

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS EXTRA

Final

Amphibious Operation Catches Nips Off Guard

Daring Landing Move Effected

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINES — (AP) — American cavalrymen, in a daring amphibious flanking maneuver, surprised Japanese forces ten miles below the vital enemy-held port of Ormoc on Leyte's west coast after American forces were breaching the Japanese Palanan line, two miles further south, it was disclosed today.

At Dimping, Associated Press correspondent, in a delayed dispatch written Dec. 5 Manila Times, said the cavalrymen heavily armed amphibious tractors, came around the southern horn on Leyte on a more than 24-mile, three-day trip, the longest ever made by amphibious tractors under their own power.

They landed in Japanese positions at Tuguegarao and adjoining "Balogo" village.

Col. O'Neill K. Kane, commander of the force, said the Japanese were caught completely off guard and his men drew only minor mortar and machine-gun fire. Kane's troops reported seeing Japanese in the air.

Dimping's dispatch did not make it clear whether the amphibious operation was still going on or if it was only a raid to throw the Japanese off their guard.

JAP PARATROOP CLAIMED
Meanwhile Tokyo radio claimed Japanese paratroopers had landed at four points behind the American lines on Leyte to destroy airfields.

The broadcast, unconfirmed by Allied sources, said a "grand scale offensive" was launched Wednesday against "the many enemy airfields" on Eastern Leyte. It said the Japanese were using the airfields to launch attacks against American airfields throughout the Philippines.

The Tokyo broadcast, recorded by the Federal Communications Commission, said the Americans were found in a "confused state." Gen. Douglas MacArthur's command today noted increases on land, sea and in the air.

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U. S. For Greek Political Liberty

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State Stettinius today put the United States on record as favoring complete freedom of political action for the people of Greece.

Weather Strikes

Tokyo Bombed By Two Superforts

By VERN HAUGLAND
TWENTY-FIRST U. S. BOMBER COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, SAIPAN — (AP) — Two Superfort bombers on weather reconnaissance flights, bombed Tokyo last night and early today, in separate strikes seven hours apart.

The two attacks constituted the fifth and sixth visits to the Japanese capital by Superforts since the first on Nov. 24.

Tokyo radio said "three or four" Superforts dropped incendiary bombs on the city Thursday night and early today.

The first attack, on the night of Nov. 24, was the first Superfort raid on Tokyo since the first on Nov. 24.

The second B-29, "Little Queen," was launched from the Marianas on Nov. 24.

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Soviets 35 Miles From Austria Line

Reds Close In On Budapest

LONDON — (AP) — Red Army vanguards, sweeping around lower Lake Balaton were within 35 miles of the Austrian frontier today as Berlin reported a powerful Russian offensive closing in on Budapest from three sides.

The gravest threat to the beleaguered Hungarian capital came from spearheads of Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian Army unit driving up the west bank of the Danube.

The Germans said they had abandoned Ercsi, only thirteen miles south of Budapest, in the face of the tide of Russian armor which the Soviet war bulletin said yesterday in rains up to sixteen miles overran 50 places, including Racsalma, 28 miles south of the Hungarian capital.

Other units of Marshal Rodion Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army, concentrated on the Danube for 30 miles south of Budapest, with advance positions only 15 miles from the city's outskirts.

Racsalma is only four miles from the southern tip of the island and a junction of the two Russian armies appeared imminent.

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Battle Rages At Honolulu

PEARL HARBOR EDITION — The big headlines on The News extra above screamed the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941—three years ago today.

The News issued two extras before 6 P. M. that day, to which thousands of local citizens turned to read the fearful news. Much has happened since then, but the war against Japan is far from won.

Casualties Run High

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Undersecretary of War Patterson said today that in the fighting on the Western Front "we are suffering severe casualties and are facing the grim prospect of more to come."

He made the statement in a weekly war review which disclosed that the latest Army estimates for the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor United States battle casualties amount to 552,018.

Patterson said Army casualties reported through Nov. 22 totaled 474,508. This was an increase of 13,800 from the report last week which covered the period through Nov. 15.

The new Navy total is 77,720, an increase of 1,224 for the week. The latest Army estimates, together with those reported a week ago, show a total of 552,018.

But more than an hour and a half after Blake entered the prison, accompanied only by prison officials, no word had come from the segregation building.

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Yanks Three And A Half Miles From Saarbrücken

Reach Outskirts Of French Town

PARIS — (AP) — American tanks drove within three and a half miles of seared Saarbrücken today in a plunge to the whole defense of Forbach, French rail town and outpost of the Siegfried Line.

Artillery of the same Third Army bombarded the Little Pittsburgh of the coal and iron region for the eighth consecutive day, while infantry was clearing the Germans from the last stretch of Saargemündes, French border town southeast of the Saar capital.

The Americans extended their grip on the west bank of the multiple-crossed Saar River to 22 miles from the last stretch of Saargemündes, French border town southeast of the Saar capital.

The last bits of Lorraine and Alsace were slipping from German hands. American 1st Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army controls more of the rich Saar Basin than the Germans retain in the Ruhr.

The hard hitting Third Army was expanding its three bridgeheads just west of the Siegfried Line defenses. Tanks of the 9th Division, which was the first to breach the line, were now within three miles of the Siegfried Line.

With virtually all Saargemündes cleared, the Germans fled northward toward the Saarland in a gantlet of artillery fire. They blew five bridges behind them.

All along a 20-mile Third Army front from above Saarbrücken to the Rhine, German gunners, Patton's men were mopping up, consolidating and preparing for the next move.

In a wide advance to within eight and a half miles of the German Palatine, the 9th Division, which was the first to breach the line, were now within three miles of the Siegfried Line.

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Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front — On the Western Front in Europe, the Roer River front facing Cologne is relatively quiet.

However, American Third Army units are pushing steadily into Germany's Saar Basin. Third Army tanks are less than four miles from the Saar capital of Saarbrücken, and the city is under artillery bombardment.

Donoughs are clearing up the French border city of a confused state. "Saarbrücken" and the Nazi industrial center of Saarbrücken.

German air, rail and industrial targets were bombed heavily again during the night. The RAV attacked the big Nazi industrial plant at Metzberg, two railroad objectives and made a diversionary attack on Berlin.

Liberator bombers from Italy blasted targets in Austria.

Full American Power Is Felt

ROME — (AP) — The round-the-clock striking power of Italy-based American planes which has been in the making for months, was unleashed yesterday for the first time in attacks on targets in five different countries.

A force of up to 500 Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the 15th Air Force by daylight hit railroads in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

These raids were followed last night by assaults on industrial targets in Austria by a force of 240 bombers equipped with instruments for night flying, while fighters and fighters-bombers swept northern Italy in support of ground troops.

Headquarters of the Mediterranean Allied Air Force said 13 enemy planes were destroyed and 19 Allied aircraft were missing.

The coastal air force also made raids on enemy shipping in the Adriatic.

India Seated On Air Body

CHICAGO — (AP) — India was seated on the two-man United Nations committee of a provisional aviation authority to supervise world aviation.

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Men Under 19 Overseas

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Nation Dips Into Reservoir Of Young Soldiers For Battle

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WEATHER

Cloudy and rather mild today with light rain early, clearing and becoming sunny.

Temperature at 1:30 today: 54°

High & Low Last 24 Hours: High 58° Low 42°

Barometer: 30.0

Humidity: 65%

Wind: Light