

Pope Pius XII Gives Message For Oppressed

By the Associated Press

A special Christmas message from Pope Pius XII to prisoners of war, internees, refugees and all "who are suffering from this prolonged conflict" was broadcast last night by the Vatican radio.

The text of the pope's message, as broadcast in German, French, Italian and Polish and recorded by the federal communications commission:

"To our beloved sons, prisoners, internees and refugees, and to all who are suffering from this prolonged conflict, and who on all paths of this world continue on their way, suffering, mourning and weeping: may the saviour of mankind grant you strength -- He who giveth freedom after agony so long endured. He only and omnipotent regenerator of downtrodden humanity.

"The message of peace -- sent forth anew unto a sorely tried world -- the message of peace proclaimed by the angels on the fields of Bethlehem will be to you a sure omen for the approaching end of your sufferings and a harbinger of life renewed and rejuvenated through fertile works of charity and goodness. That all this may find fulfillment, we extend to you, as a token of divine mercy, our apostolic benediction."

New Gadget Aids Training Bombardiers

CINCINNATI, Dec. 20-(AP)—The army air forces lifted secrecy today from a revolutionary method of training its air crews—a gadget which, employing a Norden bombsight, a strip of film and a mirror, enables a bombardier to simulate almost any situation of combat.

The device, known as the A-6 bomber trainer and brought into production only four months ago, already is in use in many of the AAF's bombardier schools and in addition, overseas, is the means of giving fighter and bomber crews up-to-the-minute previews of their run to any scheduled target, on the basis of "spot" reconnaissance photos.

The trainer is designed primarily to prepare AAF airmen for using the Norden bombsight. The brainchild of Maj. Edward McKaba of the Midland, Tex., army flying school, it can simulate bombing missions with a wide variety of targets.

Phone Strike Threatened

NEW YORK, Dec. 20-(AP)—Officials of local 101, federation of long lines telephone workers, (independent) announced tonight a majority of the 6000 long distance operators in New York had voted to strike if the war labor board fails to approve a \$5 weekly wage increase.

In compliance with the Smith-Connally act, officials said, the strike would not go into effect before 30 days.

Operators favoring the strike handle only interstate calls. They do not include local or intrastate operators, who would not be affected.

Home Children Set Cantata

The school children of the Oregon Fairview home will present a cantata "A Topsy Turvy Christmas" tonight at 8 o'clock. The public is invited to attend.

For many years it has been customary for the children who attend school at Fairview home to present some kind of an entertainment especially for the public to give the children a chance to show what they are able to accomplish under instruction. All persons who are interested in the achievements of these children are cordially invited to attend.

Thumbnail of War!

Western Europe—The situation was confused and serious as the Germans continued to attack along a 60-mile front.

Russia—Reds capture 13 towns in southern Czechoslovakia and outflank strong German positions on the Siana river line.

Italy—Polish and Indian troops wipe out enemy resistance south of Senio river on eastern end of front.

Pacific—Yanks completely destroy Yamashita line on Leyte; ground resistance continues slight on Mindoro.

China—American planes raid Jap shipping at Hongkong; bombs start landslides that block Burma road.

Too Late to Classify

HOUSING—NO room, 600 North Commercial, Phone 2100.

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INDIANS IN ACTION—An Indian mortar crew with British forces in Italy fires across snow covered hills on the Fifth Army front. British official photo.

Yank Troops Bear Brunt of Nazi Attack; Inflict and Suffer War's Heaviest Losses

By Wes Gallagher

IN THE STAVELOT SECTOR, Belgium, 11:30 p. m., Dec. 20-(AP)—American troops bearing the brunt of an attack by at least 13 German divisions are suffering and inflicting their greatest single-battle losses of the war on the western front.

This northern flank held firm today as a new series of German tank and infantry attacks shattered in bloody waves vainly trying to breach the positions held by the American veterans.

To the south, however, elements of five German armored divisions and eight infantry divisions surged forward in new advances, with the end not in sight.

More American troops are involved in this struggle than in any single battle of the war. They are opposed by the most powerful punching force they have yet encountered. The price on both sides is heavy.

The struggle thus far dwarfs

the two other main American setbacks, at Kasserine pass in North Africa and at the Rapido river in Italy.

A typical experience of some of the units overrun by the Germans was that of an anti-aircraft outfit which landed in France on D-day and has been fighting ever since. Many of its members are from California.

After being overrun and having to flee in trucks without their equipment, the flak crews organized salvage parties and crept back under machine gun and artillery fire to salvage some of their guns.

"We got out several half-tracks, but the machine gun fire drove us away. We were operating just ahead of what is now the front line," declared Lt. John Conroy, New York City.

Cpl. Warren Holden of Florence, Ore., a bearded GI from the same outfit, was saved because a lieutenant insisted he save the lieutenant's bedding roll.

"I was just putting on my shoes when I heard a burp gun and I finished dressing in a hurry. I was stopped by the lieutenant who insisted I go back and get his bedding, so I turned around and hurried to his house. I was lucky I did because later I found out that Tiger tanks were coming down the street I was going to take."

Holden had no sooner got in the house and started hunting for the bedroll when another tank came down the street and the rest of the GI's jumped out of the truck and dived into the cellar of the house.

While Holden and the others watched, the Tigers rumbled by. One blasted the truck and knocked the top off the house, but the cellar was safe. For the rest of the day the GI's peered out of the cellar window while tanks and German half-tracks rolled by. That night they made a run for it and reached the American lines.

State Liquor Stores Report Record Sales

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 20-(AP)—Sales of alcoholic beverages by the state in the first 11 months of 1944 have passed the \$29,400,000 mark, the Oregon state liquor control commission reported today.

The figure for the 11 months is greater than that for the entire year of 1943, which reached \$24,000,000. Administrator Ray Conway said he believed the current figure an all-time record.

Conway also announced that sales of wine containing more than 14 per cent alcohol by volume have decreased since December 7, when they were restricted to state stores by a new law.

In the last two weeks of November 2314 cases were sold while in the first two weeks of December the figure dropped off to 2225 cases.

Air War Over China Active

CHUNGKING, Dec. 20-(AP)—The stepped-up air offensive over China's scattered battlefronts overshadowed ground activities tonight at Maj. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer's headquarters announced successful raids on Japanese shipping at Hongkong and blocking of the Burma road by landmines started by U.S. bombs.

Speedy P-51 fighter planes of Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault's 14th air force have swept over Hongkong's water front and sunk one large enemy tanker and probably a Japanese destroyer and two large freighters. They also destroyed two enemy fighters in the air and three on the ground at nearby Kaitak airdrome.

Fire Reported

Firemen were called to a house fire in West Salem late Wednesday night. Little damage was reported.

ON the HOME FRONT

By ISABEL CHILDS

Joan Berry Sure Chaplin's Baby's Father

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 20-(AP)—Joan Berry today testified under oath that Charlie Chaplin is the father of her 14-month-old daughter, Carol Ann, and that she has had sexual relations with no other man since the time she met the 55-year-old comedian.

Her testimony was given over the heated objection of Chaplin's attorney, Charles E. Millikan, who interposed when Joan's lawyer, Joseph Scott, asked her: "Who is the father of that baby?"

"Charles Chaplin," she replied after the objection was overruled. "Did you have any intercourse with any other man from the time of your last menstruation period in December, 1942, until the baby was born?" Scott continued. "I have had no relations with any man since the time I met Mr. Chaplin," she replied.

Last Rites Held for Albany Minister, 79

ALBANY, Dec. 20-(AP)—Last rites for the Rev. James Edward Blair, 79, who had been 61 years in the Presbyterian church, were held here yesterday. A former La Grande resident, he had lived in Albany for 18 years and in Oregon 52 years.

Investigation Started On Velez Sleeping Pills

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., Dec. 20-(AP)—Four separate investigations were instituted today into the origin of the sleeping potion with which Lupe Velez, Mexican screen actress, committed suicide a week ago.

Inquiries were started by the federal bureau of investigation, federal food and drug administration, the sheriff's vice squad and the police narcotic squad after their representatives conferred with Police Chief C. H. Anderson.

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French Slate Discussion on Red Alliance

PARIS, Dec. 20-(AP)—The French consultative assembly today prepared to open debate on the French-Soviet alliance amid authoritative reports that the Moscow conferees had agreed on mutual support in projected amputations of German territory on both the east and west in eventual peace settlements.

Assembly members who heard foreign minister Georges Bidault's report on the treaty in a closed session of the foreign affairs committee yesterday said France consented to retreating of the Soviet-Polish frontier along the Curzon line and giving to Poland German territories east of the Oder in compensation for territory she would lose to Russia on the east.

Russia, in turn, they said, promised to support French claims to the Rhineland and Ruhr industrial basin in western Germany. This territory, according to the most prevalent French view, should be cut off from the reich and set up as an independent state under French and Belgian suzerainty.

Meeting Set Here Today On Log Loads

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 20-(AP)—A walkout in protest against dumping of overweight logs from trucks at weighing-in stations started to break up this afternoon when drivers climbed back into their logging trucks, idle for a day.

Many of this area's sawmills, forced to shut down when small reserve supplies of raw timber were exhausted, were again rolling full steam. The truckers, who finally yielded to pleas of lumbermen, said they were returning only to keep war production moving on schedule.

They were awaiting the outcome of a meeting in Salem tomorrow called by Governor Stell to air the grievances.

More than 200 drivers were involved in the walk-out. They asserted that when overweight logs are dumped there is no reloading equipment at the scales. Another complaint is that precious hauling time is wasted because drivers are marched to justice court at once upon discovery that their loads are too heavy.

U. S. Bombers Hit Jap Isles

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 20-(AP)—American bombers struck Monday at Iwo Jima and Marcus islands, chief bases for Japanese attacks on the Superfortress airfield on Saipan; Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today. M

The 100-ton bomb attack on Iwo Jima by the Marianas-based Liberators, escorted by Lightning fighters, was the 12th consecutive daily strike against the small island on the B-29 road to Tokyo, and the 15th blow of the month. The Lightnings shot down one enemy plane and strafed ground targets.

Ex-Minister Held as Spy

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 20-(AP)—A former New Jersey minister, whose name and address in secret ink allegedly were found on a German submarine on the Atlantic coast two years ago, was held in \$30,000 bail here today at arraignment on charges of violating the sabotage, censorship and foreign agents statutes.

The arrest of Emil Ludwig Krepper, 60, Newark, was announced earlier today simultaneously at Washington by the department of justice and at Newark by Acting U. S. Attorney Thorn Lord.

The justice department said Krepper had been instructed to establish himself in this country as a contact for German spies.

Isolated Nazi Troops Supplied by Bomber

LONDON, Dec. 20-(AP)—A bomber flying from Germany has delivered a cargo of food to 16,000 Nazi troops who have been isolated on the channel islands since the invasion of the continent June 6, the German radio said today.

Congressional Group Seeks to Modernize Machinery of 2 Lawmaking Bodies

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20-(AP)—A special joint committee of senators and representatives set out today to lift congress out of the shu-box-and-wig-era.

Its aim is to transform the lawmaking group into a modern, smooth-working organization.

"But please don't call it streamlining," pleaded Senator Maloney (D-Conn), named chairman at today's organizing session. "I don't like that word."

Creation of the committee, long advocated by Maloney and Rep. Monroney (D-Okla), was one of the last acts of the 78th congress which adjourned yesterday. Monroney, a tall, youngish, former newspaper man, was named vice chairman.

As its first move, the committee of 12 decided to send out a circular letter to all their colleagues seeking suggestions for improvement of the present cumbersome machinery.

They will proceed slowly and cautiously, though. Both houses are jealous of their traditional duties and perquisites. Certainly, it is agreed, there will be no such drastic recommendations as abrogation of seniority rules which determine committee chairmanships, or of the right of the senate to indulge in unlimited debate.

Full Study Due

The concurrent resolution which set up the committee directs it to make "a full and complete" study of the organization and operation of congress and to recommend improvements and operation of congress and to recommend improvements designed to strengthen congress, simplify its operations and improve its relations with other branches of the government.

The study will include—but will not be limited to—the organization and operation of both houses and the relationship between them, the employment and pay of personnel by the members and the various committees, and the structure and relationships between those committees.

Needy Callers To Get Clothes

It's Christmas at the Salem Elks club—today, tomorrow and Saturday—when gifts of clothing will be presented to needy callers at the clubhouse's east door from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chairman Joe Krauger and his Christmas cheer committee are in charge of the distribution of clothing.

Tickets for 10 a.m. Saturday matinee at the Capitol theatre, for which Carl Porter, Warner Bros. manager here, will be host, are being distributed through the schools. Following the show, the young guests will go to the Elks temple for gifts of toys and Christmas goodies. Charles Faulkner, veteran toy repairer of the city fire department, will be there with his dolls.

Rotarians Attend Annual Christmas Party Wednesday

The annual Christmas Rotary party was held Wednesday noon at the Salvation Army canteen on State street. The dinner was prepared and served by members of the women's league of the Salvation Army and turkeys were roasted by the Marion hotel.

Col. Holland French of San Francisco, chief secretary of the western territory of the Salvation Army, was the speaker. Maj. Fred Capon, in charge of the Portland corps, lead in singing. One hundred and nine members of the club were present. Seven members of the Salvation Army board were present for the party, of which six were Rotarians.

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British Gain In Two New Burma Drives

CALCUTTA, Dec. 20-(AP)—British troops opening up two new drives in Burma have slashed 15 and 18 miles respectively through Japanese defenses under strong Allied air support, front dispatches disclosed today.

One column advanced 18 miles southeast from the Gawiak sector to the vicinity of Pyingang against negligible enemy resistance. This force is striking east from the Kaleymo area south of Tiddim in the Chin hills.

A second force is driving south from the town of Pinleu in the hills between the upper Chindwin river and the Irrawaddy. It has advanced 15 miles toward the road-hub town of Shwebo, which is 140 miles northwest of Mandalay.

Sforza Declines Post

ROME, Dec. 20-(AP)—Count Carlo Sforza, who was disapproved by Britain as foreign minister of the Italian government, declined today an offer by Premier Ivanoe Bonomi to appoint him ambassador to the United States.

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