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# The Oregon Statesman

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### Weather

Maximum temperature Saturday, 54, minimum, 40. River, 14.7 feet. Weather forecast and daily precipitation withheld by federal order.

# FDR Said Planning Supreme War Council

## Japs Hit Hard For Toeholds

### HongKong Hurt; US, Dutch Subs Sink Warships

By The Associated Press  
MANILA, Dec. 21—(Sunday) — (AP) — Japanese air raiders swept over the Manila area shortly after 10:25 am today, unloading a few bombs on nearby Nichols field and then roaring across the bay to drop a few more in the vicinity of the Cavite naval base.

Two weeks of war in the Pacific today found the Japanese strangling a sacrificial band of British imperial troops on HongKong island, fighting fiercely to widen a new foothold in the Philippines, and gathering strength for a new leap in Malaya, while Dutch airmen and United States submarines ripped more holes in the Japanese fleet.

The new Japanese landing in the Philippines at dawn Saturday was at Davao, on Mindanao island, and defense forces immediately flung themselves on the invaders. The fighting continued all day, and at 2:15 a. m. today the US army headquarters was reported out of communication with the city, 600 miles south of Manila, since Saturday afternoon, and the situation obscure. Japan still was carrying the ball for the axis in the world struggle, because the Germans, Italians and their hangers-on were taking a terrific beating on Russia's snow-swept plains and in the Libyan area.

## Purse Thief Robs Woman

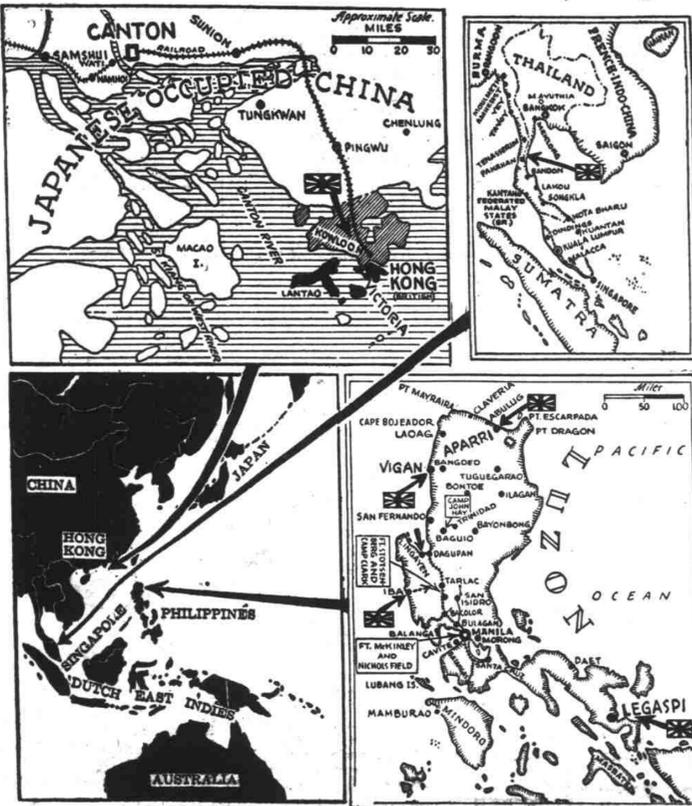
### Downtown Salem Scene Of Crime, Christmas Shopper Loses Money

Between \$30 and \$40 of her Christmas shopping funds were in a purse snatched shortly before 10 o'clock Saturday night from Mrs. Winnie Loomis, Canby, she told Salem police who rushed to the State and Cottage street corner of Willson park after she had screamed.

Little description of the man she said walked up behind her, grabbing her black leather handbag and ripping off one handle of it as he pulled it from her grasp, was given by Mrs. Loomis other than that "he wore very light-colored trousers." She saw him run into the park shrubbery heading east, she declared. Police, who were just changing shifts and so were available in double the usual number in that section of the city, swarmed over the park but found not another person in the park, they reported, with the exception of other policemen.

Lack of street-lighting in partial blackout conditions was (Turn to Page 2, Col. 1)

## Follow War News in Orient on These Maps



These excellent maps will help you follow the war news from the far east. The map at lower left is the Pacific area around the South China sea, where much of the action is taking place. The close-up maps are of HongKong, British fortifications southeast of Canton; the Philippines, US possessions under attack by the Japanese from air and sea, and Singapore, Britain's "Gibraltar" of the Orient. The Japanese flags indicate location of attacks.

## War News From World Capitals

### CAIRO

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 20 — (AP) — Axis resistance in Libya has all but collapsed and the British are in full chase of General Erwin Rommel's army, fleeing westward in rout almost to Bengasi, the British declared Saturday night.

So fast is the pursuit, it was said, that the British have been hard pressed to stay on the enemy's heels and much of the job of smashing the axis' last remnants of strength has fallen to the RAF.

The main body of the retreating axis army is now in the western Geb el Akhdar mountains, a coastal range whose western end extends to south of Bengasi, the British said.

The rout was said to have littered desert roads with destroyed and burning tanks, guns and vehicles and to have left two merchantmen listing off North Africa with torpedo hits after an assault on a convoy guarded by three Italian destroyers and three cruisers.

After occupying the port of Derna and Mekeil, 40 miles inland, the British were said to have pushed their advance patrols as far as 60 miles further west, within 100 miles of Bengasi, the axis' important advance supply port.

These patrols now are beyond the desert and in the green country of eastern Cirenaica, which once was the region of one of (Turn to Page 2, Col. 2)

## Plans to Buy Tokyo Ticket To Avenge Son

WENATCHEE, Wash., Dec. 20 — (AP) — George Edwards of Carlton tried to join the navy Saturday and was turned down because he had too few teeth. He tried the army and was rejected because he was too old — 44. Selective service headquarters officials told him he could not be registered. Said Edwards: "My son, Claude, was killed by the Japanese. I want to get a couple of Japs and I think I will if I have to pay my own way over there."

### Navy Chief



Adm. Ernest J. King, Saturday named chief of all US naval forces to be responsible only to President Roosevelt and Secretary Knox.

### BERLIN

BERLIN, Dec. 20 — (AP) — An appeal from Adolf Hitler read in every radio station of the reich Saturday night acknowledged that his army faced an enemy superior in numbers and material and begged the straitened German people to contribute their warm clothing to enable the soldiers to endure the rigors of the bitter eastern front.

The appeal, sounded on Hitler's behalf by Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, said the German people must show their gratitude by making a Christmas gift of every article of warm clothing that possibly can be spared to the men in the army. While Goebbels was thus reading his own appeal and the proclamation of the fuhrer, the high command admitted its African army was withdrawing westward "according to plan" and that on the frigid Russian front heavy battles were being fought without (Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

### MOSCOW

MOSCOW, Sunday, Dec. 21 — (AP) — Plunging forward with accelerated momentum, the red army's grand offensive has captured the key industrial and rail center of Volokomansk, 65 miles northwest of Moscow, and registered other gains from Finland to the sea of Azov, the Russians announced today.

The town of Volokomansk, south of Lake Ladoga on the northern front, and dozens more villages on the Moscow front have been fiercely contested battles, the soviet information bureau, munique announced last midnight.

With soviet forces counting vast new spoils and mounting numbers of German dead, pursuit of disordered nazi divisions routed in the Kalinin sector, 90 miles northwest of Moscow, was declared gaining momentum. There the wreckage of German transports and war material littered the snows, the communiques said.

Six German planes were destroyed Saturday and Russian fliers reported destroying or damaging 4 German tanks, 170 trucks with troops and supplies, 7 field guns with crews, two anti-aircraft batteries, 100 ammunition cars, setting fire to five railroad trains and blowing up an ammunition dump.

Russian reports said retreat (Turn to Page 2, Col. 4)

## Schools Book Yule Programs Prior to Holiday Vacation

Only two days of school remain before Salem's children begin Christmas vacation, which lasts until January 5, and a large number of programs of the season are planned.

Largest observances are Homecoming at the senior high school and pageants at Leslie and Parris junior high school, all Tuesday afternoon.

While Christmas presentations in some elementary schools were completed during the past week, Monday will see programs by the various grades at Grant school in the morning; assembly in charge of first, second and third grades at 1:30 at Richmond; pageant at Bush school at 7:30 p. m. Charlotte Stone of the city library is to tell the Christmas story at 1 p. m. at Englewood school.

## US Planes Scout Sea For Subs

### One Ship Flees Safe to Shore; Admiral Warns

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20 — (AP) — The navy received unconfirmed reports that enemy submarines fired on two oil tankers near the California coast Saturday, apparently scoring a hit on one, and chasing the other tanker into port.

The reports followed by a few hours the official disclosure by Rear Admiral J. W. Greenslade, commandant of the 12th naval district, that enemy submarines were destroying American shipping in American waters. He emphasized the need of labor unity in keeping the shipyards going at full speed to replace all losses.

The office of the admiral, who personally visited shipyard plants in Richmond Saturday to urge welders to give up plans for work stoppage during a jurisdictional dispute, would not deny although not confirming these reports. A submarine attacked the 6912-ton tanker Emidio Saturday afternoon near Bluff's reef, 199 miles north of San Francisco. The Emidio was said to have sent out an SOS.

The Agwiworld, a 6771-ton vessel, was surprised by a submarine 20 miles off Cypress point, 100 miles south of San Francisco. The submarine fired eight or nine shells from a deck gun, but the tanker reached a nearby coastal anchorage.

The reports were the second to bring the war close to the coastal area. The night of December 8 San Francisco underwent blackout following which the fourth interceptor command said that enemy planes had been in the bay area.

It was reported to the navy that the shelling attack occurred as the Agwiworld plowed through heavy seas. She turned her stern and reached safety as naval planes scouted the waters, the reports to the navy said.

There was little detail in the unconfirmed reports to the navy (Turn to Page 2, Col. 1)

## Malta Cheers HongKong

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 — (AP) — The hard hit British Mediterranean island fortress of Malta, which went through its 106th air raid Saturday, took time out to send a message of encouragement to its beleaguered brother fighters in HongKong, the British radio said Saturday night.

The message, signed by Sir William Dobby, governor of Malta, said: "In the name of the people of Malta I send the warmest greetings and sympathy. 'Our hearts are with you in your gallant defense against the Japanese attacks.' CBS heard the broadcast.

## May Act as Nation War Board



WENDELL WILLKIE



HENRY A. WALLACE



ADM. WM. D. LEAHY



PHILIP MURRAY

## Blackout Test Tonight Declared Important

### Thirty-Second Signal Scheduled to Call for Half-Hour Period of Darkness in City of Salem

A 30-second scream of sirens from six vantage points in Salem sometime between 9 and 12 o'clock tonight is scheduled to call for a sudden blackout test which, defense officials indicate, may result in heavier or lighter restrictions for capital city residents during holidays.

New regulations issued Saturday afternoon by Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt calling for darkening of all neon signs, flood lights, outdoor advertising and road signs until further notice or until city or county authorities are convinced that such signs can be extinguished in 60 seconds after an alarm are to go into general effect in Oregon on Monday night, Jerrold Owen, state defense coordinator, announced shortly after the army orders had brought about a hasty blackout in downtown Salem.

Neon signs and street lights in Oregon cities were allowed to burn while stores remained open Saturday night after Owen had contacted military headquarters for official permit.

Sunday night's 30-minute test blackout, called for by city fathers in an attempt to determine efficiency of their signal system and ability of the city to turn out lights rapidly, is not to serve as test by which permission for operation of outdoor advertising (Turn to Page 2, Col. 4)

## Salem Youth Is Decorated

Carl Parker Gies, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Gies, 2500 Fairgrounds road, Salem, was one of 13 army air officers to receive the Distinguished Service Cross. Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced Friday. Decorated with 2nd Lt. Gies were three men who received posthumously the honor, second only to the Congressional medal. Gies was cited as having dived his plane into a flight of 20 enemy craft, shooting down one, and returning to his base safely with his own plane in the air fights off Manila.

## Group To Outrank Cabinet

### National Leaders Considered for Powerful Posts

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 — (AP) — President Roosevelt was reported on excellent authority Saturday to be considering the creation of a supreme war council which would be subordinate only to him and would have powers even greater than those of the cabinet.

Those in a position to know said that while the plan still was embryonic, the president believed the war effort could be prosecuted more efficiently if he had a small group around him which could handle many matters of policy which now require his personal attention.

Informants said the proposed war council would be composed of from three to five men. They listed the following among those being considered for membership on the group:

Wendell L. Willkie, republican nominee for the presidency in 1940 and now member of a New York law firm.

Rear Admiral William D. Leahy, minister to the Vichy, France, government, former chief of naval operations and former governor Puerto Rico.

Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, chairman of the supplies, priorities and allocations board. Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

In informed quarters, it was recalled there have been repeated indications that Willkie would be given a prominent place in the defense effort. Willkie lunched with President Roosevelt last Monday, and at that time there was widespread speculation that he would be appointed moderator of the new industry-labor conference.

That position was not tendered, however, and subsequently there were generally reports that Mr. Roosevelt had a more important position in mind for his 1940 opponent.

There have been repeated reports that Leahy would be called back to this country to take a more active part in the war effort.

Wallace naturally would be appointed to any war council, it was said, first, because of his position (Turn to Page 2, Col. 7)

## Welders Out On Strike

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 20 — (AP) — Disputed claims of effectiveness dropped up late Saturday as independent welders, with many members employed in shipyards, launched a nation-wide stop-work movement.

Ship building companies declared effects of the stop-work maneuver were negligible. Spokesmen for the union, the United Welders, Cutters and Helpers of America (Independent), claimed that 250 or 300 men quit work before noon and said they expected the movement "up and down the coast to gain momentum."

The union has been at loggerheads for some time with the AFL International Boilermakers union. Main issue is to gain separate identity and bargaining power.

## "Once Upon A Time"

CHRISTMAS isn't really Christmas unless you read some of the Yule stories which young and old have known and loved for generations. The second of a series of five of the time-tested favorites, especially condensed for The Statesman by The AP Feature Service appears today. Look now for "The Legend of Babouscka" on the Feature Page.

Shopping Days Left BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS