

(Information as of 1215 hrs 27 Dec 44)

WESTERN FRONT

German forces have been stopped four miles short of the MAAS River. The attackers were stopped at the town of CELLES. The Germans are now fifty miles inside the Belgian border and just eight miles from the French.

ITALY

A heavy German counter-attack has compelled American units of the Allied Fifth Army to withdraw from advanced positions in the SERCHIO River Valley near ITALY's WEST coast. The American forces with a sprinkling of Brazilian troops, withdraw after a fierce battle. On the eastern sector Canadians of the Eighth Army have advanced in heavy fighting beyond the newly-captured town of ROSETTA.

EASTERN FRONT

The latest Russian communique tells of a half dozen Red Army columns fighting their way into BUDAPEST. The Russians are digging for positions from which to deal a death blow to the German garrison. All enemy roads of escape are closed and Soviet artillery completely dominates the Hungarian capital. Russian tanks are blasting their way toward the two main bridges that cross the DANUBE and join the two sections of the city. Clouds of black smoke are rising from the capital. German refusal to evacuate is forcing the Russians to make a building-by-building attack on the capital.

Rumours that American Lend-Lease to the Soviet Union might end soon have been squelched by the US Secretary of State, Edward Stettinius, who stated that the US and RUSSIA were working on a new Lend-Lease protocol, adding that war supplies were being shipped to the Red Army meanwhile.

GREECE

ELAS forces in GREECE have broken the conference truce. A British announcement states that left wing artillery late yesterday fired upon a British warship. The British add that as a result, offensive aerial action against ELAS forces will be resumed. British newspapers in London praise the Premier's journey as a sincere effort to end the Civil War and to prove that Britain's only aim is to protect the rights of the Greek people.

AIR

British and Continent-based planes again flew over the battle area in support of the ground forces.

JAPAN

Seventy Superfortresses flew from SAIPAN to blast the Japanese capital. No details are yet available.

PHILIPPINES

Land-based bombers have stepped up their attacks on Japanese aerial and military targets on LUZON Island. American bombers hit CLARK Field at MANILA with forty four tons of explosives. Of the fifty interceptors which the enemy sent up, thirty nine were shot down.

(C.B.C. and Press Releases)

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