

Weather

Forecast Sunday: Partly cloudy, light showers, little change in temperature.
 Highest yesterday 51
 Lowest this morning 39
 Precip. to 5 p. m. yesterday...

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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1944

NO. 233. 1

ALLIED SUPPLY LINE THREATENED

WEHRMACHT RUSH WITHIN 24 M. OF HISTORIC SEDAN

Yank Counter-Attacks on South Flank Gain — Air Power Exerted

Paris, Sunday, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—The German wehrmacht, in newly announced gains up to 15 miles, has swept within 24 miles of the historic Sedan gap and imperiled the allies' Namur-Luxembourg supply road but counter-attacking American forces have advanced several miles in a drive against the enemy's south flank, it was announced last night.

Simultaneously, allied air power fell in strong force on the German legions Saturday and preliminary reports indicated that the planes, flying in perfect weather, may have struck a blow comparable with the havoc spread through the retreating enemy armies in Normandy.

Allied headquarters issued two reports Saturday on development of the eight-day-old German winter offensive, modifying the 48-hour time lag on front news. The newest reports apparently included events overnight Thursday and early Friday.

The loss of the Belgian road control points of St. Vith and Stravelot near the center of the 50-mile break-through area was confirmed and German spearheads to the southwest were disclosed to have reached the Marche area in a 10-mile advance from La Roche and Libramont in a 15-mile drive south-west from Bastogne.

Libramont is eight miles south of St. Hubert, reached by the enemy earlier; 17 miles from the French frontier and 24 miles from the Sedan gap, through which the Germans invaded France in 1870, 1914 and again in 1940.

The new gains extended two more German penetrations in the American 1st army's original line to, roughly 40 miles, the enemy having driven that far earlier in the St. Hubert area and beyond Stavelot. Libramont is 17 miles inside Belgium along the line of 21 miles German sweep across the entire breadth of Luxembourg.

Marche lies astride the big Namur-Luxembourg highway, which is augmented by a railroad running farther to the west. There were indications that the Germans had not yet reached Marche itself, however. Front dispatches said the Germans had cut an offshoot road between Hottot and Soy, five and eight miles northeast of Marche, and were offering stiff resistance to American counter-attacks south of this road.

U. S. ground forces have already scored their first major defensive victory against the eight-day-old enemy drive, preventing the Germans from joining two spearheads 40 miles inside Belgium, when wave after wave of Flying Fortresses, Marauders and fighter planes roared in to blast enemy tank columns, fuel dumps and road junctions.

The luftwaffe also arose in great strength in an attempt to sustain Field Marshal Karl Gerd Von Rundstedt's offensive and tangled with allied fighters and gunners in swirling dogfights that cost the enemy at least 100 planes, by initial accounts.

Pilots reported that the enemy's attack columns provided the best targets to come within their sights since the Germans streamed in ragged retreat through the Ffaisse gap in Normandy and lost the better part of an army to allied bombs and guns.

On the less favorable side of the crucial western front picture came indications that the 1st army, after important time-saving stands, had lost both St. Vith and Stavelot, Belgian road control points near the center of the front.



ALONG THE RHINE—French officer, leading a patrol, is under fire as he reconnoiters along the Rhine, pistol in hand. German fire is coming from farther up the river on same (French) side, and from across the river beyond the building on far right, which marks the Swiss boundary. Haze obscures Nazi troops crossing river in distant background. This action took place near the French City of Huningue, but officer escaped being hit.

BRITISH ANSWER TO GREEK PEACE OFFERS DELAYED

Athens, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—British officials disclosed today that an answer to ELAS peace terms will be delayed until at least Monday, although Lt. Gen. Ronald M. Scoble and his staff officers have spent hours discussing the lengthy ELAS counter-proposals received last night.

At the same time two Greek government leaders suddenly turned cool toward a previously favored proposal for a regency to end Greece's three weeks of bloody civil war, asserting that the main hope for peace lay in the use of armed force—necessarily British.

The British reply originally was scheduled to be drafted today, but officials indicated that it had been referred to higher authorities and that it will not be prepared until Monday or later.

Greek Premier George Papandreu, who has studied the unpublished note, told a press conference today that "the only situation is military—not political," and heatedly demanded disarmament of the leftist ELAS forces.

The new ELAS offensive in northwestern Greece drew an urgent appeal from Gen. Napoleon Zervas, leader of the EDES, for British help in his territory. Although this apparently was not forthcoming, Papandreu appeared to welcome the EDES into the government camp by defending vigorously their failure to disarm in accordance with orders issued to all guerrillas by the British command.

BULLETIN

Iowa City, Ia., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Showing an unexpected surge of power in the second half, the Iowa Hawkeyes took their fifth straight victory tonight and nipped Notre Dame's winning streak at five games, 63-46 before 8,500 fans.

After a slow start in the first period the Hawks began to hit the basket with deadly accuracy and at half time had a 28-25 lead.

had battered into previously encircled Bastogne and swept on 15 miles westward to St. Hubert, 23 miles from the French frontier and only 29 miles northeast of Sedan and the Meuse.

Four flights of C-47 transports dropped supplies to troops in the Bastogne area Saturday, indicating that our forces were still holding out in or near the city.

Another ominous note was the return to the air on the Radio Luxembourg frequency on a broadcasting station which identified itself as the "German radio," giving Germans news reports in the German language and adding a note in Luxembourg dialect. The FCC said the station did not identify itself as the Luxembourg radio, which had not been heard since Tuesday night.

Battle Weary Nazis Captured



(Acme Telephoto) Battle weary German soldiers, among the last to surrender during battle of Hurtgen Forest which ended after several weeks of war's bitterest fighting, find safety in American Ninth Division prison of war camp near Jungsersdorf, Germany. Signal Corps radio-telephoto.

REORGANIZATION OF STATE DAIRY, FARM LAW URGED

Salem, Ore., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Reorganization of the existing "patchwork" laws pertaining to agriculture generally and to the dairy industry in particular will be recommended to the state legislature in January, E. L. Peterson, director of the agriculture department said in his message to the legislature, released today.

Evidence seems to be sufficient, the message said, "to warrant that all dairy products be required to be pasteurized. In any event, our present legislation on pasteurization needs correction."

The confusion concerning the fluid milk standards might be removed by legislative action, Peterson declared. Positive definition of such standards and positive specification of authority for enforcement were recommended.

An overlap in the duties of the agriculture and state health departments was shown in the message, and Peterson said that his department had offered full cooperation to the health agencies.

MCKENZIE PASS CLOSED
 Salem, Ore., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—McKenzie Pass, between Eugene and Bend was closed today, due to heavy snow over the route. State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock announced.

JAPANESE FORCE ON LEYTE DRIVEN TO FINAL STAND

Allied Headquarters, Leyte, Sunday, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—On Leyte, it was announced that the last Japanese remnants pocketed east of the Ormoc corridor had been wiped out and that the 77th division had driven west to within 11 miles of the enemy's last west coast port of Pamotan.

It was disclosed that a seventh American division—Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Swing's 11th airborne division—was in action on Leyte. It pushed west, forming part of the trap in which the Japanese 26th division was caught below Ormoc when the 77th made an amphibious landing on the west coast Dec. 7. The bulletin said the 11th airborne had entirely cleared its sector southeast of the Ormoc corridor.

The bulletin reported that 3,788 enemy dead were counted on Leyte Thursday, along with nine prisoners, running to 16,661 the number of enemy dead counted on the island in the past eight days.

Fighters supporting ground operations on Leyte destroyed a lugger and five barges off the west coast, presumably trying to slip in and rescue some of the fleeing Japanese.

Filipino Guerrillas operating on Panay island west of Leyte were revealed to have captured the north coast town of Capiz.

MICHIGAN FLYER LIFTS SCORE OF SHIPS SHOT DOWN

(By United Press)
 At least 35 German planes were shot down by the 56th Thunderbolt fighter group commanded by Col. David Schilling of Traverse City, Mich. Schilling's fighters were attacked at one time by five German fighter formations totalling 200 to 250 planes in all, but the enemy were able to make only one attack against the U. S. bombers. It was unsuccessful.

Schilling himself shot down five, giving him a total of 33½ enemy planes destroyed in Europe, 23 in the air and 10½ on the ground. It is the highest score for any U. S. fighter pilot still active in this theater.

Near Trier, the 364th fighter group led by Col. Roy Osborne of San Antonio, Tex., knocked down 20 German planes in 20 minutes without loss to themselves. Dogfights raged from 25,000 feet altitude to just above the snow-covered ground, returning pilots said.

Bomber pilots reported that they crossed France beneath a solid cloud bank, but that over the battle lines the clouds were broken.

Pilots of the U. S. 9th (tactical) air force reported to headquarters that "this weather is just what we are waiting and praying for," and at least 1000 sorties or more were expected to be flown by the 9th's medium and heavy bombers.

First results of the day included 29 enemy planes downed, 12 tanks and armored vehicles and 30 motor vehicles knocked out.

"We caught vehicles stretched at 75 to 100 yards intervals as though they were expecting something, and we dovebombed them and finished them off by strafing," Capt. Carroll A. Peterson, Grand Rapids, Mich., reported after flying over one area.

TOKYO BROADCAST SAYS SHIPS LOST

(By United Press)
 Tokyo, heard by the United Press in San Francisco, claimed that its warplanes had sunk eight American ships and damaged 12 others in a series of raids from Wednesday through Friday off Leyte, Mindoro island and in the Sulu sea.

Off Mindoro Tokyo claimed to have sunk four transports and two cruisers or destroyers, and damaged five transports, one cruiser, one cruiser or destroyer, and two unidentified warships. Off eastern Leyte the enemy claimed to have sunk a transport and damaged a large aircraft carrier and one identified warship. A transport was claimed sunk and another damaged in the Sulu sea.

WEATHER FAVORS ALLIES, 236 HUNS PLANES DAMAGED

Record Number of Sorties Rake German Offensive; Rail Centers Hit

London, Sunday, Dec. 24.—(U.P.) Allied warplanes flew 5000 sorties yesterday blasting and shooting up traffic on the German counter-offensive front, and they shot down or damaged a record total of 236 Nazi planes as perfect flying weather favored the allies for the first time in four days.

A British-based striking force of 400 heavy bombers and 700 fighters assailed seven teeming German transport centers behind the front while 650 medium bombers of supporting tactical commands in France and Belgium added their destruction against unidentified targets.

Allied supreme headquarters announced that other fighters and fighter bombers of the 9th air force flew 3000 sorties against the German front, while the tactical command added another 380 sorties.

British-based heavy, medium and light bombers added to the total, raiding other transport targets during the day and night.

The greatest total of enemy planes was shot down by the 9th air force, which destroyed 101 enemy aircraft, 94 in the air and seven on ground. Another 22 Nazi planes were probably destroyed and 29 were damaged. The 1st tactical command destroyed seven.

Early reports indicated that 14 American medium bombers and 14 fighter bombers were lost. The heavy bombers hit railway yards at Kaiserlautern, Ehrang and Homburg, all rail points feeding the German attack, and other road and rail junctions between Coblenz and the Belgian border. Fighter-escorted RAF Lancasters also joined the attack, bombing Trier and other German Rhineland transport centers.

The advance carried Malinovsky's troops into the Bratislava plain leading west to Vienna and Berlin said that the Soviets already had advanced five miles westward to force the Garah (Hron) river and establish two bridgeheads on its west bank, 104 miles from Vienna.

STATE POLICEMEN CONFISCATE STILL

Warren Adolph Jones, 78, route 4, box 114, on Spring street, was arrested Thursday on a charge of operating a still at his residence. He was brought before Judge William P. Tucker where he entered a plea of guilty and was given a 90-day suspended jail sentence. The court ordered his equipment confiscated and destroyed.

A state police officer was investigating a game case in the area and stopped to talk to Jones on the case. The officer became curious over smoke coming from a padlocked building and questioned Jones about it. He then admitted operation of the still, the state police report said.

A 10-gallon crock contained mash, apples and peaches and about 1½ quarts of liquor had been run off, the report stated. Jones admitted he ran the still about twice a month prior to his arrest.

ASHLAND YOUTH HURT IN WRECK

Jack McCoy, 16, of route 1, Ashland, rode his motorcycle into the side of a logging truck at the intersection of South Central and Ninth street Saturday night, according to Deputy Coroner Carlos Morris, who took him to a local hospital in the Conger-Morris ambulance. He was reported to be suffering from a compound fracture of the right leg, Morris said.

Cause of the accident was not immediately determined, but McCoy was thought to have been traveling at an excessive rate of speed, Morris said.

War Bulletins

Allied Supreme Headquarters, Paris, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—German armor has reached Libramont, 15 miles southwest of Bastogne, and Mohret, six miles southwest of Bastogne, it was announced tonight.

RUSSIANS CLAMP NEW PINNERS ON HUNGARY CAPITAL

See-Saw Battles Rage to Gain Budapest — Berlin Claims Victory.

London, Sunday, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—Russian troops, clamping a huge pincers on Budapest with renewed offensives northwest and southwest of the city, yesterday encircled almost three-quarters of the besieged Hungarian capital and hammered to within 109 miles of Vienna.

Hundreds of Russian and German tanks and planes were locked in see-saw battles around the city as the Red army strove to close the Nazi garrison's escape gap which was narrowed from 35 to 30 miles.

While the Soviet high command, according to Berlin, hurled 18 infantry divisions in battle southwest of the city alone, far to the north the Germans claimed a decisive defense victory against Russia's winter offensive in Latvia where fighting today raged into its fourth day.

Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's 2nd Ukrainian army brought about a three-fourths encirclement of the capital by smashing the vital enemy defense line in the 3,000-foot, 18-mile long Borzsony mountains northwest of the city between the Danube river and the Czechoslovak town of Sahy (Ipolyssag) on the Hungarian border.

Advancing 13 miles across the mountains from their last reported positions, the Russians reached the Ipoly river which runs into the Danube at a point 21 miles northwest of Budapest.

The advance carried Malinovsky's troops into the Bratislava plain leading west to Vienna and Berlin said that the Soviets already had advanced five miles westward to force the Garah (Hron) river and establish two bridgeheads on its west bank, 104 miles from Vienna.

BUS DIVES INTO RAVINE, 42 HURT

Salinas, Cal., Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—A Greyhound bus plunged into a 55-foot ravine near Fort Ord last night, killing one soldier and injuring 42 other persons, five possibly fatally, the California highway patrol reported today.

Excepting two civilians and the driver, all of the injured were soldiers highway patrol headquarters said.

10 MEN MISSING IN B-24 TRAGEDY

Muroc Field, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—The army today announced the names of 10 men missing when their B-24 plane crashed on the side of rugged Mt. Sterling near Eagle Rock, Friday night, while on a routine training mission.

Because of the desolate country, sheriff's office and army searchers have been unable to establish that there were no survivors, but all men are presumed dead.

CHICO TAVERNS FINED
 Sacramento, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Gilbert McNeil, Sacramento district office of price administration director, today disclosed that nine Chico tavern owners have delivered checks payable to the U. S. treasury to cover overcharges on beer and whiskey drinks.

100 JAP PLANES BLASTED IN RAID ON MANILA FIELD

Land Based Attack Crushing — Enemy Resistance On Leyte Disorganized

Allied Headquarters, Leyte, Philippines, Sunday, Dec. 24.—(U.P.)—U. S. warplanes blasted Clark field near Manila Thursday in apparently the heaviest assault on that area by planes of the Far Eastern air forces, it was announced today.

A majority of 100 Japanese planes caught on the ground were destroyed or damaged. Eight of nine Japanese planes which rose to challenge the Americans were shot down.

The Manila area has been attacked steadily by American carrier-borne planes since September, but Thursday's attack appeared to be the heaviest staged by land-based planes. The last carrier strikes were Dec. 13, 14 and 15 during which 102 Japanese ships were destroyed or damaged and 269 planes destroyed and 192 damaged on Manila and other parts of Luzon.

Clark field is 46 miles northwest of Manila. The nearest known American air bases are on Mindoro island, 188 miles south of Clark field, and at Leyte, 354 miles southeast of Clark field.

The daily allied war bulletin said that there was no ground activity on Mindoro, but that 20 Japanese planes were destroyed and two probably destroyed over that island on Wednesday.

On Leyte, the communiques said that Japanese remnants in the Ormoc corridor and east of it had been completely destroyed and that 3,788 Japanese dead were counted on Thursday. Nine prisoners were taken.

The American 77th division, advancing west from the corridor, was reported within 11 miles of the enemy's only escape port of Palompon, which was under steady fire from long-range artillery.

Enemy resistance was disorganized and only a fraction of the army which once numbered approximately 50,000 men could hope to escape Leyte in small boats.

Maj. Gen. Andrew D. Bruce's conquerors of Guam and Ormoc were slashing westward along the secondary highway linking the west coast of Leyte with the shattered Yamashita line to the east.

DEATH HITS MAN IN LOCAL CAFE

W. McVey, 76, died Saturday evening while eating in Barney's Cafe, 27 South Riverside, according to Carlos Morris, deputy coroner.

McVey is said to have been a resident of Eagle Point, where he was employed as a school bus driver, Morris said.

Cause of death was thought to have been a stroke, the deputy coroner said.

McVey is known to have one son, C. L. McVey, living in Big Creek, Calif.

Noted Dead

New York, Dec. 23.—(U.P.)—Charles Gibson, 77, artist and creator of the famed Gibson girl, died today after a heart attack.

At his bedside was his wife, Mrs. Irene Langhorne Gibson, a sister of Lady Astor. Mrs. Gibson's beautiful hair and slender waist were said to have been Gibson's inspiration for the pin-up girl of the gay 90's.

Gibson was stricken in mid-September at his home in Bar Harbor, Me., and was flown to his New York home by army transport.

Jackson County sales to date in the Sixth War Loan are—
 "E" Bonds \$813,912.50
 "E" Quota \$600,000.00