

# THE CAROLINA NEWS

## Major Turn In Pacific War By Next Summer Seen

### Admiral Mitscher In Prediction

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor (AP)—A major turn in the Pacific war by next summer is foreseen by Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, who helped win the Japanese decisively in two battles of the Philippines Sea and figures "in another year we should have their Navy pretty well cleaned up."

### SEA BATTLE EXPECTED

Mitscher, whose carrier forces crushed the enemy's main attempt to interfere last June with the invasion of Saipan and helped thwart the Japanese naval effort to interfere in October with the invasion of Leyte, expects another such battle.

"They've reached the point where they'll show everything to the light," he said. "Mitscher returned to Pearl Harbor after a month and a half leave on the side of current action, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz reported the second Japanese air raid in three days on the Saipan base of the Superfortresses, now blasting Japan. He also announced another American air attack at two Jima, the volcano island from which the Japanese planes are flying to Saipan."

In the Philippines, Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported only mop-up operations on the ground and the usual sweep of air forces.

See MAJOR PACIFIC on page 9

## Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Western Front

A British correspondent on the German withdrawal has developed into a rout at some points, but a German correspondent declares that over-all gains of up to three miles have been made in today's fighting mostly on the southern flank of the Nazi salient.

Supreme Headquarters is making no comment on French press dispatches quoting the Nazi news agency, DNB, as saying that German command has ordered his forces withdrawn from the Belgian pocket.

But Allied forces have scored further advances in their assaults on the sides of the German wedge in Belgium. A number of German pockets now are entirely cut off from the main enemy force.

General Patton's Third Army has whittled the Nazi salient down to a width of seventeen miles at least one area. The Third scored advances ranging up to twenty miles in the first six days of its assault on the German southern flank—and Patton's troops have made further gains since, as indicated by the dispatches just received, which talks of advances ranging up to three miles.

Frontline dispatches credit the Third Army with clearing the Nazis from at least twelve towns, with a number of others captured.

No late word is available on the battle in the farthest area westward, but the Germans have been forced back at least ten miles from the positions they once reached near the Meuse River.

About 1,500 American warplanes hammered German targets between the Western Front and the Rhine today. A great fleet of B-29 heavy bombers joined the attack on this same area. Some planes based on the continent also took part in the day's operations. Most of the objectives were rail targets.

It is disclosed that American planes based in Italy have been ordered to attack German targets in Southern Germany again, and also pounded the Brenner Pass railroad for the fourth straight day.

Italy

"There's little change in the line-up on the Italian front, but German counter-attacks on the western end of the line appear to have died down. Military observers believe the sudden enemy

### Bastogne Heroes

## McAuliffe Led Gallant Garrison

By EDWARD D. BALL

BASTOGNE—(AP)—Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe was disclosed today as the leader of the gallant Bastogne garrison of almost 10,000 men—the commander who said "nuts" to the German demand that he surrender.

McAuliffe was serving as commander of the 101st Airborne Division, which was encircled seven days in this Belgian town together with elements of the Ninth and Tenth Armored Divisions. The 101st regular commander, Maj. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, was in Washington when his division was hurled against the Germans in the Belgian battle, as a stopgap measure. Taylor flew to France and jumped into the fight with the 101st.

McAuliffe's division broke the Bastogne siege.

Taylor arrived in Belgium Dec. 26, made his way through German lines and reached Bastogne early.

See McAULIFFE on page 9

### Air Fleets Strike

## Bombs Showered On Nazi Targets

LONDON—(AP)—Fifteen hundred U. S. bombers and fighters from Britain, a great fleet of RAF heavy bombers and limited numbers of continent-based planes rained thousands of tons of bombs today between the Western Front and the Rhine.

It was the seventh straight day of long-range attack by heavy bombers of the U. S. Eighth Air Force and the RAF from Britain, and their assaults were supplemented by strikes from Italy carried out by the U. S. 15th Air Force.

RAIL JUNCTIONS HIT

A half dozen road and rail junctions and bridges in the English Channel sector were hammered by part of the U. S. bomber fleet.

Bad weather compelled bombing of the rail air force to use instruments in hitting communications objectives in Germany. They also bombed the Brenner Pass railroad for the fourth straight day.

Portents of the Italian-based fleet bombed Innsbruck and Liberec attacked Salzburg and other points which were not officially identified.

Front reports said, sleek aircraft in the fighting area yesterday, after three hours of action, the U. S. troops smashing against the German counter-offensive.

British Lancasters and Halifaxes shuttled three times between Britain and the Rhine yesterday, attacking German targets some 5,000 tons of incendiaries and explosives, while 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators with an aggregate fighter strike at ten other rail junctions in Western Germany with 5,000 tons.

Churchill, Eden Back

LONDON—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Secretary Eden arrived in Britain today from the conferences in Greece.

Dramatic Battle Story

## Nazi Drive For Meuse Stopped By Tough Yank Armored Force

By HAL BOYLE

NEAR CELLES, Belgium, Dec. 28—(AP)—Everywhere over this abandoned front, which yesterday rocked with the crashing sounds of battle as an American armored outfit stopped Von Rundstedt's drive three miles short of the Meuse River, lies a silence compounded of cold, fog and death.

It is a silence broken only by the chirp of quelling snipers on a frozen bank, the crunch of the feet of a few doughboys walking stiffly across the glazed fields and the endless hum of trucks moving along alleyways highways with food and bullets for a new front.

The evidence of recent battle, however, remains to see the bodies of hundreds of enemy dead and the wreckage of Nazi tanks, armored cars, trucks and field guns scattered over miles of field and woods, sharing equally in the victory

## Reds Battle In 'Heart' Of Budapest

Report Made By  
Nazi Command

LONDON—(AP)—The Russians are fighting in the "heart of Budapest," the German High Command announced today as Hungarian battle for the city against heavy Soviet attacks.

The report, coming from the south was opened by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., waging a kind of war of attrition against the Soviet forces.

Patton used the veteran Fourth Armored Division and units of the 101st Airborne Division to attack the city against the Soviet forces.

The German news agency DNB said U. S. and British planes were attacking the city from the airfield near Ungvár, at the Hungarian-Czechoslovak border, and that the field had been "put at the Allies' disposal by the Soviet Command with the consent of the Czechoslovak mission."

First Of Three Nazi  
Rings Cracked By Reds

MOSCOW—(AP)—Russian forces cracked the first of three inner rings of the Nazi-occupied city today, the Nazis reported today.

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Philippine Push?

Japs Report  
U. S. Convoys  
On The Move

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Japanese High Command today reported that a heavily guarded convoy of American transports moving westward through the Philippines had been sighted.

Unconfirmed Tokyo broadcasts recently have reported a continuing movement of U. S. transport convoys in and around the Philippines.

Today's report said that a Japanese submarine had sighted a U. S. transport convoy in the Philippine Sea.

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Dramatic Battle Story

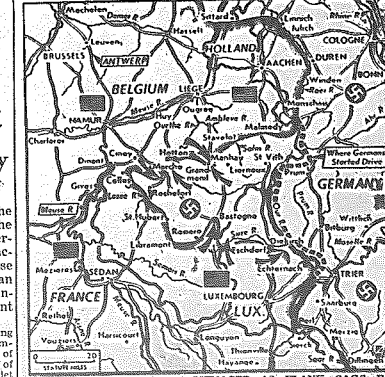
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NAZI BELGIAN FRONT MENACED AS FLANK SAGS—Black arrows indicate American counter-attacks against the Nazi Belgian advance. Troops of the U. S. Third Army have rescued the trapped garrison at Bastogne and are driving hard toward the north in an effort to meet troops of the First Army and trap the Nazis in a giant pocket. At the nose of the German bulge enemy forces have been chased back more than ten miles from their penetration in the Colles area to Rochefort. (AP Map)

## German Might Bash Out Again

By ELTON C. FAY

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A belief that the Germans will make at least one more major effort to break out of their salient before starting a general withdrawal was expressed in more cautious military circles here today.

The idea was entertained despite late reports of Nazi withdrawal of armor from the area at the southwestern corner of the penetration and the success of U. S. Third Army elements moving up from the south.

One officer, who declined to be quoted, said that Von Rundstedt still has some divisions standing by in the rear of the salient. These would be thrown into action if the Nazi commander discovered a likely spot for a new breakthrough attempt.

WARY EYE KEPT

Moreover, there is an inclination to keep a wary eye on enemy activities along the front north of the salient. There German patrol and other activity has taken curious turns in the last two days. This activity, it was suggested, could indicate several things:

(1) That the enemy is studying the Allied situation in that area with a possible view to throwing out an offensive operation from within the salient. This would be a general westward direction toward Liege, with the intention of cutting in back of the Allied northern flank on the salient, thus endangering the use of force was the best way to have German lost more than they have gained to support the Papandreu Government in the power defense.

There is some opinion, therefore, that the use of force was the best way to have German lost more than they have gained to support the Papandreu Government in the power defense.

Washington, diplomats believe that the use of force was the best way to have German lost more than they have gained to support the Papandreu Government in the power defense.

Gen. Patton Decorated

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley today decorated Lt. Gen. George S. Patton for his leadership in the Third Army's spectacular dash across France last summer, presenting him with the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross.

"He has contributed immeasurably to the success of Allied operations on the continent," the citation said.

That was the way it started, and it hasn't let up for four days and four nights—but the morale of my boys has picked up 200 per cent because they know they're doing fine. It's like they were making a breakthrough again themselves.

"That first night we were moving a hundred miles overnight across country we had never seen before," he said. "We didn't even have time to get our bearings. Some of our reconnaissance men were shot up by the Germans while doing a little scouting and checking."

"The Germans were moving up fast and there wasn't any time to prepare defense. There was time to do only one thing—attack them. It grabbed hold of one of my boys and said: 'Son, get to hell up there near Ciney Village with what tanks you've got and start kicking hell out of them. We'll be along soon to back you up.'"

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## Yanks Drive To Outskirts Of Rochefort

Yank Corridor To Bastogne Broadened; Nazi Escape Gap Cut

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS—(AP)—American armored troops have thrown the western tip of German spearheads back ten miles and advanced to the outskirts of the picturesque town of Rochefort, field reports said today.

Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's troops were reported digging in at the western end of their salient while his armor drew back and U. S. Third Army troops advanced up to three miles today in a squeeze from the south.

Less than seventeen miles separated the First and Third Armies at the Bastogne neck of the salient where a junction would catch Von Rundstedt's advanced elements in a noose.

Associated Press correspondent Hal Boyle said American armored forces, hitting Von Rundstedt's offensive on the nose, had driven his forward elements back ten miles and thrown them across the Lesse and Homme Rivers.

Roger D. Green, AP correspondent with British forces, added that the Americans had entered Rochefort's outskirts on the east bank of the Homme by 10 A. M. yesterday.

Rochefort is a tourist center dating from medieval times and is three and one-half miles north of the famous Han Grottoes, where the Lesse River flows through a series of subterranean chambers.

Von Rundstedt's December offensive had been kicked into reverse by American forces which slammed into all three sides of his extended bulge, with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army sensationally changing its front and advancing twenty miles into the German flank in six days.

The situation was not an unimixed success, however, for Patton's shift of front brought his own offensive along the Saar to a stop, and obliged the Americans to give up their hard-won bridgehead across the Saar at Dillingen, where they had broken into the initial defenses of the Siegfried Line.

STAND AT BASTOGNE

The big turning point was the seven-day stand of the U. S. 101st Airborne Division and other as yet unidentified units at Bastogne, one of the gateways to French Sedan.

And now the Americans were hitting back. Throughout the northwestern area of the German penetration, from Celles to Rochefort, doughboys, tanks and Greyhound armored cars slashed across fields, overrunning German trucks, armored cars and infantrymen wandering blindly. The Americans groped for their disorganized enemy in a fog which limited visibility to 50 yards.

The Lesse and Homme at Rochefort wind approximately fourteen miles east of the Meuse and ten miles southeast of Celles, deepest point of German penetration toward Dinant.

CRITICAL BATTLE

Here the critical battle was fought in the hamlet of Humain, four miles southwest of Marche and four miles north of Rochefort.

The Germans were driven out of the village with planes, artillery, infantry, tank destroyers and finally flamethrowers.

See YANKS PRESS on page 9

## Late Bulletins

Villages Entered  
By Patton Troops

WITH U. S. THIRD ARMY, Dec. 28—(AP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops have entered the villages of Jaden and Villers in the vicinity of Sierb, it was announced at 3 P. M. today. Villers is 2-1/2 miles south of Sierb.

The Americans also occupied two more towns to the west of Sierb—Edelbruck, three miles southwest of Diekirch, and Eppeldorff, four miles southeast of Diekirch in further advances toward the Sire River.

They continued to gain upon Wiltz from their bridgeheads across the Sure.

British Reporter  
Uses 'Rout' Term

LONDON—(AP)—A British correspondent on the Belgian front said Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's withdrawal from the Ardennes salient "has developed into a rout at some points."

Overall gains of three miles have been made today, with most of the progress on the southern flank. The report said that "the Germans are attacking," the dispatch said.

Rundstedt Appears  
Regrouping Forces

WITH AMERICAN ARMY IN BELGIUM, Dec. 28—(AP)—Field Marshal Von Rundstedt appeared to be regrouping his forces in the Ardennes, it was reported today.

Temperatures at 11th Street  
High and Low Last 24 Hours

Reported Today

Source: Bureau of Weather

Weather

Cloudy with light rain in afternoon and evening; otherwise clear and calm with temperature in the 40's.

High and Low Last 24 Hours

Reported Today

Source: Bureau of Weather

Weather