Weather
Forecast: Cloudy with occasional light rain tonight and Friday. Little change in temperature.
Temp.
Highest yesterday 42
Lowest this morning 40
Precipitation past 24 hrs. .. 0

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

PULITZER AWARD 1943

United Press—Full Leased Wire

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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

Thirty-eighth Year | MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1943 | NO. 233

ALLIES BLITZ ROCKET COAST

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Paul Mallon

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23—Russian strokes near Nevel and at points south are being heralded as the launching of the winter offensive — to carry Stalin to Berlin by spring — but they are not quite that, not yet.

So far, they are discernibly only opening phases of what may develop into a general offensive. Exaggerated notions of the moves so far spring largely from the Berlin radio which has been playing them up (for its own purposes, no doubt) far more than Moscow.

• • •

EVERYTHING depends on the weather. If the reds can get a moderate cold, dry spell before heavy snows pile in roads and fields, and the bottom of the thermometer limits the mechanical objectives, they conceivably could swing into a decisive winter campaign. But winter offensives in Russia can have only very limited successes. Long, swift sweeps are impossible.

The Russian break-through southwestward from Nevel, for instance, has, as its ultimate goal, Riga and the Baltic shore. The nazis knew it was coming.

The very spot was designated by this column as far back as newspapers of November 24, just as the break-through north of Dnepropetrovsk which broke the back of the Germans in the south last summer, and, in fact, the American invasion of North Africa, Sicily and Italy were forecast.

This is not done of secret information, but upon sound military advice concerning obvious strategic points for attack. Thus a drive from the region of Nevel

(Continued on Page Four)

All-Out Air Smash

(Acme Telephoto)

Map shows how the Allies' two-day, all-out air offensive has smashed targets from Bremen in Germany to Eleusis airfield, Athens, and closed the Brenner Pass.

BIG FORMATIONS SMASH SITES OF SECRET WEAPONS

Heaviest Assaults Since 1940 in Effort to Knock-out Hinted Rocket Attack.

London, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—British bombers, in what London newspapers called in banner headlines "a blitz on the Rocket coast," carried the heaviest assault on northwestern France since 1940 well into its fourth day today with heavy smashes at areas where the Germans have been reported setting up secret weapons to bombard England.

This afternoon great formations of aircraft, flying above the clouds, roared out across the straits in the direction of Dunkirk, and RAF Typhoons, carrying bombs, swept out toward France flying so low that they appeared to be skimming the water.

For 96 Hours

For the last 96 hours the RAF has been hammering hard at the Pas De Calais area where, according to neutral dispatches, the Germans are preparing batteries of Rocket guns.

London newspapers, giving banner headlines to the assault across the channel, referred to the attack as a "blitz on the Rocket coast" and also called the fortified area of northwestern France "the secret weapon coast."

Earlier today medium bombers took up the attack on the "Rocket coast" which RAF heavy bombers carried through last night.

The offensive appeared to be approaching the violence of that which wrecked German preparations for an invasion of Britain in 1940.

F. D. R. Calls on Management, Unions To Let Him Settle Railroad Dispute

Railroad Union Heads Confer With President

(Acme Telephoto)

Arriving at the White House for a conference called by President Roosevelt in an effort to avert a nationwide railway strike scheduled for Dec. 30 are these five members of operating railroad brotherhoods. Left to right are T. C. Cashen, president of AFL Switchmen's Union; H. W. Fraser, president of the Order of Railway Conductors; A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; Alvanly Johnston, head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; and D. B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

WAR CANNOT WAIT IS TERSE WARNING FROM PRESIDENT

Decision "Within Law of Land" Promised Quickly if Interest Will Accept.

Washington, Dec. 23 — (U.P.) —The nation's railroads and the largest of five operating unions today accepted an offer by President Roosevelt to settle their wage dispute immediately and avert a general strike scheduled for Dec. 30.

The union, which acceded to Mr. Roosevelt's wishes, voiced earlier in the day at a White House conference, was the Brotherhood of Railway trainmen, headed by A. F. Whitney and representing nearly 150,000 of the 350,000 operating employes.

Washington, Dec. 23—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt today called on railroad management and labor to let him decide their wage dispute immediately, and warned that "the war cannot wait and I cannot wait."

Acting peremptorily to avert a general strike called for Dec. 30, Mr. Roosevelt exacted from rail and union officials an agreement to let him know their answer by 3 p. m. EWT "if possible."

Within Law

"I want to know," he told conferees summoned to the White House, "whether you object to my deciding this controversy immediately and whether you will abide by my decision, which, of course, must be within the law of the land."

"The war cannot wait," Mr. Roosevelt said, "and I cannot wait. American lives and American victory are at stake.

Mr. Roosevelt's phrase, "within the law," apparently meant that he has no intention of making any wage award which would be in conflict with the national stabilization act and the little steel formula.

Insists On Speed

His insistence upon a speedy response appeared to indicate that he was prepared to take strong measures if the unions and railroads rejected his offer of arbitration. Such measures conceivably could take the form of government seizure of the roads, for which Mr. Roosevelt would have the precedent of World War I.

The rail and union officials had been in conference earlier in the day, seeking a wage formula acceptable to them and the government, when they were called to the White House. It was understood they told the president they had been unable to reach an agreement.

AMERICANS WIN TORRID DOGFIGHT WITH NIP FLIERS

Chungking, Dec. 23 — (U.P.) — American fighter pilots blasted a Japanese raiding fleet out of the skies in a furious dogfight over a forward U. S. air base in China yesterday, destroying or damaging 45 of the 58 enemy planes engaged, at a cost of one American fighter, a communique revealed today.

Five other American planes were damaged in the battle and a transport on the airdrome was wrecked but Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault's Flying Dragons accounted for 11 Zeroes and four bombers definitely destroyed, 13 Zeros and three bombers probably downed, and 11 Zeros and three other bombers damaged.

Bombing Bobbled

So effective was the American interception that the enemy bombing formation was able to inflict only minor damage to the airfield installations, in addition to the destruction of the transport.

(A Tokyo broadcast heard by the United Press in San Francisco said Japanese planes "severely damaged" an American airdrome at Kunming yesterday and shot down 18 intercepting U. S. fighters. Only four Japanese planes were lost, according to the enemy version.)

STALINITES TRAP NAZI FORCES IN BALTIC BASTIONS

Moscow, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Russian armies closing against the Baltic front bastions of Vitebsk and Polotsk have trapped many thousands of Germans in the marshlands below Nevel and now are wiping them out in fierce battle of annihilation, field dispatches said today.

The swift advance of Gen. Ivan C. Bagramian's Siberian veterans enveloped a number of German garrisons which stood pat under the illusion that they were safe behind their "iron wall" defenses, front reports said.

Crush Trapped Foe

While the bulk of the first Baltic front troops drove on to within striking distance of Vitebsk and Polotsk, foundation stones of the German defenses, powerful detachments remained behind to crush the trapped Nazis.

The German command threw large forces of tanks and planes into frantic efforts to break the Soviet rings around the garrisons south of Nevel. But they failed to check the Russian campaign of reduction marked by what the press called "terrible hand to hand combats."

Panicky Nazi garrisons which threw their full weight against the Red army cordons were reported beaten back mercilessly to await the death blow.

At one point a Soviet battalion surrounded 1,000 Germans, who counterattacked repeatedly in an effort to rejoin their main forces. Russian infantrymen beat them back with rifle butts, spades and knives, finishing off hundreds in their trenches.

Oregon State College library contains 200,000 volumes.

WINTER STAGES SECOND ATTACK

By United Press

The winter's second Arctic cold wave gripped most of the nation today, moving into the east and south coast states, but the possibility of a white Christmas appeared remote.

The U. S. weather bureau at Chicago said most of the country would be clear of snow for Christmas. Traces of snow will be found only in Northern Michigan, Minnesota and in northern New England, the forecaster said.

The mercury dropped a few more degrees at the cold air mass left the Dakotas and Minnesota and moved across Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The forecaster said it would reach the Atlantic states tonight.

By Christmas Day, he said, there will be considerably milder weather for all sections of the country.

Canton, N. Y., was the nation's coldest spot today with a temperature of 25 degrees below zero.

COUNTER-REVOLUTION REVEALED IN BOLIVIA

Santiago, Chile, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Victor Paz Estenssoro, head of the new revolutionary government of Bolivia, revealed today that counter-revolutionaries attempted unsuccessfully to overthrow his regime soon after it came into power last Monday.

In a telephone interview with the United Press, Estenssoro said the counter-plot was led by Col. David Toro who served as president of Bolivia from May, 1936, to July, 1937.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

L. O. (Doc) Boomer submitting a bill for $5 to Herb Crain for "professional services rendered" during a recent attack of flu.

Pauline Abjayne Champlin enthusiastically describing the good qualities of her snappy WAVE uniform.

Postmaster DeSouza wishing that the owners of numerous gloves, fountain pens, umbrellas and one pair of basketball trunks would call at the office for them.

"New Deal" Title Outmoded President Roosevelt Feels

Washington, Dec. 23—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt feels that the term "new deal"—which has identified his administration since he became chief executive in 1933—is now outmoded and should be discarded in favor of some new slogan more reflective of the war effort, the White House said today.

Questioned about reports that Mr. Roosevelt wanted to abandon the term "new deal," White House Secretary Stephen T. Early said this was so.

"The phrase was born back in the days of 1932 emergency and it was the slogan through the campaign," Early said. "This is now 1943."

Asked recently what he preferred in place of "new deal," Mr. Roosevelt suggested "win the war."

The discarding of the slogan brought quick Republican retort. Harrison E. Spangler, chairman of the Republican National committee issued a statement inquiring whether "the leopard can change his spots."

"Evidently Mr. Roosevelt thinks so when he tells the press that he wants to get away from the tattered emblem 'new deal'," Spangler said.

No Christmas Rush For Marriage Here

So far there has been no Christmas rush at the county clerk's office for marriage licenses. December applications to date have been average, with eight issued one day last week for the highest of the month. The final week of the year, in the past has been a brisk one for matrimonial ventures.

New Radio Tubes Forthcoming Soon

Washington, Dec. 23—(U.P.)—The War Production board today moved to correct a situation whereby thousands of radio sets have been "blacked out" by limited supplies of radio tubes.

The board announced that at least 4,500,000 tubes of critical types for civilian receiving sets have been scheduled for production in the first quarter of 1944. Officials added that tubes will continue to reach civilian outlets in increasing quantities as the new program progresses.

Fields' Gardener Pronounced Sane

Hollywood, Dec. 23 — (U.P.) — Gaetano Falciani, 35, former gardener for British comedienne Gracie Fields, today was pronounced sane by the same jury which several days ago convicted him of first degree murder in the slaying of pretty Violet Van Someren, 33, Miss Fields' former secretary.

Under the verdict Falciani faces a life sentence recommended by the jury, unless a motion for a new trial is granted.

Raid On Kunming Costly For Japs

By United Press

The Chungking radio reported today that defense fighters and anti-aircraft gunners shot down more than 20 of 95 Japanese planes which attempted to attack Kunming yesterday.

Many bombs fell on a southeastern suburb of the city, according to the broadcast recorded by the United States foreign broadcast intelligence service.

WAC LIEUTENANT IS GRANTS PASS GIRL

Lt. Dorcas "Shelton," reported in yesterday's paper to be a Medford girl stationed in a WAC unit at Dallas, Texas, was identified by a local friend today as Dorcas Sheldon of Grants Pass. Her name was incorrectly spelled in a press release, and efforts made to locate local relatives yesterday were without avail. Lt. Sheldon attended school in Grants Pass, and was a reporter on the Courier there for several years.

SEVEN CONVICTED IN CONSPIRACY TO MILK FILM FIRMS

New York, Dec. 23—(U.P.)—A labor leader and six Chicago gangsters, convicted of conspiracy charges to extort $1,000,000 from the film industry, were at liberty today under $100,000 bail each until December 30 when they will receive sentences that may range up to 10 years in prison.

A federal court jury of nine men and three women found the group guilty last night after deliberating slightly more than 10 hours.

Defendants were Louis Kaufman, business manager for the Newark local of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, and six former members of the Al Capone gang, John Roselli, Louis Campagna, Phil D'Andrea, Francis Maritote,, Paul De Lucia and Charles Gioe.

Three other men were indicted with the group last March One of them, Frank Nitti, another Capone follower, shot himself the day the indictment was handed down; Nick (Dean) Circella pleaded guilty and charges against Ralph Pierce, also a reputed member of the Capone gang, were dismissed last month.

The principal government witnesses were William Bioff and George E. Browne, former officials of the Iatse and both serving terms for extortion. They testified that the seven defendants had shared in the receipts from a $1,00,000 shakedown of west coast movie studios, which Bioff and Browne said was to keep the union members "in line."

LATE DELIVERIES ON PARCEL POST

Delivery of parcel post Christmas packages will continue Friday evening until midnight according to an announcement today by Frank DeSouza, Medford postmaster. Christmas Day there will be one parcel post delivery made in the city, the postmaster said, and special delivery packages and letters will be taken out both Christmas Day and Sunday.

While the mail has been heavy, the load has been much more evenly distributed than in past years, Mr. DeSouza stated, and added that this was due considerably to the early mailing. Each day the crew, even though reduced in size because of influenza, has been able to handle that day's business with no accumulation of carry-over, he said.

Nazis Driven From Ortona In House to House Battle

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 23—(U.P.)—Canadian assault forces have carried the bloody battle of Ortona into its final phase, driving the Germans from most of the Adriatic port into its northwest outskirts in house to house fighting, it was revealed today.

While the Adriatic wing of the German defenses in Italy crumbled under British imperial pressure, American troops battling to lay open the Rome road slogged through the rain-soaked mountains above Cassino to capture two more commanding heights.

French forces manning the Fifth army front northwest of Venafro came back strongly after suffering a slight reverse and scored new gains in the 3,000-foot mountains.

Canadian units spearheading the ceaseless assault by Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth army had all but cracked the extreme northeastern end of Marshal Albert Kesseling's transpeninsula line.

Slowly but inexorably the tank-supported Canadian shock units battered through the streets of Ortona, the Adriatic anchor of the German line, wrestling from the desperately resisting Nazis all but the extreme northwest edge of the town.

The Germans, fighting with a desperation born of necessity, threw parachute units into the Adriatic battle to fight as infantry. They knew full well that if they were forced back along the coast their entire position in Central Italy would be threatened and their Rome defenses laid open to a possible flanking attack.

FLU FATAL FOR PRESIDENT ERB OF UNIVERSITY

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Dr. Donald Milton Erb, 43, president of the University of Oregon, died at 1 p. m. today from a severe case of influenza and pneumonia after being taken to a local hospital with a heavy cold Tuesday.

The educator, who became president of the University at the age of 37, in 1938, to be the institution's youngest president, went to a hospital Tuesday with a heavy cold. He had worked at his office until last Friday.

Blood transfusions, penicillin and sulfa drugs failed to save his life.

Erb was born Aug. 3, 1900, at Brooklyn, N. Y. He was educated in public schools of Wooster, O., and Chicago. He graduated from the University of Illinois, receiving his bachelor of science degree in 1922 and his master of science degree from the same school in 1924.

He received his master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from Harvard.

While at Harvard he was appointed a Thayer fellow and won the coveted Ricardo prize for outstanding work in economics.

He came to the University of Oregon in 1927 as assistant economics professor and returned in 1930 as professor. He was associate professor at Stanford university and later acting head of the sociology and economics department there.

While at Stanford in 1937 he was hired by the Oregon state board of higher education to replace Dr. Clarence Valentine Boxer.

He was the seventh president of the university.

His widow is the former Roxane Catherine Stewart of Quincy, Ill. He is also survived by two daughters, Barbara, 19, a sophomore at the university, and Elizabeth Jean, 11, and parents, Mr and Mrs. John Lawrence Erb, New York city, where his father is a nationally known organist and composer.

F. R. BROADCAST NOON TOMORROW

Washington, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—The White House said today that President Roosevelt's radio address to the nation and the armed forces tomorrow will have the widest broadcast circulation of any speech he has ever made.

Mr. Roosevelt's speech is timed for 12 noon PWT from his home at Hyde Park, N. Y. It will be carried by all American networks and overseas.

Members of the American armed forces throughout the world will be able to hear the address either when it is delivered or when it is rebroadcast tomorrow night at 7 p. m. PWT.

FEED IMPORT DUTIES LIFTED FOR PERIOD

Washington, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt today signed a bill which lifts for three months the import duties on feed for poultry and livestock. The measure is designed to alleviate the present shortage of domestic feeds.

Railroad Crisis In Next Months

Washington, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Director Joseph B. Eastman of the office of defense transportation said today that rail transportation faces a crisis in the next few months, but that "if we can get by safely, we will be over the hump for the rest of the year."

Eastman told a senate interstate commerce subcommittee that the coming months would be critical because of increased troop movements and industrial, food and grain shipments which will "place a heavy strain on the railway facilities."

TWO THIEVES

Boston, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Police searched today for two thieves—one who stole a hearse and another who stole a harp.

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.