

NAZIS BACKED UP BY TITO'S ARMY

Yugoslav Partisans Given Strong Support By Air Arm Of The Allies

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Supported by an Allied air arm striking with enormously increased force from Greece to western Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav partisan army under Marshal Josp Broz (Tito) broke and turned back one wing of the German offensive in Bosnia today and regained the island of Uljan in the sheltered inner approaches to the enemy's major port of Zadar.

Tito's communique warmly saluted the Allied air action as having helped in driving the Nazis from Uljan and in having aided in "heavily" defeating German forces occupying the nearby coastal city of Zadar. He used the term "thanks to Allied air forces."

Even more powerful Allied air attacks in his aid—raids by 300 or more American bombers and fighters on Hitler's air bases near Athens in the greatest such action yet seen in the Balkans—were announced from Allied headquarters at Algiers.

Around in Yugoslavia, the most significant fighting was in eastern Bosnia where a minimum of six German divisions has been on the attack for days in four separate offensive thrusts. Here one German column was thrown back and the town of Kladan was regained by Mosley troops who went over to Tito's command in a steady recruitment which is building his forces well beyond the 200,000 mark.

Ouster of the Nazis from the island of Uljan—innermost of a chain of islands lying just off the Adriatic coast between Split and Fiume—was accompanied by indications that the German command was making strong efforts to seize or neutralize these potential menaces to their Flume supply head.

BOUGAINVILLE AIR BASE IS IN ACTION

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ported by MacArthur. While it was being jolted by 248 tons of bombs, other bombers in the coordinated operations loosed their loads on Rabaul, on the north tip of New Britain; on Cape Hoskins, on the north-central coast; on Cape Gloucester, on the southwestern coast; and on Wide bay, on the east coast directly south from Rabaul.

Westward across the Vitiaz strait from New Britain, Australian troops are closing in on Kakaona, Nipponese supply base on the Huon peninsula. They are clearing the enemy from the peninsula to make it secure as an area from which invasion of western New Britain may be launched.

TREASURY WANTS VICTORY TAX HELD

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Colin F. Starn, chief of staff of the joint committee on taxation, objected that under that procedure 9,000,000 of the present 11,300,000 victory taxpayers would go off the rolls. Paul rejoined that the potential \$161,000,000 loss would be made up by other taxpayers, for no net loss in revenue. He said there could be no real simplification of the tax structure without the removal of the 9,000,000.

With the vexing income tax question still to be threshed out, and with action yet to come on a proposal to cut the whisky bonding period from eight to four years, the committee abandoned hope of completing the bill before tomorrow.

Anthracite Deliveries At Homes Suspended

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(P)—The solid fuels administration today clamped down on home deliveries of anthracite coal, limiting house-holders to 87.5 per cent of their estimated requirements for the fuel year ending March 31, 1944.

The SFA said domestic consumers would be expected to stretch their reduced anthracite allotment by using bituminous coal. Production losses due to strikes and the inability of anthracite mines to expand output will cause an estimated deficit of 5,100,000 tons during the heating season, SFA reported.

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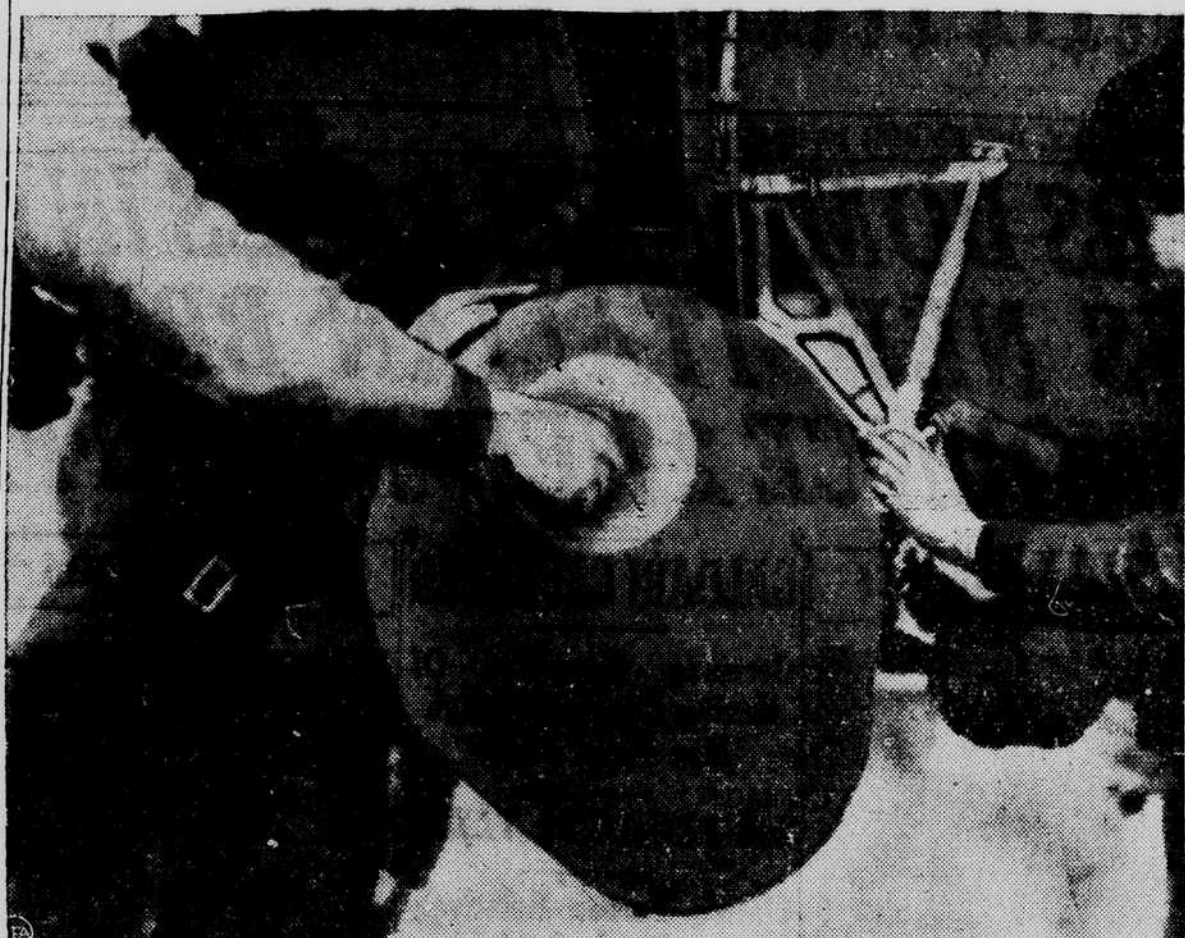
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Flying Forts Increase Their Lethal Load



A new underwing shackle on American Flying Fortresses has increased their bomb-carrying capacity approximately two tons. A ground crew at a bomber station somewhere in England attaches a heavy bomb to the shackle, shown for the first time, just before the plane takes off for a German target. (NEA radiophoto).

Way For America Clear Ahead

By CARY C. CRANMER

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The United States emerged from its second year of war on December 7 after a hairbreadth escape from defeat, still facing the possibility of the greatest blood sacrifice in its history but with the road to victory for the first time becoming fairly clear.

There is growing confidence that before another Pearl Harbor anniversary passes the United Nations will bring Germany down, and make sweeping inroads into the vast empire of land and sea dominated by Japan.

The climactic assault on the western ramparts of Adolf Hitler's Europe, a test which may exact from the United States a tremendous price for the greatest losses they ever have suffered, is yet to come.

Japan's vast domain still stretches almost a quarter of the distance around the earth at its girth and 5,000 miles north and south from the Kurile islands to below the Equator.

But out of the fogs of the North sea and the Aleutians, the jungles of the Solomons, New Guinea and Burma, the morass of China, the deserts of North Africa, the mud of the Italian mountains, the feuds of the Balkans, the vast boggy steppes of Russia and the great reaches of the Pacific—out of all the confusion and baffling expanse of a world girding war is beginning to come the first definite perception of now the Allies may go about winning the war.

A clear-cut strategy which does not depend over-much on an internal German collapse or an overnight seizure-of-the-earth bombing of Japan's cities from some Shangri-La is becoming apparent.

The bombing of Berlin, the slow creep up the Italian peninsula, fade-away guerrilla warfare in the Balkans, the rutted trail known as the Burma road, the fog-bound Aleutians as yet hypothetical U.S. air bases in the Russian maritime provinces, may all be parts, but not over-sized pieces, in this strategy.

The solid foundation of United Nations strategy it is apparent, is laid on three cornerstones—continued cooperation in Europe with the Russian giant certain to stay in the war to its end, a massive British-American smash at Hitler's defenses in western Europe, and in the Pacific, the dominant fact of overwhelming United States naval and air strength, later to be enhanced by the British.

All these salient features of the war have been established in the past year.

A year ago it was not possible to say with certainty that the Russian winter offensive would not wash out; that Hitler would not be able to come back in the summer of 1943 with a third great and possibly successful summer offensive; that Russia would not be content with a victory for herself that would leave Britain and the United States to solve the problem of attacking Germany from the west alone.

The Moscow conference made it abundantly clear that Russia is in the war to stay until Germany surrenders unconditionally. The successes of the Red army have removed all fears that Russia might crack up as she did in 1917. The ability of the RAF to go to the heart of the Reich in its campaign to destroy Berlin, the inroads into Germany by the growing armadas of Flying Fortresses and Liberators, are the measure of the strength, being massed by the Allies to attack the Hitler fortress from the west. A year ago it was apparent that the Allies were committed to a large-scale campaign in the Mediterranean. The economy of force being employed in Italy indicates that the main British and American effort is not to be made in that theater. It was just a year ago that the country learned for the first time that every one of the eight battle-ships at Hawaii were lost or damaged in the Japanese attack on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor. The backbone of the Pacific fleet lay shattered. As the nation neared the end of

its second year of war, Navy Secretary Knox announced that the United States fleet, largest in the world, had been doubled in the last 11 months, and now totals 817 fighting ships. The rate of growth was so great that it would total 838 warships in two more weeks, he said.

Among the new warships built in the 11 months were 40 aircraft carriers of all sizes. The United States may now have 22 battle-ships, at least twice as many as are available to Japan.

So great is the preponderance of United States fleet strength, and so rapidly it is growing, that military experts at Washington see the day approaching when the Allies, with their superiority in the air, will be able to sweep Japan from the sea and destroy the foundation of her sprawling empire.

A year ago United States forces on Guadalcanal were just leaving behind their period of great doubt, when they hung on by their eyelashes under nightly shelling and daily bombings and the "Tokyo express" ran down from the northern Solomons almost nightly to reinforce the enemy.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Australians and Americans were still hammering at Buna in the painful New Guinea campaign.

Island hopping and jungle slashing, it was clear, were going to be slow, costly and bloody roads to Tokyo.

But on Nov. 20 of this year a new phase of Pacific strategy opened up with the landing of United States Marines and soldiers in the Gilbert islands with the support of powerful naval task forces.

The conquest of Tarawa in the Gilberts is reported to have been the "toughest fight in marine history"—the heaviest previous toll in the history of the United States was at Soissons, France, in the first World War when marine units of the second division lost 70 per cent of their men in killed, wounded and missing—but it may nevertheless open one of the easiest roads to Tokyo.

The campaign in the central Pacific beginning at Tarawa, Makin and Abemama, opens a shorter and more direct route toward the Pacific.

At least seven major Japanese bases dot the chain of islands extending westward from the Gilberts to the Philippines, but a campaign along that 2,500-mile road, supported by predominant naval and air power on the offensive raises the possibility of outflanking, by-passing and neutralizing many of them.

Rabaul in New Britain, which has appeared so formidable an objective, also may be left dangling by itself. Even Truk in the Carolines, the most important Japanese base in the chain, might be so hammered and threatened from several sides as to become useless to the enemy.

Wake island, off to the side, held by a few marines for 13 days in 1941, again may fly the American flag and play a role in a flanking operation. Similarly, Guam eventually may be recaptured to advance the aerial and fleet umbrella into a strategic position.

The Japanese island of Marcus in mid-Pacific, 1,200 miles from Tokyo, already twice raided by American task forces, is another important objective either guarding the advance toward the Philippines or as the line of a main drive to Japan.

Operations proceeding westward from the Gilberts to the Marshalls to the Carolines may be considered as a drive back to the Philippines (where another major campaign would have to be fought) with the objective of retaking the islands either as a base for attack from Japan itself or as a position from which the east coast of China might be opened up.

Indies, Indo-China, Malaya, Thailand and Burma—would be threatened.

A plan to use the Philippines as a lever to open up the east coast of China would mean that the Chinese are to play a major role in the defeat of Japan. In that case, presumably, the objective would be to equip and train large Chinese forces for a major land drive.

Whatever the objective in a central Pacific campaign, Japan is faced with the same difficulties that confronted the Allies in 1941 and 1942. She must guard thousands of islands. She can hardly be strong everywhere at once.

Certain footholds will fall easily. Others will be taken only after a fight, perhaps even tougher than that at Tarawa. The Japanese have had years to prepare in the mandated islands in the Marshalls, the Carolines and the Marianas to the north. They had held the Gilberts only since the outbreak of war.

But the marines and soldiers who landed in the Gilberts were attacking an atoll for the first time in history. They had no precedents to guide them. They learned much from the experiment.

It is still island hopping, but the 76 hours required to take the Gilberts apparently demonstrated that the path along the jagged coral reefs and fat, barren islands of the central Pacific is quicker than jungle slashing in the Solomons, New Guinea, the East Indies, Malaya and Burma.

In a year of fighting the United States forces progressed about 400 miles in the Solomons, from Guadalcanal to Bougainville, where they still have a difficult campaign before they root the Japanese out of the last large island in the group.

Gen. MacArthur has advanced 150 straight-line miles from Buna to Finschhafen in New Guinea—still more than 3,000 miles from Tokyo.

The striking reverse in which the Allies now hold the initiative in the Pacific where two years ago they were watching the swift fall of Guam, Hongkong, Wake, Manila, Singapore, Batavia, Rangoon and Burma, Bataan and Corregidor, began in 1942 in the battle of the Coral sea, May 4-8, when Australia was saved from invasion, and the battle of Midway, June 3-5, when Hawaii and perhaps Alaska were saved, and the Japanese took one of the greatest and most important naval beatings in history.

These decisive battles were won by outnumbered American naval and air forces. A few mis-directed bombs or torpedoes, the failure of a few extra airplanes to arrive in time, and the result might have been reversed.

By chance, the weather lifted and a Japanese fleet of 22 ships was destroyed by Gen. MacArthur's airmen in the Bismarck sea. But for that the Japanese might

DORIS DUKE OFF BEAM IN DIVORCE

Rapid-Fire Procedure In Nevada Courts Delayed By Missing Papers

RENO, Dec. 15.—(P)—The customary rapid-fire procedure of Nevada divorce cases got off the beam today as the wealthy Doris Duke Cromwell came into court with request for a divorce from James H. R. Cromwell, one-time U. S. minister to Canada.

There was a 45-minute morning session of the court. This in itself was a much longer time than is required for many divorces here. But, because four depositions had not arrived from Honolulu, there was every expectation the case would go over until tomorrow.

Mrs. Cromwell, 31, wearing a page boy bob, spent the morning session giving evidence of her Nevada residence. A chancery court in New Jersey ruled yesterday she still was a resident of New Jersey.

The missing depositions from Honolulu, where the Cromwells formerly lived, were to certify her prior residence there.

After the morning session a reporter asked Mrs. Cromwell if she would marry again if she got the divorce here.

"Good Lord, no!" she exclaimed. She charged Cromwell with extreme cruelty and set up three years' separation as further grounds.

Mrs. Cromwell bought a home here and formally established Nevada residence on July 31.

JAPANESE REFUSE GAUGE OF BATTLE

(Continued from Page One)

that enemy base will be found "much more strongly defended than Rabaul."

He knows of the strength at Rabaul, of the Saratoga—dubbed Saracobra by her crew because she has proved deadly in action—participated in two air assaults on that Japanese base on new Britain island.

As a result of the attacks, he said, the Japanese have abandoned use of Rabaul as a naval base. But, he hastened to add, Rabaul still is a potent base for air and land operations with its three or more "excellent landing fields and probably large numbers of troops."

With loss of Rabaul as a naval base, Cassidy said, the Japanese fleet has been "forced to withdraw from that part of the ocean." Presumably the warships blasted in Simpson bay—principal harbor at Rabaul, moved back to Truk, some 800 miles distant, for repairs.

have won superiority in New Guinea.

Hits by American gunners firing almost blindly in the darkness off Savo island on the night of Nov. 13, 1942 turned the tide at Guadalcanal.

Now it is America who launches the blows, and the Japanese who seek, without much success, to parry.

BULL'S-EYE FOR ACE BOMBARDIER



A DIRECT HIT with a half-ton egg on an 8,000-ton Jap transport off Kavieng, New Ireland is made by Lt. Don Scurlock of Butler, Ala., during an attack on enemy shipping. Butler is one of the outstanding bombardiers in that war theater. Air Forces photo.

WEATHER

(Continued from Page One)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(P)—Weather bureau report of temperature and rainfall for the 24 hours ending 8 p. m. in the principal cotton growing areas and elsewhere:

Station	High	Low	Prec.
Alpena	19	1	0.00
Asheville	26	20	0.00
Key West	26	23	0.01
Atlantic City	20	16	0.00
Birmingham	32	24	0.00
Boston	17	9	0.01
Buffalo	17	4	0.01
Burlington	6	0	0.00
Chicago	14	-1	0.00
Cincinnati	21	1	0.00
Cleveland	18	6	0.00
Denver	54	14	0.00
Detroit	19	4	0.00
Duluth	11	-15	0.00
El Paso	39	28	0.00
Fort Worth	29	28	0.00
Galveston	42	36	0.01
Jacksonville	44	43	0.61
Kansas City	28	28	0.00
Little Rock	25	16	0.00
Louisville	22	8	0.00
Memphis	24	12	0.00
Meridian	15	1	0.00
Minneapolis	38	32	0.43
Mobile	15	1	0.00
New Orleans	43	39	0.14
New York	20	15	0.00
Norfolk	27	23	0.01
Pittsburgh	16	4	0.02
Portland, Me.	15	-1	0.00
Richmond	27	20	0.00
St. Louis	12	-3	0.00
San Antonio	43	43	0.00
Savannah	-2	-2	0.61
Tampa	74	27	0.00
Washington	21	27	0.00
Wilmington	22	15	0.00
	26	2.03	

Fats Waller Dies Aboard Train In Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 15.—(P)—Fats Waller, jovial composer and band leader who began playing the organ before he was 10 years old, died today, ending a 25-year professional career.

The Negro musician who was 39 died in his berth aboard a train in union station today. Deputy Coroner Edward Robinson said preliminary examination indicated

death resulted from a heart attack. Among Waller's hits are "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Fetters Too Big." He composed the music for "Early To Bed", a current Broadway success.

Known privately as Thomas Wright Waller, the 278-pound musician enjoyed playing the piano or organ whether professionally or in the privacy of his home in St. Albans, Long Island.

MAFFITT POSTAL SERVICE NEARS

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would be primarily to sell money orders and stamps and receive packages. The classified post office will be parallel in activities to that of Camp Davis. The mail for Maffitt Village will go directly to the new post office where it will be broken down and distributed by the postal carriers. The new post office will greatly increase the speed and efficiency of all mail for the Maffitt Village residents.

High School Alumni Dance Friday Night

The annual Christmas dance of the New Hanover High School honoring alumni will be held at 8 p. m., on Friday, in the high school gymnasium, under the sponsorship of the Executive Council and the Student Legislature. Music will be by the Visual Education staff.

This dance is to be semi-formal. Those attending must be in the building by 9:30 p. m. and enter through the cafeteria. Tickets may be obtained at the door or from Miss Ruth Davis, Room 309. The price is 25 cents per couple or 35 cents for each stag.

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Smoked criscoes .. lb. 1.06	Rolled beef .. lb. .35
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	Chicken Salami .. lb. .30
	2 frankfurters on rye .. .25
	Roast beef .. lb. .40

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