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MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1942.

NO. 242

REDS KNIFE THROUGH 30,000 NAZIS

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C.

Army Preparing
For Big Landing
Small Flat Tops
Will Be Faster
Farm Mobilization
Set for Jan. 12

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—Whatever the army is preparing for, it is something big and a military secret. The army has been having built hundreds of barges in the northwest, larger than anything of the kind ever planned in the past. Officially, these are known as landing barges, and a landing barge is one used by the marine corps and the navy to put marines and armed sailors through the surf to establish a beachhead. Many of these barges are of steel and exceed 300 feet in length and draw nine feet of water. They are self-propelling, being equipped with a couple of engines in the rear. The bow is blunt and can be lowered.

These landing barges are sufficiently large and seaworthy to carry the heaviest artillery, tanks or other equipment possessed by the army. They can move into any theatre of action in any part of the globe where the army requires them. They are self-sufficient; they are independent of transports or cargo carriers and can accompany a convoy. From the ways of the great shipyards east of Vancouver such heavy-duty sea monsters as these have been sliding into the Columbia in recent months. Being barges, they have not attracted the publicity accorded the freighters and oil tankers in the same area.

AS the last of the landing barges allocated to Vancouver have been completed that yard is now engaged on the job of building a new type of "flat top," or airplane carrier. About 550 feet in length, these carriers are to be powered with engines that will give them a speed better than or equal to that of a sub-

BOTH SIDES BOG IN TUNISIA MUD

London, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The British Eighth army massed armor and artillery west of Sirte today, and with both sides bogged down in the Tunisian mud, it appeared that the next Allied blow in Africa would fall on Marshal Erwin Rommel's weary, retreating Afrika corps.

British patrols broke across Wadi Bel El Chebir, 135 miles east of Tripoli, a middle eastern command communiqué announced, and the Afrika corps yielded one of the three possible defense positions on the Libyan coast.

Heavy rains reduced land and air activity in Tunisia to the minimum, but it appeared certain that Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's advancing Eighth army would get in the next big punch against the Axis.

SIDE GLANCES By TRIBUNE REPORTER

Elevatorman Robert Wolfe vowing that in all his 30 years in Medford he had never seen so much water.

George Hiles displaying a slightly illuminated orb and claiming that he had a perfect excuse for same, friends understanding, however, that he is on some rationing board, somewhere.

Navy-uniformed Kenneth Watson back on furlough and greeting old friends at the postoffice.

STALINITES TAKE HEADQUARTERS OF GERMAN DIVISION

Four Big Ammunition Dumps
Fall to Russians — Red
Offensive Seen in North.

Moscow, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The Red army cut its way through 30,000 German troops southwest of Stalingrad today, seized a divisional headquarters, and rolled on toward the rich prize of Rostov, key to the Caucasus.

Four big ammunition dumps fell to the advancing Russians and large numbers of Axis prisoners began trudging toward the rear lines from Kotelnikovsky, captured by the Russians yesterday.

(There were indications that there might be another Russian offensive soon on the northern end of the 1,100-mile battle line. A Berlin dispatch to the Swedish newspaper Nya Dagligt Allehanda reported that Soviet trucks were streaming across frozen Lake Ladoga, restoring land communication with besieged Leningrad. German artillery was shelling the ice, the dispatch said.)

Tanks led the night assault that defeated the 30,000 Germans southwest of Stalingrad.

From the vicinity of Port Angeles south in Puget Sound to a yard or two in well equipped harbors on the Oregon coast barges are being constructed as rapidly as possible. The navy, as well as the army, has scores under contract. Some are of steel and others of wood.

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Dr. Evans' letter, requesting also that salaries of the hospital staff be increased as of Jan. 1, 1943, took notice of the current manpower shortages but suggested that the legislature provide for staff additions which could be made when suitable employees are available.

In addition, Dr. Evans asked for housing facilities for the new help and urged that construction be started as soon as possible to relieve crowded conditions at the hospital.

The Nov. 18 tragedy itself was discussed briefly by the board members. State Treasurer Leslie Scott suggested that the basic cause of the fatal mistake was the fact that the poisonous roach powder had been stored in a food storage room. Gov. Charles A. Sprague and Secretary of State Earl Snell agreed but pointed out that the poison had been stored in the basement room by the staff dietitian, who resigned to take a position at Camp Adair some time before the tragedy.

Doriot recently has declared that he and his French Fascist party were the only true collaborationists in France, the dispatches said.

EARLY PAPER FRIDAY
In order to permit employees to enjoy a partial holiday on New Year's day, the Mail Tribune will go to press at noon.



As news comes that the fighting French leader is now negotiating with General Henri Honoré Giraud, new French chief in Africa, General Charles De Gaulle, right, is shown chatting with an unidentified guest at a recent luncheon given in De Gaulle's honor in London by the Associated Press Association of Paris.

Sliced Bread Ban Won't Prevent Pressure for Higher Retail Roof

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Leaders of the baking industry said privately today that the government's order prohibiting certain bakers' practices—including the sale of sliced bread—to absorb an increase in the price of flour would not eliminate pressure for higher retail ceiling prices on bread.

Their statement came after the government authorized an average 10 per cent increase in flour prices and banned certain baking practices which Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard is confident will reduce baking costs and prevent increased bread prices.

Bakers' representatives said, however, that the prohibited practices were not the chief cause of the pressure for higher bread prices. They asserted privately that whatever savings are achieved by them would be negated by the steady increase in the price of edible fats and other products used in bread making.

"MANKIND UNITED" HEAD
RELEASED UNDER BOND
Los Angeles, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Arthur L. Bell, asserted head of "Mankind United," and 15 others held in county jail on sedition charges, today were released on bonds totaling \$77,000 posted in Federal Judge Harry A. Holler's court.

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The Albany race track grandstand and clubhouse have been surveyed by architects for possible future conversion into housing units for overflow Richmond shipyard workers, Ford Harvey, secretary of the planning commission, said today.

The national parks yielded 6,473,855 pounds of scrap metal in 1942, or enough to fill more than 75 freight cars.

American Soldiers Conservative Drinkers; Best Behaved of Any Army Men in World

By Joseph Laitin
United Press Correspondent.
Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The American army drinks beer and whisky conservatively and is the best-behaved army in the world, the Office of War Information said today in a comprehensive report on drinking conditions in and around training camps and posts.

The 15-page report, based on detailed surveys of drinking habits in practically all areas where there are large troop concentrations, was drawn up by OWI investigators and was immediately interpreted in many quarters as a rebuke to dries who have raised the prohibition question.

No Apology Needed
"The American soldier needs neither curtain lecture nor apology," the report said. "He behaves well; he trains well, and in the far-flung places of the earth he is fighting well."

Not only is the American army more orderly than any other present army, but it also drinks vastly less than the American army of 1917, due mainly to the "healthy and sensible arrangement" of serving 3.2 per cent beer in camps, the report said.

RAMPAGING FLOOD ROUTS HUNDREDS IN PENNSYLVANIA

War Industries Hard Hit—
Crest of 37 Feet Expected
at Pittsburgh by Night.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The second worst flood in the history of this district surged over western Pennsylvania today as rampaging rivers and streams overflowed their banks following heavy rains.

War industries were hard hit by the flood waters as were hundreds of homes and business establishments. The American Red Cross set up emergency headquarters as hundreds of families were evacuated from their homes in the face of the rising waters.

Crest Due Tonight
The weather bureau predicted a crest here of between 36 and 37 feet by midnight tonight—the highest since the St. Patrick's day flood of 1936 when the rivers reached 46 feet and caused damage of more than \$150,000. Floor stage is 25 feet. The rivers here passed 32 feet at noon and continued to rise at the rate of .6 foot an hour.

As the swollen Allegheny and Monongahela rivers poured their burden into the Ohio at the "Point" in downtown Pittsburgh, the weather bureau warned communities down the Ohio to prepare for "extremely" high water. A crest of between 48 and 49 feet by tomorrow was predicted for Wheeling, W. Va., where flood stage is 36 feet. A level of 48 feet would overflow Wheeling island, where 10,000 persons live.

Columbus, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The Ohio river neared flood stage at several points today as swollen tributaries poured water in low-land areas, forced 350 families to evacuate homes, threatened hundreds of others and inundated sections of at least 20 highways in central and southeastern Ohio.

Industrial Deaths Top Fighting Loss

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The nation's workers and industrialists today were told that more men and women were killed in industry this year than in the U. S. armed forces have lost since Pearl Harbor.

In addition, said Col. John H. Stilwell, president of the National Safety Council, the time lost through accidents in the last seven months of 1942, would have built 111 light tanks, 22 bombers, or 44 fighter planes.

STOCKADE ESCAPE CLAIMED AIDED BY FAMOUS NOVELIST

Ursula Parrott Helped Soldier Out of Miami Beach Pen Is Charge at Hearing.

Miami, Fla., Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Ursula Parrott, 40, noted novelist and magazine writer, today was ordered held for the Dade county federal grand jury on charges that she smuggled a soldier out of a military stockade in the back seat of her automobile.

Miss Parrott pleaded not guilty to the charges in a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Roger E. Davis. Her bond was set at \$1,000. The grand jury convenes Jan. 4.

The writer was taken into custody by federal authorities last night and charged with aiding a soldier, Pvt. Michael Neely Bryan, 22, of Germantown, Tenn., to escape from a military stockade at Miami Beach.

Narcotic Suspect
The federal bureau of investigation reported that Bryan was wanted in New York on a narcotic charge. Miss Parrott's attorney said that she was an important witness in the case. Federal authorities refused to reveal the nature of the narcotic counts against the soldier, who is held by military police.

If convicted, Miss Parrott could be sent to prison for a maximum of three years and fined not more than \$2,000. The defendant, who said she preferred to be known as Miss Parrott, talked freely with reporters as she left the building. She said she had known the soldier "for a great while." She said they became acquainted in New York.

"Before he went into the army, he was a guitar player in Benny Goodman's orchestra, and once played in Artie Shaw's band," she said.

When asked her present marital status, she replied: "Let's skip that. This is embarrassing enough as it is." She has been married four times.

FRENCH TOLD TO WATCH FOR ALLIED INVASION

London, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—An Allied spokesman warned the French people by radio today "to stand by in event of an Allied invasion."

He advised them to move if they live near railway centers, factories, workshops, repair shops and coastal zones. Those for whom it would be impossible to move, should demand adequate air raid shelters, he said.

The result is that paydays and weekends see thousands of liberty troops descend on small communities which are ill-equipped to take care of them. Soldiers fill the streets and the railroad stations and the public parks. They jam the movie theatres and the cafes. They walk the streets all night because there are no hotel rooms—and sometimes out of preference because they are hunting fun...

The plain fact is that many of these soldiers have nothing on their minds and time on their hands. One result of boredom is the pile of empty bottles in the alleyway; another is a busy weekend for the military police.

But despite these conditions, the investigators found that the best selling beverages around camps are coffee, milk, malted milk and soft drinks; that approximately 7 out of every 100 soldiers drink no alcoholic beverages even on payday; that another 34 drink nothing stronger than beer.

War Bulletins

London, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Four persons, including two women and a child, were killed and several others were injured when three Focke-Wulf-190 fighter planes bombed a southwest English coastal town from low level today. The Germans also swept the town with machine guns and cannon. A block of tenements was shattered and several more victims were believed trapped beneath the debris.

London, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—American heavy bombers attacked the German submarine base at Lorient this afternoon. A joint communiqué of the U. S. army headquarters and the British air ministry said. Formations of enemy fighters which attempted to intercept the bombers were fought off and a number were destroyed, the communiqué said. Three American bombers are missing.

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Allied artillery has shelled enemy positions on the heights about 8 miles northeast of Medjes El Bab in northern Tunisia which were captured by Allied forces Christmas eve and later lost, the war department announced today.

AUTO RATIONING LIBERALIZED ON NEW 1942 MODEL

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The Office of Price Administration today liberalized automobile rationing regulations to permit persons engaged in any gainful occupation who can show need, to buy new 1941 or earlier model cars which have gone less than 1,000 miles or new 1942 cars with a list price of \$2500 or more.

Effective Jan. 5, 1943, applicants for ration certificates to purchase such models only have to show a need for a car in traveling to and from their work or in doing such work. The present restricted occupational eligibility classifications no longer will apply.

It is hoped that this not only will improve the transportation of persons buying these automobiles, OPA said, but that additional cars will be brought into the used car market.

At the same time OPA announced the release from the government reserve pool of all new cars with a list price of \$2500 or more. Convertibles and soft top cars also were released for sale to rationing certificate holders.

The Royal air force, battering Japanese bases in Burma, bombed the airbase at Toun-goo, 150 miles north of Rangoon, and raided an enemy air field at Monywa, west of Mandalay.

Sections of four highways were closed by flood waters of the Willamette river and its tributaries today.

Crests averaging more than two feet above flood stages were expected by tomorrow night at Harrisburg, Eugene, Albany and Jefferson, the U. S. weather bureau warned.

The swollen Santiam river, which stopped traffic on the Albany-Nyssa artery, was expected to start subsiding by tonight, however, The Dallas-King's valley, Corvallis-Albany and Bellevue-Hopewell secondary highways were covered by floods in the valley lowlands, it was reported.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The lumber schooner Port Orford ran aground and later sank during a snowstorm in Chatham, Alaska, Consolidated-Olympic Lines, agents for the Port Orford Lumber company, reported today.

Capt. Joseph Bretsen, Seattle, and his crew of 27 men escaped in lifeboats and were reported safe in Alaska.

A cargo of lumber and supplies were lost with the ship. The Port Orford, it was reported, sank in deep water after it was pulled free near Point Gardner.

AMERICANS, JAPS IN SHARP CLASH ON GUADALCANAL

Between 155 and 165 Nips
Slain—U. S. Planes Sink
Two Enemy Cargo Ships.

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—U. S. marines and army troops, continuing their war of attrition against the beleaguered Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, in two sharp skirmishes on Sunday killed between 155 and 165 of the enemy with a loss of only four Americans killed and one wounded.

The navy also disclosed in a communiqué that on Tuesday, island time, American planes sank two Japanese cargo ships in two attacks on Wickham anchorage, on the southeast coast of Vangunu island in the Solomons group.

Vangunu island is 120 miles northwest of Guadalcanal, from whence the American planes presumably operated.

The disparity between the losses in the Dec. 27 land fighting strengthened the belief that the Japanese on Guadalcanal are steadily deteriorating as the result of the six-weeks blockade which the U. S. navy and air forces have clamped on that island.

New Delhi, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Heavy bombers of the 10th U. S. air force scored direct hits on two Japanese supply ships in the Rangoon area and left one in flames, it was announced today.

All planes returned to their base safely.

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UP-STATE FLOODS BLOCK HIGHWAYS

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LUMBER VESSEL SINKS IN ALASKA

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PATRICIDE FREED AFTER
TELLING JUSTIFICATION
San Bernardino, Cal., Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Donald Rodger, 44, was released by sheriff's officers today after telling how he shot his father, Matthew Jenkins Rodger, 18 times with a .22 rifle for beating his mother.

"I just couldn't let him hurt her any more," he told Deputy District Attorney J. F. Knaut.