

Weather
Forecast: Cloudy, occasional light rains tonight. Tuesday partly cloudy with occasional showers. Little change in temperature.
Temp. — 15
Highest yesterday — 39
Lowest this morning — 39
Precipitation past 24 hrs. — .39

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REDS ROLL THROUGH WIDE BREAK

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 20.—No one here has exhibited more than casual diplomatic politeness to conceal the displeasure of State Secretary Hull and our foreign policy makers (possibly including Mr. Roosevelt himself) over the treaty Stalin has concluded with Benes of Czechoslovakia.

You may have noticed the state department gave out innocuous comment when asked about the matter, saying it was something that long had been under consideration and was not understood to be in conflict with general post-war security. They would have put a question mark after that comment if they had been expressing sincerely their doubts.

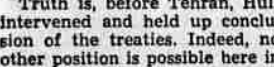
Truth is, before Tehran, Hull intervened and held up conclusion of the treaty. Indeed, no other position is possible here in view of Mr. Hull's assurance to congress in his report after his Moscow conference, that there would be no alliances and no spheres of influence or balance of power in the future world.

The agreement, therefore, cannot be interpreted as one of the deeper meanings of the Tehran pact, but it must be accepted as the first public indication of what Russia wants for post-war Europe.

Indeed, the treaty itself says it is offered as a pattern to other adjoining nations, meaning certainly Poland (not this exiled Polish government, however), Hungary, even Austria and possibly Rumania, but not the Baltic states which Stalin intends to take over as part of Russia, presumably along with Finland.

ITS language sounds generous, promising "non-interference in the inner affairs" of either nation by the other, and "mutual respect for their independence and sovereignty."

Sovereignty no stronger promise could be written in reasonable



Paul Mallon

(Continued on Page Four)

ROOSEVELT GAVE CANOL APPROVAL SAYS SOMERVELL

Washington, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, chief of the army service forces, told the senate's Truman committee today that President Roosevelt has approved the army's \$134,000,000 Canol oil development program.

Somervell made the statement in reply to questions by Sen. Harley M. Kilgore, D., W. Va., during a committee hearing on the much-criticized Canol project. Somervell said he wants to expand it, despite recommendations by the navy, the War Production Board and Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes that it be abandoned.

"Did the president ever approve this project?" Kilgore asked.

"Yes," Somervell replied.

"When?" asked Kilgore.

"No Commercial Future"

"I don't know just when," Somervell said, "but I do know that Secretary Ickes answered a letter from the president on the subject June 22, 1942."

Somervell admitted that the project never could be justified as a commercial venture and was launched solely on the basis of military strategy while the Japanese were threatening the west coast.

He justified its post-war value, however, with testimony that instead of the originally anticipated 2,000,000 barrels, the potential production of the normal wells fields is between 58,000,000 and 100,000,000 barrels, making it the biggest oil discovery in the world in 15 years.

VITEBSK FLANKED AFTER SMASHING NAZI "IRON WALL"

American Forces Burst Out Into Liri Valley on Road to Rome—Reich Blasted.

Moscow, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—Gen. Ivan K. Bagraman's Baltic front army of Siberian veterans swung southwestward and outflanked Vitebsk today after smashing the German "iron wall" line below Nevel in a great breakthrough touching off the long delayed Russian winter offensive.

Paced by powerful armored units and ski detachments, tough Red shock troops who fought at Stalingrad, before Moscow, and on the Don, chopped a hole 50 miles wide and 19 miles deep in the thick network of defenses in which the Germans had set themselves up for the winter.

(By United Press)

A massive Red army winter offensive ripped through the northern flank of the long Russian front today and American troops and tanks burst out into the broad Liri valley on the main road to Rome, while converging American bombing fleets from Britain and the Mediterranean blasted enemy targets deep in western and southern Germany.

More than 500 towns and villages were engulfed in the Soviet advance and Swiss reports said the Nazis had ordered the evacuation of all civilians from the Polish and Baltic border regions in the path of the onrushing Red army—now only 61 miles from northeastern Poland and 70 miles from Latvia.

Berlin, admitting its forces were in retreat before the new Russian offensive, said the Red army had hurled 250,000 men and huge tank forces into the Nevel front.

20,000 Killed

Moscow reports said 20,000 Germans had been killed in the five-day advance and that the Soviets had taken 2,000 prisoners and destroyed or captured 106 tanks, along with huge quantities of German war materials.

The offensive appeared designed to clear the way for an all-out blow against Riga, 250 miles to the northwest, and the encirclement of perhaps hundreds of thousands of Nazi troops drawn up below Leningrad and in the Baltic states.

On the Italian front, American infantrymen and armored forces drove past captured San Pietro and advanced to throw the Liri valley into the hands of San Vittore.

Front reports indicated that German resistance in the area was cracking, after one of the bloodiest battles since the landing at Salerno. The Nazi retreat from San Pietro, which opened the gateway to the Liri valley and the main invasion highway to Rome, was said to have been so precipitate that the enemy had no time to bury his dead.

Blast Augsburg

United States heavy bombers lashed out from their bases in Britain by daylight today to batter unidentified targets in northwest Germany, after Mediterranean-based American heavies bombed Augsburg, in their second raid of the war on southern Germany, and Innsbruck, at the Austrian side of the Brenner Pass.

Eleven Fortresses and Liberators were lost in the twin attacks, but some were believed to have landed safely in Allied territory, and their fighter escorts destroyed 37 to 59 of 100 attacking enemy fighters.

Medford district Community Chest subscriptions up to last night were:

\$40,063.29
Quota is \$43,719.40.

Pro-Ally Bolivian Government Overthrown In Bloody Revolt

PROSPECT TOT IS CRUELLY BEATEN, OFFICERS CHARGE

E. Finton, Millworker, Jailed on Charge of Mistreating Wife's Sister's Son.

Earl Finton, 39, Prospect millworker, was to be arraigned in the court of Justice of the Peace W. H. Coleman at two o'clock this afternoon on charges of "cruelty to a child not his own." The child in question is a six-year-old Terry Prather, a nephew of Mrs. Finton, who had been left in the Finton's care by his parents, neither of whom juvenile authorities have been able to locate as yet.

Finton was arrested in Medford yesterday by Robert Elder, county juvenile officer who stated this morning that Finton had admitted using both a strap and a piece of electric light cord to whip the child "because he wouldn't mind," but added that "he was sorry he lost his temper and knocked the boy off the porch." Elder stated that the child's body was a mass of bruises and welts, some evidently inflicted a considerable time ago and others appearing to be recent, and that he was apparently suffering from malnutrition.

Beatings Told

The juvenile officer investigated the case Friday upon word from Prospect school authorities. Terry was brought to Medford for questioning and Mr. Elder stated that the little fellow was so badly frightened that it was some time before a coherent story could be obtained. He told of the beatings, Mr. Elder said, and stated that Mr. Finton had threatened to kill him the night before. A mark on his neck, Terry told the officer, was made when Finton wrapped the electric cord around his neck and threatened to hang him but "choked me instead."

Mr. Elder stated that teachers of the Prospect school, where the boy is in the first grade, had suspected for a considerable time that he was being abused, but that Terry had refused to answer questions, and apparently was thoroughly intimidated. However, his condition Friday morning upon arrival at school was so bad that his teacher summoned Mr. Elder. When brought to Medford the boy wore nothing but a cotton shirt and a pair of overalls, the officer said, and pointed out that the weather in Prospect has been very cold.

Five of Own

The Fintons have five children of their own, the eldest seven years old. Part of the children are in Klamath Falls with a relative and Mrs. Finton, confined to a Medford hospital last week, was taken to Klamath by her husband Saturday upon her release. Upon his return to Medford, Finton was arrested by Officer Elder and lodged in the county jail.

Terry's parents are said to be Mr. and Mrs. James Prather and Elder was informed that the mother was thought to be in Portland and the father somewhere in Montana. Mrs. Prather and Mrs. Finton are sisters and Mrs. Prather had left her son in the Fintons' care.

Terry, placed temporarily in a foster-home by Mr. Elder, was more cheerful today and is hoping some kind person will find Santa Claus where to find him.

CHURCHILL'S PROGRESS CARRIES PAST CRISIS

London, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—A brief official bulletin said today that Prime Minister Winston Churchill is "making satisfactory progress" in his fight against pneumonia. It was indicated that he had successfully weathered the crisis and is on the way to recovery.

Medford Marks 60th Birthday

The city of Medford is today celebrating its 60th birthday, it was pointed out this morning by city officials. The original plat of the city was filed in the county clerk's office Dec. 20, 1883, by P. F. Prim. At the time the city was founded, it was estimated that about 300 or 400 people made up the population.

TALKS MAY BRING BLANKET SOLUTION IN RAIL DISPUTES

Washington, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—The House Interstate Commerce committee today voted tentatively to strip Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson of all authority over railroad wages, but postponed final action until Jan. 10.

The house committee decision came as indications increased that President Roosevelt's conferences with rail management and representatives of 350,000 strike-threatening operating employees, might result in a blanket solution of all rail-wage grievances. The president's efforts, begun at a White House conference yesterday, were understood to center on an overtime proposal to boost earnings.

The threatened strike of the operating employees, set for Dec. 30, resulted from Vinson approving a wage increase of only four cents an hour for them.

In another phase of railroad labor disputes, Vinson refused to approve a labor-management agreement for an eight-cent raise for 1,100,000 non-operating employees. The senate passed a resolution to validate this agreement despite Vinson.

CONGRESS STARTS HOLIDAY TUESDAY

Washington, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—After 350 days of political rebellion, the first session of the 78th congress will adjourn tomorrow having substantially repudiated administration leadership on domestic issues.

Legislators will have a three-week holiday with the voters back home. The second session will convene Jan. 10 to continue the domestic front battle into the presidential election year.

President Roosevelt, likewise, is taking a holiday to be at his Hyde Park estate for Christmas.

The congress adjourning tomorrow was elected on Nov. 5, 1942. Its successor will be elected next November. Republicans insist and some others agree that the next congress will be Republican, at least in the house and possibly in the senate.

Russians Cheer as Germans Hanged for Mass Butchery

Kharkov, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—Amid cheers from some 50,000 Russian men, women and children, three German army officers and one Russian traitor—convicted in the first war criminal trial of World War II—were hanged today in the market square of this war-blasted city.

At 11:15 a. m., four word trucks moving away from the gallows, leaving the condemned men dangling at the end of the nooses to which they were sentenced for participating in the mass butchery of thousands of Russian prisoners and civilians.

Stand On Stools

A vengeful crowd pressed against a cordon of Red army officers as the doomed men—a Gestapo captain, a storm troop

YOUNG OFFICERS OUST PENARANDA IN SUDDEN COUP

Nationalistic Group Pledges Continuance of Support For United Nations.

La Paz, Bolivia, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—The pro-Ally Bolivian government of President Enrique Penaranda was overthrown today in a bloody four-hour revolution of young nationalist army officers who announced at once that they would continue to support the united nations in their fight against the axis.

Indicating that the overthrow of the Penaranda government left Bolivia's relations with the united nations unchanged, the central revolutionary command proclaimed by radio:

Will Support Allies

"The new government, which has the sympathy of a majority of the nation and the army, will respect the international situation, supporting the united nations in their fight against the axis."

The spark plug of the revolution was 35-year-old Victor Paz Estensoro, lawyer and politician who became chairman of the committee which took over from Penaranda. The outgoing government signed a pact with the united nations last May and declared war against the axis two weeks ago.

(A British broadcast quoting advice from Bolivia said Penaranda had been arrested, along with two cabinet ministers and a number of army officers.)

The full extent of casualties in street fighting in the capital was not available at once. An announcement said only that some fatalities occurred.

ALL BERLIN MAY PULL UP STAKES

Stockholm, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—German authorities are on the point of ordering complete evacuation of Berlin to avert total destruction of the city by bombing, neutral diplomatic sources said today.

Only dissension between German Minister of the Interior Heinrich Himmler and Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels was delaying a final decision on whether to evacuate, it was reported.

Goebbels reportedly has demanded that the bomb-wrecked capital be evacuated immediately to avert a threat of widespread epidemics. For unknown reasons, diplomatic sources said, Himmler opposed the move.

New Yank Invasion: It's New Britain This Time



A new dagger was at the heart of Jap-held Rabaul when American forces under General Douglas MacArthur landed on Cape Merkus, New Britain Island, and the islands of Arawa and Pileli, thus cutting the vital supply line from Gasmata and Cape Gloucester. Mapped here are the new landing points and a general view of the area.

Allies Use New Torokina Air Field To Challenge Defenders of Rabaul

AMERICAN DRIVE ON NEW BRITAIN NEARS AIRFIELD

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced today that U. S. 8th army troops were driving rapidly inland from their bridgehead on the southwest coast of New Britain, and were nearing the enemy airfield four miles east of the Arawe peninsula.

While the airfield had been rendered useless to the Japanese by the month-long allied aerial bombardment that preceded the invasion of New Britain, it could restore it quickly and use the strip to aid their advance toward Rabaul, 250 miles to the northeast.

Widen Beachhead

On Bougainville island, United States marines and army troops extended their arm of the allied pincers on Rabaul, moving across the Torokina river in force to widen their beachhead to eight miles. A heavy artillery barrage preceded the American thrust, and the advancing troops found only dead Japanese troops and wrecked pillboxes on the north end of the stream.

Operating on the Huon peninsula in northeastern New Guinea moved northward across the Sangra river, 15 miles above Finschhafen, and advanced on enemy troops entrenched along the Maseweng river, a mile further north.

Dr. Soule's Auto Narrowly Misses 200-Foot Tumble

Dr. A. A. Soule will probably take great care in the future to see that the brake on his car is properly set. Sunday evening the physician parked his car at the Sacred Heart hospital, while he called on patients, but failed to set the brake tightly. The car, fluid driven and having no gears, ran away. It backed through the parking lot near the entrance to the hospital, narrowly missing other cars, ran over a small tree, uprooting it and finally came to rest against a six-inch tree just over the edge of a 200-foot embankment with a wrecker from a Medford service station was summoned to pull the run-away car from its resting place against the tree and it is now in the shop for repair of the slight damages.

United Press Staff Correspondent

Torokina Air Field, Bougainville, Dec. 17.—(U.P.)—Nearly 100 navy, marine and New Zealand pilots challenged the Japanese in their own backyard today in the first land-based fighter sweep over Rabaul harbor, but the Japs refused to fight.

Only ten enemy planes left the ground to defend the Nipponese "Pearl Harbor" of the South Pacific. Thirty to forty others were seen sitting idle on one field alone.

Six Shot Down

Indicating what might have happened had the Japanese fought in full force, six of the ten Nipponese planes which took to the air were shot down. Only two allied planes were lost.

The fighter sweep was not only the first from the newly constructed Torokina air field in the Bougainville island, but it was the largest of the south Pacific campaign. Perhaps it was timed to prevent the Nipponese from hitting the American sixth army which invaded the Arawe peninsula at the opposite end of New Britain island Dec. 15.

(Tokyo radio, in a broadcast heard by United Press in San Francisco today, claimed that Japanese planes bombed the runways and ground defenses of the Torokina air field the night of the 17th. Such an attack, if made, was carried out under cover of darkness in retaliation for the fighter sweep over Rabaul.)

NAZI SUB BUSY IN GULF OF MEXICO

Washington, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—A new foray by a German submarine into the Gulf of Mexico was revealed today when the navy announced that a medium-sized United States merchant vessel was torpedoed and sunk there early in December.

Only one other ship has been reported sunk in the gulf area this year. That was a small Norwegian ship lost in April. Prior to that the last sinking in the gulf was in September, 1942. The latest sinking brings to 40 the number of ships sunk in the gulf since the submarine offensive started.

The navy gave no details about the latest sinking except to say that the ship was torpedoed by an enemy submarine.

NO PAPER DEC. 28

In order to conserve paper under the government's rationing program, the Mail Tribune will not publish on Sunday, December 28.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

John Mang all worn out from the excitement of the arrival of his first grandchild.

Justin ("Doc") Smith recommending some of the more brilliantly colored pills in case of flu.

Arnold Green taking to his bed to avoid giving a news hawk a lunch-waiting story.

L. C. Taylor making plans to trim the overhanging boughs of his trees, at the request of J. W. McCoy.