

POLISH CAPITAL LIES IN RUINS

Warsaw Seen Desolate by Writer—Mighty Armies Poise on Vistula.

By HENRY SHAPIRO
United Press Staff Correspondent

LUBLIN, Poland, Jan. 5.—War saw is a city of desolate ruins, stretching mile upon mile in every direction, but in its eastern districts are poised several mighty Soviet and Polish armies ready to strike across the frozen Vistula in what may be the decisive winter offensive of the Eastern front.

I have just returned from Warsaw, where I saw those armies and the rubble of what once was one of the greatest capitals in Europe. Soldiers under the Soviet and Polish banners were massed in Praga, on the east bank of the Vistula and as much an integral part of Warsaw as Brooklyn is of New York City.

From the east side of the Vistula, just below one of Warsaw's four bridges and only 300 yards from the German lines, I looked across the wreckage left by Germans, then Soviet bombs and shells since that fateful Sept. 1, 1939.

No Sign of Life

The naked frame of a 15-story building dominated the skyline like a macabre skeleton. For miles behind the long lines of German trenches, pillboxes and artillery emplacements, there was no sign of any living thing.

But invisible Germans were entrenched underground and behind the vestiges of tenements broke the monotony of the winter day with bullets and artillery shells.

As we stood on the edge of no man's land—more properly "no man's river"—Col. Prosk, the commanding officer, said that this was a "quiet day"—the same quiet day that German shells killed or wounded more than 70 civilians in Praga.

The mayor of Warsaw pointed to what used to be the central section of the capital. He said it was the focal point of the ill-fated insurrection in August.

Only Handful Escape

"Not a single soul remained there to tell the tale," he said. "Of a population of more than 700,000, only a handful of survivors managed to cross the Vistula and now are in Praga. Every one of the others either was killed or taken to Germany."

Only approximately 120,000 Poles remain in Praga of Warsaw's 1,800,000. In basements, dugouts, and roofless, unheated ruins, I saw these women and children carrying on with the same spirit I once saw among the people of besieged Leningrad.

Primitive factories were arising from the ruins. The Polish army was growing daily.

There was a little cemetery at almost every corner. Victims of the war were buried immediately almost where they fell.

PARRISH IS ADDED TO BARN'S FEATURES

Frank Parrish, local radio singer and entertainer, has been added as one of Castle Barn's entertainment features.

Mr. Parrish will appear tonight, Saturday and Sunday, along with the Denny Dutton and Curly New-port orchestras.

Tea dancing each Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 will be featured at the night club, located on Pendleton Pike. Dancing on Friday and Saturday nights is from 9 to 3 and on Sunday night from 8 to 12.

TRAIN CRASH FATAL FOR TWO, PROBED

PT. WAYNE, Ind., Jan. 5 (U.P.)—Railroad officials in Dola, O., today opened an investigation in the train crash which resulted in the death of two Pt. Wayne men, Francis J. Greter, 33, a Pennsylvania railroad brakeman, and William T. Turnbaugh, 40, conductor, yesterday.

Early reports indicated that the two men were sitting in the caboose of their train, which was taking on coal on a side track, when a freight plowed into it.

On Exhibition at Ayres'

The HOFFHEIMER COLLECTION of MINIATURE ROOMS

Tiny, carefully scaled (one inch to one foot) model rooms that range from a country general store . . . with all the details even to the cracker barrel by the stove . . . to a sophisticated modern penthouse.

Started as a spare-time hobby for his own amusement by Mr. J. H. Hoffheimer of New York, this collection of ten miniature rooms now is being exhibited all over the country.

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Writers View Bastogne as German 'Gettysburg' With Tide Turning Now in Favor of Allies

Two United Press war correspondents who completed independent tours of the Western Front present in the following dispatch their impressions of the current situation on the basis of information obtained from the best military sources.

By ROBERT MUSEL and
WALTER CRONKITE
United Press Staff Correspondents

ADVANCED NINTH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Jan. 5—Bastogne may well prove to be a German "Gettysburg"—representing the high tide of the enemy's ability to wage offensive war in the period between D-day and the end of hostilities.

But whatever fate awaits the Nazi war machine, it is now obvious that Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's brilliantly conceived breakthrough into Belgium gained time and time was one objective at least.

MOST OBSERVERS were convinced that there will be similar German offensives in the future

before final defeat. But every German attack henceforth should be weaker unless the Germans have undisclosed reserves—and that seemed improbable.

The present situation offers bright spots on both sides, but more particularly for the allies. It is significant that today—nearly three weeks since the start of the German counter-thrust—a Nazi withdrawal from parts of the salient already is underway.

GIVEN good weather, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d army could wreck the entire German plan by crashing through from the south with the help of fighter-bombers.

The chances of trapping some German men and material are favorable, but should not be overestimated. Von Rundstedt is recognized as a master of defense, and it would be unreasonable to assume that he had no plan for a withdrawal.

The first violence of the German surge into the Ardennes bulge deceived some observers into believing that Von Run-

dstedt was gambling his all in one do-or-die gash.

Von Rundstedt apparently hoped he could seize American supplies—and he may never know how close he came to one great dump.

In event of big unexpected success, he obviously intended to aim for Liege, the most important communications center in Belgium.

The prestige angle was important to the German high command to restore the tarnished reputation of the wehrmacht.

TIME WAS paramount. Not only had the Nazis been sacrificing men and material at a tremendous rate, but they had not completed their inner fortification lines.

Moreover, a new army class is due in the spring, and the Germans still are banking on new secret weapons—other than the three V-bombs.

There has been evidence that

THIS TACTIC, developed by the Germans on the Eastern

propelled planes armed with big no-recoil guns.

THIS, then, is what happened:

Von Rundstedt played the elements and came up with misty weather which grounded allied bombers and fighters.

Behind this screen, he struck swiftly through some of the worst terrain in Europe.

The Germans suffered heavy casualties, but there seems no question that Von Rundstedt cracked through the thinning strength of the German air force, and virtually none of his jet-propelled planes.

From our observations and information obtained from military sources, it appears now that Von Rundstedt struck into the thinning-held portion of the allied line because he was desperate for time and prestige.

More over, a new army class is due in the spring, and the Germans still are banking on new secret weapons—other than the three V-bombs.

There has been evidence that

THIS TACTIC, developed by the Germans on the Eastern

eastern point at which it would be possible to slice the German bulge because of the broken, difficult terrain over a wide area.

Meanwhile, the allies face a multitude of problems. It will be more than a month before the Germans are driven back to their starting points—and there must be regrouping and replenishment of supplies before the Americans can roll again.

GRIPSHOLM TO LEAVE FOR NEW EXCHANGE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (U.P.)—The motor vessel Gripsholm will leave New York tomorrow or shortly thereafter to carry out another exchange with Germany of serious sick or wounded prisoners and some civilians.

The state and war departments announced that the Gripsholm would dock at Marseilles and the exchanges would take place in Switzerland Jan. 17 and 25. The Gripsholm will arrive back in New York late in February.

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