

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

I give you "Good Morning" on this shortest day of the year. At our latitude, midway between the poles, the time between sunrise and sunset will be 8 hours, 46 minutes, the same as yesterday. At 8:30 a.m. the winter solstice will occur when the sun enters the sign of Capricorn, marking the "official" start of winter. Our sense of the shortness of days at this period is heightened by the advance of clocks by one hour under congressional mandate, which makes the going-to-work hour seem like a going-to-bed hour, at least for the folk who have to be on duty by 7:30 or 8 a.m. People really do not appreciate "wartime" when they have to bestir themselves in darkness.

But wartime may be better than to switch from daylight saving in summer to standard time in winter, with the attendant fussing about whether you gain an hour or lose an hour. In fact just the other day Mehitabel, who has always been hostile to daylight saving time, remarked she thought it might be all right just to stay on wartime in peacetime. Thus are converts won by experience. Whether there has been a change in farmer opposition or not I cannot say.

This tampering with the clock is of course wholly unnecessary. The same result could be accomplished by merely moving ahead the hours of starting factories, opening stores and offices, etc. But people are so much creatures of habit that they are bound to clock time. It is easier to move the hour-hand of the clock rather than to advance the work-day from 8 to 7 a.m.

On the other hand this veneration of standard time is a recent development. Standard time, as we have it, is only 59 years old. Prior to its establishment at a conference in Washington in 1884 (Continued on editorial page)

George Replies To Morgenthau Over Tax Bill

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP)—Sen. George (D-Ga.) tonight issued a scathing reply to Secretary Morgenthau's criticism of the new tax bill and particularly its war contract renegotiation law amendments, declaring: "Mr. Morgenthau knows nothing about the renegotiation of contracts act and less about how it is actually administered."

George, chairman of the senate finance committee which completed work on the \$2,275,000,000 bill today, said he had "no apology" for the failure to reach Morgenthau's goal of \$10,500,000,000 additional revenue.

He defended the proposed freeze of social-security tax rates at 1 per cent each on employers and employees throughout 1944, saying there is no justification for increasing the rates now.

Morgenthau told a press conference yesterday that the amendments to the renegotiation law proposed by the senate committee would open the door to "truly extortionate profits" by war contractors.

The senate finance committee put the finishing touches on the new tax bill today and estimated prospective additional revenue under the measure at \$2,275,000,000 a year.

One of the last acts of the committee was to trim away a potential \$17,100,000 annually by making the cosmetics tax 20 instead of 25 per cent. The present rate is 10 per cent of the retail price.

The bill would bring in about \$135,000,000 more than the form in which it passed the house.

The senate adjourned sine die before the committee completed its recheck of the bill. The formal report will be filed during the holiday recess, probably late tomorrow.

Litvinov Book Done

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21 (AP)—Madam Maxim Litvinov, wife of the former soviet ambassador to the United States, left today to join her husband in Moscow. During her two-week stay here, Madam Litvinov completed her autobiography which will be published soon.

3 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TO BUY GLOVES FOR HOLIDAY

Bull Christmas Seals

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No. 231

Gen. Marshall Consults Pacific Chiefs

800 RAF Bombers Hit Frankfurt Arms Plant

Heaviest Blow Outside Berlin Delivers 2000 Tons Explosives

By Gladwin Hill
LONDON, Dec. 21 (AP)—A force of possibly 800 Pathfinder-guided RAF heavy bombers attacked the important German chemical and armament center of Frankfurt last night with 2000 long tons of explosives and incendiaries in one of the heaviest raids of the war, pounding their target with relative ease after nazi fighters had been drawn off by a wily feint assault 50 miles to the south.

The bombardment loosed on Frankfurt came close to the war's record of 2300 long tons dropped on Berlin November 22. The British heavies blasted and burned the city after a diversionary attack had been made of the twin German cities of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen.

These attacks highlighted a busy 24 hours as the allies' pre-invasion air offensive surged to a new winter intensity. Britain-based American heavy bombers attacked Bremen by daylight yesterday as Mediterranean-based American heavies were hitting the Bulgarian capital of Sofia and an airfield near Athens, Greece. Last night RAF Mosquito bombers struck at western Germany and Belgium, and today American and British medium bombers raided northern France by daylight.

The US Eighth air force announced tonight that more than 800 heavy bombers, with the largest fighter escort ever used, were in on the Bremen raid, and that they sent approximately 1200 tons of bombs crashing upon the nazi port and U-boats base. The number of fighters used was not specified.

Reconnaissance photographs showed great fires and columns of smoke rising from many parts of Bremen.

As the RAF fliers turned home from the target they saw the nazi fighters racing frantically back to the main target at Frankfurt.

But the nazi interceptors were too late to save the great rubber, chemical and electrical center of approximately 500,000 inhabitants from its heaviest attack.

There was one explosion, followed by red flames as if some great store of chemicals had been hit, which shot up columns of black smoke a mile-and-a-half into the air, and it kept climbing until it was nearly five miles high.

Reports of hot aerial combat came mainly from the Mannheim-Ludwigshafen force, further indicating that the Germans were fooled into concentrating their defense there. One group of Lancasters reported five battles in 15 minutes, raiders reported.

Forty-two planes were missing from the three-point heavy operation, the Mosquito follow-up, additional Mosquito forays into Belgium, RCAF attacks on enemy shipping in the English channel and minelaying operations along enemy coasts.

It was the RAF's fourth major raid in December and the second attack on Frankfurt in less than a month. It moved the city, one of Germany's 20 major industrial centers, perilously close to the fate of obliterated places like Hamburg, Essen, Kassel and the "emasculated" Ruhr.

Rogers Fills Banking Post

Hanging fire for several weeks pending a meeting of the banking board, the reappointment of Arthur A. Rogers as superintendent of banking was made Tuesday at a special meeting of the board. His term expired December 1. The reappointment is for a four-year term. Members of the state banking board are Gov. Earl Snel, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr., and State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott.

The election was reported to be unanimous. Rogers, formerly cashier of the First National bank at Eugene, was loan representative in Oregon for the Spokane Federal land bank when he was appointed banking superintendent four years ago.

Canadians Driving In Ortona

Break-Through Is Preceded By Artillery Fire

By JOSEPH E. DYNAN
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS, Dec. 21 (AP)—Canadian troops and tanks have fought their way from two sides into the outskirts of the German stronghold of Ortona on the Italian Adriatic coast and are engaged in street fighting with nazi defenders barricaded within the battered village, reports from the fighting front said tonight.

The break-through into the hotly-contested town, before which Canadian forces have been held up for a fortnight by strong German resistance, was preceded by a heavy artillery bombardment which cut a path through the heavily mined approaches yesterday afternoon.

Ortona, only 11 miles below the important port of Pescara, has been a main objective of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's drive up the Adriatic coast. Its fall would rip out the main eastern anchor of the German winter line.

German forces, meanwhile, were reported running critically short of artillery ammunition as American troops consolidated their positions on snow-covered Mount Spinnuccio, which the allied command announced was captured yesterday in a two-and-one-half-mile advance west of Filignano.

An allied military commentator returning from the fighting front reported that key supply roads within and behind allied lines scarcely had been touched by enemy artillery fire.

This evidence that allied bombings of the nazis' supply lines is having its effect came after heavy Flying Fortress and Liberator of the 15th American air force flew for the fourth straight day to batter strategic targets deep in southern Europe.

Fighting American infantry, which had been ceaselessly attacking for several days, swarmed up 2600-foot Mount Spinnuccio under severe conditions. All mountains in the area west of Venafro, where the fifth army is driving northward in an apparent effort to flank the German stronghold of Cassino, are covered with snow.

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Dr. Kimball Dies

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (AP)—Dr. James Henry Kimball, 69, principal meteorologist of the New York weather bureau and the man who gave the "go" to Charles A. Lindbergh and other pioneer trans-Atlantic fliers, died today.

Silverton Council Approves Beer License for Kelly's Place

SILVERTON, Dec. 21 (AP)—Approval of beer license applications for Kelly's Place, held up since the first of December while complaints and objections reportedly poured in, was granted by a three-man city council Tuesday night.

Three members of the official body were ill at their homes with flu but no epidemic or threat of epidemic kept interested townsmen from filling council chambers and the hallway beyond.

Only spokesmen among the 50 visitors were Leonard Gouge, proprietor of the beer parlor, and Rev. O. Leonard Jones of the Methodist church; Russell Myers of the Christian church; Rev. O. C. Olson, Calvary Lutheran, and Rev. M.J.K. Fuhr of Trinity Lutheran congregation. Informed that the delay in considering his request for license approval had been caused by a desire to investigate complaints and to offer the public an opportunity to point to specific cases of violation of the law, Gouge asked if there had been accusations against any of the other licensed establishments, intimated there might be a note of persecution in selection of his place by complainants.

Russians Approach Vitebsk

Liquidate Line On South Bank Of Dnieper River

By JAMES M. LONG
LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 22 (AP)—Russia's Baltic army, storming down from Nevel toward the Vitebsk-Polotsk rail line, has captured more than 100 populated places, killed 1600 Germans and reached to within 20 miles of the German defense bastion of Vitebsk—now menaced from two sides—Moscow announced today.

At the same time the Russians disclosed the liquidation of a German bridgehead on the south bank of the Dnieper across from Kherston, near the great river's mouth. More than 2,000 Germans were killed in the three-day battle that wrecked 21 of their tanks, 78 artillery pieces and cost them great stores of war material and numerous prisoners.

Besides these two Russian victories, the front was blazing in other areas along the 800-mile battle line.

The Moscow midnight communiqué said the Germans had lashed out in an important counter attack in the Zlobin area of White Russia while the nazi counter-offensive in the area west of Kiev took on new momentum.

The more northerly German drive was apparently in the area between Zlobin and the Beresina river, where the Russians had been reported in a new attack a week ago. Gen. Constantine Rakassavsky was said by the Germans to be using 100,000 troops and two tank-brigades. The German counter attack, the Russians said today, began with large forces hurled into a narrow sector seeking a break-through with (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Censorship Tightening On Invasion

By E. C. DANIEL
LONDON, Dec. 21 (AP)—Tightening of British and United States censorship to prevent leakage of vital information on the western invasion is being discussed by censorship authorities of both nations in London.

A strict ban on speculation in the press about the scope, date and places of the invasion is understood to have been proposed by American military leaders in London in addition to the already rigid British restrictions.

Further efforts are being exerted to bring British and American censorship policies more closely into line so that information suppressed by one country will not be released by the other. These efforts commenced in earnest with the breakdown of censorship on the recent midwest conferences.

An instance of cross-purpose censorship occurred this week when a story on American troop movements which would not have been allowed through British censorship was passed by American censorship for publication in Britain.

No action has been taken yet and there may be no formal pronouncement, but representatives of both sides were agreed tonight on the desirability of further restricting speculation which might be useful to the enemy.

(In Washington today President Roosevelt told his press conference that reports British and American censors were preparing to ban second front speculation was just another London story.)

American military authorities, themselves sharing the British alarm at the troop-movement story, are understood to be making inquiries to determine why censors in the United States passed it. One of the difficulties in coordinating British and American censorship is said by representatives of both countries to be the fact that American censorship is split into two parts—military and civilian.

Four-Star General



Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the US army, whose out-of-the-way visit with Pacific commanders hints bigger and better plans for the Pacific campaign.

MacArthur Reveals Jap Plane Losses in Air Duels

By WILLIAM F. BONI
ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NEW GUINEA, Wednesday, Dec. 22 (AP)—Air actions in which the Japanese lost 20 planes for sure and six more probably against six lost to the allies were reported by Gen. Douglas MacArthur today.

Most of the aerial activity occurred in connection with attacks on shipping, a total of seven Japanese merchantmen being hit and at least one sunk, while an enemy air fleet lost 14 planes for sure and probably six more in attacking an empty allied convoy off Huon peninsula, New Guinea, sinking one 200-ton vessel.

A total of seven Japanese merchantmen were hit in strikes against a convoy in the Kavieng, New Ireland, area and in Rabaul, New Britain, harbor, with one definitely sunk and four others set afire.

The first attack was against ships southeast of Kavieng by a Liberator heavy bomber Sunday afternoon, resulting in the damage of a 6,000-ton enemy freighter. Shortly after midnight another Liberator located eight ships of a convoy in which two were escort vessels, and probably sank a 6,000-ton transport. Two US navy Catalinas later attacked the convoy, scoring direct hits on 6,000-ton and 8,000-ton vessels, setting both afire.

Shipping in Rabaul harbor was attacked after noon Sunday by Liberators escorted by fighters. One cargo ship was sunk and two others set afire. The Japanese sent up 50 fighters to oppose this attack, losing four to an equal allied force.

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Congress Heads Homeward to Sound Out Voter's Opinion

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP)—The 78th congress headed homeward today to learn, during the next 20 days, what the voters think of a nine-months first-session record of all-out cooperation with the war effort and sporadic but successful onslaughts against the administration's home front program.

Routine proceedings in the senate and the house closed the books on a session that marked loss of administrative legislative control for the first time since Franklin D. Roosevelt became president in 1932.

Returning on January 10 for an election-year session that threatens to be sparked by partisan battles, the law-makers will face a heavy docket of highly controversial legislation sidetracked in the last-minute rush.

Taxes, subsidies, wages, and mustering - out pay for service men are high on the calendar of unfinished business. Already passed by the house, the tax bill, cut to a mere shadow of what the administration asked in the way of revenue, awaits senate disposition. Hanging fire in that branch also is a house-passed bill boosting selling prices on crude oil in the

Weather
Tuesday maximum temperature 47, minimum 25. River -1.3 ft.
Cloudy Wednesday and Thursday; little change in temperature.

Staff Chief Thought Reporting

Coming Action On All Fronts Believed Planned

By William Fyre
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP)—Disclosure that Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff, has held important conferences with commanders in the Pacific on his way home from the Cairo and Teheran meetings emphasized dramatically tonight the increasing tempo of the campaigns against the Japanese.

It is thought unlikely here that the general would have undertaken the hazardous Pacific flights on a mere inspection trip at a time when preparations appear to be reaching a climax for the long-awaited invasion of western Europe.

Much more probable is that Marshall, after the seal was set on strategy at Cairo and Teheran by Mr. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Marshal Stalin and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek undertook to inform the Pacific commanders in detail of the decisions of the two conferences. The American, British and Chinese leaders at Cairo pledged to beat Japan into unconditional surrender and strip her of all her ill-gotten gains.

One suggestion was that Marshall was able, on the basis of staff calculations on the European situation, to give Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz some indication of the prospect for shifting greatly increased forces to the Pacific.

Considerable significance was attached to the conference with MacArthur in view of published reports that MacArthur is planning a trip to the United States in the spring.

While these reports were tied in with MacArthur's for-president moves there has been some speculation—unconfirmed in any official quarter—that MacArthur might actually be planning such a trip to renew in person his pleas for additional men and equipment for the war against Japan.

MacArthur Visit Denied

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 22 (AP)—The commonwealth government does not take seriously any reports Gen. MacArthur is planning a trip to the United States next spring.

The Indianapolis Star, has published a story quoting "persistent reports of reliable persons returning from Australia," as saying MacArthur is making tentative plans to return to Washington next March for a series of conferences.

It was officially stated today Prime Minister John Curtin knows nothing about the reports and it was emphasized Australia would be consulted first because it is a party to MacArthur's military directive and the general is partly responsible to the commonwealth government.

First Whisky Next Month

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 21 (AP)—Initial shipments of the whisky obtained by the Oregon and Washington liquor commissions through purchase of two Kentucky distilleries will arrive here late next month, Ray Conway said today.

The Oregon liquor administrator, who returned today from Kansas City where negotiations were closed last week, said the total purchase price was \$7,400,000, with each state putting up \$3,700,000. The cost originally was estimated at \$6,500,000, he said. Retail price of the liquor will not be determined until federal computations are completed in January, he said, but the consumer will pay less than for an inferior quality of rum and gin.