

Soviet Central Offensive Threatens Nazi Positions

Soviets Predict Fall of Important Rail Junction

Germans Admit Break In Central Don Front; Claim Heavy Toll

War In Brief

MOSCOW: Russian spearheads penetrate Millerovo in new offensive; fall of railroad junction expected as birthday gift for Stalin.

CAIRO: Rommel's forces reach Sirte in headlong retreat; Allied planes raid ragged Axis remnants 225 miles west of El Aghella.

NEW DELHI: British-Indian army continues Burma drive; Japanese counter with thrust into Yunnan province of China.

LONDON: RAF bombs Duisburg; American bombers make deepest penetration into France.

ALLIED NORTH AFRICAN HEADQUARTERS: Rain slows offensives; French capture town 30 miles inland from Tunisian east coast.

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS: Allies launch general attack on Japanese New Guinea positions, Japanese commander killed in action.

War Fraud Laid To Wire Plant

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Attorney General Biddle announced today a federal grand jury at Fort Wayne, Ind., had indicted the Anaconda Wire and Cable company, Marion, Ind., and five of its officers for conspiracy to defraud the United States, and to present "false claims in the production and sale of wire and cable used by the armed forces for combat communication purposes."

"This is one of the most reprehensible cases of defrauding the government and endangering the lives of American soldiers and sailors ever to come to the attention of the department of justice," Biddle declared in a formal statement.

"I can conceive of nothing more vicious or treacherous than deliberately supplying our armed forces with defective war material; and I am informed that only the alertness of government inspectors and the promptness with which the war fraud unit and the FBI investigated complaints in this case has prevented enormous quantities of defective wire and cable from being transported to our troops overseas."

The justice department charged the defendants "secretly installed" behind sliding panels under test tables, mechanisms that enabled the passing of inferior or defective materials.

In addition to the company, the justice department said defendants named in the indictments were Thor S. Johnson, general manager of all Anaconda mills; Frank E. Hart, manager of the Marion division of Anaconda; Don R. Carpenter, superintendent of the Marion plant; Chalmers Bishop, chief company inspector at Marion; and Frank Kunkle, assistant chief company inspector at Marion.

Tom C. Clark, chief of the justice department's war fraud unit, told newspapermen that Russia had complained that practically 50 per cent of the wire manufactured by this company and shipped to Russia was defective.

Plywood Sales Curbed By Priority Order

SEATTLE, Dec. 21.—(AP)—All sales, shipments and deliveries of softwood plywood through wholesale and retail channels, except upon orders given a priority rating of AA-5 or higher, are now prohibited, Deputy War Relocation Director Milton H. Luce said today. It was effective yesterday, under a new limitation order issued Saturday in Washington.

"It is intended to confine the use of softwood plywood to essential military and civilian needs," Luce said.

The prohibitive order will not affect the activities of either the Eugene Plywood company or the Springfield Plywood corporation, mill leaders said Monday. Neither has received official notification.

Both plants have been selling on "higher priority ratings" than AA-5, they reported.

"Uncle Sam is practically our only customer, anyway," said M. E. Batchelor, office manager for Eugene Plywood.

INJURIES FATAL

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Marvin C. Riley, 28, Aloha, died here yesterday of injuries suffered in the crash of his automobile into a pole west of Portland Dec. 12.

Tanks Arrive To Help Crush Japs at Buna

Allied Troops, Planes Strike at Jap Bases In New Burma Campaign

By the Associated Press
American-made tanks have rumbled into the attack against the last Japanese strongholds in the Buna area of northeast New Guinea, while on the Burma front British troops and American bombers struck at Japan's westernmost bases.

From China, Brig. Gen. Claire L. Chennault's sky dragons dumped tons of heavy explosives yesterday onto a big Japanese airfield and military warehouses at Lashio on the old Burma supply road.

Not a bomber was lost — and not a Japanese fighter was encountered, reported J. Rully O'Sullivan, Associated Press correspondent who accompanied the raiders.

He said fires were started which could be seen 60 miles away.

From the mountainous Indian border, Gen. Archibald P. Wavell's forces had pushed through the western Burma jungle for almost half of the 100 miles to the important port of Akyab, 340 air-line miles across the bay of Bengal from Calcutta.

No Jap Resistance
There was no word of Japanese resistance.

The Japanese struck back in the air, however, with a raid last night on the Calcutta area. Raids also were reported in the Chittagong region of eastern India.

A British communique said only a few scattered bombs fell in the Calcutta area, and damage was light.

Informed quarters at New Delhi said the drive was not Wavell's awaited major attempt to win back Burma, but could be regarded as the start of a step-by-step strategy toward that goal.

Akyab would give the Allies an

Holiday Travel Jams Rail, Bus Services

By United Press
Holiday-bound service men and civilians took every available seat on trains, buses and planes today, leaving other thousands to be turned away for lack of accommodations.

Record crowds, apparently disregarding pleas of the office of defense transportation, poured through the nation's important railroad terminals where trains were running hours late. All standing room was gone and platforms were filled with disappointed passengers.

Air reservations were sold out through the holiday season and one air line, reporting the heaviest backlog of reservations in years, said requests for reservations exceeded "three or four times our capacity."

San Francisco reported railroads there were devoting their facilities primarily to service men and trains were running two to six hours late.

Sixty-nine trains were added to the 300 normally operating daily out of the Chicago union station, but requests still exceeded accommodations.

Denver railroad officials said it was the "worst rush and tieup in history." Trains were running a minimum of three hours late.

Beebe Pleads Guilty To Manslaughter

Murray Hill Beebe pleaded guilty in circuit court Monday afternoon to the charge of manslaughter and sentence will be pronounced by Judge G. F. Skipworth Wednesday at 9:30 a. m.

Delay Likely For Snell's Inauguration

SALEM, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Governor-elect Earl Snell was beginning to wonder today whether the battle over the presidency of the state senate would prevent him from being inaugurated on January 11 at the opening of the state legislature.

With Senators Dorothy McCullough Lee and W. H. Steiwer each claiming 15 votes in their contests for the senate presidency, there is a chance that the battle won't be decided on January 11.

Since the governor can't be inaugurated until the legislature is organized, Snell might have to wait a day or so, or at least until the senate president is elected.

Both houses meet in caucus on the evening of January 10, and all officers usually are chosen at that time.

U. S., British Bombers Active

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The RAF pounded Germany's great inland port of Duisburg at the junction of the Rhine and Ruhr rivers last night in a swift follow-up to a daylight raid by American Flying Fortresses which dared swarms of German fighters to penetrate deep into occupied France yesterday.

"A strong force of our bombers attacked industrial objectives at Duisburg in clear weather and bright moonlight," the air ministry said. "The attack was heavy and concentrated and many large fires were left burning."

Railway engines and other objectives were reported to have been the targets of fighter command aircraft on intruder operations over France and the low countries.

11 Planes Lost
The size of the force which attacked Duisburg was not immediately disclosed, but an announcement that 11 planes were lost in the assault was taken by observers as an indication that a considerable number participated.

The attack on Duisburg was the 52nd on that important communications and industrial center since the start of the war and the fifth night attack on Germany this month. Duisburg was last attacked the night of Sept. 6.

The weather over the target was described as good and preliminary reports were said to indicate the attack was entirely successful.

The last night assault on the Reich was last Thursday, when northwest Germany was attacked in bad weather with a loss of 18 planes.

Six of the big American bombers were lost, but 40 German fighters were shot down in the sweep by U. S. forces deep into France yesterday, a raid that produced sharp battles.

More Drastic Travel Restriction Coming

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—War Production Chief Donald M. Nelson today advised motorists to prepare for "much more drastic" travel restrictions, and warned that transportation facilities in general will be greatly curtailed.

"Travel by common carrier will be increasingly inconvenient and in many instances not permissible," Nelson said in a letter to Sen. James E. Murray, D., Mont., chairman of the senate small business committee.

Axis Reported Moving Troops From Tripoli

Enemy Appears Ready To Make Desperate Stand in North Africa

By The Associated Press
LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The Axis was reported today moving its forces from Tripoli and diverting men and material even from the hard-pressed Russian front in order to make an all-out fight for Tunisia in the wake of a two-day military and political conference at Adolf Hitler's headquarters.

Neutral and Allied sources reported that a huge convoy was being assembled in southern French ports to rush reinforcements from Europe, and that Marshal Erwin Rommel's African corps and Mussolini's tattered legions might give up Tripolitania altogether in order to concentrate every available man and gun in the struggle for Tunisia.

Italians Captured
A Reuters dispatch from North Africa said Allied patrols had captured Italians from Tripoli who were trying to link up with Gen. Walther Nehring's Tunisian forces and added that there were indications that part of the Italian garrison of Tripoli also was moving by sea to Tunisia.

The Daily Mail, in a dispatch from Madrid, said it was reported from Vichy that the Germans were planning a large-scale attempt to reinforce the Tunisian forces with a convoy of 150 French ships massed in French ports for the risky crossing.

The presence of Pierre Laval, Vichy chief of government, at Friday and Saturday conference with Hitler and Count Galeazzo Ciano, Italian foreign minister, unofficial quarters pointed out, may be linked with such such Axis plan.

Hard Fight Ahead
Observers coupled reports that the Axis was prepared to use in North Africa even the weapons and men needed on the Russian front with the statement of an Allied spokesman in Algiers that "we have a lot of long, hard fighting ahead of us."

Meanwhile, the British were progressing slowly through dense mine fields in Libya where they had reached the region of Sultan, 140 miles west of El Aghella and 255 miles from Tripoli.

Both Allied and Axis reports told of lively patrol activity and much air fighting in Tunisia.

Oregon's First Woman Composer Dies

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 21.—(AP)—Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Mrs. George J. Pearce, 83, first woman composer in Oregon and an early member of the states' typographical union, who died at her home Saturday.

She was first woman chairman of the board of trustees of the First Presbyterian church and had been employed in the state printing office.

She is survived by two daughters, a sister, and two nephews.

Escaped Murderer Back

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Duncan M. Johnson, 44-year-old former Twin Falls mayor convicted of killing a Utah jewelry salesman, fled from the Idaho penitentiary grounds last night, but returned voluntarily this morning.

Sundman, Johnson, Mrs. H. O. Parker and her son, Emil, 13, the latter two passengers in the Johnson car, are the four seriously hurt. All are at the Kiser Brothers hospital, North Bend. The other passengers in the Johnson car, H. O. Parker, Emma May Parker, Henry Parker, and Earl Coffin, were dismissed after first aid treatment.

Four Injured in Accident on Coast

NORTH BEND, Ore., Dec. 21.—(AP)—Emil Parker, 13-year old son of Mrs. H. O. Parker, died here today of injuries suffered in a two-car accident near Florence yesterday.

His mother was reported in fair condition, as were John Sundman and Milo Johnson, drivers of the cars.

FLORENCE. — Four persons from Florence and Glenada were injured seriously at midnight Saturday when cars driven by John Sundman and Milo Johnson collided on the Coast highway about two miles north of here.

Sundman, Johnson, Mrs. H. O. Parker and her son, Emil, 13, the latter two passengers in the Johnson car, are the four seriously hurt. All are at the Kiser Brothers hospital, North Bend. The other passengers in the Johnson car, H. O. Parker, Emma May Parker, Henry Parker, and Earl Coffin, were dismissed after first aid treatment.

The Johnson car was demolished, the Sundman car landing in a ditch. Sundman was going south on the highway, Johnson, north. Both drivers received bad chest injuries. Both Johnson and Sundman are from Florence and the Parker family from Glenada.

Lack of Paunches Found in Army

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 21.—(AP)—Physical training instructors at nearby Hensley field are wearing that smug, satisfied look.

The soldiers want to have a Christmas party and there's not a paunch to be found among them, befitting a Santa Claus. A bay-windowed civilian will be imported for the chore,

Douglas Orme Makes Final Appearance With Symphony

By DOROTHY LENHART
Making his final appearance as conductor of the Eugene Junior symphony, following eight years as a successful Eugene music teacher and director, Douglas Orme presented the symphony in concert at the University School of Music auditorium Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Orme, who has also been director of public school music in Eugene for the past eight years left today for army officer's training school, and has left with the city pleasant thoughts of many concerts, of a grand friend and teacher, and of some very fine and effective directing.

This concert marks the beginning of the 1942-43 season for the symphony and the orchestra will go on with rehearsals and preparations for the final concert of the year which will be under the direction of Rex Underwood, conductor of the University of Oregon

Capt. R. C. Kuehner Home for Xmas

Home for Christmas and a week's leave is Captain Richard C. Kuehner, leader of Lane County's 4-H clubs until Uncle Sam called him into service.

Captain Kuehner is now stationed at Luke field, near Phoenix, Arizona, as assistant secretary of the big school for training pursuit, and fighter pilots.

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Hitler Holds Conference Allied Offensives Worry Axis

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler, beset by Allied offensives, deterioration of Italy and disunity in France, has held conference with Galeazzo Ciano, Italian foreign minister, and Marshal Laval of France, Axis leader, announced today.

Hitler-Laval conference reports rumors in Stockholm that the German might reach a peace settlement with Germany and declare war on the Allies, and Radio Paris, German controlled, quoted the collaborationist leader Marshal Laval as saying that France's task was now to build a new government, substituting for his father Benito Mussolini, arrived at the headquarters Friday and remained until Sunday morning.

Hitler, fighting for his political life, left the conference briefly Sunday and left the same day.

The Axis communique announced that Ciano and Hitler discussed the common pursuit of war aims by Italy and Germany.

If Laval was permitted to see Hitler alone at all it was only for a few minutes, and he was sent away immediately after a general audience announced today.

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Easterners Shiver As Mercury Dives

By the Associated Press
Winter — which doesn't begin officially until tomorrow — continued to get in icy practice blows today which kept much of the nation in a sub-freezing grip.

Below-zero cold continued to prevail in the east, bedeviling householders striving to stretch oil supplies and upsetting the calculations of fuel rationing boards.

Although temperatures in New York City dropped only to one below last night, suburban Westchester county reported 28 below

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Captain Kuehner is now stationed at Luke field, near Phoenix, Arizona, as assistant secretary of the big school for training pursuit, and fighter pilots.

Kuehner says he is enjoying his army experience, but looks forward to the day when he can return to Oregon and to his regular work. While home, Captain Kuehner is calling on friends and looking after his farm.

Douglas Orme Makes Final Appearance With Symphony

By DOROTHY LENHART
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This concert marks the beginning of the 1942-43 season for the symphony and the orchestra will go on with rehearsals and preparations for the final concert of the year which will be under the direction of Rex Underwood, conductor of the University of Oregon

symphony and who was also the first director of the junior symphony.

The concert Sunday afternoon by the fifty-piece orchestra, of which many were youngsters under senior high school age and a few even from the lower grades, showed the citizens of Eugene just what young people who have a desire to learn and play music can do with the correct supervision; teachers and directors that are talented and interested in the student and his work.

The symphony's principal violinist and soloist at this concert, William Shisler, who is a student of Rex Underwood and one of the first members of the organization, showed in his playing of the Vieuxtemps "Adagio Religioso" from the Fourth Violin Concerto great natural playing ability and poise, and in the playing of the

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