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BATTLE REPORT FROM BELGIUM

On the Bastogne highway as civilians flee before Rundstedt's thrust, M.P.s. scrutinise identity cards carefully - for whatever else the Germans may have lost, they have lost none of their cunning - one of their favourite tricks being to disguise themselves as civilians or Allied Service Men, and infiltrate.

On the Northern flank of the German break-through little but smoking ruins mark the site of the Belgian town of Malmedy where fierce and bitter fighting has seared and blasted the buildings.

The good flying weather, for which the Allied Air Forces had been waiting, gave R.A.F. bombers their chance to hit the German lines of supply and communication.... Crews of these Mitchells and Bostons raiding the road junction at Recht afterwards reported the enemy transport roads as blocked.

Railway marshaling yards at Munchen Gladback came in for the R.A.F.s. attention when heavy bombers saturated them with high explosive....

Supplies to the besieged American 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne went by air....C.47's. unload the goods over the dropping area....The American General who commanded the tough centre of resistance which denied Rundstedt a complete break-through, knew he could rely on getting supplies by air, and when the German Commander asked him to surrender his formal reply was "nuts" ....

Men of 'Task Force Hogan' who fought off a crack S.S. Division, refused to surrender and finally, when their supplies had gone, walked 14 miles back through the enemy lines. The defiant G.I.s. blackened their faces and on Christmas night made their get away.

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