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MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1942

NO. 228

AXIS LIBYAN FORCES IN FULL FLIGHT

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C. —
RCF Fund Spigot
May Be Tightened
Best Kaiser Yarn
Is From Portland
Grocers Facing
Inventory Maze

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—It works like this: If a timberman wants a loan of \$50,000 or a sawmill a loan of \$1,000,000, or a little business applies for a loan with which to handle a war contract, RFC holds a meeting of the board, makes a painstaking examination consuming months and finally decides whether the security is sufficient and stipulates, usually, that a local bank assume part of the loan. But if one of the innumerable war agencies wants a loan it obtains an executive order from the president, presents the order to Jesse Holman Jones and, without quibble, the sum stipulated in the order is turned over by Jones. Congress has no control of this money, does not even know the purpose for which it is wanted when it is drawn from RFC by executive order.

There are plenty of instances where RFC loans have been obtained on Washington timber, Oregon sawmills, etc., only after a struggle and so much time wasted that when the money is made available it is almost too late. A few days ago Congress was asked to authorize RFC to obtain five billion dollars in addition to its current revenue. There had been a secret session of a committee at which it was revealed that the president was issuing executive orders with a free hand.

It meant, the committee discovered, placing the five billion dollars with RFC to be drawn on without strings by the president through executive orders. A senator offered an amendment requiring that when a government agency wanted money from RFC the entire board should consider the proposal and study the security with the same care that RFC does with an application from private business. Furthermore,

ALASKA CENSORS NIP ENEMY SPIES

Washington, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—Censorship of mail between this country and Alaska has resulted in the apprehension of enemy agents who sought to transmit vitally important military information in letters. Attorney General Francis Biddle and Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.

Testifying before the senate judiciary committee, they cited instance after instance in which foreign spies had attempted to get information to their Axis masters via the mails between the Northern Territory and the United States.

Biddle cited many cases in which censored Alaskan mail was found to contain secret military information.

ETHIOPIA DECLARES WAR ON AXIS TRIO

London, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—The Ethiopian legation announced today that Ethiopia had proclaimed a state of war with Germany, Italy, and Japan.

SIDE GLANCES By TRIBUNE REPORTER

Ole Alenderfer confessing he was only one jump ahead of the flu and expecting the disease to floor him any minute.

"Tubby" Dean losing Louie Older in their daily matching game for a cup of that rare rationed product.

Charley Clay et al having their hands full with the Sunday influx of troops.

ALLIED OFFENSIVE BREAKS THROUGH EL AGHEILA LINE

Rommel Retreating Westward Relentlessly Pursued by 8th Army, Report.

By Leon Kay

United Press Staff Correspondent
Cairo, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—The Axis forces in Libya are retreating westward toward Tripoli under relentless pursuit by Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's eighth army and an attack of unprecedented scale of allied air forces, a communique of the middle eastern command announced today.

German and Italian forces were thrown out of their El Agheila line in the first phase of the renewed allied offensive. (Berlin admitted officially in a broadcast, that the Axis forces had withdrawn westward from El Agheila.)

"The eighth army yesterday turned Rommel (Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, commanding German Afrika Korps and the combined Axis forces) out of his strong position at Mersa Brega with little cost to themselves," the middle eastern command communique said.

"The enemy is retreating westward, relentlessly pursued by our forces."

"Allied fighter and bomber planes are operating on an unprecedented scale, harassing the enemy. Axis air activity is totally ineffective in preventing these operations. German fighters which attempted to interfere in a few instances were successfully engaged and at least six enemy aircraft were shot down."

Montgomery's imperial army had hit the Axis line around its anchor point at the little port of Brega, 14 miles east of El Agheila, and had driven through with hardly a fight.

The Agheila line was broken and the Imperial rolled westward under the momentum of hard driving armored forces and their umbrella of allied planes of all types.

Operating far to the west of the battle area, middle eastern command planes attacked the great Axis reinforcement harbor of Palermo, Sicily, and the important port of Sousse, on the east coast of Tunisia, Saturday night, the communique said.

Only four allied planes were lost in all operations, including those over the battle area.

Allied North African Headquarters has broken up an Axis motor column driving down the Medjerda river in Northeastern Tunisia, midway between Medjer-El-Bab and Tebourba, it was announced today.

There was no change in the battle line. Activities along the Tunisian front were chiefly of patrol nature, with each side feeling out the other's strength.

DEATH COMES TO DR. HUBERT WORK

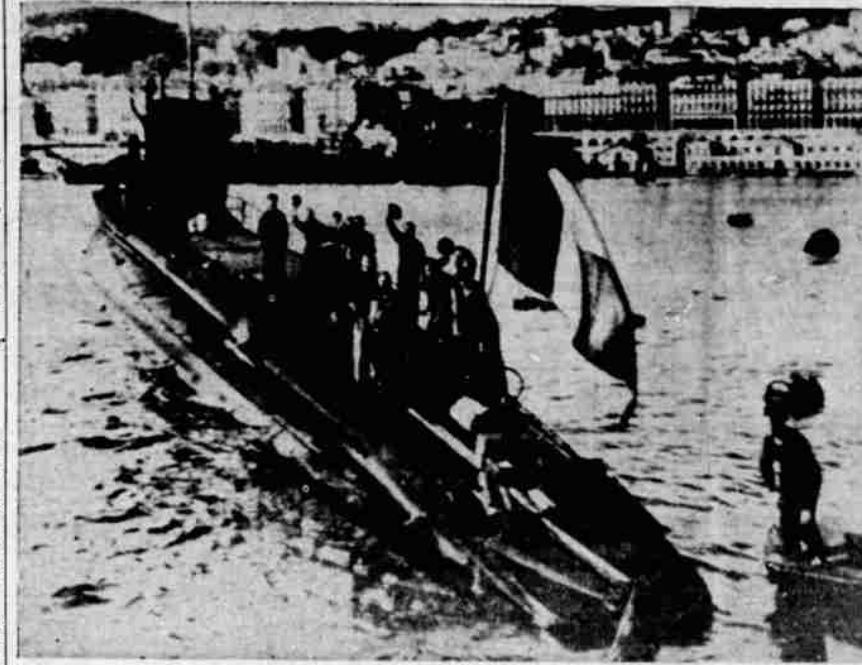
Denver, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—Dr. Hubert Work, 82, former secretary of the interior during the Harding and Coolidge administrations, died today in Denver.

The aged former cabinet member had suffered a heart attack last week at his Denver home. Doctors believed he was recovering until he suffered a sudden relapse today.

Dr. Work, a nationally known republican leader, first was named as secretary of interior by the late President Warren G. Harding. He served both as interior secretary and as postmaster general under Harding and again as secretary of interior under the late President Calvin Coolidge.

Dr. Work was a physician and after he left government service he returned to Colorado to practice.

Detroit, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—Cornelius D. Tomy, 64, who as "Uncle Neal" has appeared on children's radio broadcasts for the last 21 years, died today after suffering a stroke.



Radioed from London to New York, this is the first photo to reach the United States of any of the French naval craft which escaped from Toulon when most of the French fleet was scuttled last Nov. 27. This French sub, the fleet of 19 got out of Toulon, three to Allied-held ports in North Africa, one to internment at Barcelona, Spain. Nazis got the rest.

Hitler Demands Million More Slaves From Occupied Countries for War Work

By John A. Parris

United Press Staff Correspondent

London, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—Adolf Hitler has invited new rebellion in occupied Europe by demanding another million workers to speed up production for Germany's faltering war machine and build new fortifications against the threat of allied invasion, it was learned today.

During the last eight weeks, a half million workers were reported to have been deported from occupied countries to Germany, swelling the European slave ranks to more than 8,000,000.

Hitler also has demanded that Holland mobilize 250,000 Dutch for the German army, and that Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania furnish troops to make up for Nazi losses in Russia and North Africa, according to word reaching London.

Fighting French headquarters in London reported that Hitler had ordered 400,000 French workers to the Reich within two months. It was recalled that Berlin recently demanded 150,000 skilled workers but fewer than 90,000 Frenchmen responded with the result that nine out of ten skilled workers were enrolled forcibly.

A fighting French spokesman said that the vast enslavement of French labor contemplated by Germany may lead to grave trouble. He said that resistance was growing daily.

Belgian sources in London reported that since November, between 100,000 and 200,000 workers have been deported to Germany and Northern France to construct fortifications. There are already 300,000 Belgian workers in Germany.

ROXY ANN ROAD BLOCKED BY FIFTY-FOOT SLIDE

The road on the north side of Roxy Ann has been blocked due to a slide and residents are asked not to plan travel on it as recent heavy rains caused 50 feet of the road to give way. A slide occurred in the same section at a previous time but had been repaired, according to Frank Rogers, city superintendent.

CONSTRUCTION UNIONS TO STUDY WAGE PLAN

Salem, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council recessed yesterday until Jan. 9 after referring the controversial state-wide uniform wage scale plan to a committee for further study.

Terms of the proposed state-wide agreement were chief topic of discussion at Sunday's session of the tenth semi-annual convention of the council, attended by 134 delegates of AFL unions involved in construction work.

C. C. Hoover Credits Santa With Assist in Collecting Ancient Bill

Charley Hoover believes in man, and there is something pure and wholesome about the lactical fluid, he claims, which tends to honesty and righteousness.

If this hadn't been a charge for milk he is certain it would never have been paid, but being for milk it was. In all his experience in the dairy business Poa Bulbosa Hoover never lost more than one-half of one percent in poor accounts and most of these went bankrupt or the debtors died. But he wants to study Santa Claus some credit.

RUSSIANS SMASH NAZIS ATTEMPT TO CRACK PINGER

2,000 More Hitlerites Killed at Stalingrad — Enemy Losses Said 8,000,000.

By M. S. Handler

United Press Correspondent

Moscow, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—Russian troops have smashed a German attempt to crack the southern arm of the Soviet pincers encircling axis forces in the Stalingrad area, and have penetrated the second enemy line of defense in the city's southern outskirts, front dispatches said today.

Battle line reports said 2,000 more axis troops had been killed at Stalingrad, while on the central front west of Rzhnev, upwards of 1,500 more enemy troops had been killed in the last 24 hours.

Say 8,000,000 Lost

German casualties, already estimated by the army newspaper Friday at more than 8,000,000 killed, wounded or captured since the start of the Russian war, were mounting rapidly on all active fronts, it was said.

Soviet communiques reported that the Russians had surged through the first line of German trenches and now were fighting in the second line in the southern outskirts of Stalingrad. Shock troops battered into the German positions, capturing 130 prisoners and destroying three field guns and four machine guns.

NEW YORK MISSES MORNING PAPERS

New York, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—New York's millions went without their morning newspapers today with little prospect of getting four of the six afternoon newspapers because of a sudden strike by members of the New York newspaper and mail deliveries union.

An all night conference of representatives of the New York Publishers association, the union, and Dr. Fred C. Croxton, of the federal conciliation service, broke up at 6:20 a. m. without agreement.

The four morning newspapers, the Times, the Herald-Tribune, the Daily News, and the Mirror, reached only those of their readers able to call at their plants for an over-the-counter purchase, a minute fraction of their normal circulation. All drastically curtailed their press runs. The Daily News, with a circulation of 1,950,000 was understood to have had a press run for one major edition of less than 5,000.

No More "Ploughing Under" Is Wickard Word to Farmers

New York, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—Food Administrator Claude R. Wickard, outlining a post-war program of abundance, today told farmers that the United States must not return to the "plough-under" program of scarcity followed during the 1930's.

In a speech prepared for delivery to a meeting of eastern farm program directors, Wickard said the war program for capacity food production next year must be kept in high gear after the war to feed war-ravished nations and to give Americans a better diet.

"We must find the way to get full distribution and full production," Wickard, who also is secretary of agriculture, said. "We must and we will work out an economy of abundance."

"Already we can be certain of one thing, the need for great farm production will not end when peace comes. In general, the same kinds of production which are so greatly needed during the war will be the ones that

War Bulletins

London, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—British bombers and fighters attacked railway targets in northern France and Belgium today, an air ministry communique announced. No enemy planes were encountered and all British aircraft returned safely.

London, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—The foreign office and the French national committee announced jointly today that the civil administration in Madagascar, recently occupied by the British, would be surrendered to Gen. Charles De Gaulle's fighting French.

DONALD BOWERS, DONALD WOLFF, REGISTER FIRST

Donald Milton Bowers of 24 Mistletoe, was the first Medford youth to register in the draft for 18 year old male citizens Friday at Selective Service board No. 1 in the city hall. Bowers is 18 years of age, a student and assistant manager of the shoe department at J. C. Penney company.

Board Number two, for districts outside of Medford, route 1, Box 385 of Central Point was the first registrant in that office. He is employed by his father on their farm.

Walter Lee Dye of 527 Mac street, who is employed at the post exchange No. 19 at Camp White registered second, with the local board and Dallas H. Hart, of Central Point, registered second with the local board No. 2. The latter is employed in a Central Point service station.

Selective service board members pointed out today the urgency of youth who attained the age of 18 during July or August of this year registering with their draft board before December 17. Young men were asked not to overlook this registration.

Numerous registration places will be open throughout the county Tuesday for registration of male citizens who have reached the age of 18 during July and August of this year. The local board in the city hall will remain open until 7 p. m. to facilitate registration proceedings.

Clemency Granted Soldier Motorist

Leon Chester Minix, 22, of the Camp White quartermaster corps, charged with violation of the basic rule, and reckless driving a month ago, was granted a suspended sentence of 15 days in the county jail on each of the charges by Justice of the Peace W. R. Coleman. The case has been pending for several weeks. The sentences were suspended on the grounds Minix had received penalties at the hands of military authorities.

HUNDRED BODIES FOUND IN ASHES OF SERVICE CLUB

102 in Hospitals—Men Aid Women in Escape When Fire Invades Hostel Scene

St. Johns, Newfoundland, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—One hundred charred and trampled bodies gave mute testimony today to the ferocity of the fire and panic that swept the St. Johns hostel for service men of the Knights of Columbus Saturday night.

Authorities feared that the bones and ashes of as many as 100 bodies may be mingled in the ashes of the two-story wooden building which burned to its foundations, but 100 was the official death toll until such time as checks of missing military and naval personnel and civilians establishes a higher one.

800 in Hostel
Though some 600 persons were in the hotel, of whom a sizable proportion were women, there were only seven bodies of women in the morgues to which the victims were taken. Authorities ascribed this to gallantry, feeling that despite the hysterical panic which overwhelmed the Saturday night merry-makers almost as quickly as did the fire, the men saved the lives of their women, some at the cost of their own.

In hospitals today were 102 men and women, many of them so severely burned they were expected to die. Of the dead, the bodies of 54 of the 93 men and four of the seven women had been identified. Some 20 of the dead were said to be United States military personnel and a large percentage of the remainder were Canadian servicemen.

The tragedy was a startling parallel to that which took 488 lives in the Coconut Grove night club in Boston the night of Nov. 28. In both cases, fire interrupted dancing and laughter.

PERMIT GROCERS TO PASS ON NEW PRICE INCREASES

Washington, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—The Office of Price administration today permitted wholesalers and retailers to pass on to the consumer price increases in 17 additional grocery products. The items are those in which wholesalers and retailers have been squeezed by price increases allowed manufacturers.

The list includes: Various canned fruits and berries, frozen fruits, berries and vegetables, fruit preserves, jams and jellies, apple butter, canned shrimp, domestic canned crabmeat, canned apples, apple sauce, apple juice, vinegar cured herring, canned boned chicken and turkey, maple sugar, blended maple syrup, fountain fruits, egg noodles, tamales, tortillas, potato chips, raisin filled or topped biscuits and crackers, fig bars, peanut candy and honey (extracted).

The OPA also announced plans to offset increased costs of material and labor in the manufacture of women's, girls' and children's garments for next spring and summer by strict control over garment makers' mark-ups and selling prices. The OPA hopes that its plan will make it possible for the shopper next spring to pay substantially the same price as in the spring of 1942 for comparable quality in coats, dresses, blouses and other outer apparel.

Sydney, Australia, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—A Nazi attempt to transport supplies from Japan to Germany through a United Nations naval blockade was revealed today with an announcement that the German 8,000-ton freighter which was scuttled by her crew when intercepted by allied warships in the Indian ocean had been loaded with Japanese goods.