

Weather

Forecast Sunday and Monday:
Northern California—Increasing
cloudiness Sunday, followed
by rain, Oregon—Cloudy, occasional rain on
coast, light snow in northern
portion.

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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1944

NO. 238

HUNS FAIL TO HALT PATTON DASH

ENEMY LAUNCHES 2-WAY PUSH ON BASTOGNE FRONT

Third Army Narrows Belgian Salient in Critical Battle.

Paris, Sunday, Dec. 31.—(U.P.) A critical new battle is raging around Bastogne where German forces have launched a two-way attack against the U. S. Third army's corridor through the city but thus far have failed to stem Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops in their drive to cut off the enemy salient into Belgium, dispatches said today.

(The Luxembourg radio, heard in London, said that the U. S. First and Third armies had taken between 16,000 and 20,000 German prisoners since the start of the German offensive on December 16.)

Patton's men were reported in censored field dispatches to have smashed five miles northwest of Bastogne, narrowing to 12 miles the waist of the enemy salient, although a contradictory announcement from supreme headquarters said the width of the gap was 16 miles.

American tanks and the doughboys at the same time were reported storming the road center of Rochefort at the apex of the bulge street by street in an effort to throw the Germans into complete reverse after knocking back panzer spearheads 11 miles from the highwater mark of their drive.

The German attacks from east and west against the Bastogne salient were reported mounted in strong force but Patton's armor and infantry had previously widened the corridor to nearly eight miles just south of Bastogne.

Late reports said that the Third army had entered La Vasselle and Chenogne, adjoining villages five miles west and slightly south of Bastogne. These gains not only bulwarked the corridor but drove a wedge across the communications of German troops still trying to hold their advance penetration to St. Hubert, 15 miles west of Bastogne.

The Germans still held a foothold on the Arlon-Bastogne highway leading into city from the south but Patton from the inception of his drive had employed a parallel secondary road and at last reports here, 36 hours old at last midnight, the corridor was still firmly held.

Whether measured from 12 or 16 miles across, the waist of the German salient could be interdicted by two-way artillery fire from Third army troops on the south and the First on the north. Such shelling of roads within the salient already had "most likely" been undertaken, it was said in authoritative quarters.

Late dispatches said that the Third army had captured Notum, 2½ miles southwest of the Luxembourg center of Wiltz, in line straightening operations on the center of its 40-mile front.

German broadcasts asserted that the allies had thrown in 25 divisions, with the bulk of their armor concentrated against the base of the salient where the First and Third armies, in simultaneous assaults, were reported trying to slice off the German bulge.

(Since mid-December, the enemy broadcasts asserted, the Americans have lost more than 100,000 men, fifteen of their divisions, including seven of armor, have been "badly mauled," the broadcasts added.)

Using six divisions, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army still was hammering relentlessly against the southern side of the salient, widening its front from 35 to 40 miles and sending one spearhead to a point five miles northwest of relieved Bastogne, front dispatches said.

GOLF MEET OPENS
Los Angeles, Dec. 30.—(U.P.) Golfers will swarm over three courses Wednesday in a qualifying round to win the right to play in the four-day Los Angeles open tournament starting Friday, when the gold golf rush will be for \$12,533 in prizes over the Riviera course.

U. S. Forces Again Take Over Montgomery Ward



As striking employees look on, Lt. Edward Caesar of the Sixth Service Command, takes up notice of Government's seizure of Montgomery Ward and Co. properties outside company's Chicago headquarters. For the second time this year, Sewell Avery, chairman of the firm's board of directors, refused to accept the executive order.

RUSSIANS CRASH BUDAPEST INNER DEFENSES, CLAIM

London, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Red army tanks and infantry, crashing through a powerful inner defense ring, today for the first time broke into the streets of Budapest, industrial Pest, eastern half of Budapest, while on the Danube's west bank Soviet shock troops hurled Nazi suicide units from additional blocks of houses in flame-scarred residential Buda.

Radio Moscow said tonight that Soviet emissaries sent into German-held Budapest under a truce flag yesterday were killed by the Germans. The emissaries carried an ultimatum to the Germans to surrender and reply to Red army terms by today at noon.

The grim, hand-to-hand struggle for Budapest—rapidly becoming a German-Hungarian "Stalingrad"—reached a new pitch of activity today as Berlin reported that far to the north, the Red army's long-inactive front 20 miles inside East Prussia had "returned to life."

Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's 2nd Ukrainian army, which two days ago was reported one to three miles east of the outskirts of Pest, today broke into the streets of the capital's borough on the east bank of the Danube and captured several important blocks of streets.

How far the Soviets in both Buda and Pest were inside the city and how far they were from its center, fronting both banks of the Danube, was not disclosed in Moscow's nightly war bulletin.

JUDGE CRAWFORD TO LOCAL BENCH

The state supreme court has assigned Circuit Judge James W. Crawford of Portland to hold court in Jackson and Josephine counties, during the illness of Judge Herbert K. Hanna, the county clerk's office reports.

Judge Crawford will hold court at Grants Pass, Monday, Jan. 8, and as soon thereafter as possible, hold circuit court sessions here, according to present plans.

The action will prevent congestion of legal matters in this judicial district. Judge Crawford will also have power to transact county court business, due to the illness of County Judge J. B. (Blin) Coleman, who was reported as improving.

BOMBER CREW KILLED
Victoria, Kan., Dec. 30.—(U.P.) Ten of 13 crewmen were killed today when a four-engine bomber crashed on a combat training mission about 12 miles north of the Walker army air field, it was announced tonight.

30 GERMAN SPIES IN YANK UNIFORM CAUGHT IN PARIS

Paris, Sunday, Dec. 31.—(U.P.) Thirty German spies were rounded up in one band and a number of others also captured, many of them in American uniforms, when French police and American military authorities searched the capital for German agents, it was disclosed today.

It was also disclosed that troops quartered in the French capital had been severely restricted since Field Marshal Gen. Kair Gerd von Rundstedt's drive into Belgium opened two weeks ago.

Civilians and allied soldiers alike were halted constantly and checked for identification papers in the effort to round up German parachutist spies and enemy agents who had infiltrated behind allied lines to obtain information, disrupt communications and otherwise aid Rundstedt's drive.

The story of the spy-hunt was disclosed by the French prefecture of police, which said that a "considerable number" of enemy agents had been captured in a number of raids conducted during the course of the allied investigation.

Edward Pisani, assistant prefect of police, said that some of the Germans had been in hiding in Paris since September, waiting to come out until their activities could coincide with the opening of the German counter-offensive.

ABSENTEEISM IN WAR PLANTS HIGH

By United Press
Heavy absenteeism in vital war production centers was reported Saturday as the war production board campaigned with spoty success to keep factories producing to supply the western front.

Absenteeism up to 50 per cent for the Christmas-New Year week was reported in such industrial centers as New York, Philadelphia, Detroit and western Pennsylvania. Indications were that absenteeism would be very heavy the day after New Year, as it was the day after Christmas.

The WPB's "work as usual" drive was having only halfway success in the Detroit area, where approximately one-half of the war plants will be closed New Year's day.

BACK TO BONNEVILLE
Portland, Ore., Dec. 30.—(U.P.) After two years absence in Washington, Barclay J. Slicker will return to his post at the head of the sales and service for the power management branch of the Bonneville power administration January 8.

CHAPLIN CASE IN JURY'S HANDS BY WEDNESDAY, PLAN

Hollywood, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—A jury of seven women and five men may deliberate next Wednesday the question of whether Charlie Chaplin is the father of 15-month-old Carol Ann Barry, daughter of the aging comedian's former protegee, Joan Barry.

A New Year's recess in the bitter paternity suit brought against Chaplin will end Tuesday when Chaplin's attorney, Charles E. (Pat) Millikan, will have his inning before the jury in Superior Judge Henry M. Willis' court.

Millikan is spending the holiday adjournment in preparing his final argument—a plea that Chaplin be cleared, and that Joan's baby be held the child of some other man.

His argument will be in contrast to the scathing denunciation fired against Chaplin Friday by 77-year-old Joseph Scott, attorney for the baby. In a two and a half hour address, Scott branded Chaplin as the father of Carol Ann, and then went on to characterize the multimillionaire comedian as a "debaucher... who lies like a cheap cockney cad... a lecherous bound... a gray-headed old buzzard."

After Millikan completes his arguments Tuesday, Scott will be given an opportunity for rebuttal. Judge Willis' instructions will be given to the jury, Wednesday morning, it was indicated. Nine votes of the jurors in agreement are sufficient in a civil case for a verdict.

NEW SHOE STAMP DELAY, FORECAST

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The Office of Price Administration said tonight that present indications point to a delay in validating a new shoe ration stamp until "sometime next summer," thus forecasting a further tightening of rationing on the home front.

Such action would extend for at least two months the period the current ration stamp would have to last before another is declared valid, putting the ration on a basis of three pairs per person every two years instead of the present rate of two pairs a year.

In a joint announcement with the War Production Board, the OPA said that cancellation of outstanding shoe stamps is not considered.

Paris, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Morton Downey, radio and stage tenor, was reported by physicians today to be "rapidly recovering" from a throat infection which has confined him to the American hospital here for a week.

STAB WOUNDS AT FATAL TO MAN IN FIGHT WITH WIFE

Benjamin F. Hershberger, 48, is dead as a result of self-inflicted stab wounds suffered about 8:45 p. m. Friday in an altercation with his estranged wife, Etta Hershberger, 36, of 311½ Genesee street.

The couple had been separated about two months and Hershberger had been spending most of that time with his parents in Twin Falls, Idaho, according to Deputy Coroner Carlos Morris.

He returned to Medford Friday and ate a meal at a North Riverside cafe, where his wife is employed, Morris said. At Hershberger's request, they arranged to meet to discuss their marital difficulties when she was completed with her work. According to Morris, Mrs. Hershberger agreed to do so but stated she would bring her son, Albert, 17, and three smaller children with her.

Hershberger met them in front of the cafe where they started to discuss their troubles. He suddenly drew a fishing knife from a pocket and cut his wife over the right shoulder, Morris stated. Mrs. Hershberger fled and as her husband started to pursue her, he was caught from behind by his son, Albert, who held him, Morris said.

Hershberger then stabbed himself just below the heart and in the stomach, according to the deputy coroner's report, and was rushed to a hospital in the Peri ambulance, where he was pronounced dead on admittance.

Mrs. Hershberger was taken to a local hospital by city police and was released today, police stated.

Morris said no inquest will be held. The body is at Peri's funeral home and funeral arrangements will be announced later.

EXPECT GERMANS TO OPEN ALL-OUT ITALIAN ATTACK

Rome, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Stepped-up German activity all along the Italian front, pinpointed by small-scale attacks along the western Ligurian coast and aggressive enemy patrol action west of Faenza, indicated tonight that the Germans soon may launch an all-out attack on the American 5th and British 8th armies.

Renewed enemy assaults in the Serchio river valley, combined with active patrolling in the 15-mile stretch between the Serchio and the sea, resulted in what 5th army headquarters spokesmen termed "very fluid" fighting. Negro troops of the 92d division remained in possession of commanding high ground south of Galliano and the spokesmen emphasized that such positions were more easily defended than ground occupied earlier. American forces previously were forced to withdraw from Galliano and Barga in the first phase of the German offensive launched four days ago.

In central Italy a German patrol, exhibiting unusual aggressiveness, crossed the Senio river in the area of Casale, four miles west of Faenza, after a heavy shelling of a British position on the river's east bank.

STAR WITNESS IN ATTACK TO WED

Hollywood, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Caprice Capron, 18-year-old showgirl and star witness against Capt. Morrison Wilkinson, Jr., at his court martial in Santa Ana last June on morals charges, will marry Edward G. Howard, 33, "very soon," it was disclosed today.

HOOD RIVER POST ACTION ON JAPS IRKS PATCH VETS

G.I.'s Rescued By Nip-Yank Troops on Western Front Indignant.

With the U. S. 7th Army, on the Western Front, Dec. 30.—(U.P.) Hundreds of veteran American soldiers were indignant tonight over an item in the army newspaper Stars and Stripes, which said that an American Legion post in Hood River, Ore., had advised Americans of Japanese ancestry to sell any property they own and leave town.

The dispatch, which moved dozens of G. I.'s to prepare to write letters of protest to President Roosevelt and congressmen, said the Legion post had advertised in local newspapers that citizens of Japanese ancestry were unwanted.

There was violent local reaction among doughboys of Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's original divisions—the 36th and 43th—who know the gallant record of the 442nd infantry regiment, composed mostly of loyal Japanese-Americans, and with which the 36th division fought in Italy.

Reaction was particularly virulent against the Legion post's action, among the first battalion of the 141st regiment of the 36th division—a battalion which just two months ago today was rescued from a German trap near Bruyeres by Japanese-American troops who slashed through German lines to the isolated battalion at great cost to themselves.

There were 81 men on that encircled hilltop when they were rescued and 23 of those same men still are with the company, including Lt. Joseph Kimble, Scranton, Pa., and Sgt. Hiler Hull, San Antonio, Tex.

Hull already has started writing a letter. Kimble said he also would write one but was undecided whether to address it to President Roosevelt, some congressman, or the Legion post in Hood River.

BRIDGES CLAIMS WIFE IS 'CRUEL', DIVORCE SOUGHT

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Harry Bridges, west coast labor leader, today filed suit for divorce against his wife, Agnes, charging "extreme cruelty."

Bridges said he regretted the "necessity" of the action which was "not intended as any public reflection on my wife." The complaint stated that the couple married December 2, 1923, in Oregon, have been separated since August 1942. Both are 44.

The longshore leader asked custody of the couple's 20-year-old daughter, Betty Jacqueline. Mrs. Bridges has a son, Kenneth McClay, 28, a former marriage.

The suit followed by a few days Bridges' appeal to the U. S. supreme court to set aside a deportation order on grounds that he is an undesirable alien.

JEALOUS SUITOR TRAVELS FAR TO BEAT UP 'FRIEND'

Seattle, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Katherine McManus, 36, waitress from Kansas City, Mo., was recovering in a hospital tonight from a severe beating she said she received at the hands of a jealous suitor who followed her to Seattle.

Declining to identify the man, whom she said was from St. Louis, the waitress told police she moved to Seattle because she was afraid of him.

War Bulletins

London, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The Moscow radio announced tonight that the soviet-sponsored Hungarian government has declared war on Germany, and asked the allied nations and Russia for peace terms. The provisional government was formed last Saturday in Debrecen, Hungary's second city, and is headed by Col. Gen. Bela Miklos, former commander of the Hungarian 1st army. The government has been formed in the liberated portions of Hungary.

FLAMES DESTROY CHATEAU CLUB, 3 SLEEPERS SAVED

Ashland, Dec. 30 (Special)—Fire beginning about 5 o'clock this morning completely destroyed the Chateau, night club located about three miles north of here on the Pacific highway. All furnishings and equipment in the building were a complete loss, which was estimated conservatively at about \$12,000. Included in the loss were the large mirrors, piano, band instruments and furnishings.

The building had recently been purchased by Club Chateau, Inc., a corporation composed of Mrs. Terry Coffey, Ashland, and Louis Freeland and Richard J. Cox, of Los Angeles, and was to open soon.

Three persons were asleep in the building at the time the fire was discovered and had to be removed through the roof. All their clothing and personal effects were lost in the blaze. The building was covered by about one-sixth its insurance value, it was stated.

Ruins were still smoldering late this afternoon and eight pillars and the fireplace were all that remained standing.

No plans of the proprietors were announced today.

BRITISH, GREEKS BATTLE LEFTISTS IN RAINY ATHENS

Athens, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—British and Greek troops fought through a driving rain today in an all-out offensive to clear Athens of leftwing ELAS forces, who were officially charged with mistreating British prisoners in violation of the Geneva convention.

At least one-half of Athens was in Greek and British hands after the first day of the offensive Friday in which it was reported reliably that 200 members of the ELAS—armed forces of the EAM (National Liberation Front)—were killed and 800 captured. In what was described as "the best single day of hostilities," the British and Greeks occupied a mile of southeastern Athens.

Friday's operations cleared all of the Kaisariani working districts of Athens, despite stiff opposition from the ELAS forces. Fighting was reported raging today in the southern areas as well as around the cemetery south of Ardittos hill, where there were clashes involving tommyguns and hand grenades.

ALLIED COMMAND CHANGE FORECAST

London, Dec. 26.—(U.P.)—The London Evening News asserted today that important changes were imminent in the organization of the allied supreme command on the western front.

An official statement of the regrouping of allied commands and armies is expected shortly. The Evening News said without elaboration.

Military sources in London had no comment on the report.

M'ARTHUR SAYS NIP PLANES LOST IN PANAY ATTACK

Tokyo Claims 17 Ships Lost—Enemy Losses at Leyte Total 116,770.

Allied Headquarters, Leyte, Philippines, Sunday, Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today that eight Japanese planes were shot down while attacking American shipping in the Sulu sea off the island of Panay, and that enemy losses in the battle of Leyte had reached 116,770.

MacArthur's daily bulletin said that several planes attacked the American vessels but did not specify the size of the force under attack or its destination. (Tokyo broadcasts claimed that a 50-ship convoy sighted in the Sulu sea had been attacked for three days and that 17 of its ships were sunk or damaged before it reached the American base on Mindoro, 150 miles south of Manila, presumably with supplies and reinforcements.)

Another Japanese plane was shot down during a night raid on Mindoro which caused no damage to American installations. U. S. planes harassed Clark airfield, 47 miles northwest of Manila, and Buluan airfield on southern Luzon.

U. S. heavy bombers attacking far to the south set fire to a small freighter in the Lesser Sunda Islands at the eastern end of the Netherlands East Indies, while Japanese airfields also were battered on Negros and Cebu islands in the central Philippines.

MacArthur's bulletin, reviewing the 38-day Leyte campaign which ended when all organized Japanese resistance was crushed on Christmas day, revealed that the Japanese had suffered 3,349 additional casualties in mopping up operations during the past week. The overall figure of 116,770 included Japanese killed or captured on Leyte, as well as troops and sailors lost during attempts to reinforce the beleaguered island.

In yesterday's fighting, in which the Americans were driving against the enemy's remnants pinned in the mountains of northwestern Leyte, 831 Japanese were killed and 13 were captured. Naval units on night patrol destroyed four Jap barges off Leyte.

The bulletin said that the Japanese 35th army was destroyed on Leyte. It comprised the 1st, 16th, 26th and 102nd divisions, the 68th brigade and major elements of the 8th and 39th divisions.

Those divisions were all veterans. The first came from Tokyo and saw service in China in 1937 and arrived in Leyte from Manchuria in November, after the American invasion. It was decimated in the northern Ormoc corridor. The 16th was a veteran of China and also comprised the "Butchers of Bataan." The 39th came from Japan after being stationed in North China and Luzon while the 102nd was active in the Philippines.

DAVID STRANG IS KILLED ON DUTY

David Strang, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strang of Reno, has been killed in line of duty at Saipan, according to word received here yesterday. He was born and reared in Medford and attended Roosevelt grade school before moving to Reno.

Strang was the nephew of Virgil and Fred Strang and a grandson of Mrs. Charles Strang, all of Medford.

WILSON PROTRAYER WEDS
Hollywood, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—William Alexander Knox, 37, Canadian-born actor who portrayed the title role in the film, "Wilson," was married tonight to Doris Nolan, 28, blonde stage and screen actress.