

The best guess is that by this time American troops have pushed inland for deep advances in the invasion of Luzon. The late dispatches ^{states} that our people have captured the town of San Fabian on the shore of Lingayen Gulf. ~~refrain from mentioning towns taken or points occupied~~ ^{we are informed that fifteen miles of the shore} of Lingayen Gulf were quickly seized after the first landings. Moreover, Japanese resistance, which was negligible during the landings, had not materialized to any extent - at least reports. The summary of it all is -- that the invasion of Luzon has been much easier than could have been expected, and that the drive inland must be moving fast.

The reason for the easy time our troops have had is made clear by General MacArthur's own statement. It is that now familiar element - ~~surprise~~ surprise. Time and again, in the many amphibious drives against islands, we are told that the far eastern enemy did not expect what was coming, and was not prepared for it. I suppose the explanation must be that the Japs are spread out so far and the American

commanders have such a wide choice of places at which to strike. So the Japs can't get set at the place where the blow eventually falls.

In this latest instance, we can only surmise that they must have believed MacArthur would invade the southern end of Luzon - from captured islands nearby. Instead, he swung around to the North of Manila, and pushed ashore at the same place where the main Japanese force landed three years ago - in the enemy conquest of the Philippines. The Japs picked Lingayen Gulf. And ~~now~~ they may have figured that MacArthur would not make a try at anything so ~~obvious~~ obvious, ~~that~~ Lingayen Gulf being the place where you would expect a maximum of defense.

Then, too, the naval and air bombardments had something to do with the ease of the landings - that three day blasting of the shore by warships and bombing planes, which Tokyo has been reporting with frantic ~~excitement~~ ^{A bombardment} excitement. That smashed whatever resistance the surprised enemy may have been able to muster.

The Japs made frantic efforts by air to stop the great invasion convoy on its way. They sent swarms of planes ^{that} ~~which~~ made suicidal attacks, trying to break up the fleet of warships and troop transports. ^{In doing so} They lost seventy-nine planes, and failed to do anything effective in checking the giant amphibious force. However, our convoy did suffer some loss and damage - as is stated by General MacArthur.

The Japs also tried to hit the convoy with surface attacks, and lost two destroyers. These tried to ~~xxxxxxx~~ charge in for an assault, but were promptly detected and sunk by naval gunfire. And a Japanese midget ~~xxx~~ submarine was sunk. It fired two torpedoes at a battleship. These missed; ~~the~~ midget sub was spotted, was promptly rammed by a destroyer, and sent to the bottom.

So the immense convoy arrived safe and intact in Lingayen Gulf. One American flier who saw the sight from on high describes the myriad of ships as stretching over the China Sea for a hundred miles.

General MacArthur ~~himself~~ himself went ashore with his troops, was in the first landing wave. He is described as having been in high spirits, as he set foot on the soil of Luzon - on the road to Manila. Yes, and on the road to Bataan, where he commanded ~~g~~ the heroic defense.

What next? The ease of the task cannot be expected to go on. The Japs are known to have a powerful army on Luzon, and a big battle is certain to be joined soon. The place where it will be fought is not much in doubt - the location is dictated by geography. From Lingayen Gulf it is a hundred and ten miles to Manila - and the going is good so far as terrain is concerned. A broad valley leads from Lingayen to the capital - San ~~R~~ Fernando Valley. There seems no doubt whatever that the ground troops, commanded by General Walter Kruger, will promptly strike along San Ferⁿando Valley for a march on to Manila, and undoubtedly the Japs will meet them halfway. The battle will be fought in the broad and

pleasant valley, and MacArthur says it will be the decisive battle of the Philippine campaign.

— o —
Now H - Your Stan. of Cal. message
and then we'll hear from the
West-Front -

WESTERN FRONT

The latest tonight places American Forces ~~as~~ within nine miles of closing the trap on the Germans in the western part of the Belgian Salient. That is, First Army Troops driving from the north, and Third Army Soldiers thrusting from the south, are within nine miles of effecting a junction.

This follows advances today, advances cutting into both sides of the salient. At the north, the First Army drove ahead for two miles, advancing to within three miles of the key highway that represents the last German escape route in the Western part of the salient.

At the southern side, Patton's Third Army Troops gained half a mile - the ~~far~~ famed Hundred-and-First Airborne Division slogging ahead for that distance in the sector north of Bastogne.

The Germans are fighting desperately, trying to hold back the jaws of the trap, while German Field Marshal Von Rundstedt tries to extricate as much as he can of his armor and infantry.

How much the enemy Field Marshal can get out is a question; and, front line dispatches say that the next twenty-four hours will tell the tale.

The battle of the salient is being fought in a blizzard. (~~Today the armies were swept by the swirl of wind-driven snow; and American Troops in front line attacks, trudged their way through deep drifts of frosty white.~~)

~~In that winter scene, the blast of war makes a dramatic picture, a picture of which a vivid glimpse is given xx by United Press Correspondent C.R. Cunningham. He tells of an armored clash at the most advanced point at the mouth of the salient.~~

~~"The tanks," He writes, "Were blasting each other in the gloom, while thousands of ^{our men} ~~troops~~ slogged through the forest and up the sides of the ridge - in the face of withering fire from a determined enemy who appears to be making 'custer's last stand'."~~

~~That's effective American writing, with~~

Along the southern part of the line, the Germans are continuing their offensive. This has developed into nothing dangerous, and the American soldiers are calling it - the junior offensive. Today the Nazis made an unusually sharp thrust, and drove for six miles in the vicinity of Colmar, a job staged by a force of four thousand men and twenty tanks.

BRADLEY FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

Today on the Western Front a new conference was held by General Omar Bradley, who was commander of the American ground forces in the sector where the Germans crashed through in their big offensive. To a gathering newsmen General Bradley gave a comprehensive statement of the strategies involved in the enemy success, which was so startling at the time.

There has been both in the United States and Great Britain a tendency to criticize the American Command for the German break-through. And inevitably, by implication at least, a focus of criticism has been on General Bradley - who personally commanded. And this was sharpened by the news last week that part of his command, the American First and Ninth Army has been transferred to British Field Marshal Montgomery.

So what has Bradley to say. His declaration today has a dramatic importance, and is worth scanning closely. So Let's go to the text.

General Bradley begins by saying that the German offensive was a direct result of advances made by the American Armies, advances that were threatening vital German areas. "It was necessary," He states, "That the Germans launch some diversionary attack in sufficient strength to cause the Allies temporarily to stop their offensive against these vital areas - and try to gain time."

There has been much talk that the American command was taken by surprise - to which General Bradley responds today by saying that the enemy preparations had been noted. "The build-up of German Forces," He declares, "Had been observed in the Cologne area for some weeks beforeⁿ the attack, and the possibility of a German Drive through the Ardennes Forest was thoroughly studied by me and my staff."

He admits that the line there was only lightly held by the Americans, and gives the following

explanatio. . "In leaving the Ardennes line lightly held, we took what is known in military terminology as -'~~a~~ calculated risk.' In other words," the General goes on, "instead of employing our surplus divisions in the Ardennes, which was quiet then, we used them to attack in other sections. This technique of striking boldly while taking calculated risks," he explains, "was what got us to the German borders. In my opinion," ~~he~~ says, "had we followed more cautious policies we would be still fighting west of Paris."

Yet, General Bradley admits that there was a surprise. He puts it in these words: "The actual timing of the attack and its strength was ~~somewhat of a surprise.~~ *somewhat of a surprise.* The attack," ~~he~~ says, "was skillfully ~~launched~~, and ^{von} Rundstedt's movements of his reserves in the Cologne area to the jump-off position was masterfully executed. This was made possible by a period of bad weather which restricted our air reconnaissance."

The General states that he considered

the possibility that the Germans might gain some successes, but figured that the American Armies would be able to control the situation before much damage was done. "This," He says, "Is exactly what happened. "The enemy schedule was upset," He explains, "By the heroic resistance of our troops and by the ~~xxx~~ speed made by our Armies in shifting divisions to meet the attack."

The General's account goes on to say that the net result has been that the Germans now have been stopped, and their losses have been greater than ours - losses that may be of decisive importance in weakening the German Army. However, a ~~German~~ German collapse is not to be expected soon! - so says General Bradley.

What about the transfer of his First and Ninth Armies to the command of British Field Marshal Montgomery? This, when announced, seemed as if it might be a slap at Bradley. The General today

explains why it happened - and gives clarifying details to previous accounts that we have had.

He says that the Nazi offensive cut his communications with his Forces to the North. "The German attack launched on December Sixteenth," ~~He~~ specifies, "Cut both our direct telephone communications and the direct road over which personal contact was normally maintained. The weather," he adds, "Prevented the making of frequent personal contacts by plane." In other words, a combination of factors prevented General Bradley from keeping in effective communication with his First and Ninth Armies. So therefore the command was turned over to British Field Marshal ^{Montgomery} ~~Montgomery~~, who was in a position to keep in communication with the First and Ninth. Montgomery took over, and directed American Troops in operations along the Northern side of the salient.

General Bradley stated today that the Montgomery command over the American First and Ninth

BRADLEY FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT - 6

Armies is temporary. As soon as lines have been properly established, the direction of those forces will revert to their former command - General Bradley.

As a footnote to the Bradley statement, here is an announcement from Supreme Allied Headquarters. General Bradley has been decorated, awarded the Bronze Star for what is called - "Services rendered since 2x December Sixteenth." That is - since the launching of the German offensive.

ADD BRADLEY

The citation accompanying the bronze star ~~xx~~ gives high praise to general Bradley's handling of the defense against the German breakthrough and states that Bradley himself turned over the command of the first and Ninth Armies to Montgomery.

MEDICAL AID

In the third army, there is a medical aid man who is probably slated to receive a high decoration. But what pleases him most is the doctor's assurance that, most likely, they will be able to save his feet - won't have to amputate.

Back in December, when the Germans were driving in their great offensive, a soldier of an American platoon fell with a badly wounded leg. He couldn't move. The outfit was pushing forward, and the medical aid man was told: "Take care of him until your platoon leader send^s for you".

"Okay", said the medical aid man, "I'll stick with him".

He never did hear from his platoon leader again - the outfit was swallowed up in the maelstrom of battle. Advancing Germans came swarming - but the medical aid man obeyed the order he had received. He carried his wounded comrade into a patch of woods, where they hid.

Days went by, ten days. They were without food or water. At night the medical aid man stole to a nearby stream for water and to a village to procure what food he could. It grew cold. They had no blankets, and couldn't build a fire - the Germans might see it. They shivered, were nearly frozen.

The cold helped the wounded man. He still couldn't move, but his injured leg was healing nicely - no infection. But the medical aid man got trench foot, which turned into gangrene. During the final three days of the ordeal, he couldn't walk. He had to crawl to the stream to get water - creeping on all fours for three hundred yards across the frozen ground, and then back.

The tide of battle turned, and American Troops drove forward once again. From the hiding place the medical aid man spotted them, and crept out to them - crawling on all fours.

Today the wounded man whom he saved is

okay up and around - and in the hospital the doctors, treating the gangrene, say they will be able to save the feet of the medical aid man.

capital. One Moscow report states that the enemy relief column has reached a point within fifteen miles of the outskirts of Budapest.

The Soviet response to the massive German drive is a counterthrust, a push aimed at the City of Heroes.

There is a major transport and supply center, which feeds the German counter-offensive, and the latest is that the Soviet forces have entered to within three and a half miles of Budapest.

Both Moscow and Berlin join in describing the battle for Budapest as one of the most decisive of the war.

RUSSIA

The battle for Budapest is mounting in fury -- with the Germans ~~pm~~ pressing their violent drive to relieve the Nazi garrison in the Hungarian capital. One Moscow report states that the enemy relief column has reached a point within fifteen miles of the outskirts of Budapest.

The Soviet response to the massive German drive is a counterthrust, a push aimed at the City of Komarno,

~~This is~~ a major transport and supply center, which feeds the German counter-offensive.

And the latest is that the Soviet ~~forces~~ have smashed to within three and a half miles of Komarno.

Both Moscow and Berlin join in describing the battle for Budapest as "one of the most decisive of the war."

COURT MARTIAL

They have been having a bad scandal over in France about the theft of American military supplies - and today a court martial sentenced four American soldiers ^{to from} ~~from forty-five to~~ forty-five to fifty years, at hard labor. This was the first day of the court martial, which still has a lot more to do, for a hundred and eighty-four officers ~~and~~ and men are facing trial on charges of looting American military stores.

SOLDIERS MAIL

Here's a thought for tonight - pity the army mail man. He handles forty million letters a week, and in reward receives an average of five thousand complaints a week.

This is disclosed today by United Press correspondent Frederick Othman, who gives us some examples of the troubles that beset the army mail man.

The wife of a soldier dentist in North Africa wrote to complain that her husband wasn't getting her letters. And she enclosed a note from him - a note from the Army dentist saying that if he didn't get some letters from his wife promptly, he intended to go after every army mail clerk in North Africa and pull his teeth.

Another wife raised ructions because she hadn't heard from her husband.

She raised so much cain about it that an investigation was made, and this disclosed the reason why she had not received any letters from hubby. He hadn't written any. And, furthermore,

he said he wasn't going to write any.

Mothers can be a bother too. One insisted on sending a swimming suit to her son. He was stationed in Greenland - in the Arctic. She knew that, but thought that the "green" in Greenland meant grass and trees and balmy breezes - instead of icebergs.

Another, a fond Mamma in Minnesota, wrote to the army mailman and explained that Sonny boy, who was serving in the South Seas, was always so neat and trim, particularly about his shirts and pajamas. She said she understood that in the Army he had to wash his own clothes. So she wanted to know could she send him an electric washing machine.

One big headache for the army mail man arises from the fact that girls meet soldiers who are about to go overseas, then write to them, addressing the envelope something like this: "Bill, about six feet two, dark brown eyes and curly hair. Somewhere in France". The young ladies are ~~xxxx~~ heartbroken or something when they don't get a reply from Bill, and want to know the reason why.

Now here's Hugh, about five feet eleven,
laughing blue eyes, curly hair, and the answers ~~to~~ **to**
some important questions.

PUBLIC OPINION

We are told that the White House is becoming concerned about trends of American public opinion - trends not favorable to our Allies in the war. This was stated today by Senator Barkley of Kentucky, after a conference with President Roosevelt. He said that the President and Congressional leaders had discussed what today's news dispatch calls - "The recent downward trend of public opinion about our relations with our Allies."

The Senator added that the President and the Congressional leaders were looking forward to the forthcoming meeting of the big three - another ~~Roosevelt~~ ^{- Roosevelt} Churchill-Stalin Conference. (They expect that the results of the conference will help to improve American public opinion of our Allies.)

Meanwhile, over in England, something ~~xxxxxxx~~ new turns up to disturb British opinion about us - something that may produce more British-American bickering. It was officially stated today that some of the lend-lease we have been

sending over is not up to standard. This means mining equipment. ~~(We have been lend-leasing to Britain a lot of mining machinery, and this is described as old and inferior.)~~

It all develops out of an investigation of the poor rate of production in British coal mines. They are not bringing up enough coal, and a commission came over to this side of the water to study American methods. They found that, while the British in open pit operations were producing only five tons per man per day, the American mines turned out eighteen tons per man per day. Quite a difference - and what's the reason?

The report issued by the commission today gives several explanations, including the following:

"We are of the opinion that a majority of the machines received from America are inferior to those in the United States." And that is what is being played up in the British newspapers - the shortcomings of American mining machinery sent to Britain, under *lend-lease*

~~lend-lease.~~

(There is still another reason for poor production at British mines, a reason stated by British mine officials today - absenteeism. It is disclosed that at the great Newcastle Coal Center, absenteeism was rife over the holidays among coal diggers who have been drafted into the mines. During the Christmas and New Year Season more than eighty-five per cent of the miners were away from the job, for seven or more days.)

PHILIPPINES

The tensely expected news has arrived - Luzon invaded. A late bulletin, just in, tells of American landings on that main island of the Philippines⁵ Luzon, which has the Philippine capital, Manilla. And immediately General MacArthur flashes the best of news. He says our losses in the landings are - "insignificant."

Of course, we knew that his news was coming - the Japs gave us an ample tip-off. For days the Tokyo radio has been screaming about great American Naval Forces deluging the shore with unending salvos of ^Shells, while swarms of planes added their bombs to what was unmistakably a preparation for landings. Tokyo was clear about what it all meant, describing invasion convoys, with troop transports.

The Japs said the pre-invasion bombardment was striking in Lingayen Gulf, and that today is where MacArthur announces the invasion - Lingayen Gulf, which was the sector|where the Japs themselves