

First Army Opens New Drive

Luftwaffe Up, Loses 130 Planes

For the first time in weeks the not-so-down-and-out Luftwaffe showed itself in great strength yesterday, and according to preliminary reports Eighth Air Force fighters set a new record for a one-day bag by shooting down 130 enemy craft. Another 25 Nazi planes were destroyed on the ground.

The last time the Luftwaffe came up en masse was Sept. 11, when Eighth fighters clipped all their previous single-day records by shooting down 116 enemy planes.

As many as 400 Jerries were encountered yesterday by more than 900 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, which escorted over 1,100 Fortresses and Liberators in their attack on synthetic-oil plants in the Ruhr and at Merseburg in central Germany, as well as rail facilities at Bielefeld and Rheine, and other targets in western Germany.

Preddy's Men Get 24

The Mustang squadron led by Maj. George E. Preddy, of Greensboro, N.C., who is the top active Eighth fighter pilot in the ETO, shot down 24 Nazi craft to cop the day's squadron honors.

The 55th Fighter Group, a P51 outfit, led by Maj. Eugene E. Ryan, of Darien, Conn., tangled with over 75 single-engine Jerries which were "ganging up" on one bomber force over Merseburg, and claimed bagging 19 for the loss of one Mustang.

The heavies' gunners reported getting their share of additional "kills," shooting down 53.

Sgt. William E. Grose, of Hico, W. Va., ball-turret gunner on the Fort Little Chum, said: "I saw about eight FW190s sweep in toward the rear of our formation. I saw two of the Jerries go down."

2 Lt. Thomas Radonski, of Milwaukee, Wis., bombardier on the Fort That's All, Jack, reported: "As we were leaving the target area, three jet-propelled fighters broke out of a light haze in front of us. One, a light-green plane with black crosses, came in at us. At about 800 yards I opened fire. He was right in the middle of his turn, and seemed to be hanging in mid-air. That's where I got him."

Reds Speed Budapest Drive

Russian tanks and tank-borne infantry, driving across the open plains of Hungary toward Budapest, last night were reported to have broken through the capital's outer defense line, 27 miles from the city.

Col. Ernst von Hammer, German News Agency commentator, announced that the Soviet spearhead had cut a hole in the line at Kunszentmiklos, located on Budapest-Subotica railway. There was no official announcement from Moscow. Elsewhere the Eastern Front was quiet.

Pfc Hanged in France For Murder of Topkick

SHAEF, Paris, Nov. 2 (Reuter)—It was officially announced yesterday that Pfc Paul M. Kluxdal, of Chicago, had been hanged for killing 1/Sgt. Paul M. Robinson with a carbine Aug. 22.

Kluxdal was convicted by an Army court-martial and the sentence was reviewed and confirmed by Gen. Eisenhower.

Our Man Got a Ride—and Look What Happened

3 in Crew, Ops Over, Volunteered for a Milk Run That Was Anything But

By Herb Palmer

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

92ND BOMB GROUP, Nov. 2—The Devil stalked the Flying Fortress Satan's Lady II today as she roared over Germany for a slap at the Reich, and when she crash-landed at an RAF base this afternoon three of the specially-selected crew were missing and four wounded.

I made my first mission today and flew to attack a German oil refinery at Luna, three miles south of Merseburg. In the crew were three men who had completed their tour of missions and had volunteered for one final "milk run" before going home. One of the three—



HERB PALMER

Pearl Harbor Ghost That Shed Its Sheet



DECEMBER 7, 1941

TODAY

Before and after: USS West Virginia, blasted in the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor (top), returned to action in the invasion of Leyte, completely refitted and modernized (bottom).

Leyte Battle Nears a Climax; Jap Escape Port Is Bombed

The battle for Leyte Island, in the Philippines, last night narrowed to a six-mile-long corridor from the village of Carigara to the last Jap escape port of Ormoc, on the west coast, and late dispatches from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters indicated Carigara soon would be in American hands.

The U.S. 24th Division, linked with dismounted cavalry units from the north side of the island, advanced two miles during the day against resistance which appeared to be stiffening. American planes bombed Jap installations at Ormoc, while the enemy continued to ferry in reinforcements from Cebu, due west.

Meanwhile, as U.S. planes raided more than a dozen Japanese island strongholds throughout the Pacific, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced from his Pearl Harbor headquarters that "several" American warships were damaged in a second battle of the Philippines last week. For security reasons he withheld identity of the damaged vessels. Previously, six U.S. ships were reported sunk or damaged.

Paris Bares Nazi Plan To Bomb U.S. Cities

PARIS, Nov. 2 (UP)—The Germans had a plan to bomb New York and Washington with long-range bombers built in Paris, but the French held up the work so much that the Germans had to leave Paris first.

This has just been revealed at the Farman factory, where the bombers were to have been built. The plane was the Heinkel 274, a monoplane with four Mercedes-Benz 1,650-horsepower engines, weighing 20 tons unloaded and 36 tons with load. It was to carry a crew of three and fly in the stratosphere.

Alexander Blames Rains

End of the European war in 1945 was predicted yesterday by Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, Allied commander in Italy, who also said: "I do not know when we will drive the Germans out of Italy, but I can assure you we will drive them out."

Eighth Army troops, meanwhile, were reported closing in on Forli, after crossing the Ronco River in strength, and are already fighting for Forli's airfield. American troops captured the village of Casetta.

Alexander blamed continuous bad weather for the present stalemate. "If I had had the strength to get into the Po Valley earlier, I would have been able to use tanks, but they can't get off the roads now," he said. Also, some of his best troops were taken for the invasion of southern France, Alexander stated.

Report Kesselring Hurt In Rommel-Like Attack

ITALIAN FRONTIER, Nov. 2 (AP)—Field Marshal Albert Kesselring today was reported wounded in an accident similar to that which cost Marshal Erwin Rommel's life.

According to these reports, Kesselring's car overturned after being machine-gunned by an Allied plane near Bologna. It was not known how badly he was injured.

Tokyo Boasts Human V1s

Suicide pilots, "human V1s," are operating against the American fleet in the Philippines, crashing their explosive-laden planes into the ships, according to German News Agency, which quoted Tokyo reports.

The planes were said to be filled with explosives and carry only enough fuel to reach their targets. Pilots of the flying bombs try to ram the sides of ships, thus damaging a vessel more than a hit from above.

Pilots have two years' regular training plus special schooling for their mission. "Hundreds of these 'living bombs' are waiting for the hour of their victorious death," Tokyo was quoted.

Two Towns Past Aachen Are Seized

First Army troops, resuming the offensive at the point of deepest penetration into Germany, slashed through the dense Huertgen Forest for a two-mile push yesterday and captured the towns of Vossenack and Germeter, southeast of Aachen.

Dispatches said the doughboys, fighting like men blindfolded in the gloom and shadows of the thick woods, had opened two heavy assaults about 12 miles southeast of Aachen, which they subdued two weeks ago.

One force, driving to the northeast, overran the village of Germeter and reached Huertgen, gaining more than a mile.

9 1/2 Miles Into Reich

A second force, heading almost due east, blasted through Vossenack, 14 miles southeast of Aachen. At Vossenack the Americans were 9 1/2 miles beyond Roetgen, the point where the Reich border was first crossed in the initial thrust into the Siegfried defenses.

Artillery, giving close support, was ripping the forest to bits, blasting a way through the trees which in many places were no more than two feet apart.

In the eastern sector of the Dutch front, meanwhile, British tank-led columns advanced more than three miles beyond Liesel toward the German-held town of Meijel. American troops in this sector met stiffer opposition and gained only half a mile.

Allied troops in western Holland met both success and setbacks. British Army Commandos, reinforced by other troops, controlled most of Flushing, but the beachhead was still under fire and there was still going in the northern half of this Walcheren Island port. The Nazis were using the trick of showing white flags and then firing when the Allied troops appeared.

On the West Kapelle beachhead, on the island's west shore, British Marine forces fanning out north and south captured several enemy big gun positions. They were only five miles from Flushing.

Again Span Causeway

Canadian troops, fighting at times waist deep in water, regained their toehold on Walcheren after the Germans, with a clear field of fire, beat off their first attempt to cross on the causeway from South Beveland Wednesday night.

In the Scheldt pocket, where only three small enemy groups still held out, Canadians captured the towns of Knocke



and Sluis, taking 2,600 prisoners, including Maj. Gen. Eberding, commander of the 64th Division, which had already lost 8,000 men as captives to Allied troops clearing out this Dutch-Belgian corner since Oct. 6.

On the Third Army front, Yank artillerymen, firing German guns taken in the Maginot Line and guided by two Ninth Air Force Mustang spotters, knocked out one of the Nazis' 280-mm. railway guns, pouring 140 shells into the rail yard where it was being refitted.

Aegean Nazis Are Sealed Off

British troops who captured Salonika in northeastern Greece Wednesday ambushed and trapped the last remnants of the fleeing German garrison yesterday, and the fate of 20,000 Germans on the Aegean Islands seemed sealed by the loss of Salonika.

Free Yugoslav Headquarters claimed the Germans were evacuating Sarajevo, birthplace of World War I, and the last town through which the enemy can evacuate his forces retreating through central and southern Yugoslavia.

Sarajevo is 115 miles southwest of Belgrade.

U.S. Casualties 487,692

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2 (AP)—The latest figure for U.S. war casualties is 487,692, an increase of 14,913 over last week, the War Department announced.