

Weather

Forecast: Clear tonight and Wednesday; morning fog; little change in temperature.
 Highest yesterday 43
 Lowest this morning 24

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MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1944

NO. 223.

TOKYO EVACUATION UNDERWAY

JAPAN PREPARES FOR FULL SCALE AERIAL ATTACKS

Yamashita Line on Leyte Collapses Before American Offensive.

By United Press
 The Japanese acknowledged that they are evacuating civilians from Tokyo and preparing for large-scale air raids on their homeland today, while on Leyte island in the Philippines the entire southern flank of their boasted Yamashita line collapsed under a crushing American offensive.

The threat of disaster for the Japanese also was shaping up in another quarter. Adm. Sir Bruce Fraser, commander of Britain's new Pacific battle fleet, revealed in Australia that he will confer shortly with U. S. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz on combined Anglo-American naval operations to shorten the war against Japan.

Fraser expressed the conviction that the Japanese imperial fleet would retire still closer to its home bases to avoid a decisive engagement, thereby adding greatly to the enemy's present supply difficulties.

Many Leave
 Word of the Tokyo evacuation came in a German Transocean News agency dispatch from the Japanese capital. Transocean said a large number of the city's 5,875,000 residents already had been shifted to rural areas and that houses were being torn down to create fire breaks.

There also was a possibility, not suggested in the enemy accounts, that the evacuation was linked with the severe earthquake that struck central Japan last week. Seismologists in Allied countries around the world recorded the shock as of "catastrophic" proportions, perhaps even more disastrous than the 1923 convulsions that wiped out Yokohama and three-fifths of Tokyo.

On the Philippines fighting front, doughboys of the American 77th division joined forces with the 7th division south of Ormoc, wiping out thousands of Japanese caught in a vice between them. The 77th's northern wing simultaneously pushed up from Ormoc, whose capture Sunday, coupled with the destruction of the pocketed enemy force, carried away the southern flank of the Yamashita line.

Troops Trapped
 The surviving Japanese on Leyte, now considerably fewer than the 40,000 to 50,000 men they mustered a week ago, were penned into a narrowing corner of the island between the 77th and the U. S. 32d division moving down from the Tolibaw area, 18 miles north of Ormoc.

American airmen pounded Japanese bases and shipping throughout the Philippines and the southern islands and touched off spectacular fires in the great Borneo oil depots at Balikpapan and Tarakan.

Cinderella Tale

Hollywood, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—Warner Bros. studios today announced signing of a seven-year contract with Rory Mallinson, 31, of Atlanta, Ga., who was discovered working on a studio labor gang.

Mallinson's real name is Charles Joseph Mallinson, and his first role is that of a doctor who treats marine hero Al Schmidt on Guadalcanal in "This Love of Ours."

A former player in the Atlanta Little theater, Mallinson said he got his first acting opportunity from his commercial high school dramatics teacher, Miss Gwynne Burroughs.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS
 Darrell Huson astounding a customer by producing a package of cigarettes.

Maurine Shearer admitting that she was guilty of squandering a few minutes time.

California produces 93 per cent of the nation's grapes.

Double Blow



(Acme Telephoto)
 Earthquakes and tidal waves joined Yanks in blasting Japan while 8-28a, units of the Pacific Fleet and other planes blasted Iwo Jima (arrow), believed to be base for Nip planes which have hit Saipan.

BRITISH FORCES IN ATHENS LOSE; WATER SHUT OFF

Athens, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—The water mains of downtown Athens went dry today, prompting speculation that anti-government forces may have wrecked vital installations or the water supply was cut off by fires.

Censorship or other restrictive measures apparently prevented Roper from explaining what had happened since 9:40 o'clock last night, when he filed a dispatch reporting that British forces—and Roper himself—were surrounded in the heart of Athens and the situation was "critical."

(Athens broadcasts today said the insurgents appeared to be intensifying their efforts to force a decision before the British could move up reinforcements. They were reported blowing up buildings in some parts of the city, while the British and Greek government forces were losing ground in others.)

The approaches to the Acropolis were under the machine gun fire of ELAS units of the EAM. But the British apparently held the dominating height itself, and were not hesitating to make more or less complete use of the advantages it afforded.

The ELAS forces yesterday captured or destroyed 200 drums of British gasoline, and set fire to several buildings in southern Athens.

ALLIES TO SEIZE NAZIS' LOOT SAYS GEN. EISENHOWER

By United Press
 A supreme headquarters proclamation served notice on Germany today that all property of the Nazi party, its leading officials and supporters would be blocked by the Allied military government pending a settlement of the issues of "rightful ownership."

The proclamation was broadcast in the name of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. It was the ninth of a series directed to Germany on Allied plans for occupation of the country.

"Attempts to conceal such blocked property or to hinder the military government in preserving it for determination of its future use will result in severe penalties being imposed upon all persons who take part in such transactions," the proclamation said.

HINT CHURCHILL GUIDES AMERICA GREEK POLICY

State Department Nominee Questioned on Influence of British at Session.

Washington, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—The Greek civil war came briefly under discussion at a senate foreign relations hearing today when a committee member asked one of six new state department nominees whether Prime Minister Winston Churchill was "forcing the American state department to play second fiddle in this Greek thing."

Fuller discussion was reserved for a closed session of the committee after Chairman Tom Connally, D., Tex., remarked that: "It seems to me that for a senator to call on a state department witness to discuss backstairs gossip about Churchill is of very doubtful propriety."

The interchange about Greece was between Sen. James E. Murray, D., Mont., and James C. Dunn, veteran state department official who has been nominated to a new assistant secretaryship. Previously, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., had asked prompt senate confirmation of the new appointees to speed departmental reorganization and formation of postwar peace machinery.

In response to a question by Sen. Hiram Johnson, R., Calif., Dunn said this government agreed with Churchill's statement that the Greeks should be permitted to choose their own government.

Murray asserted that "when you read the entire statement, it seems that Churchill is against the people of Greece."

Dunn said he was in no position to discuss the subject, and Murray added: "There is an opinion by many people in this country that men in the state department largely are under the influence of the British."

Dunn replied that he had never seen such influence at work.

Stettinius endorsed the qualifications of all of the appointees, who subsequently were called to the stand individually.

ROOSEVELT PLEA FOR ST. LAWRENCE POWER IGNORED

Washington, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—Despite a telegram from President Roosevelt supporting the project, the senate today rejected an amendment to the rivers and harbors bill to authorize a \$285,000,000 power and navigation project on the St. Lawrence river.

The amendment, which brought the seaway project before the senate for the second time in a decade, was defeated by a vote of 56 to 25. The proposal was defeated in 1934 when offered as a treaty between the United States and Canada. Today's amendment proposed that the project be undertaken through executive agreement between the two countries.

About an hour before the senate voted, Sen. George D. Aiken, R., Vt., leading proponent of the project, released a telegram in which Mr. Roosevelt said the seaway was "logical and inevitable" and that the sooner it was authorized "the better."

The senate's decision followed nearly a week of debate. The opposition, led by Sen. John N. Overton, D., La., maneuvered energetically for the project's defeat.

SINGER DIVORCED

Reno, Nev., Dec. 12—(U.P.)—Diana Utter Altar, former New York supper club singer, today was granted a Nevada divorce from Isador Alter of New York City.

HEART OF REICH WAR JUGGERNAUT BOMBERS TARGET

Huge Allied Air Fleet From Italy and England Hit All Rail Centers.

London, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—A huge allied aerial fleet, including almost 1,500 American heavy bombers, delivered a smashing assault at the heart of the German war machine from Britain and Italy today, hitting the big synthetic oil plants at Merseburg and Blechhammer, and rail yards and industrial targets throughout the Reich.

The big aerial force was paced by an armada of more than 1,250 American heavy bombers and 900 fighters which hammered the Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg and rail yards at Hanau, Aschaffenburg and Darmstadt.

At the same time, Flying Fortresses and Liberators from Italy struck through bad weather to blast the Blechhammer oil refineries in southern Silesia, the largest source of Nazi synthetic oil production within range of the 15th airforce.

The RAF followed with an attack on the industrial city of Witten, in the Ruhr, by four-engine Lancaster bombers, escorted by Mustangs, six German planes were destroyed by the British raiding force which lost one Mustang fighter.

The daylight bombardment deep in central Germany approached the scale of the attack yesterday by a record fleet of 1,600 Flying Fortresses and Liberators on the Frankfurt area.

Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle dispatched both Fortresses and Liberators escorted by Mustangs, Thunderbolts, and Lightnings in today's assault on a major source of fuel for the German war machine and transport centers feeding the fighting front.

The daylight attack followed stabs by British Mosquito bombers last night at Hannover, Hamburg and other targets in Western Germany.

BLIZZARD CLOSES SCHOOLS, PLANTS, 39 PERSONS DIE

By United Press
 The season's first general snowstorm moved into the east today, crippling traffic, closing schools and war plants in some areas and bringing full gale warnings to the New England coast.

A United Press survey showed at least 39 persons died as a result of the storm, most of them in traffic accidents.

Snow was falling in Ohio and Indiana, but the storm appeared to have passed over the rest of the Midwest.

The coldest spot in the nation was Yellowstone national park with 17 below, but the coldest city was Mason City, Ia., with a reading of one above, the weather bureau reported. Kansas and Missouri had sub-freezing temperatures.

Eastern states had temperatures in the 30s, midwestern states from 20 to 32, and the plains states from 10 to 20 above.

The south reported unusually low temperatures with freezing on the east gulf coast and below freezing in northern Florida. It was 21 above in parts of Texas, but the fruit region escaped the cold wave. Louisiana reported a low of 34, unusually low for that state.

There were 15 inches of snow in the Great Smoky mountains in North Carolina, while the weather in Georgia was reported clearing after snow flurries.

The storm forced the closing of war plants at Pittsburgh, some plants at Buffalo and disrupted public utility services in Ohio and Indiana.



German prisoners are searched and relieved of all weapons and sharp possessions such as nail files, scissors, mirrors and knives as they enter prisoner-of-war camp in Sarrelbourg area, France. Signal Corps radio-telephoto.

CEILING PRICES OF HOGS RAISED; FEED INCREASES

Washington, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—The office of price administration today raised the ceiling price of all live barrows and gilts to \$14.75 a hundredweight, Chicago basis.

The new ceilings, which already prevail for hogs weighing under 270 pounds, become effective tomorrow. Ceilings on sows, stags and boars will continue at \$14 per hundredweight, Chicago basis.

The OPA said the new price should have the effect of encouraging farmers to feed hogs for a longer period, thus increasing the volume of pork and lard per animal.

Price differentials were originally established last May because of the shortage of corn and a generally adverse feed situation, OPA said, and today's action follows the harvesting of a record corn crop and improvement in the supply of other types of feed.

OPA hoped another result of its action would be a more even marketing of hogs by farmers.

CONGRESS OKAYS FUNDS FOR POST WAR ACTIVITIES

Washington, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—The senate today passed unanimously by voice vote and sent to the house for conference a rivers and harbors bill authorizing nearly \$500,000,000 worth of post-war navigation and power projects.

Meanwhile, the house approved a conference report on the \$1,000,000,000 flood control bill which contained the same protective water-right amendments for the western states as were approved in the rivers and harbors bill, as well as an amendment authorizing the appropriation of \$400,000,000 to begin construction of projects embodied in a comprehensive plan to develop the Missouri basin.

Neither passage of the rivers and harbors bill nor of the flood control bill is regarded by its sponsors as prejudicial to establishment of a proposed Missouri valley authority. Construction of the many Missouri valley projects authorized in both bills will not begin until six months after the war. MVA sponsors said that the overall plan for the valley has already been comprehensively worked out by the interior department and war department.

An MVT, they said, would take over administration of the plan.

New York, Dec. 12—(U.P.)—Cotton futures opened three to eight points higher.

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