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Thursday sunset 6:16 p.m. Friday sunrise 8:37 a.m. Weather: Tues. max. temp. 44, min. 32. Tues. rain 1.5 in. Wed. river 7.5 ft. Weather data restricted by army request.

RAF Follows First All-American Bombing

Truckers, Railmen Squabble

Permanent Boosting Of Truck Limits Sought in Bill

Trucks collided with trains, figuratively, and motives were freely questioned on both sides as the Oregon house of representatives' committee on highways and highway revenue held public hearing Wednesday on the "long truck" bill...

Oregon law limits such units to 50 feet in length, and their combined loads to 54,000 pounds. The house bill would permit units 60 feet long and the formula for gauging the maximum load figures out to about 71,000 pounds.

Argument against permanent legislation on the subject at this time was presented by Alfred A. Hampson, spokesman for the railroad association, who also criticized the bill's provisions, saying it was "a bad bill" structurally in that the load limit is arrived at by formula rather than made definite...

R. H. Baldock, engineer for the highway commission, testifying at the committee's request, said the commission had no new recommendations on the subject. He explained that the truck-trailer units contemplated in the bill may operate with safety and without damage on certain designated highways and not on others...

Personalities entered the picture when West charged that F. L. Phipps, executive secretary of the Association of Oregon Counties which had passed a resolution opposing such an increase in size and weight of trucks, was also "an attorney for the Union Pacific."

Reversing the compliment, after Herman Sites of the federal office of defense transportation had testified that a critical transportation problem is rampant in the northwest and that enactment of this bill would tend to relieve it, a question from Sen. C. H. Zuercher elicited the information that Sites in private life is a truck operator.

R. W. Hogg of the Pacific Supply co-op said many farmers would be benefitted in getting their crops and livestock to market, if this bill became law. James Elliott of Astoria, a Clatsop county commissioner, voiced fear that the big trucks would operate on secondary highways to their detriment.

Limits Close Two Meat Shops Here

Federal regulations as to number of meat animals to be killed during any one month caused two and three-day midweek closures of at least two downtown Salem markets and one slaughterhouse this week, representatives of meat dealers declared Thursday.

Conference 'Symies Axis Peace Off' Commar Seen in Africa

LONDON, Jan. 27-(AP)—The 1943 world strategy conference of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill at Casablanca has forestalled a new German peace offensive, observers said Wednesday, and informed quarters said the immediate result is likely to be the announcement of an over-all command for the impending battle of Tunisia.

An unofficial American source reported that full agreement was reached at Casablanca on a commander to take charge of British forces driving from the east and British, American and French armies in Tunisia.

Change Talked In Excise Tax

Corporation Levy Might Be Marked To Help Aged

Amending the state corporation excise tax law so as to collect from public utilities, which now pay only property taxes, was discussed at Wednesday night's session of the daily hearings being conducted by the house taxation and revenue committee of the Oregon legislature with pro and con arguments rather evenly balanced.

Political observers said indications that Adolf Hitler would offer a compromise peace as part of his 1943 plans had been multiplying for a month. Unconfirmed but persistent reports said his proposals were to be made through non-belligerent Spain and would contain an offer to withdraw from western Europe while retaining territories occupied in Poland, Russia and the Balkans.

Thus the Casablanca declaration that the united nations would be satisfied with nothing short of the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan was viewed as having smashed this peace offensive before it could even get started.

Tojo Asserts Japs Battle For Security

Premier Hideki Tojo told a reconvened session of the Japanese diet Thursday that Japan is waging war "to enable all countries each in its proper place and all peoples to live their lives in peace and security" and said that Japan in pursuance of this ideal was marching "to crush the United States and Britain," the Japanese radio reported.

Lebanon Mill Hearing On

PORTLAND, Jan. 27-(AP)—The strike of AFL lumber and sawmill workers at the Evans Products company plant in Lebanon January 12 was called after the company laid off the night shift, testimony revealed here Wednesday.

John B. McCourt, attorney, acted as referee for the west coast lumber commission at the hearing and will report to the commission. Union officials said 225 of the 700 mill workers were laid off. Company spokesmen contended insufficient logs were available for three shifts. Questions of seniority also were involved.

Fuel Shortages Surpass War I

Definite fuel shortages in Salem the past week have topped any experienced during World War I, a veteran dealer in the capital city declared Wednesday, although he did not prophesy an unheated 1943-44 winter for residents of the area.

Most serious difficulty since the snowfall has been the problem of delivery of fuels. Short of coal all winter, major fuel dealers were out of that commodity Wednesday. Smaller dealers declared they had, until the past week, been able to meet demands for coal but had not tried to "push" the business because of the long time required to move to the coast the fuel, much of it second-grade, they said.

Murder Charged Folkes

Train Second Cook Confesses, Then Denies Slaying

ALBANY, Ore., Jan. 27-(AP)—The second cook of the Southern Pacific's West Coast limited was charged Wednesday with the slaying of the handsome young navy bride in lower 13.

The break in the fiction-like "murder on the mainline" mystery came with the unexpected filing by Linn County District Attorney Harlow L. Weirick of a first-degree murder charge against Robert L. Folkes, 20-year-old negro, arrested in Los Angeles as the train ended its 1800-mile run through Oregon and California.

Police Capt. Verne Rasmussen said in Los Angeles after the charge was filed that Folkes confessed slaying the throat of blonde Mrs. Martha Virginia Brinson James as she lay in her berth in sleeper D while the train rolled through snow-mantled Linn county in the early-morning darkness Saturday.

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It was expected also that the (Turn to Page 2-B)

Storm Toll Reaches 11

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 27-(AP)—The cold and snow forces that claimed 11 lives in Oregon in 10 days beat a hasty retreat Wednesday.

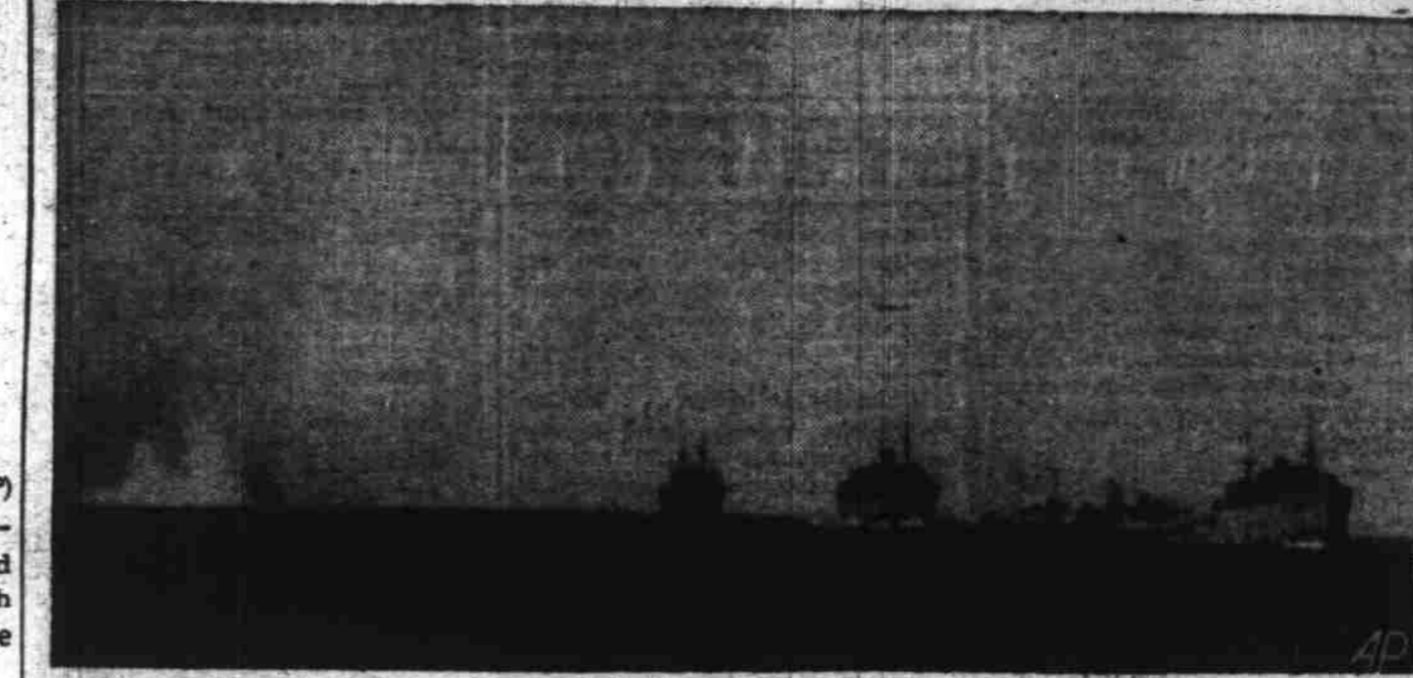
Temperatures generally were above freezing and highways were all open again, the Portland weather bureau and the Oregon State Motor association reported.

Portland transportation neared normal and schools were scheduled to reopen Thursday. Many home owners complained of leaking roofs caused by melting snow and ice.

The latest fatality was that of Pearl Parkins, 60, who apparently collapsed while working in snow on his ranch near Timber. His snow-covered body was found near a barn.

Other passengers related hearing a woman in darkened sleeper (Turn to page 8-C)

Bombs Miss Malta-Bound Convoy



Ships with food and supplies have been arriving more frequently recently at often bombed Malta, but not without incident as pictured here. Nazi bombs explode harmlessly (left) near some of the ships in the convoy.—Associated Press Teletax.

Allied Losses Half of Japps'

Casualties Counted In Papua Campaign; Raids Widespread

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Thursday, Jan. 28 (AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced Thursday that allied casualties in the victorious Papuan land campaign in New Guinea, including numerous cases from natural illness, were less than half the losses of the defeated Japanese. Previous announcements had said a Japanese Papuan army of 15,000 had been annihilated.

The general pointed out in his noon communique that "these figures reverse the usual results of a ground offensive... when losses of the attacker usually are (Turn to Page 2-E)

Allies Retake Vital Spots In Tunisia

LONDON, Jan. 27-(AP)— Amid gathering signs that a final offensive to drive the axis out of north Africa may be near the allied North African command disclosed Wednesday the recapture of several central Tunisian positions with which the enemy had sought to form a line to protect the flank of Marshal Rommel's retreat into Tunisia from Libya.

The British command in Cairo announced that contact had been made with Rommel's rearguards as early as Tuesday somewhere west of Zauia, which itself is 30 miles beyond fallen Tripoli—the first contact reported in three days.

In Tunisia, the allied communique announced that a number of positions in the Ousseltia valley and in the mountains to the east had been regained — by the attacks of American troops who went to the support of the French, it was disclosed authoritatively—and were being consolidated.

An allied spokesman said in supplement: "Now we hold the Kairoulan-Allema pass." Allied warplanes were handicapped by bad weather but successful attacks on German railway communications were reported from allied headquarters in north Africa, while from Cairo it was announced that Liberator heavy bombers of the Ninth US air force had attacked Messina in Sicily, and that fighter aircraft had held Rommel's retreating columns under attack.

The Italian radio reported that Naples had been bombed overnight.

Solomons Battle Arrives in US

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27-(AP)—The navy reported Wednesday night that Maj. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, who commanded marine corps combat operations in the Solomon islands, arrived in Washington Wednesday.

The navy would not disclose Vandegrift's location here, but it was understood he would report to headquarters on the Guadalcanal operations which he had commanded since the initial occupation of positions in August, 1942.

The navy announced on January 21 that Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch of the army had assumed command of the US forces on Guadalcanal, relieving General Vandegrift.

Yankees Batter Ports

Copenhagen Raided For First Time By Mosquitoes

LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 28 (AP)—A stepping-up allied aerial offensive against the Germans roared into its second day. Thursday as RAF night bombers streaked into Germany after a momentous day which saw the first all-American blows at Germany proper and the first bombing of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Observers saw in the new blows the beginning of a campaign designed, one said, "to bust Germany wide open."

Swarms of Flying Fortress and Liberator bombers of the US army air force figured in the daylight attacks on the naval base of Wilhelmshaven and nearby Emden.

Just where the RAF night bombers struck in their followup attack was not immediately announced. The night before they had raided the German submarine base at Lorient, France, and Bordeaux.

The targets of the afternoon raid by fleet Mosquito bombers of the RAF were the shipyards in the Danish capital which are working for Germany, and this attack followed night raids by the bomber and coastal commands on the submarine pens at Lorient on the French coast and Bordeaux, farther to the south.

The Copenhagen raids were aimed at submarine diesel engine works in the shipbuilding yard of Burmeister and Wain at the Danish capital.

The coordinated night and day raids, concentrating on U-boat pens and factories, were the first lightning blows of the war after the announcements that a 1943 pattern for world conflict had been fashioned at Casablanca by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

The bombing of Copenhagen Tuesday had been a matter of speculation in the house of commons only Tuesday when it was pointed out that U-boat diesel engines were made in the environs of the Danish capital.

(The German radio said British bombers made a "terror raid" on Copenhagen and caused "casualties among the civilian population.") Anti-aircraft fire brought down one plane, it added.

Although Danish targets such as Aarhus and Aalborg had been bombed previously, Copenhagen was spared up to Wednesday.

The Mosquitoes, flying low and fast, bombed the Copenhagen naval installations and saw many bursts among the targets. One Mosquito was lost.

A dispatch from Stockholm said the bombers hit two factories in the southern part of Copenhagen, setting them afire. Four workers were killed and 15 hurt, it said, and added that all the crew were killed on the one bomber brought down.

The heavily armed four-engine planes went on their missions without escort and found surprisingly little opposition. Three of the big bombers failed to return, US headquarters said, but "a number" of enemy planes were destroyed. (Berlin claimed eight of the four-engine bombers were destroyed, and that defensive fire "frustrated a bombing attack on valuable objectives.")

Reds Capture 3350 From Trapped Army

LONDON, Jan. 27.—Russian troops have captured 3350 more German survivors of the 220,000-man nazi army trapped at Stalingrad, leaving fewer than 8650 doomed troops on the Volga, while in the continuing offensive to the west another red army salient has been driven to a point 60 miles from Rostov, and 80 miles from Kursk, two big nazi bases, Moscow said Wednesday.

Berlin Avers Soviets Push 8th Offense

Russian troops on the central sector northwest of Voronezh began attacking German lines Tuesday with "considerable forces," the Berlin radio said Wednesday night in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press.

If this report is true, the red army now has opened its eighth major offensive against the axis on a front extending virtually clear across Russia. German broadcasts frequently have announced the red army's blows ahead of Moscow announcements.

The German military commentator, Capt. Ludwig Sertorius, was quoted by the Berlin radio as saying that the southern Russian offensive below Voronezh now had "overlapped" the central front northwest of that hinge city, and "thus the central sector has been drawn into the great battle of the south."

"The Soviet Russians are employing considerable forces there," he said, "but it cannot yet be stated whether this means a shift in the center of gravity of their offensive or whether the main thrust of the enemy continues to be aimed in the old direction, that is, towards the Donets basin and Rostov."

Group Okehs Flynn Naming

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27-(AP)—The senate foreign relations committee put a 13 to 10 stamp of approval Wednesday on President Roosevelt's nomination of Edward J. Flynn to be minister to Australia, and sent it along to a doubtful fate in the senate.

Three democrats—Senators George of Georgia, Van Nuys of Indiana and Gillette of Iowa—broke across party lines to oppose the 23-member committee's endorsement of the former democratic national chairman.

The test found 12 democrats and Senator LaFollette (Pro-Wig) voting for Flynn, seven republicans and three democrats against him. Senators Glass (D-Va.), who supported the nomination, and Johnson (R-Calif.), who opposed it, were absent and voted by proxy.

Service Men

Talbot Bennett, former deputy Marion county district attorney, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States marine corps January 13, courtouse office-holders and employees were told at their dinner party Wednesday night at the Chinese Tea Garden.