

Nazis Fear Allied Blow Via Turkey

Two Divisions Moved Up To Border; Bulgars Shout for Peace

Balkan nervousness over possible Allied invasion increased yesterday as Turkey and Germany stationed troops along opposite sides of the Turkish border facing Bulgaria and Greece, and the Turkish foreign minister returned from the Cairo conferences with a frank admission that his nation could be said to have entered the Allied camp "without being belligerent."

Meanwhile reports of a crisis in war-weary Bulgaria poured into neutral capitals all day. Stockholm heard that Bulgars were marching through the streets of the capital, Sofia, shouting "Bulgaria must withdraw from the war." Hurried meetings of the cabinet and parliament were reported.

A state of emergency was ordered along the entire Turkish border facing Nazi-controlled Bulgaria and Greece, and the Swiss correspondent of the Swedish Svenska Dagbladet reported the possibility was not overlooked that Germany might invade European Turkey to cut off the Dardanelles.

Germans Moved Up

Sofia dispatches said two German divisions had moved up to the Bulgarian sector of the border to counter any Allied attempt to invade the Balkans through Turkey.

Berne reported a tense expectancy throughout southeastern Europe that Turkey shortly would take a more active part in the war. This source said that large supplies of weapons and hundreds of planes reportedly reached Turkey recently.

Some Berlin sources meanwhile suggested that talk of a Balkan invasion might be an Allied screen to hide more important operations in prospect in other theaters.

Foreign Minister Menemencioglu of Turkey returned from Cairo openly jubilant about the friendly relations arrived at with Britain, the U.S. and Russia.

At first he told a press conference that Turkey's foreign policy was unchanged by the meeting, but later clarified that by asserting the nation's foreign policy followed the decision of Turkey's Parliamentary group party which called last month for a foreign policy "within the framework of a treaty alliance with Britain."

Nazi commentators seized on his assertion that there had been no change in policy to chortle that the Allies had failed in their efforts to persuade Turkey to abandon neutrality. Nevertheless the German high command took the precaution of strengthening its border forces.

Fires Sweep Frisco Area; Hundreds Leave Homes

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9 (UP)—Hundreds of people fled from their homes in the San Francisco area today as fires, fanned by high winds, raged. One fire, covering a mile and a half, was advancing toward Oakland.

Police, soldiers and naval cadets aided firemen in fighting the blazes. The fires followed fierce storms, in which many windows were shattered, roofs blown off houses and hundreds of fishing boats damaged.

Turkish Officers Study War Methods in U.S.

About 100 Turkish army officers and nine Turkish newspaper men have been in the United States for nearly a year studying America's war potential and methods, the London News Chronicle said in a dispatch from New York yesterday.

Half already have completed their mission. The rest still are in the States studying naval and military engineering and chemical warfare and ordnance.

Ban On Cabling Flowers Lifted Until Jan. 1

The ban on cabling flowers to the U.S. has been lifted temporarily. ETO headquarters announced yesterday. American soldiers may order through florists in the United Kingdom until Jan. 1.

They will be transmitted through the Florists Telegraph Association of Detroit, Mich. Telegrams must be signed "flowers, international," and must be marked "sans origin," without the name of the sending florist or town.

The sender will not be allowed to designate the kind of flowers.

Truck Has Its Own Gunner Now



Planet Photo. Now being used on the Italian front is this new machine gun-protected supply truck. The gun is mounted over the top of the cab and enables the truck to give resistance to enemy attack. The scene is on the banks of a river in Italy as a quartermaster truck prepares for a crossing.

B17s Hauling Ton More Bombs; ETO Raiders Gain Fire Power

Eighth Air Force removed from the secret list yesterday the use in the European theater of chin-turreted Flying Fortresses and modified Liberators equipped with new retractable ball turrets and nose turrets.

At the same time it permitted disclosure of the addition of external wing racks to B17s operating from Britain, increasing their bomb capacity a ton—to a maximum of four tons.

Heavier bomb loads for the Fortresses, necessarily accompanied by sacrifices in range and speed—since more explosives mean less gasoline and wind resistance of a 1,000-pound bomb under each wing cuts speed—immediately suggested these possibilities:

1—Short-range pre-invasion bombing with great loads of gasoline giving way to great loads of explosives. Such dumping forays across the Channel might be covered by fighter protection for approximately 350 miles inland.

2—Mass night raiding with the RAF. Speed and defensive armament would be a less important factor in such operations and might be sacrificed to some extent to smother the target with bombs as at Berlin and Leipzig. In recent weeks the Germans have spoken of night raids by "Anglo-American bombers," but there have been no official statements from Allied bomber commands.

The new chin turret on the B17G, Eighth Air Force said, "provides greater angles of fire and a more positive sighting mechanism." Two .50 caliber machine-guns fire sufficient ammunition to discourage head-on attack.

This electrically-driven turret, operated by the bombardier, is underneath the nose. Ammunition for the guns is on rollers flowing into the weapons. Empty cartridge cases and links are thrown clear of the ship. The bombardier controls.

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Army Makes Sure Those Bugs Won't Louse Up the Invasion

AMERICAN SCHOOL CENTER, Dec. 9—When the American soldier invades the continent, the brass is going to make sure he won't be scratching himself when he should be getting a dig in at the Germans.

American military personnel in the ETO soon will undergo a three-fold instructional program on how to avoid lice as part of the campaign by the Medical Corps to prevent typhus and relapsing fever epidemics when the Allies reach Europe.

Soldiers will be instructed in the use of a new powder and an insect-killing gas which are expected to stamp out what long has been a deadly nuisance. The problem again is a particularly bad one on the continent, according to Medical Corps spokesmen.

The latest measures for protection are speedier, simpler, less cumbersome and far more comforting.

Col. John W. Gordon, chief of preventive medicine in the ETO, made known

5th Army Captures Two Vital Heights, Edges to Next River

Fighter-Bombers in Italy Told Targets by Radio

ALLIED HQ, Italy, Dec. 9 (UP)—New operational methods by which fighter-bombers cooperating with the land forces get their targets by radio and bomb them within three or four minutes were disclosed today.

This represents an improvement over the previous system in which the pilot got his target during the briefing at his base 20 minutes or more behind the lines.

Pleas for Bonus After the War Are Popping Up

Veterans' Groups, Hines Say Mustering-Out Pay Won't Be Enough

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—Congress was told yesterday by Brig. Gen. Frank D. Hines, head of the Veterans' Administration, that a bill to provide \$3,600,000,000 for mustering-out pay for servicemen would not "close the door" to later demands for a bonus.

"Passage of this bill," he said, "will not stop the demand for a soldier bonus." He recommended that the government pay \$100 to those who serve less than three months in the armed forces and \$300, or whatever sum Congress decides upon, to those in service more than three months.

Millard Rice, national director of the Disabled American Veterans, told the House Military Affairs Committee that his organization "would not regard a \$300 mustering-out pay bill as discharging the government's responsibility."

He added: "We don't want to close the door on the possibility there might be other adjusted compensation due these men."

Another warning that a \$300 mustering-out sum would not be considered a final payment to men and women now in the services was given the committee by Homer J. Ketchum, legislative representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"If the \$300 bill," he said, "is going to be the yardstick for all these men now and after the war, it is not enough."

Rep. William Lemke (R-N.D.) had this to say of the \$300 measure: "Peanuts."

Increased Benefit Checks Will Be Mailed by Xmas

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—The Office of Dependency Benefits announced today that practically every Army wife with children will get her new increased allowance check before Christmas. Checks for more than \$40,000,000 are being mailed to half a million families—and most of them are for the increased allowances as provided recently by Congress. The allowance for Class B and B-1 dependents has also been increased, but the new checks won't get out before Dec. 25, the ODB announced.

No Enemy Resistance In Area; Rain On 8th Front

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Dec. 9 (AP)—Fifth Army troops, edging along the captured slopes of Mount Maggiore and Mount Camino towards the upper Garigliano river, wiped out all pockets of enemy resistance, except on the northwest tip of the Maggiore mountain and in a small village nestling on the slopes of Camino.

British troops stormed and took a ridge known as Monte Croce, two and a half miles west of the summit of Mount Camino and one mile from the river bank. According to latest reports, they were pressing on towards the river.

Further north U.S. troops attacked and captured high ground west of Venafro, despite fierce enemy resistance, supported by heavy artillery fire. Still further north, in the area west of Filignano, German pillboxes were wiped out.

If the present advance continues, estimates in unofficial quarters say that the Fifth Army should be 40 miles into the valley by the end of the week.

Cairo radio said that the capture of Mounts Camino and Maggiore has opened the way to Rome. The Germans are withdrawing to the Liri Valley. Mignano is now under Allied fire. This is the most strongly fortified sector of the Italian front.

Village Changes Hands It was disclosed that the village of Calabritto, on the southern slopes of Mount Camino, had changed hands several times in bitter fighting during the past few days. It is now in Allied hands.

The floods subsided further, with another day of good weather on the Fifth Army front, but on the Eighth Army side of the peninsula, heavy rains continued, curtailing operations.

Gen. Montgomery's troops, nevertheless, improved their positions in the Orsogna area, and were locked in close action with the enemy throughout yesterday, with both sides using tanks.

Before the final resistance ended in the Mount Maggiore area, suicide snipers held out and kept firing until they were killed.

Enemy units clung to separate positions on the rocky ridges of Mount Maggiore and launched four counter-attacks on the Allied positions, using hand grenades and bayonets. Each attack was repulsed, but the enemy then resorted to what has been called the "psychological attack" which he has used in Russia more than once.

The Germans came forward yelling and shouting as hard as they could and throwing hand grenades at the same time. This attack also was repulsed with heavy losses.

U.S. Fortresses and Liberators attacked the airfields at Eleusis and Tatoi near Athens in Greece.

No Promotions for EMs Going to Special Schools

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—There won't be any more promotions for being assigned to a special Army school, the War Department has ordered.

Enlisted men who are ordered to attend either basic or advanced instruction at special service or technical schools of the Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces or Army Service Forces will go in grade held. Assignment to school is no longer sufficient reason for promotion to higher grade. This order is effective as of Nov. 10, 1943, the War Department said.

New Chicago V-Mail Depot To Speed Mid-west Service

CHICAGO, Dec. 9—Chicago got a new V-mail station this month to service about 20 states in the midwest. Instead of shipping letters to the east and west coasts, local post offices now will save about 30 hours by shipping directly to the new station. With a staff of 427 men Chicago will handle almost half the V-mail leaving and entering the United States.

Vast Airborne Maneuvers Are Held by Army in N.C.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—In the biggest airborne maneuvers in the history of the American Army, more than 10,000 fully equipped soldiers were landed by plane and glider in a North Carolina area, the War Department disclosed yesterday.

Hundreds of transport planes landed men, jeeps, guns, shells, fuel and food.

