

Weather
Full U. S. Weather Bureau report inside
Forecast: Little change in temperature.
Temperature
Highest Yesterday 41
Lowest this Morning 34

MEDFORD



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Thirty-sixth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1941.

NO. 237.

ANOTHER SHIP ATTACKED OFF COAST

Crisis Seen Near in Fight for Philippines

Sunk by Submarine in Pacific Waters



The navy department announced that the steamship Lahaina (above), was shelled and sunk by an enemy submarine. Dec. 11 on the way to San Francisco. Two of the crew were dead and two were missing. Thirty survivors landed in Hawaii.

CENTRAL PT. MAN INSTANTLY KILLED ON NORTH HWY

B. F. Peart, 63-year-old Central Point resident, met instant death about 11 p. m. Tuesday when he was struck by an automobile driven by Guy Simmons Compton of 324 North Front street on the Pacific highway two miles north of Medford and a quarter of a mile south of the Beall lane intersection.

Peart, according to Deputy Coroner Carlos W. Morris, died instantly with a severely crushed skull. The victim also suffered a broken right ankle and bruises about the body.

Morris quoted Compton, local agent for a Portland newspaper, as explaining the pedestrian was a yard over the center line and directly in the path of his car when he was struck with the machine's front fender and knocked about 15 feet. After the impact the aged man's head was on the shoulder of the highway and the rest of his body was on the pavement, Morris said.

Compton told Morris that he was returning from Grants Pass and that a car pulled out of Beall lane in front of him and almost headed south. Morris quoted Compton as saying he checked his speedometer at that time, and saw that it registered 35 miles an hour.

Trailing the other automobile at a distance of about 300 yards, Compton saw the lights of an approaching vehicle, he related to Morris. Suddenly, he was quoted by Morris, a man loomed directly in front of his car almost in the middle of the right-of-way.

Compton swerved his car sharply to the left into the path of the oncoming vehicle, a freight truck, but was unable to avoid striking the southbound pedestrian, he explained to Morris. Compton was barely able to jerk his car, a Chevrolet coach, out of the path of the northbound truck, he told Morris.

Morris said he learned that Peart had been suffering from a slight mental ailment for some time, and that he was prone to walk in the middle of streets and on the highway. Deputy

Gaunt, Exhausted Survivors Of Sea Attack Reach Hawaii

Honolulu, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Thirty gaunt and exhausted survivors of the freighter Lahaina, sunk by a Japanese submarine in the Pacific Dec. 11, reached a Hawaiian beach in a 20-foot lifeboat after nine and one-half days at sea, it became known today.

When they approached the shore at Spreckelsville, Maui island, at dawn last Monday they were mistaken for an enemy landing party until they made their identity known.

Two of the crew died aboard "the crowded lifeboat from exposure and exhaustion and two others leaped overboard. One seaman died a few hours after the boat made land.

The 8,646-ton Matson freighter was 800 miles off of Ahukini, Kauai Island, when she was shelled and left afire and sinking.

Captain Hanso Matthiesen said the submarine, described as about 200 feet long, fired from 2,000 yards and then again from 300 yards. He estimated 12 of 25 shots fired struck the Lahaina.

Hundreds of kiddies are entertained by the matinee every Christmas morning, and this year's program is expected to meet with their approval more than ever before. Abbott and Costello are two of the screen's funniest comedians and the Mail Tribune and George A. Hunt theatres are certain the young folks will be more than satisfied with the film.

Remember, kiddies, it starts at 10 o'clock sharp in the morning, and it's entirely free. All youngsters are cordially invited.

DOING HIS BEST
New Haven, Conn., Dec. 24.—(AP)—A Cheshire man, rejected several times by the navy because of a slight eye defect, finally passed and in his excitement developed a pulse beat that was so fast the examining physician rejected him again. He was told to come back in a week, however.

NICE FAT PRESENT GIVEN EMPLOYERS
Salem, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Oregon employers got a nice fat Christmas present today when the state unemployment compensation commission announced that the employers probably would not have to pay penalty unemployment taxes on their payrolls during the next year.

The commission said that its reserve fund probably will remain above the \$14,373,000 mark during the entire year, which means that the payroll tax rate will range from 1 to 2.7 per cent. If the fund falls below that mark, the rates will be from 1 to 4 per cent.

January tax payments probably will boost the fund to \$18,000,000, while a \$20,000,000 total later in the year is possible.

GOLDFISH THIEF
Portland, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Whoever stole the 10 goldfish from William Bissett's pond last night wanted them badly enough to spoon out 30 gallons of water with the top of a garbage can.

CAPTURE OF WAKE VIRTUALLY SURE, NAVY ADMISSION

Palmyra and Johnston Islands Shelled By Jap Subs—No Casualties.

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The navy department made public today what may be the final chapter in the heroic defense of Wake Island, announcing that the tiny far-Pacific outpost had been severed, that "the capture of the island is probable," but added that the marine corps defenders accounted for two enemy destroyers in the final Japanese landing operations.

At the same time, the navy announced that Palmyra Island and Johnston Island, both in the mid-Pacific, had been shelled by enemy submarines with no casualties resulting. Damage at Palmyra Island was negligible, the navy said, and there was no damage to material at Johnston Island.

No new developments were reported in either the Atlantic or the far eastern theaters and the Hawaiian area was reported quiet.

Announcement of the probable capture of Wake Island, 2,320 miles west of Honolulu, came after its small marine garrison had been subjected to 14 attacks by air and sea and during which the defenders destroyed one light cruiser and three destroyers.

(More about Wake on Page 4)

HONGKONG BRITISH IN COUNTER BLOW

London, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Forced back to Hongkong's mountainous strongholds, British defenders of the besieged Crown colony off the China coast were reported to have won local successes in counter thrusts against the Japanese on the southern part of the island.

Reports which trickled out through Hongkong's crippled communications facilities declared that civilians and British administrative officers were helping the defense by holding out in armed stands at isolated points where repeated Japanese onsets were repulsed.

Although competent observers still gave the hard-pressed defenders little chance of holding out unless aid could be gotten through to them, one source pointed out that their present positions probably are well suited to their desperate stand.

Portland, Dec. 24.—(AP)—U. S. district engineers estimated today that \$100,000 worth of property damage was prevented by the Fern Ridge flood control dam last week.

War Bulletins

Falklands, Eng., Dec. 24.—(AP)—German's Big cross-channel guns broke the peace of Christmas eve tonight by shelling the Kentish coastal district.

Berlin, Dec. 24.—(Official Broadcast recorded by (AP))—The British aircraft carrier which a German submarine reported last Tuesday to have sunk in the Atlantic was identified today by the German high command as the Unicorn.

At the same time the high command declared other undersea boats had sent 23,500 tons of British shipping—three merchant vessels and a large tanker—to the bottom of the Atlantic between Gibraltar and England.

Rumored Nazi Move To Invade Spain Is Scouted by British

London, Dec. 24.—(AP)—A foreign office commentator labelled rumors of an impending German invasion of Spain a Nazi ruse today and said there was nothing to confirm either such a move or a report that Marshal Petain had resigned as French chief of state.

His statement came amid speculation over Germany's next undertaking, spurred by Hitler's assumption of command of the Nazi armies and a Reuters report that Petain had yielded his leadership to Admiral Jean Darlan, vice premier, under intensified German pressure, presumably to get a French North African base or for other collaboration concessions.

The commentator said it seemed evident that the Germans themselves were spreading rumors of a Nazi campaign in the Iberian peninsula "probably with a view to producing another of those German nerve wars with which we have become so familiar."

He declared "there is no confirmation whatever of these reports" and said that any similar crop of rumors about an immediate Nazi thrust against Turkey should be treated with similar reserve.

F.D.R. EXTENDS YULE GREETINGS

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—President Roosevelt paused today in a grave crisis in the nation's history to extend Christmas greetings to his countrymen and declared that our strongest weapon in the war is "that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas day signifies."

He spoke from the south portico of the White House to a throng assembled in the grounds to see him press a button lighting a national Christmas tree.

Czechs, Free Frenchmen, Poles, Yugoslavs, Greeks, Americans and Britons mingled with the robes of Christian Arabs.

Troops jammed Jerusalem, buying olive-wood objects to send home, and the traditional holly and mistletoe were in abundance.

On the active fighting fronts Christmas eve celebrations were scant or non-existent.

In the Philippines the American and Filipino soldiers had ample Christmas provisions, and Manila's stores were jammed with shoppers, but the nearness of the invading Japanese troops and frequent air alarms cut sharply into the festivities.

In Germany there were no candles to burn. All available stocks were rushed to the Russian front, where the Nazi armies were suffering severely in exposed dug-outs.

GEN. M'ARTHUR TAKES PERSONAL CHARGE IN FIELD

Invaders Strike Toward Capital From Two Directions; Air Raid At Manila.

Washington, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The war department said today General Douglas MacArthur had reported Japanese troops had landed in two additional areas on the island of Luzon and consideration was being given to the withdrawal of the commonwealth government and military forces from Manila.

Manila, Dec. 24.—(AP)—(5:50 P. M.—12:30 A. M. PST.)—Delayed—General Douglas MacArthur and his staff are taking the field at once in personal command of the fight against Japanese invasion spearheads, the army headquarters announced today.

The Philippine defense forces were said to be outnumbered and hard pressed north and south of the capital.

The Japanese were striking from their foothold along the Gulf of Lingayen, some 120 miles north of Manila, and from a beachhead won by a new landing in force at the little fishing village of Atimonan, on the east coast of Luzon 75 miles south of Manila.

Large forces of United States tanks roared between cheering crowds lining the streets of Manila and headed toward the battlefields.

Manila had four air raid alarms during the day, and after the fourth, a nine-minute alarm which started at 5:21 p. m. (3:21 a. m. EST.) One of the biggest fires here since the beginning of the war flared up in the Fort McKinley area.

Twenty United States fighter planes went into the air at the first sign of the raid and pursued the Japanese bombers to the south.

A communique issued from U. S. army headquarters at 4 p. m. (2 a. m. EST.) said that American and Filipino troops were "resisting stubbornly" on both fronts, but added ominously: "The enemy continues to land reinforcements."

"Forty transports are off the coast at Atimonan," the communique declared. "Fighting is very heavy. United States armed forces of the Far East troops are behaving very well but are greatly outnumbered."

"There is very heavy fighting in the north. Our troops there are bravely fighting against great odds."

Word said Atimonan by telephone from several transport loads of Japanese landed under cover of heavy fire from the sea.

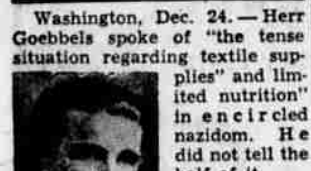
As the new overland thrust to Manila developed, army headquarters announced that military authorities were considering declaring the capital an open city to spare the population "any possible air or ground attacks."

The announcement recalled that similar declarations were made with respect to Paris, Brussels, Athens, Rome, "and other capitals" earlier in the war.

All Airmail Must Clear Through P. O.
Airmail may no longer be accepted by employees around the Medford municipal airport for dispatch without clearing through the postoffice. Postmaster Frank DeSouza said today. The new order is effective immediately.

NO PAPER THURSDAY
In order to permit employees to enjoy the Christmas holiday, there will be no issue of the Mail Tribune on Thursday.

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon



Washington, Dec. 24.—Herr Goebbels spoke of "the tense situation regarding textile supplies" and limited nutrition in a circled nazidom. He did not tell the half of it.

The other half can now be disclosed with the authority and restraint of an official U. S. commerce department report. This shows the ever widening cracks behind the lines in Germany. It reveals that the biggest crack (the one which Goebbels admitted) is a shortage of manpower to keep the factories going.

The news has been kept inside Germany, but Berlin knows officially the reich labor office has listed a demand for 1,500,000 workers at the end of each month since the beginning of the year. The ministry of labor admits officially the unemployed number no more than 10,000 (we had 3,500,000 out of work in the sensational boom year of 1929).

The "tense situation" regarding textiles, has been officially attributed to the transfer of women hosiery and garment workers to munitions industries the past few months. The German public has been officially informed the obvious labor pinch is due to the necessity of calling up additional male reserves for fighting duty in the grueling Russian campaign.

SO far Der Fuehrer has been trying to maintain civilian foreign workers from conquered countries and drafting women. During August his labor offices called in 134,000 women to ask why they could not go to work (a gentle form of feminine conscription.) From 20 European states (mostly France and Cro-

(Continued on Page Six)

RETAIN SCHOOL HEAD

Salem, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Frank B. Bennett, superintendent of Salem schools for 2 1/2 years, was given a new five-year contract last night. His salary will be \$4,750 for the first year, and \$5,000 for each succeeding year.

Radio Highlights

By Associated Press
(Time is Pacific Standard)

Christmas Eve: 6, Red Cross hour, Eddie Cantor and others; 8, service from Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, Va.; 8:30, Nutcracker Suite and Trinity church chimes; 9:30, Mistletoe and Magnolias, music.

CBS, 7:15, Dayton, Ohio, children's choir; 8, Eamon de Valera; 8:30, Monks of St. Meinrad's Abbey, Ind.; 9:05, annual carol program, Sir Thomas Beecham directing.

NBC-Blue, 6, drama, Founding of Bethlehem, from Bethlehem, Pa., and New York; 7:30, greetings from U. S. service men.

MBS, 8:15, 1941 birthday of Christ service; 9, Christmas eve mass, St. Patrick's Cathedral, N. Y.

Christmas day: CBS, NBC, MBS, 6 a. m. King George; NBC-Red, 6:15 a. m. Christmas in Manhattan; 7 p. m., Lionel Barrymore in Dickens "Christmas Carol."

CBS-6:15 a. m., U. S. army children greet their fathers; 12:30 p. m. CBS and BBC, London, exchange greetings; 7:20, William Saroyan play "There's Something I Got To Tell You"; 8, Christmas in new world.

NBC-Blue, 7:30, British refugee children's greetings; 8, all Angels Episcopal church services, N. Y., "Birth of Christ"; 8:45, Russian Cathedral choir; 10 a. m., Council for Democracy Hour; 11, American hospital in Britain celebrates Christmas.

MBS, 5:00 a. m., "Absent Friends," British empire broadcast; 7, Mercersburg academy carillon; 12:30 p. m., Army Christmas program.

SIDE GLANCES

BY TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Betty Purdin looking like the very spirit of Christmas with a sprig of holly in her hair.

Keep Liggett doing a good deed '42 days before Christmas by sewing buttons on a sweater for a friend.

Ginger Rogers and Mama Lela wiring a Merry Christmas to the Mail Tribune, this department responding with wishes for Yuletide joy and eternal happiness for them at their new southern Oregon home.

Billy Bauman getting a steam bath by driving through a puddle of water that covered the very hot exhaust pipe of his car.

Merry Christmas, folks!

DUTCH WIPE OUT ATTACKING FORCE

London, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Netherlands official sources declared today that air and naval action of Dutch East Indies forces, culminating in the sinking of three Japanese transports and a tanker off Borneo, had "wiped out with serious losses of men and material" the entire enemy supply fleet which had attacked Miri.

Miri was one of two closely spaced Japanese landings in Sarawak, on the north coast of the island of Borneo, close to the frontier between Sarawak and British north Borneo proper.