

Russians Take Tannenberg In New Offensive; American Artillery Raking German Retreat; Yanks Capture Tarlac, 65 Miles From Manila

City Is Left In Ruins By Jap Torches

Two Important Airfields Also Taken By Sixth Army

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Luzon, Monday, Jan. 22.—(AP)—American liberation forces have captured Tarlac, provincial capital, 65 airline miles north of Manila, headquarters announced today.

Tarlac, a highway and railroad hub, is 22 miles north of Fort Stotsenburg and Clark field, once the principal U. S. Army posts on Luzon Island.

The airfield has been the almost constant target of American Army and Navy planes since the Yank invasion forces first moved into the Philippines with the landing on Leyte Island last October 20.

Occupation of Tarlac cut the Americans 43 airline miles inland from the Lingayen Gulf beachhead, where the Yanks landed on Luzon January 9.

The city was taken Friday (Philippine time) by two American columns, which also scooped up two nearby airfields.

Frontline dispatches said the city was left a smoldering ruins by the Japanese who evidently had doused every house with gasoline and then applied torches. Tarlac was a scene of complete devastation, its Filipino inhabitants stunned and homeless.

The Americans came down from Santa Ignacia, on the right flank of the liberation front and also took Victoria and La Paz, northeast and southeast, respectively, of Tarlac.

The Japanese made a counter-attack Thursday night on American positions at Moncada, town on the Manila north highway in the center of the invasion thrust, but were bloodily repulsed, the communiques said.

With the two new airfields captured at Tarlac, the Americans now have five fields on Luzon for further developing thrusts at Japanese supply lines and troops.

Biggest field is at Lingayen, near the original beachhead. Two smaller fields were acquired in the capture of Carmen and Rosales, on the south bank of the Agno river in the central sector.

In the capture of Tarlac, Victoria and La Paz indicated that Gen. Douglas MacArthur's invasion spearheads on the right flank are at last Manila-bound with the speed denied them while forces on the left flank were disposing of Japanese opposition in the foothills of the Benguet mountains.

MacArthur announced yesterday that the Manila north highway was in American control from San Jose to the north, down to Paniquian, about 40 miles, and that Japanese forces in north Luzon, therefore, were severed from those in the south.

The Americans on the left flank likewise advanced, reaching the outskirts of San Manuel near where the central Luzon plain breaks off from a shoulder of the Benguet mountains, and crossing the Agno river near Santa Maria.

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Sailor's Three Children Die In Fire Started By Their Own Carelessness

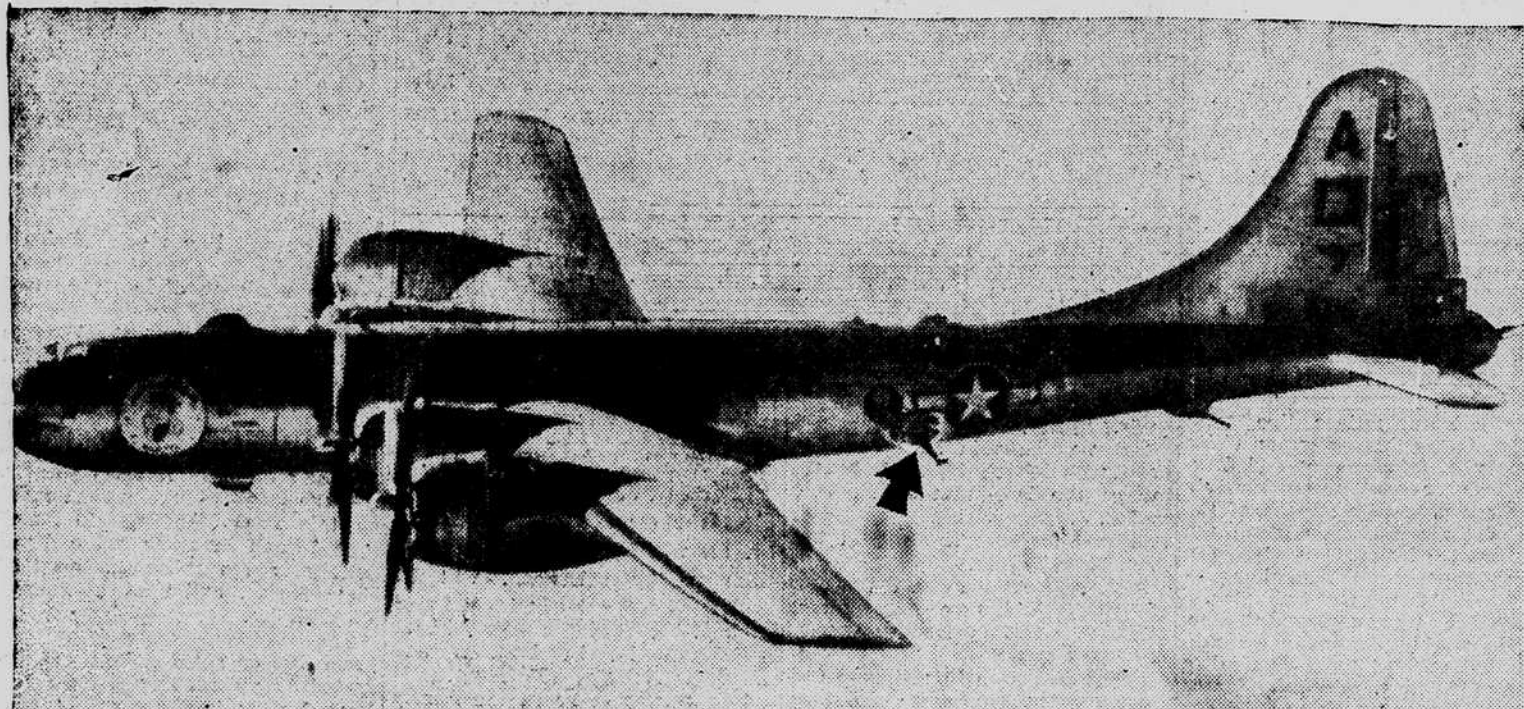
BOSTON, Jan. 21.—(UP)—A sailor's three children were burned to death in their bedroom today when fire, resulting from their own careless use of matches, swept their Roxbury tenement.

The dead are Edward Adams, 4, Richard, 3, and Judith, 2, children of Fireman I-C John Adams who now is at sea. His wife and nine-month-old daughter, Janet, were hospitalized with burns. Another son was visiting relatives at the time of the fire.

Neighbors reported that a terrific explosion preceded the blaze. Firemen carried Mrs. Adams and baby Janet to safety, but were unable to force their way into the children's room because of the flames. A score of residents of the three-story wooden block were forced to flee, and damage was set at \$5,000.

In his review, Mr. Abernethy

SUPERFORTRESS GUNNER DANGLING IN AIR OVER TOKYO



Waist gunner on a superfortress, Sgt. J. R. Krantz, of Hickory Point, Tenn., had a close call, when Jap anti-aircraft fire blasted his B-29 gun blister. It left him dangling from his plane (arrow) five miles over the Japanese capital, for nearly fifteen minutes by one leg fastened in a safety strap before crewmen managed to pull him back into the plane. Official U. S. Army Air Forces photo. (International Soundphoto.)

FDR HELD WARY OF SECRET PACT

President Desires To Avoid Charges Of Sub-Rosa Agreements

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—(AP)—President Roosevelt is expected to take extraordinary precautions to reassure Congress about the results of his projected conference with Churchill and Stalin. Even more this year than in previous wartime sessions the chief executive evidently desires to avoid, or offset beforehand, any possible charges of secret agreements or special deals withheld from the American people and Congress.

After both the Moscow conference in the fall of 1943 and the subsequent Big Three meeting at Tehran, Mr. Roosevelt and former Secretary of State Hull went to considerable lengths to emphasize that there had been no secret arrangements. But they failed to stop all Congressional critics from voicing suspicions that actually there were unreported understandings.

The problem is further sharpened now by the task the President faces in winning Senate acceptance for a world security plan which would carry with it full fledged American participation in world affairs.

Exactly what steps Mr. Roosevelt has planned as a means of reassuring Congress and the Nation about what goes on at the

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'G I Joe' Of New Hanover Is Named Man Of The Year

"G-I Joe" of New Hanover county was selected as Wilmington's Outstanding Young Man of 1945, according to an announcement yesterday at a luncheon meeting of Junior Chambers of Commerce of the Eastern District, at 1:30 p. m. at the Friendly banquet hall. In announcing the award, Walter J. Cartier, intermediary between the secret nominating committee and the Jaycees, said that "without doubt, the man of the year, as far as our community is concerned, might be shuffled up and called the men of the year—our boys in the armed services."

In immediately following the announcement, a moment of silent prayer was held for all men and women in service.

In connection with the celebration of National Founder's Week, Bob Abernethy, of Gastonia, president of the North Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce, gave a brief history of the organization and defined the Junior Chamber as "a group of young men joined together in a friendly spirit to inculcate civic consciousness by means of active participation in constructive projects which will improve the community, State and Nation."

In his review, Mr. Abernethy

Roosevelt Asks Jones To Quit Cabinet Post

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—(UP)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones disclosed tonight that he has acceded to President Roosevelt's request that he relinquish his post as Secretary of Commerce and head of Government financing agencies so they can be turned over to Henry A. Wallace who bowed out Saturday after one term as Vice President.

FATHER, DAUGHTER HELD IN MURDER

Columbus Man And Girl Charged With Kinsman's Death

(Special To The Star) WHITEVILLE, Jan. 21.—David Long, 49, resident of the Naklina section of Columbus county, was fatally shot with a .22 rifle Saturday night on the road in front of the home of his brother-in-law, Jonnie Rhodes. He was a Columbus county Superior court-crier.

His brother, Troy Long, and his 18-year-old niece, Geribelle Long, are held in the county jail pending an inquest scheduled for Tuesday.

The shooting is reported to have occurred during an argument over a long-disputed piece of land near Naklina, but details were not available.

The accounts of two eyewitnesses to the shooting, Johnnie Rhodes and Mrs. Nola Rhodes, indicated that Troy Long fired the fatal shot, according to information given.

He conceded that his letter was "very difficult . . . to write" because of his "long and splendid friendship" with Jones and, the "excellent way" in which the outgoing Cabinet member carried out many difficult tasks during his years of Government service.

Jones said that "with all due respect, Mr. President, while I must accede to your decision, I cannot agree with either of you."

"You refer very kindly to our long friendship and our splendid relations during all these years, and you state that you appreciate my splendid services to the Government and the excellent way I have carried out the many difficult tasks during these years," he wrote.

"You are also good enough to say that I have your full confidence, and that you are very proud of all I have done during these past years, and that you hope I will continue to be part of the Government, probably in a diplomatic post."

"It is difficult to reconcile these encomiums with your avowed purpose to replace me . . . as Secretary of Commerce, which carries with it the vast financial and war production agencies within the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and its subsidiaries, so that you can give the post to Henry Wallace as a reward for his support of you in the campaign."

Jones said that he had gotten satisfaction from his long service

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WAR PRODUCTION GAINS SLIGHTLY

Six Major Categories Report Shortage Despite Increase

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—(UP)—December production of civilian munitions gained slightly over November but fell short of schedule in six major categories, the War Production Board reported tonight in a survey emphasizing that manpower problems are acute.

Underscoring the Government's argument for National Service legislation, the WPB warned that January schedules call for tremendous increases in such vital battle equipment as aircraft, artillery ammunition, Navy rockets, heavy truck tires, and communications wire.

Although December production showed an aggregate gain of one per cent over November, it missed schedule in the output of aircraft by two per cent; ships, including maintenance, four per cent; communications and electronic equipment, four; ammunition, one; combat and motor vehicles, one; and miscellaneous equipment and supplies, two.

The survey, prepared by Hiland G. Batcheller, WPB chief of operations, predicted that even the high rate of January production will be boosted later in the year.

"Even the latest schedules shown are frequently tentative," it said. "Many of the programs call for production rises through the first half of 1945 and then for a slumping off. While this could mean that needs will decrease after mid-year, it means more often only that rock-bottom minimums have been set for the more distant months, with the schedules to be increased as soon as needs can be more accurately determined."

The WPB listed the following December gains over November which it said "are scarcely cause for cheering": artillery ammunition, 5 per cent; critical aircraft, 32; heavy field artillery, 12; 60 mm and 81 mm mortars, 61; tanks, 11; heavy-duty trucks, 11; communications wire, 6; truck and motor tires, 10, and cotton duck, 6.

Discussing the components of production, the survey said that

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Hungary Is Cut Back To Pre-War Frontier

LONDON, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Hungary, under Allied-imposed armistice terms, is cut back to the same frontiers it held before Hitler began carving up Europe and Hungary joined him in the enterprise.

Both of Hungary's predecessors in Soviet-encforced surrender—Finland and Romania—returned to the Soviet Union the territory incorporated by Moscow after the beginning of German conquest in 1939.

Hungary is stripped of all her land gains at the expense of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Rumania, and is shoved back into her 1937

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Belgian Bulge Shrinks To Area Of 150 Miles

French Roll Across Southern Alsace As Enemy Threat To Strasbourg Stemmed for Time; British Advance in Holland

PARIS, Jan. 21.—(AP)—The Germans were retreating to the Siegfried Line tonight from the shattered stump of their Ardennes salient in a storm of artillery fire as the U. S. Third Army surged ahead nearly five miles and Allied armies struck along 300 miles of the western Front.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton was battering from the west and south against what once was the Belgian bulge—now shrunk to 150 of its once 1,000 square miles—and raking with shell fire the fleeing troops and vehicles trying to get back into Germany from northern Luxembourg at Vianden.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' First Army some 28 miles north had closed from north and west to within three miles of St. Vith, without whose excellent roads and railways many Germans might be trapped.

Nowhere did the Germans hold positions more than ten miles west of the Siegfried Line along the Axis of their deepest penetration, which had carried almost 45 miles west toward the Meuse.

The French First Army's sur-

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British Invade Ramree Island On Burma Coast

NEW DELHI, Jan. 21.—(AP)—British amphibious troops successfully invaded Ramree Island today in the third of a series of leap frog advances this month down the

Burma west coast which have carried a total of more than 80 miles.

Landing troops went in on the northern and northwestern beaches of the 50-mile long island after Royal Navy guns and a heavy concentration of Allied aircraft blasted the shore defenses.

This latest jump of 50 miles and the successful seizure of the northern areas of the island gave the Allies a base flanking south Burma and created a major threat to the Japanese, already on the defensive and in serious plight in northern and central Burma.

Kyaokpyu, on the northern tip of the island and the chief center of population, was occupied by the India jungle fighters and veteran commandos under command of Lt. Gen. Sir Philip Christison. Some opposition was encountered on the ridge between Gonchwin and Ondae west of Kyaokpyu but this area was being mopped up.

Meanwhile, in northern Burma the battle to reopen an overland supply route to China was all but concluded. Having broken the back of the Japanese defenses in that area, converging Chinese forces were driving for a junction at the Burmese village of Mongyu where the Ledo road joins the old Burma road.

Only small Japanese elements of below company size remained to be mopped up by Chinese troops which have fought across Burma and another powerful Chinese force pushing west from the Salween front.

In Chungking the Chinese High Command confirmed that Chinese troops had recaptured Wanting, the last major obstacle to the reopening of the overland supply route. It was announced the Chinese also retook Kiuku in Burma. The area north of the Wanting river inside the Chinese border has been cleared of Japanese troops.

Ramree island, 18 miles wide at the maximum, lies close to the Burma coast. The terrain north of a line from the mouth of the Yandauk Chaung northeast to Kyaokpyu is the most suitable for airfields and this area was the first objective of the landing forces.

Seventh Bombardment Group fliers returning from the operation said British Navy and landing craft dominated the beach areas. Allied aircraft flying through negligible anti-aircraft fire secured excellent bombing results. No enemy fighters engaged them.

The whole operation moved with precision. One minute after the

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Soviets Push 19 Miles In Nazi Silesia

Latest East Prussian Victory Avenges Defeat Of 1914

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 22.—(UP)—The Red Army yesterday captured Tannenberg the shrine of Prussian militarism, in a new invasion of East Prussia from the south, while Soviet troops lunging 12 miles into the Junker stronghold from the east drove to within 33 miles of the capital city of Konigsberg.

The capture of the historic battleground where the Russians suffered their greatest defeat in the last World War came as two Soviet armies, repeating almost identically the strategy of the Czarist armies in 1914, battled to isolate East Prussia from Germany proper.

On the 21st anniversary of the death of Lenin, the father of the Soviet Union, the Red armies were within 52 miles of effecting what may be the greatest encirclement in military history. Overnight they drove 21 miles to capture Lubawa, only 52 miles from the Baltic Sea and 72 miles southeast of Danzig.

Not only in East Prussia were the Germans giving up the soil of their homeland to the conquering Red Army, which in a mighty 10-day offensive has captured almost 22,000 square miles of enemy-held territory in Poland, East Prussia and Czechoslovakia.

In southern Germany they were falling back before Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian Army, which was 19 miles inside German Silesia along a 56-mile front and yesterday advanced within 41 miles east of the Silesian capital of Breslau by capturing the German village of Reinerdorf. They also were only 16 miles from the great German fortress city of Oppeln on the Oder river.

The entire rich coal and steel-producing region of Gleiwitz, Hindenburg and Beuthen, termed the "Ruhr of the East" and essential to the Nazi war machine, was outflanked on the northwest and in danger of envelopment from the rear.

At the same time, the Soviets, driving frontally on the Silesian coal basin, hammered to within five miles of the Polish city of Dabrowa, easternmost town of the region.

Korev's forces have covered almost half the distance to Berlin within 10 days. At two points in Poland, Russian armies yesterday drove within 207 miles southeast and 203 miles east of the German capital.

Five Russian armies, smashing westward as Berlin newspapers warned that the Reich "now is in her greatest hour of peril," captured more than 1,860 towns and villages—more than 600 of them on German soil.

The new invasion of East Prussia and Silesia were announced in two orders of the day issued by Marshal Josef Stalin. In a third, he reported the capture of the great East Prussian industrial town of Gumbinnen.

Driving into East Prussia from the south, Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's Second White Russian Army (Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

Nazi Freight Yards Blasted By Bombers In Sub-Zero Weather

LONDON, Jan. 21.—(UP)—Attacking in temperatures of 67 degrees below zero, more than 900 Britain-based bombers escorted by 500 fighters today blasted freight yards at Heilbronn, Mannheim and Aschaffenburg for the second consecutive day.

The Luftwaffe failed to oppose the attacks, according to preliminary reports, but anti-aircraft batteries at Mannheim mounted an intense flak barrage through complete cloud cover to drive off the attackers.

It was so cold the needle on the temperature gauge ran right off the dial at 67 degrees below zero," said Capt. Regory Good, Kansas City, Mo., pilot of a Fortress that blasted Aschaffenburg.

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