

TWO BOMBED BY SHIPS, PLANES

Weather
Forecast: Partly cloudy to cloudy tonight and Saturday with fog during the night and early morning; little change in temperature.
Temp.
Highest yesterday 49
Lowest this morning 33
Precipitation trace

MEDFORD



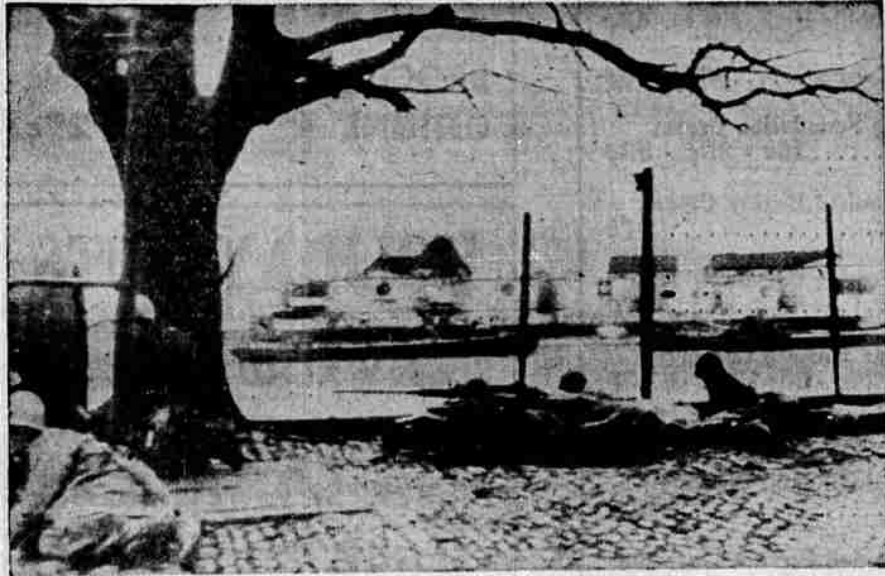
TRIBUNE

Thirty-ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1944

NO. 220.

Bullets Fly Across River Rhine



French First Army machine gunners and riflemen hug the ground, send replying fire at enemy positions on French side of Rhine River as Germans frantically try to flee Allied Alsatian trap and cross into Germany. Directly across river is Switzerland, marked by Swiss flags. Signal Corps radio-telephoto.

LAYTON EXECUTED AT STATE PRISON FOR RAPE KILLING

Salem, Ore., Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Rape-slayer Richard Harry Layton, former police officer of Monmouth, Ore., today was executed in the lethal gas chamber at the Oregon state prison.

Layton was convicted for the murder of 17-year-old Ruth Hildebrand of Dallas, Ore., in June, 1943. He is the seventh man executed by lethal gas in this state.

Layton entered the chamber at 9:05 A. M., the cyanide pellets dropped into the liquid at 9:09 A. M. and he was pronounced dead one minute later.

The condemned man was calm and apparently not nervous all the way through the proceedings.

As the gas struck his face, he apparently gasped and breathed deeply and hard for about half a minute before he slumped forward and his head dropped.

Three-hour sleep
He was clad only in shorts, room slippers and a black blindfold. His head was shaved.

Warden George Alexander was in charge of the execution and reported Layton had slept for three hours the night before. He had a fried chicken dinner last night and this morning ate three boiled eggs, bread, coffee and smoked a final cigar.

A few moments before the execution Layton told the press that he wanted to say it was a "false confession" that was used against him.

"That girl did not die by being knocked into the river, which I am convicted of," he stated. He wanted the statement published "for my mother."

Camp White Rooms Will Be Decorated
One hundred feet of garlands, 12 large wreaths and 14 holly festoons will decorate Camp White hospital rooms at Christmas time as a gift of the Medford Garden club, according to Mrs. C. C. Sater, president of the organization.

SIDE GLANCES
By TRIBUNE REPORTERS
Tenor Bill Adams and accompanist Helen Razum getting their signals mixed during an appearance at the high school bond rally.
Harry Duncan waving at a not-fully-recognized friend.
Minnie Bryant industriously publicizing her favorite project of supplying Christmas presents for the Children's Farm Home.

Christmas Buying Scramble All-Time Record For Nation

American civilians are spending approximately \$3,500,000,000 for Christmas gifts and piling up the greatest volume of retail sales in history, a nationally known retail credit organization estimated today.

The estimate complemented a United Press survey of Christmas buying in seven key cities showing a rush for holiday merchandise unprecedented even in the pre-depression era.

The retail credit organization estimated retail sales for October, November, and December would be five to 10 per cent greater for the country as a whole than for those months of last year.

The United Press survey confirmed this estimate and revealed a much greater percentage of increase in some sections, particularly in areas with many war industries and war workers. In Atlanta, Ga., for example, retail sales for the week ending November 25 were 31 per cent greater than for the same week of 1943 which was the biggest

week in the history of the reporting stores.

From coast to coast, Americans were determined to have a merry Christmas, if money would buy it. Such a demand for luxury goods was reported that there were shortages in some lines, particularly lingerie, furs and expensive jewelry were in demand. There were not nearly enough grand and pinet pianos to meet the demand.

Shortages existed in many lines but merchants believed generally there was enough merchandise to go around if the public would accept substitutions. One large mercantile organization estimated shortage lines as follows: cameras, 30 per cent less than demand; luggage, 33 per cent; umbrellas, 59 per cent; furs, 14 per cent; domestic rugs, 28 per cent; blankets, 14 per cent; lamps, 10 per cent; china and glassware, 23 per cent.

CONGRESSMEN IN MOVE FOR MONEY

Washington, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Last-minute moves to give House members more money for themselves and for their office help gathered headway today.

The House suspended the rules by a two-thirds vote to begin immediate consideration of a bill to increase the allowance of each member for office help from \$6,500 to \$9,500 a year, and Rep. Emanuel Celler, D., N. Y., introduced a measure to increase the salaries of congressmen from \$10,000 to \$12,500 annually.

Offered by Committee Chairman John J. Cochran, D., Mo., the office help measure was approved unanimously by the accounts committee less than 24 hours after its introduction.

EX-SERVICEMAN AMOK WITH GUN

Cartaret, N. J., Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—An immediate trial was in prospect today for Daniel Molner, 24-year-old ex-serviceman who killed four persons and wounded two others because he wanted his estranged wife to give him their daughter.

When Mrs. Anna Molner refused, police said, the couple quarreled. In-laws intervened and a wild gun battle began. Before it was over two policemen, Molner's father-in-law, and a 12-year-old Negro girl were dead and two policemen were injured, one critically.

THIRD SMASHES ACROSS SAAR IN 4 MORE PLACES

Seven Beachheads Now Established Across Water Barrier; Fort Driant Taken

Paris, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—American Third Army troops smashed across the Saar river at four places in and southwest of Sarreguemines today, boosting to seven the number of bridgeheads established across the water barrier and setting pincers around Saarbrücken.

Far behind the Third Army front the stubborn German holdout post of Fort Driant in the Metz perimeter finally was captured, with 670 German officers and men. It was at Driant that the Yanks suffered one of their few clear-cut defeats of the western campaign when an attempt to take the ford by storm failed before the capture of Metz.

35th In Drive
United Press Correspondent Collier Small reported from the Third Army front that elements of Maj. Gen. Paul W. Baade's 35th "Santa Fe" division stormed across the Saar to seize the four new springboards on the east bank.

At Sarreguemines, border bastion already two-thirds occupied, shock troops swarmed across the Saar on a railroad bridge. To the southeast, assault boats carried troops across at three places.

The forces who struck into the eastern section of Sarreguemines, 10 miles southeast of Saarbrücken, were engaged in bitter house to house fighting. Seizure of the new bridgeheads across the Saar gave the Third Army three northwest of Saarbrücken and four southeast of that capital of the mineral-rich Saar basin, and American assault forces already were storming that part of the city west of the river.

May By-Pass Bases
Should the formidable fortifications of Saarbrücken and the adjacent Siegfried line casemates make a crossing at the city difficult, it appeared possible that an expansion of the bridgeheads on either side of the city might squeeze out the German garrison.

Northwest of Saarbrücken, and three miles north of Saarbrücken, troops of the 90th division who had broken into the Siegfried line were counter-attacked for five hours by German tanks a mile inside the fortified belt.

Thunderbolt fighter-bombers hit eight towns inside the Siegfried belt between Saarbrücken and Metz, leaving them in flames. The planes also launched rockets against a German tank concentration in the area where the 90th division was fighting.

LONG-TIME RURAL RESIDENT PASSES

Mrs. Clara Anna Clark of Oak Grove district passed away Friday morning at a local hospital. Mrs. Clark was born September 6, 1878, in Germany and came to this country at the age of two years.

She was united in marriage to Roderick Clark at Cornelius, Oregon, in 1895.

In 1899 the family moved to Jackson County where they have made their home since.

Mrs. Clark leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, two sons, Wilson and Lewis Clark, both of Medford, two daughters, Mrs. Denis Lane of Adel, Oregon, and Mrs. Helen Erickson of San Francisco. She is also survived by one brother, Emil Wagner, of Seattle, Wn., and one sister, Mrs. Martha Brugger of Portland, Ore., seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

FINAL OFFENSIVE OPENED AGAINST LAST LEYTE NIPS

96th Division Among Troops Making Progress Against Savagely Resisting Foe.

Allied Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Seven American divisions, one of them lashing out from a new west coast beachhead only three miles from Ormoc, stormed the Japanese pocket in northwest Leyte from all sides today and complete liberation of the central Philippine island appeared to be in sight.

"We will end it and we don't intend to take too long about it, either," Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, commander of the Sixth army, told newsmen as the final offensive to crush the last 40,000 to 50,000 Japanese on Leyte got under way.

Jap Pocket Split
The 77th division—of Guam fame—already has split the Japanese pocket with a daring amphibious landing just south of Ormoc, the enemy's main supply and reinforcement gateway. The troops went ashore from a 100-ship invasion armada under cover of a hurricane air and sea bombardment yesterday—Pearl Harbor day.

Joining the 77th division in companion all-out drives, the 32nd, First Cavalry, 24th, 98th and Seventh and 17th divisions were making "fair progress" against savage enemy resistance along a great siege arc stretching from the Limon area, 20 miles north of Ormoc, to Balogo, 10 miles south.

The Japanese, recognizing that the fateful battle that will may seal the fate of the Philippines was at hand, made a belated attempt yesterday to reinforce their doomed troops on Leyte with a 13-ship convoy, but all 13 vessels were sunk with a loss of perhaps 4,000 troops.

JAPANESE ADMIT SEVERE DAMAGE BY EARTHQUAKE

The Japanese admitted today that an earthquake, described by British seismologists as even more violent than the 1923 Yokohama disaster that killed almost 100,000 persons, rolled up huge tidal waves and loosed landslides yesterday across a 150-mile belt of central Japan extending through the teeming Tokyo area.

After withholding all word on the tremor for more than 24 hours, the Tokyo radio finally broke its silence early this morning to announce that the most populous center of the Japanese homeland had been hit yesterday afternoon.

The Tokyo broadcasts insisted, however, that only "slight" damage had been caused and that practically none of the capital district's crowded war plants were affected.

The Japanese Domei news agency said the earthquake centered in the Sea of Enshu about southeast of Tokyo and reported that a great wall of water rolled inland over the coastal areas of Shizuoka district, flooding "some houses."

Farther inland and extending up to the Tokyo-Yokohama district landslides caved in streets and houses over a wide area, Domei said. The agency carefully refrained from mentioning that Tokyo itself had been damaged. Although its account indicated strongly that the capital was within range of the shock.

Washington, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Publishers of the San Diego, Calif., Union and Tribune-Sun today asked the Federal Communications Commission for authority to construct a new FM broadcast station in San Diego.

Churchill's Policy Upheld By Parliament After Fiercy Denunciation Of Mutineers

London, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill won an easy 279 to 30 parliamentary vote of confidence in his government's policy in Greece, Italy and Belgium today after he had challenged the American position on Count Carlo Spozza and called Greek resistance forces "rebels and mutineers."

Churchill stood pat on British policy in the liberated countries of Europe, defending it in one of his most scathing speeches of the war. Then he staked the life of his government on that unchanged policy and won handily, as was a foregone conclusion.

Stettinius Unnamed
Churchill did not refer to Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius by name but he took up directly Stettinius' statement.

Washington, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Lord Halifax, British ambassador to the United States, said today there is "a substantial understanding" between the United States and Britain on the issue of Allied policy in liberated territories.

After a conference with Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., during which the Anglo-American controversy over policy toward reborn European governments was the top subject, Halifax said the two governments were far from a misunderstanding.

He said the United States had no objections to Spozza's presence in the Italian government and iterating a general "hands off" policy toward the liberated countries.

Churchill referred to the Stettinius statement as "the American Press release with which we were confronted a few days ago."

The House of Commons was in an uproar much of the time during Churchill's 80-minute address. Laborites heckled him repeatedly and a group of demonstrators carrying banners appeared at Westminster, urging members to attack the government's policy. About 50 of the demonstrators were allowed to enter the central lobby where they exchanged heated retorts with members.

Churchill denounced Tom Driberg, independent, answering Churchill, called the appeal for a vote of confidence "an unworthy piece of blackmail," pointing out that Churchill knew that the house would not overthrow him on this issue.

The house broke into a storm of applause when Churchill flayed the Greek Leftists as "mutineers" against the allied supreme command and proclaimed his intention of putting down the revolt by force of arms.

"If I am to blame for this action, I will gladly accept dismissal of the house," he said, "but if I am not dismissed, make no mistake about it, we shall persist in this policy of clearing Athens and the Athens region of all those who are rebels to the constituted authority in Greece."

Washington, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—In three years of war this country has suffered no enemy-directed sabotage, Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.

Senate Votes Open Hearings On New State Appointments

Washington, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—The Senate Foreign Relations committee voted today to start open hearings next Tuesday on President Roosevelt's disputed new appointments to the state department.

Committee Chairman Tom Connally, D., Tex., said Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., probably will be the first witness. The four nominees—Joseph C. Grew to be undersecretary of state and William L. Clayton, Nelson A. Rockefeller and Archibald MacLachlan to be assistant secretaries—probably will come next, he said.

President Roosevelt meantime signed a bill creating two new assistant secretariats and—

SUPERFORTS IN HEAVIEST BLOW AT JAP TARGETS

Massive Coordinated Attack Blasts Strategic Base On Approach to Nip Homeland

Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—The U. S. Pacific fleet, Saipan-based Superfortresses and army Liberators and Lightning fighters delivered a massive co-ordinated attack on Iwo Island, strategic enemy base on the southeastern approaches to the Japanese homeland yesterday, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

It was one of the greatest simultaneous assaults ever carried out against a single target by combined sea and air units.

Heaviest B-29 Blow
(Mac R. Johnson, United Press correspondent on Saipan, said the Superfortresses struck their heaviest blow of the war in the Iwo raid. The airfield was the main target, he said. The B-29s were able to carry a tremendous bomb load because of the comparatively short hop. Iwo lies approximately 750 miles northwest of Saipan—about halfway to Tokyo.)

A portion of the mighty United States Pacific fleet stood offshore and delivered a thunderous bombardment of the volcano group island, 750 miles southeast of Tokyo.

Overhead B-29s roared in from Saipan and dumped a great load of bombs on the island—base of Japanese aerial raiders which have attacked the Superfortresses installations in the Marianas.

Results Obscured
(The war department announced that a "sizeable force" of Superfortresses dropped record loads of bombs on Japanese military installations on Iwo. The bombing was done by instruments through heavy clouds and results were not observed. All the B-29s returned safely to base, without encountering either aerial or anti-aircraft opposition.)

For the first time Adm. Nimitz included an announcement of B-29 activity in his Pacific fleet headquarters communique. He described the Superfortress raid as "heavy."

The Superfortress raid followed an attack by a "heavy force" of Liberators and Lightnings which swarmed over Iwo before the B-29s arrived.

U. S. CASUALTIES REACH 552,018

Washington, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—U. S. combat casualties for three years of war have reached 552,018, including 121,363 killed, incomplete official tabulations disclosed today on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

The total was 15,068 greater than that announced a week ago.

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said army casualties through Nov. 22 totaled 474,898, including 91,625 killed, 268,099 wounded, 58,928 missing, and 86,248 prisoners of war. Of the wounded, 126,440 have returned to duty.

Navy casualty figures released today for the navy, marine corps and coast guard totaled 77,120, including 29,738 dead, 33,469 wounded, 9,427 missing, and 4,486 prisoners of war.

MEDFORD BOY IS LISTED MISSING

Richard Lee, 14, has been missing since noon yesterday from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lee, at the Fairgrounds, according to a state police report. The report said he is five feet tall, weighs 115 pounds, has dark brown curly hair and was wearing blue jeans.

It is thought he may have gone to the home of relatives in Bend.

Jackson County sales to date in the Sixth War Loan are—
"E" Bonds\$362,494
Total Sales
\$1,703,901