on the First Army front as saying the German drive was not likely to be checked this week although the northernmost prong of the German attack had been stemmed.

First Army reinforcements rushed to the scene by Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges since Saturday, when the German counter-offensive was unlimbered, had succeeded in stopping any northward push from the line running through the American-held towns of Monschau, Butgenbach, Malmedy and Stavelot, front line reports said.

GREATEST THREAT

But the German drive was reported turning south and west of St. Vith, farther south, in the most potent threat.

American tank destroyers going into the attack in a fog that limited visibility to 50 yards fought a great engagement today outside Stavelot, and smashed the efforts of German armor to break through and rescue the remnants of 60 Nazi tanks trapped near the embattled village.

Blazing round after round, the Americans destroyed five American Sherman tanks and a tank-destroyer that had been captured and manned by the Germans.

"We have destroyed approximately 30 of their 60 tanks and knocked out about 50 of 200 supply vehicles caught with them," the commander there reported.

The new German attack, made on the fourth successive day, they have attempted to rescue the trapped tank outfit, was launched less than two miles southeast of Malmedy, the tunnel through which the Kaiser poured his armies toward Liege in August, 1914.

At the same time other veteran American units swung into positions along the northern flank of the Nazi salient.

IMPORTANT SUCCESS

An important success was reported from the strengthened north wall along the German salient.

Americans who already had won back Monschau bombs Germany drove nine miles southward and captured Rocherath and several nearby villages in an attack which cut the neck of the German salient.

See NAZIS MAKE on page 6

Armies Collide

Reinforced Yanks Stem Nazi Prong

By WILLIAM F. BONI

WITH U. S. FIRST ARMY, Dec. 21, 10:35 A. M.—(AP)—Reinforced elements of the First Army have stemmed the northernmost prong of the German offensive while containing the flank of this spearhead on a line running through Malmedy and Stavelot.

The forward push of crack enemy armored units in this thrust was checked by a head-on collision with veteran First Army troops. They were backed up by additional artillery, armor and tank destroyers, which swung into action without a moment's delay and drove forward in a bid to stem the German advance.

Other Americans swung into position along the northern flank of the German salient which has been pushed back southward at several points. Considerable forces of enemy armor were chewed up and Nazi infantry suffered heavy losses.

Stavelot Battle

Germans Thresh In Yanks' Trap

By HAL BOYLE

OUTSIDE STAVELOT, Belgium, Dec. 21, 2:30 P. M.—(AP)—American tank destroyers today smashed attempts by German armor to break through and rescue remnants of a Nazi force of 60 tanks trapped near this embattled village.

Firing blazing round after round through a thick mist, the anti-tank gunners destroyed five captured American Sherman tanks manned by German crews which were spearheading a fresh drive to crash through Yank positions between Stavelot and Malmedy.

The new attack was launched about a mile and a quarter southeast of Malmedy, the funnel through which the Germans poured their Armies toward the great city of Liege in August, 1914.

COLUMNS SHATTERED

Before the Nazis retreated American artillery shattered their columns and killed scores of their infantry who had counted on the fog to enable them to surprise the American outposts.

In addition to capturing five tanks, American anti-tank gunners, knocked out one of their own tank-destroyers that had fallen into German hands.

As the enemy tried frantically for the fourth straight day to battle through to the rescue of a German force buttled in near Stavelot, American infantry and tank units continued methodically to chop the trapped outfit to pieces.

We have destroyed approximately 30 of their 60 tanks and have knocked out about 50 of 200 supply vehicles caught with them," said Lt. Col. Stewart L. Hall of Newark, N. J.

Large forces of German armored infantry also were being reduced in close-range battles by doughboys who climbed miles across snow-topped and forest-crowned ridges to knife through to the enemy's exposed flank.

SWEEP FROM HILLS

They swept down from the northern hills and opened fire on Nazi columns, which were fighting savagely but could find no way to escape.

The Germans sought to pull back through Stavelot and across the Ambleve River. But this route was closed two nights ago when Capt. James Rice of Richmond, Calif., and fourteen of his combat engineers blew up the only bridge across the turbulent stream in this sector.

The Germans thus were trapped by the river on the south and east, by impassable terrain on the north and by Yank defenses on the west. The surrounded units, representing a big part of an armored division, were turning in churning circles of ruin.

"They still are trying to send infantry swimmers across the river near Stavelot and trying to win a bridgehead so they can build another bridge, but our troops are shooting them in the water," said Hall.

He said the Germans moved tanks and infantry into the Malmedy area last night, but were driven out by crack American infantry divisions.

"They attacked from the same general area today and managed in the mist and fog to penetrate in small strength to a position in the vicinity of Malmedy," Hall added. "They overran one platoon of our infantry and some anti-tank guns using captured American tanks. But our artillery and tank destroyers were reported to have driven off the attack by 1 P. M."

USE YANK WEAPONS

Commenting on the enemy's employment of captured American weapons, Hall said:

"They have been accumulating American equipment and uniforms for some time, and some Germans were specially trained to use this equipment. The Nazis feel this gives them the advantage of surprise."

Hall stressed the advantage to the Germans of the continuing

See YANKS BLAST on page 6

Defeat For Japan

Leyte Battle Is Drawing To End

By JIM HUTCHESON

GENERAL MacARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines—(AP)—American conquest of rugged Leyte Island—the outcome "will decide the fate of the Greater East Asia war," Japan's Premier Koiso said Dec. 12—neared accomplishment today.

"The battle is rapidly drawing to an end," announced Gen. Douglas MacArthur two months and a day after he returned to the Philippines Oct. 20 with amphibious forces, landing on Leyte's east coast.

On Mindoro Island—Tokyo radio said the Yanks sought to cover up "reverses" on Leyte by vaulting to the China Sea side of the Philippines seven days ago—"There was no enemy ground activity and his air action was light," today's communique said. Nine raiding planes were downed.

DISASTER FOR JAPS

Irreducible disaster was depicted for the Nipponese on mountainous Northwest Leyte That decisive battlefield is crossed north and south by a single corridor road from Pinamopoan to Ormoc and linked by a supplementary road to the west coast at Palompon.

Two American divisions slashing south from Pinamopoan and a third rushing north from Ormoc have fought to within a mile of a juncture along the corridor road, "thus completing destruction of the Yamashita Line."

Lt Gen Tomoyuki Yamashita, who boasted his success at Singapore would be repeated on Leyte against MacArthur, had formed that line at heavy cost with reinforcements landed from bombblasted convoys prior to the loss of Ormoc.

Yamashita's "cohesion now is completely broken and he is no longer capable of an integrated defense," today's communique said.

"The small remnants of his forces, divided into isolated groups, are able to resist temporarily only at independent points.

"Scattered elements are fleeing toward Palompon in an endeavor to reach the northwest coast of Leyte."

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front

The westward progress of the German drive into Belgium and Luxembourg apparently still is unchecked today, but one significant American success has been announced.

First Army units striking at the upper end of the German bulge into our lines have driven southward past the recaptured town of Monschau inside Germany. These forces, striking at the neck of the German salient into Belgium, have pushed nine miles southward. This reduces the corridor through which the Germans are supplying their counter-offensive to a width of 46 miles.

The advance from Monschau has effectively halted the German attempt to push northward to endanger the American bulge extending eastward from Aachen toward Cologne. However the Allied comeback, still is in the potential stage. For the present, the big Nazi push continues.

Supreme Headquarters disclosed today that up to noon on Tuesday, Nazi Marshal Von Rundstedt's forces had sliced 35 miles into Belgium, and cut an important highway fourteen miles south of the fortress of Liege.

Another German wedge had been driven three-quarters of the way across Luxembourg to the south, as of noon Tuesday.

A front dispatch discloses that in the northern sector today, American tank destroyers rumbling through a thick fog have smashed efforts of German panzer units to break out of a trap near Malmedy, 12 miles inside Belgium. The commander of the tank destroyers says 30 out of 60 trapped Nazi tanks have been destroyed and 50 of two hundred German supply vehicles have been knocked out.

The Germans are deepest in Belgium at a point west of Malmedy, where armored units have entered the Ardennes Forest and cut the road from Liege to Bastogne. To the south, the second German wedge appears aimed toward Sedan where the Nazis scored their great 1940 break-through into France.

The bad weather has kept Allied planes grounded and prevented aerial blasting of German armor and supply columns.

Slight new gains have been made by the American Third Army into the Saar Basin and in the Seventh Army in the Bavarian Palatinate.

Greece

The British radio says General Scobie has started his promised full scale drive against rebel ELAS forces in Greece and that one-third of Athens has been cleared. Scobie has sent his tanks into action against the insurgents.

The Far East

American Superfortresses from China have bombed Mukden in the Japanese arsenal of Manchuria and Tokyo says the Manchurian port of Dalien also was hit. Japanese broadcasts say Superforts from the Marianas flew over Honshu Island today and that on one sortie bombs were dropped on districts southwest of Tokyo.

Fighting has reached the mopping up stage on Leyte Island in the Philippines where the Japanese Yamashita Line has been smashed. American troops on Mindoro continue to move ahead without opposition. The Chinese have made new gains in Kwangsi Province and the British have advanced in Burma.

Home Front

In Washington, Secretary of War Stimson says that if the German counter offensive fails it may shorten the war. Stimson expresses fullest confidence in the ability of General Eisenhower and his staff in the crisis.

In Boston, an anti-gull barrage has been established near reservoirs to eliminate a health menace to the city's water supply. The gunfire is aimed not at killing the birds but at scaring them away. A city official explains that the gulls carry germs capable of causing serious intestinal disturbances in human beings.

German Robots Batter At Southern England

LONDON — (AP) — The Germans continued to batter southern England with V-bombs last night while pressing their offensive on the western front. A government announcement reported both casualties and damage.

Open Attack On Greeks

ATHENS—(AP)—The British opened a tank assault against ELAS concentrations today after expiration of an ultimatum from Lt. Gen. R. M. Scobie that the insurgents stop fighting.

Rocket-firing fighter planes joined in the attack.

Sherman tanks climbed monastery-topped Likabettus Mountain and sent 75-mm. shells crashing into ELAS positions around Averoff prison and the Military Academy.

Scobie's ultimatum, which expired at 9 A. M., had warned that any ELAS forces continuing to hold out would be attacked "with all the arms at my disposal."

At Omonia Square, tank-supported parachute troop patrols made a series of sorties demolishing a sniper's nest and taking numerous prisoners.

The billet of the U S Air Force Transport Command rented with the shell blasts as buildings behind the requisitioned Commodore Hotel were plastered.

A routine communique issued by Scobie at noon said further prisoners and weapons had been captured and that progress had been made in clearing the ELAS troops, the militia of the EAM or National Liberation front, from Athens and Piraeus.

Jean Rallis, the pro-Nazi former Premier who escaped from the Averoff Prison two days ago when the insurgents stormed the building, was recaptured last night.

A reply was awaited from King George II in London on whether he would accept or reject a suggestion that the nation's leadership be turned over to Archbishop

See OPEN ATTACK on page 6

German Rail Targets Hit

LONDON—(AP)—U. S. 15th Air Force heavy bombers struck rail targets today at Rosenheim, 40 miles southeast of Munich, rounding out seven straight days of blows at southern German communication lines.

The Italy-based bombers were from the same wing, commanded by Brig.-Gen. Hugo P. Rush of Wyncote, Pa., which has hit throughout the week to hamper the flow of enemy troops and supplies, especially toward the Italian and Bulgarian fronts.

Thunderbolts raided the Bologna battle sector and Brenner Pass cutting the Brenner feeder line south to Verona at two places.

Weather again hampered operations from the west against the Nazi counter offensive, as yesterday.

WPB's Prediction

Problems Of War Production 'To Hit Us Between The Eyes'

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The Allied set-back in Europe "will hit us between the eyes" with new war production problems, WPB Vice Chairman Samuel W. Anderson said today.

He added that the powerful German counter-offensive makes it impossible to predict an end of the civilian production freeze.

DEMAND SEEN

Present urgent demands for more shells, guns trucks and other vital material "certainly will be followed by armament problems as difficult as the ones we have now," Anderson told a news conference.

"I feel sure the present military situation in Europe will come back and hit us between the eyes in various ways, at present unknown," said the vice chairman who signed the recent order freezing further civilian goods production programs at present levels.

"The purpose of the freeze is to see that rising civilian production does not interfere with urgent munitions output," he asserted. "I haven't any idea how long it will last, or how long we will have critical shortages in war materials."

Simultaneously, WPB announced that all brass mills contributing to the army's enormously expanded 1945 ammunition program have been placed on the national production urgency list, giving them top priority in recruiting labor.

The agency also announced that arrangements are being made to produce brass strip in Canadian mills and that copper and steel will be used instead of brass in the small arms ammunition program in order to relieve the tremendous strain on United States brass mills.

OTHER PLANS

Plans even are under consideration, it was disclosed, to use steel

See PRODUCTION on page 6

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and mild this afternoon and cooler tonight with light rain changing to snow flurries, followed by clearing and colder tomorrow.

Temperature at 1:30 Today
High & Low Last 24 Hours
Sunset Today
Sunrise Tomorrow