

Pétain Resigns Post, Report

Quit Over Pressure By Nazis for French Bases in Africa

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ness for the agreement Pétain was said to have made at a meeting with No. 2 Nazi Goering on December 1.

It was reported at the time that Pétain had agreed to let the Germans have all the bases they wanted in French Africa to provide them with fuel for their war without using the interned remnants of the French fleet.

After considerable delay, that British drive today looked more and more like a total victory, with the Germans facing death or surrender to the last man unless they could flee into French Tunisia from Italian Tripolitania.

Hence the urgency of the German demands for open entry into French Africa, even aside from the longer-range importance of move.

It was reported in diplomatic circles that Gen. Alphonse Juin, the man who succeeded Maxime Weygand as commander-in-chief of French North Africa in November, had been summoned to Vichy along with Gen. Auguste Nogues, commander of Morocco, in connection with the determined German demands.

The Stockholm paper Svenska Dagbladet said the German offensive might be twins—through Turkey toward Suez and into French Africa simultaneously.

Berlin sources scoffed at both suggestions in too-strident voices, but admitted that Otto Abetz, Hitler's personal emissary to France, was in Berlin to discuss French-German relations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—(AP)—The German radio carried an official announcement tonight declaring Marshal Pétain, the Vichy French chief of state, conferred Tuesday with the French writer and lecturer, George Claude, "who also is a sponsor of Franco-German collaboration."

The German shortwave broadcast was heard here by NBC.

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Dec. 23—(AP)—Germans in Istanbul have been told by a German embassy spokesman to "be ready toward the end of January to close up your businesses for a short time," a customarily reliable source reported Tuesday.

This word was reported to have been passed out at the time Hitler assumed command of the army last Sunday, but British circles here said they thought the warning was a bluff: an attempt to arouse fear in Turkey of a German army drive in this direction.

A British observer said there were indications that the Germans might soon want new economic, political and even possibly military favors from Turkey and they were starting their usual "war of nerves" before making any demands.

One indication that this might be true is the rapid increase in the number of Germans in Turkey, rather than a decrease such as might be expected if invasion were contemplated soon.

A new German propaganda office, established at an Istanbul hotel, is believed to be directing attempts to create anti-Semitism in Turkey. Because of the small Jewish population here, this has never before been an evident issue.

Now prominent Jewish business men say they have received telephoned warnings to leave Turkey and Turkish merchants report calls demanding to know why they tolerate Jewish competition.

The government is known to be combating this propaganda. Turkey has no anti-Jewish laws. It is believed here the Germans might request discrimination against Jews and demand supplies of grain and immediate delivery of Turkish chrome ore which has been promised for two years in the future. They might also include a demand for transit of troops to Iraq and Iran.

In any event, all such demands were expected to meet a blunt refusal.

Broadcasts Scheduled By Roosevelt, Pope

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—(AP)—Christmas eve messages from President Roosevelt, Pope Pius XII and Eamon De Valera, prime minister of Eire, are to be broadcast Wednesday.

The president is to be heard via all networks at 2 p.m. from the tree lighting ceremonies at Washington.

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Salem Rifle Unit of State Guard Reports Enlistment of 79 Men

Seventy nine men have signed for enlistment in Company K, Salem rifle unit of the Oregon state guard, Capt. Charles L. Unruh, company commander, announced Tuesday night.

Roy Finster is first lieutenant and Lewis Graves second lieutenant of the unit.

Enlisted men are: James P. Anderson, Marvin F. Anderson, Lloyd H. Arnold, John C. Bandy, Gerhard L. Bartelt, Frederick J. Bradshaw, Fred L. Bernard, Oliver J. Bigler, John H. Callaghan, George Cleary, Clay M. Cornett, Paul L. Davies, Glenn O. Dean, Ernest H. Deas, Henry M. Dimbat, Martin J. Doerfler, Walter C. Eberhard, Earl A. Ellis.

Harvey M. Girod, Lawrence S. Girardin, Theodore R. Girod, Harold A. Gooden, William L. Graen, Ralph S. Harper, Norin O. Holman, Jerome P. Horneffer, Saul S. Janz, Rudolph Johnson, Eugene W. Kennedy, Philip Kleinman, Ben O. Larkins, Wilson F. Launer, Frank K. Lightfoot, Leo J. Lulay, John L. Lutz, Cecil R. Manning, Ove E. McCrary, Ivan D. Merchant, Josiah H. Merrill, John A. Nathan, Theodore Neuharth, Benjamin W. Newell, Julius N. Paulsen, George F. Ray, Collett A. Rust, Kirk Simpson, Henry S. Smith.

Carl R. Staats, Gerald M. Steele, George C. Stephens, James I. Stewart, Lyle W. Straw, George F. Thomson, Earl A. Unruh, Elgin L. Van Blaricom, Orund H. Watts, Wilmot H. Wiedmaier, Harold T. White, Francis E. Wilson, Lloyd A. Ood, Ben G. Woelke.

Roy D. Anderson, Iliam J. Bone, Allen D. Busenbark, Delbert D. Dotson, Albert G. Ervin, Jr., Ira H. Gardner, James D. Hartwell, Grover C. Hinkle, Philip H. Kelley, Albert R. McIntyre, Howard E. Olsen, Elvin S. Pruitt, Thomas L. Reedy, Edward Rostein, Ronald C. Sellers, George Viesko, Lee T. White, Erwin J. Winkenwerder.

Fire Watchers To Organize

New Civil Defense Branch Planned Says Conley

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there is a precautionary alarm at least 20 minutes before enemy planes are expected. After the actual warning sounds it is too late to send them home.

In counties where telephone systems are not in operation 24 hours a day provision should be made through women volunteers to keep the lines open at all times, Owen declared.

All amateur radio operators were asked to volunteer for the state civilian defense network which may be allowed to go on the air if the army grants special permission for the network to operate.

Schools Chief Gets Contract

Five Year Term With Salary Raise Offered To Frank B. Bennett

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emergency. Use of certain buildings for emergency purposes was granted.

Investigation of a public address system installation for Parrish junior high school, the only large building here without one, was referred to the buildings and grounds committee with power to act. Bennett said the order must be made before January 1. Estimated cost, including installation, is \$1450.

The directors moved to comply with recommendations for additional fire extinguishers in the senior high school shops building.

Surety bond offered by St. Vincent de Paul parochial school for free text book funds was approved by the board. The chairman and clerk were authorized to extend warrant borrowings from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Bennett said a successor is being considered for Arlie Hatfield, band conductor and general science teacher at Parrish school, who may be inducted into the army soon.

Holiday Vigil Required by Army Order

SEATTLE, Dec. 23—(AP)—An order issued from the second interceptor command headquarters today cautioned defense units in the Pacific northwest to maintain a strict holiday vigil because "Christmas and New Year's eve are deeply significant holidays not observed by some of our enemies."

The order continued: "All commanders will insure that there is not the slightest relaxation in their preparation for combat and vigilance to prevent sabotage on these days."

"The policy announced... which permits leaves and furloughs only in case of extreme emergency will continue in force."

"All commanders will endeavor to provide superior meals and allot necessary rest periods for their men on these days, while keeping them under their immediate control."

Dam Prevents Flood Damage

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23—(AP)—United States district engineers estimated Tuesday that the newly constructed Fern Ridge flood control dam, 12 miles northwest of Eugene, prevented \$100,000 worth of flood damage in the upper Willamette river area last week.

They said the dam, a \$2,000,000 unit in the Willamette valley project, caught the major portion of an upper river flood. The reservoir is being emptied slowly now.

Women Labor Survey Set

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23—(AP)—Mrs. Seide Orr Dunbar said Tuesday 24 Oregon counties have organized units to conduct a house-to-house survey of women available for labor.

Mrs. Dunbar, director of the state board for mobilization of women, said nine other counties have scheduled organizational meetings, leaving only Curry, Douglas and Malheur counties without plans.

Bulletins

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Tuesday called a special session of congress for December 30 to consider special legislation of undischarged types.

TUCSON, Ariz., Dec. 23—(AP)—A four-motored army bombing plane crashed into a house north of Tucson late Tuesday night, the Pima county sheriff's office reported. Deputies, police and army men attempted to chop open the body of the ship to learn how many men were inside.

LONDON, Wed., Dec. 24—(AP)—Japanese naval planes hammered British fortifications on Tung island east of Hong Kong all day yesterday and inflicted damage despite strong anti-aircraft fire, Domei news agency reported today in a Tokyo broadcast heard by Reuters.

Tanker Sunk By Jap Sub

Crew of 40 Saved After Attack Off California; Another Ship Flees

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Japanese were apparently as bad as in most of their other attacks on American shipping off the California coast. Two tankers have been hit and five escaped entirely.

The crew of the 440-foot Montebello escaped the rifle and machine gun fire only to run into a heavy surf as they reached shore at points scattered over 100 miles of coastline. Some didn't land until noon, more than eight hours after the tanker went down.

Men jumped overboard from several lifeboats when the rocky shore prevented them from reaching land. They were pulled from the boiling surf by watchers who were awakened by the explosion and spasm of gunfire, audible from 3 a.m. until after 6 o'clock.

Austin Waltz, a rescuer who stood on a huge rock in the breakers trying to throw a rope to one of the boats, described one rescue thus:

"A large swell lifted the boat in closer and most of the fellows made a jump for it."

"In another minute the waters boiling around the rock seemed full of hands and arms and heads. They were all in the water, clinging to the rope or rock or thrashing to get a hold."

"We climbed down the rock and got ropes around the men bobbing in the water, sort of like a cauldron, and hauled them up."

The Montebello, built in 1921 by the Southwestern Shipbuilding company of San Diego, was a 5107-ton craft.

Only previous casualty off the coast was the tanker Emidio, torpedoed last Saturday. (See picture on page one.) Five of her crew were lost and five injured. Lifeboats of the Emidio were shelled before the torpedo was fired.

Ban on Tires To Continue; Will Ration

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23—(AP)—Gov. Charles A. Sprague said Tuesday he would set up a state organization to handle the rationing of automobile tires.

He told a meeting of tire and automobile dealers, truckers and state and county officials that local boards would be empowered to issue purchase certificates under federal regulation after the present ban on tire sales expires January 5.

Motorists must make their present automobile tires serve until January 5 and perhaps longer, dealers have been told here by J. Fred Bergsch, priorities field service district manager.

There is an absolute ban until that date on sale, trade, loan or lease of new tires, he said. Used cars may not be sold with new tires nor may new cars equipped with four tires at the factory be delivered with five tires. Tires ordered and paid for may not be delivered to purchasers.

Like Father, Like Son—Report Fake

COATESVILLE, Pa., Dec. 23—(AP)—Roy J. White was notified by the war department last week that his son, Lloyd, 26, was "lost in action" in the Pearl Harbor attack Dec. 7, but the father refused to give up hope.

The reason: "They had me reported dead for 11 months in France during the first World War."

Tuesday White, an attendant at the US Veterans' hospital here, received a letter from his son, dated Dec. 18, saying he was safe and well but had been through a "trying ordeal."

Cycle Platoon Seeks 16 Men

At least 16 more men will be accepted for enlistment in the Salem motorcycle platoon of the Oregon state guard motorcycle company, Lieut. Harry W. Scott, platoon commander, announced Tuesday night following the first report of applicants. A platoon strength of 26 men is being sought.

Lieut. Scott said riders from 18 years of age up would be accepted. They need not be residents of Salem and a few who do not have their own motorcycles will be admitted. Members of the motorcycle corps of the city police reserve are not eligible to enlist.

The motorcycle unit office will be open again at 8 o'clock next Tuesday night for recruiting.

Japs Step Up Luzon Effort

Yank Lines Holding; Hitler Troops Flee In Russia, Libya

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noted in a late afternoon communique from the war department, which also spoke of heavy Japanese aerial activity.

Earlier, the department had reported continued Japanese landings in the Gulf area between Agoo and San Fernando, but in Manila, the American command announced late in the day (Philippine time) that there had been "no material change in positions," thus indicating the American-Filipino line formed just below Agoo was still staunchly holding at that hour.

Thus, the situation was inconclusive, although a great step-up in the Japanese effort was obvious.

Reports circulated in Manila—although the army stated that there was no confirmation for them—that 47 of the 80 Japanese transports originally sighted off Lingayen had been sunk.

Hongkong still held out, and this relative inactivity in the Malayan sector above Singapore gave the British the great benefit of time to buttress their lines before that bastion of all bastions.

In Russia and Africa, defeat still marched with Hitler's vast fleeing columns.

From Switzerland came reports suggesting that his expected new assault—an assault widely anticipated since his substantial confession of failure in the soviet union and his seizure to himself of supreme military power—was perhaps developing through Spain.

In the Pacific theatre, Davao, on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, was as Luzon an area of apparently heavy action. Here, the Dutch took a powerful hand in aid of their American allies.

The Netherlands East Indies announced that Dutch naval bombers had struck hard at Japanese vessels in the Davao harbor, attacking an undetermined number and smashing a 10,000-ton tanker with a direct hit by a 440-pound bomb that exploded her in flames. American army bombers also attacked several Japanese troopships off Davao, but the results were not determined.

The Dutch also reported that three large Japanese transports and a tanker had been sunk by a Dutch submarine west of Borneo, where the Japanese have been trying to obtain a foothold to interrupt allied communications.

At Hongkong the epic courage of the British, Canadian and Indian defenders plainly was tearing up the time table of the Japanese assault.

A Chinese communique stated that at mid-day Hongkong's men were "still fighting valiantly."

Official dispatches reported that the invader had been beaten down to a standstill at Mount Cameron, near the center of Hongkong island.

A light enemy penetration in the direction of Cameron was reported halted.

Earlier the Japanese had claimed the capture of the hill. Subsequently the Berlin radio broadcast an official acknowledgement that seven foris in that vicinity still were held by the defenders.

From Wake island, the little Pacific outpost where American marines had hurled back a dozen Japanese attacks in a great and gallant stand, there was sad news for the allies.

There, the navy department announced, an enemy force effected a landing Monday morning.

The Russians reported Tuesday night and early today a pair of great victories—among the most important yet achieved in their spectacular general offensive.

In the north the nazis had been thrown back to the Volkhov river in a 50-mile Russian advance from a starting point at Tikhvin about 110 miles southeast of Leningrad, it was stated.

"The enemy is routed, his communications cut and panic has been caused in his rear," said an official soviet account.

Moscow-Leningrad communication was described as wholly restored by the Russians.

On the Moscow front the soviet command reported that the nazis had been driven out of the railway junction of Gorbachevo, 150 miles below the capital. Other points occupied by red forces included Odoev, 45 miles below the old familiar fighting sector of Tula.

In the southwest, too—continued Russian advances were announced.

In Africa, the British army of Libya deployed tanks along the coastal plain of the Gulf of Sirte and it appeared that a trap was being formed which would prevent the escape of the fleeing axis forces either along the coast itself or through the desert hinterland.

Vast axis losses in material were reported; the British command announced that the line of retreat was littered with abandoned equipment.

A single British column striking 150 miles deep into Tripolitania, in western Libya, smashed at least 24 enemy planes on a single axis airfield.

At sea, the royal navy was carrying on strongly with its part

of the campaign to utterly smash General Erwin Rommel in Libya. The admiralty announced that British submarines had destroyed six more axis ships—supply ships, transports and perhaps an armed merchant cruiser—in the Mediterranean, thus bringing to 53 the aggregate number smashed or damaged since the beginning of the current imperial land offensive.

County Speeds Funds Drive

Red Cross Reports Sum Of \$9774 Donated With Many Units Unreported

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Mrs. George Lettifer, Coble deLespinasse, Mrs. Edward Schoor, Mrs. T. J. Hunt, Mrs. A. O. Soderholm, Miss Helen Bronce, Miss Grace Cramer, Miss Frances Weaver, Mrs. A. Rabert and Mrs. Lloyd Darling.

Kelzer, with a quota of \$2000, had Tuesday reported \$203 and solicitation was still incomplete, according to Fred McCall, chairman.

From Salem Heights, \$86.72 on its \$108 quota had been received and work was still progressing, it was said.

Middle Grove had more than met its quota, county chapter officers reported. Mrs. Fred Scharf was chairman there.

Large givers have, in many instances, not been asked to contribute, it was declared at a meeting of the emergency finance committee Tuesday morning held in conjunction with an executive session.

Workers meeting at the chamber of commerce were enthusiastic and confident that the drive would be successful, pointing out that in some cases money had been given or promised but that actual delivery to campaign headquarters had been held up in the holiday rush of activities.

Miss Carter, during her Salem visit notified chapter officers that state Red Cross offices, once scheduled for location at Salem, are to be opened in Portland for strategic wartime activity reasons and that quarters there have been donated.

Miss Carter, as senior field representative, and Miss Margaret Bernejo, junior representative, will work out of the Portland office, it was said.

Bureau Slated For Domestic Transport Use

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23—(AP)—To assure the most efficient use of domestic transportation facilities for successful prosecution of the war, President Roosevelt established Tuesday an office of defense transportation.

He told a press conference he had asked the interstate commerce commission to grant a leave of absence to its chairman, Joseph B. Eastman, who will be director of the new agency.

The new office will deal with rail, motor, inland waterway, pipeline and air transport and with coastwise and inter-coastal shipping.

The agency will determine how existing facilities may best be used in handling an increased volume of traffic due to the war effort and will stimulate the provision of any additional facilities and equipment which may be needed.

RAF Destroys 10 Jap Planes

RANGOON, Burma, Dec. 23—(AP)—RAF defenders of Burma destroyed at least 10 Japanese warplanes—nine bombers and one fighter—during a short mass assault on this city Tuesday morning.

Three British fighters were lost. (An expansive Japanese communique said the raiders, Japanese army planes, concentrated on the Rangoon airbase, hangars, wharves, railway station, government offices and barracks. It added that "several" out of 25 British planes were shot down, others destroyed on the ground, and boasted "all Japanese planes returned unscathed after witnessing destruction of part of the city.")

(The bulk of the RAF's reserve strength in the far east probably is in Burma. Considerable air reinforcements have reached there in recent months. Likewise Burma is the supply base on both British and American material moving to free China over the Burma road.)

Spragues to Spend Yule In Salem

Gov. Charles A. Sprague and Mrs. Sprague will spend Christmas day in Salem, he announced Friday. The Spragues will be the guests of friends at Christmas dinner.

Secretary of State Earl Snell and Mrs. Snell will spend the holiday at the home of the former's mother in Portland.

Churchill Says Tide Changed

Tells Reporters His Outlook on Conflict As Strategy Planned

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statesman when he was introduced to them.

It was followed by the first of a series of staff meetings, as President Roosevelt called them, which brought together the commanding officers of the armed forces of the United States and Britain in an effort to work out a unified strategy for a war that is spread to the ends of the globe.

The whole was set against a military situation which found most of the news good news.

Mr. Churchill, provided with comfortable working space at the White House, had spent the day in a bustle of activity which included a conference with Lord Halifax, the British ambassador here, and diplomatic representatives of the British dominions.

He came to the president's regular Tuesday press conference, his peacock and other nautical garb replaced by a black coat, striped trousers, white shirt and a perky blue polkadot bow tie. He sat talking solemnly to the president as the reporters slowly filed in.

Mr. Roosevelt made a few announcements, and then presented him, with an admonition that English newsmen were lambs as compared with the wolves of the American press.

At Mr. Roosevelt's suggestion, Mr. Churchill climbed upon his chair so that those in the rear might get a glimpse of his round, ruddy and grinning face. As he did so the reporters first began clapping, then a cheer started which grew in vigor, and subsided long after it had started.

Mr. Churchill delighted the newsmen with his amiability, his quick answers, and his occasional quips, some of which involved an uncertain use of the American vernacular.

He was asked "What about Singapore?"

We are going to do our utmost, the reply was, to defend Singapore and its approaches until the situation becomes such that it is feasible to resume the general offensive in the South Pacific. Whom he meant by we, whether the British alone or the British and Americans in combination, was not made clear.

However, he said soon afterward that the key to the situation was the resolute manner in which the American and British people are going to throw themselves into the conflict.

As for the question of public morale in Germany:

He had always felt that the allies might get a windfall from that direction. They should, however, not count upon it, but go right along as they had been, depending not on internal collapse but on an external knockout blow.

As for the situation in Russia: The nazis have received a heavy rebuff, they are rapidly retreating over an "immense front, seeking to find a place to winter. It would not, he added, be a comfortable place.

How long would the war take? If we manage it well it will only take half as long as if we manage it badly.

Would he favor a conference involving himself, Mr. Roosevelt, Stalin and Chiang Kai-Shek? In principle, yes.

Could American munitions be sent to the middle east under the new situation in the Pacific? The military power and munitions producing power of the United States will develop on such a scale that the question will not be of choosing which theatre of war supplies will be sent to, but of how to get supplies to their destination.

Did he add America's entry into the war to his previously spoken list of the climatic events of this conflict?

He thought, he said, he could almost say he sure did.

Would post war problems be involved in the current conversations? He hoped not. The present emergency came first.

Did he favor the appointment of a general high command for all allied fighting forces?

Such a post would be difficult to arrange, he thought. The situation was more in need of a broad blocking out, where a strategy was concerned, with the execution of that strategy left to the military authorities of the various countries involved in the war. The war was of such world-wide scope, he added, that no man born could assume responsibility for the associated powers.

As for allocation of supplies among the allies, should there be a directing head for that?

There was good liaison on that already.

What would Hitler do next? If the reporters had any information at that point he would be very glad to have it. Something probably would come, however, he said, of the current reports of nazi invasion attempts in various directions.

Had Germany lost too many supplies in Russia to be able to replace them by spring?

The nazis have vast accumulations of material. There was no question as to its quantity, but there was a question as to its quality. There might be a Ger-

man shortage of oil. Did he have any doubt as to the outcome of the war? Absolutely and emphatically not.

Before the questioning turned to Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt said he wished to emphasize that the talks with the British were preliminary, and did not mean that any country battling the axis would be excluded from consultation.

FDR Turns to Christmas From War

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ped in white tissue and tied with bright red ribbons.

A handshake from the president and Mrs. Roosevelt and out filed the staff—and no sooner were many out of the door than they looked to see "what Santa brought."

Their presents, all alike, were 8 by 10 inch autographed photographs of the president and Mrs. Roosevelt taken by George Skadding, ace Associated Press staff photographer.

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