

Your complete morning newspaper. The Statesman offers you pertinent comments on war news of the day by Kirke Simpson, Washington analyst.

Thursday sunset 5:30 p. m. Friday sunrise 8:55 a. m. Weather: Tues. max. temp. 51, min. 43. Tues. rain .50 in. Wed. river 9.5 ft. Weather data restricted by army request.

Yankee Troops in Dakar Find French Cooperate

Joseph Gallagher Only Candidate Certified For Postmaster Here

Independent Voter on List Displeasing To Democrats

By STEPHEN C. MERGLER

Joseph J. Gallagher, an independent in political registration, is the only candidate among a field of eight who has been certified to the US post office department for consideration in the appointment of a postmaster for Salem, The Statesman learned Wednesday.

A message to this effect was received from the Washington office of Rep. James W. Mott in response to a special inquiry. Mr. Gallagher said Wednesday that he had received formal notice that he stood first on the civil service list. He was not advised of the status of other applicants.

The apparent elimination of the other seven applicants for this \$4200 a year "plum"—in spite of the fact that normal procedure is to certify three if they can qualify—caused an immediate stir of discontent in state and county democratic circles, which had anticipated that a party man would certainly receive consideration.

While the message from Congressman Mott's office might, by splitting grammatical hairs, be construed to mean that additional certifications were possible, word reaching Carl T. Pope, Marion county democratic central committee chairman, was that Gallagher alone was to be certified.

Chairman Pope heard the bad news from State Chairman Fred Fisk at Eugene Tuesday afternoon. "The democratic executive committee of the county will be called together immediately for consideration of this problem, and the" (Turn to Page 2-A)

Jap-Interned Yanks Assured Holiday Food

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23 (AP)—Fifteen hundred Americans interned in Camp Woosung, near Shanghai, will have Christmas dinners complete with turkey pies, under Red Cross auspices, A. L. Schafer, Pacific area Red Cross manager reported Wednesday.

Schafer was notified the dinners would be served to American officers, enlisted men and civilians imprisoned there, in a message from Edouard Egle, international Red Cross committee delegate in Shanghai.

Egle sent word that the camp is visited regularly by Red Cross representatives, and that prisoners have been supplied through Red Cross funds with warm sweat shirts, socks, winter caps and gloves. He also has sent in 80 stoves and is arranging for heating the barracks, he said.

At regular intervals, Egle reported, he delivers to the camp foodstuffs such as bread, smoked sausages, noodles, fresh fruit and beef extract, as well as medicines, dental and optical equipment and toilet articles such as toothbrushes and powder, soap, towels, etc.

Prisoners in the Philippines, too, should get welcome supplies this week, Schafer said, since a cable received from Japan via Geneva stated 13,646 cases containing 500 tons of Red Cross food, clothing and medical supplies have left Hongkong and Yokohama for Philippine prison camps. These are shipments sent on the first diplomatic exchange vessels.

Whether the Japanese legations and embassies in other capitals besides Helsinki gave December 7 parties for officials and diplomats and, if so, what transpired at such functions, was a subject on which little information was available Wednesday night.

No comment was available from the state department but it was recalled that the American minister to Finland, Arthur Schoenfeld, was recently ordered home for consultation. It was considered likely he might shed some light on the incident after his arrival here.

Passes Test



Joseph J. Gallagher, lone man certified by civil service commission for consideration in Salem's postmastership appointment.—Kennell-Ellis photo.

French Drive Enemy Back

Big Tunisian Battle Seen Shaping Up; Malta Helped

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The French under Gen. Henri Honore Giraud have driven the enemy back in a sharp engagement apparently in the Pont Au Fahs area and have taken more prisoners and war material, African reports said Wednesday night, and the axis hinted a big battle was shaping up in the Tunisia corner.

A headquarters spokesman said the French attacked a position held mostly by Italians near Pont Au Fahs, 30 miles south of Tunis. Captured equipment included two armored cars.

The spokesman and the official allied communique reporting the French success over their former axis overlords in Tunisia directly contradicted a DNB, German news agency, report that a French squadron was annihilated in the fighting and 100 French dead were left on the field.

Reports from the allied headquarters told of "vigorous" patrol activity on the British and American sectors in Tunisia, with the enemy shelling some of the British positions. (Turn to Page 2-G)

Pearl Harbor Said Lauded By Finnish

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Officials quarters in Washington expressed concern Wednesday night over reports reaching here of a Japanese legation party in Helsinki at which Finnish ministers were said to have congratulated the Japanese on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

According to these reports, disclosed by authoritative sources, the party was held December 7 and was attended by Prime Minister Rangell and Foreign Minister Witting as well as other Finnish officials. Whether neutral diplomats also attended was not disclosed, but some of the Finnish officials were reported to have congratulated the Japanese on the anniversary occasion.

Motion pictures of the Pearl Harbor attack were shown at the party, some reports said, and Finnish officials were among those who applauded the destruction wrought by Japanese torpedoes.

The appearance at the officers' mess of the young women had immediate repercussions. When they first entered the long private dining room, looking as neat and fresh in their military garb as a Monday-morning maid, all conversation halted momentarily. Heads of generals and second lieutenants alike turned as if they were on the main pivot to watch the women march a little self-consciously to their table.

Gray haired colonels, who usually grant their officers a grumpy austerity dusted off their military gallantry and shamelessly sabotaged officers of lesser rank to get seats near the newcomers.

Little Time Found for Sight-Seeing

Americans Billeted With French in West Africa

By JOSEPH MORTON

DAKAR, French West Africa, Dec. 23 (AP)—American troops now are in Dakar, nerve center of all French West Africa and the port which repulsed a combined British and Fighting French attack in September, 1940.

The khaki-clad Yanks arrived quietly and went to work beside their new French allies without any waste of time.

They came by plane and ship, and in one case by jeep. Notable demonstrations greeted their arrival, but there was little cheering, possibly because there was no marching or suitable opportunity.

The attitude of the French public officials and army and navy officers seems to be to receive the Americans well and courteously and in a spirit of cooperation, but still maintain their dignity and remember yesterday's deed.

"The Americans have come just to work," government controlled newspapers in Dakar commented, "and have not very much time to waste in the city sight-seeing. The population of Dakar has not had time to manifest its sympathies."

Quartered as guests of the government mission are Admiral Glassford, Brig. Gen. A. Franklin Kibler, Brig. Gen. Cyrus Smith, Col. J. C. Holmes, Capt. Hugh (Turn to Page 2-B)

Bomb, Fighter Planes Strike In Naziland

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Boston bombers escorted by fighter planes bombed the docks at St. Malo, France, Wednesday afternoon, the air ministry announced in a communique Wednesday night.

St. Malo is on the northern coast of France almost directly south of Southampton. Other British fighters, unopposed by defending aircraft, carried out sweeps over Brittany and Normandy, the communique added. Earlier in the afternoon British planes with fighter escorts bombed targets at Denhelder on the Dutch coast.

No enemy aircraft were encountered during the operations, and no British planes were lost, it was reported.

The raids came in the wake of heavy and widespread overnight attacks by fighter-bombers on German railway transport in France and the low countries.

The raid on Denhelder, strategic Dutch port on the Zuider Zee, was carried out by Veterans, American general reconnaissance bombers. Planes of this design have been put into service on the RAF front (Turn to Page 2-H)

Castor Oil Lacking

PORTLAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—Shortage for kids—a castor oil shortage! War production board officials said Wednesday that "at the normal rate of consumption less than a month's supply" exists nationally.

WAACs Invade Africa—It's a New World

By HAROLD V. BOYLE ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Dec. 23 (AP)—The arrival of 31 American army nurses and five WAAC officers has created a feminine oasis at allied headquarters, where until now the art of war has been practiced on a strictly masculine basis.

The appearance at the officers' mess of the young women had immediate repercussions.

When they first entered the long private dining room, looking as neat and fresh in their military garb as a Monday-morning maid, all conversation halted momentarily. Heads of generals and second lieutenants alike turned as if they were on the main pivot to watch the women march a little self-consciously to their table.

Gray haired colonels, who usually grant their officers a

Western Curfew Lifted

Germans Allowed to Travel; Exclusion To Be Individual

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23 (AP)—The army Wednesday night lifted curfew and travel restrictions on German aliens in the eight-state area of the western defense command.

These restrictions, imposed last March 27, were removed October 19 with regard to Italian aliens and no longer are applicable to Japanese, all of whom have been removed from the affected zones.

"The need for the curfew no longer exists as other security measures have been provided," Lt. Gen. J. L. DeWitt of the western defense command and Fourth army said.

"Among these measures is the individual exclusion procedure under which persons who are found, after hearing, to be dangerous or potentially dangerous to the military security of the west coast are excluded.

"I desire to make it plain however, that there will be no retardation of the program to rid the west coast of such persons."

The curfew order applied originally to all German and Italian aliens and to all persons of Japanese ancestry living either in military area 1, comprising roughly the western half of Washington, Oregon and California, or in any one of 1022 smaller zones scattered through the remainder of these four states and Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Utah.

The order provided that these persons should remain in their homes from 8 p. m. to 6 a. m. nightly and should not travel more than five miles from their homes at other hours, except to and from work, without specific authority.

General DeWitt made clear, however, that his order revoking the previous proclamations did not apply to that clause forbidding the possession of contraband—specifically firearms or other weapons, ammunition, short-wave radios, signal devices and cameras—by Japanese anywhere in the eight states.

Furthermore, he pointed out, a presidential proclamation governing aliens makes unlawful the ownership of any of these items by German nationals, wherever their place of residence in this country.

News Deliverers Get \$5 Increase

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Some 3000 New York newspaper delivery workers whose suddenly called strike last week left the metropolis news-starved for three days won a \$5-a-week pay boost Wednesday from the war labor board, which at the same time strongly denounced the walkout.

"In approving the interim order and award of the arbitration board in this case," the WLB order declared, "the national war labor board expressly condemns the action of the newspaper and mail deliveries union of New York and vicinity in calling a strike in clear violation of the national policy to eliminate the use of economic force in the settlement of labor disputes for the duration of the war."

The WAACs have one privilege denied male officers. They can eat with their military caps on, and they do.

How to introduce them has been something of a problem in social-military etiquette. Fellow officers the first time usually burble out something like "Miss Smith, this is General Jones, er, er, I mean General Jones, uh, uh, meet Lieutenant Smith."

Both the nurses and the WAACs have been besieged with dinner invitations and offers of assistance.

The alert American press scored an initial scoop when two foreign correspondents took all five WAACs for their first dinner at a French restaurant. Army air corps officers also were taken along after they begged to join the party and pledged they would

Wounded Marine Evacuated



Wounded in action, a US marine is carried aboard a landing barge pulled up on Guadalcanal island in the south Pacific. He was transferred to a waiting transport for evacuation from the battle area.—AP Photo from US navy.

US, British Bomb Japs, Burma

US and Mexico Agree, Trade

Tariffs Reduced on Many Items; Quota On Oil Removed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The United States and Mexico allies in the war against the axis—signed a reciprocal trade agreement Wednesday sweeping aside long-standing barriers to peace-time commerce and opening the way to a greater wartime exchange of goods.

Secretary of State Hull signed the bulky document with Dr. Francisco Castillo Najera, Mexican ambassador, bringing the 15th anniversary of the international trade program Hull has advocated.

The United States obtained tariff reductions on 76 items while the duties on 127 others were frozen at present levels. In return more than 60 items exported to the United States by Mexico are affected by the agreement.

Among the concessions made by Mexico are the binding of the present duty on automobiles, trucks and tractors, of which Mexican purchases in 1940 amounted to \$6,998,000; a reduction of 50 per cent on the duty on machinery and appliances, of which the United States supplied 70 per cent of Mexico's imports in 1940 valued at \$1,895,000; and a 17 per cent decrease in the rate on radios and radio equipment, a \$1,482,000 item in this country's 1940 foreign trade.

Other reductions came on: Wheat 40 per cent; lard 21.7 per cent; refrigerators 20 per cent.

Many items vital to the war figure in the concessions made by the United States to Mexico and significantly the pact removes all quotas on the importation of crude petroleum and fuel oil at the frozen rate of one-fourth cent per gallon. Previously Mexico's exports of petroleum crude and fuel oil to this country at this rate were limited by quota while all in excess of the quota was subject to one-half cent a gallon duty.

Carrier, Land Planes Meet Few Enemy

NEW DELHI, Thursday, Dec. 24 (AP)—Cascading bombs upon widely separated targets, American and British raiders have struck powerful new blows at Rangoon and Akyab in softening-up raids ahead of British troops cautiously moving down the Burma coast while carrier-borne British naval planes assaulted the westernmost Japanese base in the Netherlands Indies far to the south.

These allied attacks, carried out over an ever-broadening arc of the Indian ocean against only scant enemy opposition, caught the Japanese flatfooted or showed that they now were surrendering air superiority, or both.

The British announced Thursday that Japanese planes raided two localities in eastern Bengal province Wednesday. At least one enemy plane was destroyed and several were damaged, a communique said.

A small number of bombs were dropped in the Chittagong area Wednesday night and casualties and damage were relatively small. Wednesday afternoon two bombs were dropped on Basemi area and no casualties or damage resulted.

US army air force headquarters announced that in two destructive assaults on Rangoon Sunday and (Turn to Page 2-D)

Adair Sergeant Hurt in Albany

ALBANY, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—Albany police investigated Wednesday night the circumstances under which Sgt. Harold E. Ideker of Camp Adair suffered severe concussion at a downtown street intersection here Wednesday.

Ideker was found unconscious. At hospital afterward he told attendants he slipped and fell, striking his head on a curbing. Police said, however, that they would investigate.

Allies Breach Jap Defenses

Australian Corvette Sunk; Planes Win Against Enemy

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Thursday, Dec. 24 (AP)—Japanese enemy fortifications have been breached in many places in the Buna area of New Guinea by allied troops, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced Thursday.

"Many hundreds of his (the Japanese) dead are being buried by our troops," the news communique said.

"His situation now must be regarded as desperate." The location of the breached fortifications was not stated but recent communique have told of heavy fighting between Buna village and Cape Endiadeura to the east, both places now in allied hands. And other fighting has been reported to the west of Buna with Japs pocketed in the Cape Sanananda sector. It is these points which General MacArthur has reported intricately fortified by the Japs who are understood to be under orders of their emperor to fight to the death.

"Our air units were active in the (Buna) area and northward along the coast," the communique reported.

The bombing and sinking by the Japs of the Australian Corvette, HMS Armadale, in recent action near Portuguese Timor was disclosed.

Allied bombers raided the airfield at Cape Gloucester in New Britain island and at Jacquinot bay in the same sector a reconnaissance unit shot down a Jap fighter and damaged two (Turn to Page 2-C)

Gestapo Raids Norway Towns

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 23 (AP)—Gestapo agents in an armed raid on several towns along a 100-mile coastline area extending around the southern tip of Norway from Arendal to Flekkerfjord arrested more than 80 people, it was reported here Wednesday night.

Most of the arrests were in Kristiansand, reports from Norway said. The purpose of the raids was not known here.

The Gestapo struck thus within 24 hours of a raid by 200 Gestapo agents on the Norwegian town of Rjukan, in the Westfolden valley, in which 25 men were arrested and every house in the town was searched.

Japs Repulsed, Burma

CHUNGKING, Dec. 23 (AP)—The high command reported Wednesday the Japanese were repulsed last Friday in an attempt to cross the Nanzu River, tributary of the Nankai in the Kungtung sector of northeast Burma, but said that the enemy had forced a crossing of the Nanzu and were being engaged by the Chinese.

Drives Reach Ukraine

8000 Nazis Claimed Slain in Day of Fighting Gains

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, Thursday, Dec. 24

The red army has beaten forward across the middle Don plains for gains of 72 to 103 miles in eight days, the Russians announced early Thursday, on a continuing and massive offensive which has cost Adolf Hitler upwards of 80,000 killed or captured in that sector alone.

A special communique said the Germans were sent reeling back for another 12 to 18 miles Wednesday and that in the day's

LONDON, Thursday, Dec. 24 (AP)—The London Daily Mail says Thursday in a dispatch dated from "the German frontier" that the gravity of the military position in Russia has brought orders to all German soldiers on leave from Russia to report immediately at Strasbourg military headquarters. They normally would not have rejoined their units until next month.

fighting 8000 nazis were slain in Tuesday's fighting and that by Wednesday night the number of prisoners had been increased by 16,400.

This brought the prisoner total in the eight-day period to 36,600, while the number of dead nazis numbered more than 44,000.

The latest in a series of special communique reporting unprecedented successes in the winter offensives said that towns and villages by the dozens were liberated by the red army.

"The offensive of our troops in the middle course of the Don is continuing," it said triumphantly. Virtually engulfed by the soviet tide was the key communications center of Millerovo. One soviet spearhead had driven to Barankivka, in the Ukraine 31 miles northwest of Millerovo.

Another thrust had reached and liberated the town of Voloshina, 25 miles west of Millerovo. Among additional larger places wrested from the nazis were Olkhovirov, 18 miles northeast of Millerovo, and Bolshinsk, 37 miles to the southeast.

This powerful drive toward Rostov was declared further in (Turn to Page 2-E)

Higgins Gets Contract to Build Planes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Formal approval of a contract with Andrew J. Higgins of New Orleans for production of an undisclosed number of cargo planes for the army air forces was announced Wednesday by the war department.

Apparently the planes will be built at the partially-completed shipyards at New Orleans. Construction on the shipyards stopped when the maritime commission on July 18 cancelled its contract with Higgins for construction of 200 Liberty ships on the ground that insufficient steel was available.

The war department said its agreement with the shipbuilder, negotiated by the air forces material center at Wright field, Ohio, and approved by Undersecretary of War Robert F. Patterson, calls for construction of the planes on a cost-plus-fixed fee basis.

The only reference to the size of the order was a statement that (Turn to Page 2-F)

Early Valentine Notice Heeded

GRANTS PASS, Dec. 23 (AP)—Sales of Valentines were brisk here Wednesday—but not as Christmas presents.

Accompanying a display of Valentines which appeared in a local store was the following: "Uncle Sam advised mailing your Valentine overseas sometime during Christmas week. The very latest date is January 18."

SHOPPING DAY LEFT Buy Christmas Socks