

ESTABLISHED 1886

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1945

# U.S. SOLDIERS 2 MORE MILES INTO WESTERN SIDE OF NAZI BULGE

## Backing Given To 'Work Or Fight' Edicts

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Administration backing to put into law James F. Byrnes' "work or fight" edicts for 4-F's developed today on the eve of the new Congress.

## Byrnes Puts Up Program

By STERLING F. GREEN  
WASHINGTON—(AP)—Drumfire maneuver proposals, edging closer to the "work or fight" act which lawmakers have long avoided, were thrown today into the battle on the home front.

The suggestions, made by Byrnes last night in his first report as director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconstruction, are still merely threats.

LARGE DRAFT CALLS  
Fliers predicting that larger draft calls in the next few months would aggravate the manpower shortage.

He proposed that Congress make it possible to induct them all, then assign them to things they can do despite their physical impairment.

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## Fall Of Buda Expected At Any Moment

Doomed German Force Crumbling

LONDON—(AP)—Fall of Buda, western section of Danube—straddling Budapest, appeared to be only a matter of hours today as the doomed Nazi garrison crumbled before attacking Russian forces utilizing virtually every weapon known in modern warfare.

A communique broadcast early today from Moscow said the greatly outnumbered German and Hungarian defenders had just more than 1,000 men killed yesterday in savage street fighting and had been evacuated into an area less than four miles wide and a mile deep.

Commenting on the Byrnes proposals, May said: "I'm for a law that will mean work or fight."

Legislation similar to that proposed in 1943 by Representative Luce, Republican, Connecticut, a member of the Military Committee, but the committee took no action on it.

Several days of the capital several days ago.

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SISTER ACT—Hit of the first Filipino-American talent show at an Army general hospital on Leyte was a dance by the Bidu sisters, Adelia, six; Adelia, ten; and Adela, thirteen. (Signal Corps Photo from Rome.)

## Signs Appear That Germans May Pull Out

German Column Spotted Moving Eastward In St. Vith Area

PARIS—(AP)—The U. S. Third Army advanced two more miles into the south side of the Belgian bulge in heavy pressure attacks and there were indications today that the Germans were extricating what armor they could from the flaming cauldron.

The Ninth Air Force attacked one German troop column definitely reported moving east in the St. Vith area near the base of the German wedge and another column of 100 vehicles including tanks and other armor was bombed and strafed near Ambleve, five miles to the northeast.

There was no definite report on which way the second column was moving but the size of the armored force Field Marshal Von Rundstedt had in the relatively small salient made it seem unreasonable that he was sending in more tanks and guns.

At least nine towns were announced as captured, many were on the perimeter of the corridor through Bastogne which front dispatches said was widened and breached there.

Patton's longest reported gain of two miles overran the perimeter of the corridor through Bastogne, 11 miles west of Bastogne, 11 miles west of Bastogne.

The "security blackout" also hid further word of an American attack north from Bastogne against the waist of the wedge. It was possible that the main force of the attack had been thrown to the east, for there the Americans made considerable progress in battering Nazi counterattacks to a standstill and broadening the Bastogne salient.

On the northwest side of the bulge, American patrols thrust aggressively into "No Man's Land" for 3,000 yards in the Hottion-Marche sector without establishing contact with the Germans. One battle dispatch said the Germans "obviously were regrouping for their next move" in the area.

The German Army kept lashing out in attacks scattered along the Western Front, apparently to take advantage of any weakening in Allied lines which would result from the shifting of forces to deal with the bulge.

So far, the enemy was not meeting much success, it seemed clear, however, that Von Rundstedt was not giving up.

The strong onslaught burst against the Seventh Army line was reported stopped everywhere except in the wooded vicinity of Bannstein, six miles southeast of Bitché. There the Germans had wedged a mile and a half into the American defensive positions up to late Monday.

There was no information here whether the assault continued.

A thousand heavy American bombers dumped more than 3,000 tons of bombs on German tank and troop concentrations, bridges, roads and rails immediately east of the Third Army front in clear weather. German fighters were not interfering.

SAARLAND STRIKE  
But even while the attacks around Bitché were getting underway, it was disclosed today that the Germans were striking out in another tank and infantry assault against American positions on the west bank of the Saar between Saarbrücken and Sarreguemines. Some Third Army defense outposts were pushed back around Saarbrücken.

The German communique said more than 1,000 tanks had been destroyed or captured in the bulge during the Nazi offensive, 48 of them yesterday. The Third Army was declared attacking in great strength north of Bastogne toward the road center of Houffalize, sustaining heavy losses without achieving a breakthrough. Further German gains were claimed along the Saar and the northeast border of the salient.

## Philippine Struggle U.S. Airmen Bag 363 Planes 3 Jap Warships

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines—(AP)—Land-based American bombers on Mindoro have opened attacks in force to the far reaches of invasion-occupied Luzon Island, bagging three enemy warships and five cargo vessels in one such strike 150 miles above Manila, but signs also are accumulating of attempted enemy counteraction against Mindoro.

Today's communique, which listed the sinking or probable sinking of three destroyers, three B-24 freighter-transporters and two smaller cargo vessels at Lingayen Gulf, also disclosed intense activity by Japanese ammunition trains by Japanese ammunition trains by the Japanese along just north of Mindoro.

Saturday, the same day that medium bombers, attack planes and fighter-bombers flew 130 miles northwest of Manila to Lingayen, more than 50 Marine Corps fighters up an entire ammunition train, straddled three others and attacked twenty locomotives in the Batangas area.

Today's communique depicted an aerial scourge of Luzon's west side from Lingayen to Batangas. Liberators cratered Nielson airfield, three down by anti-aircraft guns and night interceptors.

The Lingayen attack, representing the deepest penetration in strength of American bombers based in the Philippines, was pointed at a reinforcement and supply base for the Nipponese on Luzon. It was there that the Japanese invaded the Philippines at the war's outset.

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The enemy is continuing to raid MacArthur's Mindoro position, established by an invasion Dec. 15 which cut west across the central Philippines from conquered Leyte. Today's communique said fifteen Japanese aircraft attacked the San Jose sector Saturday, with three down by anti-aircraft guns and night interceptors.

See AIRMEN BAG on page 7

## Nazis Lose 363 Planes

LONDON—(AP)—One thousand U. S. heavy bombers hit powerfully today at German troops and communications just east of the American Army lines and field reports estimated the Germans had lost 363 planes yesterday in their heavy air blows on the Western Front.

An Air Force officer in Belgium said reports from all parts of the front credited ground gunners with downing more than 200 planes yesterday. While there might be some duplication, he said, the figure for both ground crews and fighter pilots already had been doublechecked.

Earlier figures assembled here showed a day's bag of 221 German planes, only 48 of which were credited to anti-aircraft gunners. The big bombers striking off today rained more than 3,000 tons of explosives on Nazi tank and troop concentrations, bridges, road intersections and railroads.

The Flying Fortress and Liberator of the British-based Eighth Air Force were supported by 650 Mustangs and Thunderbolts in this close support attack.

German tanks and infantry were caught in a wooded area northeast of Saarbrücken.

German fighters, which sprang heavy assaults throughout yesterday, did not interfere.

The weather was clear and crews saw bombs hit the largest, except for a few bridges in the Coblenz area where bombardiers aimed by instruments.

Other targets were road junctions in and around Frankfurt. Killings were reported in the area. See NAZIS LOSE on page 7

## News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front  
The Germans appear to be extricating what armor they can from the flaming cauldron of their Belgian penetration. The Ninth Air Force has attacked one German troop column said definitely to be moving east in the St. Vith area near the base of the German wedge. Another column of 100 vehicles including tanks and other armor was bombed and strafed near Ambleve, east of the northeast. Pilots claim the destruction or damaging of 60 of these vehicles.

The United States Third Army has agreed a two-mile advance into the south side of the Belgian bulge in all-out attacks. At least one-half dozen towns are announced as captured.

Air Warfare  
One thousand heavy American bombers went to work today in support of the embattled American Third Army. The Flying Fortresses and Liberators from British struck German tank and troop concentrations, bridges, road intersections and railroads east of the Third Army front. Six hundred and fifty fighters provided escort. More than 3,000 tons of bombs were scattered over the targets. German fighters failed to interfere today.

Eastern Front  
There is a lull in the front from either the Italian or Russian fronts. FAR EAST  
There has been no confirmation of a Japanese radio claim that Superfortresses had raided Southern Mindanao Island. The enemy says about ten Superforts made the attack.

Home Front  
The Navy has revealed the loss of four vessels, a submarine, a medium landing ship and two motor torpedo boats. The submarine Harder is overdue from patrol and presumed lost.

A meeting of President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin is in prospect for the near future. The President so indicated to Congressional leaders today. Senate Majority

## Out Of Action?

Rundstedt Reported Sick Again

LONDON—(AP)—Unofficial sources here widely claim that the German commander in the west after the Allied invasion, a stomach disorder was temporarily out of action because of the recurrence of a serious stomach ailment.

There was no official confirmation. When Von Rundstedt was withdrawn from his command in the west after the Allied invasion, a stomach disorder was given as the reason.

## Bulletin

Allied Naval Commander Ramsey Killed  
PARIS—(AP)—Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsey, Allied Naval Commander in the Mediterranean, was killed today. No details were announced immediately by Supreme Headquarters.

Sir Bertram, who engineered the Dunkerque rescue of 335,000 British and French soldiers, commanded the naval phases of the western invasion under Gen. Eisenhower. He was considered perhaps the world's foremost expert on planning and organizing vast sea expeditions.

WEATHER  
Fair and cool today and tonight with lowest temperature around 12 degrees; Wednesday high and not quite so cold.

## German Atrocity

Belgian Civilians Killed By Fanatical SS Troopers

By HAL BOYLE  
STAVLE—(AP)—Army officers estimate that fanatical Nazi SS troops during the first five days of the recent German breakthrough have killed more than 60 Belgian civilians during the first five days of the recent German breakthrough.

Acting mostly under direct orders from German officers to kill all civilians encountered, Hitler's henchmen today clubbed and burned to death men, women and children without cause.

As the American Army began to contain the sudden offensive however, it trapped enemy columns were kept so busy fighting for their lives they had neither time nor ammunition for murdering civilians.

## Compulsory Military Training Is Opposed

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(AP)—The Methodist Conference on Christian Education unanimously adopted a resolution last night opposing compulsory military training in peacetime.

The resolution, introduced by F. G. Toll of Detroit, asked other church groups to take a similar stand.

63 Belgian civilians they killed in the Stavlel area. German troops probably massed more than 150 American troops. This is a very conservative figure.

The State Department has officially protested the slaughter of 135 out of 150 American unarmed soldiers lined up in a field and machine-gunned near Malmedy in other cases American truck drivers, trapped by fast-moving tanks, were killed from vehicles disabled and ambushed about.

Atrocities against civilians avoided. The German practice of questioning survivors and making statements by captured Germans who acknowledged the atrocities they played in the killings.

Most revolting was the massacre of Belgian civilians. See MANY BELGIANS on page 7