



Americans Destroy 742 Jap Planes At Mindoro

Ground Force Shows No Resistance

U. S. Infantrymen Make Impressive Gains on Leyte

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 19—(AP)—America's easiest invasion job of the Pacific war went ahead at full tilt on Mindoro island today without the slightest ground resistance as U. S. commanders announced a staggering toll of at least 742 Japanese planes put out of action the past week.

Naval aircraft from carriers tore the greatest hole in Nippon's air arm. Admiral Nimitz announced at Pearl Harbor that 461 enemy aircraft had been destroyed or damaged in just three days of sustained strikes on the Manila Bay and elsewhere on Luzon.

Nimitz's communique told of widespread destruction to Japanese facilities and shipping during the aerial siege. At least 28 ships and 66 other vessels were damaged. Later reports made up the total. General MacArthur announced scores of other Japanese aircraft were knocked out of the sky by army and navy fliers supporting the amphibious invasion of Mindoro.

United States infantrymen scored impressive gains on Leyte. 77th division troops seized an airfield near Valencia, nine miles from captured Ormoc, in their drive up the Ormoc corridor toward a juncture with the 22nd division pressing southward. Thousands of crack Japanese troops are caught in the squeeze.

In one day, MacArthur reported, 905 abandoned Japanese dead were picked up. MacArthur made it clear that "the greatest possible care is being exercised to lessen our losses on Leyte." He said, "Frontal assault methods are being avoided as far as possible in every attack of maneuver and superior fire power is being exerted to prevent battle casualties. As a result, they continued light."

24,000 White Captives Die In Jap Camps

London, Dec. 19—(AP)—The British War Office asserted today that the Japanese had worked more than 60,000 white captives under such brutal and inhuman conditions that 24,000 had died.

The Japanese themselves have erected a memorial to 25,000 men who died in building the Thailand-Burma railway and road, the War Office said. Of the 25,000 men, the War Office reported, fewer than 1,000 were Japanese and the remainder were Indian, Australian and Dutch.

In an urge for speed the Japanese charged completely "the cost in human lives," the War Office said. One prisoner was even carried to work on stretchers. Severe beatings were administered to officers and men. The statement said that there were also traces of "torture and killing."

Roosevelt To Renominate State Heads If Blocked

Washington, Dec. 19—(AP)—The Senate fight against six state department nominations nearly collapsed today when President Roosevelt made known he would only send the same names if confirmation is blocked now.

Senator Pepper, Democrat, Florida, who has been leading the fight against the six appointees, said Mr. Roosevelt had informed him that he would renominate the six when the new congress meets in January, if the Senate was prevented by lengthy debates from voting on the group before Christmas adjournment.

Administration leaders announcing the vote probably would be reached during the afternoon, fore-

ESCAPED FROM JAP PRISON SHIP



STORIES OF BEATINGS and starvation at the hands of the Japs, were revealed by the two Marine Sergeants shown here after being freed from 29 months of imprisonment on a Jap prison ship when it was torpedoed. The men, Sgt. Verle Cutler, of Denver, Col., and Sgt. Ornie Clem, Dallas, Tex., are convalescing at the Naval Hospital in Oakland, Cal. after their rescue. Marine Corps photo.

Superfortresses Bomb Kyushu On Jap Homeland

Medium Forces Hit Industrial Targets On Main Island

Washington, Dec. 19—(AP)—China based super fortresses attacked the Japanese mainland today less than 24 hours after their strike at Hankow, China. The latest attack was carried out in medium force against industrial targets on Kyushu, one of the main islands of the Japanese homeland, the war department announced.

The term "medium force" indicated that up to 40 B-29s participated in the attack.

The planes were from Major Parkin LeMay's 20th bomber command. Some 200 of the big planes pounded Hankow communications and supply centers, in conquered China and the giant Hansudoki aircraft plant at Nagoya yesterday. Nagoya is located on Honshu, the principal home island of the Japanese.

Large fires were observed at the biggest Japanese aircraft factory and "good" bombing results were recorded for the Hankow smash.

All planes returned from both strikes.

The Japan based bombers whittling at Japan's aircraft production reported "heavy explosions and large fires in the target area of the Mitsubishi aircraft plant," a communique said.

Docks and warehouses at Hankow were pounded. The superfortresses also hit seven more.

Sapan raiders uncorked a devastating raid on the Nagoya area December 12.

Up to 103 planes participated in both the Nagoya and Hankow operations yesterday compared with some 10 in the force which attacked the Kishu target today.

The dual bomber command of the 20th Air Force, commanded by General of the Army Arnold, are hitting

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Churchill Reviews War Greece Strife

Defends British Intervention of Belgium

London, Dec. 19—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill blocked today a full scale common review of the war and the strife in Greece, but was forced into a new hot tempered defense of British troop intervention in Belgium.

"We are acting under American instructions," he said in upholding use of armed force in last month's riot in Belgium.

Restating repeatedly to General Eisenhower in hitting back at the Aachen criticism of opposition members, Churchill said, "a great battle is proceeding now."

He declined to give a review of the general war situation on the ground that Eisenhower was right in imposing a temporary "news blackout" on western front developments.

He reported the situation in Greece has greatly improved but refused to elaborate. Churchill made it clear that if the House of Commons wanted an immediate review of the Greek situation it would have to come on a vote of censure—a parliamentary maneuver which would mean his government would stand or fall on the outcome.

The opposition did not appear to accept the challenge on these terms.

President Back From Vacation At Warm Spgs.

Washington, Dec. 19—(AP)—President Roosevelt returned today from a three-week vacation at Warm Springs, Georgia.

Facing momentous months in the field of war and allied diplomacy—plus the beginning of a new year and the chief executive came back to the capital sun-tanned and a few pounds heavier. He arrived by special train and went immediately to the White House to start a routine day.

He returned from Georgia via Camp Lejeune on New River at Jacksonville, N. C., where yesterday afternoon he made a two-hour inspection of the vast Marine coast reservation. This was his only side trip outside of Georgia during his absence from Washington.

U. S. Subs Sink 33 Jap Vessels.

Washington, Dec. 19—(AP)—American submarines have sunk 33 more Japanese ships, including a light cruiser, three destroyers, and six escort vessels, in their latest forays in the Pacific, the Navy reported today.

BUY WAR BONDS



Drama in Athens



OLD GLORY appeared in the streets of Athens during the civil upheavals in Greece as demonstrators, such as those here shown, waved the Stars and Stripes in the public squares. (International)

Nazi Counter Attack 20 Miles Into Belgium

BLOODY STREET SCENE IN ATHENS



SHOUTING ANGRILY, waving fists and pointing to the bodies of dead comrades, one of whom is a woman, these sympathizers with the Greek EAM civil uprising in Athens vow vengeance. (International)

President Tours Marine Base At Camp Lejeune

British Bomb Supply Lines Behind Nazis

London, Dec. 19—(AP)—Three heavy bombers today dropped nearly 1,000 tons of explosives on German supply lines immediately behind counter attacking Nazi troops today.

The British based heavyweights crammed with fragmentation bombs and high explosives, struck at three rail and five road junctions on a 50-mile front from Trer north to Deming.

The daylight blow followed an attack last night by some 300 Lancasters on German warships sheltered in the Baltic port of Gdynia, north of Danzig. Other British bombers struck Nuremberg and Munster.

Today was the first time four-engined aircraft had been dispatched in the European war to tackle targets so closely behind enemy counter-offensives. That precision task is usually left to medium or dive bombers.

The fortresses, however, were called in with their load of bombs to carpet the vital German transportation network directly serving Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's powerful thrust.

The United States Eighth Air Force bombers, accompanied by a small force of Thunderbolts, made the emergency mission through thick clouds and released their load at the usual operational altitude of about four miles.

Cotton Makes Small Gains

New York, Dec. 19—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to twenty cents a bale higher. Noon prices were five to twenty-five cents a bale higher. March 21.94, May 21.86, July 21.46.

Table with columns: Month, Close, Open. Rows: March, May, July, October, December (1945).

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Clear and cooler tonight. Lowest temperature tonight 24 to 28. Wednesday, fair and not so cold.

Fighting Heavy Along Aachen Front

First Army Engaged In Mighty Tank Battle With Nazis

Paris, Dec. 19—(AP)—Germany's powerful counter offensive has stormed at least 20 miles into Belgium to the United States' First Army line, driving in a broad flanking threat to Aachen, and heavy, costly fighting today along the 60-mile assault front.

Supreme headquarter's security cloak still concealed whether the bold assault powered by massed German reserves and supported by a new vengeance weapon of undisclosed type had yet been checked.

But one report placed the Germans 20 miles or more into Belgium and 25 miles south and slightly west of Aachen. British Typhoons, it said, swept on a score of Nazi armored vehicles "west of Stavelot," a town 18 air line miles and nearly 22 by road from the Reich frontier.

Here the first army, fighting desperately and given magnificent air support had destroyed or damaged 113 Nazi tanks and armored vehicles, had been forced back 15 miles or more. The Germans in this sector may have dropped off somewhere west of their own border.

The news blackout was 24 hours old—hours in which much could have happened. The Germans had swept to Stavelot in a day and a half.

This was but the second time that news silence had been imposed over an Allied reverse—the first was at Arnhem—and the first time it had been applied on the American front for reasons other than to mask sweeping U. S. advances.

If this had a strongly sobering influence while word was awaited on the fight that might prove the hinge to the outcome of the whole western campaign.

Berlin said Hitler himself had planned this recent drive. (Berlin dispatch to Bern declared the counter offensive was designed to retake Aachen and expel Allied forces from Nazi soil.)

The circumstances hardly called for easy optimism, but maps show the Germans might possibly be headed for more trouble than they bargained for.

Their "task-all" drive could, by a deep wedge, threaten lateral communications between the Allied northern and central fronts. But on the other hand, the Germans are center 13, making

The Germans have tried this same desperate game before—and both were tamed when Hitler snatched control from his generals. He attempted it once in Africa and again about a year ago in the Ukraine with the famed but futile "iron avalanche" counter offensive intended to wrest back Kharkov and split the Red army offensive.

Against this latest bid for a bargain price, Allied air power again may tip the scales, as it did at Avranches and in the Falaise gap.

of TNT, part of the routine to accentuate them for scout and messenger duty under combat conditions.

Although several loud speakers had been set up at various points throughout the camp, Mr. Roosevelt limited his remarks to private conversations with officers.

Red Troops Swarm Across Czechoslovakian Border

London, Dec. 19—(AP)—Red army troops swarmed across the Czechoslovakian frontier from northern Hungary today on a widening front, threatening early collapses of the entire German salient in the eastern Slovak area between Poland and Hungary.

Driving down out of the Keeske mountains, second Ukrainian army units gained up to 12 miles and poured into the broad Vozda and Bernad river valleys leading to Kassa, the enemy's major east Slovakian stronghold.

By yesterday, Moscow said, one of the second army columns already was within two miles of the German southern highway escape route out of Kassa. Once it is cut the garrison in Hungarian-annex Kassa would be able to flee only through the patriot-negated Chevo mountains.

By Russian and German accounts, the Red army was closing in on Kassa from three directions. Moscow placed vanguards within 14 miles of the southwest and eleven and one-half miles on the southeast, while Berlin reported other units attacking 13 miles to the east.

One of the most extensive new crossings of the frontier occurred in the Horvapy-Jank-Buzita area, 30 miles north of Miskolc and just south of the communication center of Moldava. It was here that the Russians, already two miles beyond the border, were approaching the enemy's highway escape route to the west.