

Clear to partly cloudy and somewhat warmer today with moderate northerly winds.

Wilmington Morning Star

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1945

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND BATAAN

FINAL EDITION

MacArthur's Troops Take Five More Towns, Punch Inland On 25-Mile Luzon Beachhead; Nazis Flee Into Forest Before Third Army

Army Leaders Relieved For Ability Lack

Stimson Says Nation Soon To Know Casualties In Europe

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—(UP)—A "number" of U. S. Army commanders have been ousted from their battlefield commands for failure to meet performance standards, it was revealed today by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson who announced simultaneously the Nation probably will be told next Thursday what the recent German break-through cost in American lives.

He declined to disclose when or where the command shakeups occurred or the rank of officers involved. It was presumed, however, that most of the actions involved the European theatre and possibly resulted from the German offensive.

"It is the policy of the War Department," he said, "to demand the very highest standards of performance from the Army's commanders. A number of commanders have been relieved because of this demand.

"However, such removals may mean that the abilities of the officers did not suit their particular assignments, and the men may be placed at other duties to which they are better fitted."

His statement was prompted by questions whether any commanders other than Maj. Gen. Lindsay McDonald Silvester had been removed from combat commands. Silvester was relieved several months ago of his command of the Seventh Armored Division, returned here and reverted to his permanent rank of colonel.

Stimson announced at his press conference that Army casualties compiled here through December 29, but not including those suffered in the German offensive, total 564,251—7,999 more than the figure announced last week. Navy, Marine and Coast Guard totals as of last night were 82,029.

Thus, announced total casualties for all U. S. forces since Pearl Harbor now stands at 646,280, including 138,393 killed, 370,647 wounded, 73,594 missing and 63,746 prisoners of war.

Stimson said he expected "to have next week the figures for December which will cover principally the period of the German offensive." He said in effect that the War Department was not deliberately holding back on the casualties suffered in the Nazi drive. "No casualty figures have been omitted," he said. "The department simply has not thought it wise at the time of emergency to require that a special set of casualty figures be compiled in advance of the usual compilation."

Cook Upholds Reputation Of Coast Guard By Saving Child In Cape Fear River

Ship's Cook 2-c Walter J. Gardecki proved yesterday afternoon that the United States Coast Guard hasn't lost its peacetime touch at plucking people from watery graves.

Returning from the commissary warehouse at the foot of Princess street, he noticed three children playing on the barge moored to the dock. The stern of the quarterboat where he lives. A moment after going aboard the latter, he heard a splash and treble cries of "Help!"

A man who can put two-and-two together without a slide-rule, Cook Gardecki vaulted the stern rail of the quarterboat without further ado and plunged into the chilly Cape Fear river. A moment later he emerged with a dripping boy, whom he described as being about second-grade age but who has not been identified.

Dried and warmed aboard the quarterboat, the youthful victim was driven home in a Jeep none the worse for his ducking.

Prior to his entry into the Coast Guard, Gardecki was not a life guard, but a furcoat designer in Kingston, N. Y., his home town.

Ingram Reiterates Robot Warning But Clarifies Position

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—(UP)—Adm. Jonas H. Ingram, commander in chief of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet, reiterated tonight that in his opinion an attack by German robot bombs on East Coast cities was "possible and feasible."

He did not, however, repeat his previous warning that robot bombing of New York and Washington was "possible and probable" within the next 30 to 60 days, a warning he issued during a press conference at an East Coast port.

WAR POWERS ACT OF N. C. PASSED

Joint Appropriations Committee begins Work In Assembly

RALEIGH, Jan. 11.—(AP)—The Joint Appropriations Committee, charged with passing on monetary allocations to State institutions and agencies, began work today after a brief Assembly session, but the Joint Finance Committee, whose responsibility is to raise the money, deferred its first deliberations until next Tuesday.

Under suspension of the rules, the Senate passed a measure by Senator Gay of Northampton to reinstate the emergency war powers of the Governor. Powers granted the chief executive under the 1943 statute expired with the convening last Wednesday of the Legislature. Gay's measure would continue them for the duration of the war and six months, giving the Governor unusual authority over "the health, welfare, safety and protection of the civilian population."

Under the War Powers Bill, the Governor, with approval of the Council of State, could formulate and execute plans for the distribution of food, fuel, clothing and other necessities; could direct civilian defense and its related activities; could direct the activities of fire-fighting, police and other civil agencies; could lend State equipment to the armed services; could authorize the temporary transfer of State personnel to the armed services; could control traffic; and could amend other specified laws if the Assembly were not in session.

The act originally was intended to allow the Governor and Council of State to cope with emergencies without having to call the Legislature into special session.

Once again the Assembly took cognizance of the experience of veteran Legislator Walter (Pete) Murphy of Salisbury and the Senate vote to recreate the post of liaison officer for him. He would, in effect, be the "go-between" of the House and Senate. Murphy was defeated in his race last spring.

Measures by Senator Wathers of Cleveland would permit the taking of acknowledgements by officers of the rank of ensign or second lieutenant; and petition the State's congressmen "to give careful consideration to the present method of payment by the Federal Government on forest lands, TVA properties, and other properties owned by the Federal Government, with a view of providing a more stable form of payment on forest lands and a more equitable payment on TVA properties and other properties owned by the Federal Government."

ODT Cancels Resort Railroad Schedules

Order Supplements Byrnes' Directive To Conserve Coal; Atlantic Coast Line Will Not Be Affected; Branch Lines Hit

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—(UP)—The Government tonight ordered railroads to cancel all passenger trains, effective March 1, on which 35 per cent of the seats were not occupied during last November and instructed them to discontinue immediately seasonal service to any resort area.

The Office of Defense Transportation acted to implement War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes' order last night to curtail non-essential railroad schedules to save coal. The Byrnes' order also called for a partial blackout of electric sign displays and other measures, including reduced heat in homes and office buildings—all aimed at coal conservation.

CHEST TO RUN OWN CAMPAIGN

Local Organization Disperses With Chicago Group's Services

Services of the American City Bureau of Chicago, which has conducted the Wilmington Community War Chest campaign for the past three years, will be discontinued, it was decided at a special meeting of the board of directors at large was ordered increased from 10 to 15, according to an announcement last night by the Rev. Walter B. Fieed, chairman.

It was explained that the discontinuance of the services of the private agency would save considerably on the expenses of the drive, although the bureau charged a fixed fee which would have been less than two per cent if fixed on a percentage basis.

The change yesterday came about following a survey made by a special committee appointed at the December 14 meeting of the board of directors, who were ordered to study other campaigns of North Carolina as well as other states.

It was emphasized that no changes were ordered in the number of institutional directors, those representing agencies benefited by the Community War Chest.

Directors at large are elected by the membership of the group, it was said, and the place for the annual meeting yet is to be named. The Rev. Freed announced a nominating committee yesterday to prepare a slate of directors at large to be offered at the election meeting. Those appointed to the committee are Mrs. Albert F. Perry, E. A. Laney, James S. Webb and L. D. Latta.

France Will Have Army Of 1,200,000 In Spring

PARIS, Jan. 11.—(AP)—War Minister Andre Dithelm declared today after a tour of the Alsatian battlefield that by the end of spring France would have an army of 1,200,000 men equipped and powerfully armed with the latest American material.

France's increased contribution to the Allied war effort is to be a direct result of recent conversations among Prime Minister Churchill, General Eisenhower and General de Gaulle, in which the Allies agreed to send larger amounts of equipment to the French.

Mobilization of three classes—1943, 1944 and 1945—will double France's present strength and in reality increase her contribution four-fold, Dithelm said, explaining that half of the current armed strength of 600,000 men still are in training or in the process of formation.

LAWMAKER FOUND MURDERED IN CAR

Principal Witness In Michigan Graft Case Is Slain

LANSING, Mich., Jan. 11.—(AP)—State Senator Warren G. Hooper, Albion, Mich., Republican, was found shot to death tonight in his automobile four miles north of Springport, Mich., and a special Prosecutor Kim Sigler ordered the Carr Grand Jury investigators to investigate his death at once.

Police said Hooper's automobile was on fire when the body was discovered. The body, police said, was on the right side of the front seat of the car and no gun was found at the scene. There was a bullet hole through a rear right window of the car.

Sigler said "Hooper was a principal witness in the Grand Jury case against Frank D. McKay, of Grand Rapids, Mich., former Republican national committeeman for Michigan; Floyd Fitzsimmons, Benton Harbor, Mich., sports promoter, and William Green of Hillman, Mich., former State representative, all arrested by the Grand Jury on a charge of conspiracy to bribe State legislators in connection with a parimutuel betting bill.

Sigler said Hooper was "of value" as a witness against William J. Burns, secretary of the Michigan State Medical Society, who was accused by the Grand Jury of offering a bribe on medical society legislation. Neither of the two warrants have gone to trial.

He said Hooper had given a "complete confession to the Grand Jury and had been granted immunity from prosecution to testify concerning all the facts" in the McKay-Fitzsimmons-Green case.

Patton Cuts Strong Line By Surprise

Entire Luxembourg Front Threatened; British Open Up

PARIS, Jan. 11.—(AP)—The U. S. Third Army threatened to cave in the Luxembourg front with a surprise stroke today that sent thousands of Germans fleeing into the woods and in Belgium the enemy began a 23-mile withdrawal that turned loose British patrols on a 10-mile eastward sweep.

The northwestern enemy anchor of La Roche fell along with 15 other towns as German forces were reported evacuating the entire western apex of their Belgian and Luxembourg conquests.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops cut in half powerful box positions southeast of Bastogne from which three enemy divisions were hammering at his lines from the east. The neck out of the box now was no more than two miles wide.

Resistance in the remainder of this area was reported collapsing rapidly as the Germans—caught off guard by the unexpected blow—floundered off into the snow drifts and woods toward the uncertain haven of Wiltz, ten miles east of Bastogne, where other Third Army forces lie in wait.

The last road out of the box was cut by capture of Doncols, near its center, and the Germans had no choice but to strike out through the woods to escape annihilation. The bodies of hundreds of enemy lay in the snow.

In the first 11 hours of the assault, which jumped off at 1 a. m. in the numbing cold of near zero weather, 400 prisoners were taken and a front dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent Lewis Hawkins said the final count would be much more.

The German High Command admitted it was quitting all the Belgian bulge west of the Ourthe river and front dispatches said the new line was expected to run from Vielsalm on the north for 16 miles southwest through Houffalize to near Bastogne.

This line would contain only about one-fourth of the territory overrun at the height of the Germans' great offensive. It is 23 miles from Grupont, at the tip of the bulge as it existed Wednesday, to Houffalize.

The closing jaws of the Allied vise were expected to catch few prisoners, for Field Marshal von Rundstedt apparently had cleared out the bulk and the best of his troops with the help of fog, deep snowdrifts discouraging swift pursuit, and dense mine fields.

While the British were coming up on the west in a general advance of three miles, the Germans had pulled out so quickly that all contact was lost except for a few snipers.

Tommyes moved in from the northwest in force and seized the town of Ronchamps, only three miles southwest of Doughboys in newly-captured La Roche.

Peter Refuses Regency; Balkans Again Snarled

LONDON, Jan. 11.—(AP)—Young King Peter of Yugoslavia handed Allied diplomats a new Balkan political snarl tonight when he suddenly reversed his course and came out in formal opposition to a regency plan drawn up by Marshal Tito and his own prime minister, Ivan Subasic.

The exiled monarch, who had promised a statement on the regency at noon and then withheld it without explanation, declared tonight that he approved the "basic proposals of the Tito-Subasic agreement, whereby the future government of Yugoslavia would be determined solely by a free decision of its people.

He objected, however, to "the suggested form of regency and to

Where Yanks Storm Luzon Beaches



Lingayen Gulf, a hundred miles north of Manila on Luzon Island in the Philippines, is revealed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur as the area where U. S. Sixth Army forces have seized four initial beachheads and begun the final campaign to destroy Jap power in the Philippines. Our landing losses have been insignificant, MacArthur states. The General himself is reported to have gone ashore with his troops and to be commanding in person from headquarters on one of the beaches. (International)

BRITISH GENERAL KILLED BY BOMB

Officer May Have Died While Standing By MacArthur

LONDON, Jan. 11.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Herbert Lumsden, Prime Minister Churchill's personal representative to Gen. MacArthur, was killed by a Japanese air attack January 6 aboard an American warship in the Pacific, the War Office announced today amid indications he may have died while standing alongside the American commander in chief.

Whether Gen. Lumsden was killed by a bomb hit on the bridge of an American warship or by a Japanese suicide plane, the two most likely causes, was not disclosed. Since he was Churchill's personal representative, however, Gen. Lumsden should have been on the fleet flagship and perhaps near MacArthur.

January 6 was the day on which the Japanese said the American fleet invading Luzon steamed into Lingayen Gulf. The actual landing on Luzon came January 9.

The War Office announcement said that Gen. Lumsden was "killed by enemy air action January 6 while on the bridge of one of the U. S. warships engaged in the Pacific," and the announcement quoted a message from Gen. MacArthur mentioning "the complete courage which this officer so frequently displayed in my immediate presence during operations in this theatre during the last year.

SUPERFORTS HIT SINGAPORE BASE

Tokyo Vexed With Fire Bombs In New Air Attacks

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—(AP)—Superforts, again demonstrating their seven-league boots, today scoured the great naval base of Singapore and vexed Tokyo with a few fire bombs.

A "medium force," an expression indicating about 40 B-29s, roared in from India to plaster the tip of the Malay Peninsula with "good results," the War Department announced.

Tokyo radio, devoting much of its time these days to the B-29 subject, said three Saipan-based Superfortresses made nuisance raids over the Japanese capital. They are not to be discounted, the Japanese well know, for several big smashes at the home island of Honshu have followed these one, two and three-plane expeditions.

The Singapore strike, in early daylight, was made by the 20th Bomber Command headquartered in India. Superforts first hit Singapore dry dock facilities November 5. The round trip of more than 3,500 miles is the record for daylight flights by military planes on a mission.

In spite of bad weather over the target, the pilots said they saw bombs hit the drydocks and naval installations of the mighty base stolen from Britain in Japan's on-rushing March of 1942.

None of the B-29s was lost despite fighter opposition. One fought off 20 Zeros.

The raid seemed to be a segment in the master plan for liberation of the Philippines. Some of the Japanese ships crippled in the big engagement that preceded the Leyte invasion probably crawled to Singapore for repairs. It is a big staging base also for fleet units that might try to come to the rescue of the enemy garrisons on Luzon.

The War Department communique indicated that the Japanese may have been caught off guard by the first wave of Superfortresses. It said only meagre and inaccurate ack-ack was thrown up, our enemy fighter planes were shot down, one was listed as a probable and 12 damaged.

First Enemy Opposition Is Met By Yanks

48-Hour Advance Has Carried Americans South Of Swamps

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, LUZON, Friday, Jan. 12.—(AP)—American invaders of Luzon, punching seven to nine miles inland from their 25-mile-wide Lingayen Gulf beachheads, have seized five more towns and terminals of four main highways and a railroad leading to Manila. They found the first appreciable opposition at their deepest spearhead.

Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's Sixth Army units have been advancing for two days as far and as fast as reasonable caution and the movement of supplies has permitted.

The Yanks now have taken nine towns and more than a score of villages.

The 48-hour advance has carried the Americans well south of the maze of swamp country at the mouth of the meandering Agno river and across the river line along which the Japanese might have been able to make a delaying stand.

Only on the extreme left flank, along the Pozorrubio road, have the Americans run into anything more than isolated and quickly eliminated sniper resistance.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique today made the first mention of "combat contact" near Pozorrubio, at the end of the deepest spearhead east of the San Fabian landing beach. He gave no indication of the severity of the fighting there.

The original 15-mile beachheads were widened to at least 25 miles with the capture of the mouth of the Agno, which empties into the Lingayen Gulf west of captured Lingayen town.

Nine miles represented the deepest point of penetration in the time covered in the communique. Since the communique always lags 24 hours behind operations it was probable patrols had driven deeper since then.

Planes from Seventh Fleet bays flatpots provided close cover for the advance, while land-based Army bombers and fighters raked enemy targets all over Luzon.

Associated Press Correspondent Spencer Davis reported from the Seventh Fleet flagship that Navy Wildcats cleaned out a nest of about 70 cleverly-camouflaged barges, small islets in northwestern Lingayen Gulf since the American landing.

The first stiffened resistance was at the left flank east of the San Fabian beachhead. There the Sixth Army troops had seized the road

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

Two More Big American Invasion Fleets Nearing Luzon, Tokyo Announces

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—(UP)—At least two powerful American invasion fleets are in waters off Luzon in addition to the mammoth concentration in the Lingayen Gulf, and American reinforcements are streaming ashore on the gulf coast despite strong Japanese attacks, Tokyo broadcasts said today.