

THE CAROLINIAN NEWS

Final

Third Fleet Planes Rain New Blows On Jap Ships

38 Enemy Vessels Sunk In New Campaign

Fleet Planes Still Striking At Nip Convoys

38 Enemy Vessels Already Counted As Victims Off Indo-China

By LEIF ERICKSON
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor—(AP)—A furious assault on four huge Japanese convoys massing along the French Indo-China coast still roared on, according to latest Navy reports, with Third Fleet planes pouring down more of the bombs, rockets and torpedoes which already have smashed 38 enemy ships.
A 5,000-ton cruiser, several destroyers and twelve transports loaded with troops intended to be thrown against Gen. Douglas MacArthur on Luzon in the Philippines were among 25 ships sunk Thursday, first day of the attack. Thirteen other ships were damaged.

Navy accounts to date report no damage to the American fleet.

Suggesting the vulnerability of the Asiatic mainland to invasion from the Pacific, Adm. William F. Halsey's fleet even defied Japan's continental, land-based air power by moving in close enough to send raiders inland. They set off big fires around the city of Saigon, 1,000 miles west of Manila.

This fleet of Halsey's can move over great distances and pack a wallop all the way. It now can be disclosed that his battlegroup, cruisers, destroyers, and aircraft carriers swept to the current action between Saigon and Camranh Bay across the South China Sea after sinking or damaging more than 100 Japanese ships and knocking out 88 enemy planes at Camranh Bay last Monday. It is more than 1,000 miles from Formosa to Saigon.

JAPS SURPRISED
The crucial Indo-China assault aimed at breaking up a big enemy effort to strike in behind MacArthur before the convoys can even get under way, caught the Japanese by surprise.
That was attested by last night's communiqué pointing out that six leading transports were sunk at Saigon and at least another six in the harbor of Qui-Nhon, 210 miles to the northeast.

The fact a light cruiser was the biggest warship to far bagged indicates Japan is so hard hit in the higher categories that her admirals are forced to send a box to

New Attack Announced By Stalin

Drive In Poland Confirmed

LONDON —(AP)— Marshal Stalin announced tonight a Red Army offensive west of Baranov had advanced 25 miles in two days on a 40-mile front.

Stalin's announcement—which confirmed earlier Berlin reports of a great new Soviet onslaught from the Vistula bridgehead in Poland—said Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian Army "broke through heavily fortified enemy defenses" with an assault launched yesterday.

Clearly the Germans said the Russians had launched a gigantic winter offensive with three mighty attacks in Poland, East Prussia and northern Hungary.

The advance apparently directly threatens German-held Kielec, a rail junction 83 miles southwest of Warsaw, which links the Warsaw and Krakow fronts. Among the towns captured were Chmielnik, a light rail hub, and Krasnystaw, a junction of the railway and the highway. The advance was reported to have captured 130 towns and villages in two days.

Stalin said the offensive was launched in weather which did not permit the use of the Red Air Force. The order paid tribute to the "decisive role" played by Soviet artillery.

He ordered a victory salute in Moscow of twenty salutes for 224 guns.

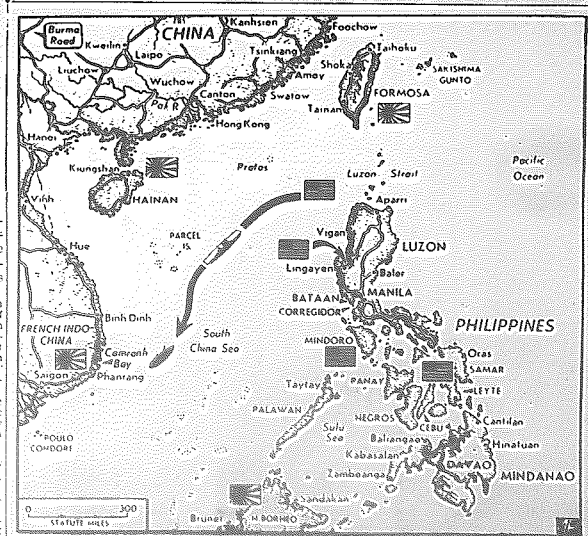
The major assault, the Germans said, was from the Vistula River westward, approximately 120 miles below German-held Warsaw. Admitted penetration of Nazi lines west of Baranov, Berlin described this offensive as "the biggest of all time."

Ernst von Hammer, German military commentator, said "at least three Russian tank divisions, one of them with independent units are engaged in the Russian winter offensive." He stated yesterday in the Vistula bridgehead west of Baranov.

FLANKING DRIVES
Suggesting simultaneous flanking drives both in the north and the south, 450 to 500 miles apart, the Germans said the Russian tanks cut out on a 30-mile front in the East Prussian sector after tremendous artillery preparation, while divisions from the Beskud Mountains struck Nazi lines on the Hungarian-Slovakian border between Lucerne and Kassa (Kassa).

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WHERE JAP CONVOYS STRUCK—This map locates the area in which carrier planes of the American Third Fleet are smashing at Japanese convoys. The four enemy convoys, attacked apparently, were organizing an expedition for reinforcement of Luzon from the French Indo-China port of Saigon and Camranh Bay. The action is taking place approximately 1,000 miles west of Manila.

Philippine Campaign

6th Army Drives Ahead On Luzon

By C. YATES Mc DANIEL
GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Luzon—(AP)—Powerful spearheads of the Sixth Army invaders of Luzon pushed forward steadily today toward Manila during the fourth day of the invasion, advancing twelve miles to cover more than half the road distance to the Agno River, without meeting any enemy opposition.

The American troops moved cautiously despite advance patrol reports of empty trenches and abandoned dugouts near the river, the most formidable natural barrier across the central Luzon plain. Only in the eastern sector of their bulging beachhead have they met any considerable resistance. Japanese guns and mortars hidden on the slopes or ridges forming the southern end of the Benguet Mountains fired intermittently into the plain.

JAPS FIRE
Correspondent Spencer Davis of the Associated Press reported that the Japanese in these foothills pumped shells into American positions at the rate of 60 to 70 a minute before dawn Wednesday. They were silenced by heavy artillery fire. Air support was also called up to smash an enemy position in this area.

Japanese attempts to land supplies for the defenders resulted in a loss for them of a big freighter-transport and 45 barges, which were sunk or badly damaged at San Fernando, about 45 miles north of the American Lingayen Gulf.

So far the Sixth Army troops have encountered none of the last

Fifth Army

Probes Way

ROME —(P)—American Fifth Army patrols probing deep into German positions south of Bologna have encountered vicious enemy resistance. Allied Headquarters announced today.

On the Adriatic sector British Eighth Army troops tangled with German forces on the Comacchio Spit north of Ravenna, captured 40 Germans and killed twenty.

Field Marshal Albert Kesselring continued to slip patrols across the Senio River north of Faenza. One SS raiding party in company strength made a crossing near Fagnano, about ten miles north of Faenza. An Eighth Army counter-attack, however, forced the Germans to withdraw.

South of Highway 9 another enemy company, supported by artillery, was repulsed by British forces. One American combat patrol, climbing northward toward Bologna has reached Canoveto, just west of Highway 65 and nine miles from the town, which is the gateway to the Po Valley.

Another patrol attacked San Angelo, a mile southwest of Canoveto.

Slight Quake Strikes Honshu
By ASSOCIATED PRESS
A "slight earthquake" struck the central area of Honshu, main Japanese home island today, the Japanese Domei agency reported in a broadcast.

The dispatch, broadcast by the Federal Communications Commission, said "a little damage to a small number of houses" had been caused, but declared "transportation facilities sustained no damage whatever." The quake was recorded at 3:35 A. M. (Tokyo Time).

Good Initial Gains Made In New Campaign

General Attack Opened Against Northern Flank of Belgian Bulge

PARIS—(P)—U. S. First Army troops, striking southward in a general assault on a 30-mile front, hammered today to within 4 1/2 miles of Houffalize, central stronghold of the swelling Nazi bulge in Belgium, and within little more than a mile of the Houffalize-St. Vith escape road.

PARIS—(AP)—U. S. First Army infantry and tanks opened a general assault today against the northern side of the shrinking German bulge into Belgium, and scored substantial initial gains along a 30-mile front.

North of Houffalize, heart of the German salient, First Army soldiers were reported earlier to have advanced more than a mile, fighting to within eleven miles of the Third Army troops beating up south of that stronghold. The First Army men were within six miles of the town on the north, menacing the Germans' last escape road.

Rhine Trap Being Forged

AP Correspondent Roger D. Greene declared that remnants of the German Army were pulled back tonight at top speed, and said RAF pilots reported heavy movements of German transports fleeing east as far inside the salient as St. Vith.

At the western tip of the once-deep German bulge, main force of the British Second and American Third Armies were reported only three miles apart. The German near Champan. British troops had gained four miles across the La Roche-Champagne road, and the Army men in a night advance gained two miles in this rollback of German.

German rear guards, roadblocks, and extensive minefields and demolitions slowed the pace of pursuit.

Kills 100 Nazis
The company was caught in the apex of a salient into which it had advanced. The Germans attacked northwest of Rimling.

It was aided by a heavy weapon unit of which Outlaw was a member. It held the Germans off until it was able to pull back. The men were under incessant artillery and mortar fire, used machine guns for drinking, and had only one can of K ration daily.

Allies Vault Toward Akyab
SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, KANJO, Ceylon—(P)—Supported by a naval and air bombardment, troops of the 15th Indian Corps have landed on Mykon Peninsula in Burma Bay. 32 miles from Akyab, an Allied communication said today.

The landing force, escorted by opposition from Japanese artillery and machineguns, but have succeeded in establishing a beachhead. The communiqué said.

News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front
The American First Army has launched what looks like the all-out effort to crush the German bulge in Belgium. American doughboys and tanks opened a general assault today against the northern side of the German bulge. And already the Yanks have scored substantial initial gains along a 30-mile front.

Only seven miles it said to separate the American First Army on the north and the American Third Army on the south. Both armies are heading for the road town of Houffalize on the German market. And at the same time, the British are driving in from the west.

American heavy bombers have rained out for the first time in two days for new attacks on Germany. Nine hundred Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by fighter planes, sent explosive ripples along a 100-mile stretch of the Rhine. In addition, the heavy bombers attacked Nazi railroads.

Russian Front
Natalja, Stalin late today, announced that the Red Army has launched an offensive from its Baranov bridgehead west of the Vistula. Stalin said the drive 120 miles south of Warsaw has advanced 25 miles in two days on a 40-mile front.

The Germans claim that the great Russian offensive, which is underway in Southern Poland, and the Nazi broadcasts said that the Red Army had started new drives in East Prussia and northern Hungary, but Moscow continues silent.

Roosevelt May Visit France

PARIS—(P)—President Secretary Stephen Hack, due here next month, may make arrangements for a visit to France by President Roosevelt.

Supreme Headquarters announced last night that Early would visit Europe and consult with public relations officials at headquarters.

The Course Of The War

Gen. Eisenhower Must Have Reserves

By MAX WERNER
Nationally-Known Military Analyst
We must draw one conclusion immediately from the last crisis in the West. Eisenhower's armies must be provided with mobile reserves as strong as possible and as soon as possible. Our armies in the West must wield a well supplied and adequate instrument for breakthrough and penetration. Victory requires just that.

Despite our expectations and our potential superiority the concentration of U. S. fighting power the West was not yet fully accomplished when Von Rundstedt struck in the Ardennes.

Gen. Eisenhower Must Have Reserves

United States and Great Britain together have mobilized seventeen million men, and the American production of planes, tanks and mobile guns exceeds probably 41 that of the Germans. But we did lag in combat effectiveness in the West, in the forces immediately available on the front line for the purposes of the offensive.

The real relationship of forces in the West was revealed during the American offensives in November-December and the German counter-offensives which followed. They have shown the inadequacy of the Allied forces for the decisive breakthrough offensive. The American blows in the Cologne plain and at the Saar were warded as lines of defense, not as offensive thrusts. In our last offensive attempts deep echeloned reserve supply did not

Mexican Divorce Decried

Obtained By Donna Reed

LOS ANGELES—(P)—A Donna Reed of the screen has a Mexican divorce decree from William Hopper, movie industry man, whom she married two years ago.

WEATHER
Showers ending this afternoon, mild today and cooler the following Sunday, partly cloudy and cooler.