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Forecast: Little change in temperature.
Temperature
Highest Yesterday 43
Lowest this Morning 33

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Thirty-sixth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1941

NO. 236.

JAPS SINK TANKER OFF CALIFORNIA; NAZIS REPORTED MOVING ON AFRICA

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 23.—How the British could fare so poorly in defense of Singapore—



against a land attack for which they have been preparing at least 15 years—is the first major mystery of the far east war. The explanation being sent out of that "impenetrable bastion" by the news-men is that insufficient men and material were furnished by London. This would seem to be a hand-worn and miserable excuse.

The truth is they slipped in only one particular, the most important one. They neglected to concentrate sufficient pursuit planes to protect the adequate troops and material which they had mustered. They underestimated the Jap air force (as has everyone else). Such fighting planes could not be flown to the Orient in view of their short range, but had to be shipped out around South Africa. As they were also needed at home and elsewhere, the British fell easily into a critical error.

OUR defense of the Philippines has relied heavily upon the British grasp of the Singapore flank. If the Japs win there, their fleet and troops can be turned full on General MacArthur. Furthermore, the helpful rainy season is about over out there and good fighting weather will prevail through April. If the Philippines can be held until next May they will never be lost.

THE meeting of the maritime unioners and ship operators swiftly got down to business here. Called by John R. Steelman of the government's labor conciliation service and Admiral Land of the maritime commission, it developed immediate unity. Strikes were barred. War aid was promised. But then the

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Radio Highlights

By Associated Press
(Time Is Pacific Standard)
President Roosevelt's greeting to the nation and Pope Pius' Christmas message to the world may be heard on Wednesday. The president's words will be carried by all networks at 2 p. m. The pope's message is to be sent out by the Vatican City short wave station at 2:30 a. m. At 7:30 a. m. the MBS chain will relay the broadcast in full from recordings.
Other day-before-Christmas programs:
CBS, 6:15 a. m., Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, music; 12:30 p. m., "Night Before Christmas," drama.
NBC-Blue, 7:45 a. m., carols from Wall Street, N. Y.
MBS, 12:30 p. m., greetings to travelers at Grand Central and Pennsylvania stations; 3 p. m., carols from Chicago.
Tonight: CBS, 7:15, Dr. William Agar on "War to Victory."

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 23.—(AP)—An automobile fatally injured G. O. Haugen, 75, custodian of the city library, here last night.

SIDE GLANCES BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Retired Bob Newland dropping in at the postoffice to see how hard the boys were working.

"Rickey" Reichstein watching ice skaters from the side lines and friends wondering when he was going to try his luck.

SECOND VESSEL ESCAPES RAIDER IN SAME REGION

Tanker Montebello Victim—All Hands Reported Safely Landed; Spot Not Told.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The 440-ton tanker Montebello was attacked and sunk by an enemy submarine at 4 a. m. today off the California coast, headquarters of the 12th naval district announced. Four lifeboats carrying survivors have landed.
The navy said it had no report of any casualties.
While the Montebello was being attacked, the Richfield tanker Larry Doheny was reported to have encountered trouble with an undersea raider in the same general locality, but to have escaped. The navy said, however, it had not been in communication with the Doheny since the attack.

Eighth Attack
It was the eighth submarine attack on American freighters and tankers in nearby Pacific waters since opening of the war.

From 3 a. m. until almost midnight the sound of gunfire rolled in to shore from action only a few miles off the coast.

Occasionally a deep thundering explosion could be heard, that rattled windows and doors in coastal communities.
By noon lifeboats were being beached at points along 100 miles of coast. The survivors all appeared uninjured.

The navy withheld information as to the exact spot today's attack occurred.

The attack on both boats was apparently made at about the same time.

The Montebello, built in 1921 by the Southwestern Shipbuilding company of San Diego, weighed 5,107 net tons.

San Luis Obispo, Calif., Dec. 23.—(AP)—A series of heavy explosions were heard off-shore on the Pacific coast today.

There was speculation whether it was an enemy submarine attacking an American freighter, or an attack by U. S. forces on an enemy raider.

Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—(AP)—An enemy submarine fired on and sank the Union Oil tanker Montebello at dawn today off the California coast.

All hands were reported safe in a telephone message from Capt. Olaf Eckstrom to Union Oil offices here.

Bill Srez, of Westville, Mass., one of the crew, said he did not know whether the Montebello was torpedoed.

"There was a hell of an explosion," Srez said after he was dragged from the surf by Jack Freebody, and Austin Waltz. "I know they fired on us from the deck, however. The fellows in the other boats were subjected to machine gun fire, but they had gotten started away to shore. We don't know whether they made it."

Capt. Eckstrom, Srez, John T. Smith of Torrance, Calif., Edgar F. Smith and two other men whose names were not learned, were so cold and numb when they were brought to safety on a life line they could hardly talk. Their lifeboat crashed on the rocks.

Some watchers on shore saw the shelling of the Montebello. They said one direct hit caused the tanker's bow to lurch upward and almost immediately she sank. There had been firing before this hit, however, witnesses said, and flashes of light could be seen.

Capt. Eckstrom said the Montebello was attacked about 6 a. m.

MESSENGERS STRIKE
Tacoma, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Western Union messenger boys went on strike today, asking a pay increase of from 30 cents to 45 cents an hour.

War Bulletins

Hongkong, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Hongkong's defenders have "contained"—halted and perhaps surrounded—Japanese forces who made a light penetration in their lines on Mount Cameron on Hongkong island, the British command announced today.

Moscow, Wednesday, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Red army troops, still driving the Germans back on the Moscow defense arc, have occupied the important railway junction of Gorbachevo, 150 miles southwest of this capital, it was announced officially today. The town is about 50 miles southwest of Tula, about mid-way to Orel.

London, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The rumble of explosions and brilliant bursts from anti-aircraft guns tonight showed that the RAF had crossed a moonlit channel and attacked objectives along the French coast.

PRIVATE FLYING HALTED BY WAR ON COAST SLOPE

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Private flying within 150 miles of the Pacific ocean from Oregon to Mexico was grounded today on orders of the civil aeronautics authority.

Private flying schools and plane owners had the choice of moving inland beyond the restricted zone or storing their craft in hangars, where they must maintain an armed guard day and night to guard planes against possible destruction by enemy agents.

Transcontinental mail and passenger airlines were not affected by the grounding order which affects some 2,000 civilian pilots and more than 200 airplanes.

Planes belonging to a flying school in San Jose were flown to Reno in the company of an army escort yesterday. The CAA announced that the army would accompany planes granted permission to fly inland.

All aviation ground school classes in schools and colleges were also ordered closed.

The order was expected to remain in effect for the duration of the war.

LABOR, INDUSTRY AGREE ON PEACE

Washington, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Labor and management representatives agreed today to forego strikes and lockouts for the duration of the war and to settle all disputes by peaceful means.

The agreement was worked out by 26 representatives of industry, labor and the government after four days of deliberation.

The conferees also recommended that President Roosevelt set up a labor board similar to the one in operation in the last World War to handle disputes.

Announcement of the agreement was made by William H. Davis, moderator of the conference. Davis read to reporters a letter from President Roosevelt to the conference in which Mr. Roosevelt said he was "happy to accept your general points of agreement."

The president added that he accepted without reservation "your covenants that there shall be no strikes or lockouts and all disputes shall be settled by peaceful means." He said further that he would proceed at once to act on the third point of the agreement, calling for establishment of a war labor board.

WAKE FOOTHOLD GAINED BY JAPS IS NAVY'S WORDS

Brief Announcement Fails To Say If Island Captured—No Word From Midway

Washington, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The Japanese have landed at last on Wake island, at a cost known only to themselves and the sturdy marines who fought off attack after attack in a style that has thrilled the nation.

In fact, since the navy department communique telling of the landing today gave no details, there was still hope that the tiny Pacific island was not lost entirely.

This hope was not inspired by Wake's importance, for it has little, but by the almost incredible exploits of men who battled against overwhelming strength and refused to give up.

There was no mention of Midway in the communique.

Wake, one of Pan American Airlines' clipper bases, has been under repeated aerial assault and on occasion has been attacked by naval units as well.

INVADERS BRING TANKS INTO USE IN LUZON BATTLE

Washington, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The war department announced today that Japanese invasion attacks on the eastern shore of Lingayen gulf in the Philippines were increasing in intensity and that the invaders were using light tanks in vigorous attacks south of Agoo in this area.

A late day communique said General Douglas MacArthur reported enemy war planes had been particularly active in supporting landings and attempts to advance ashore.

The communique also said that American army bombers attacked several enemy troop ships off Davao, more than 500 miles to the south on the island of Mindanao, but results were described as undetermined.

Manila, Dec. 23.—(4:19 p. m.—2:19 a. m. EST)—(AP)—U. S. army headquarters announced today that sharp fighting was continuing in northern Luzon but said there had been no change in positions since yesterday, when the Japanese landed strong forces at Santo Tomas, approximately 125 miles from Manila.

The situation in the Davao area on Mindanao island south of Luzon, where American troops have been engaged in sharp fighting with a Japanese landing force, was described officially as "obscure."

An army spokesman said it had not been determined exactly how many troops the Japanese had been able to land at Santo Tomas.

FRATERNITY HOUSE HAS \$3,000 DAMAGE BY FIRE
Eugene, Dec. 23.—(AP)—A fire starting in a clothes chute did an estimated \$3,000 damage to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house at the University of Oregon today. No one was injured.

CRASH KILLS SAILOR
Fresno, Calif., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Vernon Lyle Watt, 21, of Hubbard, Ore., sailor from the San Diego naval base, died in the Fresno county hospital last night, the second fatality of a four-car highway pileup here Sunday.

Refugio Salcido, 21, Fresno, died an hour after the Sunday accident in which Watt was injured.

Churchill in U. S. for Conference



Wearing his reefer and cap, Winston Churchill arrived at the White House with President Roosevelt and the president's naval aide, Capt. John R. Beardall, after his daring and secret journey to the United States for another history-making conference with Roosevelt. The president met Churchill in a car at a "nearby airport." They were closeted at the White House to talk war plans to encompass "the defeat of Hitlerism."

Roosevelt, Churchill Hold Council of War

U. S. ARMY, NAVY OFFICIALS JOIN IN CONFERENCE

Washington, Dec. 23.—(AP)—President Roosevelt called a conference for 2 p. m. PST today with American army and navy officials and British Prime Minister Churchill and his staff. The White House said this group might be called the "war council."

The American group invited included Secretary of War Stimson, General George C. Marshall, army chief of staff; Major General Henry H. Arnold, deputy chief of staff for air; Secretary of the Navy Knox; Admiral Harold R. Stark, chief of naval operations; Admiral Ernest J. King, new commander of the United States fleet; and Harry L. Hopkins, special assistant on lend-lease affairs.

In announcing the conference, Press Secretary Stephen Early told reporters: "That group you might call the war council."

This was to be the first conference between the president and the entire British mission.

Even before the capital recovered from its surprise at Churchill's dramatic arrival, the con-

Confidence

Washington, Dec. 23.—(AP)—President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, sitting side by side in the White House, voiced utmost confidence today in the abilities of their countries to fight the war to a successful conclusion.

The two submitted to questioning at a joint press conference, with the British leader assuming the bulk of the task of replying and emphasizing at one point that the allies were working out a complete unity of action in the southwest Pacific.

Asked at the end of the conference whether he had any doubt of the ultimate outcome, Churchill said he had absolutely none.

He said the allies should, however, bank on an external knock-out of Germany rather than on an internal collapse of the reich.

versations were under way and the White House had become, for the present, the G. H. Q. for the world-wide battle against totalitarian arms.

From early last evening until 1 o'clock this morning, the president and the British prime minister conferred in the oval study in the White House once used by another war president—Abraham Lincoln—for his office.

The White House said the president and prime minister probably would resume their personal discussions late this afternoon.

For most of the time last night the two were alone. In subsequent conferences they are expected to call in whatever advisers they need.

Telephone Company Asks Public Not to Call Long Distance

A request to the telephone-using public to "lend us a hand" over the holiday season by not sending greetings by long distance telephone was made today by R. B. Hammond, manager here for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

"Our lines are carrying a tremendous volume of calls—in the last few days the greatest number in history," Mr. Hammond said, pointing out that it was necessary, of course, that in all instances the lines readily be available for telephone calls important to defense.

"We want the public to know that we are meeting this emergency with everything we have," he concluded, "and that we deeply appreciate the public's considerate thoughtfulness."

ONE-DAY HOLIDAY FOR MEDCO CREW

The office of the Medford corporation announced today they would close down Thursday for Christmas, but would resume operations Friday, giving the workers a one-day holiday.

Timber Products company will close down Christmas, and Manager Floyd Hart said the plant would not operate Friday and Saturday.

Manager Hart said it was customary for the mill to close down for a week or 10 days at Christmas time for repairs but this year all repairs had been previously made.

EXPECTED LUNGE GETS UNDER WAY THROUGH FRANCE

Move Toward Spanish Frontier Reported in Switzerland—Force Not Large.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—(Andi Agency to AP)—German sources asserted tonight that the United States and Britain had designs on Spain and Turkey and were responsible for the "unfounded rumors" of Nazi plans in those two countries.

(By Associated Press)

Authoritative reports that German troops were moving westward through occupied France to the Spanish frontier were received tonight in Switzerland, and it thus appeared that Hitler's expected new lunge might be taking the form of an attempt to break Gibraltar and enter north Africa.

A new German effort to retrieve the Nazis' reverses in Russia had been widely anticipated since Hitler's decision to oust his top military commander, General Field Marshal von Brauchitsch, and take upon himself the responsibility of unique personal command.

His troop movement through western France was not large so far as could be learned, and the exact nature of its equipment was not ascertained. There was some speculation that the intention might be to attempt to ship men from Spain to north Africa.

MILK CAP CHANGE DELAYED BY WAR

Salem, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Because of an expected shortage of machinery and paper, the State Department of Agriculture announced today that its sanitary milk cap regulation, which was to have become effective January 1, would not be enforced until further notice.

The regulation provided that all grade A dairies under the department's supervision must provide milk caps covering the pouring lip of the bottle.

"Those dairymen who have secured their bottling equipment and caps may proceed to use them, and dairies using the required equipment will not be penalized in any way for its use," the department said.

Portland Papers Up Subscription Rates
Portland, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Both the Oregonian and Oregon Journal announced today increases in monthly subscription rates, effective Jan. 1, from 65 to 85 cents for the daily editions and from \$1.05 to \$1.25 for daily and Sunday.

The newspapers said operating expenses had increased.

HITLER NERVOUS AND EYES ARE INFLAMED

London, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The Moscow radio said today in a broadcast heard here that Adolf Hitler had consulted "the famous German doctor Schuster" and was told he was suffering severe nervous exhaustion and inflammation of the eyes.

Hitler's eyes have troubled him since he was gassed in the first World War.

WOULD AVENGE SON

Portland, Dec. 23.—(AP)—William T. Nugent, 42, applied today for enlistment in the navy to replace his son, Thomas, killed in the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor. The veteran of the first World War is a city fireman in charge of the Baker first-aid car.