

Weather
Cloudy tonight and Saturday. Warmer Saturday.
Temperature
Highest yesterday, 32
Lowest this morning, 28
Precipitation
Past 24 hours, .

Use The
MAIL TRIBUNE
Want Ad Way
Quick Results
At Small Cost

U.S. SUBS BAG 8 MORE JAP SHIPS

TWO TRANSPORTS AND TWO TANKERS IN LATEST CATCH

Navy Announcement Brings Total to 524 Hit by Submarines So Far in War.

Washington, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—American submarines, backstopping Allied offensive operations in the Pacific by striking at the enemy's supply lines, have sunk eight more Japanese ships.

The navy announced today that the latest bag by U. S. submarines included two large transports, two large tankers, three medium freighters and a small freighter.

These sinkings raised to 524 the number of Japanese ships hit by our submarines so far in the war. This included 374 sunk, 36 probably sunk, and 14 damaged.

Secretary of Navy Frank Knox said recently there was definite evidence that the Japanese are growing desperately short of merchant tonnage and are being forced more and more to rely on barges for transport and supply.

YANKS PREPARE FOR DIRECT DRIVE ON RABAU BASE

By United Press

Japan's war-won island empire in the southwest Pacific began to fall apart today as American troops consolidated their invasion beachhead on the south coast of New Britain and prepared for a direct assault on the once-great enemy stronghold at Rabaul, 250 miles to the northeast.

Waves of Japanese planes struck incessantly at the invading forces, but Allied fighters and anti-aircraft gunners successfully repulsed every attack and the ground troops fanned out swiftly from their landing point on the Arawe peninsula.

Resistance Collapses

Early reports of the fighting said the three-mile-long peninsula fell into American hands within the first five hours and that enemy resistance on the ground was collapsing.

Washington observers said Gen. Douglas MacArthur's offensive, which climaxed a month-long aerial bombardment of New Britain, already had rendered Rabaul useless to the Japanese as an operational base. While the enemy garrison on New Britain—estimated at 40,000 men—was expected to put up a stiff battle, the fall of the island seemed assured.

Most of the available enemy airfields on western New Britain were believed to have been knocked out by the Allied bombing, and the Japanese problem was further complicated by the fact that their main supply and reinforcement center was located 800 miles to the north at Truk.

Aussies Back Japs

On the northeastern coast of New Guinea, opposite western New Britain, Australian ground troops hurled the Japanese from strongly defended positions around Wareo, on the Huon peninsula, and launched an attack on nearby Lakona village. Allied planes operating northwest of Australia wrecked two 5,000-ton Japanese transports loaded with troops and equipment off Timor island, and probably damaged a destroyer in the same area, while American bombers on Bougainville continued to pound the remaining enemy positions there.

At the same time, a Pearl Harbor communiqué disclosed that U. S. bombers struck again at the Marshall islands, dropping 40 tons of bombs on Tarao and Wotje islets. Eighteen intercepting enemy planes were destroyed or damaged and one American plane was lost.

Marines Dive In on Gilberts



Japs resisted ferociously at Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, but were after wave of brilliant U. S. Marines, facing death unflinchingly, fight onward until Japs quit. Here, at height of battle for airfield, Marines plunge over palm-tree wall.

35 Daring Marines Write Gallant Chapter In Tarawa

(The following story was written by Sgt. Pete Zurlinden, of Dayton, O., a Marine Corps combat correspondent, and distributed by the United Press.)

Tarawa, Nov. 22.—Thirty-five marines and their indomitable "skipper," 1st Lieut. William D. Hawkins, 30, of El Paso, Tex., wrote one of the most gallant chapters in the conquest of Tarawa.

Lieut. Hawkins and more than a dozen of his men are buried beneath the sands of bloody Betio beach, the most hazardous strip of sand ever bridged in combat. But they are the first heroes of Tarawa and their deeds have been on the lips of almost every leatherneck since Nov. 20 when they struck the initial blow against the Japs, 10 minutes before the zero hour.

Ticklish Job

They were a special "scout-sniper" outfit. Their job was one of the most ticklish ever assigned, any contingent. They were told to secure the 600-yard pier jutting out from Betio beach and to wipe out all the Japanese machine gun nests threatening the invasion force.

The scouts and snipers walked into a hornet's nest. The pier was full of Japs. With a flame thrower outfit and the aid of dynamite, they routed six nests before our first wave struck the beach.

Then the Japs dynamited one section of the pier, setting off several mines near the scout-snipers, and raked them from the beach with all types of fire. They used grenades almost every 10 yards, and finally it was the Japs who retreated.

Get New Orders

The marine advance guard then got orders to go down the beach where many hundreds of marines were pinned down by vicious machine gun and mortar cross fire. Hawkins pushed across to the airport, wiping out as many emplacements as he could. By now several of his men had fallen.

Coming to one compound, they blasted it with hand grenades, and then mowed down the Japs who attempted to rush out. From somewhere a machine gun opened up. Hawkins was wounded in the hand and three more of his men toppled dead.

Pressing forward, they knocked out three more nests.

COP TOO TRUSTING

Lodi, N. J., Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—Students received an unauthorized holiday because Patrolman John Clause, taking the word of a boy he met on the street that classes were suspended for a day, ordered the town siren to sound the "no school today" signal. An "unfortunate incident," said school authorities.

Medford district Community Chest subscriptions up to last night were:

\$39,735.99
Quota is \$43,718.40.

Massed Red Forces Crack German Lines

AMERICANS, NAZIS IN HAND TO HAND FIGHT AT PIETRO

Yanks Launch Smashing Drive to Reach Main Road to Rome—Planes Active.

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—American troops have launched a smashing attack to reach the main road to Rome, meeting the Germans in a hand-to-hand struggle at the village of San Pietro, a mile from the vital highway, it was announced today.

Large scale renewal of the Fifth Army offensive to break through to the road coincided with the second major blow in two days by Flying Fortresses against Germany's rail supply lines into Italy.

Fortresses Busy

In their first powerful blow against Padua, 25 miles west of Venice in northern Italy, the Fortresses dropped 200 tons of bombs in less than six minutes, partially wrecking a rail bridge and the Padua yards. Five enemy planes were shot down and not a bomber was lost.

Across Italy, the British Eighth Army hurled back strong German counterattacks made with flame-throwing tanks in an effort to stem troops edging through the broken Ortona-Guardigle defense line.

(Calro radio, heard in London, said Eighth Army troops were only 1.8 miles from Ortona, on the Adriatic coast, and that the town was in flames. Breakthroughs had occurred at several points, the broadcast said.)

War Bulletins

London, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—Two U-boats were destroyed by British air-sea assaults on a submarine pack which prevented a prospective attack on two westbound convoys in the North Atlantic recently, it was announced officially today.

Changsha, Dec. 14.—(U.P.)—Chinese forces, defeating the Japanese "chiefly by hand-to-hand bayonet fighting" suffered 14,000 casualties, 3,000 more than the Japanese, in recapturing Changteh, but the city is a vital point in Allied warfare in the entire Pacific area, Gen. Hsueh Yueh, commander of forces which took the city Dec. 9, said today.

JUGO PARTISANS TURN NAZI DRIVE, INFLICT LOSSES

London, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—Marshal Josip Brozovich's Partisan Army of Liberation reported today that it had broken a full scale German offensive in Jugoslavia and, launching a widespread counterdrive, had administered "heavy defeats" to the Nazis in a number of sectors.

The Jugoslavs issued a regular and a special communique proclaiming that the tide of battle had turned in their homeland.

"The great German offensive against liberated territory has failed to develop according to enemy expectations," the special communique said. "From all sectors reports are coming in of enemy failures and of successes achieved by Jugoslav units."

The special bulletin closely followed and amplified the daily communique from Partisan headquarters, which said:

"In the Croatia areas of Korodun and Banja, the German offensive has been fought to a standstill, and units of the Jugoslav Army of Liberation have gone over to the counteroffensive."

POSTOFFICE WINDOWS OPEN TO 6 SATURDAY

The windows in the postoffice will remain open until 6 p. m. tomorrow, Dec. 18, it was announced today by Frank De Souza, postmaster. The later closing time has been made to accommodate citizens during the rush of Christmas mail.

POSTPONE RED VOTE

Moscow, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—President Mikhail Kalinin has signed a decree postponing elections to the Supreme Soviet until December, 1944, the third postponement of elections since the war started, it was announced today.

WACS IN AFRICA

Washington, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—The war department announced today that 102 enlisted women and three officers of the Women's Army Corps have arrived at Allied headquarters in North Africa to supplement the several WAC companies already serving in that theater.

Airplane "Father" Honored by Nation

Washington, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—Orville Wright, the one-time bicycle mechanic who has lived to see the "flying contraption" that he and his late brother, Wilbur, built grow into one of the most potent forces in war and commerce, was honored here today on the 40th anniversary of their historic pioneering airplane flight.

A quiet, retiring man of 72, Wright came from Dayton, O., at President Roosevelt's invitation to receive the plaudits of a grateful nation. He made one condition—that he not be called upon to make a speech.

BIG RAF BOMBERS RESUME BLASTING GERMAN CAPITAL

Blockbusters Spread Fire and Ruin—U. S. Flying Forts Strike at Bremen.

London, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—Hundreds of the RAF's biggest bombers resumed the knockout offensive against Berlin with a 1,500-ton block-buster assault that spread fire and ruin through the Nazi capital last night, and the German radio revealed today that American Flying Fortresses damaged Bremen heavily in a raid on that port yesterday.

The German radio announcement was the first disclosure that Bremen was the target of yesterday's Fortress raid. The Nazis admitted "heavy destruction" in the big port city, which previously had been pounded six times by the American heavies and more than 100 times by the Royal Air Force.

Fly Through Clouds

The great armada that struck at Berlin last night fought through thick cloud formations that blanketed northwestern Germany, but pathfinder planes that preceded the raiders laid their target indicators squarely on the capital.

Thirty miles from their objective the black-winged raiders swung into a path of flares dropped by enemy night fighters and followed those flaming beacons right to the heart of Berlin.

Tens of thousands of high explosive and fire bombs hurtled down on the battered city, putting a thunderous end to the 13-day reprieve Berlin had enjoyed since its last visitation from the RAF. The German Transocean news agency denounced the raid as "a terror attack on a considerable scale."

WASTE PAPER SALES BRING INDICTMENT

Chicago, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—A federal grand jury today indicted the Thomas Paper Co., and Alvin E. Sandruff, president, for alleged violation of Office of Price Administration regulations in upgrading waste paper sold to some of the nation's largest paper manufacturers.

The 47-count indictment charged the upgrading of 750 tons of waste paper sold at a \$25,000 overcharge during August and September.

Downey, Cal., Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—The 10,000th basic trainer built by Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corp. for the army and navy rolled off the assembly line here today, company officials announced.

Sister Aimee



In her first appearance before the press since her long illness, famed Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson thanked reporters for their kindly treatment and announced that she would resume the pulpit and carry on until she died.

G. PASS CAPTIVE FOUND GUILTY IN SLAYING OF CPO

Seattle, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—Glen E. Carriker, 19-year-old seaman from Bucklin, Mo., was convicted of first degree murder today for the slaying of a chief officer during an attempt to escape from a moving train Oct. 6. There was no recommendation for the death penalty. Carriker faces a life term in prison.

Carriker, who was being returned to Bremerton, Wash., on charges of oversteering his leave after his arrest in a stolen car at Grants Pass, Ore., was accused of seizing the revolver of a sleeping guard and making a dash to leave the train.

Another guard, Chief Water-tender Nathaniel A. Anderson, Snohomish, Wash., gave chase and the two exchanged shots. Anderson was killed and Carriker fled from the train, only to be captured a few minutes later.

The young sailor was arrested in Grants Pass and brought to Medford at the time of his capture on the charge of oversteering his leave. He was taken to Portland under guard of Herbert Crain, navy recruiting specialist in charge of the Medford substation, and was en route to Bremerton, Wash., in the company of another guard when he killed him in his attempt to escape.

CHURCHILL SHOWS GOOD RESISTANCE

London, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—The condition of Prime Minister Winston Churchill is improving steadily, and there has been no spread of the pneumonia patch in one of his lungs, it was announced officially today.

A bulletin issued at No. 10 Downing street, the prime minister's official residence, said: "There has been no spread in the pneumonia, and the improvement in the prime minister's general condition has been maintained."

The British Press association, reporting continued improvement in Churchill's condition, said the original announcement of his illness appeared to have aroused an "unjustifiable amount of pessimism."

FARM INCOME RECORD

Sacramento, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—William J. Cecil, state director of agriculture, today estimated California farmers would receive a cash income of \$1,500,000,000 during 1943, "by far the highest" in history, but said that net farm income did not increase proportionately.

WINTER DRIVE ON LENINGRAD FRONT BELIEVED OPENED

Bitter Battle Still Raging—Nazis Reported Trying Out New Rocket Gun on City.

London, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—The Berlin radio reported today that massed Russian forces had launched an offensive on the Leningrad front, breaking into the German lines at several places, in what appeared here to be the first blow of the Red army's long delayed winter campaign.

A Nazi broadcast said the Germans had been engaged in hard defensive fighting near Leningrad since yesterday, and the bitter battle still was raging indecisively. A number of Soviet breakings were "liquidated," the radio said.

Waiting Weather

Signs have been increasing that the Red army was waiting only an improvement in weather conditions and a frozen foothold to strike in full force at the unstable German front.

Moscow has reported a week-long bombardment of Leningrad by German and Finnish guns, and there have been mysterious hints that the Nazis were trying out a new rocket gun against the old czarist capital.

The Nazis acknowledged that the Red army was attacking not only on the Leningrad front but also against the Kherson bridge-head of the lower Dnieper, in the Kirovograd area of the Dnieper bend, between the Pri-pet and Beresina rivers of the upper Dnieper, around Zlobin, west of Krichev and west and northwest of Nevel.

COLD WAVE EBBS IN EASTERN AREA

By United Press

The winter's worst cold wave began breaking up today, and the weather bureau predicted general relief from the Arctic temperatures by tomorrow.

At Chicago, the forecaster said temperatures would rise slowly in the east and south tomorrow after another day of sub-normal thermometer readings in those areas.

* Greenville, Me., reported the coldest weather in the nation, 12 degrees below zero. Earlier that territory had 21 below.

Farmers in the vicinity of Laredo, Tex., fought desperately to protect crops from the second day of freezing weather as thermometers dipped to 29 to set a record low for the Rio Grande valley.

Jacksonville, Fla., with a winter average of 52, recorded 26 this morning.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Workers at the City hall performing tasks with one hand while holding their noses due to mixed smells of paint, incense and fish oil permeating the building.

Staff members of the U. S. National bank being forced to run the air-conditioning system of the building after Sam Colton dropped a large package, breaking its contents.

Vern Brophy declaring that his flock of hens didn't seem to realize the importance of maximum production for the war effort.

Lulu Saulsberry deciding to emulate the president's decisions on holidays and advance her Christmas celebration for the benefit of son John.

Roosevelt Home From Conferences Says Report On Journey Must Wait

Washington, Dec. 1.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt returned to the White House today from his Cairo and Tehran conferences and was given a loud welcome by virtually every important figure in the government.

The first thing Mr. Roosevelt did after shaking hands with countless old friends was to hold a quick conference with his congressional leaders and inform them that he will not be able to report directly to congress on his trip until he delivers his annual state of the union message in early January.

The President did indicate, however, to the congressional leaders that he would devote some of his Christmas Eve address to a discussion of his conferences.

Tumultuous Greeting

As Mr. Roosevelt stepped from his automobile under the south portico of the White House he was given a tumultuous welcome by leaders of both parties in congress, cabinet members, and agency heads.

Mr. Roosevelt looked extremely fit after his long journey. He wore a rumpled gray suit and a loud plaid shirt. Watching the photographers as he got out of his car, he said: "I would have dressed for the occasion if I had known about this."

Mrs. Roosevelt, her daughter Mrs. John Boettiger, and three grandchildren, Sistine, Buzzie, and little Johnny, met the President at the point of his arrival in Washington and rode with him to the White House.

The first person to greet the President at the White House was his secretary, Grace Tully. Mr. Roosevelt was hit by a barrage of "hello" and "how are you" from members of his White House staff.

Byrnes Greeted

War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes rushed up to the side of the presidential car and Mr. Roosevelt called out over the heads of the photographers, "James, how are you?"

To the repeated inquiries about how he felt, Mr. Roosevelt answered over and over again "fine" and "all right."

He then went through the narrow corridor leading to the old diplomatic reception room on the ground floor of the White House. When the double doors swung open deafening applause greeted the President.

Senate Democratic Leader Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky was the first of the large group of probably more than 200 officials to grasp the President's hand. Then the crowd of cabinet members and congressional leaders converged on the Chief Executive, elbowing each other to step up and shake hands and welcome him home.

House Speaker Sam Rayburn, questioned by reporters, said that an invitation was issued but "Mr. Roosevelt won't come up to Capitol Hill before his annual message."