

Flood Waters Twist Bridge, Halt Traffic

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Reds Take Strong Velikie Luki

Victors Wipe Out Garrison

Elista in Caucasus Taken on March Toward Rostov

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW, Saturday, Jan. 2 — (AP)—Velikie Luki, strongly held city on the central front only 90 miles from the Latvian border, and Elista, capital of the desolate Kalmyk republic below Stalingrad have been captured by the Russians in smashing new victories in the northwest and south of Russia, a special soviet communique said early Saturday.

The entire German garrison at Velikie Luki, 260 miles northwest of Moscow, was wiped out "in view of the fact that the enemy refused to lay down their arms," the Russians said.

It was one of the strongest Hitlerian positions in the broad central front, forming with Rahev and Vyazma a great triangle of defense. The Russians long have been west of Rahev and at the approximate center of the triangle at Bely, at a point only 60 miles north of Smolensk in the Napoleonic corridor of retreat.

The regular midnight soviet communique, repeating the announcement of the recapture of Velikie Luki and Elista, declared as well that the soviet offensives in the middle Don and southwest of Stalingrad were rolling on and that scores of towns and villages had been recaptured—"several dozen" in the latter area alone.

Elista is 170 miles south of Stalingrad, but the Russians were well beyond it on the banks of the frozen Lake Manych, only 90 miles short of the major Caucasian rail center at Salck. The main Russian weight appeared directed at Salck, whence a railway leads 100 miles to Rostov to the northwest.

Rostov is threatened by other Russian forces sweeping south from the middle Don below surrounded Millerovo. This force is less than 100 miles from the city at the mouth of the Don—the gateway to the Caucasus.

The special communique also announced the capture of the district centers of Tarmokhin, southwest of Stalingrad, and Chikolo, in the north Caucasus. The town and railway station of Velikie Luki both were captured "as the result of a decisive assault," the communique said.

The Germans claimed the capture of several places on the central front and in the Don bend, and said Russian attacks in the Caucasus, at Stalingrad and in the Lake Ilmen region were repelled.

The Russian drive in the Kalmyk steps increased the danger to all the German forces buried deep in the Caucasus before the oil fields of Grozny in the Mozdok and Nalchik areas.

Hitler Evades Nazi Flight, Sees Victory

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 — (AP)—Adolf Hitler in his fourth wartime New Year's message to the German people Friday repeated his theme that Germany would not collapse nor capitulate, and that in the end she would prove victorious.

In a special proclamation broadcast by the Berlin radio, Hitler again discussed some of his favorite hates—international Jewry, President Roosevelt, and the national oppressors of a peace-loving Germany.

He had nothing to say about the Russian campaign, nor Rommel's flight in Libya, nor the allied offensive in north Africa.

Instead, he praised the virtues of the German people, and reviewed wars of the past which, he said, were of little consequence either to the victor or vanquished compared to what Germany's position would be if it lost the war.

Thursday night in an order of the day to German troops he said: (Turn to Page 2—H)

Flood Sweeps Building Against Bridge



Mellow Moon dance hall-skating rink, long the gauge of Salem residents for Willamette river's lesser floods, gave way early Friday night and floated downstream to lodge against the wooden west approach to the Salem-West Salem bridge, as seen in picture above, taken at 8 p. m. by Al Lightner, Statesman sports editor. It pushed two rows of piling from under the bridge, shorted the Bonneville feeder wires serving the Salem Electric Cooperative association and endangered telephone cables on either side of the crossing. The big frame building began breaking up shortly after midnight.

Bombers Hit African Axis

Concerted Attacks End Year, While Ground Quiet

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Jan. 1 — (AP)—United States bombing and fighting planes ended the old year with concerted attacks upon axis communications and supply facilities from the northern tip of Tunisia to Tripolitania, allied authorities announced Friday.

Four American and one RAF craft were reported lost. Light Douglas A-20 bombers paced the aerial onslaught with two raids on the port of Soussa, where heavy anti-aircraft fire knocked down three of the explosive carriers but failed to prevent widespread destruction.

P-38 fighters escorted the first raider; P-40s the second. The first group concentrated (Turn to Page 2—D)

DeGaulle Asks Elimination Of Vichy Men

LONDON, Saturday, Jan. 2 — (AP)—A spokesman for the Fighting French asserted Saturday that holdovers from the Vichy regime in north Africa must be "eliminated" before unification of French forces can take place.

Negotiations for such unification are under way, the spokesman said. "I am optimistic," he declared, "but don't expect any easy or rapid solution. While General Giraud is all right, the principal obstacle is the men, underneath him who are holdovers from the Vichy regime. They must be eliminated."

The spokesman said that General De Gaulle had taken the initiative in negotiations "trying to get together" the French factions. "A number who have done well under Vichy" still have key jobs in north Africa, the spokesman said. Naturally, he asserted, that would be an obstacle in the way of unity.

General Giraud knows the names of these men, the spokesman continued, as "they are quite obvious." The men who must be eliminated are particularly those who preached collaboration and persecuted their fellow Frenchmen, he asserted.

Dimout
Saturday sunset 5:37 p. m.
Sunday sunrise 8:53 a. m.
Weather: Thurs. max. temp. 55, min. 46. Thurs. rain 1.41 in.
Fri. river 29 feet. Weather data restricted by army request.

Roosevelt Calls for US Participation to Full in Post-War Cooperation

By RICHARD L. TURNER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 — (AP)—President Roosevelt called with all emphasis Friday for post-war international cooperation aimed at making another war impossible and at spreading the blessings of peace to all mankind.

The united nations must remain united, he said in a New Year's day statement, easily his strongest utterance to date on a subject he said must be preserved and applied to the problems of the years to come.

"In this as in no previous war," he said, "men are conscious of the supreme necessity of planning what is to come after—and of carrying forward into peace the common effort which will have brought them victory in the war. They have come to see that the maintenance and safeguarding of peace is the most vital single necessity in the lives of each of us."

By plain implication, Mr. Roosevelt's statement pledged — so far as he was able to give such a pledge — the United States to full participation in the projected international effort. It was obviously destined to have a profound effect upon post-war planning both here and in other capitals.

Mr. Roosevelt offered no suggestion of a date for such unification. He said he was confident that the United States would be able to give such a pledge — the United States to full participation in the projected international effort. It was obviously destined to have a profound effect upon post-war planning both here and in other capitals.

Landis Lauds Civil Defense

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 — (AP)—Civilian defense volunteers in the flood areas of the Ohio valley and Oregon won the praise Friday night of James M. Landis, director of civilian defense.

"In the Ohio valley," Landis said in a statement, "organized American civilian defense is now facing a real test in a large-scale disaster. The reports I get indicate that it is meeting the test superbly."

"Nor have these volunteers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky been alone," he continued. "We have just received word that hundreds of civilian defense workers are similarly at work in Eugene, Oregon, where heavy floods at the confluence of the Willamette and McKenzie rivers have driven thousands from their homes."

Nimitz Calls Raid Sample

Airmen Plaster Wake Island; Portlander Gains Navy Cross

HICKAM FIELD, Honolulu, Jan. 1 — (AP)—Adm. Chester W. Nimitz declared Friday the Japanese could conclude that the US air raid on Jap-held Wake island was only a sample of the things to come.

The supreme commander of the mid-Pacific forces presented awards to navy heroes.

Of the December 24 raid on Wake, Admiral Nimitz said: "I am glad to have this opportunity of starting the new year by making recognition of the splendidly executed mission of our army air forces."

"Without warning the morning before Christmas the Japanese on Wake island were suddenly presented with 75,000 pounds of aerial bombs, most of which struck and damaged military targets. All our planes attacked from low altitudes and returned to base on schedule, with neither planes nor personnel harmed by enemy artillery which was finally awakened by the visitors.

"To me, this operation epitomizes the complete unity with which all fighting forces in the Pacific—the army, navy, marine corps and coast guards—are coordinating their strength and skill against the enemy.

"Let the enemy take such consolation as he may from the thought that this raid was only a sample of things to come," the admiral declared.

WPB Boosts Margarine

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 — (AP)—To alleviate the butter shortage the war production board authorized Friday a sharp boost in the production of margarine.

Margarine manufacturers who previously were allowed to use only 116 percent of their average consumption of fat and oils in 1940 and 1941, were permitted to raise that figure to 160 percent.

WPB described the need of increased margarine output as "urgent" in view of the butter shortage which has been aggravated by the freezing of 50 percent of storage butter stocks in the 35 main market cities.

New Year Floods Kill 6

Many Evacuated as Road and Rail Travel Halted

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 1 — (AP)—The New Year swirled into western Oregon Friday on gritty floodwaters which claimed at least six lives, covered thousands of acres of rich farm lands, forced hundreds of families from their homes, inundated half a dozen villages and threatened several more.

Near Albany, Ore., a mother and her five-month-old son drowned, when their automobile skidded off a flooded road and was inundated. They were trapped inside. A Portland woman drowned when her car struck a slide near Cottage Grove and plunged into a swollen creek.

An aged paralytic woman succumbed to shock at Springfield after being evacuated from her lowlands farm home. Near Wendling, two loggers were buried beneath an avalanche, loosened by rain.

Those killed were Archie Brooks, Wendling, and J. W. Thorn, Cottage Grove. Three others escaped the slide narrowly.

Rail and bus traffic was paralyzed in the central Willamette valley and all north-south highways were blocked, including the Pacific and the Oregon coast. Central Oregon's The Dalles-Columbia route was open but two of its major feeder lines were crippled or blocked. The east-west Evergreen highway on the Washington side of the Columbia river was closed and the Columbia River highway on the Oregon side was limited to one-way traffic between here and The Dalles.

Rail service between here and Eugene and for some distance south of Eugene was suspended but the Southern Pacific hoped (Turn to Page 2—A)

Japs Stronger On Kiska, Down Planes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 — (AP)—The Japanese apparently have strengthened their hold on Kiska in the Aleutians and, in an air battle which may have been fought by the eerie glow of the northern lights, have destroyed two swift and powerful American P-38 Lightning fighter planes and a medium bomber, the navy disclosed Friday.

The P-38s were downed by comparatively clumsy float-type Zero fighters, and the bomber was destroyed either by the fighters or anti-aircraft fire. One Zero was lost in the engagement.

The navy communique thus revealed that the Japanese have succeeded in delivering at least small aerial reinforcements to an island where their hold had been believed to be growing steadily less secure.

A few hours after their first attack on the enemy ships had concluded with uncertain results, the medium bombers returned to Kiska and scored two hits on one Jap cargo ship, and three on another. All US planes returned from that action.

In the South Pacific, meanwhile, the enemy air field at Munda on New Georgia island in the central Solomons was heavily attacked late Thursday afternoon (Guadalcanal time).

Land action on Guadalcanal island, where American patrols are rapidly hacking away at the enemy's hungry and ill-equipped troops, resulted in the killing Thursday of 20 Japanese under circumstances which were not reported.

Nazi Transport Sunk
LONDON, Saturday, Jan. 2 — (AP)—The Moscow radio announced Saturday that a soviet submarine had sunk a 8000-ton German transport bound for a Norwegian fjord.

High Expected Today; Salem Is Semi-Marooned

Mellow Moon Hall Jammed Into Approach; Edgewater Floods; Many Leave Home

Dozens of homes in the South Mill creek basin lay surrounded by water early today and residents were beginning to worry about first floor furnishings as the Willamette river rise continued. A trickle of water from the backed-up stream was flowing across South Winter street and backwater had reached the ground walls of Salem Deaconess hospital. The old city auto park was completely under water.

Salem lay at the center of a flood area this morning as swirling waters of the rising Willamette washed across the twisted west approach of the Marion-Polk bridge and high water stopped all but rail traffic.

Weather bureau predictions gave no intimation of the "high" to the anticipated here today when the crest which passed Eugene on Friday should arrive in this saturated area. Small tributaries to the river were swollen and unmeasured, state police declared, as they urged motorists to halt wherever possible.

Well above the previously forecast 27.5 feet, the river at midnight lapped above the 29 foot mark on the official Salem gauge, rising to 29.4 at 1:30 a. m.

Bridge to Polk Is Third Here

The Willamette river bridge that stands this morning closed to travel because of high water is the third structure the city has had for crossing to Polk county.

The first, a wooden bridge, was built in 1886 and washed away by the great flood of 1890. The city's second bridge, built following that flood, was replaced in 1918 by the present structure, whose main spans are of steel, with concrete decking. The long approach from the West Salem side is supported by wood piling.

While the "neighbors" urged on, and assisted where necessary, by Red Cross disaster committee workers and state police, evacuated unnumbered families from the lowlands, the capital city's chief interest apparently was for its sister community across the flooding river.

The old Mellow Moon dance hall, used in recent years as a skating rink, believed by engineers who inspected it Friday to be secure in the rising tide, rose from its foundations at approximately 6:30 p. m., swept north to the inter-county bridge's west approach, knocking two bents in the timber piling support from beneath the structure. Holes were broken in the boardwalk and the roadway dipped a foot or more in two places but did not tilt to either side.

Threatened a second time before midnight when log rafts from the Oregon Pulp & Paper company's mill's basin reportedly broke loose at 10:30, the bridge stood solid at an early hour this morning, while the skating rink structure was believed close to the breaking point. Meanwhile, the sag in the approach grew greater.

Topped into the river by the impact of the building, one of the high feeder line poles of the Salem Electric company used to deliver Bonneville power to the capital city pulled wires across the bridge to add to the hazard, and pedestrians were forbidden use of the span.

A Southern Pacific switch engine was called into service to haul several loads of persons to and from West Salem early Friday night before cautious railroad officials reportedly ordered that bridge closed.

A Bonneville administration crew of three men made their way onto the west end of the highway bridge at 10 p. m. in an outboard motorboat to attempt salvage of the Salem line. J. C. Murphy, lineman for the Salem Electric Cooperative association, said service was restored to West Salem street lights and to residences and businesses served by the association after only a short interruption, but the Bonneville crew, along with state highway department crews, later announced they would wait until daylight because of dangers involved.

Gov. Charles A. Sprague had directed the highway department early Friday night to take all possible steps to save the West Salem bridge approach, dynamiting the Mellow Moon building if necessary.

"I don't think there's much we can do," R. H. Baldeck, chief highway engineer, said at 10:30 p. m. "The building is wedged under the bridge. We are going out at daylight and try to tear it down or blow it up." He expressed the belief the approach would stand during the night.

Early this morning, it seemed possible that the river itself would destroy the building. Log rafts from the paper mill were "caught" and tied, it was understood early this morning, although men in the mill at the river's bank explained "Only the men on the river actually know what's happening there."

Meanwhile, in addition to the paper mill proper, down since Thursday when water rose rapidly in the basement, the Oregon Pulp & Paper company's lumber building plant and a government ordnance works.

About 1000 persons were homeless, but Krodel reported that food supplies were ample. Meanwhile, communities upstream began clearing away the muck and wreckage as the stream began to recede.

Sunday!
Watch your Sunday Statesman for "Scorchy Smith," comic strip adman whose adventures will thrill you. He's alive, keen-minded, authentic American character.