

REDS REACH BUDAPEST SUBURBS

Weather

Forecast: Clearer tonight and Thursday, but foggy in morning; cold tonight; slightly warmer Thursday afternoon.
Highest yesterday 48
Lowest this morning 22

MEDFORD

United Press—Full Leased Wire



TRIBUNE

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Thirty-ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1944

Nov. 201.

Yanks Storm Last Ridge Before Metz

GERMANS PUT UP DESPERATE FIGHT TO KEEP BASTION

Last Mile Promises To Be Tough, Bloody As Defenders Throw In Troops

Paris, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—American troops today stormed a spiny ridge 2000 yards south of Metz, the last natural defense line before the city, and the Germans threw reinforcements into a desperate action to stave off the fall of the massive fortress as long as possible.

United Press correspondent Colie Small reported from outside Metz that the Americans were so close to Metz on the south this evening that they could hear its five o'clock factory whistles.

Last Mile Tough
The last mile to Metz, however, promised to be tough and bloody, Small reported, since truckloads of German troops came out of Metz to the perimeter defenses under cover of a swirling fog and joined the showdown battle.

After Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's forces had seized three more major outposts of Metz and narrowed the Nazi escape corridor to seven miles, a 7:30 p.m. report from the front said the situation was "generally unchanged."

To the north the British 2nd army advanced five miles from its starting line in the new offensive in southeast Holland. The British found only light resistance as the Germans fell back to the last canal line covering the approaches to the Maas and the German frontier.

Withdrawal Seen
At supreme headquarters it began to appear that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's mounting winter offensive had motivated a German withdrawal to the Siegfried defense zone along a 200-mile front from Weert in Holland to the Vosges.

Troops of the 10th Infantry regiment of Maj. Gen. Stafford L. Irwin's 5th division tangled with the Germans on the ridge a little more than a mile below Metz. The Germans were defending it from an intricate system of machine gun nests.

"This afternoon I drove into the village of Pouilly, south of Metz, by mistake, and found myself looking down into the smoky city," Small reported. "A few hundred yards ahead of Pouilly, which was captured yesterday but cleaned out completely only this morning, American shells pumped into a converted factory serving as a German barracks and a strong point holding up our advance."

Meanest Man Gives False Death Notice

Evansville, Ind., Nov. 15—(U.P.)—The meanest man in the world was sought here today. He is the practical joker who telephoned parents of servicemen that their sons were reported missing or killed in action.

The hoax was discovered, Western Union Manager Walter Schuler reported, when one of the victims called the company to see if there were any additional details.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Gladys Rice deciding not to ask any more questions about articles in antique shops.

Cole Holmes solving the cigarette shortage by hunting up a long-unused pipe, but wishing someone else would smoke it so he could enjoy the smell of the smoke.

Maurice Spatz, the fruit tycoon, revealing a hidden chapter in his past: (He was a newspaper man in his younger days.)

Closing the Circle



U. S. Third Army troops narrowed German escape corridor from Metz to 12 miles or less and ripped another hole in Nazi's Moselle River line. Yanks are reported to have captured first of Metz forts rimming city. Berlin says Yanks have driven to Thionville, by-passed stronghold on west bank of Moselle.

ACME PHOTO IS KILLED IN LEYTE

Allied Headquarters, Philippines, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—Frank Prist, Jr., war correspondent for Acme News Pictures, Inc., and one of the first 16 newspapermen to arrive in the southwest Pacific area from the United States after Pearl Harbor, was killed instantly Sunday by a Japanese sniper bullet through his heart.

Prist, who had covered almost every campaign in this theater and who had photographed Gen. Douglas MacArthur more often than any other camera man, had gone into the front lines in western Leyte to picture the advance of the 24th division south along the Pinamopan-Ormoc road.

After taking a series of photographs, he climbed into his jeep parked beside the road only about 300 yards behind American forward elements and started the engine to return to MacArthur's headquarters. A single shot rang out and Prist crumpled over the wheel, the jeep turning backward into a muddy ditch.

BRITISH APPROACH BOLOGNA JUNCTION
The British were moving on both sides of the highway in a converging drive on Faenza and a communiqué noted that the Germans were putting up stiff resistance as they backed toward the road junction, 30 miles east of Bologna.

Rome, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—British troops of the 8th army battled through increasing German opposition today to reach within five and a half miles of Faenza, the next important junction point on the main highway to Bologna.

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Convention Seeks Establishment Of Irrigation Policy
Denver, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—The 13th annual convention of the National Reclamation association here was asked today to establish a sound policy that would be "equally applicable" to all reclamation projects throughout the west.

The request was made by F. O. Hagie, secretary-manager of the association, after he pointed out that a "difficult" technical question had developed on the Central Valley reclamation project in California.

Hagie told the convention that the question was whether the 16-acre land limitation clause of the federal reclamation act should apply to supplemental water projects in areas where farm pattern has long been established.

LUZON SUFFERS MORE SOFTENING BEFORE INVASION

Carrier Planes Destroy 14 Jap Vessels And Many Planes In Latest Bombing

By United Press
Another major blow in a campaign to soften up Luzon for ultimate American invasion was seen today in a carrier aircraft raid which destroyed 14 Japanese vessels and 158 to 168 enemy planes in the Manila area.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced that fighters, torpedo planes and divebombers from Pacific fleet task forces struck at the main Japanese base in the Philippines Sunday, blowing up two destroyers and leaving 11 cargo vessels and oil tankers sinking or aflame.

Tokyo Unconfirmed
Tokyo reported that American carrier planes attacked the Manila area again Monday, but there was no official confirmation.

American invasion forces in the central Philippines 350 miles to the south threatened to envelope 35,000 desperately resisting Japanese troops on northwestern Leyte with a pincers drive about the enemy's sea and air base of Ormoc.

The task force raid on Manila was the second this month and presumably others will follow on a mounting scale as the invasion draws nearer.

In addition to destroying the ships, the attackers torpedoed a floating drydock and scored hits on docks in Manila and at the Cavite navy yard.

Impress Civilians
Tokyo, recognizing that Luzon soon may become a battle ground, announced that all Manila residents between 18 and 50 years would be compelled to defend Japanese military installations, harbors, roads and factories in the capital area when the "necessity arises."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's air forces set fire to a 4,000-ton freighter northwest of Mindanao, started fires at Cebu and dropped 36 tons of bombs on an airfield on Negros island. Other American planes sank a small vessel in the northern Palau, bombed a Yap airstrip and raided the Bonin islands.

SHAKESPEARES DIVORCED
Reno, Nev. 15—(U.P.)—William Shakespeare was divorced in the Washoe county court here today but records failed to reveal where there was any connection, other than similarity of names, with the bard of Avon. Mrs. Dorothea Shakespeare was granted the Nevada decree on the ground of extreme cruelty.

Decision Expected Soon On Trials For Kimmel, Short

Washington, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Maj. Gen. Walter C. Short either will be cleared of charges in connection with the Pearl Harbor disaster or ordered to face a court-martial some time before December 7, reliable congressional sources said today.

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Secretary of Navy James V. Forrestal already have received detailed reports from boards and, according to authoritative information, will be ready to announce a decision in the next few weeks.

The decision, it was said, either will order court-martial trials for Kimmel and Short or clear them of any responsibility for failure to take proper precaution in the attack which cost 3000 lives and severe losses to the American fleet.

Lad Admits Trunk Story Invented



David Bourbonnais, 9 (left) is shown in a Long Beach hospital following release from a trailer trunk in which he claimed he was locked for seven days by a playmate. He later admitted his story was a hoax to cover up his "bumming around" and absence from school. On right, little James Bourbonnais crawls into the trunk showing how his brother was supposedly confined.



German Reins Now in Himmler's Hands, Hitler Raving Madman, Travelers Declare

London, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—Reports from the continent said today that Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler had become undisputed leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler was a raving madman at Berchtesgaden, and an incipient anti-war revolt had been halted at Cologne.

Informal sources in Madrid said Himmler apparently had seized the Nazi party reins from the hands of Hitler, who was given to pacing the floors of his Berchtesgaden retreat "like mad lion," ranting with tear-filled eyes that "Germany will win the war."

Nerves Shot
Non-Spanish diplomatic sources in Madrid believed Hitler's mind was gone and his nerves shot as a result of the crisis in the war and the reported rise of Himmler to power.

A welling tide of reports regarding Hitler's infirmities and the change in leadership of the Nazi party lacked official confirmation and German propagandists gave no definite hint of crucial developments in the Reich.

Travelers reaching Switzerland from Germany said that part of the residents of heavily bombed Cologne came out publicly against Germany continuing the war. The Gestapo struck swiftly, and hanged 21 persons "yesterday alone" as a warning.

The Swiss dispatches said the entire Rhineland was in a state of dangerous tension, with its transport system in "complete chaos" and workers getting out of hand.

Control Change Seen
The authoritative British Press Association said official circles in London were convinced that control of Germany had slipped from Hitler's faltering hands into those of Himmler with the result that the Reich will fight to the "last gasp," regardless of the cost.

Officials who have sifted all reliable evidence reaching Britain from Germany see little or no chance of a revolution within the country and no prospect of an early surrender, such as occurred in 1918, to preserve the Reich from destruction, Frank King, the agency's diplomatic correspondent, said.

The diplomatic correspondent of the Times, frequently used as a sounding board for government opinion, also said there "no longer seems any doubt" that Himmler is acting leader of Germany.

"Hitler has been shut off from active work through illness," the Times said, "and Himmler has extended his great power and now there is none to challenge him."

The Times said Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering, Hitler's designated successor, also may be ill.

Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 15—(U.P.)—Nine-year-old David Bourbonnais was a fallen hero today, his story of having been locked in a narrow trailer trunk for seven days without food or water an admitted hoax.

But the true story of how he spent the week "bumming around" was almost as incredible as the fiction he invented about his ordeal inside the trunk.

He spent the seven days in the vicinity of his home in the Los Cerritos trailer camp, virtually under the nose of the navy patrols, police and Boy Scouts who were searching for him, he said.

"They thought maybe I'd been drowned," he said at Seaside hospital naval clinic where he's still living in the lap of luxury. But his 48 hours of glory was over and juvenile authorities had only the problem of a reprimand.

The child, Francis, was one of two children by Youkowski's common law wife, Betty, 25, who was held as a material witness.

LANCASTERS PLASTER SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT
London, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—A force of British Lancaster bombers attacked a synthetic oil plant at Dortmund in Germany's Ruhr valley today.

RECORD SALMON RUN
Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 15—(U.P.)—Officials of the U. S. bureau of reclamation today reported a record salmon run in the Sacramento river with a total value of \$1,400,000.

Couple Had Power To Cast Deciding Ballot At Mariel
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Paddock, now visiting in Medford, had the power to swing the presidential election in Mariel, isolated settlement on the Lower Rogue River, a precinct of twenty-two voters.

Instead, they chose to cancel each others' vote, leaving the results the same, with Roosevelt winning by one vote. The final count was Roosevelt 10, Dewey 9. There were three non-voters.

Mr. and Mrs. Paddock are visiting Mrs. Pansy Calder of 107 King street.

BOY CONFESSES HIS STORY HOAX

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CAPITAL'S DAYS SEEM NUMBERED MOSCOW BOASTS

Germans Reported Resisting Frantically—Baltic Remnants Being Finished Off

London, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—The Soviet high command reported tonight that Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's forces had captured Jaszbereny, big rail and highway center 31 miles east of Budapest.

Bulgarian and Yugoslav troops captured Skopje, main transport hub in southern Yugoslavia 95 miles south of Nis, a Moscow communique reported.

London, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—Russian storm troops drove into the southern suburbs of Budapest today and Moscow dispatches said the assault on the Hungarian capital appeared to have entered its final, decisive stage. Soviet front reports said Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's forces were pushing in over the northern and eastern approaches of Budapest to join in the siege and were in full control of the entire corridor between the Danube and Tisza south of the capital.

Swarm Across Danube
The Russians were reported swarming across the Danube below Budapest to invest the city from the west, Moscow reported, adding that "the days of Budapest again seem numbered."

A front line dispatch relayed by Moscow reported the resumption of violent fighting in East Prussia, where "the earth is quaking from explosions and the sky is aflame."

The red army is marching forward to raise the victory banner over Berlin," the dispatch said. The Germans were reported resisting fanatically, but there were signs of softening of resistance in some sectors.

Farther north, the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia reported, the remnants of 30 German divisions pinned against the Baltic in Latvia and Lithuania were being finished off rapidly.

Laggards Sabotaged
Soviet accounts of the close in on Budapest said Cossacks of the Don and Kuban Steppes hammered at the heels of routed enemy units, chopping down the laggards with sabers and throwing the survivors into the Danube, already swollen with the bodies of hundreds of Germans and Hungarians who sought to escape to the west.

Dispatches told of Cossacks dismounting at the water's edge and sheltering behind their horses which were trained to lie down as their riders machine-gunned foemen trying to swim across the Danube.

STAINLESS STEEL TRUST IS CHARGED
Washington, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—An indictment charging 18 major steel producers with conspiring to monopolize the nation's \$175,000,000-a-year stainless steel industry was returned today by a Trenton, N. J., federal grand jury, the justice department announced.

Six steel industry executives also were named defendants and eight organizations and one individual were named co-conspirators, the department said. The defendants included the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., Pittsburgh, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corp.; Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp., Brackenridge, Pa.; Crucible Steel Co. of America, New York; Republic Steel Corp., Cleveland; and Bethlehem Steel Co., Bethlehem, Pa.

Manufacturer Taken In Heavy Dice Game
New York, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—A dice game early this year in the apartment of Leo (Lippy) Durocher, Brooklyn Dodgers manager, in which an airplane parts manufacturer lost \$18,500 to a top flight movie star is under investigation by District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, it was learned today.

The inquiry was started when the wife of one of the players told Martin Shurin, Jr., president of Hudson Aircraft company, that the screen star had swindled him on an unusual run of 13 straight passes—with loaded dice.

High School Boy Gridiron Victim
Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 15—(U.P.)—Don Gregg, 17, died today of injuries received in a football game Monday between the reserve teams of Rock Island and Davenport, Ia., high schools.

Gregg, an end, was carried from the field after he was struck in the stomach during the opening play of the game.

British Submarines Get 24 Jap Vessels
London, Nov. 15—(U.P.)—British submarines have sunk 23 Japanese supply ships and an anti-submarine vessel in far eastern waters, the admiralty announced today.