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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1942

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NO. 233

RUSSIANS OPEN KEYSTONE OFFENSIVE

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C.

Food Situation
Bad in Oregon

Alaska Censor
Circle Tight

FSA May Pass
For Fund Lack

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Report comes to the national capital that the food situation in Washington and Oregon is no joke. It is said that 120 meat shops in Portland have closed for want of something to sell; the dealers are unable to make purchases. A similar situation, but not quite so severe, is reported in the Puget sound area. There is no prospect of improvement in the situation until January or February.

Cheese, which many people use as a substitute for meat, is to be rationed, although in October there was such a surplus that appeals were made over the radio for people to buy and eat more cheese. Heretofore the northwest has been self-sufficient in cheese production. Less cheese is to be made in order to increase the amount of fluid milk, and for the same reason the butterfat content in ice cream has been ordered reduced and production curtailed.

Meat sections, usually passed by, are about all that many butcher shops have on their trays. These are tongue, hearts, brains, sweetbreads, kidneys—all good if you like them. Butchers left in such plight are locking their doors and heading for the shipyards or other war industries, to resume business when they can again obtain steaks, chops, roasts, ham and bacon.

Shortage have penetrated the bakeries. A number of baker shops have closed because of sugar shortage (there are warehouses full of sugar in the United States), and the difficulty in obtaining shortening is affecting every baker, some having only two or three days' supply. This has reduced the production of doughnuts and how long they will be on the market depends on supplies of grease and confectioners' sugar. After the holidays the candy makers will have their troubles.

Between the armed forces, lend-lease and speculators, canned goods will be rare in about four months. The small business man will not be able to find any. The inventory control, to be put into operation by war production board, will not include groceries, except where they are carried as a sideline by, perhaps, depart-

(Continued on Page Eight)

AIRCRAFT UNIONS SEEK PAY BOOST

Seattle, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Wage scale equal to shipyard pay will be demanded from the War Labor board by aircraft industry unions, Harold J. Gibson, business agent for Boeing aircraft plant workers, said tonight.

BULLETIN

Astoria, Ore., Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The University of Oregon Ducks tonight downed the Astoria All-Stars 37 to 30 in a basketball game here.

Oregon led throughout, except for a point in the first half when the All-Stars moved ahead, 10 to 5. Half-time saw Oregon in the lead 19 to 12.

Oregon's Ralph Fuhrman was high point man with nine counters.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The University of Washington Huskies, leading favorites for the northern division championship, tonight edged out the Vancouver Ramblers 39 to 38 in a basketball game here.

It was the second defeat Washington administered the Ramblers, whose squad is made up of former college stars. Last night the Huskies rapped them 45 to 39.

200 TOWNS TAKEN, NAZI POSITION IN SOUTH IN PERIL

Spearhead Drives For Khar-
kov—Reds Gain On Two
Fronts—Take Key Point.

Moscow, Dec. 20.—(Sunday)—(U.P.)—The Red army's third big winter offensive has begun in the middle Don river area. Soviet communiques disclosed today with 30,000 German troops already killed or captured and 22 enemy divisions encircled between the Don and the Volga rivers.

In addition, the drive threatened many more German divisions fighting between the northern and southern arms of the Don.

Moscow, Dec. 20.—(Sunday)—(U.P.)—Soviet communiques disclosed today that Russian forces were driving westward from the central reaches of the Don in a smashing new offensive that had resulted in liberation of 200 occupied places, the killing of 20,000 Axis troops and the taking of 10,000 prisoners in four days' fighting.

The new drive, which threatened the entire German position on the southern front, was reported in a special communique issued a short time before the regular midnight communique. It disclosed that Boguchar, a key point northwest of Stalingrad, was among the places recaptured.

The Russians broke through on two fronts—about 60 miles wide at one point and more than 12 miles wide—and had driven 30 to 55 miles into enemy lines, the special communique disclosed.

London, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—A Soviet communique disclosed tonight that the Russian army had begun the potential keystone attack of its entire winter campaign, striking on the central Don front toward some of the most vital Axis supply centers.

The Red army smashed forward 30 to 55 miles from the Voronezh sector, driving a spearhead toward Khar'kov, center of Axis operations along the entire southern sector.

Coming at a time when the Germans were hard-pressed in the Stalingrad area and in the Smolensk quadrangle to the north, and coinciding with mounting demands on Adolf Hitler's resources on all the fringes of the empire, the new offensive might collapse the entire southern front and even present a serious threat to all German positions opposite Moscow.

The Russians held Voronezh last spring against one of the fiercest attacks the Germans had launched previous to their supreme effort at Stalingrad. Then, as the assault abated, the Red army gradually built up its strength throughout the Voronezh area.

Military observers pointed out early in the battle of Stalingrad that it was essential for the Germans to secure their Voronezh flank before driving on Stalingrad and the Caucasus. Therefore if that Voronezh flank now has been pierced the Russians presumably have presented a grave threat to the entire German communications system.

Voronezh presented the weakest point in the German line because from there the Russians could strike either for the essential supply and communications center of Khar'kov or swing northward toward the central area. In both cases the distances are great, but the German lines are stretched so thinly that they can ill afford the threat.

Choosing a drive toward Khar'kov, the Russians have taken on a big job because that area is one of Hitler's best reserve pools and probably had not been drained heavily for the attempt to relieve the Axis troops encircled at Stalingrad.

NATIONAL INCOME GROWS
Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones tonight estimated that the national income for 1942 will exceed \$117,000,000,000, an increase of \$22,000,000,000 over last year.

U. S. Transport Vessel Hit in Action off Casablanca



A column of smoke goes up from United States transport ship Edward Rutledge just as she was hit amidships by a torpedo from an enemy submarine during action off Casablanca, French Morocco, last November, when the Allies moved on North Africa. The picture, an official U. S. Navy photo, was taken from the deck of the transport Hugh L. Scott a few minutes after she herself, had been torpedoed. Both ships sank during the operations.

SPEEDY ACQUITTAL FOR FAIR SLAYER OF ARMY CAPTAIN

Bisbee, Ariz., Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Presby. Margaret Herlihy, 21-year-old expectant mother was found not guilty tonight of the murder of her secret husband, Capt. David Carr, after 33 minutes deliberation by an all-male jury.

As soon as attorneys for both sides were present, Jury Foreman C. N. Warnick, motorman in a copper mine, told Judge William G. Hall:

"We find Miss Herlihy not guilty."

As soon as the verdict was announced, Miss Herlihy, accompanied by her parents, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Edward Herlihy, and their son, Dan, 17, hurried from the building.

As the jurors left the jury box, each filed past Miss Herlihy, shook her by the hand and wished her "the best of luck."

She smiled back through tears and murmured her thanks. Her mother, Mrs. Herlihy, also was weeping.

County Attorney John Ross, chief prosecutor, then approached Miss Herlihy and told her:

"If I had been a member of the jury, I would have done the same."

**RESUME GAS SALE
IN EAST MONDAY**

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Price Administrator Leon Henderson announced tonight that sale of gasoline to private motorists in 17 eastern states, suspended at noon Friday, will be resumed at 12:01 a. m., EWT Monday.

Thenceforth, however, the value of "B" and "C" gasoline ration coupons will be only three gallons each, Henderson said. The value of "A" coupons, to the surprise of many, will remain three gallons each.

Henderson's announcement, in which he revealed a new, eight-point program for conserving motor fuel supplies, came shortly after Economic Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes disclosed that an overhauling of the entire gasoline and fuel oil ration program was in prospect.

Byrnes summoned Henderson, Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes, and Defense Transportation Director Joseph B. Eastman to his White House office—where he functions as a sort of "deputy president"—for a conference on Monday.

An East Coast Port, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—An Italian and a German submarine, working as a team, sank a medium-sized British merchant vessel in the Atlantic off the northern coast of South America in mid-November with the loss of two lives, survivors reported today.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Arrival of "The Voice," Arthur L. Bell, and two other leaders of the mysterious "Mankind United" secret society charged with conspiracy to violate sedition laws, tonight was continued until Monday.

ROMMEL STRIVES TO JOIN GERMAN ARMS IN TUNISIA

British Give Retreating
Force No Rest—Allied
Planes Busy.

London, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The British Eighth army drove the reeling remnants of the Axis Libyan armies within 300 miles of the Tunisian frontier tonight while allied planes battered enemy bases at the other end of the North African nutcracker.

Dispatches from Cairo said Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's retreating German and Italian forces had been driven beyond Sultan, 135 miles west of El Aghelia, where Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery started his new offensive.

Radio Morocco broadcast a Turkish report that units of the Afrika Korps had begun to arrive at Tripoli and there were indications that Rommel would attempt to evacuate his remaining troops directly to Tunisia to join forces with German Gen. Walther Nehring.

An allied communique on Tunisian operations disclosed that British and American planes, taking advantage of improving weather, raided Axis forces and installations from Bizerte, where an enemy warship was bombed, to the southern fighting area of Tunisia.

Indicating that Rommel does not intend to halt until he joins forces with Nehring in northeastern Tunisia, a radio Rome commentator said that "the North African front is assuming more and more than character of a single front."

His conclusion was supported by the facts, Montgomery's imperials, giving the Axis retreaters no rest, were closing in last on Sirte—the approximate halfway point to Tripoli—from their new position at Sultan, 30 miles to the east.

**LISTING OF ROOMS
IS POSSIBLE TODAY**

In an effort to aid the scores of mothers, wives and sweethearts of service men arriving here to spend the holidays near their loved ones, the Chamber of Commerce will have a telephone clerk on duty today from 10 a. m. to receive listings of rooms which home owners may be willing to make available for a few days. Callers may use number 2294 or 2846.

Secretary Frank Hull of the Chamber of Commerce emphasized again Saturday that with scores of relatives of Camp White soldiers pouring into Medford, the opening of rooms in private homes forms the only solution to the housing problem as hotels and lodgings are full. Home owners providing such temporary lodgings are not required to list them at the rent control office, Mr. Hull said.

WOMAN, 70, FLAGS DOWN TRAIN AND PREVENTS WRECK

Colorado Springs, Colo., Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—A 70-year-old woman tonight was credited with preventing what probably would have been a disastrous train wreck near here today by flagging down a speeding passenger train.

Mrs. Ida Peck, master of the tiny Husted station 10 miles north of Colorado Springs, suffered severe injuries when she stepped too close to the Santa Fe streamliner, but her frantic warnings caused the engineer to stop just in time to keep from roaring into another passenger train which was stalled on the tracks.

She ran from her station, swinging a red lantern, and in her excitement, brushed against the locomotive, suffering a severe arm injury. The stalled passenger train was waiting for a freight train, which had been stopped by a broken drawbar, to move on.

Santa Fe officials said hundreds of holiday travelers were on the two trains and that many lives might have been lost had not Mrs. Peck prevented the collision.

BOMBERS ATTACK JAP KISKA BASE

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Set off "heavy explosions and fires" in a December 17 raid on Japanese shore installations on Kiska Island, the navy announced today.

The raid was the first reported in the Aleutians since December 11.

On the southern end of the Pacific front, the navy said, army flying fortresses continued to blast the enemy's new airbase at Munda on New Georgia Island.

The big bombers carried out two raids on December 18 (Solomon time) accompanied by a fighter plane escort. It was the ninth day of attacks on the Munda base, which is only 150 miles northwest of Guadalcanal. Results of the raids "were not observed," the navy said.

**NAZI PERSECUTION
JEWS ASTOUNDS**

London Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The Inter-Allied information committee reported tonight that only 1,000 Jews have survived Axis occupation of Yugoslavia and that details of the "bestial cruelty and sadism by which 85,000 others were slaughtered achieve a degree of horror which numbs the mind."

A comprehensive statement by the committee on persecution of Jews in Europe to the Nazis and their satellites and Quislings said the Germans have transported Poland to "one vast center for murdering Jews" of

STATE BUDGET TO ASK 21 MILLIONS FOR 1943 NEEDS

No Property Tax—Public
Welfare Heaviest Item—
Surplus Forecast.

Salem, Ore., Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—Appropriations totaling \$21,989,160 will be requested from the 1943 legislature in the executive budget released today by the state budget department.

The budget, covering expenditures for the biennium beginning July 1, 1943, reflects the mark of wartime economy on state affairs, with a fund set aside for wiping out deficits of \$732,912.99 and providing \$500,000 for the emergency board to meet unpredictable emergencies, in addition to salary increases averaging five per cent and an estimated 35 per cent increase in costs of commodities.

With the state income next year estimated at \$22,678,395, however, the new budget will leave a surplus of \$688,819 without the necessity of levying property taxes for state purposes.

One effect of the war is reflected in the fact that for the first time in years the estimates of the State highway commission fail to top the list of expenditures. First place is taken over by the public welfare commission, with increased expenditures due—not to increased relief costs in a time of industrial prosperity—but to proposed increases in old age assistance grants.

The public welfare commission requested a total of \$27,155,896, part of which will be met by federal grants and the rest by net profits of the liquor commission, as in the past year.

An estimated surplus of \$11,639,874 will remain as of June 30, 1943, in the income and excise funds, which will be available for future offset of property taxes.

Estimated revenues included in the budget are: income and excise taxes, \$15,053,002; unexpended balances, \$1,400,000; titling funds, \$207,476; miscellaneous receipts, \$6,017,913; or a total of \$22,678,395.

HALL-MILLS CASE PRINCIPAL DEAD

New Brunswick, N. J., Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Frances Hall, 79, one of the principals of the famous Hall-Mills murder trial of 16 years ago, died at her home today after an illness of several months.

Mrs. Hall, with her two brothers, Henry and Willie Stevens, was acquitted of the murder of her husband, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, church sexton's wife, four years after the double slaying.

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, and Mrs. Mills, were found two days after they were slain on the night of September 14, 1922. Both had been shot and Mrs. Mills' throat had been slashed. Near the bodies were fragments of love letters and the clergyman's calling card.

**TREASURY READY
NEW ZINC PENNY**

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The Treasury was prepared tonight to order the minting of new three-cent pieces and pennies of zinc-coated steel following the signing by the President today of a bill authorizing use of new materials for minor coins.

The law authorized the first three-cent piece to be minted since 1859. Then the coin was made of nickel.

The mint has been experimenting with various materials since the bill was offered to Congress.

War Bulletins

Capetown, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—Maj. Gen. Dan Pienaar, commander of South African forces in Libya, has been killed in an air crash while flying to South Africa from the Middle East, it was announced officially today.

BRITISH LAUNCH DRIVE TO RETAKE, OPEN BURMA ROAD

Imperials Recross Border—
Jap Forces Withdraw Before
Wavell Force.

New Delhi, India, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—British imperials thrust deeply into Burma tonight, driving toward Akyab in the first step toward fulfilling Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell's promise to regain the colony from the Japanese and recross the Burma road to China.

The British struck suddenly from the Chittagong hills, moving 40 to 50 miles inland from the Bay of Bengal without meeting Japanese opposition. They were advancing on a 20-mile front between the bay and the Mayu river.

One year and four days after the Japanese had started their invasion of Burma which drove the British into India, a communique disclosed that Wavell's well-equipped troops were on the march to retrace their retreat.

It disclosed that the imperials had crossed the border of the Burmese province of Arakan several days ago and had moved swiftly through the difficult terrain of Western Burma to occupy the Maungdaw-Buthidaung area, about 60 miles northwest of Akyab.

"The enemy, who had been in occupation of this area since our withdrawal from Burma and had prepared defenses, withdrew without offering opposition," the communique added.

It was not apparent immediately whether the British advance was the start of a full-scale offensive or merely a feeler designed to test the strength and depth of the enemy's defenses. It showed, however, that the British command had confidence in the strong Anglo-American striking force that had been built up in India since the disastrous Burma-Malayan campaigns of last year.

SLATE HENDERSON FOR NEW KEY JOB

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Informed congressional sources predicted tonight that Leon Henderson, whose resignation as price administrator has been accepted by President Roosevelt, eventually will return to a key post in the nation's economic stabilization structure.

What that post will be still is problematical. But it is known that Mr. Henderson's abilities, and he is expected to find a new place in the economic high command for the man whose long vendetta with congress culminated Thursday in his resignation as chief of the Office of Price Administration, effective with appointment of his successor.

BLAMES "SWEATER GIRLS"
Colma, Cal. (U.P.)—Movie Czar Will Hays has a keen supporter in his "anti-sweater girl" drive in the proprietor of the Globe Tavern here. Two girls, a blonde and brunette, whom he described to the police as being "perfect sweater girl types" relieved him of \$75 at the point of revolvers.

STUDENTS DEMAND
Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—One thousand University of Kansas students abandoned their classrooms today and paraded to the office of Chancellor Deane W. Mallott in a demand for a longer Christmas vacation.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The state highway commission today reported the following low bidders on highway projects: Jackson county—Grading, surfacing and oil 2.65 miles Toke-Camp White access road project, Tru-Mix Concrete Co., Medford, \$49,025.

Jackson county—Grading and surfacing 9.3 miles Evans Creek-Sams Valley access road project, Tru-Mix Concrete Co., Medford, \$133,416.

PRAYER AND GULL PROVE SALVATION OF RICKENBACKER

Air Hero Back Tells Of De-
liverance From Pacific—
Home Sacrifices Trivial.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Out there in the Pacific wastes, when death seemed inevitable, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker and his men "frankly and humbly prayed for deliverance."

Deliverance came. And now he is back home, Eddie Rickenbacker has another plea to make—this one to the American people.

It is a plea for more production and more sacrifice on the home front for the boys in the "hell holes of fire" on Guadalcanal and in New Guinea.

Rickenbacker came home today. He told for the first time—at a press conference arranged by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson—the complete story of what happened to him and seven companions after their flying fortress went down at sea last October 21 while he was on a secret mission for the war department.

He told his story—a story of 22 days and 21 nights on a life raft in the seemingly limitless Pacific. A story of hunger and thirst and death, a story of minds brought to the cracking point when rescue planes flew over without spotting the men they sought, a story above all of faith in God and the dramatic answer to a prayer.

But because Rickenbacker insisted upon completing his mission after only two weeks of convalescence, he also had a story to tell of American fighting men in the "mud and corruption" of New Guinea and the Solomons.

"If only the people back home could know," he said, "we'd take this war lots more seriously."

"Because those of us on the home front are 3000 to 6000 miles away from all these hell holes of fire, it is difficult for us to see what those boys are enduring."

And, he added softly, if the folks at home could realize what he and his men, themselves, had gone through—well, it "might prove a stimulus to people here to get them to produce."

But Rickenbacker's emphasis was on what the American soldier is doing and suffering.

"My opinion," he said of the troops on Guadalcanal, "is that if it weren't for the fact they are having tremendous successes, their health couldn't hold out."

"But the stimulus of winning keeps them physically and mentally okay."

Mindful of what he saw in the South Pacific jungles, Rickenbacker had little patience with those at home who complain about rationing of rubber and gasoline.

"These cries," he said, "seem so insignificant and ridiculous when you consider what the boys down there haven't got."

"I have come to the conclusion that if they brought the combat troops back here and put them in factories and had the factory workers replace them in the field, we could double production in 30 days' time."

"If only you can get the peo-

(Continued on Page Six)

**LOW BIDS FILED
FOR CAMP ROADS**