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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1942

NO. 227

FINISH BATTLE FOR TUNISIA OPENS

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C.
Truck Operators
Get Concessions
Bureaucrats Find
Milk Is Vital
Farmers Oppose
Dropping Tariff

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—Certain concessions are being made by the bureaucrats in the national capital in their regulations, such as: If farmers and truck operators have not obtained their certificate of war necessity they may go to the nearest ration board and obtain all the gasoline they need until February 1; assurances from Paul McNutt that labor will be furnished the farms, voluntary or otherwise, and that farm wages will be comparable with other industries; that the cost of farm labor will be included in parity. Something will be done about the questionnaires sent to every big and little business, etc. The November election has made the people more assertive; the bureaucrats more willing to listen.

There will be an agricultural breakdown unless restrictions are amended, writes a county judge from the Pacific northwest. He says that local boards familiar with local conditions should have the authority which is now vested in Detroit in the handling of gasoline. Also from the northwest, a letter saying that unless gasoline is allowed the non-ferrous mines, which are producing critical and strategic metals, they will be forced to close. A farm woman writes (her boy has gone to war and her husband is crippled) that the gasoline allowed a tractor for a month will scarcely permit it to operate for 24 hours. These are merely samples of letters from Washington, Oregon and Idaho that have been sent in protest; others come from every community of that region.

Because of the clamor, which is echoed throughout the southwest and midwest, John L. Rogers, director of motor transport, ODT, is providing for the gasoline until February 1. In the meantime the subject is to be explored more thoroughly. In the next 60 days the gasoline puzzle may be worked out under Harold L. Ickes and something arranged which will keep the logging trucks, farm trucks and over-the-road common carriers rolling.

BUREAUCRATS are discovering that milk is vital. Heretofore they have done nothing to prevent a shortage. A dairyman writes that he attended a sale of

(Continued on Page Eight)

FAR WEST'S FOOD LACK HELD ACUTE

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—(U.P.) The far western food shortage is "going to get a lot worse before it gets better," Regional Civilian Defense Director James C. Sheppard warned tonight.

Sheppard said "the public must be told the truth—we face an acute situation in the far western states."

"We've got to get back to the backyard again, as we did in the last war," Sheppard declared, after a conference with government and civilian defense officials.

"Every vacant lot should be made into a victory vegetable garden. School grass plots should become school gardens. The bean stalk should replace the hollyhock—flowers are good to look at, but mighty poor to eat."

BULLETIN

Chicago, Dec. 12.—(U.P.) Connie Schwoeeger, 220-pound youngster from Madison, Wis., led the all-star bowling championship field tonight with a game average of 216.10 pins.

SENGALESE READY TO JOIN ALLIES ON AFRICA FRONT

Axis Attacks Repulsed—
Drive To Close Libyan
End of Pincers Underway

An Advanced Allied Base in Tunisia, Dec. 12.—(U.P.) Allied artillery, tanks and spitfire fighter planes have repulsed four axis tank and infantry assaults in the Medjez-el-Bab area 40 miles southwest of Tunis, it was learned tonight as both sides poured men and material into the battle zone for an impending finish fight.

In their initial attacks the Germans sent two heavy columns of tanks and infantry toward Medjez-el-Bab, which lies on a slope rising to a commanding height. The columns approached from two directions.

British spitfires raced out to meet and strafe them. Tanks rolled out to engage them and artillery boomed from the city's heights. The counterattack cost one column about half its tanks. Both were forced to retreat.

Two new attacks were reported tonight—one in the north, the other aimed directly at Medjez-el-Bab. Both attacks were much lighter than the first two and both were repulsed.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.) American and British forces battling the Axis for control of North Africa may shortly be reinforced by some 50,000 crack Senegalese troops, the office of war information said tonight.

The Senegalese, rated among the best colored troops in France's colonial empire, distinguished themselves in the battle of France, in 1940, and are regarded as particularly formidable fighters at close range with the bayonet, rifle and machine gun.

London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.) American-British forces have driven back two more Axis tank and infantry attacks in Northern Tunisia, it was announced tonight, amidst indications that Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery had started a drive at El Agheila to close the Libyan end of the North African nutcracker.

Lt. G. Kenneth A. N. Anderson's allied forces, battering German efforts to develop their offensive near Medjez el Bab, 40 miles west of Tunis and 50 miles south of Bizerte, beat off an enemy tank and infantry attack in that sector and repulsed an attack to the north, an allied headquarters communique announced.

American heavy bombers ranged over Tunisia, blasting Axis communications while British submarines hampered German Gen. Walther Nehring's supply lines through the Mediterranean. Anderson, meanwhile, was bringing up supplies and reinforcements through the Tunisian mud, readying his British forces for a new drive against Tunis or Bizerte.

73 SURVIVORS OF U-BOAT RESCUED

London, Eng., Dec. 12.—(U.P.) The air ministry today revealed details of the rescue of 73 survivors of a torpedoed British boat after reconnaissance planes had flown 55,000 miles and naval units had combed hundreds of square miles of the ocean in a 13-day search.

The passengers and crew got away in four boats after the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine. When the SOS was received relays of coastal command planes, including Liberators and Flying Fortresses, began to search in ever-widening circles, aided by navigational experts who calculated tides, wind and current which might affect the course of the lifeboats.

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—(U.P.) Lengthening America's work week "to a basis equivalent to those of our allies" was urged tonight by the California Cattlemen's Association.



Here's another indication of the growing food shortage on the Pacific Coast. Grocer Jack Parodi, left, of San Francisco, received so many queries about lack of food that he had to post this sign, which said, "If you don't see what you want, don't ask for it." Helen Donovan is the customer.

SEN. BYRD FLAYS NEW DEAL STAND ON 40-HR. WEEK

Boston, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—Sen. Harry F. Byrd, D. Va., denounced the administration today for refusing to abandon the principle of the 40-hour work week when "everyone must know that to win the desperate war in which we are engaged will require all of the working capacity of all the people of America."

Byrd, addressing the Massachusetts Federation of Taxpayers associations, said two important groups controlled the national affairs and policies of the United States. One, he asserted, wants to eliminate peacetime comforts and subordinate all considerations to that of victory; the other—the New Dealers—insist on social reforms and "waste of public funds."

The Virginian pointed out that Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson is an advocate of a 48-hour week. Patterson, he said, only this week stated that 1,500,000 fewer workers than are now employed could be used in industry if the present average work-week of 42.8 hours were increased to 48.

"Yet, from the beginning of the war, the leaders of the New Deal have refused, in the face of logic and facts, to change even for the emergency the principle of 40 hours a week, when everyone must know that to win the desperate war in which we are engaged will require all of the working capacity of all the people of America, and that every restraint in law to freeing the complete working capacity of America must be removed," Byrd said.

Byrd also condemned the order fixing "an arbitrary limitation and ceiling on the income of individuals." He described it as one of the basic tenets of the Socialist and Communist parties.

FAIR SEX FACES HORRORS OF WAR

Los Angeles, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Just one week after releasing a full report on American losses at Pearl Harbor, the navy tonight revealed officially that women shipbuilders now wear long "undies" and no longer "luxuriate" in their bathtubs.

The neatly mimeographed release from the 11th Naval District told of an interview with seven women at the Harbor Boat Building company on Terminal Island, believed the first of their sex in California to work on small boat construction.

ESPEE TRAFFIC HIT
Fairfield, Cal., Dec. 12.—(U.P.) Traffic on the Southern Pacific tracks near here was tied up for several hours tonight after a train hit an automobile at a crossing.

OKLAHOMA TWINS WILL SERVE ARMY HITCH TOGETHER

Amarillo Field, Tex., Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt, acting on appeal from a widowed mother, has issued an order directing that her twin sons, Bobby and Billy Phillips of Shawnee, Okla., be allowed to serve together for the duration of their army life.

The 19-year-old twins enlisted last June 3 and were sent to Sheppard field, Tex., for their basic training. At the end of five weeks, they were separated for the first time, when Billy was transferred to Luke field, Ariz., and Bobby to Amarillo field. Both were detailed as military police.

Their mother, Mrs. Mary Phillips, wrote to the president that the twins had been inseparable buddies all their lives and asking that they be reunited.

An executive order from the president resulted in Billy being transferred to Amarillo field and assigned with his brother to the military police unit command by 1st Lieut. Robert P. Snowden. They will continue to serve as a team, wherever they go.

ARMY CARGO CREW KILLED IN CRASH

Newcastle, Ind., Dec. 12.—(U.P.) An army cargo plane en route from Patterson field, Ohio, to Stout field, Ind., crashed seven miles south of Newcastle tonight, killing the entire crew of seven men.

The plane left Patterson at 10:30 p. m. and was ultimately bound for Sedalia, Mo., where it is based. The plane was completely wrecked and burned, with its fuselage pointed in a westward direction. Only the army insignia was distinguishable.

AMAZONS ON WARPATH
Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 12.—(U.P.) Savage Vamaris Indians of the upper Amazon country have massacred eight persons, including employees of the Indian protection service and members of their family. It was reported today.

NOTED DEAD
Williamstown, Mass., Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Dr. Harry A. Garfield, 79, former president of Williams college and son of James M. Garfield, 20th president of the United States, died today after a lengthy illness.

STARVE OUT JAPS ON ALEUTIANS IS EASIEST WAY NOW

But Invasion Threat From
North Real Last Summer,
Senator Says.

Los Angeles, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—A Japanese invasion from the north was closer than anyone realized as recently as August, Sen. Albert B. "Happy" Chandler, D. Ky., revealed today.

"If the Japs had attacked us in force as late as August, we could have lost the Aleutians and possibly Alaska, too," Chandler declared.

"That's all changed now—we could wipe 'em out if we wanted to pay the price. But it may be simpler to starve them out. They aren't getting any shipping in up there—we've sunk all their ships—and I think their Aleutian bases have cost the Japs a great deal more than they're worth all ready."

Almost daily fighter and bomber raids now replace the 800-mile round trips made by unescorted bombers last summer, he said.

Chandler, who visited the Aleutians last August with the Senate military affairs committee, is here on an inspection tour.

CHINESE TROOPS CHECK JAP DRIVE IN HILL BATTLE

Chungking, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—A Chinese communique said today that Japanese columns striking northward from Tengchow had been stopped by the Chinese in a severe engagement still in progress, and other military reports told of apparent Japanese preparations for invasion of the interior of Yunnan province.

The two armies were reported to have been locked in bloody battles for six days on the rugged plateau, more than a mile above sea level, on the west side of the Salween river gorge.

The Japanese were said to have concentrated at least two full divisions at Lungling and Tengchow awaiting the long-awaited invasion attempt while cleaning up advance Chinese forces based in strongholds surrounded by giant pine and bamboo forests near the China-Burma border.

While Japanese tanks and airplanes peppered their lines, the Chinese enlisted the help of superstitious Yai Tribesmen who organized into guerrilla bands to fight the Japanese invader.

CONGRESS TO END NEXT WEDNESDAY

Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The seventy-seventh congress, during whose tenure occurred some of the most momentous events in U. S. history, will probably adjourn sine die next Wednesday, it appeared tonight.

Senate Democratic Leader Alben W. Barkley, of Kentucky, told reporters that a preliminary decision to end further consideration of legislation had been reached in conferences during the past 24 hours between congressional leaders of both parties.

GREEKS DEPORTED
Ankara, Dec. 11.—(Delayed)—German officials in Athens have announced that deportation of Greek workers to Germany has been suspended, effective last week, until April 1943, because of "communications difficulties."

GERMANS SUFFER 241,400 LOSS ON RUSSIAN FRONTS

Counter-Attacks On Central
Front Fail—Try To Break
Stalingrad Ring.

Moscow, Dec. 13.—(Sunday)—(U.P.)—The Germans have begun desperate counter-assaults in an effort to break the steel ring forged about their divisions trapped before Stalingrad, the Soviet midnight communique revealed today as a special announcement disclosed that the Nazis have had 241,000 troops killed or captured on two fronts since Nov. 19.

The midnight communique revealed also that the Germans were counter-attacking on the central front, particularly in the Velikie Luki area, where the Germans tried to check a Soviet onslaught with counter-attacks, all of which were repulsed with heavy losses.

The German counter-assaults in the Stalingrad area were undertaken as their desperate position was revealed by the extent of air transport being shot down. The communique said 38 transports were shot down Friday. A record 60 were reported shot down the day before, testifying that the entrapped Nazis were devoid of communications save by air.

The Germans counter-attacked both northwest and southwest of Stalingrad and were repulsed with heavy losses in each instance. Northwest of the city, the Red army had fortified its positions and withstood a ferocious assault by tanks, planes and infantry, in which 23 tanks, eight guns, 30 lorries, and some 700 men were wiped out. Anti-aircraft fire accounted for six Nazi planes.

A total of 88 enemy planes were shot down in the Stalingrad area. Soviet air force units ranged over the front Friday, destroying or damaging 20 German tanks, 80 lorries filled with troops and supplies, silencing ten anti-aircraft batteries and blowing up three ammunition dumps. About a battalion of German infantry was wiped out.

These losses were apart from the total of 169,000 Axis troops reported killed between Nov. 19 and Dec. 11 in a special communique issued prior to the regular midnight communique.

YANKEE BOMBERS DROP EXPLOSIVES ON ROUEN, TURIN

London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Powerful American air force bombers, maintaining a shattering round-the-clock allied offensive that blasted Europe from Italy to France, pounded the French industrial town of Rouen today, following up a two way British-American smash at Italian objectives.

Allied fighters covered the big American planes as they picked their way up the Seine river through bad weather to deliver explosives at Rouen, a communications center where heavy industries, oil refineries and shipyards are located.

Two bombers and four fighters failed to return but a joint British-American communique reported that 14 enemy fighters had been shot down by the bombers and four by their allied escort planes.

The American raids came only a few hours after Royal Air Force bombers had returned from their third raid of the week on Turin, Northern Italian industrial center. That raid, in turn, had followed a daylight attack on Naples by heavy American bombers of the middle eastern command.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The war manpower commission estimated tonight that 63,000,000 men and women in the United States will be fighting the war on the battlefield, in factories and on farms a year hence.

War Bulletins

London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The Vichy radio announced tonight that Liberia had broken off diplomatic relations with the Vichy government.

New York, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The British Broadcasting Corporation, quoting Radio Dakar, said today that a special American military mission had arrived at Dakar by air.

At Eugene, Ore.—University of Oregon 71. Camp Adair 32.

At Seattle—Washington 54. Lohrer's (Seattle) 26.

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Hank Luisetti, former national collegiate basketball high-scorer, tonight led the St. Mary's Pre-Flight basketball team to a 45 to 39 victory over the University of California here.

London, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The admiralty revealed today that a small enemy convoy was intercepted by light British naval forces last night and that one German supply vessel and an escorting ship were sunk.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(German broadcast recorded by U.P. in London)—On the anniversary of the Axis Tripartite pact to fight the allies, Emperor Hirohito today telegraphed Adolf Hitler: "I express joy to see our goal being realized step by step."

BUREAU MEDDLING HINDERS PACIFIC SHIPPING, CLAIM

Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The Sailors Union of the Pacific charged tonight that War Shipping Administration "meddling" threatens a disruption of war shipping in the Pacific.

The charges were made in a formal protest filed with Admiral Emory S. Land of the WSA and AFL President William Green by Harry Lundberg, secretary-treasurer of the Sailors union, an AFL affiliate.

An agreement made last May provided that all ships operated out of west coast ports by the Luckenbach Steamship Co., W. R. Grace & Co., Inc., and the Moore-McCormick lines should be manned by seamen hired through west coast unions.

Recently a WSA assigned an east coast crew comprising members of the National Maritime union (CIO) to the John Copley, a Liberty ship being built at Portland, Ore. Lundberg said the ship would be picketed to prevent its leaving port.

"The question now has arisen," Lundberg said in his statement, "will the merchant seamen be allowed to carry out their work peacefully? or shall our efforts continue to be disrupted by bungling government bureaus."

"We are now referring to certain sections of the War Shipping Administration which have innocently, or otherwise, consistently kept the industry in a turmoil with certain sections and interferences which indeed border on incompetence or pure and simple meddling for meddling's sake!"

WARDS YIELDS TO ROOSEVELT ORDER

Chicago, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Sewell Avery, president of Montgomery Ward & Co., said tonight he would obey promptly an order from President Roosevelt requesting compliance "without further delay" with a war labor board directive to sign a contract with employees.

Avery issued the statement within a few minutes after receiving a telegram from the President informing him that the President's formal order for compliance with the WLB directive of December 8 had been sent him by special delivery air-mail.

AERIAL ATTACKS HIT ENEMY BASES AT LAE, SALUMAUA

Allied Offensive Near In
Coastal Area—Tropical
Storm Slows Battle.

United Press Correspondent
Gen MacArthur's Headquarters, Australia, Dec. 13.—(Sunday)—(U.P.)—Allied heavy and medium bombers attacked Japanese airdromes at Salamaua and Lae, today's communique reported, while heavy tropical rains kept ground operations to a minimum and gave respite to the enemy's strong Buna coastal positions where a heavy allied offensive is imminent.

"Lae got a good plastering Friday night," a spokesman said. "Fortresses bombed and strafed the airfield and plastered it with 500-pound bombs. The wrecks of many planes were seen scattered around the airfield."

The spokesman reported that allied forces had advanced slightly in the Sanananda sector.

Among the Japanese refugee force which an Australian patrol rounded up and killed in the creeks and estuaries near Gona were a lieutenant colonel and two other officers.

At Gona, 20 miles along the coast from Buna, allied forces buried 638 enemy dead, killed in the final stages of the assault. Mopping up operations continued in the Gona area, where one patrol, operating westward of the town, destroyed a party of enemy refugees.

There was only desultory fighting on other sectors and only reconnaissance activity in the northwestern sector, the communique said.

Heavy bombers attacked the airdrome at Salamaua, the communique reported, and started fires there.

Both heavy and medium bombers were used in the Lae raid, during which aircraft dispersal installations at the airdrome were attacked.

Occupation of Gona, 20 miles up the coast from Buna, cut into the Japanese right flank, but the allies faced a tough job of crossing rivers and swamps interlarded with barbed wire barricades and concealed machine gun nests. Enemy snipers fired from coconut trees and their machine gunners from pill boxes.

The Japanese situation was desperate but there were many evidences of the enemy's determination to fight to the finish. In their stand at Gona, the Japs hung on by wearing respirators amid piles of their dead and many dug under roots of giant trees.

UCLANS NAMED TO REPRESENT WEST ROSE BOWL GAME

Los Angeles, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—The colorful University of California at Los Angeles Bruins, who missed the honor in 1939 by the margin of an incomplete pass, tonight were chosen to represent the west against the University of Georgia in the New Year's Day Rose Bowl game.

Commissioner Ed Atherton made the announcement after he had tabulated the results of a telegraphic vote from representatives of conference schools.

However, awaiting the official counting of the wired ballots was merely a "paper move" since the aggressive Bruins had clinched the task this afternoon by struggling to a 14-7 victory over the University of Southern California and winding up atop the conference standings.

GRIDIRON CLUB HEAD
Washington, Dec. 12.—(U.P.)—Lewis Wood, of the New York Times' Washington bureau, was reelected president of the Gridiron club tonight at its annual meeting.