

Grim Forecast:

OWI Sees Long Battle Before Pacific Victory

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The job of crushing Japan is expected to require an "absolute minimum" of one and a half to two years after defeat of Germany, the Office of War Information said today in a summary of war agencies data.

Indeed, the psychological effect of an end to the European war is apt to favor the Japanese rather than the Allies, OWI said, figuring it this way: "For the United States, defeat of Germany will mean that a half-way point has been reached in the global war, and will bring extensive changes in the war economy which might induce a let-down in effort and morale."

These were said to include the ability of Japan to increase her production of "almost every category of war equipment and military supplies." On the other hand, OWI related, Japan has "failed to capitalize" thus far on her conquests since Pearl Harbor, limiting war production to capacity of the Jap's pre-war industrial plant.

While the odds of military strength, natural resources and the quality of fighting forces and equipment all favor the United Nations, OWI said there are a number of factors which may enable Japan to prolong the war.

The agency pointed out that tremendous shipping problems must be solved before a major invasion can be launched against Japan, and added it may be several months before shipping is to be transferred from the Atlantic can be made effective in the Pacific.

Of Allied strategy objectives calling for opening of safe ocean routes to China, OWI said: "At present, the course of the war in China is all in Japan's favor. Instead of securing additional advance bases from which to strike at Japan by air, the Allies have lost several in recent months."

Even though the number of Japanese planes destroyed is high compared to our own losses, Japanese plans are turning them out "as rapidly as we destroy them and probably can maintain or even increase this production slightly," OWI stated. It added that the Japanese

Americans Bid For Big Palau Victory

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, PEARL HARBOR—(AP)—The biggest victory of the Palau invasion appeared in sight today for ridge-raiding Marines and soldiers who have killed more than 7,000 Japanese while suffering 4,500 casualties—800 killed, 400 missing, 4,100 wounded—in the first ten days.

The assault and capture of the island of Palau, a key Japanese base in the western Pacific, was reported today by the U. S. Pacific Fleet headquarters. The island is 100 miles long and 10 miles wide, and is one of the largest islands in the western Pacific.

The island is a key Japanese base in the western Pacific, and its capture is a major step toward the final defeat of Japan. The U. S. Pacific Fleet headquarters reported that the Marines and soldiers who captured the island suffered 4,500 casualties, including 800 killed and 400 missing.

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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REMNANTS OF "RED DEVILS" AIR DIVISION WITHDRAWN

Red Armies Close In On Baltic Port

Germans Retreat Made Stampede

By EDDY GILMORE MOSCOW—(AP)—The German retreat to Riga was turned into a desperate stampede today by swiftly pursuing Red Army armor and infantry which had cleared Northern Latvia to within 30 miles of the Baltic seaport.

North and east of Riga the enemy was making no attempt to hold an organized line but the overland escape route westward from the city along the coast in the direction of Riga, Latvia, was being kept open regardless of losses. Front dispatches said:

The Red Air Force wrecked hundreds of trucks and dozens of railway cars being used by the Germans to flee from the Northern Baltic.

In a three-directional drive on Riga the Russian yesterday overtook more than 200 German communications.

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Allied Prospect In Europe: Winter Campaign Looms

By DON WHITEHEAD WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY IN GERMANY—(AP)—With the Germans battling desperately along the Reich's borders and with the weather steadily worsening, Allied armies faced the prospect today of having to fight a winter campaign before Hitler's forces finally are crushed.

Hitler has called on his troops to fight to the last man and last cartridge. They are making a fanatical stand on their own soil as Fall rains turn fields into quagmires and leave the troops cold and wet.

In the Aachen area German commanders are passing out cards for the men to sign—pledging that they will resist to the last.

This same technique was adopted at Cherbourg, where the Nazi defense was bitter but the defenders did not "fight to the last man" nor last cartridge.

Allied Troops Open Allies Set Attack In Albania

By CHARLES A. GRUMICH SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, KANDY, CEYLON—(AP)—Headquarters disclosed today that Allied troops were operating in the area of Fort White in Western Burma, indicating that a force had penetrated behind the Japanese base at Tiddim.

Fort White is twelve miles southeast of Tiddim, the base from which the Japanese launched their ill-fated drive into India several months ago.

Disclosure of the penetration was contained in the air section of the Allied communique which stated "ground forces in Arakan which are advancing along the Tiddim Road and near Fort White were effectively blocked."

The war bulletin said the Japanese had broken off contact with the Fifth Indian Division, which only a few miles from Tiddim.

It is believed likely that Tiddim is undefended, with the Japanese continuing their withdrawal to a mountain fighting line in the Kennedy-Burak-Port White area.

Allied planes continued blasting Japanese bases with Mandalay a main target.

Japanese troop concentrations were spotted in the Bhamo area, where the enemy apparently is massing to reinforce units in Yunnan Province and to attempt to forestall the opening of a road to China.

Bridge Of Metz Fort Captured

BEFORE METZ—(AP)—U. S. Third Army troops today secured the entrance to a formidable Fort Metz, a key bastion in the chain of fortresses on the west bank of the Moselle guarding Metz.

The charge captured only the entrance to the fort, which is a mile long and half-mile wide with five batteries of heavy artillery and scores of pillboxes.

Fight To Hold Open Gateway To Ruhr Fails

British Suffer Setback But Holland Invasion Campaign Broadened

NEW YORK—NBC's David Anderson broadcast from the Western Front today that of the 7,000 to 8,000 British troops in the Arnhem pocket, at least 2,000 had been evacuated to the south bank of the Rhine River by this morning. Twelve hundred wounded British airborne troops were left behind and are under the care of the German commander, Anderson said.

A number of British doctors stated behind to tend the wounded, despite the certainty of capture.

The troops evacuated from the pocket reported they had never seen so many German dead in such a small area, as at Arnhem, Anderson added.

LONDON—(AP)—The Allied invasion of Holland struck to the Maas River line guarding Germany today, but the bloody, nine-day struggle at Arnhem had ended with the loss of the German commander, Anderson said.

The pull back of the airborne division, which took place Monday night but was disclosed only today, lost a Dutch holdout into the German Ruhr. Nevertheless the gallant stand of the "Red Devils" had measurably speeded the rapidly increasing invasion of Holland farther south.

Information on how many men of the division—normally 9,000 strong—were saved, but the wounded were left behind. (German broadcasts declared 1,500 were killed, and 6,400 captured).

The setback, at the hands of furious German counter-attacks that struck off the gallant swing-line and prevented the British Second Army land drive from achieving a junction in rescuing force, lost a gamble to win quickly a crossing of the upper Rhine for a flanking drive into Germany.

From the upper end of the Siegfried Line. The Allied campaign in Holland now hinges on thrust up a 20-mile-long corridor from Belgium, and was rapidly broadening east and west.

Further west had been made into Germany east of Nijmegen and west of Kleve, upper end of the Siegfried Line.

An Associated Press front dispatch declared the battle of Holland was slowly but surely swinging against the Germans.

The enemy apparently was reluctant to walk through the German lines in the dark. Checky patrols went out earlier, trying bits of white parachute tape to trees to mark the way.

To hinder the German waking up to what was happening, Second Army guns laid down a battering box barrage all afternoon.

The first party was to get off at 10 P. M. Our group was to leave at 10 P. M. It was very dark, distributing little packets of sulfanilamide and morphine.

Yank Heavy Bombers Hit

LONDON—(AP)—More than 1,100 American heavy bombers attacked German cities today, including Cologne, Bonn, and Aachen, in a heavy attack on German communications and war plants behind the West Wall.

The big U. S. bombers struck out on the third straight day of heavy attacks on German communications and war plants behind the West Wall.

The bombers were reported by the U. S. Army Air Force to have hit Cologne, Bonn, and Aachen, in a heavy attack on German communications and war plants behind the West Wall.

Among targets attacked were the Cologne and Bonn power plants, and the Aachen railway station and chemical works.

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Survivors Sleep Again

By ALAN WOOD (British correspondent representing the combined Allied Press.) WITH THE ARMEES AIRBORNE FORCE, Sept. 26—(Delayed)—This is the end.

The most terrific and glorious battle of the war is over and the survivors of this British Air Borne Force can sleep soundly for the first time in eight days and nights.

Orders came to us yesterday to break out from the forest cladded west of Arnhem, cross the Rhine and join up with the Second Army on the south bank.

Our Commander decided against a concerted assault on the German main force around us. Instead the plan was to split up into little groups of twenty strong, setting out along different routes at two-minute intervals, which would simply walk through the German lines in the dark. Checky patrols went out earlier, trying bits of white parachute tape to trees to mark the way.

To hinder the German waking up to what was happening, Second Army guns laid down a battering box barrage all afternoon.

The first party was to get off at 10 P. M. Our group was to leave at 10 P. M. It was very dark, distributing little packets of sulfanilamide and morphine.

We tore up blankets and wrapped them round our boots to muffle the sound of our feet in the trees. We were told the password—"Johnny Bull." If we became separated each man was to make his way by compass due south until he reached the railway.

Our major is an old hand. He led the way and linked our party together by getting everyone to hold the tail of the parachute's snook of the man in front of him, so our infiltrating column had an absurd resemblance to some children's game.

It was half-light, with the glow of fires from burning houses around, when we set out. We were lucky. We went through a quiet enemy pocket without hearing a shot except for a stray "super's" bullet.

Another group met a machine-gun with a fixed line of fire across their path.

Another band to pause while a German finished his evening stroll across their pathway.

But we all got through without the enemy realizing that we were doing anything more than normal night patrolling.

Tri-Partite Pact Anniversary: Axis Proclaims Life-Or-Death Fight

By DWIGHT L. PITKIN LONDON—(AP)—Jochim Von Ribbentrop reiterated in a Tri-Partite Pact anniversary speech today that the war had become a life-or-death fight which must continue until the Axis powers had completely crushed their enemies.

The Nazi Foreign Minister said the Axis powers would suffer enormous losses in coming battles and "regarding the fact that the Axis powers have crossed the Reich's western frontier, added that should the Axis powers be completely crushed, the German people would be glad to accept the terms of the Tri-Partite Pact."

He reiterated faith in eventual victory, however, despite many a serious setback. "Changes of the front in Russia and France, treachery in Romania and Bulgaria and the Russian desertion from Berlin," he said, "has now reached a stage demanding the highest courage up to the last breath of the soldiers and people" of the tripartite powers.

Benito Mussolini and Mamoru Shigemitsu, Japanese Foreign Minister, also spoke in celebration of the pact's four years ago the Berlin-Rome axis agreement.

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