

## Weather

Forecast: Cloudy with occasional light rain Sunday and Monday. Slightly cooler Monday.  
Temp. 50  
Lowest Saturday morning: 35  
Precipitation past 24 hrs.: 0

# MEDFORD TRIBUNE

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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1943.

No. 229.

## GERMAN RETREAT ON NEVEL FRONT TOLD BY BERLIN

Russian Massive Attack  
Gains—Moscow Silent on  
Winter Offensive.

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—German sources admitted tonight that Nazi troops had gone into retreat on the Nevel front in White Russia before the pressure of a massive Red army attack that concentrated nearly 300,000 men in a narrow sector.

Ernst von Hammer, military commentator for the official German DNB news agency, said the Soviets had thrown 14 infantry divisions, two complete tank corps, two cavalry divisions and an artillery division into attacks in the winter-swept Nevel sector, and had "forced a shortening of the German front."

"The Soviets attempting a major breakthrough and using superior forces, broke into the German defense system which was threatened until the front was shortened," he said.

The German-controlled Vichy radio, supporting Hammer's announcement, said the Nazis were forced to retreat both southwest and north of Nevel.

This was the most concrete news of Soviet success in the campaign which Berlin has reported for a week in the Nevel sector and which Moscow consistently has ignored. Observers were not discounting Germany's reports, however, inasmuch as Moscow customarily withholds news of new offensives until the Soviet command can announce a major victory. Many felt it probable that the Nazi reports of fighting around Nevel marked the start of the expected Red army winter offensive.

Frigid Winds Blow  
Expectancy prevailed here and in Moscow that the winter offensive was about to start, with snow blanketing the Soviet front from White Russia deep into the Ukraine, frigid winds sweeping the steppes and the Red army, equipped with winter outfits, using horse-drawn sleds to bring up its supplies.

Hammer said a 15-below-zero temperature covered the southern and central sector of the Soviet front, partly freezing the Pripiet and Dnieper rivers and enabling land forces to cross wide stretches of the Pripiet marshes. The temperature was several degrees higher in the northern sector, the German broadcaster said.

Front reports added nothing to the Soviet command's briefest communique in weeks, which reported no change except in the Kirovograd sector of the Ukraine where Gen. Ivan S. Konev's troops gradually improved their positions in their drive to outflank that industrial city and major Nazi operational base 62 miles southwest of Kremenich.

Moscow's broadcast operational war bulletin said the Germans were dislodged from several fortified defense points today. It said the enemy repeatedly attempted counterattacks to check the Red army drive on Kirovograd but was repulsed with heavy losses.

## FLU NORMAL, BUT BERLIN IS 'BLUE'

Madrid, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The Berlin correspondent of the newspaper Madrid reported that influenza cases in the German capital were not above normal for this time of year, but that another illness was afflicting the city, namely "sui generis," which Berliners have named "melancholly over ruins."

It was explained that the malady consisted of an affliction of the spirit from contemplating the vast ruin spread by the RAF.

## Fancy Shooting

Ibis, Cal., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Pfc. Ira L. Waldrip, of Collins, Ark., told his 41st tank battalion buddies they might try his old "squirrel-sniffing" technique on the battlefield. "Back in Drew county, Arkansas, I aimed just ahead of the squirrel's nose. The vacuum caused by the bullet's flight took the squirrel's breath away and suffocated him."

## Nazis Stopped—Russians Go



Map shows area west of Kiev where Red Armies apparently have stopped the Nazis' all-out onslaught on that vital city. Further south, Russian forces striking west from Kremenich, to support bridgehead in the Cherkasi area, captured Cherkasi, last German base on the west bank of the Dnieper River.

## YANKÉES EXPAND ARAWA POSITION; TAKE GUNS, TOWN

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, Sunday Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Troops of the American Sixth army drove one mile east from the neck of the Arawa peninsula on southeastern New Britain island to seize Umtunga village from Japanese forces and capture enemy equipment and field guns, it was announced today.

A spokesman for Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced the continued expansion of American positions as the Yanks pushed forward to move their advanced lines three miles from the original landing point on the Housefurner beach.

Japanese forces, putting up "some resistance," finally abandoned the village and much equipment, including three 75 millimeter field guns which were apparently used to break up the commando landing near Arawa Wednesday, preceding the main invasion thrust.

As the Sixth army moved ahead, proceeding over native trails crossing New Britain island, U. S. army and marine troops in the northern Solomons started a push to extend their lines on Bougainville island, south Pacific reports disclosed.

A spokesman for Adm. William F. Halsey announced that the troops began pushing eastward and northward of Empress Augusta bay positions Wednesday, moving across the Torokina river with the support of artillery, air and light naval units.

## 2 DIE, 5 INJURED, ROSEBURG BLAZE

Roseburg, Ore., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—A fire at the Lang hotel in nearby Sutherlin today killed two persons and injured five others, but at least 14 persons leaped from windows to safety. The dead were Mrs. H. F. Rich, 28, and her mother, Mrs. Annie Faisley, 84, both of Sutherlin.

Injured were Russell Anderson, 33, his wife, Agnes, 31, their son, William, 12; J. W. Lang, 65 owner of the hotel, and Frank Bilyeu, 32.

Lang and Bilyeu are in critical condition, while the others are expected to recover.

The fire spread rapidly from an overheated stove in the lobby and most of the guests had to flee in their night clothing. First aid was administered by candlelight when power lines were short circuited by the fire.

PILOT AVERTS CRASH  
Portland, Ore., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The skill of Captain George Parker was credited today with averting a serious accident when a United Airlines plane bound from Seattle to Los Angeles landed at Portland and the landing gear failed to function properly.

## IRON LUNG WIFE GIVES BIRTH TO SIX LB. BABY BOY

Portland, Ore., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—A fine healthy boy was born today to Mrs. Carolyn Davis Wilson, 20-year-old mother who was removed from an "iron lung" respirator to permit normal delivery of the baby.

Attending physicians said the condition of the plucky young mother was only "fair." She was returned to the respirator, where she has been for nearly three weeks. Her husband, Air Forces Corporal Marvin Wilson, 21, flew halfway around the world from India to be at her side.

After debating several days on how to administer anesthesia to help her through the ordeal, the physicians said they administered a little gas. She was not out of the respirator very long before the baby arrived shortly before 2 p. m. The baby weighed six pounds 10½ ounces.

The chief worry was whether Mrs. Wilson would catch cold or suffer a relapse. Her physicians were hopeful she would pull through. They praised her demeanor and confident spirit through the painful days and weeks since she contracted the paralysis. She even tried to shield her condition from her army husband but the American Red Cross arranged her emergency furlough when her condition made it necessary for her to enter the "iron lung" at Portland's Hahnemann hospital.

Buoyed up by his arrival, she was able to be out of the respirator for as long as seven hours on some days but the intervals grew shorter as the time for childbirth approached. She was out only an hour yesterday and probably could not have survived if the birth of the baby had required her to be outside very long.

## LETTERS REVEAL 'PEACE NOW' MOVE

Washington, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—An apparently organized campaign for a negotiated peace which would save Germany and Japan from the consequences of Allied invasions has been launched in letters to congressmen signed by George W. Hartmann, chairman of the "Peace Now Movement." It was disclosed tonight.

House members who received the letters and accompanying literature almost unanimously denounced the movement as "misguided" or "playing into the enemy's hands."

COL. NICHOLSON PASSES  
Vancouver, Wash., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Col. Alexander M. Nicholson, 49-year-old quartermaster at Pendleton Field, Ore., died today from a chronic skin condition. A former resident of San Antonio, Tex., Colonel Nicholson had been at Pendleton 15 months.

## BROTHERHOODS TO CONFER WITH F. R. ON STRIKE TODAY

President Intervenes in  
Move to Ward Off Rail  
Walkout.

Washington, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt today called representatives of the nation's railroads and of the five operating railroad brotherhoods to confer with him at the White House tomorrow in an effort to ward off a strike scheduled to start Dec. 30.

The White House, announcing Mr. Roosevelt's action, said the meeting would be held at 2:30 p. m., EWT. Spokesmen for the brotherhoods had revealed earlier in Cleveland that they had been called to the executive offices.

The national mediation board cancelled a meeting it had scheduled with union and management representatives at Chicago Monday. It indicated it might offer its services again if no basis for settlement is found at the conference tomorrow.

The 350,000 members of the operating brotherhoods have voted to strike Dec. 30 in protest against an emergency board award approved by Economic Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson of a four cents an hour wage increase. They are demanding a \$3 a day boost of their basic wages.

Meanwhile, officials of the 15 non-operating brotherhoods—whose case is linked closely with that of the operating brotherhoods—were reportedly maneuvering in an effort to force prompt house action on the senate-approved Truman resolution which would legalize the agreement they reached last August with the railroads for an eight cents an hour wage increase.

Vinson refused to approve that agreement on grounds it would be an out and out violation of the little steel formula and would go far toward breaking down the administrations' stabilization program.

## NEW LIQUOR CARD ON SALE JAN. 3

Portland, Ore., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—New cards for purchases at state liquor control commission stores—to be validated through use of ration book No. 4—will be placed on sale Jan. 3, commission officials announced today.

Jack Holden, supervisor of personnel and sales, said the permit applicant must present an identification along with the book, as well as his address and signature.

The new procedure will be little different for civilians than at present, although persons in the armed services will obtain their new cards on a slightly different basis.

## WILLKIE BUTTONS SENT TO SOLDIER

Montclair, N. J., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Pfc. Edward Meyerson in the South Pacific has the 500 Willkie buttons he wrote his family for—but his parents are still "hoping mad" that a censor's scissors cut out of his letter the reason he wanted them.

The letter asking for the buttons ran: "I want them to—" and the rest of the sentence was deleted.

"First, we want to know why his reason was censored," Meyerson senior said today. "And then, well, we still want to know why he wanted the buttons."

## LOS ANGELES HIT BY HEAVY RAINS

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Southern California was in for a little more of the same in the way of weather during the week end after a 24-hour storm had deposited 8.2 of an inch of moisture by 6 o'clock tonight, the weather bureau announced.

## FIRST NAZI WAR CRIMINALS FACE HANGING DEATHS

Three Gestapo and Russian  
Traitor Doomed For Khar-  
kov Atrocities.

London, Sunday, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—A Russian military tribunal condemned three German soldiers and a Russian traitor to death on the gallows for participating in the massacre of soviet civilians and war prisoners during the Nazi occupation of Khar'kov, radio Moscow announced today.

All four defendants pleaded guilty to a long list of atrocities charges, including the machine-gunning of Russian children and the asphyxiation of scores of persons in mobile gas chambers which the Nazis had mounted on trucks.

Radio Moscow announced that the death sentences were passed in Khar'kov at 11:40 p. m. Saturday night (Khar'kov time) concluding a three-day public trial.

The condemned Germans were Pvt. Reinhard Retzlav, a member of the 56th group of the German secret police; Lt. Hans Ritz, 24, of the Nazi SS elite guards; and Capt. Wilhelm Langheld, 52, a captain in the Nazi counter-espionage service.

Sentenced to die with them was 26-year-old Mikhail Bulvanov, who was accused of acting as chauffeur for one of the "murder wagons" used by the Gestapo for its lethal gas executions.

It was the first formal conviction of Nazi war criminals accused of committing atrocities against the population of occupied territories and apparently foreshadowed similar grim justice for other Gestapo hangers and atrocity mongers captured by the red army.

London newspapers attached great significance to the Khar'kov trial, and the Sunday Dispatch asserted that the Russians would be justified in executing every one of the 700,000 members of the Nazi elite guard organization whom they may capture.

## BULGARIA PEACE PROFFER DENIED

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The Soviet Union, through the official Tass news agency, denied tonight that Bulgaria had approached Moscow with peace proposals under which it would quit the war but retain Macedonia and western Thrace.

In a Radio Moscow broadcast, the Soviet news agency said: "Several British newspapers several days ago printed a report from New York that Bulgaria, through mediation with the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, put forward peace proposals so as to quit the war under the condition that it would retain Macedonia and western Thrace."

"Tass has been authorized to state that this statement is obviously untrue and not based on any foundation whatsoever."

## FRENCH COLONIAL LEADERS JAILED

Algiers, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The French National Committee of Liberation has jailed two prominent French colonial administrators on charges of collaboration with the Nazis before the Allied occupation of North Africa, and is expected to announce shortly the arrest of Pierre Etienne Flaminio, former French premier, it was learned tonight.

The arrested men were Pierre Boisson, former governor-general of French West Africa, and Marcel Peyrou, former political deputy of French North Africa, both of whom had been under "house arrest" for some time.

WILLKIE VISIT TOLD  
Caracas, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The newspaper Ultima Noticias, quoting usually well-informed sources, said today that Wendell Willkie would visit Venezuela in the near future. No other details were given.



When in Rome do as the Romans do, goes the old saying, and Mrs. Roosevelt takes it literally. During her recent tour of New Zealand she greeted her Maori guide with the traditional nose-rubbing gesture, which is the Maori custom of greeting. (Copyright, 1943, by Look Magazine from Acme telephoto.)

## USE TORCH, GIANT CRANES TO FIND RAIL CRASH DEAD

Rennet, N. C., Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Workers manning giant cranes and using acetylene torches cut their way inch-by-inch tonight into the wreckage of three twisted coaches believed to hold the last unrecovered bodies of victims of the double wreck of two Atlantic Coast Line New York-Florida trains which killed 72 and possibly 82 pre-holiday travelers and injured nearly 150.

The 72 known dead included 51 members of the armed services and 21 civilians, of whom 14 had been identified some 65 hours after the wreck.

In addition, Major F. F. Snyder, Maxton army air base officer in charge of military casualties, said 10 WAVE enlisted women known to have been on the train were unaccounted for and believed trapped in the three coaches that had not been worked on before today.

It was expected to be some time tomorrow before wrecking crews made enough progress to locate and extricate any victims whose bodies may be in the unopened coaches.

## ROOSEVELT VISIT TO LONDON NEXT

London, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The Sunday Dispatch said today that President Roosevelt is expected to come to London for his next conference with Prime Minister Churchill, in order to spare the ailing British leader the strain of further travel.

The report printed on the newspaper's front page, was based on a dispatch from its New York correspondent.

## War Bulletins

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The German-controlled Paris radio went off the air shortly after 5 tonight, indicating possible air raids on the continent.

RAF coastal command Beau-fighters, escorted by Typhoon fighters, attacked a large German supply ship off the coast of Brittany by daylight today. Two hits were scored with torpedoes and the ship was left afloat. All planes returned.

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—An air alarm sounded in the London area tonight at 10:45 p. m. All-clear sounded shortly afterward and no incidents were reported.

Chungking, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Chinese forces have recaptured more than 10 strategic villages in the "rice bowl" area of central China and smashed a Japanese counter-attack northeast of Changteh, killing more than 400 enemy troops, the Chinese high command announced tonight.

## REICH WARNED BY SWEDEN TO DROP OSLO DEPORTINGS

Stockholm, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The Swedish government announced today that it had formally warned Germany that "further deterioration" in the relations between the two countries "cannot be avoided" unless the Reich abandoned its plan to deport 1200 interned Oslo university students and professors to Germany. Dispatches from Norway indicated that Berlin was backing down.

The Swedish communique, emphasizing Stockholm's natural concern over Nazi actions in Scandinavia, said the note in which is replied to German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop's brusque demand of Dec. 5 that Sweden cease interfering in German-Norwegian affairs, was sent last Thursday.

Possibility that the Swedish stand may have forced Germany's hand was seen in a Swedish dispatch from Oslo yesterday reporting that 600 of the arrested university students have been released from the Stavern concentration camp.

The dispatch quoted well-informed sources in Oslo as saying that it was expected that almost all of those interred after a fire Nov. 27 in the university assembly hall, which the Germans charged was sabotage, would be freed before Christmas.

## 'SOCIAL MANDATE' IS LABORS' PLAN

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The governing body of the International Labor Organization, to an accompaniment of reminders of world hopes pinned on the United Nations' post-war social betterment plans, today arranged the agenda for next year's ILO conference at which a "social mandate" will be laid down.

At the same time, Chinese government representatives initiated a movement to have Soviet Russia, which has been excluded from the ILO since it withdrew from the League of Nations, brought back into the organization in time for the conference. The Belgian delegates enthusiastically applauded the suggestion.

## GOEBBELS HINTS END OF BRITAIN

(By United Press)  
Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, attempting to revive his old theme of divide and conquer, says in the current issue of Das Reich that President Roosevelt, unlike Woodrow Wilson, "will not let the British outmaneuver him," and that the British empire will crumble, with the U. S. and soviet Russia gobbling up the pieces.

According to a Berlin broadcast of the article titled "The Phony Colossus," recorded in New York by the United Press, even England itself will be "inherited later on" by the U. S.

## ALLIES PIERCE KEY NAZI TOWNS OF ITALIAN LINE

Heavy Battle Raging to  
Force Germans to New  
Defense Positions.

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Allied troops, in fierce armored and street battles, have smashed into the outskirts of key Nazi defense strongholds on both sides of the Italian front, it was announced today as the Germans threw reinforcements from Russia into their sagging lines.

Spearheaded by American shock troops, Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth army broke into the thick defenses of San Pietro just north of the Rome road, and Gen. Sir B. L. Montgomery's New Zealanders battled into Orsogna's streets on the Adriatic front after knocking out 13 Nazi tanks.

Heavy fighting was reported still raging for both towns, Allied capture of which would almost certainly force the Germans to fall back to new defense positions on each sector.

Eight miles north of San Pietro, another American spearhead captured the mountain village of Lagone, situated at 2,000 feet two miles west of Filignano, after beating off sharp counterattacks.

Only in the center of the front did the Nazis' desperate resistance pay off when American troops made slight withdrawals in the area of San Vincenzo, six miles below Alfedena, under the pressure of heavy and sustained counterblows.

With their defenses thus being systematically undermined, the Germans sent into action a new division, the Fifth Mountain division, which arrived only recently in Italy from Russia and is the 14th enemy outfit to be identified in the Italian fighting.

Members of the new German division were captured in the fighting for San Pietro, which now was virtually surrounded by American troops who attacked relentlessly from the south, east and north.

## CHURCHILL PAST ILLNESS CRISIS

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill's temperature and lung inflammation are subsiding, an official bulletin said tonight, indicating that the British war leader had passed the crisis in his fight against pneumonia somewhere in the middle east.

A statement issued by No. 10 Downing street, the prime minister's official residence, at 3:30 p. m. said:

"There has been some irregularity of pulse but the temperature is subsiding and the pneumonia is resolving."

Most authorities were encouraged by the optimistic tone of the bedside bulletin, agreeing that it meant Churchill had passed the crisis and might be an "ambulatory patient" within a week or so.

## CONGRESS VOTES YULE VACATION

Washington, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Congress in a last-minute burst of speed cleared away its most pressing emergency legislation today and voted to adjourn for Christmas on Tuesday until January 10.

As members scrambled on to the vacation bandwagon, Rep. Hutton W. Sumners, D., Tex., urged them in a floor speech to remind the folks back home during the holidays that "there is only one job facing the nation—to win the war."

In an unusual Saturday session, the house and senate sent to the White House legislation temporarily extending food subsidies until Feb. 17 and passed a \$200,000,000 deficiency appropriation bill.

NO PAPER DEC. 26  
In order to conserve paper under the government's rationing program, the Mail Tribune will not publish on Sunday, December 26.