

YANKEES PUSH GERMANS BACK

Weather

Forecast: Partly cloudy to cloudy with rain, showers tonight and Friday. Colder tonight and Friday.
Temp. 54
Highest yesterday 54
Lowest this morning 43
Precipitation .01

MEDFORD



TRIBUNE

Thirty ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1944

NO. 236.

SEVEN WARD STORES SEIZED UNDER ROOSEVELT'S ORDER

CHAIRMAN AVERY REFUSES ACCEPT FEDERAL ORDER

Roosevelt Statement Says Confidence in WLB Undetermined by Company.

Chicago, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—The federal government, acting under orders of President Roosevelt, took possession of Montgomery Ward and Co. properties in seven cities today but for the second time this year Sewell Avery, chairman of the firm's board of directors, refused to accept the executive order.

Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Byron, director of the special services division of the Army Service Forces, served the order at 9:50 a. m. CWT affecting Ward properties in Chicago, Detroit, Jamaica, N. Y.; St. Paul, Minn.; Denver, Colo.; San Rafael, Cal., and Portland, Ore.

The firm had refused to abide by War Labor directives on wages and maintenance of membership in all the cities named in the order.

Injunction Awaited
Avery said he refused to accept the order and Byron awaited action on the government's request for an injunction in federal court at Chicago restraining company officials from interfering with government operation of the properties.

Mr. Roosevelt in a statement on the Montgomery Ward seizure said the confidence of employers and workers in the wartime structure of settling labor disputes was being threatened "by the consistent and willful defiance of its decisions by the head of one of the greatest corporations of this country—Sewell Avery, chairman of the board of Montgomery Ward and Company."

"This company, under Mr. Avery's leadership, has waged a bitter fight against the bona fide unions of its employees throughout the war," Mr. Roosevelt said, "in reckless disregard of the government's efforts to maintain harmony between management and labor."

Others May Strike
The President said there was a threat that workers in "some of our most critical war plants (at Detroit) may join" a strike against four Ward stores in the Detroit area.

"Strikes in wartime cannot be condoned, whether they are strikes by workers against their employes or strikes by employes against their government," he said. "All of our energies are engrossed in fighting a war on the industrial battlefield."

Avery was closeted in his paneled office with army officers and declined to amplify his refusal to accept the order.

Avery's previous refusal to accept a presidential seizure order came last April 26 when the government seized the Chicago properties of the plant for the first time. The next day he was carried from his office by two soldiers.

SNELL SILENT ON JAP RETURN TO COAST AREA

Salem, Ore., Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Gov. Earl Snell had no comment today on the policy of his administration toward the return of Japanese-Americans to the west coast, scheduled to start next week.

The governor said he believed that it would be better for no public statement of policy to be made at this time, and said he wanted to await any further developments.

Rioters Smash Montgomery Ward Detroit Store



Overturned counters and smashed merchandise displays litter the floor of Montgomery Ward Co.'s Dearborn, Mich., store after a crowd of alleged store workers' union members led a 15-minute rampage through the floor aisles. The union claimed that "strike-breakers imported by the company tried to stop the pickets and a scuffle resulted."

Presidential Order Violates Constitution Declares Avery

Chicago, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—The text of Sewell Avery's statement on the position of Montgomery Ward and Company in its seizure by the government follows:

The order of the President of the United States to effect the seizure of the property and business of Montgomery Ward is a violation of the constitution of the United States, which the President pledged to uphold and defend. A congress, which is the sole lawmaking authority under the constitution, has given the President no power to seize the non-war business of Montgomery Ward.

The purpose of the President's order is to enforce, by an exercise of arbitrary power, orders of the War Labor Board which the court have declared to be advisory and legally unenforceable. The courts have held that any one who refuse to comply with orders of the War Labor Board is not defying a command of the government, and that, since the orders are merely advisory, no government official has the right to impose punishments on those who do not comply.

The President's order does not arise from any failure on Ward's part to pay fair wage rates. Ward's policy is, and has been, to pay wages as high as or higher than those paid by other employers in the community for similar employment. Ward's only objection to any of the War Labor Board's wage recommendations has been in those instances where the board has arbitrarily demanded that Ward's substantially increase its rates above those of its competitors in the highly competitive retail field.

The President has ordered the army to restrict the liberties of Ward's employes by imposing upon them a closed shop in the form of union maintenance.

"Brass Hats" At Wards Serenaded With Phonograph

Denver, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—In the retail store of Montgomery Ward and Co., here today, the tune—"The Army Has Made A Man Out of Me"—blared loudly.

The piece was played over and over again at the store's record counter.

"I think it very, very appropriate," said Mrs. Verjean Perkins, clerk at the record counter, "with all the 'brass hats' around here."

She referred to the six army officers who walked into the retail store and assumed its control at 8:50 a. m.

Mrs. Verjean explained that she was the wife of a soldier, stationed in Denver.

RUSSIANS STRIKE TOWARD VIENNA

London, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Soviet armed forces, striking directly west from embattled Budapest toward Vienna, captured several inhabited places north of Szekesfehervar and took 600 more prisoners, a Moscow communique said tonight.

Red army troops in northern Hungary also captured the rail town of Szecseny, 41 miles northeast of Budapest and 18 southwest of the Czechoslovakian rail hub of Losonc.

Two additional suburbs of Budapest were occupied as the soviets tightened the vice around the eastern and northeastern sections of the Hungarian capital. They were Cinkota, three miles to the east, and Dunakeszi, less than five miles to the north of the east bank of the Danube.

GREEK PREMIER RESIGNS; ADVISES TRIPLE REGENCY

Athens, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden left for London today to recommend to King George of Greece the appointment of a regency in accordance with a decision reached at the Greek peace conference.

Athens, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Premier George Papandreu was understood without official confirmation today to have sent his resignation to King George of Greece and suggested the appointment of a three-member regency.

Archbishop Damaskinos, apparently presuming that he will be appointed a regent, began sounding out associates regarding the selection of someone to form a new government. Some quarters were understood to favor a "colorless" government composed of Greeks not hitherto prominent in politics.

Some royalists were reported trying to block the appointment of Damaskinos. The king himself has been cool toward the regency proposal, but the weight of the British foreign office apparently was behind the archbishop.

Judge Hanna was taken ill last week and when his condition became worse Sunday, was taken to a Medford hospital. Mrs. Hanna, the judge's brother, Leon Hanna from San Francisco and a nurse accompanied the judge to Portland.

Tungsten for the first time is being mined commercially in North Carolina.

Chaplin Trial In Recess For Day

Hollywood, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Principals in Charlie Chaplin's paternity trial rested today while the jurors pondered the intricacies of red blood corpuscles, about which they were scheduled to hear more from the defense calls Dr. V. L. Andrews as its final witness tomorrow.

SEVEN PAY FINES FOR MINOR TRAFFIC COUNTS

Seven persons, charged with minor traffic violations, such as no warning device, no operator licenses, and void foreign license plates, paid fines yesterday in Justice W. P. Tucker's court.

The sheriff's office is now issuing temporary license stickers for cars and trucks. So far there has been nothing resembling a rush. January 1 is final date for procuring next year's license.

FORMER SOLDIER ADMITS MURDER

San Francisco, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—John Lhrman Sumpter, 22-year-old ex-soldier from Cuthbert, Ga., was held here today for Los Angeles police after walking into the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and confessing to the murder of pretty New York Heiress Georgette Bauerdorf last October 12.

Sumpter, who holds a mental discharge from the armed forces, said his home was in Cautchbert, Ga.

PORTLAND WARD'S TAKEN IN CHARGE BY ARMY CAPTAIN

Portland, Ore., Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Army officers today took over control of the Montgomery Ward branch in Portland, with Manager O. W. Huddleston declaring the seizure was "highly illegal," but that he would cooperate with the army officials.

There was no demonstration or incidents accompanying the posting of government seizure notices at all plant entrances and the presence of a lieutenant and private at the main entrance.

Capt. Howard E. MacDonald, a transportation corps officer from the Seattle port of embarkation, assumed temporary charge and said Huddleston was cooperating in every way.

Denver, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Six army officers today walked into the Denver retail store of Montgomery Ward & Co., Inc., and seized control of its operations at 8:50 a. m.

A statement released through the officer in charge of public relations at the store, Capt. William W. Garner, said that the only purpose of the military possession was to "see that war labor board directives are complied with immediately."

Denver, Colo., Dec. 28—(U.P.)—Charles E. Henry, international representative of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employes of America, CIO, here today said that the union was prepared to cooperate with the federal government in its action in the Montgomery Ward & Co., case.

HANNA CONDITION TERMED CRITICAL

Condition of Circuit Judge Herbert K. Hanna, patient in St. Vincent's hospital in Portland was described this afternoon as critical, in a brief message from the United Press bureau in Portland.

The judge was rushed to the Portland hospital yesterday afternoon by ambulance upon advice of his local physician and is under the care of Dr. Laurence Seiling there.

Judge Hanna was taken ill last week and when his condition became worse Sunday, was taken to a Medford hospital. Mrs. Hanna, the judge's brother, Leon Hanna from San Francisco and a nurse accompanied the judge to Portland.

Doughboys Rescued From Bastogne Siege Not Too Happy Over Fight Interruption

By Robert Richards
United Press War Correspondent Bastogne, Belgium, Dec. 27 (U.P.)—An American relief column has lifted the week-long German siege of encircled Bastogne, but the rescued doughboys aren't overjoyed about it.

They are a little peeved that others are going to horn in on their personal fight with the Germans.

"Of course, we aren't talking about armor, mind you," explained T-4 Dominic J. Rochetto, 23, of Spring Valley, N. D., "we're always plenty glad to see the armor and the air corps, but we don't need no infantry help right now."

Experience Told
Rochetto and four buddies told us what it was like fighting inside the pocket while they leaned against their Garands in the shadow of a shell-blasted building.

American tanks had officially lifted the siege at 5:10 p. m. yesterday with their arrival at Bastogne's outskirts. Trucks, jeeps and other vehicles rumbled into the battered city in force today.

Rochetto was speaking again. "Mostly we minded the rain and the snow and the cold. God bless the C-47s (air transports) and Thunderbolts. They really kept us going when things got tough."

"There were times when we had to ration our ammunition, but we just shot straighter and made it last."

"We didn't have too much trouble with those Jerries," chimed in Cpl. Thomas Mulligan, 23, of Detroit.

"Hell, our outfit knocked out 105 of their vehicles the first two days of action and we would have banged a lot more, but our ammunition got so short toward the end we quit firing on convoys, saving it for the

YANKEE FORGES TAKE NEW TOLL OF JAP VESSELS

41 More Ships Sunk or Damaged; Superforts Stage Attack On Tokyo Suburb.

By United Press
American air and naval forces sank or damaged 41 more Japanese vessels, including 15 warships, in widespread attacks throughout the Pacific and the Japanese reported a new Superfortress attack on their homeland today in the wake of a heavy B-29 assault on the Musashino aircraft factory in Tokyo.

Ibaraki Bombed
A Japanese domestic broadcast said a "minor" formation of Superfortresses from the Marianas dropped "some incendiary bombs" in Ibaraki prefecture on the island of Honshu, just north of Tokyo, today.

The big four-engined bombers were revealed to have scored 12 direct bomb hits in yesterday's attack on the important Musashino works in the industrial suburbs of the Japanese capital.

The toll of Japan's waning seapower was taken by U. S. bombers, submarines, and surface craft in attacks ranging from the southwest Pacific theater to the Volcano islands, 750 miles south of Tokyo.

An abortive bombardment of American positions on Mindoro in the Philippines cost the Japanese three destroyers sunk and a battleship and a cruiser damaged. New enemy naval attacks designed to disrupt the American timetable in the Pacific were expected, however, as the Japanese repeatedly have pointed to the Philippines as the crucial battle area.

Freighters Sunk
American planes also sank four freighters and a coastal vessel in the Philippines and added three other merchantmen elsewhere in the southwest Pacific.

The heaviest toll of Japanese shipping was revealed by the navy department, which said that American submarines operating in far eastern waters sank 27 enemy ships, including a large Japanese aircraft carrier and seven other combat vessels.

U. S. Liberator bombers again hit Clark field near Manila for the third successive day to raise the toll of enemy planes there in three days to 124.

American warships from the Pacific fleet again hit Iwo Jima in the Volcanos Tuesday for the second time in four days. A Japanese gunboat was blown up and a landing craft set afire in the bombardment, which was concentrated on coastal defenses. Two U. S. vessels suffered minor damage.

Tungsten for the first time is being mined commercially in North Carolina.

The young man, 19 years old in August, wrote that a shell fragment entered his neck below the chin and emerged near the ear, but that the wound had not impaired his speech or ability to swallow. He was high in his praise of the care given wounded men both at the front and in the hospital and wrote optimistically of his recovery.

Pfc. Kyle, who had been serving with the 100th infantry division in the 7th army, was awarded the purple heart shortly after arriving at the hospital. He arrived in France for duty Oct. 20 and was on the battlefield from Nov. 2 until the time of being wounded.

ASSASSIN MISSES CHURCHILL PARTY; HITS GREEK GIRL

Athens, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—British sources said today that machinegun bullets believed fired in an assassination attempt missed Prime Minister Churchill and other British authorities by 30 yards yesterday, but wounded a Greek girl probably fatally.

It was the second time in 24 hours that Churchill has missed death in Athens. On Tuesday, nearly a ton of dynamite was found fused in a sewer beneath the Great Britain hotel, British and Greek government headquarters.

Fighting Still Rages
Fighting still raged in Athens and northwest Greece. Additional areas of southeast Athens were cleared during the morning. A British armored force was sent 16 miles south of the capital to round up 150 members of the rebellious ELAS.

British informants charged that machine-guns undoubtedly were aiming at Churchill, Marshal Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander, supreme allied commander for the Mediterranean theater, and Lt. Gen. Ronald Scobie, British commander in Athens, when they opened fire yesterday.

For the sixth straight day Eighth air force bombers struck at Rundstedt's rear. More than 1200 big bombers crashed upward of 2500 tons of explosives on the supply and reinforcement hubs west of the Rhine.

American troops were pressing home attacks on both sides of the German corridor, and apparently were whittling down its 20-mile waist between Bastogne and Manhay.

Although the Germans still were fighting bitterly, for the moment at least they were fighting to hold their sensational gains rather than to extend them.

Supreme headquarters revealed that the counterpush against the southern side of the German bulge had gained an average of 10 miles since it jumped off from an east-west line through Arlon five days ago.

Further gains appeared probable on the basis of the German admission of an "elastic defense"—the usual Nazi terminology for an uncertain situation and sometimes constituting an acknowledgement of a retreat.

The German dispatch from Rundstedt's headquarters, which did not concede the relief of Bastogne, said that the big road junction was the center of "one of the most violent tank battles since the beginning of the invasion."

It identified the American units encircled at Bastogne as the 101st airborne division, the 7th armored division, and "remnants" of the 28th infantry division.

A light snow was falling this morning over much of the battle zone, and temperatures were somewhat higher.

A front dispatch said the Germans continued building up strength in the Monschau forest, on the north side of the base of the salient, and were believed to have placed a large number of troops in position with an especially strong concentration of self-propelled guns.

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS
Senator Earl Newby and various friends making a fruitless search of the Newby neighborhood for the senator's lost tooth.

Floyd Scott attempting to solve "The Case of the Missing Christmas Present" by accusing Selective Service employees of the crime.

L. P. Mathes in from Central Point with interesting data on the coming Legion post installation.

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Machine Gun Bullets Zip Near British Party; Second Attempt in 24 Hours.

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ROBERT KYLE, JR., WRITES OF WOUND IN EUROPEAN WAR

Pfc. Robert F. Kyle, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Kyle, Sr., 609 South Oakdale avenue, was wounded in action on the European battlefield about the middle of December and is now in an army hospital in England. First news of Pfc. Kyle's wounding was received in a letter from the young man which arrived yesterday.

The young man, 19 years old in August, wrote that a shell fragment entered his neck below the chin and emerged near the ear, but that the wound had not impaired his speech or ability to swallow. He was high in his praise of the care given wounded men both at the front and in the hospital and wrote optimistically of his recovery.

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SEIZE INITIATIVE ON BOTH FLANKS AND AT SPEAR TIP

Rundstedt Admits Change in Tactics on 35MI. Front; Echternach Retaken.

Paris, Dec. 28—(U.P.)—American troops have seized the initiative on both flanks and at the tip of the Belgian-Luxembourg salient, supreme headquarters announced today, driving back the westernmost spearhead three miles and surrounding thousands of Nazis east of Celles.

A broadcast Nazi dispatch from Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's headquarters admitted that the Germans had lost the initiative on a 35-mile front between Bastogne and Echternach, and had "gone over to the elastic defense of their flank."

Echternach Retaken
The Berlin radio said the Germans had lost Echternach, southern anchor post of the base of the salient, which supreme headquarters revealed only today had been in enemy hands.

On the basis of SHEAF reports as of noon yesterday, hard fighting doughboys won their biggest defensive victory since the enemy attacked when they shoved back the spearhead aimed at Dinant on the Meuse, capturing several hundred prisoners and a number of tanks and other armored vehicles.

Despite murky weather which grounded most of the tactical air forces, almost 2,000 Flying Fortresses, Liberators and fighters struck from Britain at 10 key rail yards, bridges and other links in the German transport network on which the breakthrough forces depended.

Hit Rundstedt's Rear
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SIDE GLANCES

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