

Weather
Forecast: Cloudy tonight and Friday. Warmer tonight and Friday.
Highest yesterday 29
Lowest this morning 26
Precipitation past 24 hrs. 0

MEDFORD

United Press—Full Leased Wire



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MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1943

NO. 227

American Legion Presents Citation



Herb Grey, Mail Tribune advertising manager, is shown above with Medford post American Legion officials as he received a certificate of honorable mention awarded him in a national contest for his editorial on "The American Legion" which appeared in the Tribune July 23. Commander Walter J. Reinking made the presentation at the Dec. 8 meeting of the post. Pictured above from left to right are A. J. Anderson, post chaplain; J. F. Fliegel, past commander; Herb Grey; Commander Reinking, and Fred L. Strang, adjutant. (Photo by Shangle.)

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 16.—Panting, hot-breathed, the Hawks on the senate election subcommittee rushed forward to investigate the new Sparks book contents that Wendell Willkie used more than campaign oratory, in fact campaign mazzetta, to get nominated in Philadelphia—only to decide rather suddenly to postpone its appetite for the facts until "after the first of the year," not any special date of the new year, just some time then. You know how these things are—Christmas coming on, Santa Claus nearly here, the weather cold, etc., etc.

When "after the first of the year" comes, there is more than an even chance that the committee will decide it is then too near spring. Indeed, if they get up enough gumption to seek money from the senate for investigating, they are likely to come to a timely end from lack of funds.

For, truth be known, the intertwining wires of politics, in which they already are entangled, have discouraged them all and caused great shaking of the knees among new dealers, republicans, isolationists, democrats. They are all looking for the fellow who thought up the idea of a senate investigation in the first place.

HE is Senator Langer, the North Dakota republican, whose primary interest in promoting the charges of the book seems to have centered on the phase implicating Harry Hopkins, the president's constant companion.

The book presents a letter supposed to have been written last August by Hopkins to a Texan, Dr. Lee, president of Southern Methodist university, implying the White House could (Continued on Page Eight)

HOLIDAY CLOSING SET FOR RURAL SCHOOLS

Ten rural schools of the county have advised the county school superintendent's office they will close for the Christmas holiday, from Christmas eve until Monday, January 3. Most of the other county schools are expected to follow suit. The Medford schools will be closed Dec. 23 to January 3. Superintendent E. H. Hedrick has announced. Many of the rural schools started late and a longer vacation would throw the close of school into next June, which is not desired.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Little Marcia Houghton on her very best behavior for the Belarsky concert and helping Papa Dwight keep track of program numbers.

Nell Taylor obligingly conducting research for the correct spelling of a title.

Tarawa Fight Bloodiest, Say Returning Wounded Marines

Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, Oakland, Cal., Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Wounded marines who fell fighting on Tarawa's coral strands in the bloodiest battle of the corps' history have returned home. They were still reliving the horrors of their brief, vicious invasion. But as their spirits rose they called in unison for beer—"cold, American beer," "Pistol Packin' Mama," and a good look at a lady marine.

1,000 CASUALTIES WHEN NAZIS BOMB BARI, ITALY, PORT

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—German bombers in a devastating and virtually unopposed surprise attack on the Italian Adriatic port of Bari sank 17 Allied ships and caused 1,000 casualties, official sources said today. From official sources it was learned that the Bari raid was far more destructive than was indicated by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson at a news conference today.

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said today that a German air raid on Bari, Italy, caused an estimated 1,000 casualties to Allied forces and destroyed five American ships. Two ammunition ships were among those which were hit.

Explosion of the two ammunition ships resulted in the damage and destruction of the other shipping involved.

Ships Unnamed
Stimson said he was unable to say whether the two ammunition ships were among the five American vessels destroyed, the identity of these ships and also of the five American merchant ships listed as destroyed was not available.

"Fortunately most of the cargoes had been discharged prior to the attack and the loss of supplies was accordingly not great," Stimson said.

Among the casualties were 37 American naval personnel. Stimson said while the Allies maintained definite aerial superiority over southern Italy and most of the Mediterranean, the Germans had appreciably increased their air strength in this area.

Allied forces have encountered sharp fighter resistance and some heavy bomber raids have been carried out, in addition to that on Bari.

Bari harbor is the chief supply depot for the British Eighth army.

Printers Reject AFL Affiliation

Indianapolis, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Woodruff Randolph, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical union, announced today its members defeated a proposal to reaffiliate with the American Federation of Labor by a 1,225 majority.

The total mail vote cast, he said, gave 24,591 against reaffiliation and 23,366 for it.

MANY DODGE SERVICE LEGION HEAD CLAIMS

Redding, Cal., Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Warren Atherton, national commander of the American Legion, said today that too many young men are "dodging the uniform of their country." Atherton told a Redding audience that no job is essential for men in the 18-25 age bracket.

YANKEES LAND ON NEW BRITAIN ISLE

BRIDGEHEAD ONLY 270 MILES FROM RABAU CAPTURED

Troops Charge Ashore at Cape Merkus and Nearby Arawe and Pilelo Islands.

By Brydon C. Taves
(United Press Correspondent)

Advanced Headquarters, New Guinea, Friday, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—American army invasion forces landed in southwest New Britain Wednesday behind a pulverizing Allied bombardment by air and sea, quickly crushed Japanese resistance while suffering "fairly heavy" casualties, and established a firm beachhead 270 miles from the island's key base of Rabaul. Assault units of the United States Sixth army splashed ashore in the Arawe area of New Britain in a dawn attack which caught the Japanese by surprise.

A front dispatch said that five hours after the first man was ashore, all the primary objectives were taken and the entire Arawe peninsula, three miles long, was in American hands.

Allied warships and planes blasted the Japanese positions for 27 minutes before amphibious tanks spearheading the landing poured onto the beaches in powerful waves. After the landing had been secured, a strong force of Japanese bombers attacked the invasion fleet. Two planes were shot down. The Allies lost no planes or ships.

Some units of the U. S. Sixth army paid a high price for the gallant role they took in the invasion. One force which struck before dawn in a diversionary commando thrust was believed almost half destroyed by a withering cross fire of Japanese machine guns and 37-millimeter cannon. The commandos never reached the beach, but fought from the water with tommy guns, rifles and pistols until more than half of them were dead or wounded. Only then did they fall back in rubber boats or swim away.

By George E. Jones
United Press Correspondent.

Aboard Mitchell Bomber Over New Britain, Dec. 15.—(U.P.)—American army troops charged ashore on New Britain today (Wednesday) and established a beachhead 270 miles across the island from Rabaul, the Japanese "Pearl Harbor" of the southwest Pacific.

United States naval, air, and land forces under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur were thrown against the relatively small Japanese force defending the landing area astride the communications and supply lines between Gasmata and Cape Gloucester.

The first hostilities of army men swarmed ashore just before 7:30 a. m. on Cape Merkus and the nearby islands of Arawe and Pilelo. They now hold a strip of the island keying the Japanese defense system throughout the southwest Pacific.

From this twin-engine bomber I saw the American flag carried into New Britain. Flying less than 300 feet above the water in two furious strafing runs against the Japanese positions, I saw the broad mosaic of our amphibious strategy in its widest outline. It was a more stirring example of that strategy than I had seen in three previous landings with American forces.

On Southwest Coast
The landing was made on the southwest coast of New Britain some 50 miles east of the tip of the island and about 80 miles

50 Die When Luxury Trains Collide

ALLIES EXPLODE SUDDEN BLOWS ON ITALIAN FRONTS

Tanks Spearhead Advances by 8th and 5th Armies—Bomb Brenner Pass Line.

(By United Press)

Tank-led advances by Anglo-American ground forces and a smashing American aerial blow at both sides of the strategic Brenner Pass supply line put the allied offensive in Italy back in full swing today as Russian armies turned back the German tide west of Kiev and ripped through the Nazi lines in the Dnieper bend.

Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth army veterans knocked the main props out from under the German defenses along a 15-mile front below Pescara with a sudden armored thrust into the main enemy positions near the Adriatic coast.

Weather Aids
The British swarmed across the vital Ortona-Guardaglie lateral highway at three points and captured the village of Bersaldi, 4 1/2 miles south of Ortona.

Adriatic anchor of the temporary German line in eastern Italy. Front reports indicated the Nazis were sitting up a stubborn defense, but clearing weather and hardening ground aided the allied drive.

On the western flank of the allied line, Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Anglo-American Fifth army front also exploded into action after a six-day lull imposed by rain and mud. American tanks and infantry overran a strategic hill southwest of San Vincenzo and limited advances were achieved at several other points behind a swelling artillery barrage that battered the enemy's defenses.

Bomb Supply Line
Simultaneously, a powerful force of U. S. Liberators, Flying Fortresses and Lightning fighters struck a three-way blow at the main German supply line running through the Brenner Pass into northern Italy.

In Russia, fierce fighting raged along a broad front from the middle Dnieper to the Kiev salient and Moscow reported that the Red army was on the attack everywhere.

A violent see-saw battle raged through the hills at the center of the Kiev salient, where a German attempt to resume the offensive appeared to have broken down after a one-day success that carried the Nazis back into the important road junction of Radomisl, 48 miles west of Kiev.

Trains Collide
Quebec, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Two Canadian National Railways freight trains collided on a siding at St. Charles de Bellechasse today and the brakeman of one was burned to death when the baggage car caught fire.

west of Gasmata. Rabaul lies at the opposite or northeastern end of the island. Destroyers stood around restlessly outside of the inner ring of transports and broad-based landing craft. Small boats milled around the latter until the first wave had landed. Then they struck out for the beach like waterbeetles.

While our bomber formation roared through the pre-dawn darkness, many miles away I could see naval batteries winking far below us. As we approached the target in daylight, war vessels and troop carriers were firing short bursts of light artillery at the shore.

NEW MAIL TRAIN HELPS P. O. KEEP UP WITH FLOOD

Record Volume of Christmas Mail Being Handled Here—Crest Believed Passed.

Even though the volume of Christmas mail being handled at the Medford postoffice is the heaviest in the history of the office, pre-planning has enabled the staff to cope with the situation and all mail is moving on schedule, according to Frank DeSouza, postmaster. The postmaster stated today that the bulk of outgoing mail has gone through the office and that the great percentage of local residents had heeded the postoffice warnings and had mailed their packages earlier than usual.

For the past few days incoming mail has been increasing daily, DeSouza said, but so far the load has not been more than the staff can handle without trouble.

New Train Helps
Movement of parcel post mail has been facilitated in this district by the addition of a Southern Pacific mail train which makes a trip between Ashland and Dunsmuir, each way, daily, the postmaster stated.

The train, put into operation about a week ago, carries only parcel post mail and has no passenger service. Mr. DeSouza also stated that a considerable increase in the purchase of war stamps and bonds had been noted at the Medford office and that many purchasers volunteered the information that they were using the stamps and bonds as gifts.

GULF COAST GETS COLD WAVE TASTE

By United Press

The cold wave moving across the nation dipped down to the Gulf Coast today where the temperature hovered below freezing from Jacksonville, Fla., to Laredo, Tex.

Jacksonville with 27 degrees above zero was colder than the center of the nation's ice box at Great Falls, Mont., where the thermometer stood at 38.

Caribou, Me., remained the nation's coldest spot with 21 below zero. The Great Lakes, Ohio valley and eastern seaboard were warming up as the cold moved southward.

The temperature rose from below zero to minimums of two above at Chicago, Minneapolis and Cincinnati, five above at Columbus, 11 above at Cleveland, nine above at Pittsburgh and 14 above at New York and Washington.

Last Ditch Fight by Nazis Is Elmer Davis' Expectation

Washington, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Director Elmer Davis of the Office of War Information was disclosed today to believe that Germany probably would make "a last-ditch fight" because its military and political leaders know that surrender would be "condemning themselves to the hangman's block."

"Even when the German people have cracked, as they may be beginning to do now, they probably will be unable to prevail upon their leaders to



CHURCHILL ILL WITH PNEUMONIA COMMONS TOLD

London, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—An official bulletin tonight reported some improvement in the general condition of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who is suffering from pneumonia.

London, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Churchill, who celebrated his 69th birthday Nov. 30, has been stricken ill with pneumonia, presumably somewhere in the Mediterranean area, a dramatic announcement in the house of commons revealed today.

"His general condition is as satisfactory as can be expected," a bulletin read by Deputy Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee to a stunned house declared.

The bulletin did not disclose Churchill's present whereabouts.

Second Attack
Churchill only last week concluded an historical round of conferences at Cairo and Tehran with President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and President Ismet Inonu of Turkey.

Attlee assured the house that "every modern facility is available on the spot" to treat Churchill, who, he said, had developed a "patch of pneumonia" on his left lung after being confined to bed with a cold for several days.

It was the second time this year Churchill has been stricken with pneumonia. Last February he was confined to his home for three weeks during most of which he continued to work at high pressure.

TRACK COACH DIES

Bloomington, Ind., Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—C. E. (Billy) Hayes, 59, Indiana university track coach who was regarded as one of the most successful track mentors, died today of pneumonia after an attack of influenza.

STREAMLINERS ON N. Y., FLORIDA RUN COME TOGETHER

Derailing of Southbound Train Cause of Disaster—Bodies Badly Crushed.

Rennett, N. C., Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—At least 50 persons were reported killed today in the disastrous collision in near-zero weather of the north and southbound luxury streamliner trains of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad, the Tamiami Champion, and the East Coast Champion, running between Florida and New York.

Mrs. W. F. Barham of the Red Springs, N. C., Funeral Home, where the bodies were being taken, said at noon that approximately 80 bodies had been brought to the mortuary and that "more are coming in."

Soldiers, Civilians
"They started bringing them in at 8:30 this morning," she said. "We have not had time to try to identify the bodies. Victims include both soldiers and civilians. Some of the bodies are in horrible shape."

Atlantic Coastline officials at Rocky Mount said reports indicated the death toll would go to 75. The number of injured was rising toward 150.

The accident occurred at 1:15 a. m., when three steel cars of the Tamiami Champion, which left New York at 11:45 a. m. yesterday and was due at Tampa, Fla., at 8:30 p. m. tonight, jumped the tracks.

The speeding northbound East Coast Champion, en route from Miami to New York, crashed into the derailed cars at full speed, telescoping and jamming them into a mass of twisted wreckage.

ROOSEVELT PLANE IN FORCED LANDING IS GERMAN CLAIM

London, Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—The German DNB news agency broadcast a report today that a plane carrying President Roosevelt made a forced landing in the Azores because of motor trouble.

A DNB dispatch attributed to Lisbon said that Mr. Roosevelt's plane "was compelled to make a forced landing on the island of Terceira in view of motor trouble in order to make repairs."

The broadcast, lacking substantiation immediately in any Allied source, said the landing was made while Mr. Roosevelt was on his way to Cairo and Tehran.

He spent a few hours in the Azores during the trip, it said.

PT BOATS LAUNCHED WHEN CARRIER SINKS

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 16.—(U.P.)—Four PT boats being transported in a merchant ship were saved when their pilots roared away in them as the torpedoed merchantman began to sink, a crew member disclosed today.

Members of the motor torpedo squadron clambered aboard their small craft as the cargo ship's deck disappeared under water, leaving the PT boats afloat. The squadron saved four of its six craft.

California farms produce about 200 commercially important crops.