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ATROCIOUS BOMBING AFTER FORMOSA

Japs Predict Daring Drive In Philippines

Hundreds of American carrier planes supported by China-based B-29s raided Formosa and the Okinawa Islands Wednesday and today, Japanese broadcast reported, in preparation for a "succession of daring offensives" to win "a quick decision in the Philippines." The Japanese Domei news agency linked the daring move today with an enemy plan for "rescuing a transport convoy" through Philippine waters "seemingly to effect new landings." LONG STRIKES Imperial communications said in broadcasts received by the Federal Communications Commission that 500 Allied planes raided Formosa and the Okinawa Islands and 400 returned to the attack today. Both strikes, made largely by carrier planes, lasted nearly seven hours. The Pacific Fleet had previously announced the first raid.

Two-Minute News Roundup

Western Front Supreme Allied Headquarters announced that the American First Army had racked up a three-mile gain in its drive against the German line in Belgium. That triumph came had been registered by a Headquarters review of the First Army still is pushing ahead in spite of a heavy snowstorm. Gen. Patton's troops are striking on a six-mile front extending on both sides of the town of Grandmont, while the British battles above Bastogne at the lower edge of the enemy salient. The Germans have made several strong counter-attacks against American Third Army forces operating north and northeast of Bastogne. Though the enemy has been unable to make much progress, the force has managed to almost halve the Third Army offensive above Bastogne. According to the Germans, American Ninth Army forces have moved over from the Aachen area into the new Allied assault on the Nazi upper Rhine. The enemy also asserts that British tanks are getting part in the operation. The German commander is trying to halt the Allied advance with tank-supported counter-attacks. A front-line dispatch from the American Seventh Army sector in Italy contains the news that the Yanks are in better control of the situation below the old Magdon line city of Cassino than they were. The enemy has made enough progress in this area to reach within two and a half miles of the old Sarnic plain. Thus the Nazis are in position to offer a possible threat to Allied positions in the mountain leads into the German Palatinato.

Make New Mindoro Landings

Co-Ordinated Air Blows Struck GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines (AP)—Co-ordinated air blows smashed Southern Japan, the Ryukus and Formosa along a solid 2,000-mile arc down through Luzon, Mindoro, Iloilo, and the Philippines, as Gen. Douglas MacArthur disclosed today his troops have made two new landings on Mindoro, his closest approach to Manila. The plan was related in a telegram to War Mobilization Director Byrnes from Col. Roscoe Waring, president of the ATA offering cooperation in such a move. "We are informed that your office is contemplating a ban on all national conventions for the current calendar year," Col. Waring said in the telegram, text of which was released by the ATA office here.

U. S. War Toll Casualties At 638,139 Before Drive

WASHINGTON (AP)—Exclusive of the bitter German counter-offensive, American combat casualties through Dec. 31 totaled 638,139. This included an increase of 9,698 over the total announced last week for the period through Dec. 14. Secretary of War Stimson told a news conference the War Department has not yet received an accurate statement of personnel and material losses in the Eastern Front since the Russian lines of the relief of the Hungarian capital. In the last two days the Russians had given ground and it was probable that more would have to be yielded, although the Russians appeared to be getting the situation in hand. The German counter-assault was sprung from the area of Komarow, a Danube River town 45 miles northwest of Budapest. The German-Hungarian garrison in Budapest, where the Russians have overrun 1,002 city blocks, was reported making cave attacks in an effort to break out toward the relieving force. Nearly a third of the eastern section of the capital was in Soviet hands, an additional 200 blocks having been captured in the last 24 hours. The exact time the Germans launched their counter attack was not disclosed, but from available reports it appears to have been Tuesday morning in the snowy dawn. A heavy German thrust was shown at Russian artillery positions west of the city but it did not state the extent of the withdrawal. The official report said the German thrust was a "full restoration of the State's authority." It was understood that he planned to make a further appeal today to rebellious left-wing ELAS to lay down their arms. "I've always been a soldier in my country's service," said Plastiras, "but I realize the seriousness of the tragic conditions we are going through. "The Government aims, firstly, at a full restoration of the State's authority; secondly, the return of public services to their duties; thirdly, the punishment of crimes committed under Axis occupation; fourthly, immediate attention to the relief and rehabilitation program; and finally, the establishment of a vital road network leading to Ligeia. In support of the 17th Infantry Division, the American forces of Frankland of Jackson, Tenn. (whose brother, Walter, is a lieutenant colonel on the division staff), the 108th Field Artillery Battalion claimed the destruction of 200 vehicles and killing of 2,000.

Tightening Up U. S. To Put Ban On Conventions

NEW YORK (AP)—A ban on national conventions for the rest of the year 1945 is being prepared by the Office of War Mobilization and of Defense Transportation, the American Transit Association reported today. The plan was related in a telegram to War Mobilization Director Byrnes from Col. Roscoe Waring, president of the ATA offering cooperation in such a move. "We are informed that your office is contemplating a ban on all national conventions for the current calendar year," Col. Waring said in the telegram, text of which was released by the ATA office here.

Nazis Mount Big Attack On Reds

MOSCOW (AP)—Mobile warfare raged between Budapest and Vienna today as a huge German tank and infantry force, mounting the first German counter-offensive in the Eastern Front since October, surrounded the garrison in the Hungarian capital. In the last two days the Russians had given ground and it was probable that more would have to be yielded, although the Russians appeared to be getting the situation in hand. The German counter-assault was sprung from the area of Komarow, a Danube River town 45 miles northwest of Budapest. The German-Hungarian garrison in Budapest, where the Russians have overrun 1,002 city blocks, was reported making cave attacks in an effort to break out toward the relieving force. Nearly a third of the eastern section of the capital was in Soviet hands, an additional 200 blocks having been captured in the last 24 hours. The exact time the Germans launched their counter attack was not disclosed, but from available reports it appears to have been Tuesday morning in the snowy dawn. A heavy German thrust was shown at Russian artillery positions west of the city but it did not state the extent of the withdrawal. The official report said the German thrust was a "full restoration of the State's authority." It was understood that he planned to make a further appeal today to rebellious left-wing ELAS to lay down their arms. "I've always been a soldier in my country's service," said Plastiras, "but I realize the seriousness of the tragic conditions we are going through. "The Government aims, firstly, at a full restoration of the State's authority; secondly, the return of public services to their duties; thirdly, the punishment of crimes committed under Axis occupation; fourthly, immediate attention to the relief and rehabilitation program; and finally, the establishment of a vital road network leading to Ligeia. In support of the 17th Infantry Division, the American forces of Frankland of Jackson, Tenn. (whose brother, Walter, is a lieutenant colonel on the division staff), the 108th Field Artillery Battalion claimed the destruction of 200 vehicles and killing of 2,000.

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Old Hickory' Heroes Carolinas' Own 30th Division Playing Mighty Role In Battle

By HAL BOYLE U. S. FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN FRONT (AP)—One of the most spectacular drives in Europe, the German drive northward when Field Marshal Von Rundstedt opened his Dec. 16 offensive, was done by the 30th (Old Hickory) Infantry Division. This division, in which Carolinians are heavily represented, is commanded by Maj. Gen. L. S. Hobbs, Washington, D. C. The division, which was the first to break through the German line, is now pushing the German drive northward through the Siegfried Line north of Aachen. It has been in action continuously since the day after the invasion of Normandy. After stopping the German drive at St. Lo, the division was then a hot spot as the Germans attacked again and again in a frantic effort to gain mastery of a vital road network leading to Ligeia. In support of the 17th Infantry Division, the American forces of Frankland of Jackson, Tenn. (whose brother, Walter, is a lieutenant colonel on the division staff), the 108th Field Artillery Battalion claimed the destruction of 200 vehicles and killing of 2,000.

Inaugural Rite Held In Raleigh Governor Takes Oath Of Office

RALEIGH (AP)—Gov. Governor R. Gregg Cherry took the North Carolina Legislature today in his inaugural address that "the present tax structure should remain as it is," and called for a statewide referendum on the sale of liquor. "The Hon. Master" of Gastonia, who gained distinction in the First World War and came home to prominence in legal and legislative circles, was the second governor of North Carolina to take the oath during a wartime inauguration. The other was Zebulon B. Vance, in 1862. Cherry, returning to the hard-hitting tactics of his speaking style in 1931, also asked the Assembly to make a study of current policies, with the view of framing a declaration of North Carolina policy in respect to all Federal matters, foreign and domestic. Keep appropriations in the coming biennium within the availability of estimated revenues. Make provision for payment of the general fund indebtedness of approximately \$28,000,000 out of an anticipated surplus of \$10,000,000 and place the balance in a postwar reserve fund. Make provision for a Constitutional amendment granting equal rights to women, including jury service. Reserve the war bonus to state employees. Pay beginning teachers with A-grade certificates at least \$125 a month, with increments for experience. Increase the compulsory school attendance age from 14 to 16. Enact legislation particularly beneficial to war veterans. Study the best way to adequately develop the wild life. Repeal game and fish laws of North Carolina. Enact machinery for fiscal control of public school funds, since the recent Constitutional amendment made no provision for such a department of State Police and Public Safety. Create a Department of State Police and Public Safety. See GOV. CHERRY on page 7

Yanks Push On As Blizzards Sweep Front

PARIS (AP)—American First Army infantry and tanks fought three miles forward in the new offensive against the north flank of the German bulge by 8 A. M. and continued the advance today through a blinding snow storm, it was disclosed at Supreme Headquarters. The advance reached to within 13 1/2 miles of Third Army vanguards in the south in the Bastogne sector. The village of Beffe, four miles southeast of Hottens and seven southwest of Grandmont, was captured. Fighting in progress for Malmeigy, three miles east of Grandmont. Other forces of the First Army captured two towns southeast of Rochfort at the westernmost tip of the bulge, beating German tank divisions. The gains were along a six-mile front on both sides of Grandmont, 20 miles north of Bastogne. Three to five miles north and northeast of the town of Grandmont, on the southern flank of the German penetration, the U. S. Third Army was halted by violent counter-attacks against the heroic 101st Airborne Division. WEATHER WORSE With the gains below Grandmont were made in the first eight hours after Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' command army went over the top. Weather worsened. Snowstorms turned into blizzards. Field Marshal Von Rundstedt reacted swiftly with tank-supported counter-attacks. "The Germans said British tanks were attacking from the west, offensive and that the U. S. 9th Army had been rolled up from Aachen." In the first three hours, the First Army knocked out more than ten tanks. Heavier strikes, without benefit of artillery or aerial bombardment and his Sherman tanks caught the Nazis almost completely by surprise. AP Correspondent Hal Boyle wirelessed. The tanks munched over slippery ice on a slushy road and sodden fields. Men could see no further than 300 yards. "Throwing in fresh reserves and taking advantage of the hard terrain and cruel weather, the skillful German armor thrust back his infantry and started using armored buses against both the First and Third Army drives. At the extreme southwest nose of the bulge, other American advances a mile and a half, captured the unfortified village south of Rochfort and high ground dominating the valley. The German line began to encounter stronger clo. See FIRST ARMY on page 7

General Holds Greek Reins

ATHENS (AP)—Gen. Nicholas Plastiras, leader of the 1922 revolution, took over the burdened Premiership of Greece today with the declaration that the first task was "full restoration of the State's authority." It was understood that he planned to make a further appeal today to rebellious left-wing ELAS to lay down their arms. "I've always been a soldier in my country's service," said Plastiras, "but I realize the seriousness of the tragic conditions we are going through. "The Government aims, firstly, at a full restoration of the State's authority; secondly, the return of public services to their duties; thirdly, the punishment of crimes committed under Axis occupation; fourthly, immediate attention to the relief and rehabilitation program; and finally, the establishment of a vital road network leading to Ligeia. In support of the 17th Infantry Division, the American forces of Frankland of Jackson, Tenn. (whose brother, Walter, is a lieutenant colonel on the division staff), the 108th Field Artillery Battalion claimed the destruction of 200 vehicles and killing of 2,000.

Weather Is German Ally

Lock once again played into the hands of enemy Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt today as insupportable weather conditions saved his tanks and infantry from the punishing might of Allied air power. From one end of the Western Front to the other, the weather was bad, ranging from thick fog to blizzards. A few hours after U. S. First Army troops attacked on the northern flank of Von Rundstedt's salient in Belgium, the weather raked them of snow. Heavy bombers based in England remained parked on their fields and dive-bombers on the continent were unable to operate. At a bright winter night, the English Channel area, but inland conditions were progressively worse. The First Army tank units and the boots of doughboys slipped on the snow. The tanks were stuck in the snow as they carried their new offensive through a swirling storm. On the southern flank of the German bulge, the First Army also had its troubles with thick snow, and a heavy fog added to its woes. Far to the south, in the Vosges Mountains, the German battle line was stuck in the snow. See NAZIS BATTLE on page 7

Stimson Warns Nazis Have Power To Strike Again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of War Stimson said today the Germans still hold enough power to strike again, though a smaller, offensive on the Western Front. The German, he told his weekly news conference, are a "tough, determined people and will never rest on a passive defeat." The Secretary asserted that, "The German situation is such that the enemy is not yet pulling out. On the contrary, he has taken the certain points on the perimeter of the salient and maintains enough troops in the center to threaten an other push." Speaking of German activity in the region of the Saar, Stimson said it remains to be seen whether that was a probe or intended as a stab at attack. From the beginning of the German attack on Dec. 16 through Dec. 31 a total of 22,430 German prisoners were taken. Stimson said. TANK LOSSES He added that a preliminary report showed that German losses were only 6 per cent greater than the expected monthly attrition rate for a unit during the German counter-drive. Stimson said he saw a "close relationship" in developments on the Western Front to affairs on the Italian Front and German prospects in the East. "Turning to the Pacific, the Japanese have shown a marked interest in that regarding German power in the Philippines, the Japanese power to strike remains a possibility," he said, "because they have on Luzon and elsewhere many troops and planes which have been counted on as being in addition to the forces who were perished at sea." WEATHER Nearly cloudy this morning (night and Friday) with light drizzle or very light rain and high clouds in the west. Fair to clear by the week. Partly cloudy today. See NAZIS BATTLE on page 7

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