

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles Spurgeon

According to an article in the Wall Street Journal, the American Power & Light company, one of the big holding company groups in the Electric Bond & Share system, in complying with the terms of the public utility act, plans to confine its holdings to Texas. It has three utility organizations there now and wants to take over the Dallas Power & Light and perhaps the Dallas Railway & Terminal company from its close relative in the Ebasco system, Electric Power & Light. Under this plan, American Power & Light would dispose of its other utility interests.

This last point is of interest in the northwest, because it means such companies as Pacific Power & Light, Washington Water Power, Montana Power, Northwestern Electric and Portland Gas and Coke would be put on the sales counter. What, then, is to become of them? Three of these companies operate in Oregon and Washington: Pacific Power and Light, Northwestern Electric and Portland Gas & Coke. So there will be real interest in what happens to these operating companies.

It might be possible to organize some holding company that would take over these companies as a group, but unless it was cleared with the SEC, such a company might not qualify as an "integrated" company within the meaning of the holding company act. American might distribute its stock in these companies to its own security holders, in partial liquidation. In that event the stock would be on the market until it accumulated in "strong hands." American might sell the companies off as individual units, but it is not easy to attract capital to buy the equities in electric utilities. (Continued on Editorial Page)

British Launch Heavy Assault On ELAS Force

ATHENS, Dec. 21—(AP)—British tanks and rocket-firing fighter planes shelled and strafed ELAS concentrations north of Athens today upon expiration of the 9 a.m. ultimatum in which Lt. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie warned the Greek leftists he would use every available weapon in an effort to restore order.

Sherman tanks climbed the high, monastery-topped Likabettus mountain, their 75-mm guns shelling and scattering ELAS groups around Averof prison and the military academy.

RAF fighters pin-pointed other troublesome positions, and at Ormonia square tank-supported parachute troop patrols made a series of sorties.

A billet of the US AAF transport command rocked with the concussion of shell blasts as the troops demolished a snipers' nest in the square, whose buildings are just behind the Cosmopolite hotel quarters of the American airmen.

Everett Eoff Dies in Action In Germany

Pvt. Everett C. Eoff, son of Mrs. Myrtle Eoff of the Salem General Hospital staff, was killed in action December 1 in Germany, his mother was notified this week by the war department.

Born at Independence on Aug. 25, 1924, he was a sophomore at North Carolina State college when he enlisted in 1941. In 1942 he enrolled in the intelligence division of the infantry and was sent to school in Virginia for one year. He went overseas in August and received further training in England.

Survivors in addition to his mother include an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robinson, Independence; another uncle, C. Robinson, Salem, now overseas, and an aunt, Mrs. I. H. Powell, Canton, N. C., with whom he made his home while he was in college.

Tribune Issues Again

PARIS, Friday, Dec. 22—(AP)—The European edition of the New York Herald Tribune resumed publication today after a lapse of four and a half years.

SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TIME BURNS LOW

MINERS ASKED TO TAKE ONE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

NINETY-FOURTH YEAR

14 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Friday Morning, December 22, 1944

Price 5c

No. 237

Weather

Maximum temperature Thursday 44 degrees, minimum 30 degrees. 43 inch rain, river - 2 ft. 6 in. Mostly cloudy Friday and partly cloudy Saturday; little temperature change.

GERMAN PUSH UNCHECKED

U. S. Uses Mindoro Airfield

Main Objective Of Isle Landing Is Accomplished

By Murlin Spencer
GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Friday, Dec. 22—(AP)—Deadly American fighter planes are flying against the Japanese from a newly-constructed airbase on Mindoro island, less than 150 miles from Manila, Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today.

The announcement that the new field hacked out on Mindoro's southwest coast is in use marked attainment of the primary objective in the landing on the island a week ago today.

11 Japs Downed
Its importance, both to the Americans and the Japanese, was demonstrated as the enemy sent 29 planes against installations there Wednesday. Eleven of the raiders were downed in fierce aerial combat with American Lightning and Thunderbolts. One American fighter plane was lost.

The communique also announced that the 10th and 24th army corps in a nutcracker move have formed a junction in the Ormoc corridor.

US Groups Join
Closing of a so-called "pincers" in the Ormoc corridor, on Leyte island's northwest coast, means that the First American cavalry from the north and the 77th infantry division from the south have joined their advance units along the Ormoc road. The Japanese, particularly on the east side of the road, were striving desperately to keep a gap open so they could slip through to the west in the direction of Palompon, their remaining escape port.

But the Nipponese were well scattered. While there is still stiff fighting ahead by isolated pockets, their destruction continues. An additional 2032 enemy dead were counted in the Ormoc corridor Wednesday.

Meuse Valley Nazi Objective Claims Berlin

LONDON, Dec. 21—(AP)—German broadcasts declared tonight that Field Marshal von Rundstedt's "steamroller offensive" had cut the vital Liege-Bastogne highway "on a broad front" and was driving the "enemy to the Meuse valley"—some 35 miles farther west.

One Berlin commentator asserted the US Third army had rushed north into southern Luxembourg in an attempt to stem a second drive pointed toward Sedan, but said "none of these movements carried out by the enemy have thus far led to any noteworthy success."

An analyst for DNB said the "offensive rolls on tonight" and "all our assault divisions have not yet been thrown in."
"The German command," he added, "awaits the expected climax of the battle with quiet confidence."

Bird Buyers Storm Market

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21—(AP)—Turkey-hungry thousands stormed Philadelphia markets today, buying white and dark meat of the initial shipment of holiday birds at a 1000-pound-a-minute clip.

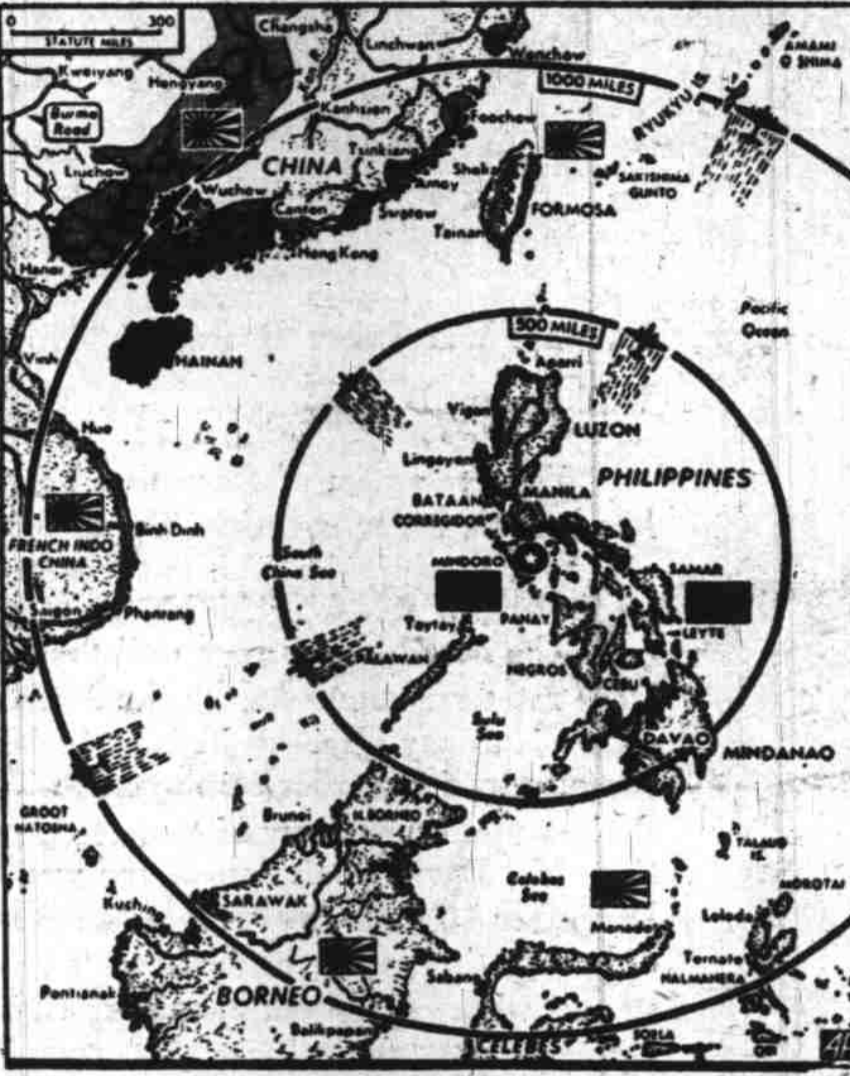
Firemen, called with police to help maintain a semblance of order, manned cash registers to speed sales. Women fainted but rejoined the tumult as soon as they were revived by police.

One meat store proprietor said "there never was a shopping day like this."

Miners Asked to Take One Christmas Holiday

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—(AP)—Secretary Ickes today asked coal miners and operators to limit their observance of the Christmas-New Year's holiday to Christmas day only, "thereby maintaining production to meet the needs of war industries and household consumers."

American Airpower Extended



Distance arcs of 500 and 1000 miles indicate how American airpower has been extended over vital Japanese communications and territory by completion of an air base on newly-invaded Mindoro island in the Philippines. Shaded areas in China are Japanese-dominated. (AP wirephoto map)

Russia Tells Allies Strong Winter Offensive Coming

By Henry C. Cassidy
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—(AP)—Russia has assured the Allies that a powerful Red army winter offensive is coming up.

When it comes, informed sources said tonight, it will disclose a new alignment of Red army forces, spearheaded toward the heart of Germany.

While it probably will not have any immediate effect on the distant western front, where the US First army is the main target of a Wehrmacht counter-offensive, the Red army drive on the eastern front is calculated to hasten the eventual collapse of Hitler's forces.

Newsman's Daughter Suffers Skull Fracture

SCIO, Dec. 21—Shirley Hayward, 10, is recovering at her home here from a skull fracture suffered Monday while at play on the school grounds. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hayward of the Scio Tribune.

Canucks Toss Germans Back

ROME, Dec. 21—(AP)—Two crack Canadian regiments have thrown back 13 fierce German counter-attacks within nine hours against their bridgehead across the Naviglio canal, just north of Bagnacavallo and some 15 miles inland from the Adriatic coast, it was announced today.

The two units—the Carleton and York regiment and the Hastings and Prince Edward regiment—were personally congratulated by Lt. Gen. Sir Richard L. McCreevy, commander of the Eighth army.

High School Boys Help Postoffice



These high school boys are assisting in the postoffice Christmas rush. Left to right, they are: Postmaster Henry Crawford, Bob Schwartz, Allen Schwartz, Don Neal, Bruce Rodgers, Leon Andrews, Dick Close, Marvin Tooker, Bob Thompson, Everett Sherman, Don Farnum, Bill Howard, Max Maude and Frank Deckbaugh. Other boys not in the picture are Gene Anderson, Leland Hoar, Harvey Gray, Bob Pierce, Alan Geumel, John Malmin, Alton Chamberlain and Dan Semb. Everett Sherman and Marvin Tooker are high school graduates not in school now. (Statesman photo)

High school boys are putting the Salem post office over the hump in the biggest Christmas in its history, Henry R. Crawford, Salem postmaster, said Thursday night as he neared the end of his 11th holiday season in office.

Russians Open New Offense

Soviet Forces Aim at Taking City From Rear

By W. W. Hercher
LONDON, Friday, Dec. 22—(AP)—Russian forces yesterday drove to within 14 miles of the big Slovak rail city of Looson (Lučenec) as Berlin announced that 100,000 soviet troops had hacked out gains southwest of Budapest in a new offensive aimed at taking that besieged capital from the rear and opening the most direct invasion route to Vienna.

Reds Don't Confirm
Moscow did not confirm the new drive which Berlin said was launched by 10 rifle divisions of Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukraine army on a 40-mile front between Lake Balaton and the west bank of the Danube after nearly two weeks of intense red army preparation.

Tolbukhin's forces, already linked with Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukraine army elements within 14 miles of Budapest's southwestern outskirts, were threatening the big junction city of Szekesfehervar, Berlin disclosed. They last were reported within six miles of that bastion guarding the invasion highway through the Bakony mountains.

Many Prisoners
In southern Czechoslovakia, Malinovsky's northern wing, capturing prisoners at the rate of more than 1000 daily, seized 30 more localities, including the eight-way road and rail center of Rimaszombat (Rimavska Sobota), on the Kassa-Looson highway 16 miles northeast of Looson.

When You Want Fags Just Stroll Over to Calcutta

NEW YORK, Dec. 21—(AP)—The next time you want your favorite brand of cigarettes just run over to Calcutta, India, stroll into any likely-looking store and buy a carton or so.

Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, editor of the Morning News of Calcutta and former mayor of that city, told the press here today that in India "we have all the popular American brands and we don't seem to have any trouble buying them."

Siddiqi, here to confer with Mayor F. H. La Guardia, said he'd had "a terrible time" finding smokes in this country.

Slash Vital Road; Arms Needs Upped

Hard Fighting Will Increase Requirements

By the Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—(AP)—Germany's powerful counter-offensive led government officials tonight to survey arms production plans on the basis that heavy fighting may continue in Europe for a year or longer.

Against this dark possibility, however, Secretary of War Stimson set another—the possibility that the war may be "definitely shortened" if the Nazi effort can be crushed.

But even if the Stimson-foreseen possibility should prove true, it appeared certain that the present rate of arms production must be stepped up because of the enormous losses of material in the current heavy fighting. This would mean further delay in increasing production of civilian goods.

Big Forts Bomb Aircraft Plant In Manchuria

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—(AP)—B-29 Superfortresses, fighting through "moderate to strong" air opposition, today bombed a Japanese aircraft plant at Mukden, Manchuria—the third enemy air plant factory to be blasted this week.

In the air battle, two of the force of about 60 B-29's were lost.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—(AP)—Superfortresses resumed their attacks on Japan's home production centers today, attacking industrial targets on the island of Honshu.

The aerial task force was in sizeable force, indicating that up to 100 of the big planes participated.

The attack was carried out by B-29's of Brig. Gen. H. S. Hanel's 21st bomber command based on Saipan, a war department communique said.

and 33 enemy fighters were hit. B-29 crewmen reported on their return to China bases that 15 enemy planes certainly were destroyed, seven probably destroyed and 11 others damaged.

A war department communique reported the Superfortresses used visual bombing methods and "struck the target with good results."

"The weather was clear, but haze and smoke obscured part of the bombing results from the B-29 crews," it was added. "The enemy's anti-aircraft fire was meager."

British Bombs Drop on Rhine

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 21—(AP)—RAF heavy bombers struck into Germany last night in a twin blow against freightyards at Cologne and Bonn, on the Rhine 20 miles south, after other British Lancasters had made a daylight attack on the German railway town of Trier.

Weather continued bad and even the daylight raiders, which dropped an estimated 1800 tons of bombs, were forced to use night bombing instruments to reach their targets through the heavy fog.

Chungking Radio Says Chinese Educator Dies

NEW YORK, Dec. 21—(AP)—Wang Fo-chun, 56, Chinese state councillor and president of Great China university, died yesterday in Chungking, the Chungking radio reported today in a broadcast recorded by the FCC. Wang, born in Hsiangyu, Kweichow, and educated in Japan, was Chinese minister of communications from 1926 to 1931.

Nazi Offensive Rolls 32 Miles Through Belgian Territory

Second Enemy Drive Rumbles Across Luxembourg Towards Sedan; Doughboys Fight Well

By NED NORDNESS
PARIS, Dec. 21—(AP)—The unchecked German winter offensive rolled 32 miles through Belgium and slashed a vital allied highway 18 miles south of the Belgian fortress of Liege in what was described today as the greatest battle involving American or British troops in this war.

A second and equally menacing drive swung southwestward and rumbled three-fourths of the way across the tiny duchy of Luxembourg to a point 48 miles from Sedan at the French frontier. Vanguard units were 10 miles from the Belgian road center of Bastogne.

Only on the flanks in Luxembourg on the south and in the Malmedy-Stavelot sector on the north had the German advance been halted. One enemy armored spearhead, the bulk of a panzer division, was being ground to bits in a trap of steel near Stavelot.

Nazis Hold Initiative
The initiative remained definitely in the hands of the enemy. Supreme headquarters, reporting German advanced positions as of noon Tuesday, gave no hint that the drives had spent their momentum.

Many American formations had been badly mauled, supplies had been consumed and lost, and the doughboys in the trenches see in the German drive a reverse which may prolong the war many months.

Bulge Narrowed
One American counterblow on the north narrowed by nine miles the 55-mile wide neck of the German bulge into Belgium and Luxembourg.

The valiant fight of the doughboys, a US First army staff officer declared, had bought time in which countermeasures to check the German rush could be prepared.

(A German broadcast, declaring five allied divisions had been completely smashed and that seven others were in retreat, asserted the "steamroller offensive" was driving toward the Meuse valley, which is some 35 miles west of advanced enemy positions reported today.)

Uses 150,000 Men
Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt had hurled up to 15 divisions—probably more than 150,000 men—including five or six armored divisions, into this desperate offensive which was badly upsetting the allied time-table for the conquest of Germany.

V-bombs rained down on allied positions and rear base areas, a slackening of the main drives was interpreted in late dispatches as only pauses for regrouping and fresh blows, and uneasiness had spread among civilians all the way back to the Belgian capital.

Fog Shrouds Front
Fog shrouded the front, keeping allied air might aground. Only one sortie was attempted. RAF Lancasters blasted the German west front garrison and railway town of Trier back of the Luxembourg front.

If supplies had kept up with them, American troops might have reached Berlin in their first, crucial thrust into Germany, declared the Louisianaian, who returned with his colleagues yesterday from a month's trip to European battlefronts.

Lack of munitions in allied hands at the front, Brooks said, allowed the Germans a respite in which to build up their current counter blow.

Britain May Ask American Aid in Settling Greek Woes

LONDON, Dec. 21—(AP)—The chance that Britain may ask American - Russian aid in settling Greek political woes arose today along with a demand in commonsense that the British government "invite" King George of Greece to remain here until his erstwhile subjects decide whether or not to take him back into the fold.

Lord Samuel told the house of lords Britain probably would have to resort to some sort of "interallied action" to settle the Greek situation. He contended "there is no reason why Great Britain should be called upon to bear this burden alone."

Load Limits For Logs Will Be Enforced

The load limit for logs will continue to be enforced, a delegation of Lane county logging operators was told Thursday by T. H. Banfield, chairman of the state highway commission.

Banfield told the group, however, that the commission wished to cooperate with the logging industry as much as possible, and Capt. Walter Lansing of the state police said the large majority of operators in the Lane county area were abiding by regulations.

Some of the delegates were in Salem to protest action of the state police in compelling them to dump logs from overloads at scales.

Banfield asked the loggers to suggest a plan that would enable them to estimate the weight of their loads more closely so that no trouble would be encountered at weigh-ins.

Captain Lansing said there appeared to be no basis for reports there had been a strike of log haulers.

Short Supplies Hurt U.S. Push

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—(AP)—Plentiful, fast-flowing supplies from the home front to Americans fighting in Europe might have prevented the powerful German counter-offensive, Rep. Brooks (D-La.), member of the touring house military affairs committee, said today.

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