

Weather

Forecast: Partly cloudy Sunday and Monday, colder Sunday. High yesterday 36. Lowest this morning 44. Precip. past 24 hours .21 of inch.

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Thirty-ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 1945

NO. 249.

HALSEY'S FORCE SEEKS JAP FLEET

SECREC Y COVERS OPERATIONS OFF COAST OF ASIA

Carrier Planes Destroy Or Damage 286 Jap Ships, 703 Planes.

By United Press Official secrecy shrouded further operations of Adm. William F. Halsey's third fleet off Asia Saturday but it was disclosed that 286 Japanese ships and 703 warplanes have been destroyed or damaged by the naval force's carrier planes in sweeps through the western Pacific and the China sea.

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz gave no hint of where the next American blow might fall. His latest communique merely reported new raids against the Kuriles in the Pacific Wednesday and Thursday while Halsey's airmen were blasting four enemy convoys off the Indo-China coast, some 3000 miles to the south.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Philippines forces meanwhile pushed their Luzon lines 20 miles south of Lingayen gulf. Forces reached the Agno river line near the town of Bayambang, 87 miles northwest of Manila, while Japanese broadcasts said preparations to defend the capital had been completed. At Bayambang the Americans were only 43 miles from Clark airfield.

Tokyo predicted a major battle soon on the central Luzon plain against the U. S. forces, whose patrols have already crossed the river defense line at some undisclosed points. MacArthur announced that gains of four to eight miles were hammered out along both banks of the Agno on the northwestern flank.

Enemy broadcasts intimated that U. S. bombers and fighters were now using the Lingayen airfield and asserted that British fleet units were aiding the Philippines operations.

Other broadcasts had indicated that the Japanese fleet might steam out to challenge the American Marauders in the South China sea, who have virtually blocked sea-lanes from Japan to southeast Asia and the Philippines. Tokyo also said that B-29 Superforts had joined the assault on Indo-China, bombing Saigon Friday night a few hours after Halsey's carrier planes attacked.

Tokyo radio further claimed that three B-29s had flown over central Japan Saturday afternoon without dropping bombs. The big bombers appeared over the Tokyo-Kokohama area, Japan said. There was no confirmation of the enemy reports. Japanese air units, in a heavy raid on U. S. shipping, lost 20 planes in a night assault which caused minor damage to the vessels.

Nimitz' brief communique on the Kuriles said that Torishima Retto, southeast of Paramushiro, as well as Sirabachi and Kurabu Saki on Paramushiro, were hit in the latest air strikes.

OWN PLANES BOMB AMERICAN TROOPS

With U. S. Forces in Germany, Jan. 11—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—Some Americans were killed and others wounded on Wednesday when a formation of 12 B-17 Flying Fortresses dropped 500 bombs from 15,000 feet on the American occupied German town of Weiseller, eight miles west of Duren.

It was the second time within a month that American troops on the western front were bombed accidentally by their own planes. U. S. 30th division troops at Malmady suffered the same experience around Christmas time.

The area of Weiseller was pockmarked with 83 craters when the bombing was finished. The possibility was suggested that the pilots mistook the Inde river, which flows through Weiseller, for the Roer river, which marks the U. S. 9th front in the Duren sector.

Manila Harbor Graveyard for Jap Shipping



Dramatic proof of effectiveness of Navy carrier raids on Manila Bay is provided in this recent photo of the great anchorage—with more than 50 ships sunk or immobilized as result of our air raids. Waterfront installations and shore line fuel and ammunition dumps have also felt weight of Navy's blows as Tokyo broadcasts reported a second American task force has arrived in "the Lingayen Gulf combat zone." U. S. Navy photo.

RED ARMY OPENS POLISH AND EAST PRUSSIA DRIVES

Third Offensive in Slovakia Underway Report—Berlin Seen As Goal.

London, Sunday, Jan. 14—(U.P.) The red army has opened its winter offensive in south-central Poland, crashing 25 miles through nazi lines to within 70 miles of industrial southeastern Germany, Marshal Josef Stalin announced last night, and Berlin said that virtually the entire eastern front was blazing into action.

Major, bitter fighting, the enemy said, was developing along the 600-mile front from the Baltic sea to the Balkans. The red army also has opened a full-scale offensive in East Prussia, Berlin said, and a Romanian communique confirmed enemy reports that a third big drive was underway in Czechoslovakia.

At the same time, other actions were reported on four widely-spaced fronts—three in Poland along the Vistula river from 30 miles south of Aarsaw to the Carpathians, and the fourth around the Baltic port of Memel.

London observers saw these actions as presaging the greatest red army offensive of the eastern war—an offensive which Moscow dispatches have termed "possibly the last winter offensive" and one which the Moscow press has said may wind up in Berlin.

Little more than 24 hours after Berlin first announced that the red army's winter offensive was underway, Marshal Stalin confirmed the report in an order of the day.

DEMOCRATS IRKED BY LIQUOR QUIZ

Salem, Ore., Jan. 13—(U.P.) Democratic State Senator Thomas R. Mahoney of Portland today accused Gov. Earl Snell of asking for a probe of the state's Waterfall and Frazier liquor purchase because he "had a bad case of jitters."

Both Mahoney and Democratic Senator Lew Wallace, also of Portland, opposed the investigation of the state liquor commission on grounds that it was "not necessary" and that provisions were not made for Democratic representation on the investigating committee.

The legislature was in weekend recess until Monday when a heavier work calendar is expected. The governor's message and the liquor controversy highlighted last week's sessions.

WAR BULLETINS

Washington, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Tokyo radio reported today that three B-29 Superfortresses had flown over central Japan this afternoon without dropping any bombs.

The broadcast, heard by the FCC, said the first plane flew over the Nagoya area and that the other two appeared over the Tokyo-Yokohama area about three hours later. It was possible the planes were on reconnaissance.

London, Sunday, Jan. 14—(U.P.)—The Exchange Telegraph agency reported in a Bengal dispatch today that both British and American planes joined Saturday in a 10-minute blasting of Mandalay that was described as probably the biggest assault by the eastern air command of any objective in Burma.

Rome, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Canadian troops of the British Eighth army engaged a "sizeable German force" at the base of the spit separating the Comacchio lagoon from the Adriatic sea, and captured 40 prisoners and left 20 enemy dead on the field, allied headquarters announced today.

(A BBC broadcast heard in London said the Canadians had wiped out a whole company of Germans in the fighting.)

PORTLAND G. I. IS GIVEN 25 YEARS IN ARMY THEFTS

Paris, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—An American soldier, on trial at the army's mass court martial of GI's charged with stealing cigars and selling them to the blackmarket, testified today that he was threatened with a rubber hose unless he signed a confession.

Sgt. Walter G. Thorsell, Portland, Ore., charged with Sgt. Frank C. Pozzi, Chicago, with stealing 375 packages of cigars from post exchange rations, said "Undercover Agent Bruno Gazzali" threatened to beat him "with a rubber hose" if he didn't admit stealing cigars and other articles and selling them at a Paris cafe known as "the bucket of blood."

Gazzali, following Thorsell on the stand, denied Thorsell's statement.

Both Pozzi and Thorsell were sentenced to 25 years of hard labor, the lightest given since the trials—involving 182 men and two officers—began last Tuesday. Pozzi also insisted that his confession was obtained under duress.

SURPLUS TOOLS SOLD Haynes, Cal., Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Thousands of dollars of picks, shovels, wheel barrows, screen and chicken wire and other farming equipment declared surplus by defense plant corporation today went over the government auction block to hundreds of farmers in this community.

100 HUN U-BOATS PROWL ATLANTIC BRITISH REPORT

London Doubts Adm. Ingram Claim Bombs Launched From Submarines.

London, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Despite punishing allied blows, the nazis still are able to operate as many as 100 U-boats in the Atlantic, constituting a continued serious menace to allied sea supply lines, British naval circles said tonight.

However, insofar as is generally known here, there is no evidence that the Germans ever have attempted to launch flying bombs from submarines, despite Vice Adm. Jonas H. Ingram's warning that it was "possible and probable" the U. S. Atlantic coast would be hit by V-bombs launched from U-boats.

At the same time, naval observers pointed out, such a bombing remains within the easy range of possibility inasmuch as there are no serious technical barriers. The same might hold true for long range rockets which require even less equipment for launching.

There is also a general tendency here to doubt the statement attributed to Ingram that the nazis have 300 submarines in the Atlantic. British naval spokesmen and commentators are more inclined to believe that Germany's overall submarine strength is 300—force that probably would permit from 50 to 100 undersize craft to be actually operative at one time.

To keep a force of 300 U-boats within the Atlantic operating zone, a total force of approximately 1,000 submarines would be necessary, one spokesman said, and added that Germany's submarine strength at its peak was 1,500.

BEER ESSENTIAL WAR BOARD SAYS

Washington, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—The War Labor Board ruled today that beer is essential.

It told the Teamsters' Union (AFL) that if it did not end a strike at three St. Paul breweries, the board would refer the matter at once "to the president for appropriate action."

The union, engaged in a jurisdictional strike at the Yoerg, Schmidt and Hamm breweries, had told the WLB earlier that it would not end the stoppage because, it asserted, beer making is not an essential industry. The closing of the St. Paul breweries, the board held, "threatens substantial interference with the war effort."

YANK MOTORIZED PATROLS WITHIN 87 MILES MANILA

Jap Front and Flank in Luzon Penetrated by Gen. Krueger's 6th Army.

Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Sunday, Jan. 14—(U.P.)—United States 6th army forces, in an eight-mile advance, have swept 20 miles into northwestern Luzon at the middle of the American invasion front. It was announced today as front dispatches also reported a six-mile penetration of the Japanese eastern flank.

The advance was made by motorized patrols and carried the Americans to within approximately 87 miles of Manila.

The patrols reached the north bank of the Agno river, first main barrier on the road to the Philippines capital, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's daily war bulletin announced. (Tokyo indicated the river line already had been crossed, saying that Japanese forces were "intercepting" American troops "trying hard to drive to the south bank of the Agno.")

The American east flank, striking southward from the invasion beach head now broadened to 26 miles, overran the towns of Santa Barbara and Mapandan, both highway junctions. Mapandan is 7 1/2 miles inland from San Fabian, and Santa Barbara is four miles southwest of Mapandan and seven miles inland.

The drive was cutting into roads leading down to the invasion front from northern Luzon through the Caraballo mountains.

MacArthur announced that warplanes had destroyed 50 Japanese coastal vessels Wednesday near the port of Vigan, on the northwest coast of Luzon, 98 miles north of the American lines. Yesterday's bulletin had reported that 46 Japanese vessels were sunk or damaged Thursday by naval units attacking the San Fernando area, 64 miles south of San Fernando.

Front dispatches meanwhile reported that the extreme left flank of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's armies, who now hold some 200 square miles in northwestern Luzon, was extended along the gulf coast to Rabon, six miles north of San Fabian. Rabon is 28 miles around the gulf from the westernmost American positions at Labrador.

CONNALLY DENIES ANY INTENTION TO 'GAG' SENATE

Washington, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Chairman Tom Connally, D., Texas, of the senate foreign relations committee, said tonight that he had no intention of "gagging" the senate when he expressed hope that members would refrain from offering resolutions and from discussions "which would disturb the delicate international situation."

Connally explained that in his Thursday statement he sought only to discourage "caustic criticism" of America's allies pending the expected Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conference.

His explanation came as resentment mounted in the senate against what had been interpreted as his attempt to shut off debate on foreign policy. Many senators have expressed surprise and chagrin over Connally's no discussion, no resolution request and had made it plain that they did not intend to abide by it.

WAR EFFORT PROGRAM Los Angeles, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Radio station KFVB announced tonight its entire 19-hour program time next Wednesday will be devoted to a war effort program that will stress the need to work or fight for this war "is not yet won."

CLEVELAND POWER PLANT PUT UNDER ARMY RULE BY F. R.

Swift Action Ends "Wildcat" Strike — "Work Or Be Fired" Ultimatum.

Cleveland, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—The army on orders of President Roosevelt, seized control of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company today and restored full power service to this vital war manufacturing center with a "work or be fired" ultimatum to 400 striking CEI employees.

The strike, a "wildcat" affair precipitated by a union steward who refused to accept a change in his work schedule, was slowly paralyzing war production and was threatening to black out virtually an entire five-county area around Cleveland with a population of 2,000,000 persons including 300,000 war workers when Mr. Roosevelt intervened.

Col. E. A. Lynn, chief of the Cleveland District Army Ordnance Department, marched into the CEI's main office in the downtown section here, accompanied by a staff of eight officers and carrying a U. S. flag, and posted the president's seizure notice on the premises.

It was the fastest White House action in a seizure case and reflected Mr. Roosevelt's grim determination to let nothing interfere with the war timetable. Acting Secretary of War John J. McCloy, in announcing the presidential order, condemned the strike as "a direct violation of law and labor's no-strike pledge" and said it showed "a callous disregard of their (the strikers) obligations to their country."

Col. Lynn immediately called upon all strikers to return to work on the next regular shift and warned that those who did not do so would be "immediately" referred to the state director of selective service for reclassification in event he holds an occupational deferment.

FARM MACHINERY SHORTAGE TO CUT 1945 FOOD CROP

Washington, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Government officials predicted tonight that only a miracle can enable farmers to maintain in 1945 the high wartime level of crop production, with a lag in farm machinery output disclosed as the latest threat to the food program.

Frederick B. Northrup, chief of the materials and facilities branch of the War Food Administration, reported tonight that production of farm machinery in November dropped 20 to 25 per cent behind schedule. The War Production Board is expected to forward within a few days estimates of December output showing an even more serious lag.

If this year's farm machinery program is met, farmers would get about the same supply available during the last crop year. However, Northrup said it now appears that many items will reach farms too late for seasonal use.

Important spring planting and tillage equipment is among the lagging items.

DOMEI SAYS WEAK QUAKE IN HONSHU

By United Press The Japanese Domei Agency announced that a "slight earthquake" struck the central area of Honshu, main home island, at 3:35 a. m. Saturday, causing a "little damage to a small number of houses," it was reported by OWL.

BULLETINS

Corvallis, Ore., Jan. 13—(U.P.)—The University of Oregon trimmed the Oregon State Beavers, 51 to 44, in a renewal of the annual "civil war" series between the two teams, with the Webfeet leading by a wide margin throughout the second half.

The contest started fairly even, with the score tied three times in the first half, but with three minutes to go, Hayes and Hamilton of Oregon made two baskets to put the Ducks ahead, 23 to 21, at the halftime mark.

Bernie McGrath, star Oregon State guard, was high point man for the game with 18, while Delmer Smith of Oregon was the best scorer for his team with 11 points.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Washington University's powerful Huskies, only unbeaten team on the northern division of the Pacific coast basketball conference, maintained their winning pace tonight defeating Idaho Vandals, 60 to 41.

Berkeley, Cal., Jan. 13—(U.P.)—The University of California's hopes of defending the Pacific Coast Southern Division basketball championship were shattered tonight by a resurgent UCLA varsity which led throughout a rough and ragged game to win 37-26.

MEDFORD BLASTS CAVEMEN, 46-21; ASHLAND BEATEN

Southern Oregon Conference: W. L. Pct. Medford 3 0 1.000 Klamath Falls 1 1 .500 Ashland 1 2 .333 Grants Pass 0 2 .000

Saturday games: Medford 48, Grants Pass 21. Klamath Falls 39, Ashland 28.

Medford High's basketball team ran their winning streak to 10 straight games by chalking up a 46 to 21 victory over Grants Pass in a Southern Oregon conference game here last night.

It was a rough contest despite only 13 fouls called on Medford and eight on Grants Pass. Neither team lost a player via the foul rule although Ribel, Caveman center and captain, had four called on him in the first half.

Jerry Ross was the big gun for Medford, punting the hoop for 15 points, followed closely by Dick Fawcett with 13. Jack Lutz paced Grants Pass with nine.

Lutz scored the first point of the game when he tipped in a free throw and Fawcett slipped in under the basket for a shot and Grants Pass wasn't ahead from there on out. Fawcett, Watson, Ross, Larry Hayes and Darrrell Riggs all hit the hoop to build up a 13 to 5 Medford lead at the end of the first quarter.

In the second stanza Medford ran it up to 24 to 8 with Ross collecting seven counters during the period. Best Grants Pass could do was three gift tosses.

With two minutes of the third period left and the Toronado ahead 37 to 11, Coach Al Simpson sent in an entire new team but gradually he replaced them with regulars in order to further development of his starting five. Third period ended 39 to 11, Medford.

The game got rough in the final period as Grants Pass tried vainly to close the gap although referees F. L. Flink and Norman Sting were liberal on foul-calling in that quarter. Medford collected only seven points during the period while the Cavemen rang up 10.

Klamath Falls evened their series with Ashland when they beat the Grizzlies 39 to 28 in Ashland last night.

ARMY GETS MACKEREL San Francisco, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Packers of California sardines, mackerel and horse mackerel today were ordered by the war food administration to increase their "set-aside" orders for the government to a full 100 percent of each canner's pack, effective at midnight tonight.

THIRD ARMY CUTS ENEMY'S LIFELINE ARDENNES FRONT

Panzer Forces Rocked As Bulge Narrowed By New Offensive.

Paris, Sunday, Jan. 14—(U.P.)—Allied armies opened a supreme offensive Saturday to wipe out the Ardennes salient and gained up to three miles in a two-way drive seeking to cut off Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's panzers at the base of the bulge while U. S. 3rd army tanks crashed across the enemy's lifeline at two points southwest of Houffalize.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's forces at the same time drove within 5 1/2 miles of a junction with the 1st army in the waist of the wedge and the converging artillery blasts of the two armies also blocked off a stretch of the German's escape road east of Houffalize.

Thousands of Germans of the 5th and 6th panzer armies, rocked by shells and with their columns torn for the first time by strong forces of allied planes, reversed their field in a disorganized scramble to get out of the pocket by secondary roads. At least 100 tanks and other vehicles in the milling mass were destroyed by planes alone.

Other and smaller pockets were forming farther west as the new allied attacks spread around 80 miles of the bulge perimeter. One was in the Champon sea, 12 miles southwest of Houffalize, where the 3rd army, gaining up to three miles on an eight-mile front, moved within two miles of British forces striking south after mopping up the toe of the salient.

Fighter-bombers ranged east and northeast farther west as German columns which had run the Houffalize gauntlet and carried out attacks on "something like the Normandy scale," pilots reported in reference to the piling up of the German 7th army in its retreat across France.

Von Rundstedt now was trying to run his armor through St. Vith, keystones of the entire bulge front and objective of the new allied drive across the base of the salient.

HOOD RIVER CALM AS NISEI RETURN DESPITE LEGION

Hood River, Ore., Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Little notice was apparent today in Hood River valley at the return of three Japanese Americans to their former homes, in efforts of American Legion efforts to organize a "citizens committee" to oppose their return.

Ray Sato, Sat Noji and Min Asai arrived by train from undesignated sections of the country, except Sato, who had been working in a war plant in Cleveland, Ohio. The three were the first to return here under the recent order by the western defense command permitting such rehabilitation.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Ted Hachiya, 25-year-old Portland hotel owner, was back in his hotel office today convinced that people of the northwest bear no ill will toward Japanese Americans evacuated from this region after Pearl Harbor.

San Francisco, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Four wounded Japanese-American veterans of the famous 442nd combat team now under treatment at Fitzsimons General hospital near Denver, Colo., want to go home after their discharge "and work in peace like any other American" without being molested.

The war relocation authority in San Francisco released the story of these veterans of the Italian campaign today.