

Weather

Forecast: Continued foggy night and morning, clearing in the afternoon; little change in temperature.

Highest yesterday 42
Lowest this morning 26

MEDFORD

United Press—Full Leased Wire



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MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1944

NO. 222.

NAZI SAARLAND BASTION FALLS

DOUGHBOYS GAIN BEFORE COLOGNE, PERIL KEY CITY

Eighth Air Force Pounds Frankfurt—Villages Taken in Rain, Snow

Paris, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The American third army captured the big Saarland border bastion of Sarreguemines today and to the north the first army gained up to two miles on a 10-mile front before the Roer river, beyond which Major German forces withdrew under cover of a delaying action.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army pounded out small gains despite fierce resistance along its entire front and drove the last of the Germans from the section of Sarreguemines northeast of the Saar. The other two-thirds had been in American hands several days.

The collapse of the Saareguemines defenses laid open the flank of the fortifications surrounding the approaches to Saarbrücken, capital of the Saar basin 10 miles northwest.

Paris, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The American first army slugged eastward up to two miles on a 10-mile front today in a close-in against the Roer river line before Cologne, beyond which major German forces withdrew under cover of a delaying action.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' forces, storming the outposts of the Roer river line through rain which followed a blinding snowstorm, captured the villages of Schleitz, Echitz and Dorn, clustered in a tight arc two to three miles out from Duren, key bastion of the Nazi defenses.

United Press Correspondent Jack Frankish reported from the first army front that the withdrawal of major Nazi forces eastward across the Roer had been established, and was reflected in the lack of counterattacks in the 36 hours of a full dress smash toward the Rhineland.

The United States Eighth air force sent a record fleet of more than 1600 heavy bombers and 800 fighters roaring out of England against the German rail network at and around Frankfurt, in the Rhineland southeast of Cologne.

Supply Point Hit
The massive air force dropped more than 4000 tons of bombs on Frankfurt and nearby Hanau and Giessen, through which roll vast quantities of army and supplies for the Nazi forces contesting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's grand offensive.

British Lancasters and Mosquitos joined in the daylight onslaught against the Nazi war potential. They hit rail yards and benzol plants at Osterfeld, Meiderich and Bruckhausen in the Ruhr ahead of the American Ninth and British Second armies.

On the Roer front, Hodges' left wing battled into Merken and occupied most of the western part of the village three miles northwest of Duren, the eastern outskirts of which lie only 100 yards from the Roer.

Other infantry units, after clearing Echitz, less than two miles northwest of Duren, advanced toward Hoven and Mariaweller, just northwest of the city of 39,000 astride the Roer. The doughboys were fighting inside a half dozen villages and hamlets along the front between Schopphen and Gey, the whole length of which was sagging back within easy striking distance of the Roer.

The battle swayed through the streets of Merode, Pier and Schopphen, the latter of which had been bombed with "excellent results," a front report said. At the lower end of the first army front, the troops were fighting eastward from the area of Gey and Strass, with armored units pushing to the immediate environs of the Roer itself.

London, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The government announced today that 718 civilians were killed or missing and believed dead in "enemy air action"—V-bombs—against the United Kingdom in November.



(Acme Telephoto)
General Patton's Third Army poured across the Saar River at least four more points northwest of Saarbrücken and to the south broke into outskirts of German border fortress of Sarreguemines. Troops are closing in on both Saarbrücken and Metz.

LEADER OF PEARL HARBOR ASSAULT SLAIN AT SAIPAN

By United Press
Tokyo reported today that Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, whose death in action on Saipan was announced last July 18, was the commander-in-chief of the task force which led the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Nagumo's leadership in the Pearl Harbor attack was reported in a broadcast recorded by the FCC in connection with a Tokyo disclosure that six more Japanese admirals and another general were dead.

Today's report boosted to 73 the number of admirals Tokyo has reported dead since May 7, with the deaths of generals since May 23 amounting to 18.

Nagumo was among the recipients of posthumous awards. In reporting his death last July, the Domei New Agency identified him only as commander-in-chief of Japanese naval forces based at Saipan. The agency said he and other officers died in a suicidal attack against American invasion forces.

STRONG QUAKE IN SOUTH SEA NOTED

Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—A strong earthquake, probably in the New Hebrides Islands of the Pacific and "heavy enough to cause considerable damage if it centered was in a populated area," was recorded yesterday on the California Institute of Technology seismograph, it was disclosed today.

The New Hebrides quake, its center 8,000 miles west of Pasadena, was registered at 9:48.10 a.m., about 11 minutes after a similar shock in about the same area that scientists said was of greater intensity than the disastrous 1933 temblor that hit Long Beach.

A third shock, also described as strong, was recorded at 10:31 p.m. Saturday, centering in the western Indian ocean, about 12,000 miles west of here.

OPA RENT SUIT
Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Louis M. Rossie and Charles B. Hamilton, operators of the Western hotel, Marysville, today were sued for \$13,300 by the office of price administration, which alleged rent overcharges and "other infractions of the federal rent regulations."

New York, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Domestic corporate bonds pushed forward today to further new highs since early 1937.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS
George Carter a little bewildered at a streak of good luck which descended upon him Saturday.

Al Flora thinking up a new nickname for a friend.

Harry Holmes and Frank Farrell braving the "unusual" weather Sunday for a fishing trip.

ORMOC CAPTURED, NOOSE TIGHTENED ON LEYTE ENEMY

Pocketed Japs Face Destruction by Yankees Advance—Planes Aid Troops

By United Press
The battle for Leyte Island moved swiftly toward a climax that promised only extermination for the strong forces committed by the Japanese high command to the defense of the central Philippines.

Ormoc, main gateway for Japanese supplies and reinforcements on the island's west coast, fell to units of the U. S. 77th division yesterday, only 72 hours after the surprise American landing on the beach three miles to the south.

The 77th fanned out quickly north of Ormoc into the rear of the main Japanese forces, which already were hard-pressed by an American 32nd division attack in the Tolibaw area, 18 miles above the port.

At the same time, units of the 77th swung south toward a junction with the 7th division and another American force moving across the inland mountains from the east. Between the three American outfits thousands of Japanese were pocketed in a narrowing triangle, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communiqué reported they were "being destroyed with little opportunity for effective retaliation."

American fighter planes supported the ground troops, shooting down five enemy planes, while other warplanes pounded Japanese airfields on the neighboring Philippines islands and sank or damaged five enemy freighters.

The Japanese high command broadcast another elaborate, but unconfirmed, claim of American shipping losses, asserting that its air force sank two American cruisers or large destroyers, two transports, and two barges in the Surigao strait, southeast of Leyte.

SENATE APPROVES 5-STAR OFFICERS FOR ARMED FORCES

Washington, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The senate today passed and sent to the White House a bill to create four five-star "admirals of the fleet" and four five-star "generals of the army."

Admirals Chester W. Nimitz, William F. Halsey, Ernest King, and William D. Leahy, and Gen. George C. Marshall, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Henry E. Arnold, and Douglas MacArthur are believed to be slated for the new ranks, which are designed to put the officers on an equal footing with field marshals or comparable foreign officers.

Gen. John J. Pershing, world war I commander (will continue to be America's top-ranking officer, since his title as "general of the armies"—conferred by law—is above the newly created "general of the army."

STOCK MART BOOM PUZZLES WALL ST.

New York, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The stock market climbed to a new high today since September 9, 1937, in one of the most active sessions in several months. Trading topped the million-share level for the seventh consecutive session.

The advance carried all sections of the list above the previous closing levels. Wall Street quarters appeared at a loss for a real explanation of the current "boom" that has added more than \$1,500,000,000 to market values since December 1.

CHURCHILL BACKS ITALIAN ROYALTY SFORZA CHARGES

New Cabinet Victory for Britain Claim—Deny Plot to Oust Badoglio

Rome, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Count Carlo Sforza, excluded from the new Italian cabinet as a result of British opposition, today accused Prime Minister Winston Churchill of trying to force King Victor Emmanuel on the Italian people.

Sforza denied Churchill's charge that he had conspired to overthrow the armistice government of Marshal Pietro Badoglio in violation of a pledge made to the Allies before his return from political exile in the United States last year.

"Churchill attributed Badoglio's expulsion from office to my intrigue," Sforza said. "Instead, it was the committee of national liberation in Rome which, after the liberation of the capital, unanimously demanded with extreme frankness and no intrigues the elimination of Badoglio and his replacement by Bonomi."

"I took no part in this episode," Sforza added in a flat contradiction to the charge made by Churchill in the house of commons last week.

Sforza asserted that in his two-hour conference with Churchill in London on Oct. 11, the prime minister devoted most of the discussion to "pressure that we accept Victor Emmanuel regardless of his heavy responsibilities for fascism."

He added that Churchill was well aware of his opposition to the king and that he had reaffirmed his "definite repudiation" of Emmanuel before and after that conference.

On his return to Italy, he said, he suggested to Badoglio that the king abdicate and that the child prince of Naples be proclaimed king, with Badoglio as regent.

The new cabinet list announced by Premier Ivanoe Bonomi today revealed that either Sforza nor any other member of his action party had been granted a cabinet post, a pointed omission which observers regarded as a triumph for Great Britain and the Italian royal family.

'PINHEADS' CAUSE OF FREE-FOR-ALL

Pittsburgh, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The question of the legal custody of two "pinheads"—human exhibits in a freak show here—today precipitated a free-for-all, which police ended by arresting five persons on charges of disorderly conduct.

Details of the brawl were not clear, according to police, so the five persons, including the "pinheads," will be given hearings tomorrow in morals court.

War Bulletins

London, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Continental reports suggesting that Generalissimo Francisco was preparing to turn over the Spanish government to a new republican regime were greeted with extreme skepticism in London diplomatic quarters today.

Chungking, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Allied troops supported by field artillery continued their drive on Bhamo, the Burmese communications center, gaining southward along the Irrawaddy river and the British 38th division occupied the railroad junction of Indaw approximately 75 miles west of Bhamo, a communiqué announced today.

By United Press
Japan claimed today that troop columns advancing northward from Indo-China have effected a juncture with southbound troops in southwestern Kwangsi province of China, thus completing a Japanese-dominated land-route from Shanghai to Singapore.

Floyd H. Hart Promoted



Floyd H. Hart of Medford has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, according to information received here from headquarters of the Seventh Air Force, Central Pacific. He is the executive officer of a 7th AAF medium bombardment group based in the Hawaiian Islands, the dispatch states, and has been serving with the group since October of 1943.

Col. Hart was recently awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy. Mrs. Hart, Miss Harriet Hart and Floyd, Jr., reside at the Evelyn apartments. Another daughter, Mrs. J. B. Keeble, also resides at the Evelyn apartments.

Col. Hart is president of the Timber Products company, being on leave of absence from the firm.

EARLY PEACE IN GREEK WAR SLIM, LEFTISTS BEATEN

Athens, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Hope for an early compromise settlement of the Greek civil war faded today as the bloody street fighting in Athens raged into its second week with some 20,000 well-armed leftist troops still in the city and shelling British and Greek government positions in the heart of the capital.

Repulsed with heavy losses in an attack on the central gendarmerie barracks and in an attempt to move reinforcements in from the suburbs yesterday, the left-wing ELAS detachments fell back to a sporadic bombardment of the British-Greek headquarters in Athens and the naval station at Piraeus.

Tentative peace feelers were put out by the leftist leaders yesterday, but they were rebuffed sharply by a spokesman for Premier Papandreu, who merely reiterated the government position that no peace can be arranged until the ELAS forces lay down their arms.

LEWIS TO DISCUSS TERMS WITH AFL

Washington, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Informed labor sources said today that while United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis probably would meet with American Federation of Labor representatives to discuss terms of a proposed return of his union to the AFL, it was highly unlikely that he would be willing to return on any term satisfactory to the federation.

UMW spokesman said reports that Lewis was ready to lead his union back to the AFL were "pure hokum."

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Lt. (JG) Frederick W. Warbois of Albuquerque, N. M., and his squadron of PB4 planes engaged in air-sea rescue work, made 24 open sea landings, rescuing 58 officers and men during the last three months, the eleventh naval district announced today.

New York, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—Curb stock prices followed an irregular course in trading today.

Washington, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The senate foreign relations committee, at the request of the state department, today deferred until next year action on a resolution advocating unlimited Jewish immigration into and colonization of Palestine.

B-29'S HIT TOKYO FIFTH DAY IN ROW; SET FIRES, BLAST

Harbor Area Bombed, and Glare Seen 85 Miles—Jap Aim Poor

Headquarters 21st Bomber Command, Saipan, Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—(via Navy Radio)—Raiding Tokyo seven hours apart, two Superfortresses kindled fires in the enemy capital that could be seen for 85 miles and set off explosions in the harbor area, returning crewsman reported today.

The big planes, flying unescorted, were assigned to a double purpose "weather strike" from their Saipan base.

The first B-29 over Tokyo on this shift was piloted by Lt. Col. Robert E. (Pappy) Haynes, Hermon Beach, Calif., and it dropped bombs at 8:28 p. m. Dec. 10 (Tokyo time), setting three large fires and several smaller ones in the waterfront district.

"We went in at about 5,000 feet lower than usual, just to test Tokyo's defenses," he said. "They still can't knock us down."

Members of Haynes' crew counted 50 searchlights in action and the flight engineer, 1st Lt. Glenn B. Mullens, Laramie, Wyo., and 529 S. 50th Ave., Omaha, Neb., said the plane was trapped in the beams for four minutes.

"The anti-aircraft fire was very accurate and we got one flak hole in the wing," Mullens said.

He reported cities on Honshu Island were blacked out as the plane approached, and Tokyo was completely dark when the bombs were released.

After the plane left the target, Tail Gunner Corp. Joseph A. Quillen, Ford, Wash., reported he could see fires for 85 miles. Capt. Elmer G. Hahn, Idaho Falls, Ida., commanded the second Superfortress over Tokyo which bombed the waterfront at 3:26 a.m. Dec. 11 (Tokyo time).

6,047 OREGONIANS GIVEN DISCHARGES

Salem, Ore., Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—A total of 6,047 service men were discharged and returned to civilian life in Oregon during the three-month period ended November 30, state selective headquarters last reported. There were 660 honorable discharges during November.

Salem, Ore., Dec. 11.—(U.P.)—The effect which the new selective service regulations, tightening deferment policies on draft age men, will have in Oregon, is not immediately determinable, State Selective Service Director Col. Elmer V. Wootton said today.

FOUR INJURED IN THREE-CAR CRASH

Four persons were injured about 11 o'clock Saturday night in a three-car collision on Beall Lane during a dense fog.

Esther Walden, Route 1, Box 110, Central Point, suffered general cuts and bruises; Wilma Bair, 22 North Bartlett, lacerations, and Mrs. Frank Storey, Route 1, Box 325, Grants Pass, who was the most seriously injured, suffered a deep laceration of the scalp. The injured persons were brought to a local hospital in the Conger-Morris ambulance. No further particulars of the accident could be learned today.

Jackson County sales to date in the Sixth War Loan are —
"E" Bonds\$399,445
Total Sales
\$1,789,249