

MAIL-READING TIME AT THE FRONT



WHILE AWAITING ORDERS to attack, infantrymen of the U. S. Sixth Armored Division read their mail from home in a Nazi-built trench in France near the German border. The Yank in the extreme background is on the lookout for any surprise action by the enemy. This is an official U. S. Army Signal Corps Radio photo. (International Sound photo)

Third Army Now Beyond Saarlauten Russians Within 60 Miles of Austria

Budapest Is Outflanked By Advance

Spectacular Gains Made by the Reds On Part of Front

London, Dec. 5.—(AP)—Red army forces surging through western Hungary in a drive outflanking besieged Budapest were massed today along the south shore of Lake Balaton, only 60 miles from the Austrian frontier.

The Austrian front Russians picked up gains yesterday of 17 miles. The overall advance covered from 12 miles closer to the border than yesterday.

A Moscow bulletin issued at midnight said a column driving north along the west bank of the Danube was 37 miles south of Budapest and still advancing toward the capital's back door.

East of the river, which flows the city, other Russian forces have been bypassing the southeastern and eastern suburbs for days, and on the northern, enemy occupied eastern bank, Soviet forces were cutting tank routes to the city.

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JAP ADVANCE IN CHINA SEEN AS THREAT TO KUNMING



SWIFT ADVANCES OF JAP FORCES following their successful breaking out of U. S. air bases at Kweichow (1) and Lanchow (2) focus attention on Kunming (3), vital port for aerial supplies down 'over the hump' from India. For from Kweichow the Japs are driving on Kweichow and, to the south, another thrust is directed at Nanning. These are the last two U. S. air bases (indicated by stars) east of Kweichow in Yunnan Province. Broken arrow indicates direct line of supply route to Kunming and thence to Kweichow, another key supply base. Should these communication lines be cut, ground supply routes to Chungking would be virtually eliminated and supplies to Chungking would have to come by air via India. (International)

Saarbrucken Is Only Six Miles Away

Patton Bridgehead Widened as Armies Gradually Advance

Paris, Dec. 5.—(AP)—The 95th infantry division of the U. S. third army has driven clear through Saarbrucken and is fighting well into the Siegfried line defenses beyond the fortified city, it was announced today at supreme headquarters.

Paris, Dec. 5.—(AP)—The third army virtually completed the capture of Saarbrucken today, and pushed a mile through the satellite towns of Roden and Fraulautern to the north in the sixth outer crust of the Siegfried line.

American eight-inch artillery bombarded Saarbrucken for nearly six hours today, while five battalions of Lt. Gen. Patton's army pushed violently through the last bit of Lorraine toward the Saar production center of German guns and steel.

Patton's bridgehead on the east bank of the Saar was widened to at least a mile and a half. His forces were on the river all the way to Metz, 16 miles above Saarbrucken, and executing a wheeling movement at his right and center as far south-east as Saar Union. One mixed cavalry and infantry team advanced four miles inside Germany south of Saarbrucken.

His men at Roden and Fraulautern were five and a half miles inside the Saar, nearly a fifth of the way across, but they still had to negotiate the Siegfried line.

Along the 50-mile front from Metz to Saar Union, upward of 90,000 Americans of the third army were on the move. Five infantry and two tank divisions were identified in the action.

Along the Roer river front to the north, within 22 miles of Cologne, the violent and prolonged battle of attrition went into a deadlock. General Eisenhower's communique said the U. S. ninth and first armies "are meeting stubborn resistance in the outskirts of Juelich."

"First of the line, we have consolidated our positions," it said. "In the Brundenberg area, southeast of Herten, slight progress has been made."

The British cleared out all Germans west of the Maas and held the west and south banks of the river all the way from Venlo to the sea.

Steady northward progress was made by the U. S. seventh and French first armies in clearing the snow Vosges mountains and the southern Alsace plain.

Churchill promised use of army in Greek crisis

Athens, Dec. 5.—(AP)—Premier George Papandreu said today he had altered his resignation as head of the crisis-ridden Greek government, and had suggested formation of a coalition cabinet including center and right wing groups.

A general strike persisted in Athens, but disorders were reported diminishing.

London, Dec. 5.—(AP)—Britain will assist any attempt to "bring by violence" a coalition government to power in Greece, and is ready to use her army, if necessary, to maintain order, Prime Minister Churchill declared today.

In a meeting session of the House of Commons, with one Conservative and several Labour members taking questions, Churchill stood firm behind the government of George Papandreu, even as Athens learn rumors that the premier would resign. "Fraternal fighting broke out" in the Greek capital over the week-end in a crisis which developed when the EAM (National Liberation Front) refused to disband its militia (ELAS), ELAS troops were reported in en-

Congress Will Support Changes By Stettinius

Secretary of State Plans Revolutionary Moves in Department

Washington, Dec. 5.—(AP)—The Senate Foreign Relations committee today approved four State Department nominations, including that of Joseph C. Grew to be under secretary of state.

Senator Clark said that while Grew's appointment was announced unanimously, some members reserved the right to oppose other nominations on the Senate floor.

Washington, Dec. 5.—(AP)—A startled but agreeable Congress was expected today to give Secretary Stettinius strong support in his sledge-hammer efforts to reshape the State Department.

The youthful secretary himself was expected to appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a hearing to defend the state's new appointments announced today.

This group, in combination with the resignations of three assistant secretaries, placed the direction of American foreign policy, except for President Roosevelt's control, in almost entirely new hands.

These are the new officers selected by Senate confirmation:

Joseph C. Grew, 64, under secretary of state, filling the position which Stettinius vacated when he became secretary last Friday in succession to Cordell Hull. Grew, a Bostonian, is a veteran of forty years in foreign service and served most recently as ambassador to Japan.

William L. Clayton, 62, U. S. assistant secretary of state in charge of economic affairs. Clayton, until he entered government service, was the world's biggest rubber merchant. He has most recently been assistant property administrator, and most recently on such things as administration of world trade, which is a Roosevelt objective.

Archibald McLeish, 52, assistant secretary of state in charge of public and cultural relations. As Director of Congress and formerly as head of the White House office of fact and figures, McLeish is considered in the inner guard of administration New Dealers.

Gelson Bockeloffer, 57, assistant secretary of state for the American republics. As such, this grandson of John D. will continue to run the special office of the coordinator of Inter-American affairs until at least Germany is defeated, when its remaining functions may be absorbed into the State Department.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Mostly cloudy and cool tonight and Wednesday, with slightly higher temperatures tonight; rain Wednesday.

Liberated Areas Will Aid Greatly

Washington, Dec. 5.—(AP)—President Roosevelt told Congress today that the liberated peoples of Europe will be able to supply 90 per cent of their own basic needs this winter.

He made the assertion in submitting his first report on American participation in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, in which he noted that supply operations there had not begun in the field.

Over the three months ending September 30, the report showed an actual cash outlay of \$1,243,423, and allocations totaling \$33,000,000 of the \$300,000,000 fund appropriated in American funds. The allocations have been in the form of food, clothing, medical and other essential needs.

U. S. Bombers Hit Berlin By Daylight

London, Dec. 5.—(AP)—American heavy bombers blasted Berlin today for the first time in two months.

Headquarters of the U. S. strategic air forces in Europe said more than 500 B-24's and B-29's bombed made in the battle fleet which attacked industrial targets in the Nazi capital and railway yards at Magdeburg.

Eight hundred Mustang and Thunderbolt fighters flew the 1,000-mile round trip to Berlin and back to keep the Nazi fighters away while the bombers unloaded 2,000 tons of bombs on German armaments and tank plants.

U. S. And Britain Differ On Italian Procedures

Washington, Dec. 5.—(AP)—The United States has informed both Britain and Italy that it expects the Italian people to develop their government "without influence from outside."

The State Department's limited course of policy in such a case today apparently placed the United States in opposition from that taken by Great Britain, which has ordinarily insisted the new Italian Government should be an Italian administration. This a statement has not in any way intimated to the Italian government that there would be any

Berlin Radio Says Hitler In Command

London, Dec. 5.—(AP)—The Berlin radio, taking note of continued Allied speculation that Adolf Hitler is physically or mentally incapacitated, reiterated last night that he is "in the best of health" and in full control of military and political affairs in Germany.

The broadcast, exclusively for foreign consumption, came as reports filtering out of Germany indicated that Hitler now has little to do with the military conduct of the war, and that German strategy was being directed by trained tankers and generals.

These reports, said Gestapo official Heinrich Himmler, had been holding a series of important conferences at his secret headquarters in southern Germany, with top-ranking military and Nazi party leaders, and that some sort of an agreement had been reached between the divergent groups at Hitler's expense.

One version was that Himmler had agreed to keep Hitler under cover and make his leadership limited to military affairs, leaving them to the generals. In return, Himmler was reported to have received from the generals permission to name several Nazi party men as high but not top-ranking officers. Himmler was said to be keeping Hitler in seclusion by paying upon his fears of another attempt upon his life.

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Gifts from Home



THOSE GIFTS you sent to the lads on the fighting fronts are getting there—and early—as Corp. Lee Zwick, Signal Corps cameraman, of Canton, O., testifies in Kornelshausen, Germany, surrounded by a generous assortment of Christmas presents. (International)

Thrilling Rescue Drama As Destroyer Goes Down

\$100 Million Monthly For Rockets Seen

Washington, Dec. 5.—(AP)—The Navy shortly will be spending \$100,000,000 monthly on a new ammunition plant.

Destroyers have been found in the Pacific, and the Navy is now spending \$100,000,000 monthly on a new ammunition plant.

The \$100,000,000 a month to be spent for all types of naval ammunition, said the Office of War Information, in a report today would amount to one of the U. S. war effort.

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U. S. and Japs Trade Blows in Gulf Off Philippines Sector

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 5.—(AP)—Sharp naval blows were traded by American and Japanese in Ormoc Gulf, off Leyte island, a headquarters command reported today, and each side a destroyer.

The American vessel was crippled completely in two, presumably by a single torpedo and went down in 25 seconds, a 20-inch diameter gun still firing until checked off by the sea.

The majority of the crew was saved, the communique said, adding that a second Japanese destroyer was too badly damaged in the engagement.

The sinking of the American vessel furnished the backdrop for a thrilling rescue drama, in which the leading roles were played by three work horses of the U. S. Navy, the Catalina flying boats. One of the Catalinas, a Catalina flying boat, was used to rescue the crew of the destroyed destroyer.

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Nazi Bastion On Adriatic Is Captured

Rome, Dec. 5.—(AP)—British eighth army troops have captured Ravenna, German stronghold on the Adriatic, the Allied high command announced today.

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Stocks Reach To New Highs

New York, Dec. 5.—(AP)—Rail, stock and bond markets continued to lead the stock market today toward the highest average levels since 1937.

All prices for 1944 in 1944 were up. Steel, Southern Railway and Great Northern. In part week U. S. Steel, General Motors, Chrysler and Westinghouse. Occasional bargain-hunted Texas Company and Chicago and Ohio.

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BUY WAR BONDS 19 DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS

Table with 2 columns: Month, Price. December 21.62, 21.57; March 21.75, 21.71; May 21.72, 21.69; July 21.53, 21.50; October 20.91, 20.79