

NAZIS 4 MILES FROM MEUSE

Two, Possibly Three, Full Armies Crash West Against Yanks.

(Continued From Page One) central spearheads driving for the Meuse.

Exploiting the breakthrough, the Nazis sent three armored spearheads through the riddled center and right center of the American 1st Army line on a 13-mile front. German steel fingers pointed squarely at the Meuse river citadels of Dinant and Namur.

Rochefort, 14 miles east of the Meuse and 15 miles east-southeast of Dinant, was captured by the Germans 36 hours ago. It was indicated their vanguard still were rolling forward.

Shock Troops Lash Out

The Nazis resumed their stalled offensive in the face of terrific aerial blows and increasingly heavy counter-attacks against their exposed flanks.

German paratroops struck 12 miles ahead of the their advancing tank forces. They descended behind the American lines north of Beaurain, five miles from the Meuse city of Givet and only a half-dozen miles from French soil. Headquarters said the paratroops were mopped up quickly in the Beaurain area, along with another airborne force that tried to disrupt communications southwest of Stavelot, some 45 miles to the rear.

The new German breakthrough was aided enormously by a sudden weakening of American resistance along the northern shoulder of the salient.

Squeezed Out of Bulge

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st Army was squeezed out of a bulge extending down about seven miles from the Malmedy-Stavelot line, permitting the northern and central prongs of the Nazi drive to link up in a solid 35-mile front.

With the center of the American line still in a highly fluid state, the great winter offensive launched by Marshal Karl von Rundstedt 11 days ago already had carved out a salient 31 miles deep and 35 miles wide.

The Nazi penetration extended almost from the German to the French borders and from southern Belgium to central Luxembourg. At last reports, admittedly 36 hours old, the Nazis still were rolling westward in a power drive of grave proportions.

Headquarters spokesmen acknowledged that Rundstedt, far from being stopped, actually was striking with renewed power and posing a grave threat to the vital Meuse river line.

Allied Fate in Balance

The fate of the Meuse and perhaps the entire communications network of the allied armies apparently rested now on the safety board with a number of letters from persons who approved this action.

The board took under advisement any action in the matter until members have an opportunity to consult with Mayor Tyndall.

It was said that the couple involved was married. Allison was demoted from sergeant Dec. 15 prior to the streetcar incident.



YANKS CONTROL ALL OF LEYTE

'Worst Defeat in Military History Inflicted on Japs'—MacArthur.

(Continued From Page One) Leyte "has seldom been paralleled in the history of warfare."

Greatest Defeat'

"Gen. Yamashita has sustained perhaps the greatest defeat in the annals of the Japanese army," MacArthur asserted.

Where MacArthur will strike next naturally remained a secret. The Japanese have been predicting that he will send forces ashore on Luzon, site of the capital city of Manila.

Escorted American Liberators continued their raids on the network of airfields around Manila with two attacks Saturday and Sunday on Clark field. Forty tons of bombs were dropped Sunday. Escorting fighters shot down 18 to 20 of 50 to 60 intercepting Japanese planes.

One American plane was lost.

The 77th division, liberators of Ormoc, caught the Japanese completely unawares with its landing at Palompon. It forged inland to within 10 miles of another column striking from the Ormoc corridor. Little resistance was being encountered.

Little Stand?

The 7th division landed at Puerto Bello, five and a half miles west of Ormoc, also against little resistance. The 32d and 1st cavalry divisions, smashing the last enemy resistance in the Ormoc corridor, drove rapidly toward the west.

MacArthur placed Japanese losses in the Leyte-Samara campaign since the American landing Oct. 20 at: "Exactly 54,338 dead already recovered."

Estimated 18,500 dead either buried by the enemy or still to be recovered.

Precisely 493 prisoners. About 30,000 troops sunk at sea in 10 convoys attempting to reinforce the garrison. And 9890 naval ratings in the crews of 41 transports of 164,250 tons and 27 warships sunk.

In addition 2748 Japanese planes were shot down, 1515 by land-based aircraft and the remainder by carrier aircraft from the 3d fleet. MacArthur said Japanese ground forces had been "practically annihilated."

"We have, however, considered it our duty to impress upon these leaders as strongly as possible the humanitarian considerations and military advantages which we believe would be associated with such an allied military operation to cut the Germans' retreat southward through Norway," he said.

Letters Support Demoted Officer

FOREST ALLISON, who recently halted a kissing incident on a downtown streetcar, today appeared before the safety board with a number of letters from persons who approved this action.

The board took under advisement any action in the matter until members have an opportunity to consult with Mayor Tyndall.

It was said that the couple involved was married. Allison was demoted from sergeant Dec. 15 prior to the streetcar incident.

RUSS STORMING INTO WESTERN BUDAPEST

(Continued From Page One) make good their boast to turn Budapest into another Stalingrad.

Little Stand?

The Russians have sealed the fate of Budapest by advancing to within six miles of Esztergom, the only Nazi escape route along the Danube. This map shows the Red drives from the north and south.

Hitler Planned Nazis' Offensive

(Continued From Page One) situations of the entire war energies.

The Nazis have acknowledged that the Hitler plan for a sudden great victory has gone wrong, a primary factor being the 1st army's stand along the Malmedy-Stavelot flank of the German salient, which veered the enemy south away from Liege.

At least two of the armies committed to the German drive were identified as the 5th panzer army and the 7th infantry army.

By SHAPE account, the big push from the Belgian-Luxembourg frontier zone had its origin and development in Hitler's mind in the last three months while his engrossment was covered up with rumors of his rug-chewing, an operation for a critical throat ailment, and a flight to Japan, among others.

The rumors reached flood tide when Hitler failed to speak on the anniversary of the Munich beer cellar putsch, a sort of "Holy Day" in Nazidom.

NORSE CALL FOR ALLIED INVASION

Premier Nygaardsvold Says

He'll Resign After Country Is Liberated.

LONDON, Dec. 26 (U. P.)—Norwegian Prime Minister Johan Nygaardsvold, broadcasting to Norway, disclosed tonight that the "impatient" Norwegian government has been urging an allied invasion of Norway.

He also announced that his government will resign at the first meeting that can be held in Oslo palace after the liberation of Norway.

Nygaardsvold said that Norwegian forces are too small to invade Norway without help, but said his government realized that allied military leaders must decide where allied forces can best be employed to inflict a decisive defeat on the Germans.

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