

Weather
Forecast: Occasional light rains tonight and Wednesday. Little temperature change.
Temp. — 51
Lowest this morning — 39
Precipitation past 24 hrs. — 0

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REDS RIP DEEP INTO NAZI LINES

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon



Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 28.—The official headlines have cheered us with almost daily victories through 1943, but any sober contemplation of 1944 must make us look behind them at the reality of our war effort.

In Italy, the Pacific, the Philippines, the New Guinea, we have been engaged in costly fighting, brave but token-scale fighting. A very small fraction of our massive army has even now—after a month more than two years after war started—seen the enemy. There have been official estimates that 2,500,000 (possibly about a third of our preparing army) will be overseas by New Year's day.

Official pronouncements disclose that we had four divisions in action in Tunisia, five in Sicily, and four or five in Italy—about 60,000 to 75,000 men fighting at a time.

About half these divisions have carried on through, so that only half of them may be assumed to be additional troops. These considerations would furnish an estimate that a little over 100,000 men had yet seen action on this front.

On Guadalcanal and in the Solomons, three different divisions have been mentioned. In New Guinea, elements of two more have been officially declared. A division is supposed to have been involved at Attu.

Thus in the Pacific, the estimate could be safely placed at around 90,000 in action, plus the 19,000 regulars who fought for the Philippines.

CERTAINLY few more than 200,000 troops—one tenth of the land force supposed to be overseas now, and only an infinitesimal 2 1/2 per cent of the army (Continued on Page Four)

APPEAL FILED IN RAY RESTRAINER

Salem, Ore., Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—An appeal was filed in the state supreme court today from a Multnomah circuit court order restraining Tom Ray of Portland, business agent and secretary of the Boilermakers' union, from acting as an official of the union.

An order signed by Circuit Judge E. M. Page enjoining Ray from his duties as secretary of the union. The action was brought by Otto W. Mursener, official of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

The court ordered Mursener and the International Brotherhood to establish bond of \$100,000 to protect Ray in event the court's enjoiner proved wrong.

Ration On Sugar Holds Unchanged

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Sugar rations for home use will remain unchanged for another two and a half months it was disclosed today as the Office of Price Administration announced validity dates for sugar stamp number 30 in ration book four.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS
Bob Kyle, Sr., reminiscing about World War I when he joined both the navy and the army.

Jean Luckey maintaining that it was more romantic to cut the family Christmas tree in the forest instead of merely buying one from the corner lot.

GERMANS LEAVE 4,000 DEAD IN ZHITOMIR AREA

Allies Consolidate Mountain Positions Overlooking Road to Rome in Italy.

By United Press

A two-pronged Russian winter offensive, gathering momentum almost hourly, ripped deep into the German defenses guarding the approaches to Poland and Rumania today, while allied forces in Italy bent back the Nazi lines on the Adriatic coast and consolidated their mountain positions overlooking the central road to Rome.

Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin's 1st Ukrainian army, estimated by Berlin at 500,000 men and 1,000 tanks, surged forward 14 miles along a 20-mile front west of Kiev, piling up huge German casualties in the center and southern wing of the enemy lines and engulfing another 100 towns and villages.

Nazis Reel Back

The hard-pressed German forces, weakened by their abortive six-week counteroffensive, reeled back in disorder toward Zhitomir and its companion junction towns of Berdichev and Kazatin, leaving more than 4,000 dead and scores of wrecked or captured tanks behind.

One Soviet column closing in from the southeast thrust to within 16 miles of Zhitomir and captured the railroad town of Stepan, only 75 miles from Poland's prewar frontier.

Another advanced spearhead burst into Vechershe, 24 miles east of Berdichev and 135 miles northeast of the Rumanian border, capturing huge stores of arms and ammunition abandoned by the fleeing enemy.

Beat Nazis Down

In northern White Russia, the second Soviet winter offensive beat down savage German resistance around the key railroad town of Vitebsk and converged on that stronghold from the northwest, northeast, and south.

More than 2,000 German troops were killed in one sector of the Vitebsk area alone and the fast-driving Red armies beat down as many as 20 separate enemy counterattacks. With the main Moscow-Riga railroad line east of Vitebsk cut by the Russian siege arc, the Nazi garrison was dependent entirely on the high-way line running south of Vitebsk and the evacuation of the town appeared imminent.

Russian forces also were on the attack in the northern half of the Dnieper bend after smashing repeated German counterattacks in the Kirovograd sector.

Cold In Italy

In Italy, American, British, and French Moroccan troops, fighting in bitterly cold weather, battered steadily at the Nazi defenses guarding the inland road to Rome.

American 5th army troops captured two more enemy strong-points on Mount Samucro and brought the strategically important village of San Vittore under complete Allied observation. Advanced elements of the American wing consolidated their positions less than 1 1/2 miles from the village.

Berlin reports said German troops abandoned Ortona last night.

KLAMATH FLIER PRESUMED DEAD

Santa Barbara, Cal., Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Second Lt. Kenneth Cameron Wilson, marine flier from Klamath Falls, Ore., was reported missing and presumed dead today by officials of the marine corps air station.

Wilson's Torpedo bomber collided in midair with another while on a routine training flight Sunday 30 miles at sea over the Santa Barbara channel. The pilot of the other plane parachuted to the ocean and was picked up by fishermen.

General Marshall Back in U. S.



Inspecting the huge Douglas aircraft plant at Long Beach, Calif., is General George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff, shown here with factory head, Donald Douglas. The inspection took place upon Marshall's return to this country from the Cairo and Teheran conferences and other war zones.

Scharnhorst Sunk While Menacing Allied Convoy

London, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—The admiralty revealed today that an outgunned British cruiser force intercepted the 26,000-ton German battleship Scharnhorst off Norway's North Cape Sunday and forced the big enemy raider to break off an attempted raid on a Russia-bound Allied convoy.

Disclosing for the first time details of the spectacular Arctic naval battle that ended in the death of the Nazi battleship—the last seaworthy capital ship in the German navy—the admiralty said the Scharnhorst finally was sent to the bottom by a torpedo launched by the 8,000-ton cruiser Jamaica.

Contact At Dawn

The first contact with the giant German surface raider was made in the half-light of the Arctic dawn Sunday, when the 9,925-ton cruiser Norfolk intercepted the Scharnhorst driving toward the convoy in an attempt to bring her big guns to bear on the helpless merchantmen.

The Norfolk moved into range and opened up with her eight-inch guns, scoring at least one hit on the raider, which then turned back to the south and headed at top speed for the shelter of the Norwegian fjords, despite the fact that she mounted main batteries of nine eleven-inch guns.

The Norfolk and supporting cruisers and destroyers from the convoy escort closed in behind the fleeing raider and chased her southward for several hours before drawing within range again.

In the subsequent exchange, the Norfolk suffered one shell hit aft, but the British flotilla clung to the chase and after dark the destroyers raced in close to drive three torpedoes into the hull of the Scharnhorst, forcing it to reduce speed. The Scharnhorst finally went down at 7:45 p. m.

Some survivors were picked up from the water, but the admiralty gave no indication as to how many of the 1,400 officers and men aboard the Scharnhorst were rescued.

STORM WARNING

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—The weather bureau announced today that it has posted small craft warning on the California coast from Point Arguello to the Oregon border and in the San Francisco bay region.

Radio Highlights

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson will explain the army's operation of the nation's railroads in a radio address tonight at 7 o'clock, EWT. The four major radio networks will carry the address.

Transcriptions will be re-broadcast in western states at 7 p. m., PWT.

Army Prepares to Use Soldiers If Railroad Men Stage Strike; End of Steel Walkout Ordered

AMERICA USING SECRET WEAPONS KNOX DISCLOSES

Japs and Nazis Feel Sting of Gadgets Not Known to Them; Achievements Told

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—American secret weapons are being employed against the Germans and Japanese, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said today.

This disclosure was made in a summary of the past year's achievements of the various navy bureaus, released by Knox at his news conference.

Discussing the work of the Bureau of Ordnance, Knox said:

Navy Not Idle

"In the field of new weapons, or secret weapons, the navy has by no means been idle. The Japanese especially have felt the sting of weapons which although greatly improved, nevertheless are of conventional types. Japanese and Nazi alike, however, also have felt destruction wrought by weapons not known to them, and will continue to do so."

Knox also revealed that there are six times as many aircraft carriers, including the escort carriers, in commission as there were when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and that the carrier's offensive sting has been greatly increased by the Corsair and Hellcat fighters, the most powerful carrier-based fighting planes in the world.

Big Pilot Increase

Knox said that twice as many pilots were trained this year as last and that the total number of navy pilots now is five times the total of two years ago. Two and one half times as many navy planes were built during the second year of war as in 1942, of which 75 per cent were combat types compared with 60 per cent a year ago.

INVASION JITTERS HIT NAZIS ANEW

London, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—German radio broadcasts and reports from neutral capitals indicated today that a new attack of invasion jitters has gripped Nazi military commanders, defending the coastal outposts of Hitler's European fortress.

Apparently alarmed by intensified Allied invasion preparations and the appointment of a supreme Anglo-American command to direct the final assault on Europe, the Germans were said to be hurriedly reinforcing their defenses from Norway to the Dodecanese islands.

AMERICAN EQUIPMENT PROVES SUPERIORITY

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—A staff officer said today that the Italian campaign had proved the superiority of Allied tanks and tank destroyers over corresponding German equipment.

Captain Vincent Ruwet of Torrington, Conn., member of the headquarters staff assigned to training plans, said the fighting in Italy had established the value of the Allied training technique and had shown the infantry to be the "queen of battles."

NO PAPER JAN. 2

In order to conserve paper under the government's rationing program, the Mail-Tribune will not publish on Sunday, Jan. 2.

U. S. Submarines Bag 12 More Jap Ships

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—American submarines have sunk 12 more Japanese ships in a continuation of crippling assault on the enemy's heavily-burdened supply lines, the navy announced today.

The latest victims of the U. S. navy's undersea fleet included a destroyer, seven freighters, two large tankers and two medium-sized transports.

They brought to 536 the total of Japanese ships hit by submarines in this war—388 sunk, 36 probably sunk and 114 damaged. The 12 latest Japanese victims

were the largest number covered in a single U. S. navy announcement in some months.

There has been increasing evidence that Japan's shipbuilding industry has been unable to keep pace with the losses inflicted on its merchant fleet by American submarines. Well over one-third of Japan's merchant tonnage has been destroyed and reports from the southwest Pacific showed that they have become largely dependent upon barges for transport and supply. These have been especially vulnerable to aerial bombing and strafing.

DESTROYER LOSS OFF NEW BRITAIN IS TOLD BY KNOX

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—The navy announced today that an American destroyer was sunk in the landings on Cape Gloucester, New Britain Island, and this was the only U. S. ship lost in the operation.

Secretary of Navy Frank Knox had announced earlier at his press conference that a small coastal transport also was sunk, but the navy said it was later learned the transport was only damaged.

The loss of the destroyer brought to 134 the total of American vessels lost in this way and occurred during the Japanese air attack which followed the initial landings.

Casualties Untold
Knox said that the navy had not received any information on casualties in the destroyer sinking and he did not disclose the name of the warship. The transport he described as a small craft only 100 feet long.

Knox at his press conference called attention to the "usually extravagant" Japanese claims that they had sunk two American heavy cruisers and two large transports, and heavily damaged three other large transports in the latest New Britain operations last week end.

Palmer Hoyt Raps Officials Who Try Fright Psychology

New York, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—Palmer Hoyt, director of the domestic branch of the Office of War Information, today sharply criticized the high but unidentified government official who last week predicted heavy American war casualties in the next 90 days as a means of combating complacency on the home front.

He declared that fast, realistic reporting of both defeats and victories—such as the hard-hitting newspaper accounts of the bloody battle for Tarawa—would do more to drive home the seriousness of the war than all the lectures of all the high government officials concerned.

In what may be his last speech before returning next month to his post as publisher of the Portland Oregonian, Hoyt told the New York sales executive group that he disagreed with those Washington officials who felt that the way to offset overconfidence was by "lecturing or frightening the people."

"Only the other day, the news-

GEN. SOMERVELL IN COMMAND OF SEIZED RAILWAYS

Penalties To Be Invoked Against Strikers Under Smith-Connally Law.

Washington, Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—The army is prepared to operate the nation's railroads with soldiers in event of strike and impose penalties against strikers under the Smith-Connally labor act and other laws, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell declared today.

These statements were made at a news conference while three rail unions still were standing, technically at least, on a strike call for Dec. 30.

Doubt Strike
It was generally believed, however, that the three holdout unions ultimately will rescind the strike call as 17 other rail unions already have done.

Meanwhile, the danger of a general steel strike appeared to have been averted as workers responded to government and union orders that they end a week-end stoppage and go back to the mills.

Stimson and Somervell said their sole objective was to keep the railroads running so that the war would not be interrupted. Somervell, commander of the army service forces, was placed in charge of the railroads when the government took them over last night.

Conditions Fused
Wages and working conditions that existed as of 7 p. m. last night will be frozen for the duration of the army's control, they said. These included awards of wages to the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Engineers under the president's arbitration.

Stimson quoted from a letter written by Gen. Henry H. Arnold, commander of the army air forces, which stated that the railroad strike would have the effect of "virtually paralyzing the war effort of the army air forces." He said the seriousness could not be exaggerated.

The strike would immediately stop the flow of army air force technical supplies, the export of drum gasoline, and exhaust the supply of aviation fuel in the United States in five days.

Each day's interruption of railroad traffic from strikes, Arnold said, would represent the equivalent of the loss of a day's production of about 300 airplanes which could never be made up.

Would Cripple Army
Somervell said Arnold's appraisal of the effect on the air force would apply equally to the ground and service forces and interrupt the movement of troops overseas.

Somervell said army officers and men with railroad experience were being assembled at key points so they could be used if necessary in operation of the railroads. He said it was the intention to use them as necessary to supplement railroad men who chose to stay on the job. Those who want to work would not be replaced.

Somervell said security arrangements were under the authority of the nine service commands. He said no move was being made to augment the military police now assigned to railway property, but this would be done if necessary.

The railroads as of 7 p. m. last night became federal property to which federal law applies. Somervell said the Smith-Connally anti-strike act and conspiracy acts specifically would apply to strikers.