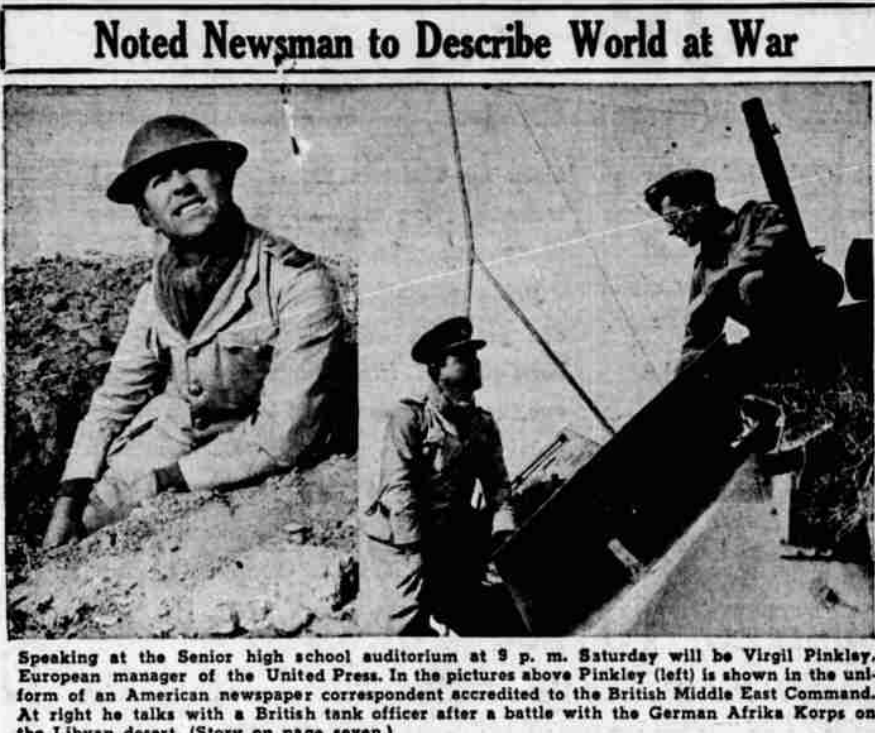


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BRITISH SLASH AT TRAPPED ENEMES



Speaking at the Senior high school auditorium at 9 p. m. Saturday will be Virgil Pinkley, European manager of the United Press. In the picture above Pinkley (left) is shown in the uniform of an American newspaper correspondent accredited to the British Middle East Command. At right he talks with a British tank officer after a battle with the German Afrika Korps on the Libyan desert. (Story on page seven.)

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C.

Congress Harsh With Roosevelt

Pierce Not After Lame Duck Post

NYA Fights For Continuance

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18.—Unable to call a quorum and doing business only by unanimous consent, the house of representatives decided to just quit, go home and collect their mileage. Since November 3 President Roosevelt has been unable to get any concessions from congress; everything that he has asked for has been refused and by committees on which the majority of members are Democrats. His last request for more power—authority to suspend the tariff laws (highly important to the northwest) and suspend the immigration laws to permit thousands of alien refugees to enter this country until after the duration, was rejected.

Because unanimous consent has been necessary, the Columbia river bill to set up a procedure for disposal of 1,200,000 acres in the Grand Coulee program, has been shelved. Representative Rich of Pennsylvania bluntly declared this was something that could wait until after the war. The legislation must be approved by the Washington legislature but this argument made no impression on Mr. Rich. Lost in the shuffle was a claim against the government by the Palute Indians of Harney county, Oregon, which has been hanging fire for years.

Another phenomenon appeared. The bureaucrats "down town" who have been hoity-toity with members of congress and have brushed the lawmakers aside as of no moment, have become very subservient, very anxious to please and give information. This applies especially to war activities and to the young "economists" cluttering up so many bureaus. In its own behalf congress is seeking to recover powers granted to the president. Leader in this is Senator Mahoney of Wyoming, a Democrat, not a New Dealer. What makes the situation in the national capital intriguing is

(Continued on Page Seven)

Roosevelt Gives Nazi Iron Cross To Offending Newspaper Writer

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Roosevelt today sent a German Iron Cross to a Washington newspaperman who had written a column which displeased him.

Mr. Roosevelt after his Friday press conference handed the German military medal to Earl Godwin, a radio commentator who was standing near him, and asked him to present it to John O'Donnell, Washington correspondent of the New York Daily News.

O'Donnell had attended the press conference, but had filed out of the room along with most other reporters when this occurred. The President told Godwin he wanted O'Donnell to have the decoration for something he had written about George E. Durno, former White House correspondent for the International News Service who is now a captain in the army.

Mr. Roosevelt apparently thought that column by O'Donnell pictured Durno, an old friend of the President, in an unfair light.

UNIVERSITY WILL SUPPORT TRAINING

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 18.—Complete support of the new army and navy program for training reserves and other selected men was assured by the University of Oregon today in a statement from Dr. Donald M. Erb, university president.

Following an announcement from Washington of a new plan to convert major universities and colleges to specialized training centers for men of the army, navy and marine corps, Dr. Erb pledged the university's unqualified support in the event it is selected as one of the sites.

FRAU GOERING SEEKS SAFETY IN COPENHAGEN

Stockholm, Dec. 18.—A usually well-informed source reported today that Emmy Goering, wife of Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering, No. 2 Nazi, had moved to Denmark because there was better food and more security from air attacks there than in Germany.

Frau Goering has rented a villa outside of Copenhagen which was under heavy German guard, it was said.

CHURCHILL REPORTED COMING TO SEE F. R.

Stockholm, Dec. 18.—A Lisbon dispatch of the newspaper Allehand said today that Prime Minister Winston Churchill had left for Washington to confer with President Roosevelt on French colonies.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Four survivors of the old American Eagle squadrons of the RAF have returned home with a bit of advice for younger airmen—"stay in formation and fight like a team or it will all be over."

AXIS REAR GUARD PRESSED HARD BY MONTGOMERY MEN

Eighth Army Drives Against Rommel Tanks and Infantry Near Marble Arch.

By Edward W. Beattie
United Press Correspondent
London, Dec. 18.—Advanced units of the British Eighth army are in hot pursuit of the rear guard of Field Marshal Edwin Rommel's Afrika Korps more than 90 miles west of El Aghella while British tanks, guns, infantrymen and planes slash at a trapped enemy force to the east, it was announced today.

A communique of the Middle Eastern Command issued in Cairo disclosed that the British advanced forces throughout yesterday fought the fleeing rear guard, pressing it closely, south-west of Nofilia, which is 90 miles west of Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's jumping off place in his new offensive aimed at Tripoli, then Tunisia.

Merchandise Attack

In the area between the Marble Arch flying field, 40 miles west of El Aghella, and Wadi Matratin, 20 miles west of Marble Arch, powerfully reinforced British forces drove against the scores of Axis tanks and thousands of men trapped between a flanking column and the main British army.

"Extent of damage inflicted on the enemy between Marble Arch and Wadi Matratin is not yet known," the communique said.

From the Libyan battle area to Northern Tunisia, and from the African coast to Italy, the Axis forces were under a merciless land, sea and air attack.

Supply Ships Sunk

A British submarine was believed to have sunk two medium sized supply ships, escorted by destroyers, in the Gulf of Naples, an admiralty communique said. Three hits were scored on the ships.

In the Gulf of Hammamet off the Tunisian east coast another British submarine torpedoed a medium supply ship, heavily laden with motor transport, and sent it aground in a sinking condition.

Middle Eastern Command fighter planes, probably based on Malta, destroyed at least five big enemy aircraft, taking troops and supplies to Africa, off Sicily.

SALVATION ARMY OPENING DELAYED

Because a shipment of furnishings failed to arrive in time, the preliminary opening of the Salvation Army USO facility in the Masonic Temple, originally scheduled for Sunday afternoon, has been postponed to Wednesday night at 8 p. m. Adj. C. K. Cox said this afternoon. There will be no change in the program as originally arranged.

ALL TIRE INSPECTORS TO MEET WITH OPA MAN

R. B. Reynolds, state tire representative for the OPA, will be in this city Wednesday at which time a meeting of all service station and garage men will be held at the county court house auditorium at 7:30 p. m. Reynolds, who resides in Portland, will be in charge of the meeting and all tire inspectors and others concerned are urged to be present for the discussions.

Pleasure Driving Halted in East; Gas For Commercial Vehicles Only

BROTHER OFFICERS SAY CAPTAIN CARR VERY "BAD ACTOR"

Witnesses in Trial of Secret Wife Declare Slain Man Liar, of Low Morality.

Bisbee, Ariz., Dec. 18.—Capt. David Carr's reputation was described as "very bad" by fellow officers testifying today in the defense of pretty Margaret Herlihy on charges of murdering her secret husband last Aug. 15.

Col. Thomas L. Taylor, infantry commander at Ft. Huachuca, said he "would not believe Carr under oath if it served his purpose to lie."

Capt. Robert J. Sutherland, assistant inspector general at the fort, testified that he had known Carr since 1940 and that the slain officer had a "very bad reputation both at Camp Blanding, Miss., and at Fort Huachuca, Ariz."

"He had a very bad moral reputation among his fellow officers and would lie under oath if it served his purpose," Capt. Sutherland said.

Carr's roommate at Fort Huachuca, Capt. U. S. Patterson, gave almost the same testimony. "Carr had a very bad reputation as to honesty, veracity and integrity," Capt. Patterson said.

Through Patterson, who was placed in charge of Carr's estate, the defense attempted to introduce letters and telegrams from two of Carr's wives.

The jury was dismissed during arguments over admissibility of communications from Ruth Duke Carr, whom the officer married in Phenix City, Ala., last January, and from his common-law wife, Alice Lippolt.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today that the Parker dam plant on the Colorado river has started generating power.

RUSSIANS NEARING SMOLENSK, PIVOT OF NAZI CAMPAIGN

Central Front Forces Now in Neighborhood of Bely—German Supply Dangerous

Moscow, Dec. 18.—The Soviet army revealed today that it had driven on the central front to within 85 miles of Smolensk, pivot point of the whole German campaign in Russia.

A special communique said the Red army was fighting in the vicinity of Bely, 85 miles north and slightly east of Smolensk, and 60 miles west of the Rzhhev-Vyazma railway line.

The Russians were making rapid progress. The noon communique reported Soviet forces fighting in "the area of the Rzhhev-Vyazma railroad" had captured a village, the ninth they had taken in this area in the last three days.

Naal Supply Periled

A main railway runs from Smolensk, back through Warsaw, into Germany. From Smolensk, German supply lines stretch north and south.

The capture of Smolensk would remove the heart of the chain. The only place in Russia comparable to it in importance to the Germans is Kiev, far down the Dnieper, and if they lost Smolensk, the Germans would have the greatest difficulty supplying their forces in the north.

LONGER LEAVE TIME

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Roosevelt today signed a bill increasing to 90 days the amount of leave time government employees may accumulate during wartime.

Boise, Ida., Dec. 18.—Dr. Alan L. Hart, Idaho tuberculosis consultant, today forecast an increase in deaths from the disease in the United States during the war period.

War Bulletins

Washington, Dec. 18.—American submarines sank seven more Japanese supply ships and auxiliaries in the Pacific combat, the navy announced today.

London, Dec. 18.—The Nazi controlled Paris radio said today that Japanese troops had crossed the Indian border from Burma and had advanced nearly 18 miles into Indian territory, where sharp fighting was taking place in the Chindwin area against British troops.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Army Flying Fortresses, accompanied by cannon-firing A-24 bombers, attacked the Japanese base at Munda on New Georgia island in the Solomons for the seventh consecutive day of raids in that area, the navy announced today.

GAS TRUCK BLAST FATAL FOR PAIR

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.—An explosion of a huge truck and trailer loaded with Butane fuel today killed two men and seriously burned three others.

Police reported that a taxicab carrying three sailors halted when they saw the truck driver attempting to stop a leaky valve that was spraying the gas on the street in the harbor district. A spark from the taxi or a carelessly tossed cigarette ignited the fuel, which flared up in a tremendous blast.

Dead were Lewis Thomas, 50, taxi driver, and Bud Benson, 25, Santa Ana, Cal., truck driver.

MURPHY DECORATED

Allied Headquarters, North Africa, Dec. 12.—(Delayed)—Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, American commander, awarded the Distinguished Service medal today to Robert D. Murphy, personal representative of President Roosevelt in North Africa.

Survey to Determine

How long the "no sale" order will stand is uncertain. While Mr. Roosevelt hoped it would be lifted in a day or two, the office of price administration said it would be determined by a survey of supplies being made by Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes.

Ickes, who was in New York, painted anything but a rosy picture. He indicated pleasure car drivers have little chance of getting the ration restored. Specifically, he said he thought pleasure drivers "will have a hard job getting the gasoline they have been getting."

Whether this meant "A" coupons would be cancelled and the value of "B" and "C" coupons reduced was uncertain. The original plan was to suspend "A" coupons indefinitely — a move that would have forced 5,000,000 private passenger cars off the streets.

200 WOMEN DELIVER KANSAS CITY MAIL

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 18.—Postmaster Alexander W. Graham said today that post office operations were "normal" on the first day of work for 200 women carriers. "And I do mean normal," he added. "One of the women even got nipped by a dog."

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTER

George Iverson busy making arrangements for his meeting of landlords and landladies.

Paul Bulkin wondering if the \$40 he paid for an automobile with good tires was too much, and being assured it was not.

Herman Purucker swearing by all that's holy that Jackson county's "House of Mystery" is not just an optical illusion induced by bewildering angles, etc.

ROOSEVELT HOPES "NO SALE" ORDER ONLY TEMPORARY

Action Required by Military Needs in North Africa—7,000,000 Cars Affected.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Gasoline sales to every private passenger car in the 17-state eastern ration area were halted at noon today "until further notice," but President Roosevelt hoped the emergency ban—dictated by urgent military needs in North Africa—could be lifted in a day or two.

The action, ordered by Retiring Price Chief Leon Henderson, directly affects 7,000,000 private motorists and their families who now must use public transportation facilities or walk.

One for Emergency

Holders of "A," "B" and "C" coupon ration books were affected equally. While the moratorium is in force they may redeem only one coupon, and that for "emergency" use only.

Spared from the order were all commercial vehicles—trucks, buses and taxicabs which will receive gasoline as usual.

Officials sought a swift solution of the shortage crisis to prevent a breakdown in already war-burdened public transportation systems which now face an avalanche of increased traffic.

In this boom-town capital the office of defense transportation's regional committee forecast the "biggest jam imaginable" on public conveyances and recommended immediate closing of schools and other emergency steps.

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