

Nazis Are Temporarily Halted

Industrial Areas Of Tokyo Are Slugged By Superforts

Airfields At Manila Plastered

Tokyo Claims Nine Forts Destroyed In Daylight Raid

Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Tokyo industrial areas were slugged today for the fifth time by Saipan-based Superfortresses.

The daylight strike by B-29s of the 21st bomber command was the first on the Japanese capital since December 3.

A Japanese imperial communiqué said about 40 Superfortresses in the attacking force, and claimed nine were definitely shot down, five probably and 27 others damaged.

Tokyo radio said "down town Tokyo resounded with cheers and applause as the throng was given the treat of witnessing a B-29 break formation amidst a cloud of anti-aircraft barrage" and fall.

The imperial communiqué said two of the Superfortresses were knocked down by suicide Japanese pilots, who crash dived the big bombers. The high command admitted the loss of four interceptors.

In previous raids on Tokyo the flying battalions had concentrated on whitening down Japanese fighter plane production. One of the empire's top producers of military planes, the Mitsubishi engine factory of the Nakamura aircraft plant was the target of the December 3 attack.

Airfields near Manila attacked by Americans. General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Land-based bombers for the fourth consecutive day blasted the air field at Manila on Luzon island, now regarded as vulnerable to re-invasion by Yank forces mopping up in the central Philippines.

Clark field was the principal target, as it was in two of the previous attacks. It was plastered Monday with 38,000 pounds of explosives, General MacArthur reported today.

The Japanese sent up at least fifty interceptors, of which 39 were shot down by Yank fighter escorts. Four more were listed as probably downed. The day's bag brought to 72 the total in the current campaign.

On conquered Leyte, American ground forces mopped up small and isolated Japanese remnants, capable of only minor operations, it was said.

During Monday, 800 more of the enemy were killed and 14 captured, at a cost of seven American dead and 21 wounded. This enemy casualty for the Leyte campaign were raised to 114,129.

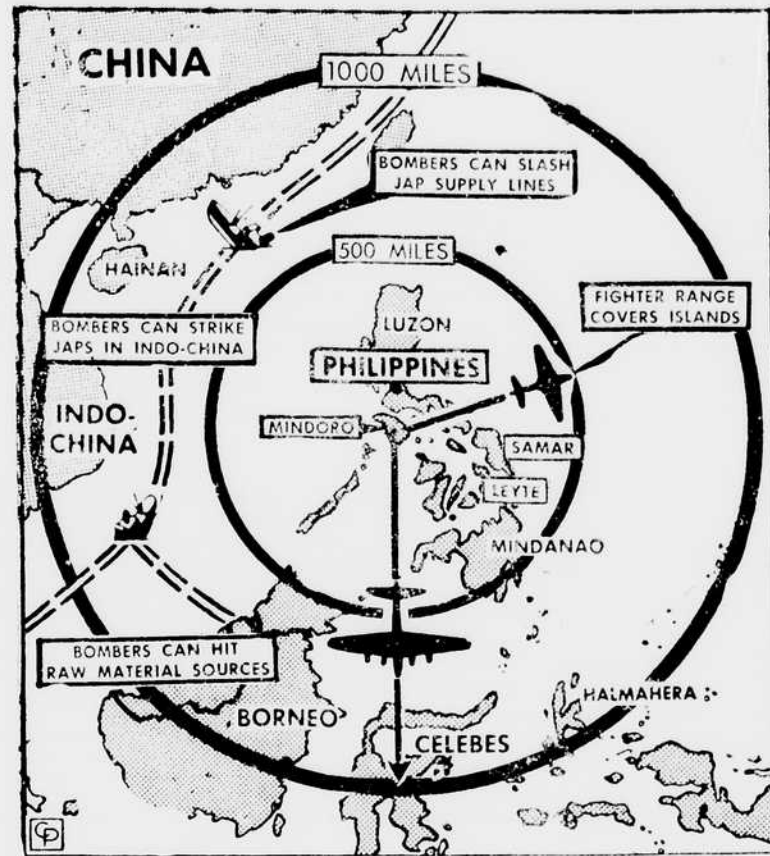
Big Bombers Again Strike At Germans. London, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Heavy bombers from Britain spearheaded another assault against the German west front today.

Favorable weather over the continent permitted Allied planes based in Belgium, Holland and France to join the attack.

The German radio reported formations of heavy bombers heading north over Austria, indicating that Flying Fortresses of the U. S. 15th air force were strike at Nazi war industries far behind the battle lines.

The Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the U. S. 8th air force attacked rail yards at Coblenz and rail bridges north of the city.

MINDORO AIR BASE MENACES JAPS



WITH THE COMPLETION of an airfield on Mindoro by U. S. forces five days after they landed, American air power will be greatly extended over Jap supply lines and territory.

Washington Speculation Extends War Six Months

Setbacks To Delay European Victory And That Over Jap

Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Military strategists are now tentatively adding three to six months to their estimate of a date for victory in Europe.

There is still hope in high places that General Eisenhower will be able to turn the Allied reverse on the western front into an early and decisive victory.

Along with this sober estimate of the fighting has come a conviction that at least part of the German success was due to over-optimism throughout the Allied high command.

First, Allied generals thought the European war would be won long fast; later they set the date at the year's end; then they moved it forward to spring. Now they talk of next fall or winter.

If it actually takes until late next year to lick the Germans, the date for victory over Japan will have to be moved forward also. But in Asia and the Pacific, as well as in Europe, much of what will happen depends on Russian plans, as yet undisclosed.

There is, for instance, the question of whether and when the Red army will open a full-scale offensive against Germany on the Polish front. The ground is frozen and the time is ripe, since the Germans are heavily engaged in the west.

Successful Russian assaults and a breakthrough to Berlin might shorten the war somewhat but in view of what has happened in the west there is no reason to believe that these results could be either certain or quickly achieved.

Military men say the Germans may be expected to resist and strike back in the east with the same ferocity they have shown against the western Allies.

Cotton Higher Around Noon

New York, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to 35 cents a bale higher.

Noon prices were unchanged to 15 cents a bale higher, March, 21.93; May 21.87; July 21.49.

Among other topics, Mr. Babson will forecast: War and Peace, Inventories and Reconversion, Jobs and Payrolls, Commodity Prices and Retail Sales.

Farming and Industry, Securities and Real Estate, Politics and Taxes, Foreign Trade and Our Allies. Every reader should find it of interest and value.

Intelligence Service Is Given Blame

With U. S. Forces in Belgium, Dec. 27.—(AP)—An error in the Allied intelligence service must share a large part of the blame for Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's break through on the western front.

It is now apparent that the Allied high command intelligence not only failed to detect the build-up by Von Rundstedt at the weak spot on the front, but also for the first time in this war—under-estimated German military strength and ability.

Up to the day of the breakthrough, the official opinion as given out to correspondents was that the Ardennes forest was not an advantageous spot in which to launch a winter offensive, and it was being used as a sort of "test" sector by both the Germans and Americans.

That Von Rundstedt had practically no strategic reserve troops to use in a big offensive.

That the morale of the German soldier was extremely low.

That the main German high command aim was to fight a defensive action before the Ruhr valley.

That the German air force virtually was non-existent.

That the German shortage of gasoline and war materials preclude any large-scale effort.

Tons of Supplies Are Parachuted To Trapped U. S. Unit. London, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Hundreds of tons of supplies—mainly ammunition—were parachuted today to American troops cut off by the German drive in the Bastogne area.

Twin-engine C-47 sky trains flew from Britain and France with cargoes for the doughboys, who have withstood repeated Nazi tank attacks while waiting for relief columns, first official report today.

A lone C-47 sneaked over the German line at dawn and dropped a parachute troop pathfinder unit to guide other cargo planes to the scene.

Washington Encouraged By New Turn

U. S. Planes Smash Enemy Supply Line; Caution Is Issued

London, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The Berlin high command said today that a major tank battle broke out Tuesday north of Laroche in Belgium, and destroyed 70 tanks of the U. S. third and seventh tank divisions, were knocked out.

The large-scale battle in southeastern Belgium and central Luxembourg is increasing in violence, the German communiqué added.

There was no Allied report of a big tank engagement north of Laroche which would put the action along the northern rim of the German-Belgian corridor, between Marche and Stavelot—nor combination of such tank losses, Berlin said 158 Allied tanks were shot up or captured on the western front yesterday.

Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The German counter-offensive apparently has been brought to a temporary halt, giving Allied forces time to establish a strong defensive line, military spokesmen said today.

Although encouraged by front dispatches indicating that the spearhead of the Nazi line has been blunted near the Meuse river, they cautioned that it still is too early to say that the Germans have gone over to the defensive.

The observers, however, point to indications that the Germans are missing their objective of Hertz and Marche in Belgium, some 20 miles east of the Meuse, for a reason that may be related to channel ports. Severe and continued fighting may be expected within a few days, they say.

A suggestion that forward German elements already are experiencing supply difficulties was advanced on the basis of reports that Allied air forces alone have knocked out about 2,000 enemy trucks and 251 tanks in the last three or four days. That number of trucks would be capable of transporting supplies for two or three panzer divisions. The tanks would represent upward of 100 the number in an armored division.

One observer expressed the prediction that if flying weather continued adverse elements of the German force soon will be completely immobilized. Military men say that if the German offensive is to accomplish any major success, the enemy must cross the Meuse river in force, or of shifting the alternative of crossing by means of the floating or of withdrawing from the sector.

GERMANS SLAMMED BACK IN CHRISTMAS DAY BLOW. Paris, Dec. 27.—(AP)—U. S. troops in a Christmas day counter-attack, slammed back German armor that had reached the Meuse river, and fifty miles from Brussels, supreme headquarters disclosed today.

By Christmas night, American (Continued on Page Six)

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The enemy thrust came east and west of a road town 14 miles inland from the Pythomian coast after artillery preparation.

(By latest reports, the Brazilian expeditionary force was in operation on that sector of the fifth army front.) The eighth army front on the opposite coast was generally quiet.

Greeks Break Athens Truce And Fire On British Ships

MELODRAMA IN ATHENS STREETS



INDICATIVE OF the type of street fighting being waged in ancient Athens is this scene in which a British tank gives cover to Partisans as they probe the ruins of a dynamited house for mines hidden by members of the ELAS, left-wing forces, whose civil war activities are fast spreading.

Germans Blast Budapest As Red Armies Move In

Huge Toll Of Jap Shipping By U. S. Subs

Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Destruction of a large Japanese aircraft carrier, six additional enemy warships and twenty other Japanese vessels by American submarines was reported by the Navy today.

Few details were given on the big bag by subs operating in Far Eastern waters, announced by Secretary Foran at a news conference.

The aircraft carrier was not identified beyond the statement that it was "large." The other warships included one converted light cruiser, one destroyer, two escort vessels and two destroyer transports. Other ships sent to the bottom by American torpedoes and depth bombs were two large transport, ten medium cargo vessels, three small cargo vessels, one small transport, two medium cargo transports and two medium tankers.

These sinkings bring to 1,090 the number of Japanese ships sunk, probably sunk or damaged since the war started, included are 99 warships definitely sunk, 11 probably sunk and 16 damaged.

Forrestal, in issuing the submarine report, said the sinkings of Japanese vessels of all types have represented more than 2,500,000 tons of enemy shipping destroyed by American submarines alone. He said that it is with true regret that we are unable to tell the full story of submarine activities because of the need for keeping information from the enemy.

Fifth Army Units Forced To Retire On Italian Front

Rome, Dec. 27.—(AP)—A strong German counter-attack near Italy's west coast has forced fifth army units to withdraw from advanced positions in the Sorchio river valley, Allied headquarters announced today.

The enemy thrust came east and west of a road town 14 miles inland from the Pythomian coast after artillery preparation.

(By latest reports, the Brazilian expeditionary force was in operation on that sector of the fifth army front.) The eighth army front on the opposite coast was generally quiet.

Russians Pour In From Hills; Enemy Losses Terrific

Moscow, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Red army shock troops charged upon Budapest from snowy hills above the Danube river today.

The German garrison burned military stores, dynamited public utilities, and fought back grimly with field artillery scattered throughout the Hungarian capital.

Half a dozen Soviet spearheads were reported charging from the western part of the encircled city, and all German units of escape were cut off. Just how many Red troops comprise the defending garrison is not known here, but the Russian command and their numbers were large.

Some small units of tanks and heavy gunners were believed to have stalled, one machine in the Buda district on the west bank of the Danube.

Thousands of German dead were reported to have lined the roads on the battlefields following the Russian advance. Burned out armored vehicles, many of them the latest Tiger and Panther tanks, dotted the fields, and endless columns of Nazi prisoners marched miserably to cages, the dispatch said.

From the hilltops of the Buda district Red army heavy artillery dominated the entire city, including Post's main city business and factory buildings east of the river.

Advanced columns, already deep inside the city's western outskirts, were blocking their way inside by house to house fighting.

They were taking the city from the Danube and along the right bank of the city. Field dispatches and other Russian sources, advanced simultaneously with yesterday's announcement of the German command in the east to a moment of supreme crisis.

Stocks Weak Near Finish

New York, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Stocks turned soft today after a comparatively steady opening and many leaders slipped off fractions to around two points.

Pivotal included U. S. Steel, Chrysler and United Aircraft.

Air Action Is Resumed Immediately

Churchill Presses Negotiations For Early Greek Peace

Athens, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Greek populist party members declared today that peace proposals by representatives of the left-wing ELAS were unacceptable, and the conference called by Prime Minister Churchill ended its second meeting without an agreement.

The ELAS Premier terms which former Premier Gonatas said "are inadmissible."

He declared that "if accepted, they would mean complete dissolution of the state."

Athens, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The British announced today that ELAS artillery had broken a truce by firing upon a British warship and the Anglo-Greek naval headquarters late yesterday, and that as a result offensive air action would begin again.

The British informed the ELAS that the truce was regarded as null and void.

It had been agreed that no artillery action would be taken on one side or air action on the other for three-quarters of an hour from 3 p. m. while ELAS delegates were being brought to last night's conference, at which Prime Minister Churchill appeared for the warring factions to end their strife.

The conference was in tense that all delegates announced their side arms at the door.

The British announced that the first shell of 3.10 p. m. near a British warship in Piraeus. The second landed a little later near the naval headquarters.

Nevertheless, the British said another 45-minute truce would be arranged today for the protection of ELAS delegates attending a second session of an all-party conference to discuss Greece's political troubles.

British gunners returned the delegates' guns to them when they left last night's conference under a safe conduct pass.

"Whether Greece is a monarchy or a republic is a matter for the Greeks and the Greeks alone to decide," Churchill told the assemblage before he and other British representatives retired and left the Greeks to continue the conference alone.

All we wish you to avoid, and good for all," Churchill added.

Britain's only interest in using her troops in the current civil war, Churchill asserted, is to bring an end to disorder and make possible an election by secret ballot.

Three Killed In Bombings Upon Paris

Paris, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Three persons were killed and 13 injured last night by bombs which fell on the Paris area near world-famous landmarks. It was the French capital's first air raid since August 27, immediately after the city's liberation.

The casualties were the occupants of a house.

The bombers were not officially identified, but the fact that only a few appeared over the city virtually precluded any possibility that the bombs might have been dropped by accident from Allied aircraft.

A service men's club was wrecked by a direct hit, which caused some casualties. French air raid defense authorities said a hospital was hit. Night fighters took to the air immediately in pursuit of the bombers.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Cloudy and continued cold; rain in west and central portions today, followed by rain and continued cold tonight and Thursday.