

Weather Full U.S. Weather Bureau report inside
Forecast: Little Change in Temperature Today. (No Further data may be given out.)
Temperature
Highest Yesterday 49
Lowest Yesterday 41

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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1941.

NO. 234.

ENEMY SUBS OFF CALIFORNIA, CLAIM

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

NAVY HEARS BUT NO CONFIRMATION TANKERS SHELLED

Welders Union Urged To Call Off Strike Threat—Caution On Atlantic Coast

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The navy received unconfirmed reports that enemy submarines fired on two oil tankers near the California coast today, apparently scoring a hit on one, and chasing the other tanker into port.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Disclosure that enemy submarines are destroying American shipping in waters off the California coast came from Rear Admiral John W. Green, as he appealed to shipyard welders not to quit work in the war plants.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The navy said tonight it had received unconfirmed reports that two oil tankers had been attacked off the California coast, and that one had sent out an S.O.S.

One report, the navy disclosed, was that the 6,912-ton tanker Emidio was fired on off Blunt's Reef, near Eureka, and that it sent out distress signals after smoke enveloped it.

The other report was that the 5,771-ton tanker Agawit was attacked off Cypress Point, about 100 miles south of San Francisco. It reportedly escaped and reached a haven along the nearby coast.

"The navy does not deny, but it cannot confirm these reports," said Rear Admiral J. W. Green, commandant of the 12th naval district.

At the naval district headquarters, an aide to Admiral Green said it had been reported without confirmation that the Blunt's Reef lighthouse had picked up an S.O.S. from the Emidio.

Blunt's Reef is some 200 miles north of San Francisco, and thus approximately 300 miles north of Cypress Point, where the other alleged attack was reported to have occurred.

Earlier, Admiral Green had disclosed that enemy submarines were preying on shipping off the California coast as he took quick steps to assure uninterrupted production in shipyards.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Naval sources announced tonight that enemy submarines have been destroying American shipping off the California coast, and have been active, as well, off the Atlantic seaboard.

The news that enemy submarines are operating off the Atlantic coast was given out indirectly, by the navy in a statement cautioning radio stations against weather forecast broadcasts, even when they involve only isolated areas far from the sea. The department related this story:

"A 'weatherwise' commanding officer at an Atlantic naval base recently heard a radio announcement of sub-freezing weather in the Dakotas and a temperature of nine degrees at Duluth.

From his knowledge of continental weather tracks, he deduced that a few days later 'his patrol area would have a clear day or two with high visibility and conditions ideal for enemy submarine attack.' 'Special precautions were taken in patrol work on the calculated day, which turned out as predicted, and in the course of operations it became apparent that enemy submarines had also picked up the same information and made the same deduction.

"It was pointed out that the information so inadvertently broadcast would also have been of benefit to an enemy air attack along any port of the 'weather route' in the North Atlantic.

FIRE DELAYS DEFENSE
Newark, N. J., Dec. 20.—(AP)—A three-alarm fire destroyed today the plant of the Steel and Alloy Tank company and seriously delayed a \$500,000 government defense contract for large stainless-steel tanks.

Axis Forces in Complete Retreat in Libya

Defense Bond Demand Speeds Up Presses



The treasury reported that the demand for U.S. Defense Savings bonds had been so great since the outbreak of war that the bureau of engraving and printing had been forced to a 24-hour shift. A section of the bureau, where the presses roll out a million bonds a day, is shown.

MANILA REPORTS JAPSLAND DAVAO, DETAILS LACKING

Fifth Column Aid Hinted—Dutch Airmen Hit Three Nippon Warships.

Manila, Dec. 21.—(Sunday, 7:40 a. m.—2:40 p. m. EST Saturday)—(AP)—Army headquarters announced today that due to communication difficulties the situation at Japanese-occupied Davao, on Mindanao island, is obscure.

No word has been received from there since yesterday afternoon.

A brief communique disclosed that an aerial bombardment was carried out against Davao by the Japanese before they sent a considerable force of troops ashore from four transports in the early Saturday dawn.

The announcement said the situation remained unchanged on Luzon island, where the Japanese have established small beachheads on the north, northwest and southeastern coasts.

Davao is one of the most heavily Japanese-populated centers in the Philippines and the invaders apparently chose that port for their landing with the idea of obtaining support from fifth columnists among their number.

Batavia, Netherlands, East Indies, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Direct bomb hits on two Japanese cruisers, a transport, and another warship presumably used as an aircraft carrier were reported officially tonight by Dutch airmen operating big American bombers off Japanese-occupied Miri, Borneo.

Other explosives rained alongside the Japanese ships as the Dutch pilots twice attacked the invaders who are seeking to reinforce their foothold on the Sarawak coast, which is adjacent to British and Dutch Borneo, the agency Aneta said.

Another Japanese cruiser was reported hit last Wednesday, hence the Dutch asserted three enemy cruisers had been put out of action in less than a week by their fliers.

At the same time Aneta reported that 17 Japanese planes bombed and sank the 4,200-ton Russian freighter Perekop in Dutch waters, an attack which 'may lead to serious consequences,' since Russia thus far is a neutral in the Pacific war.

Six German planes were destroyed yesterday and Russian fliers reported destroying or damaging four German tanks, 170 trucks with troops and supplies, seven field guns with crews, two anti-aircraft batteries, 100 ammunition cars, setting fire to five railroad trains and blowing up an ammunition dump.

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Unsuccessful, the policemen turned off the elevator power. The boys' one-spot aviation spree ended on the 19th floor, where they were trapped.

Maryville, Mo., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Every man, woman and child in this town of 5,700 has either a defense savings stamp or a defense savings bond, city officials claimed today.

Residents contributed \$65,000 in a 10-day drive culminated by a house-to-house canvass.

War Bulletins

London, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Ack-ack guns along the Thames set up a rolling fire tonight to repulse raiding planes, and machine-gun fire could be heard in the darkness aloft.

Later an announcement said that bombs were dropped in southwest England and some casualties occurred.

Raiders attempted to attack the northeast but were forced to drop most of their bombs in the sea. One boy was injured on land. Bombs dropped in the southeast caused no damage or casualties, authorized sources said.

London, Dec. 20.—(AP)—King George VI will broadcast to the empire on Christmas Day at 3 p. m. (6 a. m. PST).

Berlin, Dec. 20.—(Official broadcast recorded by AP)—U-boats have sunk four ships totalling 17,000 tons in recent operations against British shipping in the Atlantic, the German high command said today, and credited scouting aircraft with sinking an 8,000-ton tanker from a convoy in St. George's channel.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—(A n d i agency to AP)—A 62-year-old woman was sentenced today to 10 years in a penitentiary when a court in Katowice, upper Silesia, found her guilty of listening to foreign radio broadcasts and disseminating the news to relatives. The court said she escaped a death sentence only because of her age.

Moscow, Dec. 20.—(AP)—It's so dark on the Russian steppes at night, the Moscow radio says, that Germans are getting the jitters.

At the same hour every night they send up a stream of rockets in the area where between Dec. 7 and Dec. 13 Russians have wiped out 5,500 German soldiers and officers.

London, Dec. 20.—(AP)—An appeal from Adolf Hitler read in every radio station of the reich tonight acknowledged that his army faced an enemy superior in numbers and material and begged the straitened German people to contribute their warm clothing to enable the soldiers to endure the rigors of the bitter eastern front.

The appeal, sounded on Hitler's behalf by Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, said the German people must show their gratitude by making a Christmas gift of every article of warm clothing that possibly can be spared to the men in the army.

While Goebbels was thus reading his own appeal and the proclamation of the fuhrer, the high command admitted its African army was withdrawing westward "according to plan" and that on the frigid Russian front heavy battles were being fought without a claim to German advances. In Russia, the high command merely said, the Russians were suffering extreme new losses.

Every kind of fur and woolen clothing, from lined overshoes, socks and underwear to earmuffs, blankets, shawls, overcoats and blankets, is needed to protect the soldiers from the "bitter cold," said Goebbels in a 20-minute speech.

Nazi party members will make the house-to-house collection from December 27 to January 4, he said.

Chungking, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Ten thousand Chinese troops of Japan's Nanking puppet regime mutinied near Chengchow just south of the Yellow river on the night of December 16 and killed or wounded 1,000 Japanese troops, Central News Agency reported tonight.

BRITISH PURSUIT ON LAND, IN AIR TAKES HIGH TOLL

Rommel's Army Flees Close To Bengasi—London Hesitant With Optimism

By the Associated Press
Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 20.—Axis resistance in Libya has all but collapsed and the British are in full chase of General Erwin Rommel's army, fleeing westward in rout almost to Bengasi, the British declared tonight.

So fast is the pursuit, it was said, that the British have been hard-pressed to stay on the enemy's heels and much of the job of smashing the axis' last remnants of strength has fallen to the RAF.

The main body of the retreating axis army is now in the western Gebel Akhdar mountains, a coastal range whose western end extends to south of Bengasi, the British said.

The rout was said to have littered desert roads with destroyed and burning tanks, guns and vehicles and to have left two merchantmen listing off North Africa with torpedo hits after an assault on a convoy guarded by three Italian destroyers and three cruisers.

After occupying the port of Derna and Mekeil, 40 miles inland, the British were said to have pushed their advance patrols as far as 60 miles further west, within 100 miles of Bengasi, the axis' important advance supply port.

These patrols now are beyond the desert and in the green country of eastern Cirenaica, which once was the region of one of Mussolini's most ambitious colonizing efforts.

Although the British were hesitant to count ten over the once formidable German-Italian North African forces, commentators expressed confidence that the axis, harried from land and air, could not make another strong stand even at Bengasi.

They were confident also that there would be no axis escape to parallel the British withdrawals from Dunkerque, Greece or Crete.

Belief that Rommel will be unable to marshal his forces for another major stand was based on two assumptions: That there are no substantial axis reserves at Bengasi and that he lacks the tank strength to delay his pursuers while that port's defenses are prepared.

Even those British sources disinclined to optimism agreed that the Nazi commander is in a spot where heavy air reinforcements scarcely could help, especially since the axis is limited to a few landing fields in a relatively restricted area under constant RAF attack.

ORDER OLSON TO REVOKE PARDONS

Sacramento, Calif., Dec. 20.—(AP)—The California assembly tonight by a vote of 43 to 10 called upon Governor Culbert L. Olson to revoke the pardons granted Earl King, Ernest G. Ramsay and Frank J. Connor, by the state parole board.

This action was taken on a resolution introduced by Assemblyman Gardiner Johnson, Berkeley.

It termed the paroling of the three men, who were convicted of plotting the killing of George W. Alberts, chief engineer aboard the freighter Point Lobos at Alameda, "ill considered" and "subversive of public confidence."

SOYBEAN PRICE UP
Chicago, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Soybean prices rose almost 6 cents a bushel at one stage, close to the limit permitted in today's session, injecting strength as well as some life to the otherwise languid grain trade.



Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 20.—One good official source thinks Hitler has lost one fourth of his total available man power on the plains of Russia. Total Nazi casualties (killed, wounded and missing) he estimates at 2,000,000. The long battle line required the fuhrer to keep an army of 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 up front continuously. He has fed this force from his maximum man-power pool of 8,000,000 to 9,000,000 men (which incidentally is spread thin all around Europe in the Balkans, France and other occupied regions).

These estimates picture Hitler on the verge of disaster, but unfortunately they are not fully accepted by other sources. Another authority, just as official and usually just as accurate, thinks most of the Nazi casualties who were wounded, will be available again. The permanent Nazi loss so far, he estimated at only 580,000 to 600,000 men.

Everyone agrees red losses are much heavier. Estimates run between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 men. Certainly 600,000 to 800,000 reds have been taken prisoners. (Nazi losses in prisoners have been relatively inconsequential.) But Stalin can stand man-losses better than Hitler. His maximum available man-power is more than half again as large as Hitler's—between 12,000,000 and 14,000,000 soldiers.

The differing estimates represent at least the best available balance which can be obtained on the widely varying claims of the Moscow and Berlin propaganda ministries.

THESE two generals who are taking over the army defenses of Hawaii are flying generals—not desk-sitters. Both are red-tape haters, chosen on

(Continued on Page Ten)

55 LOSE JOBS IN STOP WORK MOVE

Los Angeles, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Fifty-five welders who laid down their tools in a nationwide stop work action were discharged today and escorted from the California Shipyards plant.

General Manager John A. McCone said they were all who heeded the call out of a claimed United Welders membership of 1,200 among the plant's 1,700 welders.

"The policy of the company is to dismiss any man who lays down his tools," McCone said. "Such action is insubordination. We have a closed shop contract with the AFL."

The welders long have been demanding autonomy within the AFL, claiming their membership is split among several crafts unions.

NORWEGIANS FLEE FROM NAZI HATE

Stockholm, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Swedish newspaper dispatches reported today that increasing numbers of Norwegians were fleeing their German-occupied homeland, slipping away to England in some instances by the boatload.

Only recently, according to these advices, a 200-ton ship slipped out of a remote harbor on the Norwegian west coast with 200 persons aboard, including some accused by the Germans of political "crimes."

Washington, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The navy department announced formally today the establishment of "defensive sea areas" around 13 important harbors and waterways on the east and west coasts.

WILLKIE LISTED TO SERVE ON F.R.'S HIGH WAR BOARD

By William B. Ardery
Washington, Dec. 20.—(AP)—President Roosevelt was reported to be considering the creation of a supreme war council which would be subordinate only to him and would have powers even greater than those of the cabinet.

Those in a position to know said that while the plan still was embryonic, the president believed the war effort could be prosecuted more efficiently if he had a small group around him which could handle many matters of policy which now require his personal attention.

Informants said the proposed war council would be composed of from three to five men. They listed the following among those considered for membership on the group:

Wendell L. Willkie, republican nominee for the presidency in 1940 and now member of a New York law firm.

Rear Admiral William D. Leahy, minister to Vichy, former chief of naval operations, former governor Puerto Rico.

Vice President Henry A. Wallace.

Phillip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Supreme command of the United States navy, wherever its operations may take it, was given today to Admiral Ernest J. King.

With the appointment went the navy's recognition of the terrific power of the airplane in modern warfare, for King's career includes service with the air corps and he is, in his own right, a naval aviator.

In addition, he has served with submarines as well as surface craft, has proved himself an excellent tactician, and thus is considered an officer of unusually full and well-rounded experience.

HONOR CAVEMEN LEADER
Grants Pass, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Grants Pass prepared today to suspend business in all its stores and offices Monday morning from 10 to 10:15 to pay tribute in death to L. A. Ringuette, flamewatcher of the Oregon Cavemen.

BRAVE HONGKONG DEFENSE LAUDED EVEN BY NIPPON

London, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Written off by the generals as hopeless, the magnificent defense of Hongkong was prolonged tonight by the blood of a garrison of fighting men thrown together from two sides of the world.

Even the Japanese, in sudden praise of the last stand of the brave of British tommies, Canadians from Manitoba and Quebec and bewickered, stoic Indian Sikhs, admitted in a broadcast tonight:

"The expected imminent fall of the colony has been staved off by their stubborn defense."

Waiting for the end, authorities in London said it would be a miracle if the colony, a rocky square of England in the orient for a hundred years, did not soon pass entirely into Japanese hands.

The Japanese say they have the city of Victoria and that lorries flying the scarlet ball of the rising sun are roaring through the streets, packed with disarmed British soldiers; that the cannon on Mount Davis, dominating a chain of forts eastward, have been silenced; that remnants of the British garrison are encircled on the peak of the island, Mount Victoria.

But their broadcasts acknowledged today Mount Victoria's guns still replied at intervals.

TWO DESTROYERS TAKE TO WATERS

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Two gray warships slid down the building ways at the Charleston navy yard within 10 minutes of each other today in the first dual launching of destroyers in the south.

The new 1,700-ton destroyers, the Tillman and the Beatty, hit the water at Charleston harbor at 10:50 and 11 a. m. They were the fourth and fifth destroyers launched at the Charleston yard this year. Two more destroyers are under consideration.

NEW POWER STATION
Portland, Ore., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Construction of a sub-station near Tacoma, costing more than \$1,000,000, has been authorized by the defense plant corporation, the Bonneville administration announced today.

GRAND OFFENSIVE OF RUSSIA GAINS UPON ALL FRONTS

(By the Associated Press)
Moscow, Sunday, Dec. 21.—Plunging forward with accelerated momentum, the red army's grand offensive has captured the key industrial and rail center of Volokomansk, 65 miles northwest of Moscow, and registered other gains from Finland to the Sea of Azov, the Russians announced today.

The town of Voibokalo, south of Lake Ladoga on the northern front, and dozens more villages on the Moscow front have been re-occupied in fiercely contested battles, the soviet information bureau communique announced last midnight.

With soviet forces counting vast new spoils and mounting numbers of German dead, pursuit of disordered Nazi divisions routed in the Kallin sector, 90 miles northwest of Moscow, was declared gaining momentum.

There the wreckage of German transports and war material littered the snows, the communique said.

Six German planes were destroyed yesterday and Russian fliers reported destroying or damaging four German tanks, 170 trucks with troops and supplies, seven field guns with crews, two anti-aircraft batteries, 100 ammunition cars, setting fire to five railroad trains and blowing up an ammunition dump.

Portland, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Appointment of an Oregon labor supply committee to deal with problems arising out of the country's armament effort, was announced today by James G. Bryant.

LABOR COMMITTEE FOR STATE PLAN

The acting chairman of the regional labor supply committee for the west coast said the purpose was to increase defense production by promoting an adequate labor supply and to prevent, if possible, dislocations in employment caused by priorities.

Management, labor and federal and state agencies are represented on the committee, headed by Otto Hartwig, social security adviser of the Crown Zellerbach corporation.

ELEVATOR CHASE KEEPS COP BUSY

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Residents contributed \$65,000 in a 10-day drive culminated by a house-to-house canvass.

STOCKS IRREGULAR

New York, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The stock market today finished another declining week slightly on the irregular side.