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THE BEND BULLETIN

CENTRAL OREGON'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Weather Forecast

Mostly cloudy today, tonight and Saturday. Light showers east of Cascades and snow flurries at higher elevations today. Slightly colder tonight.

Volume LIII

THE BEND BULLETIN, BEND, DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 1945

NO. 26

Japanese Spot U. S. Convoys On Move Close To Luzon Isle; Armada Under Fire, Say Nips

One Aircraft Carrier and Two Warships Go To Bottom, Asserts Tokyo; Invasion Fears Grip Empire, But Nimitz Remains Silent

Tokyo said today that one or more American convoys and a big naval task force were sailing through the Philippines south of Luzon under attack by Japanese planes which already have sunk an aircraft carrier and two battleships or cruisers.

War Chest Unit Allocates Funds

Members of the county war chest committee, meeting last night at the chamber of commerce office, heard reports on last fall's successful fund campaign, considered current affairs of the committee and made tentative plans for the 1945 drive.

Following Lehnherr's report that the county quota of \$16,400 had been remitted to state headquarters the committee authorized immediate payment to the other campaign beneficiaries of the sums originally budgeted to them.

Unexpected enlargement of the Camp Fire girl activity, the committee was warned, would probably mean need of more funds and it was voted to consider the question of a new Camp Fire budget.

Unsuccessful attempt to secure the return of the committee of \$4,465.64 assigned in 1943 to the Central Oregon camp and hospital committee for day room furnishings at Camp Abbot and unspent because of the closing of the camp.

Col. Wooten made the announcement while conferring in Eugene with selective service officials yesterday.

Only a few Oregon men—probably about 1500—will be affected by new selective service regulations, he said.

Col. Wooten also warned deferred registrants that all employers will furnish selective service boards with records of absenteeism and those delinquent in attendance on job will be subject to reclassification by local boards.

War correspondents say Allied censorship provides Americans very confused picture

Paris, Jan. 5 (AP)—Indignation of American war correspondents at the supreme Allied headquarters press policy boiled over today both at SHAEF and at the front with charges that SHAEF policy is giving the American public a distorted and confused picture of the situation.

The outburst was touched off by two fresh mixups on news of the western front.

Negro Accused of 'Lower 13' Murder Goes to His Death

"So Long Everybody" Cries Folkes as He Walks Into Gas Chamber With Cheerful Smile, Nod

Salem, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—With a cheerful cry of "So long everybody," Robert E. Lee Folkes, 23-year-old convicted negro murderer of the pretty bride of a naval officer, died in the state lethal gas chamber at 9:13 a. m. today.

The convicted murderer of Mrs. Martha Virginia James, of Norfolk, Va., in the "Lower 13" Pullman car murder, protested his innocence to the last.

Folkes walked quickly and unaided to the gas chamber and refused a blindfold until seated. He had told reporters when maintaining his innocence that the police captain of the Los Angeles homicide squad had said: "Someone has to pay for this crime and it's easier to convict a negro than a white man."

Just before the doors to the death chamber closed, Folkes smiled, nodded and shook hands with the chaplain. A blindfold was put over his eyes and at 9:07, the gas struck his face. He gasped, jerked back and breathed deeply and heavily for several minutes. He was pronounced dead six minutes later.

He saw his mother for the last time at 9:45 p. m. yesterday. He spent most of the night with the Rev. C. H. Steinhilber, pastor of the Christian and Missionary Alliance church in Salem.

Less than an hour before the execution, Gov. Earl Snell, who had been kept awake all night by "literally hundreds" of telephone calls pleading for clemency, issued this statement: "I have before me, evidence, information and confessions which convince me beyond any question of doubt of the guilt of Robert Folkes of the slaying. Furthermore, he was tried in circuit court, the case was appealed to the state supreme court, and then to the United States supreme court."

"Another appeal was made before the state supreme court, and finally back to the circuit court in Marion county. "In view of all circumstances involved, I do not see how I could possibly interfere."

The 15 highest merit award winners for 1944, including both volunteer and paid firemen, won their citations for attendance at fires, meetings, drills and schools. In 1944 a total of 121 points were obtainable. The winners: LeRoy Fox, 117; Art Hunter, 116; Vance Barber, 112; Vernon Carlson, 109; Lowell McMeen, 108; Earl Saye, 108; Ralph Graham, 105; Orval Johnson, 104; Bob Cecil, 101; Bill Dickerson, 101; Wilbur Kelsay, 101; Taylor Rhoads, 97; Ivan Murphy, 81; Claude Wanichek, 79, and Bill Rasmussen, 79.

Raymond Sering, 20, of Crawfordville, Ind., who was arrested this morning by Police Officer Chester Nordstrom for attempting to hitch-hike a ride at Greenwood avenue and Eighth street, today was held for investigation by the FBI as a possible draft evader. Sering told officers that he was enroute "back east" from Portland.

Supposed selective service papers in Sering's possession were not regular, according to members of the Deschutes county selective service board.

A 7thAAF base in the Marianas, Jan. 5 (AP)—An official army commendation disclosed today how air force engineers, using 30-ton bulldozers to fight fires, thwarted Jap attempts to hamper operations at a B-29 base.

Despite bombing and strafing by enemy planes, the engineers manned their bulldozers and safely removed two Superforts which had been set afire.

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The outburst was touched off by two fresh mixups on news of the western front.

The first concerned reports of the shift of the American First and ninth armies to the command of Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery under 21st army group, rather than under Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley of 12th army group.

The second concerned the release of news on the Allied counteroffensive. Both SHAEF and front correspondents pro-

Montgomery Hurls 3 Armies Into Attack Against Germans

Allied Leaders Reveal Change In Command

Montgomery, Hero of African Campaign, To Supervise North Flank

Paris, Jan. 5 (AP)—Supreme allied headquarters announced officially this afternoon that Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery has taken over command of all allied forces on the northern side of the German salient, including the U. S. First and Ninth armies.

The decision was made for "tactical, geographical, and supply" reasons, SHAEF said.

The remaining American forces of the 12th army group of Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, including the Third American army and U. S. First army elements on the south side of the salient remain under Bradley's command, SHAEF said.

(President Roosevelt said in Washington that the shift of the two American armies to Montgomery's command did not mean that Montgomery was to become deputy commander to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.)

For tactical purposes, the U. S. 1st and 9th armies are now under Montgomery's control through 21st army group headquarters, SHAEF announced.

The official disclosure was made after bitter protests from war correspondents who have not been permitted to report the command change previously.

The official SHAEF announcement said: "When German penetration through the Ardennes created two fronts—one substantially facing south and the other north—by instant agreement of all concerned that portion of the front facing south was placed under command of Field Marshal Montgomery and that facing north under command of General Bradley."

Up to Eisenhower Meanwhile it was learned at the war department that overall command of the two American armies was given to Montgomery because sudden military developments—the German offensive—cut them off from the group headquarters of American Gen. Omar Bradley, their former over-all commander. Whether the shift will be permanent is entirely up to Eisenhower, it was said.

Montgomery at the time of the invasion last June was commander of all ground forces under Eisenhower. As the scope of European operations widened, however, and the proportion of American troops in action as compared with British forces increased, Bradley and Montgomery were given equal status, with each commanding an army group.

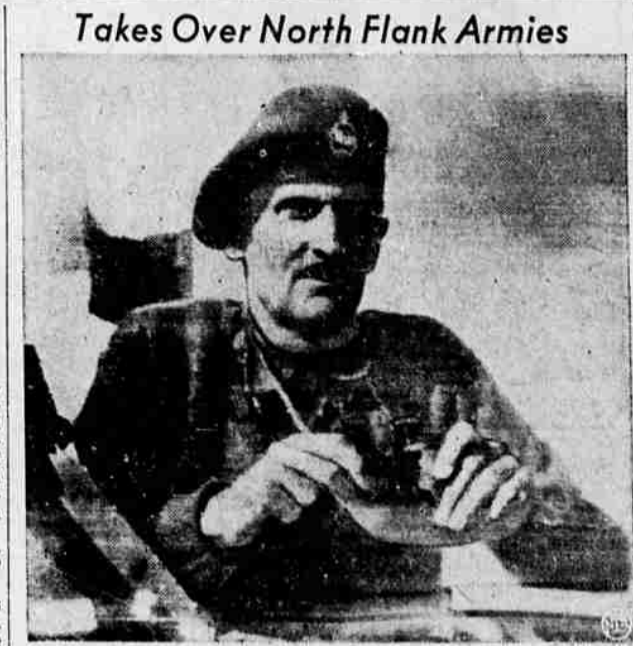
Later Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers also was raised to similar status when he was given command of the Seventh army group in southern France.

British newspapers, since the success of the German offensive, have speculated on the possibility that Montgomery might be made a deputy to Eisenhower and again be given command of all allied ground forces in Europe. The president's comment seemed to Scotch any such idea.

Dant and Russell To Reopen Plant Redmond, Jan. 5—Planning an output of 100,000 board feet of lumber daily, Dant & Russell will resume operations here shortly, it was announced by Victor H. Clark, of Dant & Russell, Ltd., of Vancouver, Wash. Operations had been halted by a fire which destroyed their planing mill with a loss of \$80,000 last June 6.

Dant & Russell have purchased the planing mill equipment from the Paul B. Kelley Lumber company at Prineville, it was stated. E. V. Anderson, who for three years has been shipping clerk for the Kelley company, will superintend the new Redmond plant.

Logs will be produced from the Maurice Hitchcock holdings at Sisters.



Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery has taken over command of all allied forces on the northern side of the German salient in Europe, supreme headquarters announced today.

Churchill In London After Trip To Front

London, Jan. 5 (AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill returned today from France, where during a short visit he met Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery. It was announced officially.

Churchill was accompanied by Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, chief of the Imperial General Staff. While in France he also saw Gen. Charles De Gaulle and the British envoy to Paris, Alfred Duff Cooper.

Big '3' To Meet, FDR Announces

Washington, Jan. 5 (AP)—The big three meeting between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Premier Josef Stalin will be held sometime after Jan. 20, Roosevelt said today. The time and place, he added, depend a good deal on what he called ice conditions.

Yielding only slightly in his reticence about plans for the big three party, the president told his news conference, when asked if a date had been set, that the answer was yes and no.

It will be after Jan. 20, he said, and made his cryptic remark about ice conditions.

Roosevelt indicated, moreover, that the secrecy which surrounded the historic Casablanca and Tehran meetings of the United Nations' leaders would prevail at the forthcoming conference.

New Trial Asked In Chaplin Case

Hollywood, Jan. 5 (AP)—Bushy-browed Joseph E. Scott today asked superior court to set the earliest possible date for retrial of Joan Berry's suit seeking to have Charlie Chaplin named the father of her 15-month-old daughter, Carol Ann.

In his request for a retrial, Scott—Miss Barry's attorney—noted only that the first trial jury had been discharged yesterday after a hopeless deadlock.

Chaplin's attorney, Charles E. "Pat" Millikan, has five court days to answer the motion. Both parties will make their next appearance on Jan. 11, before the presiding judge, to have the date set for a new trial.

Baker Is Scene Of Gun Battle

Baker, Ore., Jan. 5 (AP)—Two 17-year-old federal prisoners who escaped from the Gem county jail at Emmett, Ida., Wednesday night were captured here last night after a running gun battle with Oregon state police, Sgt. C. E. Chambers said today.

One of the prisoners—Clarence W. Harlan—was wounded in the melee and is reported in a serious condition in a Baker hospital. The other escaped prisoner is Timothy Berkley, who suffered minor injuries when their stolen car was wrecked after Harlan, the driver, was shot and wounded by Chambers.

The chase took place through downtown Baker and had the pedestrians and theatergoers literally ducking bullets.

Chambers said he and State Patrolman Leo Suydan spotted, on the outskirts of Baker, a car reported stolen at Huntington, Ore., and began to give chase.

Harlan hit Chambers said Harlan drove the car through Baker at more than 70 miles an hour with the police car in hot pursuit. Harlan was hit by Chambers' returning fire and a bullet blew out a rear tire of the stolen vehicle, causing it to "plow into a parked car," Chambers said.

In the stolen car, Chambers and Suydan found a loaded .32 calibre pistol and the .32-20 calibre pistol stolen from the overpowered jailer at Emmett.

FDR to Broadcast Part of Message

Washington, Jan. 5 (AP)—President Roosevelt will summarize his annual message to congress in a Saturday night broadcast over all major networks from 7 to 7:30 p. m. (PWT).

Roosevelt told his news conference that he was preparing a message of about 8,000 words to be delivered to congress tomorrow afternoon. The broadcast version will be less than half that long.

German Tank Army Strikes In Try to Relieve Budapest

Moscow, Jan. 5 (AP)—Outnumered Russian troops today fought off a powerful German tank army striking down from the Danube against their siege lines around Budapest, where tens of thousands of nazis were being cut to pieces in the bloodiest street battle of the war.

Americans Hit At Nazi Front In Bitter Cold

Front Dispatches Say U. S. Fighters Facing Very Tough Opposition

Paris, Jan. 5 (AP)—Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery sent three allied armies today into an attack on the north side of the Nazi Ardennes salient, pushing forward in an armored drive that gained more than a mile at some points despite bitter cold and powerful German resistance by crack divisions.

Front dispatches said the Americans were having "tough going" but said they were inching forward under point-blank German artillery fire which inflicted "severe" tank losses.

From the south, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army fended off 17 successive Nazi tank assaults on their Bastogne springboard and maintained northward pressure which now has compressed the waist of the Ardennes salient to a minimum of less than 12 miles.

Going Is Tough But SHEAF and front reports emphasized that it was hard, tough fighting with gains being measured in yards for the most part, rather than miles.

The weather was too overcast to allow the allied tactical air force to hurl its full weight into battle but the Eighth air force sent 1,000 Flying Fortresses and Liberators with 500 Mustang fighters into another smash at communications points and junctions behind Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's salient.

At the extreme southern end of the front the American Seventh army still was falling back under continued German pressure. First news of this U. S. retreat was given in a United Press front dispatch Wednesday.

Patch in Action The latest reports said that Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's troops were fighting hard in the Bitch area where the Germans attacked Lemberg to the west and Baranthal on the east. Nazi forces intruded to Wingen, three miles south of Reipertsweler, and threatened the main Saargemines-Hagenau highway and railroad.

The push threatened the communications line of American troops still in the Wissembourg gap corridor.

Announcement that Montgomery had assumed command of the American First and Ninth armies and all allied forces on the north shoulder of the Ardennes bulge was made officially today. Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley retained command of the forces on the south of the corridor, including Patton's Third Army and First Army elements left on the south side of the bulge.

Hodge's Men Advance British forces cooperating with Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First Army pushed ahead more than a mile to a point three miles south of Hotten toward the western end of the corridor. First army forces in the center of the attack area pushed to a point about 1,000 yards north of Lierneux, three and a half miles east of Malmere.

Caught in a gigantic nutcracker (Continued on Page 3)

Elements of six Nazi tank divisions and many infantry divisions spearheaded the assault and both sides were reported pouring reinforcements into the battle today.

Thousands of Germans were killed in the fighting at an undisclosed point southeast of Komarno yesterday and Soviet ground and air forces destroyed almost 1000 Nazi tanks.

In addition, the communists said, 1,162 enemy troops were captured in that area.