

BACKLASH OFFENSIVE

Reds Battle Nazi Forces In Budapest

MOSCOW — (AP) — Red Army troops charged upon flame-seared Budapest from snowy hills above the Danube River today. The German garrison burned military stores, dismantled public utilities and fought back grimly with field artillery scattered throughout the Hungarian capital.

A dozen Soviet speakers were reported closing in on the western half of the encircled city and all German roads of escape were cut off. Just how many Nazi troops comprise the defending garrison is not known here, but the Russian Command said their numbers were large.

IN BUDA DISTRICT — Soviet assault units of tanks, plus Tommy-gunners, were believed to have chased some distance into the Buda District on the west bank of the Danube.

A delayed dispatch from Sackevfer, about 32 miles southwest of Budapest, disclosed that the Nazis had fought for the city street by street. A pillbox was struck outside St. Stephen's Cathedral until it was silenced by a direct hit.

Thousands of German dead were reported to have lined the roads on the battlefields between Sackevfer and Budapest following the Russian advance. Burned out armored vehicles, many of these the latest King Tiger and Panther tanks, dotted the fields and endless columns of Nazi prisoners marched from Sackevfer to the cape, the dispatch said.

From the hills of the Buda district the Soviet artillery demolished the entire city — including Nazi massive business and factory buildings on the plain east of the river.

FIGHT TOWARD BRIDGES — Armored columns, already deep inside the city's defenses, were blasting their way house by house toward two big bridges that span the Danube and link the two sections of the city.

Field dispatches showed simultaneously with yesterday's full encirclement of the Hungarian capital had brought the German Command to the East to a moment of crisis. The Third Ukrainian Army and Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army, it pointed out, are tactically linked.

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ELAS Peace Offer Fails

ATHENS — (AP) — Greek Populist Party members declared today that peace proposals by representatives of the left-wing ELAS were unacceptable and the conference called by Prime Minister Churchill and his second meeting without an agreement.

The ELAS offered terms which former Premier Stylianos Gonatas said "were inadmissible." He declared that "if accepted, they would mean complete dissolution of the State."

Other members of the conference said they would consider the terms and reply later.

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Deep Salient Driven Into Nazis' Lines

Germans On Defense Along Northern Rim Of Drive

PARIS — (AP) — U. S. troops and tanks, regaining the initiative, have driven a deep salient into German lines within the last 24 hours and dealt the German offensive its first serious setback, a front dispatch declared today.

The location of this American push and details could not be given in the dispatch, sent 2 P. M. (9 A. M. EDT) from the Stavetol area of Belgium.

It followed Supreme Headquarters' announcement that Americans on Christmas Day had felled back German armored columns which thrust within four miles of the Meuse River in their deepest penetration into Belgium.

An earlier field dispatch reported German tanks and self-propelled guns were being used to surround the salient, but there were indications the Germans are on the defense for the moment with infantry replacing tanks.

"Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt apparently still is trying to turn the American line to the west, but from here east huge losses have convinced him the line is firmly held," it said.

Reports indicated the Germans at least temporarily had lost the initiative in this winter drive.

RETAINT INITIATIVE — An earlier field dispatch reported doghouses slowly regaining the initiative on flanks of the German breakthrough.

Fighter-bombers tore into German tank columns again today. Favorable weather permitted Allied planes based on the continent to join the attack on Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's counter-offensive.

The Thunderbolts and Mustangs begged at least 25 Nazi fighters in furious battle with enemy planes southwest of Bonn.

Targets included the traffic-jammed yards at Euxleben and Andernach, northwest of Coblenz; Homburg, southwest of Rassel; and Puderbach, 60 miles south of Koblenz, as well as a rail junction 40 miles west of Coblenz.

Yanks Bomb Manila Area

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS in Manila, Philippines, announced today that the fourth consecutive day blasted Japan's airfields at Manila.

The first of the raiders struck during the noon rush—a couple of hours earlier than the Japanese capital has come to expect bombings—and reported good visibility for their targets in the great industrial area.

The early elements reported "zero results" and good bombing. This was the first Superfortress raid to Tokyo since Dec. 3. Since then, however, they have reported Nagoya, great Japanese aircraft center, and have twice bombed of two aims, the small island of Iwo Jima.

Today's raid came just one month after the second B-29 bombing of Tokyo, Nov. 24.

A Tokyo broadcast, heard in San Francisco by RUC, said no incendiary bombs were dropped in downtown Tokyo today.

The aircraft carrier was not identified beyond the statement that it was "large." The ship's searchlights blazed by the undersea fleet included: One converted light cruiser, a destroyer, two escort vessels and two destroyer transports. Other ships sent to the bottom by American torpedoes and depth guns were two large transports, ten medium cargo vessels, three small cargo vessels, one small transport, two medium cargo transports, and two medium tankers.

Jap Targets Hit New B29 Attack Made On Tokyo

By VERN HAUGLAND
21ST BOMBER COMMAND, Saipan — (AP) — Tokyo, bombed in force four times previously by Superfortresses and many times hit by harassing planes alone or in small groups, was pounded again this afternoon (Wednesday Japan time) by a sizeable force of B29s.

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Bomb Nazi Rail Targets

LONDON — (AP) — One thousand U. S. Eighth Air Force planes from British bases raided secondary rail traffic centers in Western Germany today, after photo reconnaissance officers reported the principal rail artery from Berlin to the West had been knocked out of commission.

Six hundred heavy bombers, escorted by 400 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, lashed at six railroad yards and one important junction. Favorable weather permitted Allied planes based on the continent to join the attack on Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's counter-offensive.

The Thunderbolts and Mustangs begged at least 25 Nazi fighters in furious battle with enemy planes southwest of Bonn.

Targets included the traffic-jammed yards at Euxleben and Andernach, northwest of Coblenz; Homburg, southwest of Rassel; and Puderbach, 60 miles south of Koblenz, as well as a rail junction 40 miles west of Coblenz.

Some heavy bombers bombed German troops and tank concentrations north of St. Vith.

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At Bastogne Trap One Vehicle Gets To Cut Off Yanks

U. S. FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS — (AP) — A single U. S. Army vehicle has broken through the German ring around Bastogne and reached American troops who have been cut off for over a week there.

NEW YORK — (AP) — A BBC broadcast from London today said American columns are now only 1.4 miles from Bastogne where the beleaguered American garrison is holding out against heavy enemy pressure.

The broadcast said numerous German tanks have been destroyed in Nazi attempts to enter the town.

AMMUNITION FLOWN — To isolated troops LONDON — (AP) — Hundreds of tons of supplies, mainly ammunition, were parachuted today to American troops cut off by the German drive in the Bastogne area of Belgium.

Two-engine C-47 sky train flew from Britain and France with cargo, while the doughboys who have without respite, Nazi tanks attacked Bastogne for relief.

They radiated back to headquarters.

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News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front — A dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent Vito Gallo says that the German offensive has suffered their first serious setback since the start of their counter-offensive several days ago. Gallober — who is with the American Army in Belgium — asserts that the Nazi setback took place during the past 24 hours.

One thousand British-based American warplanes, including about 600 heavy bombers, bombed seven secondary rail targets in Western Germany today. Earlier reports showed that the German front line from Berlin to the front previously had been knocked back. Fighter planes escorted by big bombers shot down at least 25 Nazi aircraft in one big air battle today. Other Allied aircraft are said to be hitting German units from positions from bases in Belgium, Holland and France.

A new Berlin broadcast declares that the Nazi westward push into Belgium is becoming more and more a battle of attrition, and admits that Allied counterattacks are becoming more methodical. The Nazis voice their own worst fears with the warning that Allied attacks appear to be aimed at exerting such pressure on both sides of the Nazi front as to force a general retreat.

Frontline dispatches indicate that American forces are retreating the initiative on the flanks of the German penetration. It is declared that the Yanks have struck back and penetrated to within four miles of the Meuse River in their Christmas Day battle. And the Nazis had been held without any significant gain in the winter months period which ended yesterday morning.

Meuse have found at least a dozen Nazi tanks and self-propelled guns deserted—apparently because they had run out of gasoline. One observer suggests that the Nazi gas shortage could be one result of the recent traffic tie inroads to German supply lines.

Eastern Front — Russian spearheads have punched inside the western part of Budapest, and other Red Army units are hammering the Hungarian capital from the hills above the Danube. But the Nazis in Budapest are fighting bitterly, and the enemy is able to use some field artillery.

German counter-attacks near the Italian west coast have forced Allied troops to withdraw from some advance positions. But Canadian units near the other end of the battlefield have made new gains northeast of captured Rosetta.

Grease — Members of the Greek Populist Party say that peace proposals offered by left-wing ELAS representatives are not acceptable. The Populists assert that the second meeting of the Churchill — called Athens conference has ended without any agreement which could bring a quick end to Greek civil strife.

The Far East — A Tokyo broadcast asserts that one of the American B-29's taking part in today's attack on the Japanese capital caught fire and fell into Tokyo Bay. That's the only one of the many advances in regard to American planes. The Japs declare that about 50 B-29's took part in this latest Tokyo attack.

Gen. Eisenhower Warns Officials In Germany — LONDON — (AP) — Gen. Eisenhower warned the Nazis today not to harm foreign workers in Germany, one declaring "severe penalties will follow those who are guilty of treating them badly."

Behind Nazi Break-Through — LONDON — (AP) — Gen. Eisenhower warned the Nazis today not to harm foreign workers in Germany, one declaring "severe penalties will follow those who are guilty of treating them badly."

Allied Intelligence Blamed For Underestimating German Power — LONDON — (AP) — Gen. Eisenhower warned the Nazis today not to harm foreign workers in Germany, one declaring "severe penalties will follow those who are guilty of treating them badly."

Seabees 3 Years Old Tomorrow — WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Navy's Seabees celebrate their third birthday tomorrow with a record of having participated in every major amphibious landing operation by our forces in both hemispheres.

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WEATHER

Cloudy and occasional cold showers with rain today and tonight. Cold Thursday. Temperature at 10:30 Today High and Low Last 10 Days: High 45, Low 32. See page 2 for more weather news.