

Weather
Cloudy with occasional light rain tonight, becoming showery Tuesday. Little change in temperature.
Temperature
Highest yesterday 44
Lowest this morning 35

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

MARINES TIGHTEN RABAU NOOSE

As Allied Soldiers Took Over Mono Island in Solomons



After a heavy bombardment by U. S. naval forces last October, Allied forces are shown as they made an amphibious landing on Mono Island, in the Treasury group, and began their search for enemy pillboxes. On the beach in foreground lies an Allied fighter killed by the Japs. Official U. S. Navy photo.

AMERICANS MAKE NEW LANDINGS IN VICINITY OF BASE

Seizure of Beachheads Accomplished With Almost No Loss of Men, Planes.

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Strong forces of U. S. marines, tightening the allied blockade of Rabaul, swept ashore unopposed at the northwestern tip of New Britain at 7:45 a. m. Sunday and seized beachheads on both sides of Cape Gloucester, a special communique announced today.

Other marines, like the main forces veterans of Guadalcanal, simultaneously occupied Long Island, 80 miles west of Cape Gloucester and 80 miles east of the big Japanese base of Madang on the northern shore of New Guinea.

Complete Control
The twin invasions, coming only 11 days after elements of the Sixth U. S. Army landed on the southwest coast of New Britain, completed the allied control of the southwestern approaches to Rabaul, 275 miles northeast of Cape Gloucester.

Swarms of Japanese planes roared in to attack soon after the marines had established beachheads on both sides of a network of airfields on Cape Gloucester, but protecting allied fighters shot down 61 of them—36 bombers and 25 fighters—for a loss of only seven of their own.

A small escort vessel, sunk by a direct bomb hit and the damaging of other craft were the only allied shipping losses from the raids, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur's special communique jubilantly proclaimed:

Practically No Loss
"The landing was made with practically no loss of ships, planes or men."

(The Japanese radio indirectly acknowledged that the Americans had established beachheads on Cape Gloucester in a broadcast Sunday, when it said Japanese planes had raided "enemy positions" on the cape.)

American and Australian cruisers joined Liberator and Mitchell bombers in the final phase of a terrific air and sea bombardment that completely pulverized Japanese ground defenses on Cape Gloucester, paving the way for the unopposed landing.

The air phase actually covered 11 days, during which allied bombers dropped 2,500 tons of explosives and fired thousands of rounds of ammunition into the area in the heaviest and most sustained air offensive ever mounted against a single target in the southwest Pacific.

Growing Steel Strike Brings Gravest Labor Crisis of War

SNELL WON'T CALL SPECIAL SESSION FOR VET BENEFIT

Governor Not Satisfied Emergency Exists—High Cost Cited, Uncertainties.

Salem, Ore., Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Gov. Earl Snell indicated in a radio broadcast last night that he would not accede to a request by Multnomah county legislators and call a special session of the legislature to set up a \$10,000,000 veterans' fund.

The Multnomah contingent, prompted by the Portland chapter of American War Dads, sought a special session to revoke a 1943 measure allowing a 75 per cent reduction in the state income tax to finance the fund. It also asks that the session consider moving forward from November to May the date on which the people will vote on the sales tax.

Doubts Listed
In his answer to the special session proposal Gov. Snell flatly stated he was not satisfied that an emergency exists, that the people of the state want the session. That the legislature would reverse its March decision to reduce the tax, or that the session would accomplish what its proponents want it to do.

He cited the high cost of such a session and pointed out that the lawmakers, if called, would not be restricted to passing any given number of measures. "The state post-war readjustment and development committee has now listed tentative, final and prospective projects totaling some \$300,000,000," the governor said. "In some instances appropriations have already been made. Others have been authorized, while still others are in the formative stage."

Plans Submitted
Gov. Snell said he had submitted several plans for veterans' benefits after the war, but that, despite its excellent record in approving such aids, the legislature had not passed all of them.

"Is there any evidence that a majority of the 90 members of both houses will change its mind, or that it will take from the people the income tax reductions voted some nine months ago?" he asked.

U. S. WILL POSTPONE BOLIVIA ACCEPTANCE
Washington, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—The United States announced today that it will not recognize new governments in this hemisphere that are "instituted by force"—such as the new Bolivian regime—without prior consultation with the other American republics.

By Harrison Salisbury
United Press Staff Correspondent
Tehran, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Germany has a 50-50 chance to survive the winter and still be fighting in the spring in the opinion of United Nations military leaders, who are convinced that the European war is entering its last phase.

Japan, they believe, is a different story. Their opinion is about evenly divided with some of them believing a long, arduous Pacific war lies ahead and others holding the theory that Japan will crumble once Germany is defeated.

War Theaters Toured
This summation is based not only upon a personal inspection which has taken this correspond-

SCHARNHORST IS SENT TO BOTTOM BY BRITISH GUNS

Destruction of Big Battleship Robs Germany's Force of Last Capital Ship.

London, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—A naval spokesman revealed today that the destruction of the 26,000-ton Nazi battleship Scharnhorst in a running battle with British warships on the Murmansk convoy route, cut the striking power of Germany's once-formidable surface fleet to two pocket battleships and some small cruisers.

Confirming unofficial reports that both the 41,000-ton Tirpitz and the 26,000-ton Gneisenau had been knocked out by previous British attacks, Adm. Sir William James, chief of British naval information, said the loss of the Scharnhorst left the Germans without a single capital ship in fighting trim.

Only the thinly-armored and relatively slow 10,000-ton pocket battleships Lutzow and Admiral Scheer are now left to oppose the Allied navies, James said. The elusive Graf Zeppelin is the only known aircraft carrier from which the Nazis can provide air cover for their puny surface fleet.

James said the sinking of the Scharnhorst would ease the task of the British home fleet—to contain the German fleet and prevent it from raiding Allied convoy routes—and it was expected that the victory would tip the scales even more strongly toward the United States and Britain in the coming naval showdown with Japan in the Pacific.

"Through all these long years our main fleet has had to be ready at a moment's notice when in harbor and has been at sea whenever convoys have been within striking distance of German ships in northern Norway," he said.

3 RESTAURANTS USE UP RATIONS

Three Medford restaurants have had their ration accounts temporarily closed by the district OPA headquarters for over-drawing of their ration accounts according to a notice sent to the local war price and rationing board. It was pointed out that the restaurants need not close their doors but that they would be able to serve only unrationed foods until their ration accounts were balanced one more.

Other restaurants owners were warned that ration accounts must be kept balanced.

Two Christmas Babes Born Here

Two Christmas babies were reported this morning, both born Christmas day at Community Hospital. Parents of the infants are Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Stonehocker of Rt. 2, box 408, who have an eight-pound girl, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hyde of 730 W. 14th street who are the parents of an 8-pound boy.

VATUTIN'S ARMY DRIVES TO WEST ON WIDE FRONT

Moscow, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin's army of the Ukraine swept westward on a 50-mile front against the Zhitomir-Korosten railroad today, pressing a new offensive in the Kiev salient which in three days had regained almost two-thirds of the territory lost in five weeks.

Vatutin's drive had ended a German threat at Kiev, and had set the Russian forces of the northwest Ukraine again striking out toward the prewar Polish border some 75 miles beyond their battle line.

Nazi Losses Heavy
The Russians reported that the abortive German counter-offensive had cost the Nazis more than 10 Panzer divisions or in excess of 1,000 tanks, along with at least six infantry divisions which at full strength would approach 100,000 men.

A Pravda dispatch said the path of the advancing Russians was littered with heaps of bodies, knocked-out tanks and vehicles, and abandoned German weapons.

FLEEING CONVICTS HUNTED BY COPS

San Quentin, Cal., Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Police and deputies followed two trails of automobile and clothing thefts today in a wide-spread search for four young Los Angeles robbers who escaped from San Quentin prison by breaking away from a church service waiting line and scaling the wall with a hand-woven rope.

The fugitives are Austin D. Redford, 20, and Roy Drake, 19, members of a four-man gang, which robbed the Beverly Hills hotel of \$100,000 in cash and jewelry last February; and Ralph Ward, 22, robber, and Lawrence Montari, 21, burglar. Redford and Drake have a bad prison record.

Seizure Imminent
Government seizure of the railroad appeared imminent, and the president was expected to take drastic action if the steel strike is not settled soon.

The steel workers, with no back-to-work order from union officials, ignored the president's appeal for "uninterrupted production" made before he left his Hyde Park home last night. He promised the workers that any wage adjustment reached in new contracts would be retroactive to midnight Dec. 24 when the contracts governing 350,000 members of the CIO's United Steel Workers union expired.

HOPKINS DENIES WILLKIE LETTER
Washington, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Harry Hopkins, presidential adviser, today described as "forgery" a letter allegedly signed by him and addressed to Dr. Humphrey Lee, president of Southern Methodist University, predicting that Wendell L. Willkie would be the 1944 republican presidential nominee.

Hopkins said the Federal Bureau of Investigation at his request was investigating the letter. It was made public by C. Nelson Sparks, former mayor of Akron, O., and author of a book entitled "One Man—Wendell Willkie."

W.L.B. AGREES TO SPECIAL SESSION TO EYE DEMANDS

Meeting Tonight Will Act on CIO's Request For Retroactive Wage Increases.

Washington, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—The 13 non-operating railway unions today called off the nationwide strike they had scheduled to begin Thursday.

The unions made public a letter to President Roosevelt reporting that they had reached substantial agreement with management representatives on their wage dispute and were leaving to the president the decision on how overtime pay should be distributed.

The non-operating unions embrace about 1,100,000 employees.

(By United Press)
A steel strike, spreading through seven states where 135,000 workers remained away from their jobs, today precipitated one of the gravest labor crises since Pearl Harbor.

President Roosevelt returned to Washington from a holiday vacation at Hyde Park to take personal charge of the situation which developed while members of three operating and 13 non-operating railroad unions threatened to tie up war production by walking off their jobs Dec. 30.

Pledged By F. D. R.
The War Labor board called a special session for 7 p. m. EWT at Washington to act on the CIO's United Steel Workers union's demands that any wage increase be made retroactive. The president already had pledged retroactive wages in an appeal from Hyde Park for the striking workers to return to their jobs.

The steel workers claimed that they were not on strike, but were protesting the WLB's action in denying them a 17 cents an hour wage hike—a demand far in excess of the president's anti-inflation formula.

Meanwhile, the strike spread to Buffalo, N. Y., where 500 employees of the Republic Steel corporation refused to work after reporting for the morning shift.

Seizure Imminent
Government seizure of the railroad appeared imminent, and the president was expected to take drastic action if the steel strike is not settled soon.

The steel workers, with no back-to-work order from union officials, ignored the president's appeal for "uninterrupted production" made before he left his Hyde Park home last night. He promised the workers that any wage adjustment reached in new contracts would be retroactive to midnight Dec. 24 when the contracts governing 350,000 members of the CIO's United Steel Workers union expired.

HOPKINS DENIES WILLKIE LETTER
Washington, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Harry Hopkins, presidential adviser, today described as "forgery" a letter allegedly signed by him and addressed to Dr. Humphrey Lee, president of Southern Methodist University, predicting that Wendell L. Willkie would be the 1944 republican presidential nominee.

Hopkins said the Federal Bureau of Investigation at his request was investigating the letter. It was made public by C. Nelson Sparks, former mayor of Akron, O., and author of a book entitled "One Man—Wendell Willkie."

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon



Washington, Dec. 27.—Mr. Roosevelt is getting ready to veto the tax bill, inner signs are fairly conclusive.

Secretary Morgenthau held back his extraordinary censure of the senate bill until Mr. Roosevelt returned from abroad, and he had a chance to run over to the White House to see that the President wanted to go that far with him. Furthermore, what has been published of his remarks was only half as caustic as his off-the-record assault.

The administration no doubt considers it safe and good politics to take a big stand against anything like the senate or the house bills—for several reasons. Frankly, the revenue is diminishing and revenue increasing, so that only half the war cost will be deficit. Then, only about a billion of net additional revenue is now promised in the bill if you deduct the billion lost by discarding the automatic increase in social security taxes (all taxmakers now speak of a billion dollars as mere chicken feed).

But best political point for a campaign year revolves around congressional efforts to restrict the administration's policy on renegotiation (cutting down costs) of war contracts. It should be popular to howl interminably against "war profiteers getting away with millions in war profits" (as Mr. Morgenthau has).

FACTS of this situation are these:
War Under-secretary Patterson has testified that while renegotiation has recovered \$5,300,000,000 for the government, all

(Continued on Page Four)

Washington, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—A squadron of the navy's newest bombers—the Curtiss Helldiver—went into combat action for the first time in the Nov. 11 raid on Rabaul and "was responsible for the bulk of the extensive damage toll taken on enemy shipping," the navy revealed today.

SIDE GLANCES
By TRIBUNE REPORTERS
Maurice Spatz leaving for the Bay City to spend a few days at a hotel named the Maurice.
Susie Bagley willing away the time waiting for Santa Claus by touring several "open houses."

Victory in Europe in 1944 Is Eisenhower's Assurance

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, newly appointed commander of the allied armies massing for invasion of western Europe, declared confidently today that "we will win the European war in 1944."

YANKS POUR DOWN APENNINE SLOPES AT NAZIS' HEELS

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—American troops have captured two more strategic Italian heights and today were reported pouring down the Apennine slopes toward the Cassino Plain in pursuit of German forces falling back along the road to Rome.

The tide of a bitter battle in the Mount Sammuoro region of the Fifth Army had turned in favor of the hard fighting Americans, and they now were pressing down the mountainside overlooking San Vittore, six miles southeast of Cassino.

Canadians Gain
Across the Apennine spine in the Adriatic sector, Canadian assault forces wrested two more city blocks from the Germans putting up a "Little Stalingrad" fight in the outskirts of Ortona, while Indian troops captured the village of Villa Grande, two miles to the southwest.

The Imperials smashed two tank-supporting German columns preparing to counter-attack in the Adriatic area, where the fighting blazed up along a 12-mile front inland to Orsogna.

Tanks Fired
The Canadians moved in tanks to batter down German strong-points in the northwest edge of Ortona and beat off a Nazi attempt to filter into the southwest section of the city.

Columns of smoke rising from Tallo, southwest of Ortona, indicated that the Germans were razing the village preparatory to evacuating it in what may amount to a general fall-back along the Adriatic.

Dog Tax \$3 After Penalty Is Added
County Clerk George Carter today clarified an announcement made last week concerning dog licenses for the year 1944.

Licenses for both male and female dogs are the same price, \$1, if purchased between Jan. 1 and March 1. After March 1 a penalty of \$2 will be added, making the total price \$3.

San Francisco's post-war "work pile" has reached a total of \$54,428,075 worth of jobs to be done as soon as the war is over.

TOJO TELLS OF MINOR CHANGES

By United Press
Premier General Hideki Tojo, speaking as war minister, addressed the 84th session of the Japanese diet today that "there have been minor changes in certain sectors," but declared that the Japanese army and navy were maintaining and consolidating their strategic offensive positions.

Japanese troops, Tojo said, are dealing "crushing" blows to allied forces in every encounter and are "fighting toward the successful consummation of the war."

The Tokyo radio, in a broadcast recorded by the OWI, said that Tojo subsequently addressed the house of representatives and that the diet went into recess until Jan. 20, thus completing the session.

CUPID TAKES SPURT DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
The business of Dan Cupid, which has been slack during most of December, took a spurt last Friday and nine licenses were issued by the county clerk's office. It was the biggest day of the month so far. Most of the licenses issued last week were to soldiers and their brides.

SPANIARD HERE TO SPY GIVEN YEAR IN PRISON
New York, Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Carlos de Vejarano Y Cassina, a Spanish nobleman, who pleaded guilty last week to acting as a foreign agent with registering with the state department, was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison by Federal Judge John W. Clancy today.

De Vejarano, who claims relationship to the Duke of Alba and was a lieutenant in Francisco's army during the Spanish Civil War, admitted he had contacted German Intelligence officers in St. Jean De Luz, occupied France, before coming to the United States in 1940.