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MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1942

NO. 243

FLOOD ROUTS EUGENE AREA DWELLERS

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C.

Concrete Floors
A WPB Mystery
Fuel Oil Users
In Narrow Escape
Security Program
Due Next Year

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.—It has never been discovered why war production board ordered concrete for floors when there was an ample supply of fir flooring in sawmill yards of the Pacific northwest. WPB, for some unknown reason, insisted on the use of concrete, which warmed the hearts of cement manufacturers. Very recently a northwest mill had an order for 150,000,000 feet of Douglas fir flooring for a government contract. Just as delivery was about to start someone in WPB issued an order that concrete be used and the 150,000,000 feet of flooring is still on the dock at the mill.

This thing has been going on for some time. Members of the congressional delegation made a protest; asked the whyness of the concrete and the exclusion of lumber in a land of lumber. Now WPB has waived the order for the Pacific coast from the Rocky mountains to the sea, and government housing and building may use siding and floor material from the sawmills.

In passing, it may be observed that the forest service informs western members of congress that cutting timber for war purposes, where everything is slap-bang, is very destructive. The forest service estimates that the destructiveness amounts to 75 per cent. This statement by the service may be challenged by the timber operators.

(Continued on Page Four)

Famous Sculptor Killed by Taxicab

New York, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Erico Gilchrist, 72, famous sculptor and artist, was killed last night when struck by a taxicab near his home.

Gilchrist, born in Poland, lived for years in Italy and won decorations in many countries. He was the only artist ever to achieve the honor of a joint exhibit with Sculptor Auguste Rodin.

FAVOR GRAPE PAYMENT

Sacramento, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—State Director of Agriculture W. J. Cecil today approved a recommendation of the grape promotion zone No. 2 program committee, authorizing a program payment of \$5 per ton to be paid approximately 6000 grape growers who in 1938 delivered grapes for manufacture into brandy and high-proof alcohol under the marketing program then in effect.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTER

City "Supe" Frank Rogers taking time out from his duties to tell two pretty young women where to find the courthouse.

Maurice Spatz hanging around a bank in the hope of manipulating an unwary victim into a small football wager.

Len (Mayhem) Mayfield almost scaring a body out of his wits with a sudden, booming greeting from extreme proximity.

Imogene Barry submitting a charming picture to the art editor.

PACIFIC HIGHWAY, WILLAMETTE PASS CLOSED BY WATER

Worst Inundation Since
1927 in Willamette Valley
—River Still Going Up.

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—The Willamette river today swept out of its banks near Eugene, forcing evacuation of hundreds of suburban residents and inundating thousands of acres in its worst flood since 1927.

The river reached 18.5 feet early today, with the peak not yet sighted. Flood stage is 12 feet.

Buildings Crumble

Buildings in Glenwood and West Springfield, south of Eugene on the Pacific highway, were beginning to crumble under the impact of the surging waters. Most of the evacuees were from that district, and included one pneumonia victim and several other stretcher cases. No deaths were reported.

Weather bureau officials in Portland predicted the river, flowing north to the Columbia through the fertile lowlands west of the Cascade mountains, would rise to an average of more than five feet above its flood stage until it reached the lower region near Portland.

At Eugene, the rise was expected to reach 17 feet by nightfall. U. S. army engineers reported several revetments along the Willamette in the flood area were washing away.

Highways Closed

Two major highways were closed, according to a highway department bulletin, and all secondary routes were covered by flood waters. High water and slides blocked the highway over the Willamette pass east of here, while the Pacific highway also was flooded at Harrisburg, north of Eugene, as well as in the West Springfield district.

Southern Pacific railroad officials in Portland said traffic had been resumed in the Cascades following two new slides yesterday near the scene of an avalanche Sunday, at the headwaters of the Willamette, which derailed eight cars of a north-bound train, killing one person and injuring several others.

Engineers expected the flood crest to move downstream, past Corvallis, Albany and Salem, by tonight. They believed the flood would begin subsiding before causing serious danger at the mouth of the river, 10 miles north of Portland.

WATERS RECEDING IN OHIO VALLEY; 10,000 HOMELESS

By United Press

Flood swollen rivers at the head of the Ohio Valley watershed began a slow recession today after making more than 10,000 persons homeless, inundating cities, highways and homes in a dozen states and closing many war plants.

The first abatement of the principal flood waters, which had been rising for three days, came at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela with the Ohio at Pittsburgh and meant the beginning of the end of the second worst flood in Western Pennsylvania history.

The crest was still to be reached down river later today in hard-hit Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky, but the recession at the headwaters promised respite for evacuees and resumption of production for the halted or curtailed war industries.

The flood waters extended from the Alleghenies in New York State as far west as the Missouri and Mississippi rivers above and below St. Louis. The American Red Cross mobilized in the stricken areas to care for the homeless, 7,500 of whom were evacuated from Wheeling Island in the Ohio alone.



Two of the country's most-sought public enemies, Roger Touhy, left, and Basil "The Owl" Banghart, are shown in Chicago after their capture by G-men, who had previously killed two companions of the desperadoes. The entire Touhy gang, who escaped from Stateville Penitentiary at Joliet, Ill. last Oct. 9, were either dead or captured.

175,000 Germans Killed In Red Winter Campaign

Moscow, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—The Red army has killed 175,000 Germans and taken 137,650 prisoners since the start of its winter offensive on Nov. 19, a special Soviet announcement said tonight.

Earlier the special announcement had revealed that in operations around Stalingrad alone the Russians had killed 95,000 Axis troops and taken 72,000 prisoners.

(CBS said the Moscow radio had announced that "the German forces before Stalingrad have now been completely liquidated.")

Thirty-six Axis divisions—including six tank divisions—have been routed, the special announcement said, and heavy losses have been inflicted on seven other divisions.

The announcement came as the Russians reported that a steady, 48-hour advance had put them in position to start a drive on Elista, capital of the Kalmyk republic.

Seventeen German divisions and one Rumanian division have been surrounded as a result of the Stalingrad offensive, the announcement said.

"All drains and storm sewers of the city are overloaded," Mr. Rogers said, "and continuing rain may bring serious trouble."

Mr. Rogers pointed out that the ground is thoroughly soaked and any additional rainfall drains directly into the storm sewers.

The problem was complicated early last fall when the heavy rains began before the curtailed street cleaning force could make the annual fall clean-up of leaves. The combination of leaves, water and dirt plugged many sewers and it has been a constant struggle on the part of the crews to keep them operating ever since.

"The city appreciates the co-operation and patience we have received from the citizens during the rainy weeks," Mr. Rogers said. "Every effort is made to handle calls as quickly as possible."

Mr. Rogers was recently able to bring the crew back to normal numbers which has aided materially in handling the increased work.

Akyab Attacked by R.A.F. Wellingtons

New Delhi, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—RAF Wellington bombers last night attacked Akyab, Burmese port toward which the East India British army is moving down the coast from the Indo-Burmese border.

A joint Army-RAF communique, reporting the raid, said that bursts were observed in the Satyoga creek area. No planes were lost in daylight bombing yesterday of Kyauktaw, on the Kaladan river, 40 miles upstream from Akyab.

Banker Sentenced One Year in Jail

Sacramento, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Federal Judge Martin I. Welsh today sentenced Albert Henry Becker, 48, former Sacramento bank vice president, to one year in the county jail on the first two counts of misappropriating funds of a national bank.

He was granted two years probation on another count. He had pleaded guilty previously.

Becker had paid back about \$20,000 of the \$39,000 he misappropriated.

British Navy Battles Enemy Force

FRENCH FORCE IN NEW MARCH UPON AXIS AT TRIPOLI

Long-Missing Desert Unit
Reported Advancing From
South—Well Into Libya.

London, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—A long-missing French desert force reported today that it was advancing from the south on the big German base of Tripoli, adding to the peril of Axis forces in North Africa which now have the sea at their back and are under pressure from three directions.

General Leclerc, commander of the French column, reported in his communique to fighting French headquarters here that he was well inside Libya and that his planes had attacked the airfield at Segha, about 300 miles east of the Algerian border.

Started Near Chad

Reports of the French expedition, said to have started from the region of Lake Chad, were heard several weeks ago. Then there was a long silence until today's announcement.

Announcement of the new bulwark to the allied cause came during a day of increased military and political activity in the African theater of war. Other developments:

1. Radio Morocco reported that Axis planes raided Casablanca last night for the first time in the war. There were casualties among the Moroccan population but anti-aircraft fire permitted the planes to drop only a limited number of bombs.

2. The German official news agency admitted that patrols from the British Eighth army were operating south of Tripoli, indicating Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery might have executed another flanking movement around the retreating Afrika Korps. The Germans claimed the British unit was defeated and its commander captured.

3. An American tank and motorized infantry unit was reported to have cut to within 40 miles of Gabes, in Tunisia, threatening Axis communications between Tripoli and Tunisia. There was no confirmation of the action here, and observers were inclined to believe it might be nothing more than a scouting expedition.

4. A middle eastern command communique issued in Cairo said aerial activity in Tripolitania had increased and that allied fighters attached to the British Eighth army had shot down eight German Messerschmitts without loss.

CHINA RECALLS MILITARY GROUP

Washington, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt conferred today with Lieut. Gen. Hsiung Shih-Fei, head of a special Chinese military mission a majority of whose members have been recalled by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

Chiang summoned Hsiung home, it was believed, because he was dissatisfied with the quantity of military aid China has been receiving from the United Nations.

Hsiung's appointment with the president, the White House said, was arranged at the request of Secretary of State Cordell Hull. The general was accompanied by an interpreter, Capt. Robert Lee.

Bomber Wreckage Eyed by Rescuers

March Field, Cal., Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Rescue crews today examined wreckage of a B-24 bomber which crashed in the Mojave desert near Ludlow, Cal., yesterday.

Public relations officials at March Field said it was believed some members of the crew of nine parachuted to safety.

GAY NIGHT LOOMS WITH LAST FLING BEFORE RATIONING

Heavy Supply of Spending
Money Promises to Spur
New Year's Eve Festivities

By United Press

Celebrants with more spending money than at any time since the gay twenties made plans today for their largest and gayest New Year's Eve in years tempered only by wartime precautions in coastal areas.

A survey of the nation's 12 largest cities indicated that despite high prices, gasoline rationing and shortages, the public has decided to take one last fling before rationing clamps down on food and liquor supplies.

Expect Record Crowds

Police in all of the cities made arrangements to handle record crowds. Taxi cab companies cancelled their annual "escort service" for intoxicated celebrants because of the rubber shortage.

Most of the large cities placed curfews in effect and, remembering the disastrous Boston night club fire, ordered special fire precautions in night clubs and restaurants.

A midnight bar curfew will be enforced in San Francisco and Los Angeles and throughout the western defense command and package liquor sales were ordered stopped at 8 p. m. New York City had a 4 a. m. curfew order for the first time since repeal of the 18th amendment.

Celebration plans of leading cities included:

New York—The great white way was blacked out but police expected the usual jam of hundreds of thousands of celebrants in Times Square and assigned 1,600 patrolmen, 500 detectives and 1,000 city patrol corps members. Night clubs and hotels anticipated the biggest celebration in recent years.

S. R. O. in Chicago

Chicago—Night club and hotel proprietors hung out the "standing room only" signs and said they expected the largest and gayest New Year's Eve since the fabulous '20's. Coffee will be rationed to customers but liquor will not be. Taverns must close at 3 a. m. and restaurants at 4 a. m.

Los Angeles—A drier New Year's Eve expected because of a recent ruling closing liquor stores at 8 p. m. and bars at midnight.

Washington—All indications point to a gay, wet New Year's Eve in the nation's capital with night clubs expecting one of the biggest sprees in District of Columbia history. Two leading hotels required purchase of a war bond for each couple as a cover charge.

San Francisco—Police chief prohibited parades of automobiles, congregation of crowds and noisemakers. Private house parties and service men's parties are expected to predominate with an 8 p. m. curfew on package liquor sales and a midnight curfew on all bars.

Department Stores Show Business Hike

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Sales in western department stores increased 18 per cent this year over last, the Federal Reserve bank reported today.

Surveying stores in the area of the twelfth district of the Federal Reserve system, research statisticians reported greatest increases in Seattle and Salt Lake City where sales were up 30 per cent. During December, sales in Portland and Seattle jumped 34 per cent over last year.

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.

Army Whittles Negro Moniker

Van Alstyne, Tex., Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—A Negro soldier from Van Alstyne, Tex., has turned up with the army's longest name. That's what his commanding officer said when the Negro began giving it. When he finished, an officer listed him simply as "D. C. Murphy."

His full name, however, is: "Daniel's Wisdom May I Know, Stephen's Faith and Spirit Choose, John's Divine Communion Seal, Moses' Meekness Joshua's Zeal, Win the Day and Conquer All Murphy, Jr."

His father calls him "Junior."

YANKEES HOLDING CORRIDOR AT BUNA

Somewhere in New Guinea, Dec. 30.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—American forces established tonight a strong corridor between the Japanese at Buna Mission and other enemy forces to the south-east against whom light tanks and veteran Australians were making steady inroads.

In the fighting today and yesterday, the Americans widened the wedge they started last week and took a firm hold on the beach between the mission and Gairpoint Point. The operation put the Japanese at the mission under allied attack from two sides, for another American group had a strong beachhead between the mission and Buna village.

PORTLAND MARKET TO CLOSE DOORS TONIGHT

Portland, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Portland's million-dollar public market will close its doors tomorrow night after nine years of operation and tenants will be obliged to find new locations.

The sprawling market, which opened in 1933, was forced to discontinue operation after the city refused to take it over as a municipal project.

Hitler's Baggy-Eyed Bloat Explained By German Radio

By Robert Dowson

London, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Germany began broadcasting its year end reviews today, and they explained why recent pictures show that Adolf Hitler has acquired an unhealthy, baggy-eyed bloat and Benito Mussolini has sloughed off many pounds from his rotund body.

An official German news agency military expert, reviewing battle fronts, admitted that the fighting in Africa "distinctly favors the allies."

All the expert could say about Russia was that Germany had conquered enormous areas.

London, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Adolf Hitler in an order of the day told the German armed forces today that "the year 1943 perhaps will be a difficult one but certainly it will be no more difficult than the past one." The order of the day was broadcast.

"God gave us the force to overcome last winter," Hitler's order said, "and therefore we also will overcome the present winter and the coming year still better. One thing is certain: In this struggle there can be no compromise."

and "the positions as well as the strategic materials captured so far give every reason to be certain of a final German victory there."

Denies Air Power Lost

On the aerial war, the expert said the allies had not yet won air supremacy over Europe and "it can be assumed that bomb damage is still greater in England as compared to the damage British bombs have been able to inflict on the continent."

Wilhelm Weiss, editor of the

HITS SCORED ON DESTROYER AND CRUISER IS WORD

British Communique Gives
No Hint of Location—
Size of Units in Conflict.

London, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—The British navy, in a sea battle that is still continuing, has damaged an enemy cruiser and destroyer in northern waters, an admiralty communique said tonight.

The destroyer was hit severely and last was seen in a sinking condition, the communique said.

The communique gave no indication of the size of the naval units involved, nor did it give a precise location for the scene of the engagement.

It was recalled that the powerful German battleship Tirpitz has been reported in Norwegian fjords recently.

JACKSON CO. MEN INDUCTED IN ARMY

Jackson county sent a group of men to Fort Lewis, Wash., the first of the week, where they reported for active duty in the U. S. army, according to selective service board No. 2.

The list included: Glen O. Watson, Dee O. Parker, Howard W. Payne, Walter H. O'Toole, William L. Peterson, David M. A. Barker, Chester Lind, Gerald J. Verschoor, Clarence C. Campbell, Hugh Glass, Simon D. Johnson, Perry A. Polk, Harvey C. Maxson, John E. Jacobs, John R. Hamaker, David C. Betchel, Roy K. Byrd, Donald R. Shough, Clyde L. Ashcraft, George Slade, Donald M. Case, Harold K. Parker, Charles V. Boatwright, William E. Accord, Harry L. Oliver and Jesse L. Groves.