



Christmas Greetings



FORECAST

Fair and continued cold today with highest temperature about 38 degrees. Moderate northwest winds. Yesterday's temperatures: High, 57—Low, 36.

Wilmington Morning Star

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND BATAAN

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1944

FINAL EDITION

Germans Stopped, American Attack Gaining; Roosevelt Gives Prayer For New Day Of Peace

Nation Asked To Give Help In Ending War

President Unable To Say When Final Victory Will Come

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(AP)—President Roosevelt in a Christmas broadcast today voiced a prayer that with victory will come "a new day of peace on earth in which all the nations of the earth will join together for all time."

"We cannot yet say when our victory will come," he said. "Our enemies still fight fanatically. They still have reserves of men and military power. But, they themselves know that they and their evil works are doomed. We may hasten the day of that doom if we here at home continue to do our full share."

Mr. Roosevelt's broadcast was made in connection with the annual ceremony of lighting the National Community Christmas tree here.

The text of his address as released by the White House:

It is not easy to say "Merry Christmas" to you, my fellow Americans, in this time of destructive war. Nor can one lightly say "Merry Christmas" tonight to our armed forces at their battle stations all over the world—or to our Allies who fight by their side.

Here, at home, we will celebrate this Christmas day in our traditional American way—because of its deep spiritual meaning to us; and because we want our youngest generation to grow up knowing of the immortal Prince of Peace and good will. But, in perhaps every home in the United States, sad and anxious thoughts will be continually with the millions of our loved ones who are suffering hardships and misery, and who are risking their very lives to preserve for us and for all mankind, the fruits of his teachings and the foundations of civilization itself.

The Christmas spirit lives tonight in the bitter cold of the front lines in Europe and in the heat of the jungles and swamps of Burma and the Pacific Islands. Even the roar of our bombers and fighters in the air and the guns of our ships at sea will not drown out the message of Christmas which come to the hearts of our fighting men.

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GLENN MILLER, NOTED DANCE BAND LEADER, MISSING IN EUROPE

PARIS, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Major Glenn Miller, director of the U. S. Air Force band and a former orchestra leader, is missing on a flight from England to Paris, it was announced today.

Miller, one of the outstanding orchestra leaders of the United States, left England December 15 as a passenger aboard a plane. No trace of the plane has been found. His Air Force band had been playing in Paris. No members of the band were with him on the plane.

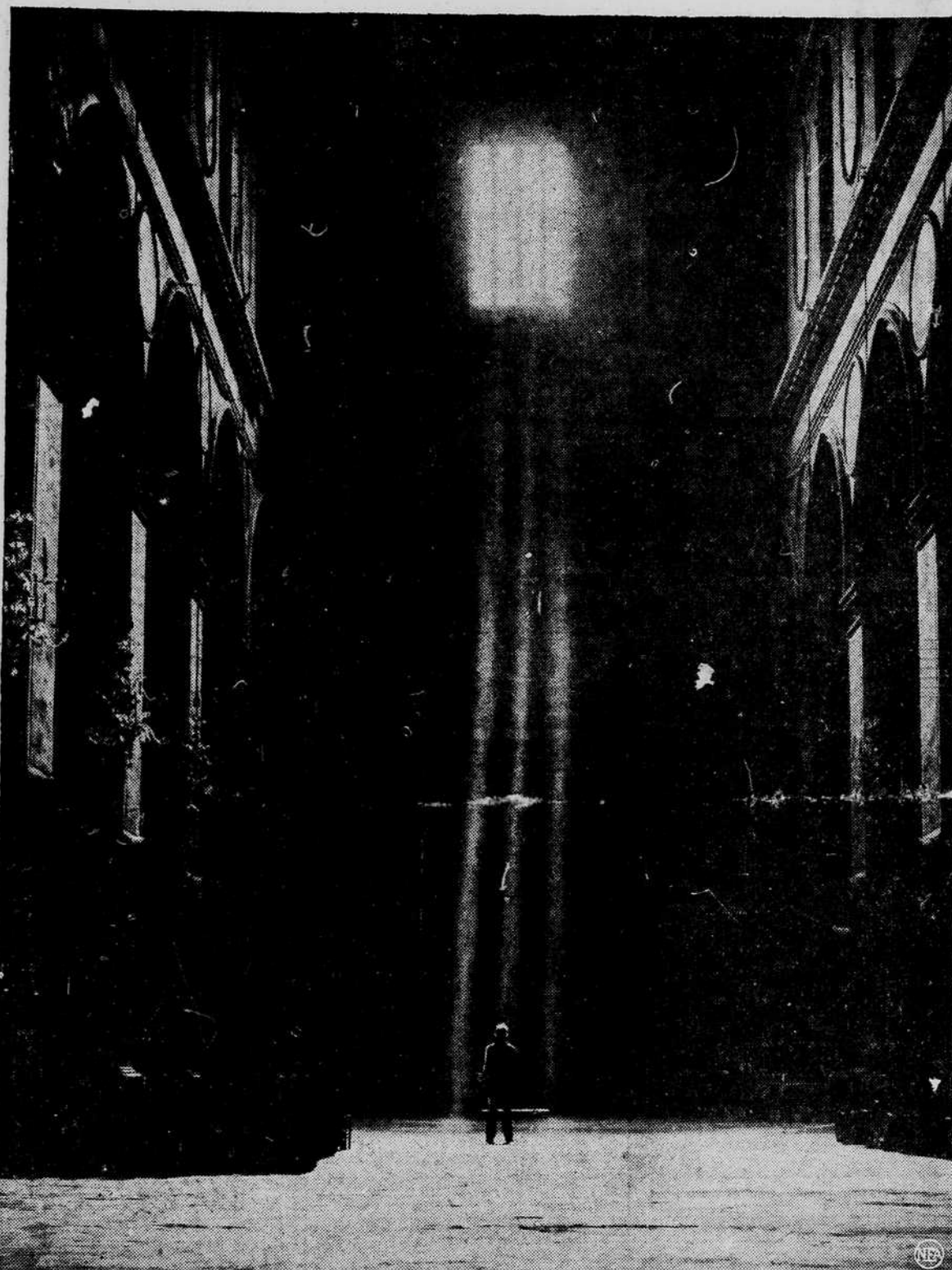
Miller last led his band in a broadcast December 12. The band, scheduled to broadcast over BBC tomorrow at 7 P. M. eastern war time) in the "A-E-F Christmas Show," will be conducted by Sgt. Jerry Gray, deputy leader.

Miller, 39, was commissioned a captain in the Army Specialist Corps September 10, 1942, and was promoted to his majority about six months ago.

A native of Clarinda, Iowa, he first gained prominence in the popular music field as a trombonist, with various orchestras and then as an arranger for many of the top-flight bands. He organized his own orchestra in 1933.

He married the former Helen Barker, a non-professional, in 1928. The couple have two adopted children, Steve, 2, and Johnnie, Dec. 6, age four months old.

Christmas 1944



"Yet In Thy Dark Streets Shineth The Everlasting Light. The Hopes And Fears Of All The Years Are Met In Thee Tonight."

Local Girl 'Happiest In Town' Over Her 'GI'

A Christmas present from the front arrived in the form of a tiny black Cocker Spaniel puppy late yesterday afternoon at the home of Miss "Winkie" Rivenbark, 501 South 17th street, and from last reports, the new owner and pup were "doing fine."

YANKS CELEBRATE FIRST CHRISTMAS IN FREED FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 24.—(AP)—American soldiers prepared to observe their first Christmas in France today with turkey dinners, packages from home and parties for French children, who are celebrating their first liberated Noel.

U. S. Quartermasters have promised that every Doughboy, except those actually fighting in the front lines, will have turkey with all the trimmings. Many of the men stationed in French cities will have their holiday feasts with French families who have managed to save a few precious bottles of wine, cognac, and larders of meats and vegetables.

Extra duties entailed in meeting the German counter-offensive will prevent most soldiers from joining French civilians and friends, but for some there will be colorful Christmas Eve ceremonies.

Thousands of troops, for example, are planning to participate in their first "Reveillon," the traditional French manner of celebrating the holiday eve at midnight which includes midnight mass, a huge dirchade at one or two o'clock in the morning, then dancing till dawn—or in Paris, until the "Metro" resumes service at 6 a.m.

Part of the Americans' Christmas observance will extend back to the United States by radio from (Continued on Page Six, Col. 6)

CHRISTMAS CAROLS BROUGHT TO HOMES BY STREET SINGERS

Nearly every neighborhood in the city was visited last night by one of the six groups of Christmas carollers assigned to their musical patrols by Jesse A. Reynolds, city superintendent of recreation, and Ralph Richards industrial USO director, co-chairmen of the Christmas Carol Committee.

Seeking to utilize the services of the volunteer songsters whose numbers have grown from Christmas to Christmas, in such a way as to prevent overlapping and give every residential block a chance to hear carols, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Richards divided the city into six areas late last week and mapped routes for the strolling singers.

In the Hemenway school area, Mr. Richards' industrial USO choristers held forth, while the companion clubs from Fifth and (Continued on Page Six, Col. 2)

Canned Vegetables May Be Back On Ration List After Christmas

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Canned vegetables may be back on the ration list when stores reopen Tuesday after the Christmas holiday.

Originally set for the first of the year, the earlier return to rationing was considered today at an emergency meeting of Government officials, because of critically short supplies. The schedule for restoring ration values to nearly all point-free meats on December 31 was reported unchanged.

Official announcement of both moves had been set for Tuesday evening, but rationing authorities fear a run might develop during (Continued on Page Three, Col. 7)

Air Armada, Greater Than D-Day Concentration, Strikes Germans

LONDON, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The full weight of the mighty Allied aerial strength fell upon the life lines of the German counter offensive today and channel observers said the swarm of bombers and fighters appeared to exceed the 13,000 put into the air on D-Day.

With the weather perfect over the channel and continent a record armada of at least 2,000 American Flying Fortresses and Liberators escorted by 1,000 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, smashed at the Nazi spearheads in Belgium and enemy supply lines in Germany.

Returning pilots said at least 50 German Nazi interceptors had been shot down in a series of blazing clashes over western Germany by fighter pilots escorting the big bombers.

In addition to the blows struck by Britain-based bombers and fighters, thousands of rocket-firing Mustangs, Thunderbolts, Typhoons and Spitfires of American and (Continued on Page Three, Col. 7)

British units based in France, Belgium and Holland attacked German armored columns.

Still more hundreds of American and British medium bombers based on the continent were hurled into the assault on the German columns which have been on the march for more than a week shrouded in fog and mist which had grounded everything except buzz-bombs.

Even before the bomber and fighters of the U. S. Eighth Air Force had returned to their bases in England, channel observers reported hordes of RAF bombers and fighters streaking over the channel toward the continent.

Today's all-out aerial smash at the Germans followed a 4,500-plane assault yesterday during which 178 Nazi planes were shot out of the skies.

Headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe announced (Continued on Page Three, Col. 7)

ed that "the greatest force of heavy bombers ever flown on a single mission by any air force" attacked communications and supply centers just opposite the bulge driven into the American lines by the Germans.

At the same time, formations of the long-range heavy bombers loaded with probably more than 2,000 tons of high explosives and fragmentation bombs landed a surprise blow at the heart of the rejuvenated Luftwaffe, which it was disclosed, is centered around Frankfurt, about 150 miles east of the Belgian battlefields.

Bombs from Flying Fortresses straddled runways and hangars on 11 air fields grouped around the city and caught 50 German fighters parked on one.

All the time, American fighters kept roaring through the cloudless skies hunting down German fighters wherever they could be found (Continued on Page Three, Col. 7)

Luxembourg's Capital Saved By Yank Drive

Nazis Fail To Advance More Than Mile At Any Point

PARIS, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The German offensive had been held virtually to a standstill for 48 hours up to late Saturday, Allied Supreme Headquarters disclosed tonight, and American counter-attacks against the enemy's southern flank gained ground in four sectors.

A front dispatch covering fighting up to late Saturday morning declared American forces storming Field Marshal von Rundstedt's southern flank had gouged out gains along a 20-mile front in northern Luxembourg, lifting the menace to that tiny Duchy's capital.

The mightiest air force ever assembled lashed the enemy's front and communications with a hurricane of destruction for the second successive day and the skies were filled with battling planes.

The German wedges in Belgium and Luxembourg appeared to be contained, at least for the moment, with the Germans yesterday advancing no more than a mile at any point.

A front dispatch reported that up to late yesterday morning American attacks from the south had driven the Germans almost across the border 17 miles northeast of the city of Luxembourg, and had cleared half of Martelange, 21 miles northwest of the capital, where the Germans cut the vital Bastogne-Arlon highway.

Heavy fighting raged near Rarch, five miles east of Martelange.

Sixteen miles due north of the city of Luxembourg, American lines were advanced one to two miles north of Grosbusch. (This would indicate a possible 10-mile advance. Since the day before the Americans had been operating in the area of Mersb, seven miles south of Grosbusch.)

Other gains were announced in an area five miles west and northwest of Diekirch or about 18 to 19 miles north of Luxembourg.

Yet another force hammered on east of Diekirch, apparently around Berdorf, 17 miles northeast of Luxembourg and less than a mile and a half from the German border.

The greatest German gain reported up to noon yesterday was about a mile. The situation was described officially as definitely improved as Allied counter-measures began to influence the course of the swirling sanguinary battle.

Since then, however, von Rundstedt may have thrown his second (Continued on Page Six, Col. 1)

Berlin Admits Advances Made By Yank Troops

LONDON, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The Berlin radio tonight admitted that advances had been carved into German lines by American forces on the southern flank.

An International Information Bureau broadcast from Berlin declared the Germans had held an attack "by numerically superior forces" on the northern flank, but conceded that "the situation of the greater winter battle in the Ardennes had not changed decisively during the past 24 hours."

Berlin said American as well as German reinforcements were being fed continuously into the battle.

"Eisenhower's plan to launch a strong attack from the north and south and so cut off the Germans from their rear is beginning to take clearer shape," said the broadcast.

But it declared the German situation on both sides of the Ourthe, at the western tip of the offensive bulge, was still favorable and that German bridgeheads on the west side of the river were enlarged and widened by fresh forces ferried across.

REDS CUT NAZI ESCAPE PATHWAY

Sudden Drive Around Budapest Imperils Entire Garrison

LONDON, Dec. 24.—(AP)—One Red Army swept 25 miles around Budapest's western side today, cutting the enemy's main escape route 14 miles from the Hungarian capital and virtually trapping the besieged German-Hungarian garrison, as another army slashed 17 miles inside western Slovakia to within 98 miles of Vienna, capital of Austria.

Only a 17-mile gap remains to be closed before Budapest is entirely encircled, and the two powerful Russian armies were sweeping on toward Austria on both sides of the big Danube bend Moscow announced.

Toppling the major strongholds of Szekesfehervar and Bicske, 32 miles southwest and 14 miles west of Budapest, Marshall Feodor I. Tolbukhin's third Ukrainian army drove within 68 miles of the Austrian frontier, and also cut to within seven miles southwest of Budapest's city limits after breaking through German lines on a 55-mile front in a three-day offensive between Lake Balaton and the capital.

Simultaneously Marshall Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army, racing westward above the Danube at a point 50 miles northwest of Budapest, captured the rail junction of Leva (Levice), only 65 miles east of Bratislava, Slovak capital, and 98 miles from Vienna.

In this area the Russians were swarming ahead in two directions, northward and westward toward Bratislava and Vienna, and northward into the Slovak mountains in an effort to trap scores of thousands of Germans fighting far to the east in the exposed Losonc-Kassa sectors.

At captured Leva, on the north (Continued on Page Three, Col. 4)

Superforts Bombard Iwo Jima And Heavy Explosions Reported

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(AP)—A force of perhaps a half-hundred Superfortresses set off "heavy explosions in military installations" in the latest strike at Iwo Jima, enemy island midway between Japan and Saipan, the 20th Air Force announced today.

All of the B-29's returned to their base in the Marianas after encountering only light and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire and no fighter plane opposition, a communique said. This latter reference suggested that more than two weeks of air attacks on the island is reducing its defenses to the point where no serious opposition can be turned on Army and Navy planes visiting Iwo Jima.

A War Production Board announcement it will withhold priorities and other operation essentials from firms violating war manpower Commission firing restrictions, "all on less-essential firms to force release of additional workers to war jobs.

An order banning all horse dog racing effective January 3, a directive to Selective Service to review the cases of professional athletes rejected for military service or discharged for physical reasons.

Although OPA has been urging (Continued on Page Three, Col. 7)