

YANKS DENT COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Weather
Forecast: Occasional rain to-
night and Thursday; snow in
mountains; little change in
temperatures.
Temp.
Highest yesterday 41
Lowest this morning 44
Precipitation .11

MEDFORD
United Press—Full Leased Wire



TRIBUNE
United Press—Full Leased Wire

Thirty-ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1944

NO. 230.

Super-Forts Blast Vital Jap Plant



More than 40 direct hits from bulging bomb bays of Saipan-based B-29 Super-Fortresses of the 21st Bomber Command rock the giant Mitsubishi aircraft plant at Nagoya, Japanese coastal city, as scores of the giant planes gave the town its first bitter taste of Super-Fort terror on Dec. 13.—21st Air Force photo, radioed from Honolulu to San Francisco.

Death-Defying Sergeant and Fast Dive Save Crew When B-29 Is Depressurized

By Mac R. Johnson
United Press Correspondent
A Super-Fortress Base, Saipan, Dec. 20—(U.P.)—(Via Navy Radio)—The heroic work of a death-defying sergeant and a 700-mile an hour dive of more than 15,000 feet by an alert Super-Fortress pilot over Honshu Island was credited today with saving the lives of five B-29 crewmen who collapsed due to lack of oxygen at an altitude of nearly six miles.

The sergeant, who once was threatened with transfer from the air force for "laziness," was Robert W. Wyman, El Cajon, Cal., and the pilot was 1st Lt. Edward W. Cutler, 121-B Hunting Terrace, Alexandria, Va.

Blister Blows Out
It happened on the night of Dec. 18-19 as a B-29 on a routine "weather strike" blew out a gun blister as it approached Nagoya. When the plexiglass blister blew out, the plane suddenly was de-pressurized in atmosphere so thin that a man could live only a minute without oxygen.

Corp. Elmer Hendershot, Rt. 4, Fairmont, W. Va., was sitting at his gunpost when the blister blew out without warning.

Air from the pressurized Super-Fort rushed through the opening with such velocity that it broke Hendershot's safety belt and spread-eagled him against the hole.

Grabbing some wires and catching the toes of his shoes against the metal lip around the opening, he was able to remain in the plane, saving his own life. However, the escaping air pulled his flask suit over his head and sent it into the win-

dow along with his precious oxygen mask, helmet, ear-phones and one glove.

Hendershot suffered minor cuts on the temple and neck, but he bled so much he appeared to be seriously injured.

Happened Quick
All this happened virtually instantaneously as it takes only a second to de-pressurize a Super-Fort through an opening that large. So the first thing Right Gunner Wyman saw was his blood-covered left gunner slump suddenly forward and collapse due to lack of oxygen.

"I removed my own oxygen mask so I could reach Hendershot and put him back on his station," Wyman said. "Hendershot's mask was ripped so I put an oxygen hose in his mouth so he could get air. I was able to get oxygen myself."

Wyman told Cutler, the plane commander, what had happened on the interphone.

"I think everything is okay," Wyman told Cutler. "Let's go on to the target."

Collapses Again
Meanwhile, Hendershot collapsed again, so Wyman re-

turned to give him more oxygen from the hose. Cutler ordered Weather Observer 1st Lt. Paul Rabinowitz, Yonkers, N. Y., into the gunner's compartment to help, but Rabinowitz collapsed when his oxygen hose became disconnected. Wyman saw Rabinowitz kicking, then go limp. He dragged the weather observer back to where he could get an oxygen connection again and Rabinowitz revived.

The plane still was at a very high altitude and it was 50 degrees below zero inside. Corp. Harold W. Laplante, the Bronx, N. Y., radio specialist, tried to come forward, but he weakened in the few minutes it took to leave his own oxygen supply and move forward to another supply.

Laplante made it back to his own compartment and then Wyman, working constantly and growing wobbly himself, informed Cutler, "we can't make it under these circumstances."

Cutler immediately turned the plane and started a 700-mile an hour dive in order to reach a lower altitude swiftly where there would be oxygen sufficient to maintain life.

When the plane reached 15,000 feet, Cutler tried to come back through the tunnel, but found it clogged with packing and insulation torn out as air rushed out through the broken blister. He fought his way back through the debris, but collapsed on reaching the gunner's compartment as the air still was too thin at that altitude. He revived hurriedly, however, when Wyman gave him a shot of oxygen and soon the Super-Fort was below 10,000 feet where there was sufficient oxygen.

All the crew members survived and offered thanks to Wyman and Cutler for saving their lives.

Unique Broadcast To Unite Soldiers With Home People

Washington, Dec. 20—(U.P.)—American soldiers across the world will be united with the people at home by radio on Christmas Eve in a unique broadcast showing the power of the Christmas spirit in the midst of grim and bitter warfare.

The program will be broadcast (NBC) for all to hear on the Army Hour, Sunday, Dec. 24, from 3:30 to 4:30 p. m. EWT. Here are some of the features:

Soldiers in the front lines in Germany will sing carols while fighting is in progress nearby.

A 100-voice choir composed of American soldiers and WACS of Japanese ancestry will chime in from Fort Snelling, Minn.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Dale Franklin having a hard time getting his new daughter's arrival properly noted in the public prints.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Thierelf curious as to identity of a newspaper around a package from their son, Capt. Bub Thierelf, now head of a tank unit "somewhere in South Pacific," unwrapping same with great expectations only to find it an old copy of the Medford Mail Tribune.

Mrs. H. B. Jones too excited over arrival of her first grandchild to talk coherently.

Gus Newbury feeling sufficiently recovered from his illness to sally forth in the "Oregon mist" to do his Christmas shopping.

Frank Hull claiming the title of "Medford's most intelligent people" for employees at the Chamber of Commerce.

B-29s Set Tokyo Fires

78TH CONGRESS CONCLUDES WITH JOB UNFINISHED

Early Departure of Members for Christmas Vacations Forces Sine Die Close.

Washington, Dec. 20—(U.P.)—The 78th congress faded into history today, its scheduled work not quite completed because too many members chose to get early starts on their Christmas vacations.

Ironically, it was a bill to increase wages of postal workers \$100 a year that compelled the congress—which had appropriated nearly \$200,000,000,000 during its two years of existence—to adjourn sine die last night with business still left to be done.

Postal Bill Delays

The postal bill had been approved by the house and was the final business in the senate before adjournment was planned. But the chamber became embroiled in a parliamentary argument and Sen. Bennett C. Clark, D., Mo., raised the point that a quorum of 49 senators was not present.

The roll was called and only 38 senators answered. Democratic Leader Alben W. Barkley, Ky., had two alternatives—to round up the absentees or move to adjourn. He chose adjournment. The house had quit more than an hour earlier with barely 20 members on hand.

The next congress—the 79th—convenes Jan. 3. In it the Democrats will enjoy a far greater numerical majority than in the session just completed.

Finish Main Task

Before quitting last night the senate finished the principal task which kept it in session beyond last week's tentative adjournment deadline—confirmation of six top state department nominations. It let die, because of a dispute over exempting the central valley in California from an acreage limit on government irrigation projects, the \$500,000,000 postwar rivers and harbors improvement program.

Previously, in the five weeks since returning from its election recess, the congress had:

1. Approved after lengthy partisan debate the nominations of Lt. Col. Edward Heller of California and former Gov. Robert A. Hurley of Connecticut as members of the surplus war property disposal board.

2. Extended the second war powers act to Dec. 31, 1945.

3. Frozen the social security payroll tax at 1 per cent for another year.

4. Passed a \$500,000,000 deficiency appropriation bill.

5. Authorized for the postwar period a \$1,000,000,000 flood control program and a \$1,500,000,000 highway program.

No Funds Given

The flood control and highway program measures carried no actual appropriation of funds for the work. That is planned later. Most of the \$182,237,697,612 appropriated by the 78th congress was for outright prosecution of the war.

The army received approximately \$75,000,000,000 and the navy about \$58,000,000,000. Additional billions went to emergency war agencies and to war functions of the regular government departments.

As appropriations mounted, so did taxes. The 78th congress put most of the nation's taxpayers on a pay-as-you-go basis. In doing so, it raised government income an estimated \$3,000,000,000. It subsequently passed a tax simplification measure which netted another \$2,300,000,000.

The simplification bill, however, drew the congress into one of the bitterest of its many fights with President Roosevelt.

The president had asked for a \$10,000,000,000 tax increase and vetoed the bill congress sent him. Congress promptly overrode the veto.

Children Able to Talk to Santa On Friday, Saturday

Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce has made arrangements for children of the Medford area to talk to Santa Claus free of charge by direct wire Friday or Saturday, it was announced today. Children are asked to dial 9156, or 9158 for connections with Santa Claus, between 9 a. m. and 9 p. m. either Friday or Saturday.

In a conversation with local junior chamber officials today, Santa assured them he would answer all calls by post card. At a meeting Tuesday night junior chamber members held an auction of Christmas gifts which raised \$17.75 to be used to pay for the direct wire to the North Pole.

LEFTISTS CAPTURE HEADQUARTERS OF RAF NEAR ATHENS

Athens, Dec. 20—(U.P.)—An E. L. A. S. force of 1000 persons including women, boys and girls throwing grenades like baseballs, stormed and captured the R. A. F. headquarters at Kifissia, 10 miles northeast of Athens, it was revealed today.

Earlier Lt. Gen. Ronald Scobie served notice on leftist forces that an all-out campaign would begin tomorrow morning to end the internal struggle.

Fire on Mob

The headquarters attack began Monday A British armored column reached the scene more than 24 hours later and fired on the E. L. A. S. swarming around the flat-topped stone buildings. Tanks and armored cars slashed toward the beleaguered British building and rescued the R. A. F. personnel which included 25 staff officers. Some of the R. A. F. men were wounded. Many of the E. L. A. S. were wounded by the armored forces.

The headquarters was in the Hotel Cecil, one of the last buildings captured by the E. L. A. S. The insurgents set fire to the hotel and were believed to have captured some British motor vehicles.

R. A. F. planes dropped leaflets in the Athens and Piraeus areas warning civilians to evacuate the areas around E. L. A. S. guns tomorrow morning when an all-out assault would begin against the leftist forces.

CUT IN GAS RATIONS IS CAUSE OF SUICIDE

Long Beach, Cal., Dec. 20—(U.P.)—A cut in gas rations today had caused the suicide of Albert Williams, 56-year-old chemist.

"He was despondent after he returned from the ration board and later took poison," his wife, Margaret, told police.

NO PAPER MONDAY

Following long-established custom the Mail Tribune will not publish on Monday, Christmas day, in order to permit employees to enjoy the holiday in their homes.

Buzz Bomb Blitz on Belgium May Be Nazi Offensive Phase

By Robert Musel
(UP War Correspondent)

Aboard Ninth Air Force Liaison Plane, Belgium, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—From this little plane hovering over Belgium I saw today an area attacked by buzz bombs with greater intensity than the blitz which shook London last summer and fall.

There was a possibility that this attack was coordinated with the present German offensive—the first such synchronization in military history.

Results Unknown

But only the military experts were able to say whether this apparent timing of ground and buzz-bomb offensives, permitting the Luftwaffe to stay on the defensive, is working out in practice.

With sharply etched memories of the blitzing of London with a similar weapon, I can say that this area is taking an even worse plastering.

AIRMEN REPORT GOOD RESULTS IN NIGHT ASSAULT

Japanese Use First Phosphorus Bombs in Effort to Shoot Down Big Invaders

Twenty-first Bomber Command Headquarters, Saipan, Dec. 20—(U.P.)—(Via navy radio)—Three Superfortresses, attacking individually, started two dozen fires in Tokyo last night. One of the B-29s encountered a swarm of 20 to 30 Japanese night fighters which pressed home a determined assault. Returning crewmen also reported the enemy used aerial phosphorus bombs in an attempt to bring down the big Marianas-based aircraft.

Commander of the first plane over Tokyo, 1st Lt. Wilfred N. Lind, Minneapolis, Minn. He found the city blacked out.

Explosions, Fires

Dropping his bombs, he saw them explode and start fires covering a large square area of the metropolis. His plane was over the city at 1:06 a. m. Tokyo time. It was followed nine minutes later by a plane commanded by Capt. Harold F. Schramm, Coral Gables, Fla., who reported starting 13 additional fires of medium size in the industrial area, where the blitzes set by Lind were burning.

Later 1st Lt. Everett P. Abar, Concord, N. H., roared over Tokyo but he was unable to drop his explosives because the bomb bay doors were stuck.

All his guns went dead and he was defenseless against the 20 to 30 night fighters which attacked him for more than an hour.

First Phosphorus

"We could see tracers around us at various times, but we were not hit," Abar said.

He said it was the first time he had seen the Japanese use phosphorus bombs against the Superforts.

Homeward bound, his crew finally succeeded in opening the bomb bay doors, so they attacked a small enemy island en route.

First Lt. Harold E. Sargent, Waymart, Pa., bombed Shimono-shiki on Honshu during the night of December 17-18 and set off "a very large explosion that sent blue-green flames a thousand feet into the air," Shimono-shiki is three miles southwest of Nagoya.

JAP BALLOON IS FLATHEAD PUZZLE

Kallspeil, Mont., Dec. 19—(U.P.)—There was only one live topic of conversation today in this Flathead county summer resort where the war suddenly dropped into the laps of 8,000 natives in the form of a mysterious Japanese balloon.

Since the day last week when O. B. Hill and his son, Owen, spotted the red and yellow sphere in the woods southwest of town, Kallspeil has taken a buzzing new interest in the war being fought thousands of miles across the Pacific ocean. Townspeople made sure, however, they knew whom they were talking to until federal authorities had checked the balloon.

Speculation on how the enemy got into these woods came trigger-fast after the FBI lifted its security blackout yesterday on the news everybody along Flathead lake had known for days.

JACKSON COUNTY SALES TO DATE IN THE SIXTH WAR LOAN ARE:

"E" Bonds\$552,037
"E" Quota\$600,000

Nazis Strike Back



(Acme Telephoto)
The heaviest German counter-offensive of western campaign (white arrows) co-ordinated with a savage V-bomb barrage, continues to roll on U. S. First Army front, punching into Belgium and Luxembourg.

HOTEL PROWLER ADMITS GUILT: WAITS SENTENCE

Jack Junlon Collicott, 20, an ex-sailor, pleaded guilty to charges of "larceny from a hotel room" yesterday in circuit court after signing a statement in which he admitted robbing four rooms at the Jackson Hotel Tuesday night of approximately \$150. He is now in county jail awaiting sentence.

Collicott was charged with taking \$19 and a wrist watch from the room of Harry Jay Farmer, a sailor from Klamath Falls naval base; \$7 and three quarts of whiskey from the room of Capt. William Thomas Brown, stationed at Colorado Springs, Colo., and grounded in Medford due to weather; \$80 from the room of Lt. Harry Edwin Edmonds; \$35 from the room of J. H. Morris, Greyhound bus driver and \$12 from the room of Mr. and Mrs. Otto King of Talent.

The rooms were robbed while their inhabitants were sleeping. Collicott was arrested shortly after the robbery on identification of Mrs. King, who awoke when he entered her room, the police report stated. He had hidden his loot in a lampshade and under a radiator in his own room, according to the report.

Collicott's statement read that he received a bad conduct discharge from the navy Nov. 27 and that he has a wife and baby in Bend, Oregon. He registered at the Jackson hotel Dec. 18.

Grew Is First

The oaths were administered by Supreme Court Justice Stanley F. Reed.

Joseph C. Grew took the oath to be undersecretary of state first and was followed by William L. Clayton, Archibald MacLeish, Nelson A. Rockefeller and James C. Dunn—all assistant secretaries of state.

Stettinius and what he describes as his "team" are pledged to "carry out... a liberal and forward-looking foreign policy with level-headed and business-like effectiveness."

The senate confirmed the new nominees yesterday, after President Roosevelt intervened to break a revolt against approval. Grew was confirmed 68 to 7, Clayton 52 to 19, Dunn 62 to 10, Holmes 61 to 9, MacLeish 43 to 25, and Rockefeller, 62 to 9.

Records Sought For Camp White Hospital Phonos

Local Red Cross officials today issued an appeal for popular phonograph records, not being used in private homes, for use in the Camp White Station Hospital. Patients at the hospital have indicated particular interest in current hits.

All records should be left at the Junior Red Cross office in the Holly building, where they will be picked up and transported to the hospital by the Red Cross motor corps.

3 HUGE BATTLES STILL RAGING IN NORTHERN SECTOR

Report From First Army Is First Sign of Change in Trend of Swirling Conflict

Paris, Dec. 20—(U.P.)—An American 1st army staff officer said late today that the German counteroffensive has been "denied" in five days of the bitterest fighting, but at least three tremendous battles still were raging in the northern sector of the Nazi break-through front.

A dispatch from Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st army headquarters gave the first sign of a change in the trend of the conflict swirling over Belgium and Luxembourg, but there still was no indication that the westward sweep of German armored task forces had been checked.

Three Main Battles

American counterattacks were disclosed by a front report which said that two "extremely large and bitter battles" were being fought in the northern sector of the break-through zone, and another involving "even more German tanks" was in progress "farther east."

(CBS Correspondent Richard C. Hottelet reported from the 1st army front that "we are getting the first straight indication that at some points the tide of battle is beginning to change in our favor." He said the Germans made no progress at several points, and one Nazi spearhead was pushed back several thousand yards.)

Field dispatches said a more or less solid front had been re-established on either side of a 25-mile wide gap in the 1st army line, through which German armored columns were fanning out in reckless thrusts westward, leaving formidable American forces and strong points to threaten their flanks.

STETTINIUS TEAM SWORN IN, STARTS REORGANIZATION

Washington, Dec. 20—(U.P.)—The new undersecretary of state and four of the five new assistant secretaries were sworn into office today, and Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., immediately began carrying out plans for reorganizing the department to deal with momentous foreign affairs of the present and future.

All of Stettinius' "team" of assistants except Brig. Gen. Julius C. Holmes said their "I do's" before news and movie photographers, reporters, members of the appointees' families and staffs, and state department officials in the secretary's outer office. Holmes is in Europe completing his work as deputy chief of staff to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and will take the oath upon his return in the near future.

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