

YANKEE BOMBERS PLASTER HANKOW IN GIANT ATTACK

Foe Nerve Center Pulverized
By Biggest Bomb Load
Ever Dropped in China.

By Walter Rundle
United Press War Correspondent
(Representing the Combined
U. S. Press)

Aboard a B-24 Liberator over Hankow, Dec. 18—(U.P.)—Hankow, the nerve center and principal supply base for the Japanese drive through south-central China, was pulverized today under the heaviest bombardment ever dropped on the Asiatic mainland by the largest force of U. S. planes ever sent into China's skies.

The attack was perfectly coordinated by more than 250 Superfortresses, Liberators, Mitchells, Mustangs and Warhawks from the 20th bomber command, the 14th air force and the Chinese-American composite wing.

At the briefing six hours ago, Capt. Ross McLead, New York

Elephants Help Indians



PILOTS OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE, on the Burma Front, owe many of their smooth landings to the work done on their airdromes by these two elephants. In the recent Manipur campaign at least half of the dive bombers used by the Allies were manned by members of the Indian Air Force.

City, told the 14th's crews: "Chennault (Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault) has been wanting to knock out Hankow for a long time. He thinks this time we'll do it."

Smoke Billows
While we were still more than 50 miles out from the target, we could see huge columns of smoke rolling up 10,000 feet as a result of the Superfort visit 45 minutes earlier.

As the pilot, 1st Lt. George R. Ignasiak of New Baltimore, Mich., set the plane on the bomb run we could see bright yellow and deep red flames reaching the full length of the docks.

We had been told at the briefing that the anti-aircraft fire probably would be silenced by the time we arrived. It was, all but a scattering of sooty smudges in the sky far ahead and to the right of our course.

We also had been told that there probably would be little opposition from the sizable force of Japanese planes based at Hankow. It was slight. The Liberators caught the Japanese with their Zeros down refueling.

Planes on Ground
Bombardier Robert C. Branyon drew the lines of his bomb-sight across the long runway flanked with hangars, field

dumps and other vital installations. From the tall gunner, Robert E. Southern of Chicago, came the word, "boy, did we plaster them. I hope we caught their whole damned air force on the ground."

Branyon confirmed that he saw at least 10 planes in the refueling line. As we banked away from the target, a long streak of smoke billowed up and extended the full length of the airdrome.

We had been promised fighter cover before reaching the target area. We sweated it out almost an hour after the scheduled rendezvous. The co-pilot, 1st Lt. Henry Johnson of Hudsonville, Mich., swore under his breath and remarked to me that "if those fighters don't show up, you may get more of a story than you want."

Fighters Appear
But, it showed up, from the direction of the sun just before we started the bomb run. When the Japanese managed to get fighters into the air after the completion of the bomb run, the fighter cover did a grand job.

Staff Sgt. Angelo J. Barillaro, ball gunner of Collingsville, Ill., called over the interphone that "you should see what's going on behind. Our guys are swarming all over them."

"Keep your eye on the ball," Ignasiak cautioned. "They'll be on us next."

One fighter dived perpendicularly through our formation, then came up directly beneath. Barillaro fired a burst and the enemy peeled away. That was all there was to it.

Daughter Born To W. D. Janes Family
A daughter was born to Lt. and Mrs. William Dolph Janes Dec. 18 in Portland, according to an announcement received here by Lt. Janes' mother, Mrs. H. B. Janes, 1827 Capital street, yesterday. She has been named Alice Brown, the announcement said.

Lt. Janes is now serving in England and prior to his enlistment was production manager for radio station KORE, Eugene. He grew to manhood here and graduated from Medford high school.

Closing time for Classified Ads 9 a. m. — Too Late to Classify 12:30 p. m.

LOCAL SOLDIERS TAKING PART IN ITALIAN BATTLE

Four Medford men are fighting in Italy with the 361st infantry regiment, which spearheaded the advance of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's 5th army from Velletri to the Arno river without having once given ground, according to a dispatch from 5th army headquarters in Italy. They are Col. R. W. Broedlow, regimental commander, 535 W. Hayden street; Lt. Col. Howard W. Reynolds, battalion commander, 507 Haven street; Sgt. Eloy Cordova, first cook, 1018 W. 10th street; and Pvt. James W. Glenn, cannoner, 402 Park street.

The 361st is part of the 91st "Powder River" division, currently in the Florence-Bologna drive. The regiment landed in Italy last May 31 and in two days moved into the line and fought its first battle just north of Velletri while attached to the 36th "Texas" division. The 361st was one of the units that took the Albano hills and Lake Albano making possible the fall of Rome, according to the announcement.

Bypassing Rome, the regiment continued to advance north and participated in the capture of several strategic towns. Pulled out of the line for a rest July 4, the outfit rejoined the 91st division and attacked July 14 east of Cecina. It then moved through Orceio, Ponsacco and Pontedera and was the first in Italy to reach the Arno river July 17. Col. Broedlow, veteran of 28 years' service, commands the 361st. He has seen action on the Mexican border and in the first World War and served also in the Philippines and elsewhere in the Orient.

Yuletide Shoppers Are Not To Expect Past Store Favors

Christmas shoppers were reminded today by Hosea Evans, district OPA price executive, not to expect all the pre-war frills and extra services which retail stores had generously provided in past years such as holiday gift wrappings, exchange of merchandise, and provisions for "lay-aways." Such services are optional with the store, he emphasized.

Evans pointed out that the OPA in cooperation with other war agencies had encouraged business houses to effect economies where possible in order to conserve material and facilities. An example of this "streamlining" was the curtailment on delivery services made in cooperation with the office of defense transportation, Evans said.

Customers can help relieve the burden on store employees by not demanding special services which most stores, putting into effect the "retail economy plan" are not in a position to give, he added.

Prospect
Prospect, Dec. 20.—The Sunday school of the Prospect Nazarene Church will have their Christmas tree, and present an interesting program Friday, Dec. 20.

Dad Anderson, formerly of Union Creek, who has lived at Cascade Gorge for the past few months, is ill with heart trouble, and confined in the Community hospital at Medford.

Mrs. William Gaines and new baby son returned to their home here Dec. 17. Mrs. Gaines' sister, Mrs. Charles Cummins, of Medford, accompanied her home to assist with the work for awhile. Three-year-old Jerry Gaines, who was ill Dec. 16, has fully recovered.

Two Prospect high school stu-



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Yes, depressed states and constipation go together! Take Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets). Contains no chemicals, no minerals, no phenol derivatives. NR Tablets are different—different. Purely vegetable—a combination of 10 vegetable ingredients, formulated over 50 years ago. Uncoated, not sandy coated, their action is dependable, thorough, yet gentle, as millions of NR's have proved. Get a 25¢ Convincer Box. Caution: Take only as directed.

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ONE WORD SUGGESTION FOR ACID INDIGESTION—
"TUMS"

dents, Glenn Ray Fairchild, senior, and Norman Gary, junior, have received their calls for army induction Dec. 27. Miss Evelyn Ditsworth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Ditsworth of the Green Meadows ranch, who is attending college in Portland, is recuperating from a severe attack of Chicken pox, that kept her confined to the home of her aunt for the past two weeks.

Paper Published By 96th Division Is Received Here

A copy of "The Deadeye Dispatch," a mimeographed newspaper published by men of the 96th division, in the field, has been received by the Medford Mail Tribune from Lt. O. R. Davidson, who was stationed at Camp White with the 96th division.

The paper is the official organ of Maj. Gen. J. L. Bradley's unit and is made up of news, cartoons and jokes by and of interest to the fighting men.

CONSTRUCTION IN NORTHWEST AREA SHOWS DECREASE

Construction in the Pacific northwest continues to recede with November, 1944, permits for 36 cities decreasing over one million—30 per cent from the October volume, and about 4.7 millions—82 per cent from November, 1943, according to figures released in the Pacific Northwest Building Data bulletin for December.

Heaviest decreases are shown in the cities of Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, and Portland, due to the leveling off of construction for war industries.

Total for Oregon for November, 1944, was \$565,520 as compared with \$1,058,362 for November, 1943. Medford's con-

struction jumped from \$3,975 in November, 1943, to \$20,485 in November, 1944.

Grand total for the Pacific northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia was \$2,736,573 in November, 1944; \$3,909,915 in October, 1944; and \$7,332,988 in November, 1943.

Approximately 85 per cent of the world's output of copper is extracted by smelting processes.

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HELP THAT COUNTED

The record will show on January 1 that Great Northern moved more freight in 1944 than in any previous year.

A tremendous accomplishment, yes; but, not one performed by the railway's employes alone. They had invaluable assistance in transporting the record-making load of military and civilian freight.

Help that counted — from our patrons and their organizations; from representatives of the War and Navy Departments, and many other governmental agencies — was Great Northern's throughout its busiest year.

For the priceless co-operation, which made possible the continuation of the railway's dependable service, Great Northern is grateful.

Good Check

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530 American Bank Bldg.
Portland 5, Oregon

route of the **EMPIRE BUILDER**

FOR A— MERRY CHRISTMAS

In YOUR Home This Yuletide

We Are Happy to Announce
That Our Beautiful
YULETIDE CLUSTERS

will be available to residents of Medford and surrounding communities this week for only

\$2.00

These are the same beautiful door-hangers we advertise and sell nationally for \$4.95 delivered.

We have had many calls from local people regarding these beautiful door and window hangers, and we are making this special announcement for the benefit of our many Medford friends. You will want one of these beauties when you see them, for there are so many ways these Yuletide Clusters can be used. You can put "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" on your own front door with this exciting arrangement of fir boughs, huge sugar-pine cones, a little golden bell that tinkles merrily every time the door is opened, and scarlet satin bows with streamers that gleam with holiday greetings and good wishes to your Christmas guests.

Or, if you prefer, you can decorate your mantel or holiday table with this touch of our own fresh, green, western forests, and add just the right finishing touch to your holiday home with the fragrance of spicy, fresh fir-boughs.

Or, it can be hung in the window to tell your friends and neighbors that your household is keeping Christmas.

Because of this attractive price, \$2.00, our supply will not last, so come in early, or call and we will gladly reserve one for you. You can pick your Clusters up at our new Fir Street Packing Plant . . . but don't delay, we want as many of our Medford friends as possible to share the joy of giving and receiving one of our nationally famous Yuletide Clusters.

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