

By Charles A. Squire

What kind of Christmas was this which OPA gave the country? Certainly not a Santa Claus Christmas. Instead of opening its pack and distributing sugar and t-bone steaks and butter with lavish hand OPA used the holiday to announce a reduction in the value of ration coupons. It even declared null and void the red and blue stamps that were valid before December 1. This last was a sad blow to many a housewife. I observed Mehitables poring ruefully over her ration books, and mourning the loss of her unused reds and blues. It gave her a touch of the blues to reflect on vanished chances to buy rationed meats and butter and cheese.

But, said I, with little offer of comfort, what have we lost? We have had plenty to eat, and we have presently valid coupons to provide for current needs, so wherein do we suffer? That may have been good reasoning, but it wasn't at all comforting. To Mehitables it seemed as though her food bank, where she had accumulated a few credits for future use, had suddenly gone bust right in her face. Undoubtedly, there are many Mehitables in the same mood.

In the Tuesday mail came a letter from Chester Bowles, head of OPA, calling for editorial assistance to justify OPA's action to the housewives of America. Bowles wanted it explained that his reversal of

Norway Chief Asks Allies to Free Country

LONDON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—An immediate allied invasion of Norway from the west as a means of breaking Hitler's power in the north and saving the country from total destruction was urged tonight by Norwegian Prime Minister Johan Nygaardsvold.

Calling upon every Norwegian to hamper in some way the Nazis' northern garrison, he warned that every German soldier who escaped to the south would help lengthen the war.

Nygaardsvold, broadcasting a Christmas message to his homeland, declared that the Germans may attempt to transfer some divisions from the north to other fronts where they are sorely needed.

The Norwegian leader disclosed that his government already had pointed out to allied leaders arguments favoring an allied invasion of Norway, declaring there was a definite necessity for it now.

Allied Planes Carry Attack Into 4th Day

LONDON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—American and British bombers and fighters today hit communication and supply lines and attacked German troop concentrations participating in the Nazi offensive, carrying all-out aerial support of the Allied ground armies into the fourth straight day.

A force of 150 heavy bombers of the U. S. Eighth air force struck the Coblenz area and returned without a loss. A communiqué said most of the 300 escorting fighters encountered no enemy planes, but one Thunderbolt group battled about 20 Messerschmitts northeast of Malmédy. Reports on this skirmish were incomplete tonight. Another Mustang group met four German interceptors near Bonn and shot down three.

After American planes had attacked behind the lines, RAF Lancasters and Halifax bombers in the afternoon flew to the St. Vith area where, escorted by tactical air force Spitfires, they dropped high explosives on concentrations of German troops and armor.

Randall Wins 'Dream House'

Joe Randall, operator of the Golden Pheasant restaurant, Salem, was Tuesday declared winner of Marion county's Sixth War Loan \$4000 Victory "dream house." Bonds with maturity value of \$4000 in lieu of a new residence, for which building materials proved difficult to obtain, were provided by contributions from building materials dealers and other organizations and individuals.

Theodore Rainwater, state forestry protection assistant, is to receive the second award, his choice of several two-acre tracts of land, upon which it is stipulated he must build a home within one year from date of the end of this war. (More about Sixth War Loan prizes page 2).

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BOMBS STRIKE PARIS AGAIN

Churchill Makes Plea to Greeks

Asks For Early End Of Strife

British Leader Outlines Policy Of His Country

By Stephen Barber

ATHENS, Wednesday, Dec. 27.—(AP)—In a dramatic 4½-hour meeting closely guarded against continuing violence outside, representatives of the major Greek political parties heard Prime Minister Churchill make a personal appeal last night for a quick end to the political strife which has shaken the country.

British troops came to Greece "with the knowledge and approval" of President Roosevelt and Premier Stalin and in the belief they had an invitation from all Greeks, including the commander of the elass army, Churchill asserted.

Situation Changes

He said there were Germans to throw out at that time and the situation is different now, then continued:

"Why is it we cannot leave? Since we've been here the most violent, unexpected troubles have arisen and we have become involved in them in doing what we believed was our duty. This duty we shall discharge faithfully until the end."

Greeks to Decide

He added, "Whether Greece is a monarchy or a republic is a matter for the Greeks and the Greeks alone to decide. All we wish you is good and good for all."

The meeting was held in an atmosphere so tense that even generals had to give up their side arms before entering the cold, dimly-lighted conference room. The sound of gunfire echoed outside the windows during the session and only a short time before it started dynamite had been discovered in sewers near one of the capital's leading hotels, the great Bretagne.

Eyes on Table

"The eyes of the world are upon this table," the British prime minister declared in a pointed 15-minute speech asking the assembled party representatives to solve their differences.

The conference was held at an undisclosed location and their was no apparent indication that the carefully laid dynamite found near the grand Bretagne hotel represented a plot against the lives of Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, whose arrival was a complete surprise even in usually well-informed British quarters.

New X-Ray Takes Picture In Millionth of Second

BALTIMORE, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Officials of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company, Baltimore, disclosed today the development of an X-ray machine which takes a picture in a millionth of a second.

Officials Report Racing Ban Won't Affect State Budget

Although the general fund of the state of Oregon benefitted to the extent of \$49,090 from horse and dog racing receipts in 1944, state budget department officials declared here Tuesday that they were little concerned over the recent order of the federal mobilization director placing a ban on racing within the United States after January 3.

The state received, in all, \$361,737 as its three per cent share of pari-mutuel wagers aggregating \$11,583,000 during the year that is closing. With the exception of that earmarked for the general fund, most of this money was distributed among state exhibitions, shows and county fairs.

Officials pointed out that with the exception of racing receipts going into the general fund of all

Makes Plea



Winston Churchill

Yank Bombers Pour 44 Tons On Clark Field

GENERAL MAC ARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Wednesday, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Heavy bombers escorted by fighter planes hit Clark field at Manila Christmas day (Manila time) with 44 tons of bombs in the sustained aerial offensive to knock out Japanese air based planes on Luzon island.

The attack was announced in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communiqué today and followed his Christmas day announcement that the Leyte island campaign had been completed with capture of the west coast port of Ralampom.

The American fighters in the Manila raid dropped 39 of 50 Japanese interceptors over Clark field, for a two-day-total of 72.

As the mop-up of shattered enemy units on Leyte continued, 899 more Japanese dead were counted. Fourteen more prisoners were taken. This brought the total enemy casualties for the campaign to 114,120.

Nazi Escapees Bored Tunnel 200 Feet Long

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 26.—(AP)—Individual Nazi prisoners worked many months boring in rock a 200-foot tunnel through which 25 Germans escaped from the Papago park camp during the past week-end, Col. William A. Holden, commandant, said today.

Only six of the escapees, all submarine personnel, have been apprehended since Sunday night in an ever-widening search. Navy Capt. Jurgen Wattenberg, 43, is the ranking member of the 19 at large which includes 11 other navy officers, many of whom are linguists.

Holden said the tunnel, large enough only for a man to crawl through, started underneath an outdoor coal box and went from 12 to 15 feet below the ground surface.

The bore passed under an irrigation canal paralleling the east fence and the exit was near a second canal.

Budapest Circled By Reds

Russian Forces Drive 2 Miles Inside Capital

By W. W. Hercher

LONDON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The Red army today completed the encirclement of Budapest and drove two miles inside the city limits from the west, dooming the German and Hungarian garrison which originally numbered an estimated 100,000 men.

Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's third Ukraine army troops thrust to the Danube both above and below Budapest and seized at least nine of the Hungarian capital's solidly built-up suburbs, penetrating the city limits at numerous points. One of these, Lipotmezo, was only two and one-half miles west of the Danube where the river bisects the city.

How many of the enemy garrison remained alive after months of attrition during the siege was a question, but death or capture were their only alternatives now, with the scanty possibility that a few top men might yet flee by air.

The Moscow communiqué disclosed that in fighting Monday on the front west of Budapest alone 2340 Germans and Hungarians were captured. This brought the big for Tolbukhin's men alone to more than 7800 since December 21, with more than 14,000 of the enemy listed as slain in that same period.

Below-Zero Weather Moves Eastward From Middle West

By the Associated Press

Eastern states were on the receiving end last night of a cold wave which pushed the mercury as deep as 24 degrees below zero in the Midwest yesterday.

Chicago weather bureau forecasters said intensity of the cold was diminishing as it moved eastward. Upper New York state, however, was prepared for 10 below zero early today and Pennsylvania bundled up for zero readings.

It was clear, in most of the cold zone.

Rapid Recovery

Many Midwest sections had a rapid recovery from frigid minimums to above zero levels by yesterday afternoon. Temperatures were due to drop to chilling ranges again early today but not as low as early yesterday.

Jacksonville, Ill., evidently was the nation's coldest point yesterday with 24 below. Extent of relief from the bitter cold during the day was shown by these typical comparisons, the first figure being the minimum and the second the mid-afternoon temperature:

Wide Range

Benidji, Minn., -23 and 11; Rockford, Ill., -22 and 8; Madison, Wis., -16 and 11; Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., -8 and 18; Mason City, Ia., -16 and 6; Springfield, Ill., -15 and 12; Milwaukee, Wis., -7 and 6.

Subzero weather covered the Dakotas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Iowa, northern and central Illinois, northern Indiana, upper Michigan and parts of Ohio. Chicago had its season's lowest, 7 below, and so did Iowa, 22 below at Decorah. Crawfordsville, Ind., reported 12 below.

The cold checked a rise of the rivers at Pittsburgh, after an all day Christmas rain, and they were expected to crest short of flood stage. Northwestern Pennsylvania had four more inches of snow, with traffic already impeded by snowfalls of the last 10 days. Ice-coated highways after Christmas rains caused many accidents in New York state.

Salem Has Coldest Maximum of Winter

Salem experienced the coldest day time temperature in over a year Tuesday, with a maximum reading of 34 degrees registered at the airport weather bureau. Lowest previous maximum temperature was 34 degrees registered on Dec. 14, 1943. Minimum temperature was 23 degrees Tuesday. No precipitation was reported.

Stork Has Busy Day Here With 2 Sets of Twins

Two sets of twins were born at Salem General hospital Tuesday just four minutes apart.

First set of twins, a son and daughter, was born at 11:33 a.m. to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Shaw, 650 Marion street.

The second set arrived at 11:37, both daughters, to Mr. and Mrs. Irwin E. Burk, route five, Salem.

Channel Ports Germans' Goal Experts Think

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Unfolding German strategy, in the opinion of military men here, indicates the enemy's counteroffensive is aimed at the channel ports, probably Antwerp.

Success would snap Allied supply lines from the coast and throw a huge noose around the armies on the northern sector of the western front.

The objective of the German drive has been a mystery since it was launched 10 days ago. One German prisoner suggested that Paris was the goal.

But on the basis of the latest news from the front, military spokesmen said the Germans evidently are going to try to cross the Meuse river in the area from Namur south to a point west of Rochefort, then swing to the northeast and northwest.

Here along the Meuse the greatest threat in the offensive—possibly the most decisive battle of the western front—may develop, these observers say.

Tokyo Hit 5th Time By B-29's

Industries Chief Yank Target in Daylight Attack

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—(Wednesday)—(AP)—Superfortresses of the 21st bomber command flying from bases on Saipan island bombed Tokyo industrial targets in a daylight attack today.

The announcement of the attack by Gen. H. H. Arnold, commanding general of the 20th air force, said a communiqué would be issued when operational reports are received in Washington from Brig. Gen. H. S. Hansell, commanding general of the 21st bomber command.

Fifth Attack

The raid was the fifth of the war by the big B-29's on Tokyo. The last visit paid Tokyo by the superfortresses was on December 3 when a force described as "substantial" hit the Japanese capital.

The text of today's communiqué:

"Superfortresses of the 21st bomber command bombed industrial targets in the Tokyo area in a daylight attack today, Wednesday, December 27, Japanese calendar. Gen. H. H. Arnold, commanding general, 20th air force, announced at the war department. A communiqué will be issued when operational reports are received in Washington from Brig. Gen. H. S. Hansell, commanding general of the 21st bomber command."

No indication was given as to the size of the striking force of B-29's. Previous attacking forces flying the round trip of over 3,000 from the Saipan bases to Tokyo have ranged from upwards of 60 to 150 planes.

Allies Moving Toward Senio

ROME, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Canadian, British and New Zealand troops moved forward toward the Senio river line on the Adriatic end of the Italian front today after Canadian troops captured hotly contested Rosetta, 10 miles northwest of Allied-held Ravenna.

Enemy rear guards in the salient northeast of Faenza, the last remnant of the Lamone river line on which the Nazis had hoped to stabilize their front in the Po valley, have been mopped up, the Allied command announced. The Germans were pushed from all positions east of the Canale Naisiglio.

Army Reports Victory Over Trench Foot

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The army today reported a western front victory over trench foot—a disease that can knock a soldier out of combat as effectively as a bullet.

At one time, the disease reached 9,822 men out of every 1000 on the western front. This has been cut 75 per cent.

Thousands of Ration Points Flood Mid-Valley Food Shops

Ration points by the thousands, both the outmoded and the current variety, poured into mid-Willamette valley food markets Tuesday. Housewives who sought to make the most of their saved-up coupons before they expired or before point values were raised faced disappointment in a majority of stores in the Salem vicinity, a hasty checkout revealed.

Although stores had not received official notification of new valuations for processed foods and butter which went into effect Tuesday, most of them attempted to make the proper ration point change. In some food markets The Statesman's chart of new valuations from Tuesday morning's paper was prominently displayed. Merchants found that many of their shoppers carried it in clip-

Germans Smash 11 Miles Deeper Into Belgium in Drive

Nazis Renew Attack After Two Day Lull, Pound Within 4 Miles Of Meuse, Use Two Full Armies

By EDWARD KENNEDY

PARIS, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Paris underwent an air raid tonight—its first since just after the liberation last August—as allied headquarters announced that the German counter-offensive had smashed 11 miles deeper into Belgium after a two-day lull.

While the small number of planes that bombed Paris were not identified, they were not believed to have been allied.

The latest battlefield information available at allied headquarters, 48 hours old, said the Nazi attacking force had driven within four miles of the Meuse river south of Namur and were being engaged by allied troops 50 miles inside Belgium.

So far as was known here, the Germans had not yet reached the Meuse tonight.

The bombing of Paris was by a few unidentified planes which coasted in over the capital to drop their loads. The fact that there were few of the attacking planes virtually precluded any chance that the bombs may have been dropped by allied aircraft through accident as happened shortly after the liberation of the city.

The news of the new German punch deeper into Belgium was coupled with the disclosure that Von Rundstedt has two full German armies and probably a third employed in his offensive.

The American salient at St. Vith near the northern end of the battle line had been wiped out and the Germans held a solid 38-mile assault front across Belgium. At Celles, a village 10 miles northwest of Rochefort, Von Rundstedt's forces were only eight miles from the French frontier.

Throw Heavy Punch The Nazis threw their new punch after furious American resistance aided by bludgeoning air power virtually had held the enemy to a standstill for two days.

Two columns struck from the area between Rochefort and Marche, at the extreme point of the enemy's penetration of Belgium. One force shot west and a little north to reach Ciney, nine miles from the Meuse. The other drove due west to the vicinity of Calles, four miles from the city of Dinant on the Meuse.

Nothing was available at allied headquarters on what progress the Nazis might have made since Sunday night, in keeping with the time lag imposed on news from the front.

Yanks Held Out Several thousand Yank troops encircled at the important Belgian road hub of Bastogne on the enemy's southern flank continued to hold out valiantly against powerful German pressure while an American relief force driving up from the south reached a point only four and a half miles from the city.

Heavy fighting was in progress southeast of Bastogne in the vicinity of Arsdorf and Ekedorf, and American troops were reported to have gained some ground, including heights, west of Eperdort, four and a half miles southeast of Diekirch and three miles from the German-Belgium border.

Although the weather deteriorated somewhat today, swarms of allied planes again went over the battle area, blasting at enemy armor and troops and engaging in swirling dogfights with the Luftwaffe. Up to noon planes of the Ninth tactical air force had destroyed six tanks, six other armored vehicles and 237 motor transport, while shooting down 22 Nazi craft.

Because they had not received official notification, approximately 20 per cent of the food merchants of the area kept to their former point system pending its arrival, Statesman "shoppers" and homemakers whom they interviewed revealed.

Although some stores in the latter category reported persons with well over 1000 points among their customers, those which established the new system immediately were not without buyers. One large downtown store reported a "run" on canned fruits and vegetables and on coffee, for which no ration value has been established and which, so far as any announcement has been made, is not to be returned to the ration list. (Additional details on page 2.)

ping form to protect themselves from overcharges.

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\$9250 in Fines Levied Against UP Stewards

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Fines totaling \$9250 were imposed upon 20 stewards, assistant stewards and waiters of Union Pacific trains today after they pleaded no contest to charges that they conspired to commit theft in interstate commerce.

Seventeen stewards and assistant stewards were fined \$500 each by US District Judge Ben Harrison, and three waiters were fined \$250 each.

Weather

Maximum temperature Tuesday 34 degrees, minimum 23 degrees, no rain, river -3 ft.

Cloudy with light showers along coast and light snow interior turning to rain Thursday. Rising temperatures.