

Weather

Forecast: Cloudy with showers tonight and Saturday. Little change in temperature. Highest yesterday 33. Lowest this morning 23.

MEDFORD MALL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1945

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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Thirty-ninth Year

NO. 242.

Yanks Shrink German Bulge



Acme Telephoto. Germans were reported pulling out of western half of Ardennes salient at top speed as American Third Army forces crushed a Nazi counter-attack on Bastogne and wheeled northward into the sagging enemy flank on a front of more than 15 miles. Germans made limited advance against U. S. Seventh Army in Bitche sector.

Port of Akyab Is Occupied As Pacific Offense Blazes

The Pacific offensive blazed from the Asiatic continent to the Japanese homeland today as British empire troops invaded and occupied the port of Akyab in Burma and one or more American convoys, according to Tokyo, sailed through the Philippines below invasion-marked Luzon, where U. S. warplanes sank another 35 Japanese ships.

FOLKES EXECUTED AT STATE PRISON DESPITE PROTESTS

Salem, Ore., Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—With a cheerful cry of "So long everybody," Robert E. Lee Folkes, 23-year-old convicted Negro murderer of the pretty bride of a naval officer, died in the state lethal gas chamber at 9:13 a. m. today.

The convicted murderer of Mrs. Martha Virginia James, of Norfolk, Va., in the "Lower 13" Pullman car murder, protested his innocence to the last.

NEGROES GRILLED IN BUS SLAYING

San Francisco, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Homicide bureau detectives today questioned three Negro suspects in the brutal slaying of Winifred Cecil, 25-year-old navy bus driver, who was found shot to death and robbed in her bus yesterday.

SIDE GLANCES

Margaret Hulien reviewing the Portland housing situation and reporting she might be in the market for a cozy tent. Pat Farrell having trouble in assuming the role of honored guest.

Russia and Allies Break on Polish Policy; Yanks, British Plug Forward Under Fire; Montgomery to Head Two U. S. Armies

FIRST AND NINTH UNDER COMMAND OF BRITISH CHIEF

Permanency of Transfer Not Revealed; War Developments Reason for Change

Washington, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt said today that the transfer of the American First and Ninth armies to the command British Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery did not mean that Montgomery was to become a deputy commander to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The President said the change in commands was a regular field operation by Gen. Eisenhower. He said further information should come from Supreme Allied Headquarters.

Permanency Unrevealed. Meanwhile it was learned at the War Department that overall command of the two American armies was given to Montgomery because sudden military developments—the German offensive—cut them off from the group headquarters of American Gen. Omar Bradley, their former over-all commander.

Montgomery at the time of the invasion last June was commander of all ground forces under Eisenhower.

Paris, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the British 21st army group, has been given overall command of the American First and Ninth armies and is directing the assault against the Ardennes bulge from the north and west, it can be revealed today.

HANNA REPORTED UNCHANGED TODAY

Today's report on the condition of Circuit Judge Herbert K. Hanna, confined in a Portland hospital with a serious malady, was to the effect that there is no change. Earlier reports this week were to the effect that the judge was slightly improved, with the periods of normal consciousness increasing in length.

Capt. Beard Home From Duty in India

Returning after 15 months in India, Capt. W. G. Beard has arrived in Medford on a three-weeks leave. Capt. Beard, who has been serving with the China-Burma-India command as a transport pilot, holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the air medal with one oak leaf cluster. He also holds a Presidential citation.

Col. Jackson Photo Seen With Story in National Magazine

Col. Glenn L. Jackson of Medford is shown in a picture used to illustrate an article in this week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The colonel is shown with Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean allied air forces, the picture having been made while Gen. Eaker inspected one of the Astra-Romano oil refineries at Ploesti, Rumania, following one of the allied bombing raids.

ROOSEVELT RADIOS ANNUAL MESSAGE SATURDAY EVENING

Washington, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt will summarize his annual message to congress in a Saturday night broadcast over all major networks from 7 to 7:30 p. m. (P.W.T.).

Mr. Roosevelt told his news conference that he was preparing a message of about 8,000 words to be delivered to congress tomorrow afternoon. The broadcast version will be less than half that long.

The message will touch on several foreign policy matters, as well as on possible manpower draft moves, Mr. Roosevelt told his news conference.

BRITISH TROOPS CLEAN OUT ELAS

Athens, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—British forces have cleared nearly three-fourths of Athens, it was revealed today as they smashed into the last rebel strongholds in the capital against heavy ELAS resistance.

The British had their most successful day in a fortnight yesterday, with one column striking into the strongly-held northern outskirts to rout ELAS units from the northwest suburb of Peristeri.

At the end of the day, 224 ELAS troops had been killed, 101 wounded, and 752 captured. (A BBC broadcast said the British had recaptured half of the Averof prison, which fell to a strong ELAS attack last month.)

POULTRY CONCERN PLANS STRUCTURE

M. K. Shook applied for a building permit at the city superintendent's office today to erect a new building at 502 North Fir for the OK Poultry business. The new building will cost approximately \$15,000 and is to be a one-story concrete structure 100 by 100 feet, according to Shook. C. E. Borg is contractor and Frank Clark is architect.

GAIN OVER MILE ON NORTH EDGE ARDENNES AREA

Point-Blank Artillery Fire and Heavy Snowstorm Fail to Halt Allied Forces.

Paris, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—American and British forces of Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's newly expanded command ground forward another tough mile or more today in the teeth of a point-blank artillery fire from the slowly yielding German positions along a 21-mile stretch of the north rim of the Ardennes salient.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st Army and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d Army, battering toward each other from the opposite sides of the salient, were tightening an inexorable grip on its waistline already compressed to a width of 12 miles or less.

Toughest Campaign. "The heaviest fighting continues on the snowstorms shrouding what has become one of the toughest campaigns fought in western Europe in this war," United Press Correspondent Ronald Clark reported from Montgomery's 21st army group sector.

Patton's forces of the Bastogne spearhead again were wrestling the initiative from the Germans after beating off 17 counterattacks in 24 hours. One division was on the march again, gaining 400 yards east of Bastogne.

Supreme headquarters announced that the Germans had "activated the front" at Gravenmarch, nine miles south of Echemmarch at the southern base of the Ardennes bulge, but gave no details of the fighting.

Air Forces Busy. Although still dirty, the weather was somewhat better today, the third of the offensive against the north side of the German salient. Both the British and American air forces were battering the Nazi front lines and communications directly behind them in some strength by noon.

Montgomery's British 2d army, flanking the U. S. 1st on its right, and attacking between Hottot and Marche, gained more than a mile to the approaches of Rendau, three miles southeast of Hottot. The British, many wearing white for camouflage against the snow, also were clearing out the Hampeau forest in the same area.

In that area the Germans had been driven back about 15 miles from the high water mark of their westward penetration at Cincey. It was revealed belatedly that the British co-operated with the Americans in wiping out the Celles and Cincey penetrations 10 days ago. They destroyed 81 tanks, 405 mixed armoured vehicles, 74 field guns

Censors Charged With Giving Americans Distorted Picture Of German Situation

By James F. McGlinchey United Press War Correspondent

Paris, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Indignation of American war correspondents at the Supreme Allied Headquarters press policy boiled over today both at Shaeff and at the front with charges that Supreme Headquarters Allied European Forces policy is giving the American public a distorted and confused picture of the situation.

The outburst was touched off by two fresh mixups on news of the western front. Army Shift Bottled. The first concerned reports of the shift of the American first and ninth armies to the command of Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery under 21st army group, rather than under Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley of 12th army group.

The second concerned the release of news on the allied counteroffensive. Both Supreme Allied Headquarters and front correspondents protested bitterly that British Broadcasting Corporation broke a security blackout on news of the offensive, presenting the news 11 hours before a previously fixed deadline.

REDS FIGHT OFF NAZI TANK FORCE ON EAST FRONT

Foe Hurls Waves of Armor In Effort to Cut Siege Line About Budapest.

Moscow, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Out-numbered Russian troops today fought off a powerful German tank army striking down from the Danube against their siege lines around Budapest, where tens of thousands of Nazis were being cut to pieces in the bloodiest street battle of the war.

Going all-out in their attempt to rescue the trapped Budapest garrison, the Germans hurled wave upon wave of armor and infantry against the Soviet defenses some 30 miles northwest of the capital in their first big counter-offensive in the eastern front in more than a year.

The German onslaught, after gaining as much as six miles along the south bank of the Danube Tuesday and Wednesday, broke against stubborn Russian resistance yesterday and field dispatches said the Nazis had been halted all along the attack front.

CIVIC MUSIC CARDS PLACED IN MAILS

Jackson County Civic Music association membership cards were put into the mail Wednesday of this week, officers of the association stated today. This year's membership numbers 1,026, a substantial increase over last year's list, it is stated.

Due to the increased membership, the association was able to select outstanding talent for the year's concert series, officers point out, including the world-renowned violinist, Joseph Sziget, who appears in Medford the evening of Jan. 11 for the first concert.

It was stated that extra seats would be placed in the auditorium to care for the increased attendance expected for the concerts and that due to the enlarged membership of the association, it will be impossible this year to allow two students to attend on one adult membership ticket, as was done last year.

and seven self-propelled guns. "The blunt truth is that the weather and stiffening resistance have slowed down the counter-offensives so much that progress is now measured in yards, and it should be stressed that progress is likely to be on the same scale until the weather improves, either on the ground or in the air," Clark reported.

Missing Skipper Picked Up in L. A.

Los Angeles, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Capt. Edward Crabtree, 42, of Lomita, Calif., skipper of a merchant marine tanker, was picked up today by FBI agents on a Portland, Ore., complaint charging him with embezzlement of \$39,426 of war shipping administration funds.

A merchant seaman for 25 years, Crabtree will appear later before U. S. Commissioner David B. Head for removal proceedings.

HERB GREY MADE C OF C PRESIDENT AT ANNUAL MEET

Herb Grey, advertising manager of the Mail Tribune, was elected president of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the newly-named 1945 board of directors at the Holland hotel this noon.

He succeeds Karl Janouch. Grey has previously served on the board as a director.

H. S. Deuel was named vice-president, George T. Frey was elected treasurer and Frank Hull was named to serve again as manager.

Routine matters were handled during the meeting and Janouch presented a complete resume of post-war plans for Medford and the county. He has been serving as chairman of the post-war planning committee named about a year ago.

A. M. Cannon, newly elected director, attended his first and last board session, submitting his resignation during that meeting. Cannon leaves tonight for Seattle where he reports to the navy, having been recently commissioned a junior-grade lieutenant in that branch of the service.

Sisters Perish in Blazing Residence

Redding, Cal., Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Two sisters, Margaret Hill, 20, and Peggy, 7, were burned to death early today and other members of a family of seven were injured when their home at Viola, 45 miles east of here, was destroyed by fire.

Inez Hill, 19, received burns expected to be fatal while Mr. and Mrs. William Hill, the parents, and a son, Cody, 16, were burned less seriously. A month old baby, Ross, escaped injury.

Mass Plane Attack On Enemy Supplies

London, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Almost 2,000 American and British planes, resuming the heavy air offensive against Germany, hammered more than a score of vital enemy supply points behind the front today and Nazi radios reported other allied aerial forces over the Reich early tonight.

RED RECOGNITION OF LUBLIN SETUP BREACHES UNITY

Britain and United States Adhere to London Poles; London Officials Irked.

Washington, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—The big three meeting between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Premier Josef Stalin will be held sometime after Jan. 20, Mr. Roosevelt said today.

London, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill returned today from France, where during a short visit he met Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, it was announced officially.

London, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Russia, in a major policy break with the other big powers, today recognized the Lublin Poles as the provisional government of Poland after Britain had informed the Kremlin that she would not abandon the Polish government in London.

(In Washington, the United States government reaffirmed its recognition of the Polish government in London, and revealed that Moscow had served notice in advance of its intention to recognize the Lublin committee.)

British Stands Firm. A British foreign office statement said Britain and Russia had consulted on the matter of Polish recognition, and Britain had refused to concur in the Russian decision.

The Russians had informed the British that they were going to recognize the Lublin setup, and the Moscow radio announcement of the recognition today came as no surprise in official quarters.

Britain and the United States were understood to have been in close consultation on the Polish problem, and probably will continue to take parallel action on it until the forthcoming meeting of President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Premier Josef Stalin.

The blow to tripartite unity was underscored by the coincidence that the Soviet announcement came almost simultaneously with Mr. Roosevelt's report that he was meeting with the British and Russian leaders some time after Jan. 20.

Displeasure Manifest. High quarters here made no secret of their displeasure over the fact that Russia chose to precipitate the crisis when the consultation of the three government heads was only a short time away.

The London Poles had been expecting the Soviet recognition of the Lublin committee. Many of them felt that it would strengthen rather than weaken the position of the London government, since they professed to feel that Russia's action would rally opinion behind them.

RE-TRIAL SOUGHT IN CHAPLIN CASE

Hollywood, Jan. 5.—(U.P.)—Bushy-browed Joseph E. Scott today asked superior court to set the earliest possible date for retrial of Joan Barry's suit seeking to have Charlie Chaplin named the father of her 15-month-old daughter, Carol Ann. In his request for a retrial, Scott — Miss Barry's attorney — noted only that the first trial jury had been discharged yesterday after a hopeless deadlock.