

GERMANS PLUNGE FARTHER INTO BELGIUM

Roseburg News-Review

ROSEBURG, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1944. No. 44-215

Mop-up of Leyte Completed With Palompon's Fall

Defeat Held Worst in Jap War History

Manila Is Bombed Anew; Hirohito Admits Plight Of Nippon Is Worsening

(By the Associated Press)
The greatest defeat in the military annals of the Japanese army, General MacArthur announced today and Emperor Hirohito said the plight of Nippon in her "sacred war" is "becoming more critical."

In a double amphibious landing Christmas day, coupled with two overland pushes, American divisions seized the only remaining Japanese escape ports and wrote a virtual end to the Leyte island campaign.

The 67-day battle, MacArthur said, cost General Yamashita



IN LEYTE BATTLE—At top: Lt. Gen. Susuki, commander of the Japanese army that was practically annihilated in Leyte. Fate of Susuki, as well as that of his superior, Yamashita, was not revealed in dispatches. Photo below is that of Maj.-Gen. A. V. Arnold, commander of the U. S. 7th division that trapped a Japanese division near Ormoc.

Business Man "Ruined" By Secretary Thefts, Dies in Jail

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Oscar H. Gropper, owner of a leather goods store, died in jail today after being accused of "Robin Hood" thefts from his hotel suite, police said.

Gropper left his wife and his attorney, Paul J. Clark, in which he had written, "Thefts have ruined me."

He was head of Gropper, Inc., from which Mrs. Madeline Dunigan, 22, was accused on December 8 of taking between \$30,000 and \$40,000. She is under arrest on a charge of grand larceny.

Assistant District Attorney Francis X. Clark said that Mrs. Dunigan told him she increased one fellow employee's salary from \$30 to \$55 a week, and another from \$3 to \$15 a day. One friend received \$25 weekly, and Mrs. Dunigan, who earned \$40 a week, used clothes for herself, Clark said.

Budapest Now Encircled By Soviet Steel

MOSCOW, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Eight to 10 divisions of Germans and Hungarians were reported trapped in Budapest today—cut off from escape except by air or possibly one road usable only by night—as the Red army drove to the western city limits in a 15-mile advance.

The encirclement of the Hungarian capital was virtually completed and front dispatches said soviet shells had begun a systematic shelling of two airports still held by the enemy, while bombers flew incessant sorties over the strafe-torn capital.

The greatest panic was reported from inside the city in full view of Russian units that yesterday drove to the lofty hills of Budakesz, adjoining the city limits of Buda, western half of the Danube-straddling capital.

The Germans were reported to have grabbed all available automobiles and buses and put them under strict military command, ordering the Hungarian drivers to stand by with blankets and all the warm clothing possible. This led to the speculation that large enemy units might try to make a break for it.

The last narrow escape corridor that appeared still open to them on the basis of front-line dispatches extended 19 miles northwest from the capital to Esztopog, on the southern bank of the big Danube bend.

The war bulletin declared that in the last five days of fighting west and southwest of the capital the Russians had slain 14,000.

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Canned Vegetables, 85 Pct. Of Meats go Back on Ration; Butter Points Hoisted to 24

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—A tighter and broader food rationing program became effective today.

Canned vegetables returned to the ration list and butter and sugar came under new restrictions.

Salient aspects of the new program:

Butter is raised from 20 to 24 points a pound.

All red and blue stamps which became good before Dec. 1 are cancelled.

Canned peas, corn, green and wax beans, asparagus and spinach require points.

All sugar stamps and home canning certificates except sugar stamp No. 34 are cancelled.

About 85 per cent of all meats will require ration points beginning Sunday.

In announcing the stricter rationing rules, OPA assured consumers that ample food is available for the ally, because of declining meat supplies and low stocks of butter and canned fruits and vegetables.

Cancelled Stamps Listed

The red stamps canceled are A8 through 28, and A5 through P5 in ration book. The blue stamps canceled are A8 through 28 and 5A through W5 in the same book.

This will retire all red stamps.

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New Price Tops On Frozen Fruits, Vegetables Issued

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The OPA issued processors' price ceilings on a number of frozen fruits, vegetables and berries today but said the cost of consumers "will not be changed substantially."

The amendment, effective January 2, provides dollars-and-cents ceiling for large containers of frozen strawberries and prescribes pricing formulas to be used by processors on frozen fruits, vegetables and berries in small containers.

Generally, the flat prices for most berries are about one-half cent a pound less than a year ago. The flat ceiling on frozen strawberries, however, is about two cents a pound higher.

Increased raw material costs were said to reflect in the frozen strawberries ceilings and also in some of the other formula-priced commodities, mainly Maine blueberries and California pears.

The processors' ceiling for frozen strawberries (other than the Ettersburg variety) will reflect a raw material cost of 15 cents a pound instead of 12 cents; Maine blueberries, 18 cents instead of 12 cents; and California pears, \$80 a ton instead of \$85 a ton.

Violent Deaths in Nation 332 Over 3 Days' Holiday

(By the Associated Press)
The nation's toll of violent deaths over the three-day Christmas holiday was 332, an Associated Press survey disclosed today. The number was approximately the same as recorded over a similar period in 1943.

Accidents on the highways, as predicted by safety experts, claimed the most lives. The survey showed 188 persons were killed in automobile smashups. In 1943, the Christmas holiday traffic toll was 216 of the total of 339 violent deaths.

Plane crashes, fires, falls, shootings, drowning and other violent forms of death were reported throughout the country as the "nation" observed the long week-end rest period.

Three separate plane smash-ups cost the lives of 20 persons, including 10 soldiers in an army transport flying to Minneapolis who were killed when the ship crashed near Harrisburg, Pa. Five other army fliers lost their lives in a plane crash at Ridgely, Tenn., while five servicemen were killed in a crash of a transport plane near Indianapolis.

Of the total violent deaths, 88 were recorded as from miscellaneous causes, 45 resulting from fires and one from weather. By states, California reported the most number of fatalities—37, including 33 traffic deaths.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THIS IS THE traditional season of peace on earth, toward men goodwill.

Throughout the earth, on Christmas day this year, there was little of either.

IT IS tragic—all the more tragic because for nearly 20 centuries we have possessed the formula for ENDING war and building among men the lasting good-will that is the firm foundation for enduring peace.

Here it is:

"Do ye unto others as ye would that others should do unto you."

IT IS unbelievably simple. If generally followed, it would be unbelievably effective.

BECAUSE it has been little followed among individual men and NOT AT ALL AMONG NATIONS, we have war.

FOR a little while, it seemed to us that the Atlantic charter might be the beginning of this practice among nations of this simple Golden Rule, but there can be little doubt that at his press conference the other day the president was breaking it to us gently that the Atlantic charter not only never existed as a FORMAL DOCUMENT but that it MUST NOW be regarded as no more binding upon nations than

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2 Youths Jailed Here for Inquiry In Holdup Effort

William J. Scholz, 18, and Edward St. Louis, 19, both of Wisconsin, were being held in the city jail here today while investigation is made into an attempted holdup of H. L. McHenry, Portland, visiting in Roseburg over the holidays with his mother-in-law, Mrs. George Kohlhaas.

McHenry was approached Sunday night by two youths, one of whom brandished a knife in the holdup attempt, Chief of Police Erwin Short reported. When the Portland man exhibited signs of resistance the two youths retreated.

Shortly after the holdup attempt had been reported to police, Scholz and St. Louis appeared at the city jail and asked permission to sleep in one of the cells. McHenry was called and identified them as the two who had threatened him. Short said.

Under questioning, the officer reported, the youths admitted the holdup attempt and said they had thrown away the knife.

They told officers, employed to work in shipyards at Portland and had been furnished transportation to Portland, but that after coming to the coast neither

Iwo Jima, Nippon Mainland Given New Hammering

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 26.—(AP)—From the air and sea American bombs and shells crashed Sunday (Japanese time) into Iwo Jima as superfortresses, Liberators and warships combined in an assault on the Nipponese island base only 750 miles south of Tokyo.

Opposition was light, one enemy plane was destroyed on the ground and six others damaged. Anti-aircraft fire was meager. No American vessel was damaged.

(Tokyo radio said three of the far-ranging B-20s dumped incendiary bombs on Tokyo itself, and on Yokohama and Shizuoka prefecture, southwest of the imperial capital. There was no allied confirmation.)

The Iwo Jima attack was the second in which warships and bombers acted in concert to plaster the island, from which the Japanese formerly launched raids on Saipan, base of the Tokyo-raiding superforts. The first joint assault on Iwo was made December 7, and since then there have been no Japanese raids on Saipan.

A Japanese destroyer escort vessel was caught by the raiders and sunk by shellfire. Also destroyed were an enemy patrol craft and a medium landing ship.

Air force bombers on the same day raided Chichi Jima, in the Bonins north of Iwo, concentrating on the airstrips.

Marine fighters strafed Babelup in the Palau group, firing buildings. Bombers continued attacks in an effort to knock out isolated enemy bases in the Marshall islands.

Govt. Rent Control for Lane County Ordered

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Federal rent control will go into effect Jan. 1, the OPA announced today in Lane county, Or., of which Eugene and Springfield are the major cities; Jan. 1, 1944, is the maximum rent date.

Lead in Bond Race Retained By Douglas

Douglas county continued to hold its lead in the "Battle of Bonds" with Coos county as E bond sales through Dec. 21 were cleared at the Federal Reserve bank. Douglas county had sales of \$418,677 and Coos county's sales amounted to \$463,522 or 74.8 per cent of quota.

Purchases of E bonds through Dec. 31 will be counted in the contest, if cleared through the federal reserve bank prior to Jan. 2, but the county committee urges that purchases be made early in the week—by Wednesday night if possible—in order to give ample time for clearance.

It is particularly urged that firms which will be called upon to buy bonds this week from payroll deduction funds, secure the bonds in advance in order to help out in the contest and aid in reaching the E bond goal of \$480,000.

Douglas county is well over the quota in all departments except E bonds, having reached 162.1 per cent of quota with sales, allotments, etc., amounting to \$1,100,000.

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Check Protectors Used By Juvenile Forgers

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 26.—(AP)—A juvenile check forging gang accused of passing \$1500 in bogus checks during the past two months was broken up today with the arrest of three boys with previous records.

The three were charged with burglary not in a dwelling, obtaining money by false pretenses and forgery. Police said the trio was arrested while attempting to cash checks carefully made out with a stolen check protector.

Detectives found the check protector and 50 of a lumber company's stolen blank checks in a downtown hotel hideout.

Ring-leader of the group was a 16-year-old boy who twice served sentences in the Oregon state training school at Woodburn, police said.

Party at Farm Home

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 26.—(AP)—William J. Moss, 33, was fatally shot outside the farm home of Arthur E. Miller, 53, after a party early this morning.

Moss, a Longview man who has been living temporarily in Washougal, was shot after an argument with Miller, a shipyard worker, Coroner Dufresne said.

Miller was being held in the county jail here, but no charges have been filed.

Assault-Theft Victim Identifies Pair Here

Brent Clarence Parker, 23, Madras, Ore., and John Elmer Davis, 29, Lakeport, Calif., were being held in the county jail by the state police while investigation is made into assault and robbery allegedly committed upon Walter Elder, 78, at Canbyville last December 9. State Police Sergeant Paul Morgan reported today. The two men were arrested in Roseburg Saturday night and are being questioned by police following identification by Elder, Morgan said.

Brother of Roseburg Woman Killed on Leyte

Mrs. O. T. Carter received word Saturday that her brother, Lieutenant David Finch, was killed November 13, while in action on Leyte. Lieutenant Finch had visited in Roseburg on several occasions with his brother-in-law and sister, Sheriff and Mrs. Carter. His wife and nine-month-old son reside in Seattle.

Killed by Jap Rifle He Brought Back as Souvenir

PIEDMONT, Mo., Dec. 26.—(AP)—George Lee Lewis, Jr., 21, an electrical mate first class in the navy, brought home a Japanese rifle as a souvenir of his two years in the South Pacific.

While he was examining his prized rifle yesterday, it was accidentally discharged. He was shot through the head, and died instantly.

Three Gasoline Ration Coupons Expire Dec. 31

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Gasoline ration coupons B-4, C-4 and fourth-quarter T expire Dec. 31, the OPA announced today.

Few B-4 and C-4 coupons are still outstanding, OPA said, because local ration boards halted their issuance last August. The fourth-quarter T coupons for trucks, taxis and buses were issued for use in the fourth quarter only and their invalidation is intended to prevent leftover coupons from being used illegally.

Three Dead, Scores Hurt In Portland Yuletide

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The Yuletide season fatally toll ended with an all-time high for a similar period in this area, police reported today, with nine violent deaths and scores taken to hospitals.

Portland's 1944 death toll in traffic accidents mounted to 44 when a pedestrian, Domingo V. Ruez, 62, was injured fatally by a streetcar in Portland's east side last night.

Ruez was the holiday's sixth traffic fatality. The weekend also saw a two-year-old girl burned to death and two persons fatally shot.

Scores of U. S. Soldiers Get Prison Sentences for Black Market Operations Abroad

PARIS, Dec. 26.—(AP)—A high-ranking American officer predicted today that many "silly" details would be U. S. servicemen when the army brings to trial another batch of U. S. servicemen accused of selling cigarettes, gasoline and other military supplies to the French black market.

"I know of tanks sitting empty without a drop of gasoline while soldiers behind the lines peddled it by the gallon," the officer said as he discussed thefts and hijacking activities for which scores of soldiers already have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from one year to life.

His statement indicated that new light might be shed upon the extent of American soldiers' participation in the black market, although many general officers have denied that the loss of supplies or gasoline—estimated at several hundred thousand gallons a week—has affected the current military situation.

They pointed out that the losses have occurred for the most part many miles behind the battle lines and that fuel supply levels in combat areas are high.

Hi-jacking Disclosed

Nevertheless details already unfolded have revealed fantastic incidents of army truck drivers being ambushed on lonely roads and relieved of vehicles and cargoes at gunpoint, or of drivers delivering loaded trucks to black market operators at fees reportedly ranging up to \$6,000.

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Girl Saves 2 Children In Christmas Tree Fire

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Eleven-year-old Carol Finley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Finley, Portland, prevented a Christmas day tragedy by rescuing two small cousins from upstairs rooms when defective Christmas tree lights set fire to the Finley home.

Carol had been left to care for Richard Graves, 6, and Donna Graves, 4, cousins, while the Finleys went to a show. The girl had put the smaller children to bed upstairs and was waiting downstairs for her parents' return when the fire broke out. She quickly ran upstairs and brought the children to safety.

Coast Utilities Bought By Calif.-Pacific Co.

MEDFORD, Ore., Dec. 25.—(AP)—Purchase of Coast Counties Gas and Electric company's butane air-gas distributing systems at Yreka and Dunsmuir, Calif., was announced today by the California-Pacific Utilities Co., California-Pacific Utilities Co., in addition to the newly acquired properties, operates in Klamath Falls, Ashland, Medford, Grants Pass and Roseburg.

Civilians to Get Fewer Tires During January

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Tires available for civilians in January will be pared sharply below the December figure.

OPA says military demands for rubber have slashed the January allocation of passenger tires to 1,800,000 from 2,000,000 in December, small truck and bus tires to 216,000 from 280,000 heavy truck and bus tires to 110,000 from 120,000.

Foe Seizes Rochefort, Drives Nearer Sedan; Yanks Cling to Bastogne Under Heavy Attack

(By the Associated Press)
German armor and infantry of two and possibly three Nazi armies had plunged to within four miles of the Meuse river by Sunday night, supreme headquarters disclosed today, in the giant counteroffensive believed to have been planned personally by Hitler as a bid to smash the allied armies of the west.

On the northern flank of the great German drive, twin prongs joined forces in the St. Vith sector, closing off the valiantly defended American salient there and welding the counteroffensive front into a single massive bluff 50 miles into Belgium and 35 miles wide.

The German effort has been spreading rapidly toward the Meuse river, but supreme headquarters, still operating under a security news delay, said the counteroffensive had been slowed.

The American wedge west of St. Vith had kept the German drive split. There was no indication whether a new American troops now were pocketed in this sector.

In the center of the German bulge a gallant force of American soldiers, thousands strong held doggedly to Bastogne, Liege-Arlon road town, under ceaseless tank and infantry attacks. Their hope of rescue lay to the south, where members of a famous armored unit beat their way north, and at last reports were five miles away.

Headquarters conceded German occupation of Rochefort, 14 miles from the Meuse, and said enemy pressure increased in the areas immediately northeast. At the southwest corner of the great bulge the Germans have taken Libramont 16 miles from France and 23 from fortress Sedan.

Paris is Hitler's goal.

American marines, released by their comrades after being held prisoner, said they were told by Nazi officers that Hitler's schedule called for arrival in Paris, Jan. 17, after which, the Germans said, perhaps "Roosevelt will talk peace."

Allied planes hit again today at the German columns, and up to noon the ninth tactical air force alone had destroyed six tanks, six armored vehicles and 237 motor vehicles, besides downing 22 enemy planes.

Costly engagements raged through Christmas day in the great battle of the western front in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Allied planes struck again yesterday, almost as heavily as in Sunday's record 7,000-plane as-

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Churchill, Eden In Athens Trying To Restore Peace

ATHENS, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill sought to end the bloody Greek civil war today as a British patrol reported discovering a ton of dynamite under street car lines opposite the main doors of the hotel Grande Bretagne.

Officials of the Greek government and Lt. Gen. Ronald Scobie live at the hotel.

(The dispatch from Athens did not say whether Churchill was staying at the hotel.)

The dynamite, which the patrol said was in boxes bearing German markings, apparently was laid during the night as the area had been carefully searched yesterday evening.

Churchill arrived here yesterday accompanied by British Foreign Secretary Eden as the ancient capital echoed to the sound of street fighting between left-wing ELAS partisans and Greek government supported by British troops.

British headquarters announced plans to convene today a conference "representative so far as possible of Greek political opinion" with the object of ending fratricidal strife and enabling Greece to resume her place among the united nations.

Nazi Celebration Covers Escape of 25 War Prisoners

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 26.—(AP)—A Nazi celebration of western front victories was broken up with clubs at Papago park war prisoner camp near here shortly before 25 Germans escaped. Col. William A. Holden, commandant, has disclosed.

Holden said army guards had to resort to force in ending a demonstration Saturday by a "couple hundred" prisoners in one of the camp's compounds.

Only six of the escapees, all submarine officers and men, have been apprehended. The ranking member of the group is Lt. Col. Jürgen Wattenberg, 43. Many of those at large speak several languages.

Preliminary investigation, Holden reported, indicated the sailors escaped by sealing an eight-foot double-wire barbed fence.

Some of the prisoners may have fled during the demonstration but Holden said probably most of them got away during a severe rainstorm Sunday evening.

The escape served to make public war rumors long current in Phoenix that Günther Prien, Germany's famed U-boat commander, was prisoner here.

Prien, decorated by Hitler for sinking the British battleship Royal Ark at Scapa Flow in 1939, did not escape.

Woman Admits Slaying Her Husband With Ax

TACOMA, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Pierce County Prosecutor Thor C. Tolleson said today that a psychiatric examination will be given today to Mrs. Piertra Lorenson, 39, who is being held in the city jail in connection with the slaying of her husband, Niek, Dec. 24.

The body of Niek Lorenson was found in his home last Sunday afternoon. He had been killed by ax blows. Capt. William E. Farrar of Tacoma police quoted Mrs. Lorenson as saying in a signed statement that she had returned home from a sanatorium for the Christmas holidays, had become aroused at her husband and had killed him.

Rural School Pupils Exceed Bond Sale Goal

JASPER, Ore., Dec. 26.—(AP)—Mrs. Ruby Kennedy, teacher of a one-room school at nearby Edenville, was curious to see what her 27 pupils would do for the sixth war loan drive. She put the entire campaign in their hands.

The students quickly named captains and chose dolls, setting the goal at \$30,000. Excitement mounted with the announcement that the losers were to treat the winners to a party.

Grand total at the end of the race—\$22,125.

Ex-Senator Blair Lee Of Maryland Passes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Former U. S. Senator Blair Lee of Maryland died last night at the age of 87.

Lee served in the senate from 1913 to 1917.

Lee was a delegate to eight democratic national conventions and at the Baltimore convention of 1912 he was a leader in the movement resulting in the nomination of Woodrow Wilson, a friend of his college days.

Midwest Shivers in Sub-Zero Temperatures

(By the Associated Press)
A new cold wave with bitter below zero temperatures hit the Midwest today. The mercury plunged far below the zero reading in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Iowa, northern and central Illinois, northern Indiana, upper Michigan and portions of Ohio.

Rochester, Ill., 75 miles northwest of Chicago, reported the 22 below as the coldest in the Chicago weather bureau's man.

Forecasters said the cold wave would spread to the eastern and northeastern states by tomorrow morning but would diminish in intensity.

Salem Market, in Price Tilt, Drops Plan to Suspend

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 26.—(AP) The Salem Paramount market, which had been scheduled to close last Saturday because of price ceiling difficulties, will remain open, H. E. Carlson, Portland secretary of the independent retail grocers and meat dealers association, said today.

Allied planes struck again yesterday, almost as heavily as in Sunday's record 7,000-plane as-

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Levity Fact Rent

By L. F. Rubenstein

New rationing by the OPA. Full many a hope will bury. With sugar stamps banned, it swats at the plans. Of these seasonal twins, Tom and Jerry.