

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1944

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LARGE SCALE GERMAN RETREAT IMMINENT

Heights On Cassino Highway Seized By 5th Army Troops; 8th Pushes Nearer Pescara

GENERALS TALK WAR TACTICS



AT ITALIAN field headquarters the commander, Gen. Capino, and his visiting superior, Gen. Mark Clark of the American Fifth Army, listen as subordinates share a discussion. Italian infantry and artillery have been aggressively active on the Fifth Army front. (International)

Roosevelt Urges Continued Help In Allied War Effort

Hitler Hints At New Blows

London, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Facing the grimmest year of his Nazi regime, Adolf Hitler offered his people and soldiers New Year's hints of offensive blows against the enemy and new inventions of warfare, and asserted the Germans were ready for any invasion from the west.

A wordy message to the home front played again on his favorite propaganda theme, but acknowledged that 1943 had been the year of "heaviest reverses."

Much of his home front proclamation was devoted to picturing the German war as one against bolshevism, with this propaganda theme salted with the warning that "in this war there will be no victors and losers, but merely survivors and annihilated."

Traditional Welcome To New Year More Subdued

New York, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The nation cast off its war woes for a few hours last night to welcome in the new year.

New York had its lights back for the first New Year's celebration since the submarine menace plunged the city into gloom, and 500,000 persons (police estimates) thronged Times Square to yell and toast horns.

At 2 a. m., New York's Bellevue hospital reported that of 40 alcoholics brought in, none showed signs of having had adulterated or poisonous liquor.

In Buffalo, N. Y., a group of social agencies experimented with a liquorless night club for teen age boys and girls and pronounced it a "noisy success."

There were traditional noisemakers, soft lights, music and fancy decorations, but the drinks were soda

President Mentions Plans for Postwar Problem Solutions

Washington, Jan. 1.—(AP)—President Roosevelt asked in a New Year's Day statement today that the people pledge cooperation to continue the United Nations' determination to carry on to final victory in the war.

In his formal statement, the President said:

"Two years ago the United Nations were on the defensive in every part of the world. Today we are on the offensive. The walls are closing remorselessly on our enemy. Our armed forces are going for new and greater assaults which will bring about the downfall of the axis aggressors."

"The United Nations are giving attention also to the different kind of struggle which must follow the military phase, the struggles against disease, malnutrition, unemployment and social distress."

"To make all of us secure against future aggression and to open the

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Berlin Reports of Retreat to Begin on The Eastern Front

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Jan. 1.—(AP)—American troops of the Fifth Army seized three heights overlooking the Cassino highway, the most important road to Rome, and the Eighth Army is picking its way through mine fields at a mile a day pace up the Adriatic coast toward Pescara on the eastern route, Allied headquarters announcement said today.

British troops, back from a hit and run raid behind the German line north of the Garigliano river mouth on the western end of the battlefield, reported they had mopped up a number of Nazi troops, took prisoners and destroyed an important railway and highway bridge.

General Sir Harold Alexander's 15th army group headquarters withheld further details of this raid of Wednesday night, however. The destroyed bridge, it was said, blocked the line of German retreat to the Appian Way about a quarter of a mile north of the river.

The American advance in the rough mountains placed them two miles southwest of Vintucio in the westward push toward Cassino. The Germans' desperate delaying tactics were demonstrated at San Tommaso, two miles west of Ortona where Allied troops had to fight through terrific fire from 88 millimeter guns to retain a height they previously had seized and then lost.

Bad weather yesterday limited Allied air forces to a few attacks on locomotives, motor truck convoys, supply trains, and gun positions in the battle area. Three Allied planes were missing from the attacks in which one locomotive and seven motor vehicles were destroyed by strafing and German positions bombed at Formia, Minturno and on the road north of Guardiglele in the eastern sector.

Pilots Front Brazil To Go Into Battle

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 1.—(AP)—A group of civilian pilots will leave soon for the European theatre as a vanguard of Brazilian forces to be sent into battle against the Germans, it was disclosed today.

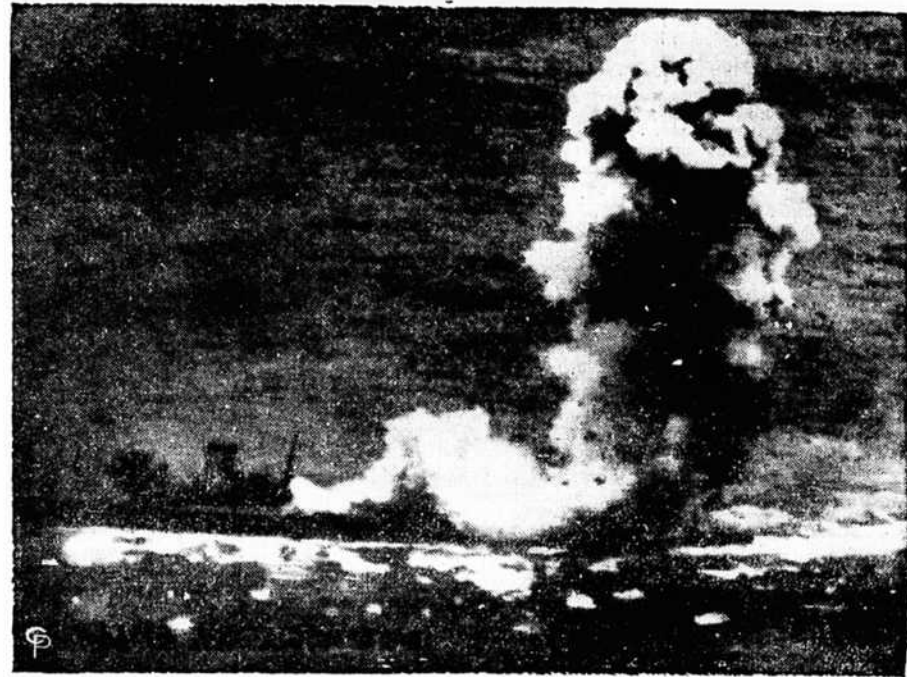
President Getulio Vargas told a luncheon of army officers yesterday that "for the first time, Brazilian soldiers will step on the soil of other continents to participate in war operations," and declared that "successive unprovoked aggressions led up to the fighting field which demands of us an effective contribution of arms and war implements."

Vargas' fighting speech came soon after the return to Rio de Janeiro of General Mascarenhas de Moraes and members of the Brazilian military mission who visited the Italian front. The general disclosed during his trip that Brazil would send an expeditionary force abroad.

Post Offices Show Surplus

Washington, Jan. 1.—(AP)—For the first time in 24 years, the Post Office Department has operated "in the black" for a fiscal year. The department originally reported a slight deficiency for the year ended June 30, but said today final figures turned this into a surplus of \$1,234,551. Revenues totaled \$966,227,289; expenditures \$964,992,737.

Hit Scored by British Bomber in Biscay Bay Attack



A British Liberator bomber, piloted by Czechoslovak airmen, scores a hit on a German blockade runner in the Bay of Biscay. During the attack, British planes sank three Nazi destroyers in addition to the ship pictured above. The pilot reported that the first bomb dropped on a ship was a direct hit and left the vessel afire and in sinking condition. This photo was radioed from London to New York. (International)

Two Ball Bearing Plants, Airfields In France Bombed

Steady Procession Of Planes Across Channel Continues

London, Jan. 1.—(AP)—American Flying Fortresses and Liberators struck at two important Nazi ball bearing plants near Paris and two airfields in France yesterday, while other Allied aircraft were pouring a deluge of bombs on the front invasion coast, an official announcement said today.

Identifying the targets of the Fortresses and Liberators, an air ministry and United States army commander said large formations hit the Cam ball bearing factories near Paris and the airfields near Cognac on the west coast of France.

Cross-channel aerial activity ushering in the new year continued today with a steady procession of fighters and fighter bombers heading toward the continent during the morning. But the activity was on a considerably smaller scale than in the preceding 48-hour period when perhaps 3,500 Allied planes invaded Hitler's roofless continent.

Reporting hits on both the Paris objectives and the airfields, returning crews said they could still see columns of smoke rising up when they were as far away as the French coast on their way home. The air base at Chateau Bernard in western France is believed to be used by German planes collaborating with U-boat attacks against Allied shipping.

The raids against the northern French coasts, carried out by United States Marauders and RAF and Dominion planes, met negligible opposition, but a Fortress formation returning from one of the other assignments was jumped by from 50 to 75 Nazi fighter planes and engaged in a great running battle from the Brest peninsula to the middle of the English channel.

NO GREAT EMPHASIS—Washington, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The Office of War Information, asked if it could supply details of enemy propaganda use of the rail and steel strike threats, said today that Nazi broadcasters have not greatly emphasized them so far as OWI knows.

Fifteen Hurt In Collision At Goldsboro

Goldsboro, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Fifteen persons were injured, one seriously, at Seymour Johnson field last night when an Atlantic Coast Line switch engine and a Goldsboro Transportation Company bus collided at a spur track crossing.

Sergeant Harry Lorenz, whose wife lives in Toledo, Ohio, suffered fractured leg and other injuries. His condition was said to be satisfactory.

Miss Florence Horne of Goldsboro, and employee of Seymour Johnson field, suffered cuts and bruises, and 2nd Lt. Irene Goodman, a nurse at the field hospital, suffered a severe jaw injury. The post public relations officer said all the other injuries apparently consisted of cuts and bruises and none were serious. Field ambulances carried the injured to the post hospital, where all remained at midday today.

The public relations office said the accident was being investigated to ascertain the cause.

NYA To End Work Tonight

Washington, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The once-buzzing National Youth Administration, down now to 46 employees and 300 tons of old records, does tonight after eight years as an integral part of the New Deal.

NYA was abolished by Congress last July 1, effective at the end of this New Year's Day. It will leave to the Treasury \$700,000, the unused portion of \$4,300,000 Congress provided for the job of liquidation. It has also given to the Treasury its 300 tons of old records, to be sold as waste paper.

When the "cease" legislation was enacted NYA had 64,928 persons on its payroll. Within ten days it had dropped 53,373 youths, leaving the 11,555 administrative employees. Today NYA has 46 on its payroll.

New Britain Airbase Rid Of Japanese

Attempts of Enemy To Retake Airdrome "Heavily Repulsed"

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The new year found Allied forces cleaning up the second airbase capable of providing protection for bombing raids on the Japanese stronghold of Rabaul.

General Douglas MacArthur reported today American Marines had cleared the enemy out of their strategic Cape Gloucester airdrome on the southwestern tip of New Britain and that navy construction workers were busily whipping the captured airstrip in serviceable condition. All Japanese attempts to retake the airdrome have been "heavily repulsed," MacArthur's communique said.

From the Cape Gloucester airdrome, Rabaul lies only 265 miles.

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Strong Reaction Felt To Labor Dispute Accusation

Washington, Jan. 1.—(AP)—A stunning statement that the recent rail-steeel labor troubles may have unduly prolonged the European war hit the nation with sledgehammer force today, brought immediate protests of innocence from union men and inspired harsh words about the White House handling of threatened strikes.

The torrent of reaction was unleashed by a declaration of a person high not only in United States esteem but in those of the United Nations. He said:

1. The axis has taken the rail and steel situations and plugged them through propaganda channels in an effort to show that conditions here are in a state of chaos. 2. The net effect has been to stiffen resistance of the axis allies and perhaps delay revolts in subjugated countries this winter—uprisings which could have spelled swift collapse of Hitler's house of cards.

Reds Only 35 Miles From Poland

Important Railway And Highway Bridge Of Nazis Destroyed

London, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Advanced Soviet units plunged ahead today to within 35 miles of the old Polish border and less than 90 miles of the pre-war Rumanian frontier after the Red army, hammering the Germans back along a 200-mile arc west of Kiev, recaptured the vital rail town of Zhitomir and swept up 150 more communities.

Pounding toward Novograd Volynski, the Russians took Emelvanovka, 21 miles southwest of Korosten at the northern end of the arc, a Moscow communique declared, and smashed into the town of Pogrebischne at the southern end in an advance of 15 miles.

A Moscow dispatch told of the happiest New Year's eve celebration of the war, the Red army also lunged ahead in three other sectors.

Troops of General Ivan S. Bagration's Baltic army cut through the Vitebsk-Orsha highway south of Vitebsk and advanced on both sides of that bitterly contested stronghold. Further north, the Russians seized 60 communities west of Nevel, while in the Dnieper bend far to the south the third Ukrainian army, deepening its bulgehead across the river, captured five more towns in its drive toward Nikolov.

General Nikolai Vatutin's first Ukrainian army was racing ahead far beyond the territory lost to the German counter-offensive west of Kiev in November and December, and Berlin reports to Swedish newspapers said there were many indications in German military circles that a new large scale retreat would be ordered on the eastern front in order to stabilize a defensive line.

In a frank acknowledgment of the gravity of the situation, a Nazi radio commentator declared that "in view of the great numerical superiority of the Soviet forces, German troops were compelled to restrict their activities to a mobile warfare in which difficult and dangerous situations repeatedly occurred."

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Fair to partly cloudy and continued rather cold this afternoon and tonight. Sunday increasing cloudiness and slightly warmer with rain beginning in mountains in afternoon or at night.

Strong Reaction Felt To Labor Dispute Accusation

3. The whole thing has been a "great tragedy." The high authority, expanding on the blunt conclusions about the propaganda value, said that the subjugated countries are reported negotiating again to start the wild resistance counted on as a big back door in the overthrow of German domination of the continent. This means that the war could be extended months longer and the Allies may have to battle through the summer at a cost of scores of thousands of casualties.

The Reich is pointed out, it was added that the Europe satellites have everything to gain by hanging on a little longer in the expectation of a peace more liberal than the "unconditional surrender" dictum. Summing up, he said, the point is that any delay in the European internal explosion is a delay on the victory timetable for the United Nations.