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MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1942.

NO. 230

AFRICAN PINCERS TIGHTEN ON AXIS

**Kelly's
Comment**
From Washington, D. C.
**No Fourth Term
Wanted by F.D.R.**
**McNutt Can Rule
Jobs and Wages**
**Wooden Ships
May Be Built**
By John W. Kelly

AIRMEN HARASS MAIN CONTINGENT OF AFRIKA KORPS

British Eighth Army Pushes
Close on Heels of Retreating
Germans and Italians.

(By United Press)

The Allied army in Tunisia gathered strength today for an assault on Bizerte and Tunis, and in Tripolitania the British eighth army pushed more than 50 miles west of its breakthrough point at El Aghaila.

American bombers and fighter-bombers raced ahead of the eighth army, battering the retreating Afrika Korps. The main body of the Axis army apparently was about 65 miles west of El Aghaila.

Allied patrols in northern Tunisia were reported to have

Price on Rommel

London, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—A price of \$40,000 was placed today on the head of Marshal Erwin Rommel—dead or alive.

Charles E. Lee telegraphed the offer to his grandson—Capt. Edgar Lee Gibbons, whose unit now is believed to be chasing Rommel Afrika Korps across Tripolitania. Lee said the offer was good for any man in his grandson's battalion.

found that the Germans had abandoned some of their advanced positions there as air pressure became heavier. A London commentator estimated that the Axis now had fewer than 200 combat planes operating from Tunisian bases.

Jap Bases Pounded

Marine corps dive bombers pounded Japanese air bases at Munda and Buin in the Solomons without opposition, the navy announced in Washington.

Allied pressure was heavy all along the north African front. Spanish reports estimated the combined strength of the Afrika Korps and the German Tunisian army at 100,000, and said Marshal Erwin Rommel had arrived in Tripoli to plan the defense of the Axis toeholds in Africa.

Allied air activity against the German reinforcement ports in Tunisia increased, and British planes from Malta joined in the assault. The gathering strength of the Allied forces in Tunisia indicated that the grand assault might start as soon as the roads, soggy with rain, dry sufficiently to permit the free movement of mechanized equipment.

Flare-up in Russia

There was a flare-up of activity on the long, snowy Russian front where the Germans threw in tank reinforcements in the Stalingrad and Rzhnev sectors in an attempt to retard the Soviet offensive. The Russians admitted that the Germans had made slight penetrations, but said artillery attacks had halted the tank assaults. West of Rzhnev the Russians reported they had captured an enemy-held village—the third in 24 hours.

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War Bulletins

London, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—German raiders flying singly under low clouds hanging over the English channel carried out their most extensive daylight raids in several weeks today, attacking south and southeast English coast towns.

New Delhi, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Japanese bombers raided Chittagong twice yesterday, inflicting negligible damage and losing three planes in clashes with RAF fighters, an Allied communique said today. Casualties were reported "extremely light."

CIO HEAD CHARGES WASTE IN MAKING OF ARMOR PLATE

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—CIO President Philip Murray charged today that the army, the war production board, and certain large steel producers have been guilty of an "inexcusable wastage in the armor plate program of critical materials such as nickel and molybdenum."

In a statement prepared for the Senate small business committee, the WPB has refused to order the elimination of nickel from the steel which goes into armor plate for tanks and armored vehicles.

His statement was read to the committee by J. Raymond Walsh, CIO research director. "There is no technical controversy involved," Murray said. "Three important steel companies successfully melt steel that is fabricated into armor plate without any use of nickel, and with a smaller use of molybdenum."

He noted that an official in the tank and combat vehicle section of the war department ordnance division, Reuel E. Warriner, is the son-in-law of President R. C. Stanley of the International Nickel Co., who is also a member of the board of directors of United States Steel.

WLB REPRESENTATIVE
HERE FOR QUESTIONS

Nelson English, representative of the War Production Board in Portland, is in Medford today and tomorrow morning for the purpose of answering questions which may arise in regard to priorities. Those interested in contacting English may telephone the Chamber of Commerce, 2294, for an appointment. He plans to leave Medford on the noon Union Mailer tomorrow.

CITY COUNCIL AMENDS
ORDINANCE ON BONDS

City council members adjourned at an early hour last evening after conducting routine business. Council members also amended a bond ordinance for correction of transcript and another for extending option for sale of city lots. All members were present with the exception of Councilman Larry Schade.

PATTERSON TELLS VAST PURCHASES OF WAR SUPPLIES

Undersecretary Reveals \$25 Billion Worth Bought This Year; \$5 Billion in 1941.

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Dollar value of military supplies acquired for the army in 1942, including all munitions and equipment, will amount to \$25,000,000,000 compared with \$5,000,000,000 worth acquired in 1941 and \$1,000,000,000 in 1940, Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson said today.

Patterson told before the senate committee investigating the war program that munitions exclusive of aircraft acquired by the army this year will amount to \$11,000,000,000. This, he said, represented 90 per cent of expressed requirements for U. S. forces as well as the Allies.

New Industry

Mass production of weapons of war was a new industry for America, Patterson said, but its success is illustrated by these production figures:

More than 23,000 tanks, more than 3,000 90-mm. antiaircraft guns, 9,000 40-mm. antiaircraft guns, more than 300,000 .50-caliber machineguns and more than 500,000 machineguns of all types.

"Explosive and shell loading plants were brought into production on schedule, and our ammunition lines are daily turning out great quantities of ammunition," he said. "Small arms ammunition is being produced at a rate in excess of 1,000,000,000 rounds a month."

Patterson described as absurd recent charges that the military was moving in on civilian economy and taking over the industry of the country.

NEW SOLDIERS ON FIRST FURLOUGH

A group of men, registered with selective service board number two in the city hall, have been accepted for induction in the army and are now home on a short furlough before leaving for their training at an army camp. Loren Hugh Shillabarger, Floyd W. Jones, Leo Schindler and Herbert Earl Stovall, without taking furlough.

The accepted men include: Glen O. Watson, Dee O. Parker, Howard W. Payne, Walter H. O'Toole, William L. Peterson, David M. Barker, Chester Lind, Gerald J. Verschoor, Clarence C. Campbell, Hugh Glash, Simon D. Johnson, Perry A. Polk, Harvey C. Maxson, John E. Jacobs.

Also John R. Hamacker, David C. Betchel, Roy K. Byrd, Donald R. Shough, Clyde L. Ashcraft, George Slade, Donald M. Case, Harold K. Parker, Charles V. Boatwright, William A. Groves.

Domestic Strife Due To Drinking, Actress Asserts

Hollywood, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Blaming "terrific domestic quarrels which made me look 10 years older," Hungarian Film Actress Ilona Massey today divorced Alan Curtis, actor.

Miss Massey told the court that Curtis "liked to drink and argue and the combination was so hard on my nerves I finally had to be placed under a doctor's care." "I tried everything I could to keep the peace," she testified, "but the moment he started drinking there was not much I could do."

SINCERE THANKS GIVEN CONGRESS ON ADJOURNMENT

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—The 77th congress, which provided the money and the laws to meet Axis aggression, cleaned up odds and ends in its final session today and received a letter of "sincere thanks" from President Roosevelt for its work.

The senate adjourned at 2:19 p. m. EWT. The house was expected to finish later in the afternoon.

Mr. Roosevelt sent identical letters to Vice President Henry A. Wallace and House Speaker Sam Rayburn, saying:

"On the final adjournment of the 77th congress may I send to the members of the senate (of the house) my truly sincere thanks for all that they have accomplished during these difficult two years; and also my good wishes for a happy Christmas."

Republican Leader Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts sponsored a resolution in the house expressing that body's appreciation to Rayburn for "the able, impartial and dignified" manner in which he has presided.

The resolution was adopted unanimously and members followed with speeches complimenting one another.

After the senate had confirmed routine nominations, Barkley brought smiles to the faces of his colleagues as he said, "If I dared, I would ask you all to join in the chanting of that popular song, 'White Christmas.'"

Hirohito Silent On Solomon "Success"

(By United Press)

A Berlin broadcast reported today that Emperor Hirohito had received and decorated Japanese admirals for successes in the Philippines, Netherlands East Indies and Australian zones, but nothing was said of the Solomon Islands.

Tokyo, revealing another shift in key men of the Japanese navy, announced that Vice Adm. Masao Kanazawa had been appointed chief of the Bureau of Naval Installations, succeeding Vice Adm. Shiro Koike. Nothing was said of Koike's fate.

HEAVY DRINKING PRECEDED SLAYING OF ARMY CAPTAIN

All-Male Jury Hears Testimony in Trial of Colonel's Daughter For Murder.

Bisbee, Ariz., Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—An all-male jury heard testimony today that heavy drinking at a Mexican border resort preceded the fatal shooting of Capt. David Carr by his secret bride, pretty red-haired Margaret Herlihy, daughter of an army colonel.

Francisco Panco Pedroza, bartender at the Agua Prieta resort, testified at the trial of Miss Herlihy on charges of murdering Capt. Carr that the army officer ordered strong drinks for his vivacious wife, personally seeing that they were mixed with double shots.

Each Had Four

Each had four stiff drinks, Pedroza testified. He said the couple on previous occasions had one or two drinks and then left. On this occasion they remained for "two or three hours" and also danced.

First witness called was Dr. M. V. Alessi of Douglas, Ariz., in charge of the hospital to which Capt. Carr was first taken.

Dr. Alessi said the wounded man pleaded:

"Doctor, don't let me die."

He recounted how Carr was brought to the hospital about 1:30 a. m., last Aug. 15 with two gunshot wounds, one in the right side of the neck and the other in the right chest.

The first bullet severed the spinal cord and left Carr paralyzed but able to speak.

In his opening address to the jury Assistant Prosecutor Norman Herring said he would introduce witnesses who heard screams from the Herlihy car as it drove through town en route from Agua Prieta, Mex.

Attorneys for the army colonel's daughter contend that she fired the fatal shots in self defense and that Carr had beaten and threatened to kill her before she grabbed the .32 revolver and started firing.

Married Men Face Draft In Canada

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Canada prepared today to begin drafting men, regardless of when they were married.

Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell announced last night that the military service act had been amended to permit conscription of married men and that notices would be sent to the 19-year-old class next month.

SAVED FROM SEWER

New York, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Policeman Sol Pollack heard a frantic tapping beneath a manhole cover on a Brooklyn storm sewer. Raising it he discovered three youths in a 25-foot rowboat and rescued them. They had been fishing. The tide had swept them from the bay 10 blocks up the sewer.

Pinkley Lecture At Nine O'Clock Saturday Night

Time of the lecture of Virgil Pinkley, United Press executive, who will speak in the high school auditorium this Saturday night, has been set back a half hour. Originally the lecture was set for 8:30 o'clock but many requests to the sponsoring organizations to have the hour made even later resulted in the change.

It was pointed out that due to the Christmas season almost all business houses in the city are remaining open later than usual and it was thought the nine o'clock hour would permit many more interested persons to attend the free lecture.

Byrnes May Act
As Peace Maker
For War Boards

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Economic Stabilizer James F. Byrnes may be called upon soon to iron out some difficulties Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard is having on the new wartime food program with the War Production Board, the Office of Defense Transportation and the Office of Price Administration.

President Roosevelt named Byrnes as his agent to be the judge in disputes between Wickard, as the new food administrator, and other government officials. The new powers leave virtually no phase of the war effort, as it affects civilians, outside Byrnes' scope.

Wickard and WPB have clashed over production of farm machinery for 1943. Wickard originally called for an output equivalent to 50 per cent of 1941 production. WPB proposed 25 per cent. A compromise of 37 1/2 per cent appeared agreeable, but at the last minute it was lowered to 20 per cent.

Wickard has complained that that low percentage is a threat to the food program. Unless WPB yields it may be one of the first disputes to be decided by Byrnes. Byrnes' orders would supersede any to the contrary issued by WPB's two top men—Chairman Donald M. Nelson and Vice-Chairman Ferdinand Eberstadt.

LAVAL UNINJURED IN AUTOMOBILE SMASHUP

Stockholm, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Pierre Laval, chief of the Vichy government, escaped uninjured from a serious automobile accident en route to Paris yesterday when his machine was smashed near Pouilly, the Swedish Telegraph Agency reported today from Vichy.

PROMOTED

U. S. Air Base for China-Burma-India, Dec. 15.—(Delayed)—Col. Robert C. Oliver, commander of the air service command, was promoted today to brigadier general.

FOUR MINERS KILLED

Montgomery, W. Va., Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Four men were killed and nine others injured today when a hoist at the Wyatt Coal company plunged 800 feet out of control down a hillside.

FRANK VAN DYKE UNABLE TO SERVE IN LEGISLATURE

Representative Now in Army
Officers Training Notifies
Court of Inability.

Frank Van Dyke, Ashland attorney, elected to the Oregon house of representatives at the last election, has notified the Jackson county court that he will be unable to serve during the coming session of the legislature. Mr. Van Dyke has become a member of the armed forces since his election, now being stationed at officers' training school, Camp Roberts, Calif.

Judge J. B. Coleman of the county court stated today that he had received a wire from Mr. Van Dyke stating that he would be unable to serve during the coming legislative session and that he was informing the secretary of state of this fact. As soon as official word is received from the secretary of state the court will appoint a successor to serve until Van Dyke is available.

William Briggs, Ashland attorney, was named by the Ashland city council last month to succeed Mr. Van Dyke as Ashland city attorney.

Oregon Baby Deaths Lowest in Country; New Mexico Highest

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—The Census bureau reported today that only six countries had a lower infant death rate than the United States in 1940, and the three Axis nations had a much higher rate.

Infant deaths in this country totaled 110,984, or 47 for each 1,000 live births, the lowest rate ever achieved here. Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand reported rates ranging between 37 and 39, and the rate in Switzerland was 46.

Extreme was Germany with 65, Italy with 104 and Japan with 112. The bureau said these figures probably have increased in the last two years.

The infant death rate in the United States was 72.9 for negroes and 43.2 for whites. Among the states the lowest rate was 33.2 in Oregon and Minnesota and the highest 100.9 in New Mexico.

NEW YORK NEWSPAPER STRIKE TO WLB HANDS

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins today certified to the War Labor Board a strike which has prevented general circulation of most of New York City's newspapers since last Sunday night.

Capture of Buna First All-American Show of Guinea Campaign

By FRANK HEWLETT
United Press Staff Correspondent

With American Forces at Buna, Dec. 14.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—Eager young American soldiers, bayonets glinting in early morning sunlight, stormed and captured Buna village, a key Japanese base, today in the first all-American show of the New Guinea campaign.

The attack was opened at 7 a. m. with an artillery and mortar barrage only 100 yards ahead of the advancing infantrymen. Its climax came at 9 a. m. when the colonel in command received this succinct message from the unit commander which stormed the village: "Buna bust ed."

In face of direct enemy fire which, surprisingly, caused only a small number of casualties, the Americans fought through pill boxes and machinegun nests

to attack the main enemy force from two sides.

Gather Souvenirs

They joined in the village. The firing dwindled gradually until there were only spasmodic machinegun bursts and single rifle shots.

A few hours later the colonel had to tell his soldiers in the village to stop hunting souvenirs and start hunting Japanese stragglers and snipers in the surrounding country.

Now, at 8 p. m., some Yanks are wearing Japanese shirts and trousers. Others have Japanese belts and mess kits. Most popular are the rubber-soled tabs, the Japanese canvas shoes with a special big-toe section, designed especially for tree climbing.

The victory today was no pushover. It was possible only because it was well-planned and executed.

Particularly outstanding in the

days before the assault was the countering of the Americans. Our marksmen shot down many Japanese from the banyan trees. The Americans have little respect for the Japanese snipers' marksmanship and are not falling for the enemy booby traps and other tricks.

Capture Important

The capture of Buna means that the Americans now hold a substantial beachhead at the river mouth, the best landing for boats in this area. Moreover, a substantial number of troops have been freed for a new drive on nearby Buna Mission and the final cleaning out of the enemy in this area.

The victory came after three weeks of fighting in which both sides suffered substantial casualties and nine days after a small American party punched through to the sea and isolated the village from the Japanese

forces at the Mission.

It rained even harder than usual last night, eve of the attack, and the track to the rear was knee deep in mud at some places.

Going up to the front were many lean, tired, dirty soldiers, lugging heavy cases of hand grenades, mortar shells and machinegun and rifle bullets to replenish the supply, depleted by a day of heavy fighting.

Doughboys Move Out

Exactly at 7 a. m. today, the mortar men put down a barrage as precise as that of fixed field guns on the enemy positions and the American doughboys moved out.

As they stormed and overwhelmed the pill boxes and machinegun nests the mortar barrage rolled ahead of them, and then began blasting the village proper.

Within 10 minutes nearly 400 heavy 81-millimeter (3.19 inch)

shells rained on the village.

While the mortar shells arched high over our heads, the machinegunners and tommygunners chattered from in front, punctuated by the occasional explosion of a hand grenade thrown into a Japanese pill box or machinegun nest.

About half an hour after the attack opened, tagging the colonel in command, I was kneeling in the mud behind a clump of bushes, dodging snipers, when a blast nearly knocked me over. Then came another blast. A young lieutenant fell on his face in the mud less than 15 feet away. He was wounded only slightly and was able to walk to a dressing station.

Artillery joined in the fire, peppering the Buna Mission to make the Japanese keep their heads down there.

Japanese mortars fired from

across the bay were causing some trouble.

We moved into the village behind the shock troops, past the enemy pill boxes at the edge of the trail.

Village Battered

The village was filled with bomb craters. It had been bombed for four months and all the cocoa palms were scarred.

Before the battle, the Japanese forces had been split. Possibly some Japanese had evacuated the village, but plenty remained and I saw an occasional freshly killed enemy soldier.

The Japanese equipment was not their best, but the fixed defenses, including the pill boxes built to defend the village from attack by land or sea, were excellent. Some were strong enough to survive a direct hit by a mortar shell.

In several pill boxes were clean blankets, spread out, and

numerous loaded, well-kept rifles. There was little else.

With an occasional sniper's bullet whistling past, we inspected the village.

The largest hut apparently had been used as headquarters.

Another hut on the western side, used as a hospital, proved the fallacy of reports that the Japanese neglect their wounded. All the wounded had been evacuated, but a quantity of medical equipment was left and is being used by the Americans.

A doctor told me he had never seen such fine blood transfusion equipment. He showed me a surgical saw comparable to an American saw but only one-third the size.

I am writing this dispatch with the aid of a flashlight in a blacked-out tent. A friend who leaves at dawn will deliver it to the field censors in the rear.

SIDE GLANCES By TRIBUNE REPORTER

Mrs. Curt Hopkins in search of a dozen or so electric popcorn poppers to be loaned to Service Club No. 1 at Camp White for use on Christmas eve.

Arch Work dodging into the sanctum and out again with nose in air as though on a hot trail.