

By Charles A. Sprague

There was a meeting in New York Wednesday of republican members of the house and senate and of the national committee with Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. Plans were discussed for making the republican a vigorous opposition party. It was designed also to put Mr. Dewey "in an active role at titular leader of the party."

This report stimulates several thoughts. One is that the party is left in great bewilderment as a result of the late campaign and election. Just how can it function as a "vigorous opposition party" when its candidate conceded the new deal's budget of legislation and approved the administration's foreign policy?

It is questionable if it should function as such in critical war-time. Instead it should be ready with support on truly national questions but it should be ready with opposition where the administration's policies are poor. The party has missed an opportunity to function in the cause of good government by not insisting on investigation of the lobby-brokerage business of Tom Corcoran. It ought also serve as a constant monitor of the party in power which is in danger of (Continued on editorial page)

Large Force Of Superforts Plaster Nagoya

21ST BOMBER COMMAND, Saipan, Dec. 22-(AP)—A good-sized force of B29's bombed Nagoya, Japan's aircraft center, again today through a thick overcast and ran into heavy anti-aircraft fire and a horde of defending fighter planes.

Precision instruments helped to overcome the handicap of the overcast and the bombardiers expressed confidence their loads of explosives found a mark. Gunners caught sight of parts of the city through holes in the clouds.

It was the third time in 10 days that the Superforts had flown 1400 miles from Saipan to plaster the Nagoya area.

The first planes over the city today met heavy ack-ack but few enemy fighter planes. As in previous raids, the later Superfort formation fought off hordes of Japanese fighters but little ack-ack.

RAF Bombers Hammer Nazi Rail Centers

LONDON, Dec. 22-(AP)—RAF Lancasters and Halifaxes tonight blasted the Rhine railroad cities of Coblenz and Bingen, supply distribution centers for Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's attacking armies.

Coblenz has large freight yards and is on a rail line from the Rhine to the Trier and Luxembourg areas—one of the focal points in the German offensive. Bingen is a junction city on an important railway leading to the highly industrial Saar valley.

The RAF also was out during daylight hours and flew more than 200 sorties over the northern sector to aid American troops by blasting German forces and gun positions. Although the RAF was able to take advantage of a break in the weather, American flying bases were closed in and both British and Italian-based US heavies were forced to remain home.

Actor Harry Langdon Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 22-(AP)—He had fat jowls and wide eyes that gave him a bewildered look, and an odd little mannerism with his hands that spelled helplessness. They added up to a funny, human character for which the movies once paid Harry Langdon \$7500 a week.

Harry died today, a few months past 60 years, after a short illness. A cerebral hemorrhage was the cause of his death. But his friends say that when he was making a two-reel comedy early last month he appeared in excellent health and 10 years younger than he actually was.

He started in two-reelers and ended in them. Between, he had great success and failures and the tribulations that come with marriages and divorces and too much money.

Nazis Use 'Bogus BBC'

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Paris, Dec. 22-(AP)—The Germans are operating a "bogus BBC" on their counter-offensive sector of the western front, broadcasting "doctored" news bulletins in English, it was disclosed tonight.

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Weather
Maximum temperature Friday 40 degrees, minimum 36 degrees, 43 inch rain, river -3 ft. 2 in.
Mostly cloudy with showers along the coast and snow flurries in other sections today and in the south portion tomorrow. Clear in north portion tomorrow. Continued cold.

GERMAN OFFENSE SLOWED

Latvia Push Opens; ELAS Sends Terms

270,000 Russians In Drive

Soviet Patrols Active on Long Eastern Front

By W. W. Hercher
LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 23-(AP)—Berlin said last night that 270,000 Russians, including ski troops supported by strong tank and plane formations, had begun "a big push of extreme operational importance" against 30 Nazi divisions pocketed in snowswept Latvia as a prelude to an imminent general winter offensive by the Red army.

A Moscow dispatch early today also said the long eastern front was stirring into action with strong Red army patrols probing German positions and sub-zero temperatures hardening the soil to create conditions in which the Russians in the past have won some of their greatest military successes.

Winter Equipped
Red army men have been issued all - winter equipment. Familiar white-robed skimen are once more in the lines; tanks have been winterized and men marshalled in strategic areas. It is believed the Red army shortly will strike the Germans from Latvia on the Baltic sea through east Prussia and Poland down to the already active Czechoslovak - Hungarian front, said the dispatch.

In Czechoslovakia meanwhile the Russians drove to within nine miles of the important rail center of Losonc (Lucenec) and to within six miles of a secondary junction near the Hungarian frontier, thus threatening to trap a sizeable force of Germans routed from the Hungarian Matra mountains by other Soviet units attacking up from the south.

Predicts Offensive
Berlin predicted a general large-scale winter offensive "in the near future" as part of the Allied master plan of finally crushing Germany from the east, west and south, and said the Soviet Latvian command already was undertaking to sweep up an entire Axis army left there to menace the Soviet flank jutting into east Prussia.

Britain Calls Up More Men

LONDON, Dec. 22-(AP)—Britain tonight ordered a new draft, plus transfers from the RAF and navy and a stricter comb-out of its "desk soldiers," to raise quickly 250,000 more men for its armies. The new call-up, which is in addition to the regular conscription schedule, was announced by Prime Minister Churchill's office as the Berlin radio said Gen. Eisenhower was drawing reinforcements from the British army group to help the Americans check the German western front counter offensive.

Stick on Job Asks Roosevelt; Reaffirms Atlantic Charter

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—President Roosevelt asked the American people today for a Christmas present for the fighting forces. It is to stick on the job and turn out the supplies they need. The president told a news conference there was nothing he could add to the press dispatches on the heavy fighting in Europe, but that a lot of people had asked him what those at home could do for the fighting forces at this Christmas time. He picked up a paper from his desk and read: "We can best help the Christmas season of our fighting men if we carry on our respective tasks, doing those things which will contribute to winning the war at the earliest possible moment. Therefore, I urge that each of

Hamilton Dies



C. S. Hamilton

Rites Tuesday For Pioneer Business Man

C. S. Hamilton, 76, pioneer furniture merchant in Salem and widely known in this area, died Friday afternoon at a Salem hospital after a long illness. He had been hospitalized since September.

Clarence Sloane Hamilton was born in Jacksonville, Ill., March 2, 1868. He came to Oregon in 1891, and first was with the Woodward and Clark Drug store in Portland. He came to Salem with Putnam's Drugs, then located on the site of the present Schaefer Drug store at 135 North Commercial. He entered the furniture business in 1894 with Max O. Buren, when the two purchased the A. B. Buren & Sons store.

The Buren & Hamilton partnership was dissolved in 1916, and the business at 340 Court street since then has been operated as the C. S. Hamilton company. Two sons have been associated in its operation, Clarence J. and Ralph S. Hamilton. A third son, Arthur M., is in New York. Six grandchildren also survive.

Hamilton was married to Jessie Stump, daughter of a pioneer Polk county family, who resides at the Hamilton home at 290 Front street. The deceased was a member of the Elks, Oddfellows, and chamber of commerce, a charter member of the Cherrians, and was affiliated with the Unitarian church. Services will be held at the Clough-Barrick chapel at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Board Merger Eyed As Economy Measure

Paul Hale, area board supervisor for the OPA, said Friday a consolidation of the Salem and West Salem rationing boards had been "suggested as an economy measure only," but that "no definite plans have been made, or will be made until and unless a thorough investigation proves beyond doubt that such action would be to the advantage of all concerned." The West Salem board serves 3900 persons, the Salem board 42,000.

us resolve to keep on the job and maintain the steady output of supplies needed by our men on the fighting fronts."

The conference developed another lengthy discussion of the Atlantic charter which the president disclosed earlier this week was never drafted as a formal document which he and Prime Minister Churchill signed. Today's was initiated by a reporter's request for comment on what he said was a feeling by many people that "we are getting away from the purposes" of the charter. Mr. Roosevelt said he thought "the objectives of the Atlantic charter are as valid as when they were announced in 1941," and lent emphasis to this statement by authorizing its direct quotation.

British Ponder Proposal

Rightists Report Leftists Forces Invade Epirus

ATHENS, Dec. 22-(AP)—Lt. Gen. R. M. Scole, British commander in Greece, tonight received a reply from the left-wing ELAS group to the British terms for the cessation of hostilities. The ELAS answer is reported to be a new three-point proposal and was signed by three members of the ELAS committee.

The ELAS message—delayed for four days because of the heavy street fighting—is being considered at British headquarters. It will take considerable time to translate the lengthy letter, it was said.

Epirus Invaded

Meanwhile, Gen. Napoleon Zervas, chief of the rightist Edeas, charged that 15,000 to 20,000 ELAS were invading his territory in Epirus, but the Greek capital itself was quiet today as British mopping up operations continued. A British officer, commenting on the situation, said, "We have rounded a difficult corner."

Tanks patrolled the Omnia Square region. An office building in that area—a favorite snipers' position—was set afire.

Report Denied

As ELAS-British negotiations continued, the Papandreou government tonight denied a report that King George had communicated any decision on the regency question. The new ELAS truce proposal was unofficially understood to agree to Scole's terms, including disarmament and withdrawal of ELAS forces from Athens and all Attica, providing there would be a simultaneous formation of a new government.

Civilian Tire Quota Slashed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—A sharp reduction has been ordered in the output of passenger car tires in the first quarter of 1945 in an effort to increase production for the armed forces. James F. Clark, director of the war production board's rubber bureau announced today that about five million passenger car tires will be produced in the first quarter, a slash of approximately 1,650,000 from present production levels.

Clark said the action made it "very apparent" that "A" card holders must get along with their present castings "for a good part of 1945."

Store Offers Excellent Substitute for Hosiery

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22-(AP)—Mrs. Boyd Rogers, daughter of Gov. Forrest C. Donnell, asked for two pair of hose at a department store counter and accepted the paper bag from the clerk without looking inside. She learned after finishing her shopping and returning home that the store had been making frantic efforts to find her. Inside the bag supposed to contain the hose was \$2200 of the store's money.

Governor or Not, He Got a Job Anyway

The "governor" means a straw boss, in loggers' parlance, but one Montana worker who sought a job in the woods near Cottage Grove didn't know it. So, when he was told to "see the governor" about the job, he came right to Gov. Earl Snell in Salem. Governor Snell telephoned a logging concern Friday and the job was obtained.

Hannegan FDR Rift Reported

Demo Chairman Declares Story 'Wholly Untrue'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—Democratic National Chairman Robert E. Hannegan today denied, and President Roosevelt dismissed as something he wouldn't care to discuss, a published story of discord at a meeting between the two. At his news conference, the president was asked about the story, published in the Chicago Sun, and replied that he did not think he wanted to comment on stories of that kind.

Calls It Untrue

Through the democratic national committee, Hannegan issued a statement later calling the report "patently and wholly untrue." The published account said that during the president's recent vacation, Hannegan visited him at Warm Springs, Ga., to discuss the party chairman's political future. It called the atmosphere of the meeting "none too friendly."

Expected Post

The story said Hannegan, after the successful fourth-term campaign, had confidently expected to be made postmaster general. Frank C. Walker decided to stay on in that position, however, the story continued, and Hannegan probably will remain as chairman. The postmaster generalship, a cabinet post, has been by custom the reward of the party chief.

Yanks Advance Towards Jap Escape Harbor

GENERAL MAC ARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Saturday, Dec. 23-(AP)—The U. S. 77th infantry division has advanced three miles west of the Ormoc corridor on the mountain road toward Palompon, escape port for the embattled Japanese remaining on Leyte island, General MacArthur announced today. Palompon, which is on the western coast of the northwest shoulder of the island, is under Yank artillery fire. Japanese remnants fleeing from the corridor are trying to cut their way through to Palompon.

Mopping up continues in other areas near the corridor, where the door has been slammed shut on the Nipponese after destruction of their defense lines. Another 1546 enemy dead were counted on Thursday, headquarters said.

Boys Report Jap Balloon

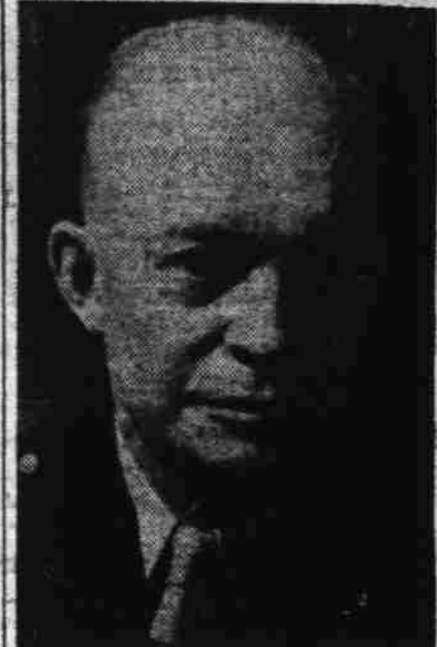
SEATTLE, Dec. 22-(AP)—Two small boys, aged 10 and 12, reported today they had seen a balloon of the Japanese type recently discovered at Kallispell, Mont., settle to earth in a wooded region south of Tacoma, Wash. Agents of the federal bureau of investigation were sent to the region. The search was still in progress tonight without confirmation of the report.

Nazis' New Secret Weapon Not V-3 Or V-4 but V-1 1/2

LONDON, Dec. 22-(AP)—The Germans' new secret weapon in use on the western front was described here today as "not V-3 or V-4, but V-1 1/2." It apparently is a barrage weapon and takes the form of a self-propelled shell. It was said. It has been described in front dispatches as a small V-2 rocket.

Classifying it as V-1 1/2 might indicate that it has some features of both V-1, the flying bomb, and V-2, the long range rocket.

Makes Plea



Gen. Eisenhower

'Ike' Exhorts His Armies to Destroy Enemy

By James M. Long
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Paris, Dec. 22-(AP)—Gallantly resisting American troops already have done much to foil the Germans' "great gamble" in Belgium and Luxembourg, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower declared today in a fighting exhortation to his allied armies to "destroy the enemy on the ground, in the air, everywhere—destroy him."

In his first order of the day since the nazis blasted through the First army's lines last weekend, the allied commander-in-chief told his men that "the enemy may give us a chance to turn his great gamble into his worst defeat."

He charged the Germans with using "every treacherous trick to deceive and kill you, and called upon every allied soldier to "rise now to new heights of courage, of resolution and of effort." The allies, he declared, could not be content merely with repulsing the Nazi onslaught, but must crush the enemy.

10 Glamorous Women Picked

NEW YORK, Dec. 22-(AP)—Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, Mrs. Winston Churchill and Rep. Clare Booth Luce as well as screen, radio and stage stars were among the "ten most glamorous women of 1944" selected today by the artists' and sculptors' institute, an informal group.

Other selections were: Soprano Lily Pons; Mrs. Harry Hopkins, wife of the presidential adviser; Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain; Mrs. Gardner Cowles Jr., wife of the newspaper and magazine publisher; Vivian Della Chiesa, radio and concert soprano; Ann Miller, screen and stage dancer, and Mrs. Edward Villa Senor, wife of the president of the Bank of Mexico.

Bond Committee Asks Card Holders to Call

The War Bond committee Friday night asked that persons holding cards number 48993 and 71822 telephone the committee at 9163 as soon as possible.

Citizens Group Urges Snell To Change Folkes' Sentence

Gov. Earl Snell had under consideration today appeals from a group of citizens who Friday visited his office to ask commutation to life imprisonment of the death sentence meted out to Robert E. Lee Folkes for the slaying of Mrs. Martha Virginia James on a train south of Albany two years ago. The lower court decree was affirmed in a 2 to 2 decision of the state supreme court, and the United States supreme court refused to review the case.

W. C. Palmer, Portland attorney, said he believed there had been a miscarriage of justice. He added that all members of the state supreme court had agreed there was error at the trial, and that "I believe there is a serious doubt as to whether Folkes committed the murder." Nels Peterson, Portland attorney, emphasized the dissenting

Enemy Broadcasts Report Big Blow By Patton's Army

Nazis Believed Massing Armor For Renewed Assault; Allies Destroy More Than 200 Tanks

By NED NORDNESS
PARIS, Dec. 22-(AP)—The violent German winter offensive spent much of its force today after pounding 40 miles across Belgium in seven days, bursting through Luxembourg and rolling up near Arlon, only 10 miles from the French border 40 miles east of Sedan.

(Late German broadcasts said that a "fierce" attack from the south by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army, today "succeeded in slowing" the advance and that the brunt of the fighting had shifted to the flanks.)

Field dispatches reporting that the enemy advance had slowed down, said, however, the Germans were believed massing armor for renewed blows and Gen. Eisenhower called on allied armies to turn the whole "great gamble" into the enemy's "worst defeat."

The Germans were hurt in a bloody battle of attrition which cost them more than 200 tanks in five days of battering around Malmédy on the north flank along the routes to the great port of Antwerp and the Belgian capital of Brussels.

Supreme headquarters and field dispatches gave this picture of the sweep of the German drive from Tuesday noon—when the Germans were 32 miles inside Belgium—to Wednesday noon, keeping events of the last 48 hours under a security blackout:

The most powerful wedge of Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt's offensive slashed through Luxembourg and by late Wednesday had cut major roads north, south and east of the key road center of Bastogne, inside Belgium four miles west of Luxembourg's border.

This force then lanced on 13 miles northwest across the Ourthe river to La Roche, 32 miles inside Belgium and about 15 miles south of the northern flank west of Stavelot. Heavy fighting raged at La Roche.

German armor which by-passed Bastogne headed on west for an undisclosed distance.

In the break through Luxembourg, an American force was encircled at Wiltz, in the northern part of the duchy nine miles east of Bastogne. The Americans still held out inside the town. The Germans had been reported nearing Wiltz Tuesday.

A dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent Edward D. Ball, still covering the situation up to Wednesday, reported there was brisk fighting in the areas of Bastogne and Arlon, important Belgian city on the allied supply route leading down from Antwerp through Liege and Bastogne.

Navy Identifies Lost Warships

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—Two American warships lost off Leyte in the Philippines were identified by the navy today as the destroyer Mahan and the destroyer transport Ward.

Loss of the two ships, which raises to 236 the number of naval losses since the war started was announced Dec. 8 by Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur. They were not identified at the time.

At that time he reported the vessels were heavily damaged by aerial torpedoes. Their crews were removed and the ships then were sunk by our own forces, he said. "There was no loss of life on the Ward."

Next of kin of the casualties aboard the Mahan which carried a crew of approximately 170 men have been notified, the navy said. The number of casualties was not disclosed.

Shopping Day Left 'Last Call'

Three Portland ministers and one Woodburn minister were among those who joined in the appeal. These included Browning C. Allen, negro, pastor of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal church; George Halstead, pastor of Waverly Heights Congregational church, and E. C. Satter, pastor of the Ardenwald community church, all of Portland, and the Rev. George B. Cronley, pastor of the Woodburn Presbyterian church.

SHOPPING DAY LEFT LAST CALL BUY WITH STAMPS