

Weather
Full U.S. Weather Bureau report inside

Forecast: Little change in temperature Sunday.
Temperature _____ 36
Highest yesterday _____ 31
Lowest yesterday _____ 31

Time To Check
Now for a few minutes of your time to check the Want Ads. There are many people, busy during the week who have time to investigate your offer on Sunday. Be sure to have your message on the Want Ad page.

JAPS BLAST MANILA: THEN ASK TRUCE

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 27.—The handshake which Mr. Roosevelt negotiated between business and labor unfortunately still has a concealed thistle between its clasped palms. The prickly issue of the closed shop is still there.

The deal is called "an agreement." Insofar as there was a mutual determination to avoid labor strife and settle issues through still another new Roosevelt board, it was. But what happened in the four days of yet unsettled arguing between management and unioners has been wisely glossed over and ignored by F.D.R. in proclaiming a happy Christmas settlement.

Untold was the record of four votes taken by the 12 representatives of business and 12 of labor, each of which ended 12 to 12. First the joint CIO-AFL plan failed by a tie, then the plan of industry, thirdly the Thomas compromise, and finally the employers counter proposal. All involved one sole point of disagreement. Industry wanted to freeze the closed shop issue in status quo until after the war, and labor leaders refused.

MR. Roosevelt had designated last Friday night as the time limit for agreement and said he wanted it unanimous. Three days after the deadline, and with no agreement (unanimous or otherwise) in prospect, the peace conference pushed its problem up on F.D.R.'s desk. Industry said it would leave its case for freezing the closed shop problem up to him.

Shocked were the industrial representatives when the president came back with a letter praising the conference for its agreement, mentioning the three points upon which there was no discussion (no strikes, peaceful settlements, a new board) and ignoring the only point at issue. Without mentioning the closed shop specifically, he wrote that the government could not concern itself with other generalities.

The employers felt tricked. Charles Hook staggered out of the meeting, long-distanced legal counsel of his national manufacturers association, and screamed, in substance: "We've been robbed." But all they could do was to issue statements suggesting they had not abandoned their closed shop position.

The main assurance left to

RAIN SLOWS DOWN LIBYAN OFFENSE

Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 27.—(AP)—More than two days of rain have slowed down the British pace but the conquest of Libya is rolling relentlessly westward and the main remnants of the axis forces are being harried now in the Agedabia area, about 80 miles south of captured Bengasi, the middle east headquarters announced today.

Its bulletin emphasized the "very bad going" as a result of the weather and mentioned only minor mopping-up operations but said that even in these several hundred axis prisoners were taken and a large enemy ammunition dump fell into British hands.

One major axis pocket, apparently, was in the Bengasi-Ghemines-Soluch triangle on the road to Agedabia. This area also was subjected to British air and artillery pounding and the communiqué said British bombers scored "good results" in heavy attacks on enemy armored fighting machines.

Axis air losses up to December 23 were put at 476 destroyed and captured against 195 for the RAF since the drive started November 18.

FILIPINOS SCORN OFFER OF TOKYO TO CEASE FIRING

New Troops Arrive To Aid Defenders—Walled City Hit—Damage High.

By R. P. Cronin, Jr.
Manila, Monday, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The Japanese bombed undefended Manila savagely for more than three hours Saturday, leaving the heart of the capital in flames, and then belatedly offered to consider the city open on condition that the Filipino army "cooperate" with them and "cease all resistance."

This manifesto was broadcast by the Tokyo radio and addressed to President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines as bomb-pocked Manila heard the heartening word that reinforcements have been dispatched to outnumbered defenders battling Japanese invaders bearing down from both the north and south.

(It was not immediately clear whether the agreement to consider Manila an open city would be conditioned upon the accompanying demand that the Filipino army lay down its arms.)

(A CBS broadcast from Manila said the Japanese offered by radio to consider Manila an open city on two conditions: first, removal of all military camps and establishments from the city, and second, that Filipino forces cooperate with the Japanese invaders and halt all resistance.)

The Tokyo broadcast, which demanded that the Filipino army "cooperate with the Japanese army and cease all resistance" was greeted with scorn and derision by Filipino listeners. The Filipinos are taking a major role in defense of islands against the invaders.

It came over the air in English, Tagalog (Filipino dialect) and Spanish as Manila residents angrily watched red pyramids of fire rising into the skies from the heart of their bombed capital.

The Japanese airmen, waiting until the city had been stripped of its anti-aircraft guns and other defenses in accordance with Gen. Douglas MacArthur's declaration of Manila as an open city, swarmed overhead shortly before noon Saturday and in an almost leisurely assault laid waste entire blocks of the historic walled town of Spanish churches and schools, buildings of the commonwealth government and sections of the modern shop district.

There were 50 known dead and no one would venture a guess as to how many more might be buried under the tumbled and flaming buildings.

A conservative estimate early today placed the damage at least at \$2,500,000.

While flames still shot skyward last night Mayor Juan Nolasco met with city authorities to formulate means of maintaining order.

City officials also took steps to tighten Manila's conformity to the definition of an open city under international law.

Police and constabularymen were ordered to cease firing their sidearms at Japanese planes circling overhead. This futile gesture was observed during a visit of Japanese planes Friday night.

Details were lacking meanwhile on the strength of reinforcements sent to the northern and southern fronts where heavy fighting continued.

In the southern sector, a Japanese advance guard moving west from Mauban, on Lamón bay, was said to have reached Louisiana, 18 miles inland, while another detachment moving inland from Atimonan was said to have reached Sariaya, 28 miles to the west.

The latter is only eight miles northwest of Lucena, capital of Tayabas province, and reports said the provincial capital had been transferred to Dolores.

Engineers, meanwhile, were said to be dynamiting bridges in the line of the Japanese advance.

In the Rio Don Manila scores of men and women—firemen at their posts, government employees, nuns in the ancient convent quarters—were killed and wounded.

Injured in Ship Torpedoing



Herbert J. Stephens (left), seaman, suffered injuries to his right leg when he was struck by shifting cargo, and Frank Johnson (right), fireman, was burned on the right arm and both hands in the torpedoing of the freighter Absaroka off the California coast by a Japanese submarine.

STATE RESOURCES FEEL WAR THROB; GAINS RECORDED

Portland, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Rapid development of Oregon's resources under stimulus of war contracts greatly enriched the state this year.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce estimated that at least \$250,000,000 had been authorized for expenditure in the Portland area, including Vancouver and Longview, Wash., and Troutdale and Fairview, Ore., aluminum plants.

Oregon shipbuilders contracted for at least \$113,808,400, and additional millions went into army, navy and maritime commission contracts.

The chamber of commerce said Portland bank clearings for the first 11 months of the year increased from \$1,723,309, 957 in 1940 to \$2,324,266,389. Building permits were up to \$13,559,055 from \$9,696,115 last year.

Despite the fact that only 1120 ships called at Portland compared to 1494 last year, cargo tonnage dropped only 5 percent to 4,930,000 short tons. Inbound cargo increased to offset an export decrease.

Customs collections for Oregon increased during the 11 months from \$893,067 to \$1,161,163.

Columbia river locks at Bonneville reported a cargo increase of 46 percent to a total of approximately 918,000 short tons and Willamette river locks at Oregon City noted a 60 percent increase, mostly in lumber, which totaled approximately 420,000,000 board feet.

NAZI MOVE UPON SPAIN REPORTED

New York, Dec. 27.—(AP)—An anti-Nazi, anti-Vichy radio station operating from a secret place in France broadcast tonight that mass movement of German troops was under way toward the Spanish frontier.

The station, heard here by CBS, said one troop train after another was carrying the Nazi forces southward through France. The announcer identified the station as "radio inconnu" (the unknown radio).

NAN HONEYMAN BETTER

Portland, Ore., Dec. 27.—(AP)—The condition of Nan Wood Honeyman, district customs collector and former Oregon congresswoman, was much improved today. She was stricken ill Christmas day.

FORD GIFT

Detroit, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The Red Cross announced today a gift of \$100,000 from the Ford Motor company and the Ford Foundation, exclusive of donations from Ford employees.

GRAND STRATEGY OF WAR MAPPED, ROOSEVELT SAYS

Nation To Be Told All—Allies Strengthened—Churchill-F.D.R. Confer.

Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—President Roosevelt reported "excellent progress" in his discussions with Prime Minister Churchill and representatives of other allied nations tonight and said they had strengthened the allied position "immeasurably."

In a formal statement he said the conversations would continue and promised the nation as soon as possible a "more detailed accounting of all that has taken place," insofar as one can be made without revealing information of military value to the enemy.

The statement was issued after a day which saw Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill conducting a long series of conferences with representatives of the British dominions, the American republics and of all nations at war with the axis, including those which are German-occupied.

These successive meetings led up to another session of the British-American war council, originally scheduled for late in the day, but postponed later until tomorrow morning.

Noting that the conferences included the Russian and Chinese ambassadors, the Canadian prime minister and The Netherlands minister, Mr. Roosevelt said in his statement:

"As a result of all these meetings, I know tonight that the position of the United States and of all the nations aligned with us has been strengthened immeasurably."

"We have advanced far along the road toward achievement of the ultimate objective—the crushing defeat of those forces that have attacked and made war upon us."

He went on to say the conferences would continue for an indefinite period and added his promise that as soon as possible, he would make an accounting to the people of the country.

NAZIS TAKE REST CURE IN TURKEY

New York, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Uniformed German soldiers arriving at the Turkish border in Bulgaria are only there for a sort of "rest cure," according to a radio version heard by NBC tonight.

The Vichy-controlled Martinique radio said that in a recent face-to-face conversation President Ismet Inonu asked German Ambassador Franz Von Papen why there were so many German soldiers along the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

To which the diplomat was said to have replied: "Why, it's very simple. The German high command was merely using the southern Balkans as a rest resort of German units tired after hard fighting in Russia."

Turkey, the Martinique radio observed, is puzzled over why all the "patients" are arriving in tanks and armored cars.

ALIENS TO YIELD CAMERAS, RADIOS

Seattle, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Enemy aliens in the ninth corps area were ordered today to surrender all cameras and radios which receive short wave broadcasts, on penalty of arrest and forfeiture of such property.

The order was issued by the department of justice in Washington, D. C., and transmitted to U. S. district attorneys in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Nevada. It applies to nationals of Germany, Italy and Japan.

The aliens were given until 11 p. m. Monday to give up the contraband articles.

DELAYING ACTION IN LUZON SLOWS SINGAPORE DRIVE

Prime Citadel of Allies Still Secure—Russia Looms As Menace.

By Kirke L. Simpson (Wide World War Analyst)

Three weeks after that black Sunday when Japan struck there are few bright spots to lighten the gloom in the Pacific war theater, but those few are definitely heartening.

It is still a defensive fight against a ruthless aggressor. Yet the prime citadel of allied hopes of soon reversing the odds in the China sea, the Singapore base, remains secure.

And a gallant American-Filipino delaying action on Luzon is slowing the hydra-headed Japanese invasion of the Philippines.

It grants British defenders of Singapore that much longer respite from meeting a concentrated Japanese attack on that vital pivot of allied sea power in the far east. It is more time gained for the rallying of British-American relief forces on a scale adequate for decisive action, whatever the strategic form it is taking.

Meantime Japan is dotting all approaches to the China sea with menacing outposts in an attempt to seal it against expected Anglo-American fleet incursions.

There seems small doubt that the main Japanese fleet strength is deployed in that area now, supplemented by Japanese Pacific island outposts in the north and now by captured Guam and Wake. That is the vulnerable Japanese flank.

If an Anglo-British counter-attack comes from the south, to reach the China sea through the Sulu sea, the Japanese fleet would have the shorter China sea inside route to meet it.

Nor is that all. Japanese invasion of Davao to control the big gulf of that name at the extreme southern tip of Mindanao island, most southerly of the Philippine group, affords a northern base to screen the Sulu sea route; Japanese landings in north Borneo provide a southern portal. And the passage between Mindanao and Borneo is a bit narrower than that between Formosa and Luzon.

There remains only the strait of Malacca, between Malaya and Sumatra, to give entrance to the China sea. This is the route for British approach to Singapore from the Mediterranean and Indian ocean. And Japanese forces hammering at Singapore's defenses are now on the northern side of the mouth of that strait and in Thailand, close enough for air action.

That is a rough outline of the problem of allied strategists in planning where to strike with best chances of successfully disrupting Japanese sea and air control of the China sea.

A victory-elated Russia stands in Siberia within easy air striking distance of the industrial heart of a Japanese traditional foe. The German retreat has already freed Moscow of danger for months to come.

SINGAPORE GIRDS HEAD OFF BOOST CIGARETTE COST

New York, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Singapore is working at high speed to get its civil defenses organized in a thorough working order," the British radio said today in a broadcast heard by CBS.

A Chinese defense council has been formed to organize the Chinese inhabitants who form the greater part of the population, the broadcast continued.

The Associated Press at 1 p. m., P.S.T., had been without communication from Singapore for 18 hours. British news agencies in London reported that they, too, were without direct dispatches from Singapore.

There was no indication in the broadcast as to how the British radio had received its report.

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War Bulletins

Honolulu, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Fourteenth naval district headquarters announced that 12 survivors from the freighter Manini, sunk about Dec. 17 were brought into Pearl Harbor this morning.

Singapore, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Japanese bombers concentrated their fire on the Kuala Lumur district yesterday and badly damaged one of Malaya's largest and finest mosques located in the very heart of the capital city of the federated Malay states, 180 miles north of Singapore.

The bombers struck on a Moslem prayer day and killed three of the worshippers who were in the mosque.

Unofficial reports said that several government buildings in Kuala Lumur also were damaged in the raid.

London, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Severe railway traffic restrictions have been ordered throughout Italy, according to an Exchange telegraph agency dispatch today from Zurich, Switzerland. The dispatch, based on information received from Rome, said 31 trains had been cancelled in the Milan district alone.

New York, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The British radio reported today that Yugoslav patriot forces had dislodged German contingents from positions held for the last six months in west and central Serbia.

Tokyo, Dec. 27.—(Official Broadcast Recorded by AP)—The newspaper Asahi reported today that, on the day after the Japanese occupation of Hongkong, the streets of the British colony were littered with Hongkong dollars—in use under British rule—and that no one bothered to pick them up.

New York, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The Leningrad radio reported tonight that Gen. Rudolph Schmidt, commander of the German forces in the Leningrad sector of the Russian front, has been relieved of his command and replaced by Gen. Arnheim.

London, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The Berlin radio, quoting a DNB dispatch from Bucharest, said that a Rumanian destroyer had sunk a Russian submarine in the Black Sea—the second reported destroyed this month by the Rumanian navy.

New Delhi, India, Dec. 27.—(AP)—One American pilot whose identity was kept secret was credited today with shooting down four Japanese planes during the Christmas day enemy air raid on Rangoon, Burma.

Moscow, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The first large shipments of medical supplies and hospital equipment purchased with funds collected in the United States and contributed by the American Red Cross arrived recently at a Soviet port.

London, Dec. 28.—(Sunday)—(AP)—Determination to win back the crown colony of Hongkong was voiced today by Lord Moyne, colonial secretary, in a message to Singapore for "transmission by any available means to Sir Mark Young, Governor of Hongkong."

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The army's recruiting office let it be known today it's having trouble with men enlisting to spite their wives.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Cal Sibley, 23, was buried to death shortly after midnight in his home in Glacier park.

RUSSIAN FORCES COUNTER ATTACK IN CRIMEA OPENS

Heavy Fighting At Kalinin—Axis Forces In Africa Plan Tripoli Stand.

Moscow, Dec. 28.—(Sunday)—(AP)—The Russians announced today the fast-striding Soviet offensive has rolled the Germans back on a broad, 180-mile front along the southern flank of the Moscow defense arc.

By the Associated Press

Russian forces swept on into Likhvin, on the Oka river, 50 miles west of Tula; Novosil, 45 miles east of Orel and Tim, 45 miles southeast of Kursk as they pushed back against the southern flank of the German forces near Moscow, an official communique announced.

At the same time British sources suggested that a Russian move to counter-attack in the Crimea was under way.

An Italian dispatch reported heavy fighting on the Russian front, apparently in the Donets area, after the Russians launched an offensive the day before Christmas.

The Soviet communique, which mentioned heavy fighting in the Kalinin sector 90 miles northwest of Moscow and in the Kaluga area 110 miles to the southwest, made no mention of the Crimean push, but London reports indicated the Russians were attempting to move troops across the Strait of Kerch between the Sea of Azov and the Black sea.

The Germans have announced that four Russian transports were sunk and others damaged in this area by Nazi bombers.

In Africa, where Germans have been retreating with their Italian comrades in arms, there were indications that the forces of Gen. Erwin Rommel was planning to counter-attack with German and Italian reinforcements being sent to Tripoli.

The British said rain had bogged the chase of the axis forces, the "remnants" of the 150,000 men attacked by the British when the offensive began.

IMPOSTER BILKS ALBANY MOTHER

Albany, Ore., Dec. 27.—(AP)—An Albany mother, apparently victimized by a man who posed as her dead son, entered the hospital tonight in a state of semi-collapse.

She was Mrs. Aldred Martin, who was informed by the navy department that her son, Roland, a United States sailor, had been killed in Pacific action.

Yesterday, however, a telegram arrived from San Francisco, reading: "Alive, but in dire need \$75. Letter follows. Roland."

Overjoyed, Mr. and Mrs. Martin sent the money. The Red Cross today reported the \$75 telegram had been cashed, but that a Roland Martin could not be located in San Francisco or aboard the ship named by the man who sent the telegram.

The father left for San Francisco tonight for further investigation.

HUSBANDS ENLIST TO SPITE WIVES

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The army's recruiting office let it be known today it's having trouble with men enlisting to spite their wives.

"A man will have a quarrel with his wife and then try to enlist to spite her," lamented Col. Frederick Schoenfeld, office chief. "Perhaps she calls us on the telephone, and then we have to put him out. They are giving us headaches."

HEAD OFF BOOST CIGARETTE COST

Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The Office of Price Administration acted tonight to head off a prospective general increase in the wholesale price of cigars.

After the American Tobacco company announced an increase of 57 cents a thousand in the price of its popular brand, Price Administrator Leon Henderson sent requests to nine other leading tobacco companies asking them not to follow American's lead.

He also asked representatives of American to come here Monday to discuss that firm's action.

In another action, the price administration established a new schedule of ceilings on 39 grades of green coffee.

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