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MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1942

NO. 240

DE GAULLE, GIRAUD PLEDGE UNITY

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C.

Power Pool Quiz
Sought by Pierce

Lehman Naming
Seen F.R. Error

Soldiers May Aid
With 1943 Crops

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—The power pool embracing Grand Coulee, Bonneville and the private utilities of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Utah (and the municipally owned plant at Eugene) which has been a life-saver recently to the government projects and certain private companies, is a device of the private companies to filch the government power and undermine the two projects on Columbia river, according to Walter M. Pierce, government ownership advocate, in his swan song in congress. Mr. Pierce, who failed to make the grade in the November election, has requested the federal power commission and federal trade commission to investigate this power pool.

The pool is the result of proposals initiated by several large power companies to increase available power during the war. At first Dr. Paul J. Raver, Bonneville administrator, opposed the idea, but the energy from Coulee and Bonneville is now mingled with that from the private utilities and the municipal plant. Story of the power pool appeared in the house organ of PGE company in Portland, November number, and promptly excited the suspicions of Pierce. He made quite an issue of it in the Congressional Record of December 14; said citizens of Washington and Oregon should learn why their resources are being siphoned off from under them and taken to Idaho, Montana and Utah to supply industrial plants that would not have been possible if their locations had been based on available power capacity.

This house organ ("Bull's Eye"), in an effort to prove patriotic accomplishments, admits an unlawful application under the Bonneville act. It admits displacing payrolls in the Columbia river basin and moving such opportunities into the

WOMEN INVITED TO CAMP PARTIES

An appeal for Victory Recreation Volunteers to attend Camp White parties was made today by Mrs. Marjorie Pena of the Outpost. Mrs. Pena is particularly interested in signing up a number of Medford girls and women to attend holiday parties scheduled for the camp this week. Tomorrow evening a party is planned for the 21st field hospital, Wednesday a dance is planned for Service Club No. 1 and Thursday a New Year's eve formal dance is to be held at Service Club No. 2.

Mrs. Pena states that recreational volunteers must be more than 18 years of age and American citizens. Any woman interested is asked to call the Outpost, 5765.

SIDE GLANCES

By
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Dorothy Hoppe being all of a dither about a certain piece of pink paper.

Deputy U. S. Marshall Paul Hanlin learning how to do the family washing.

George McBee eliminating "Tubby" Dean as a suspect in the robbery of his establishment the culprit having climbed through a tiny opening to enter the place.

FRENCH LEADERS TO CONFER SOON FOR UNIFICATION

Mutually Willing To Cooperate—De Gaulle Calls On Eden—May Visit F. D. R.

London, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Radio Vichy broadcast a speech by Marshal Henri Philippe Petain today denouncing French collaboration with the allies in North Africa, and then the radio announced that the council of ministers had deprived Gen. Henri Giraud of his French nationality.

London, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Gen. Charles De Gaulle, Fighting French leader, and Gen. Henri Honora Giraud, new French chieftain in Africa, have been negotiating for 48 hours on unification of all French Empire forces and have already pledged their mutual willingness to cooperate with one another, reliable informants said today.

Negotiations were now centered on arrangements for an early meeting between De Gaulle and Giraud, and it was believed in some quarters that it might take place in the next 10 days.

De Gaulle Sees Eden
De Gaulle called at the foreign office today and talked with Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who had been unable to attend yesterday's conference between Prime Minister Winston Churchill and De Gaulle.

There were unconfirmed reports that De Gaulle also would go to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt, and might be accompanied by Gen. Georges Catroux, Fighting French leader for the Middle East.

It was believed that De Gaulle might go to Africa to confer with Giraud, newly elected French high commissioner in succession to assassinated Admiral Jean Francois Darlan.

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Secretary of State Cordell Hull said today that greater unification of the various French elements would result from the leadership of Gen. Henri Honora Giraud of French North Africa. Hull said that Giraud's leadership "will go far to assure the common victory with the restoration of French liberty everywhere."

AMERICAN PLANES IN BIG OFFENSIVE ON TUNISIA FRONT

London, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Flying Fortresses and the newest, deadliest American fighting planes were believed engaged today in a supreme offensive to utterly wreck axis communication lines and transport in Tunisia.

The German controlled radio Vichy said there had been violent fighting in Tunisia for the last 24 hours.

Allied North African headquarters announced that United States bombers and fighters resumed their smashing attacks against the Port of Bizerte and Sfax, on the Tunisian east coast, Saturday.

Apparently there had been a break in heavy winter rains, holding up the allies both in the air and on land.

Flying Fortresses sank two large vessels and a small one, damaged a medium-sized ship and scored hits with heavy bombs on the docks at Sfax.

Radio Vichy broadcast early today that one American bomber and two fighters had landed in Portugal and been interned. A United Press dispatch from Lisbon said an Airacobra, with two pilots in it, had landed on the International airfield.

Byesville, O., Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Three coal miners were trapped while approximately 30 escaped safely today following a gas explosion at the Byesville Coal Co. mine.

Food Rationing Announcement Fails To Spark Buying Parade

Jap Navy Planes Claim 14 Yankee Machines Downed

Tokyo, Dec. 28.—(Japanese Broadcast Recorded by U.P. in New York)—Imperial headquarters announced today that Japanese naval fighter planes had shot down 14 of 20 American planes over Munda, on New Georgia island in the Solomons.

"Japanese naval fighters on Dec. 23 intercepted more than 20 enemy planes coming from the area of Guadalcanal island and shot down 14, of which six were unconfirmed, over Munda, New Georgia island," a communique said.

HOMES TO MAKE CAPITAL TRIP IN VAN DYKE'S PLACE

Fred C. Homes, of Ashland, stockman and farmer, was selected today by the county court, as state representative pro tem from Jackson county, to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Attorney Frank J. Van Dyke, of Ashland, representative-elect, who is unable to attend legislative session starting January 11 next, because of army duties. The appointment will be formally made by the court tomorrow. Homes was recommended to the county court by the republican county central committee. R. F. Kyle of this city was also an avowed candidate, and the choice between the two was reported close. A petition bearing the names of 80 Ashland residents was filed in behalf of Homes.

Homes, a native of Iowa, received his education in the public schools of that state, and the old Southern Oregon Normal school at Ashland. He received a teacher's certificate, and for a few years was employed by the Southern Pacific railroad. Since 1901, he has engaged in farming and stockraising, operating a 500-acre wheat ranch, and a dairy farm in the Bellview district. He is county chairman of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and has been active in Grange and civic affairs in the south end of the county for years. He is past exalted ruler of the Ashland Elks, president of the Bellview Telephone company, active in the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, and the republican party. He is 63 years of age.

Sergeant shoots self
Hamilton Field, Cal., Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—A board of officers today was investigating death of Tech. Sgt. George Ward Clark, 37, of Chicago, Ill., who apparently shot himself in the chest last night with his service revolver. Officers said there was no evidence of foul play and that companions of Clark reported he was cheerful when he went to bed.

DECEMBER RAINS UP SEASON TOTAL TO RECORD HIGH

Rainfall of 4.68 this month, including yesterday, brought the seasonal total for the past four months up to 17.60 inches, an all-time high, according to the federal weather bureau staff at the airport. The season's total is 10.62 inches above normal, it was stated.

It was pointed out that November's record-breaking rainfall of 8.62 helped materially to boost the season's figures. This was more rainfall than in any other single month since records have been kept starting in 1911. December figures were slightly more than normal.

Rains of the past week have flooded many fields and pastures of rural areas, causing farmers to fear some of their fall sown grain will be "drowned out."

Country roads are also in bad shape from excessive rain. Both orchardists and farmers would welcome sunshine, so they can catch up with their work.

RUSSIANS TIGHTEN RING AROUND FOE; SCORE NEW GAINS

Defenders Press Ahead On All Sectors In Night Of Bitter Fighting, Is Word.

Moscow, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Russian forces narrowed the gap today in a second ring around 22 German divisions already trapped between the Volga and the Don and a Soviet communique reported new Red army gains on five other sectors from Rzhnev to the Caucasus.

Front dispatches said Soviet troops had occupied the strategic towns of Solonetzky, 75 miles west of Stalingrad, and Brukov, several miles to the south, strengthening the pocket in which upward of 300,000 Axis troops were penned.

Fight In Snow, Cold
In a night of bitter fighting, the Russians had pressed ahead on all sectors, battling the snow with temperatures ranging far below zero.

Solonetzky, taken by the Russians as they tightened their vise around the Don-Volga pocket, is on the Chir river, several miles north of the Stalingrad-Kharkov railroad and 18 miles west of Surkovikino. Brukov is 18 miles south of Chernishevsky on the Kharkov-Stalingrad line and due south of Solonetzky.

The second ring around the pocketed Germans started 12 miles north of Kotelnikovsk, between the Stalingrad-Tokhovets railroad and the Don. The Russians reached these positions yesterday after driving the Germans back 24 to 30 miles in four days of vicious fighting. The circle swung northwestward across the Don through Chepurin to Brukov and northward to Solonetzky. Then it followed the northwestern course of the Chir river until it hinged on Col. Gen. N. F. Vatutin's armies forging southward on the middle Don front.

Soviet columns moving down the west bank of the Don, southwest of Stalingrad, were advancing westward now, moving between the Stalingrad-Kharkov railroad and the southern arm of the Don. They captured Vodyansky, 10 miles west of the river, and moved on to Brukov.

Southwest of Stalingrad, the Russians recovered most of the advanced positions they had held prior to a fierce German counteroffensive started December 12. They advanced six to nine miles yesterday.

Even as the Japanese raiding force was being shot down in flames, American bombers again were over Lashio, important Japanese base in northern Burma, blowing up warehouses and wrecking the enemy airport.

Two American fighter planes were shot down in the mountain clash, near an advanced American base, but the pilot of one was known to be safe.

It was the second Japanese attempt this week to retaliate for the attacks against Lashio, which Brig. Gen. Claire L. Chennault's bomber command now has raided three times this week.

Hoarding Will be Useless, Warning by Mrs. Roosevelt

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt said today it would be useless for people to hoard canned goods at this time because no one can buy enough to last through the emergency.

"I hope people don't go out and buy and buy," she told a press conference. "It won't do them any good anyway, because they will be asked to declare what they have when rationing goes into effect."

A reporter commented that many people might not declare all they have on hand.

"Then," Mrs. Roosevelt said,

EIGHT HURT WHEN TRAIN DERAILED ON KLAMATH LINE

One Coach Pushed Over Embankment—Trains Rerouted Over Medford Line

Oakridge, Ore., Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—An avalanche derailed eight cars of the Southern Pacific's northbound Klamath train late last night, injuring eight persons, some of them navy personnel.

Two dining cars were most seriously damaged. One was pushed over a 30-foot embankment, apparently when struck by a large tree uprooted by the landslide.

A dining car steward, Frank Pilcher, of San Jose, suffered two broken legs, Southern Pacific officials in San Francisco reported.

All passengers were transferred from the derailed cars to the first nine cars, and the fore-shortened train continued. Other traffic on the line was rerouted. Names of the injured were not ascertained immediately.

Five passenger and one freight train were being routed through Medford today while the track was being cleared at the accident scene for resumption of traffic on that line. Three of the passenger trains were southbound and two northbound. It was expected the trains would be back on their normal run tomorrow.

The avalanche, apparently loosened by recent rains, struck the train near Wickopee, a siding 20 miles above Oakridge in the Cascade mountains.

7 JAPS DOWNED IN BRIEF FIGHT

With the American Air Forces, China, Dec. 26.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—Seven Japanese planes were destroyed today in a brief air battle over the rugged western Yunnan mountains as the enemy tried to retaliate for repeated raids on bases in Burma and Indo-China.

Even as the Japanese raiding force was being shot down in flames, American bombers again were over Lashio, important Japanese base in northern Burma, blowing up warehouses and wrecking the enemy airport.

Two American fighter planes were shot down in the mountain clash, near an advanced American base, but the pilot of one was known to be safe.

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PATRIOTISM AND GOOD SENSE ACT AS DETERRENTS

Government Requirement of Declaration On Hoarded Goods Also Seen Helpful.

By United Press
The common sense and patriotism of America's food merchants and housewives combined today to prevent a serious run on foodstuffs which will be rationed under the point system in February.

A United Press survey covering all sections of the country showed only isolated instances of rushes on canned goods. For the most part the public and storekeepers were taking the announcement yesterday by Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard in stride.

Capital Exception
One of the few exceptions was at Washington, D. C., where grocers reported a serious run on canned goods. Several stores were jammed a few minutes after opening with customers demanding canned tomatoes, fruits, and peas but grocers limited purchases to one or two cans of each item per customer.

Retail grocers reported that limits on canned goods purchases voluntarily imposed several weeks ago were serving to restrain buyers from hoarding in some cases. The great majority of reports were that there was no unusual buying this morning during the first business hours after the government announcement.

The government requirement that hoarded canned goods be declared before a ration book is issued also served as a deterrent to selfish buying.

Want Pork and Beans
A run on pork and beans and pineapple developed in Des Moines, Ia., and stores quickly limited purchases to two cans per customer.

Heavy buying of canned fruit juices was reported by one store in Philadelphia, and other stores there reported slight rushes for canned goods particularly peas and corn. But these were small blots on an otherwise satisfactory picture.

Mrs. Rose Marie Kiefer, secretary of the National Association of Retail Grocers in Chicago, including 60,000 small grocery store owners, attacked the announcement of rationing as premature and warned that it would bring about "just what they want to avoid—unfair distribution."

Federal authorities pointed out that a complicated administration must be set up to control rationing and if the public were not notified, rumors of rationing might leak out and cause hysterical buying. This would result in unfair advantages to certain groups who secured inside information.

M. J. Maulsby, manager of the West Main street Safeway store, reported that there was no unusual buying at his establishment. He offered the interesting theory that had the announcement been made at any other time than immediately following Christmas, the result might have been different.

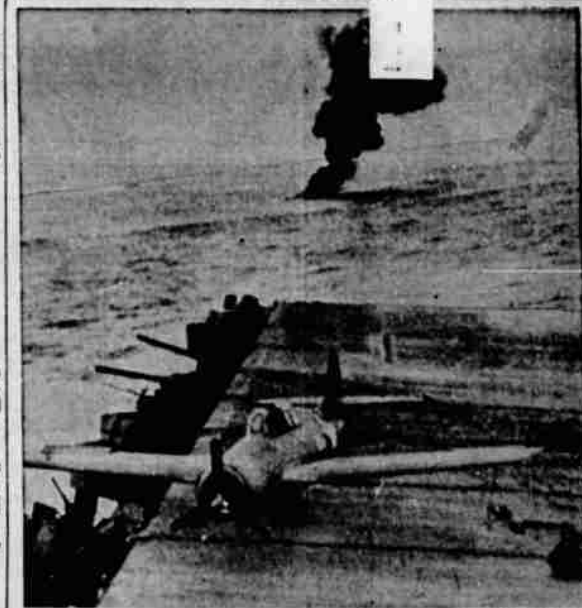
"Many people had no spare cash, due to the heavy Christmas buying," he said, "and therefore were absolutely unable to make heavy purchases had they so desired." Purchases of canned goods have been unusually heavy for the past two or three months, he also said, tending to offset the effect of the rationing announcement.

CHRISTMAS MAIL STILL POURS IN

Don't feel concerned if you haven't yet received Christmas gifts you expected from distant relatives or friends, for parcels are still pouring into Medford postoffice and will probably continue to do so for several more days.

Postmaster Frank DeSouza said that 400 sacks of Christmas parcels were received Sunday and were being delivered today and that incoming packages were being taken to their destination as quickly as possible.

A goodly number of the temporary Christmas employees are being retained to help in the rush, and will be kept until all parcels are delivered, he said.



In this glimpse of battle action in the South Pacific, an American Navy plane, foreground, has landed askew on its carrier or has been disabled by a near bomb burst. A column of smoke in the background rises from planes, possibly Japs, which crashed into the sea during the fight. Photo from Official U. S. Navy newscast.

P-38's Prove Their Mettle In Fierce New Guinea Fight

By Don Caswell
United Press Staff Correspondent
Somewhere in New Guinea, Dec. 28.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—Lockheed P-38 Lightning pilots, in one of the fiercest air battles of the New Guinea campaign, today had the chance for which they had long been waiting—to show their stuff as fighters.

The Lightnings, previously used for patrols and reconnaissance, streaked to the front after an air alarm and in one brief clash at altitudes from 18,000 feet down to 5,000 feet, 12 of them shot down 13 Zeros and dive bombers.

(Today's communique officially placed the score at 15 Japanese planes out of a formation of 42.)

Two Zeros tried to decoy the swift, twin-fuselage and twin-engine Lightnings to low levels, while other enemy planes hid in a cloud layer 20,000 feet up. The Lightning pilots didn't fall for it.

All the Zeros and dive bombers then plummeted from the clouds and jumped the dozen Lightnings at 18,000 feet. By the time the battle was down to 5,000 feet, the remaining Japanese decided they had had enough and sped for home while other allied fighter units were still rushing the fray.

Second Lieut. Kenneth C. Sparks, Blackwell, Okla., had the roughest trip, downing one Zero and one dive bomber but received damage to his plane that made landing difficult.

"My flight hit the main group of about 30 Japanese planes at 12,000 feet over land," Sparks said, "but we milled out over the sea. I got a Zero on my first pass, setting his motor afire."

"Then I climbed back to 12,000 feet and began working on a dive bomber. Suddenly I discovered five Nips on my tail. They hit my left motor, disabling it, and I started diving away."

"On the way down, I found two juicy dive bombers in my sights. I saw my tracers entering the cockpit of one of them. My shots must have killed the pilot because the bomber just went straight down to the jungle. However, his rear gunner still was alive and shot up my nose wheel."

The Lightnings have a tricycle landing gear.

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—The Navy reported today that 214 officers and 80 enlisted members of the Women's Naval Reserve reported for duty in departmental offices here last week to release men from desk work.

Radio Highlights

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Vice-President Henry A. Wallace will speak at 6:30 p. m. (PWT) tonight over the National Broadcasting Co. network on "America's Part in World Reconstruction." The speech, which will originate here, will be in connection with observances of the 86th anniversary of the birth of the late President Woodrow Wilson.