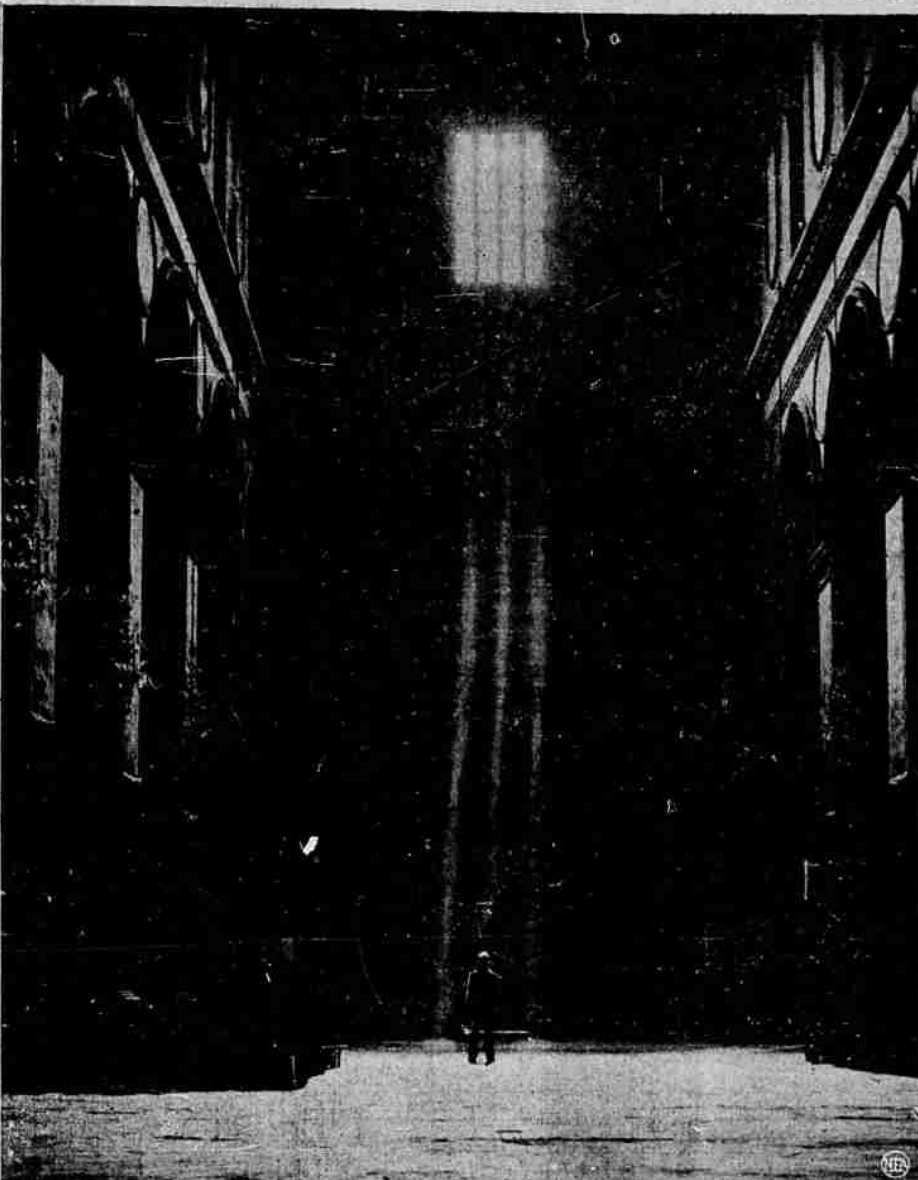


Christmas

1944



"Yet In Thy Dark Streets Shineth The Everlasting Light. The Hopes And Fears Of All The Years Are Met In Thee Tonight."

U. S. 'Forts' Take Heavy Toll of Japs Over Nagoya

Yanks and Foe Meet in Fight High Over City

By Mac R. Johnson
(United Press War Correspondent)
21st Bomber Command, Japan, Dec. 23 (U.P.)—(Via Navy Radio)—American Superfortresses in a running 55-minute battle yesterday over Nagoya accounted for more Japanese fighters than the combined total in all previous raids on Japan's main island of Honshu, reports from returning pilots indicated today.

77th Division Drives Across Northwest Corner of Leyte

Allied Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 23 (U.P.)—The 77th division drove across the northwest corner of Leyte today to within nearly 10 miles of Palompon, last Japanese-held escape port on the island, and American artillery already was bombarding the town.

Quiet Christmas In Prospect Here

Bend today prepared for its fourth consecutive wartime Christmas, with indications that the holiday would be just a bit quieter and probably somewhat sadder than usual, due to the large number of men and boys and girls who are away from home, serving their country in far parts of the world.

Oregon School Funds Allocated

Salem, Ore., Dec. 23 (U.P.)—The secretary of state's office has announced the first distribution of \$1,048,715.69 out of the state elementary school fund to the 1,539 school districts in Oregon.

Warplanes Blast Nazis; Patton Hits Foe's Flank

Soviets Poised For Big Drive, Berlin Asserts

Germans Expect Reds To Make Final Bid to End War This Winter

By Bruce W. Munn
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
London, Dec. 23 (U.P.)—Russian troops were reported beating down stubborn German resistance at both ends of the long eastern front in Latvia and Hungary today, and Berlin spokesmen warned that the red army is about to strike in Poland and East Prussia in a supreme bid to end the war this winter.

Sub-zero temperatures gripped more than 500 miles of the front from the Baltic coast to the Carpathians, freezing over the Polish plains sufficiently to permit a resumption of armored warfare.

Stockholm correspondents in Berlin said Nazi military authorities were admitting freely that the red army's big winter offensive was expected to explode across Russia and Poland within a matter of "days or hours."

Sharp patrol fighting already was reported to have broken out on both fronts in what German commentators described as the prelude to the soviet attack.

Moscow remained silent on the Nazi reports, but United Press dispatches from the Russian capital quoted "unofficial" sources as saying that unprecedented masses of men, guns, tanks and planes were being assembled for a great "victory now" drive across Prussia and Poland into the heart of the Reich.

The opening gun of the winter offensive appeared to have been fired already in the north, Berlin said, as the infantry battles had been raging in western Latvia since dawn Thursday when the red army launched its third attempt to wipe out the Nazi divisions that have been pinned against the Baltic coast since last October.

Lines Yield
German spokesmen admitted the Russians had broken into the Nazi pocket at a number of points on a 22-mile front east and northeast of Liepaja port. The Nazis said 27 Russian infantry divisions, perhaps 400,000 men, supported by hundreds of planes and tanks, were battering into their lines all along the front, with the critical battle still raging indecisively north of Auce, 77 miles east of Liepaja.

As usual in the opening stages of a new campaign, Moscow did not directly confirm the enemy reports, although a communique said 68 German planes and 101 tanks were destroyed on the eastern front Thursday—the biggest total reported in many weeks.

NEW CHIEF NAMED

Redmond, Dec. 23 (U.P.)—Jess Edgar, for five years a member of the Redmond police department, will become chief of police on Jan. 9, it was announced today by Mayor T. J. Wells. Edgar will succeed Athel Dudley, who recently resigned. Edgar has been acting chief of police.

Yanks, Fighting in Far Parts of World, All Hold Hope They Will Be Home Next Yuletide

Rome, Dec. 23 (U.P.)—The most common Christmas message the GI sends home from this theater is, "I hope this is the last one overseas."
Sgt. Arnold A. Anderson of Scooby, Mont., said, "I hope the home folks' Christmas is merrier than mine."

McKenzie Pass Closure Is Set

Drifting snows that constantly narrowed the traffic lane, and extreme icy conditions, will force the closure of the McKenzie highway pass at 5 p. m. today, it was announced by William E. Chandler, engineer in charge of the Bend division of the state highway department.

The McKenzie pass highway was closed last year on Jan. 1, when maintenance crews were unable to counter with deep snows.

Motorists planning to travel the McKenzie route were discouraged at the highway department offices, owing to hazardous conditions.

Other Central Oregon highway conditions were described today by highway officials as:
Road Conditions Reviewed
Santiam, packed snow and slow travel; The Dalles-California highway to Klamath Falls, "normal"; at Government camp on the Wapinitia cutoff, packed snow, and on the Willamette highway, three miles of dangerous driving over ice.

State highway officials reported there was no snow at Crescent, indicating that yesterday's storm fell at the summit on his route, it was reported.

The storm brought three inches of snow to Bend, with the forecast calling for scattered snowstorms over the Cascades over the weekend.

Chilling Weather Due Northwest

Portland, Ore., Dec. 23 (U.P.)—Real winter weather was in prospect for the northwest over Christmas, with the weather bureau predicting the coldest readings of the season so far.

The Portland area was scheduled for a temperature of around 24 degrees tonight and down to around 20 for Christmas. The high today is not expected to top 39 and about the same tomorrow and Christmas.

Some snow is predicted for southeastern Oregon, with light showers for southwestern Oregon.

700,000 Tortured, Massacred By Germans, Soviets Assert

Moscow, Dec. 23 (U.P.)—The soviet state atrocity commission reported today that the Germans tortured and massacred 700,000 persons, including some American and British citizens, at a big concentration camp near Lwow during the occupation of southern Poland.

The report was based on the examination of bodies, captured German documents, and the testimony of escaped prisoners. The victims were mostly Russians and Poles, but among them were Czechs, Yugoslavs, Dutch, and Italians.

The commission said that after the fall of Benito Mussolini, the Germans demanded an oath of loyalty to Adolf Hitler from all Italians garrisoned at Lwow. Two thousand officers and men refused and were shot. Among them were five generals and 45 officers.

The report listed the names of Nazi war criminals accused of the Lwow atrocities. The list was headed by Dr. Hans Frank, chief of the Nazi-control government general of Poland, several army generals, and leaders of the gestapo.

In Torture Used
In addition to the notorious methods of asphyxiation, cremation and machine gunning, the commission said, the Germans devised a torture by ice. In mid-winter a prisoner would be stripped, bound, and put in a water-filled barrel until he froze to death. Many were killed under trains.

A special composition called the "Tango of Death" was played by the camp orchestra during the mass murders, the report said, and the entire orchestra was shot later.

Pictures published by Moscow newspapers showed a performance of the "Tango of Death" while prisoners were being executed, heaps of hundreds of bodies, and a special machine for crushing human bones.

Poor Draft Held Stove Fire Cause

Rather than the fault of the fuel oil, insufficient draft was the cause of three successive stove fires in Standard Oil stations in Bend recently, it was reported today by city firemen after an investigation. Smoke pipes were not of sufficient length to carry away fumes, thus causing oil to congregate, it was explained.

Firemen at first were inclined to the belief that an extra potent fuel oil had been the cause of the fires.

Yule 'Memorials' for Bend Men in Service To Be Prepared for USO By Local Relatives

Following is a list of the women who will make the cakes—and the men they never stop thinking of:
Mrs. Roy Cooper for T/S Roy Britain; Mrs. William Weiser, for her son, Roy Weiser, machinist's mate, 2/c, Seabee at Camp Rouseau, San Francisco, Calif.; Mrs. R. L. Winters, for her grandsons, Robert Fagg, seaman 1/c, south Pacific; Gene L. Salisbury, coxswain, on board ship; Ray Whitson, storekeeper, 2/c, on board ship; Russell McClanathan, seaman 2/c, south Pacific.

Mrs. Vance Coyner for her brothers, T/Sgt. Mason L. Maurer, now at Camp Blanding, Fla., after 30 months in south Pacific service, and Wayman C. Maurer, chief motor machinist's mate, Bremerton, Wash.; Mrs. Harry A. Peterson, for her husband stationed in Italy.
Mrs. Eldon Preston, for her son, Lt. Kenneth L. Preston, a prisoner of war in Germany; Mrs. Julius Olson, for her husband, a staff sergeant now on Leyte; Mrs. W. A. Wirtz, for her daughter, S/Sgt. Jessie Wirtz, with a Wac detachment in Italy.

Clearing Skies Aid Americans In Grim Battle

Paris, Dec. 23 (U.P.)—Clouds of allied fighter-bombers, bombers, and fighters swarmed in perfect weather, battering Nazi panzer forces from the Ourthe to the Rhine, and American armored forces scored an important defensive victory in a great tank battle nine miles west of St. Vith.

It was the moment which the allied command had been waiting for—the first break in the weather since the Nazi offensive was launched just a week ago—and thousands of American and British planes of every type, including a great task force of Flying Fortresses and Liberators, joined the battle.

South Flank Hit
In the air blow fell upon Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's columns, as Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army was reported slashing into the southern flank of the break-through, where it was indicated the Germans have succeeded in capturing Luxembourg city, capital of the principality.

Supreme allied headquarters characterized the American tank victory west of St. Vith as "the first and very important defensive victory."

The battle raged between St. Vith and Vielsalm which is nine miles due west on the wandering river Salm. Here, SHAEF revealed, two of the German main spearheads attempted to link up, but American armored forces, rushing into battle, prevented the juncture.

Weather Perfect
SHAEF characterized the weather over the break-through area as "absolutely perfect." The sun shone brilliantly and in blue skies the dominant allied air power was thrown into battle for the first time since the Nazi attack was launched.

The attack was started by RAF heavy bomber formations last night attacking Rhineland transport centers and communications. In early morning a great formation of Flying Fortresses, diverted from their ordinary strategic bombing to tactical duties, roared over the confused battle lines.

Some 400 American heavies, with an escort of 700 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, smashed at rail and road targets just forward of the American lines in Belgium and at the jam-packed rail yards at Ehrang, near Trier and at Kaiserlautern, west of Mannheim.

The ninth air force and the 19th and 29th tactical air commands went out in full strength. "This is just the weather we have been waiting and praying for," pilots said.

The Germans were out in force, too, and big dogfights raged over the battle areas.

Reports from the first 100 ninth air force sorties—and the figure was expected to top 1,000 before the day was over—said that 12 tanks and 18 German planes had been destroyed. The planes were shot down in two dogfights over the Trier and Coblenz areas.

American divebombers were crashing loads of high explosives on Nazi panzer columns and it was anticipated before the day was over they would roll up one of the biggest tank slaughters of the war in the west.

Planes Lost
Five American planes had been reported lost at this point. American military spokesmen refused to confirm or deny reports that Patton had wheeled third army forces northward to drive into the southern flank of the Nazi salient.

Test Well Planned On Oregon Coast

Portland, Ore., Dec. 23 (U.P.)—The Oregonian today said that the Texas company is planning to drill a test well in Columbia county of Oregon soon that may open an important oil development.

COAT IS LOST

Bend police today were asked by Lowell Gibson, 1306 East First street, to investigate the theft of his navy "pea" coat from his automobile. Gibson expressed the opinion that the coat was stolen while his car was parked either at his home or at the Oasis cafe.

Dead in Germany



Lt. Robert S. Stearns, Lapine, was killed in action near Berlin, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carey Stearns, Lapine, were notified today.

Robert Stearns Dies in Action

Reported missing since September 28 in action over Germany, Lt. Robert S. Stearns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carey Stearns, Lapine, was killed in action, his parents were notified today by the war department.

Test Well Planned On Oregon Coast

Portland, Ore., Dec. 23 (U.P.)—The Oregonian today said that the Texas company is planning to drill a test well in Columbia county of Oregon soon that may open an important oil development.