

Ich hab's eilig
Ich hab's eilig
I am in a hurry

C'est dans mes moyens
Say don may mwah-YAN
I can afford it

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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in the European Theater of Operations
TUESDAY, Dec. 19, 1944

News Blackout Imposed in West

Death Rides a Mission and Ends It



The valorous risks of airmen who range enemy skies are grimly portrayed in this photo. An Eighth Air Force Liberator burns in France where it crashed returning from a mission. Bodies of crew members, extricated from wreckage, lie in foreground.

Tokyo Hints New U.S. Strike In Philippines

Japanese broadcasts indicated Monday that U.S. forces in the Philippines, with the southern section of Mindoro secured by an 11-mile inland advance from their San Jose beachhead, were ready to strike at another point in the island chain, already split by Friday's westward thrust from Leyte to Mindoro, 150 miles south of Manila.

Tokyo said Jap planes had sighted and were attacking a strong Allied fleet in the Sulu Sea, south of Mindoro, declaring: "The enemy is apparently planning to move into other areas, using Mindoro as a base." The Jap radio said the Allies' apparent design to wedge into the northwestern Philippines—which would mean Manila—"is not to be taken lightly."

Still another American fleet, said Tokyo, had been discovered in the Surigao Sea, south of Leyte. This force was said to include a battleship, several aircraft carriers, five cruisers and 13 destroyers.

Doughboys on Mindoro advanced against light opposition, but fighting was still hot on Leyte, where the 77th Infantry Division gained seven miles in the north-west corner of the island, outflanking what was left of the Yamashita Line, while the First Cavalry Division sliced through the enemy defenses farther north.

Commanding the Allied ground troops on Mindoro, it was disclosed, is Brig. Gen. William C. Dunckel, of Northumberland County, W. Va., who was wounded in Jap air attacks against the convoy en route.

Allied Fronts Joined On North Burma Scene

SOUTHEAST ASIA HQ., Dec. 18 (AP)—North Burma's scattered fronts became a single line facing the Japanese today after Scots troops pushing south linked up with 14th Army elements driving east of the Chindwin in the jungle area west of Indaw, 150 miles above Mandalay.

Pinlebu, Jap base from which the invasion of India was launched last Spring, was captured in the current operation.

Plastic Surgery on Blitz Scars



U.S. engineers repairing bomb-damaged homes in London's Lambeth area cleared this blitzed site and erected a temporary house in seven days.

Partition OK With U.S. If Poles Agree-Stettinius

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (ANS)—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. told a press conference today that the U.S. would endorse the Anglo-Russo scheme for reshaping Poland's boundaries, provided all the United Nations directly concerned—including Poland—agreed.

Stettinius' statement followed a report in the New York Times today that Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin had arranged for the partition of Poland during the Teheran Conference without the assent of President Roosevelt.

The Times said: "Premier Stalin would not agree to coordinate the Red Army's operations with those of his Western Allies until he had a definite assurance Britain would support Russia's claim to Polish territory as far west as the Curzon Line."

Stettinius' three-point statement had been awaited anxiously since Friday, when Churchill told the British House of Commons that England had agreed that the eastern third of Poland should be turned over to Russia in exchange for a substantial portion of eastern Germany.

(Reuters reported that the Stettinius statement was communicated to the British government in advance of its release in Washington. The news agency added that it was welcomed in London since it represented substantial agreement between the two nations.)

While avoiding direct approval of Poland's partition, Stettinius promised U.S. aid for Poland in any transfer of peoples caused by the proposed changes.

Stettinius said it had been the "consistently-held policy of the American government that questions relating to boundaries should be kept in abeyance until the termination of hostilities."

However, he recalled a statement by his

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Hit Rail Points In German Rear

Important rail centers supplying counter-attacking German forces on the Western Front were hammered Monday by approximately 500 Fortresses of the Eighth Air Force, escorted by more than 600 Mustang fighters.

Unopposed by enemy fighters, the heavies struck at marshalling yards at Cologne, Coblenz, Mainz and elsewhere in western Germany. All bombing was done in adverse weather. Flak was light.

A group of patrolling P-51s reported bagging three Me109s over the Ruhr. The Eighth's losses were three bombers and five fighters.

Meanwhile, a tabulation of the results of Sunday's fierce air battles disclosed that Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers shot down 97 German planes, probably destroyed five and damaged 61 for a loss of 31 U.S. aircraft, as the Luftwaffe, with an estimated 450 fighters in action, made probably its greatest tactical effort since D-Day to support attacking Wehrmacht elements on the U.S. First Army front.

An AP dispatch said that Allied airmen shot down 194 enemy planes in the first 36 hours of the attack.

An additional 48 enemy fighters, out of an attacking force of over 100, were bagged Sunday by MAAF bomber-gunners and fighter-pilots while the heavies were on their way to bomb synthetic-oil plants in Silesia. MAAF losses were 29 planes.

Germans Hold At Budapest

With the battle for Budapest reported deadlocked, Marshal Malinowsky's Red Army troops seized a fortified point six miles northeast of the Hungarian capital yesterday in one thrust of a two-way drive aimed at Vienna. The other point of the Russian offensive was northwestward from Lake Balaton, where the German communique claimed strong Soviet attacks had been thrown back.

Malinowsky's troops advanced across muddy flats north of Budapest after Soviet troops had laid corduroy roads at breakneck speed.

Northeast and northwest of Miskolc, the Russians were mopping up in the industrial areas near the Czech border, and at several points the Nazis were forced back across the frontier.

Flip Corkin Here in the Flesh

Flip Corkin has hit the ETO—bouncing into it not out of Milt Caniff's famous cartoon strip, Terry and the Pirates, but from a desk job to Washington. The news came in an announcement Monday by Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, commanding the First Allied Airborne Army, that Col. Phillip G. Cochran—who but Flip?—had been assigned assistant G3 (operations).

Nazis Hurl Reserves Against 1st Army In 'Last-Ditch' Bid

Security silence was ordered at 4 PM Monday concerning battle-line reports of operations along the length of the First Army front, where the German commander, staking Germany's military fate on what may be one last great bid to prolong the war and break the Allied drive for the Rhine, has thrown in an estimated half of his tactical reserves into three thrusts into Belgium and Luxembourg.

Dispatches filed prior to the imposing of the rigid censorship said the Americans were hitting back hard at the enemy and that front-line officers did not try to minimize or underestimate the seriousness of the situation, which was described as "fluid" at some points as the Germans struck with strong numbers of infantry, tanks and armored vehicles, backed up by the heretofore carefully hoarded Luftwaffe.

'Those Dirty —!'

Nazis Turned Machine Guns On GI PWs

By Hal Boyle

Associated Press Correspondent

AN AMERICAN FRONT-LINE CLEARING STATION, Belgium, Dec. 18—Muddy, shivering survivors, mad with rage, told today how German tank-men tried with machine-guns to massacre 150 American prisoners standing in an open field.

"Those of us who played dead got away later," said Cpl. William B. Summers, of Glenville, W. Va. "But we had to lie there and listen to German noncoms kill with pistols every one of our wounded men who groaned or tried to move."

"Those dirty —," Summers said. "I never heard of anything like it in my life. Damn them. Give me a rifle and put me in the infantry. I want to go back and kill every one of those —"

Trapped at Road Fork

Summers, who escaped with a gashed hand, is a member of an artillery observation battalion which was trapped at a road fork by a powerful German armored column which drove several miles into Belgium when the Nazi counter-offensive started yesterday.

The enemy's Tiger tanks quickly shot up more than two dozen American trucks and light armored vehicles. The captured Yanks then were led into a field and as the German column moved past, less than 50 yards away, the Nazi gunners deliberately raked the defenseless group with machine-guns and machine-pistols.

The survivors expressed hope that perhaps a majority of the men had escaped by diving to the ground and lying still, but three hours later, after the mass slaughter was attempted, less than 20 had made their way back to their own lines.

Jap Nisei May Return to Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18 (ANS)—Persons of Japanese ancestry who were removed from their Pacific Coast homes early in the war may return to them after Jan. 1, Western Defense Command Headquarters announced yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Henry C. Pratt said the Army had decided to revoke its security order under which the Nisei, or American-born Japs, were evacuated because of "the favorable progress of the war in the Pacific, as well as other developments."

The West Coast met with contrasting reactions the revocation of the order which since March, 1942, had kept persons of Japanese ancestry from strategic areas.

Gov. Earl L. Warren of California appealed for "an attitude that will discourage friction and prevent civil disorder."

Benjamin Smith, of Kent, Wash., president of the Remember Pearl Harbor League, said his organization had pledged 500 persons not to sell, lease or rent farms, homes or stores to returning evacuees.

New Nazi V-Weapon Hits Behind West Front

NINTH ARMY FRONT, Dec. 18 (AP)—The Germans launched a new V-weapon against the Western Front today, bombarding rear areas by day and night.

were knocked out. Monschau, which is in Germany close to the Belgian border, still was in U.S. hands.

A Reuters correspondent who toured the First Army front Monday said he saw U.S. troops digging in to meet expected panzer thrusts, and tank destroyers firing at enemy armor. Bad weather impeded Allied fighter-bomber support, though the fliers were up in numbers to meet the Luftwaffe challenge.

Dispatches said that the German drive, which began early Saturday with probing stabs all along the Ninth and First Armies' positions before the thrusts into Belgium and Luxembourg, had been resumed Monday after what was described as a 12-hour lull, not otherwise explained.

Spearheading the German blow, it was said, was a panzer division which has seen action on half a dozen other battle-fronts in the war. Quick action rounded up most of the Nazi paratroops dropped behind both the Ninth and First lines. Prisoners said they had been formed over a month ago into special teams for the operation. The paratroops' mission apparently was a diversion to screen the Germans' main effort.

Monday morning, it was announced that disclosures of where the German

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-By Andy Rooney-

ARNIE HERBER

APOs Wanted

SHE'S SUDDENLY GONE STIFF AN' COLD 'TIL SHE TH' VISION'S A-COMIN'.

OUCH!!

HERE LIES PANDY TONGUE.

Coverly

