

Greatest Battle of War Rages Along Wide Russian Front

Weather
 Forecast: Showers tonight and Tuesday, snow in mountains. Colder tonight.
 Highest yesterday Temp. 54
 Lowest this morning 40

MEDFORD MALL TRIBUNE
 United Press—Full Leased Wire
 MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1945
 NO. 250.

115 RED DIVISIONS FLUNG INTO FIGHT IS BERLIN CLAIM



Highlights of one of the most spectacular weeks of action on the Pacific front are dramatically depicted in this map review of the week's activities. American carrier-based planes battled Japanese forces off Indo-China, 500 miles west of Luzon, where General MacArthur's troops were slashing toward Manila.

ALLIES CLOSE IN ON HOUFFALIZE

GERMAN FORCES IN CIRCLED BASE WAGE HARD FIGHT

Outrider Columns of First and Third Armies Meet Near Transport Center

With U. S. First Army, Belgium, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—American troops broke into Houffalize today and at last report were within five-eighths of a mile of the center of the town.

Paris, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—American tanks and infantry stormed the near defenses of Houffalize today and a dispatch from Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' headquarters forecast the early capture of the Belgian base which once was at the center of the collapsed Ardennes salient.

PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR INDUCTION IS DRAWN BY BYRNES

Washington, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes today laid down a priority system designed to control the selective service induction of an estimated 200,000 men in the 28 through 29 age group who will be withdrawn from essential war production programs.

Key Rail Yards in Germany Suffer Damaging Air Blows

London, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—More than 600 Liberators and Fortresses escorted by nearly 700 Mustang and Thunderbolt fighters, struck damaging blows today against four key rail yards in southern Germany as a follow-up of RAF night attacks on shrinking Nazi oil supplies.

Break-Through Casualties: American 40,000 German 90,000

Washington, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—American losses in the zone of the German break-through in the Ardennes totaled nearly 40,000, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced today.

SALVAGE PAPER DRIVE EXTENDED UNTIL THURSDAY

The Jackson county paper drive has been continued until Thursday evening, E. H. Hedrick, superintendent of city schools announced today.

SNOW FLURRIES COVER MIDWEST

Middle westerners sloshed through snow today as new flurries spread a snow blanket ranging from one to 30 inches in depth over the central states.

Coleman Recovery Slow But Steady

County Judge J. B. (Blin) Coleman, who has been confined to his home with illness the past three weeks, is making steady though slow improvement. The attending physician reports recovery is just a matter of complete rest and relaxation for a few more weeks, before he can return to his desk.

ORGANIZED LABOR OPENS BATTLE ON WORKER DRAFTING

AFL Spokesman Says Manpower Shortage Due to Frozen Wage Levels

Washington, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—Organized labor formally opened its campaign against national service and work-or-fight legislation, today coincident with the start of what appeared to be a drive for imposition of a statutory 48-hour week in essential war industries.

Threat of Draft Sends Thousands To War Industry

The threat of work or fight legislation has had almost as much effect in getting men to transfer to war industries as a draft would and thousands of workers have jammed U. S. employment offices throughout the country to sign up for war work, a survey revealed today.

WOMAN BEATEN IN HOTEL ROOM

Walter F. Cornwell, 50, of Portland, was released on \$50 bail Sunday night after being booked at the city jail early Sunday for assault and battery on Mrs. Arlene Grant, 1005 West Main street.

Cockerham Infant Succumbs Despite Incubator Effort

A two and one-half pound daughter, born to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cockerham Saturday morning at a local hospital, died Saturday night. Hospital attendants stated Saturday that it was put in an incubator and given special care but held slight hope that the tiny, premature infant would live. It was the first child born to the couple.

Tokyo Jitters Mount as Yankees Press Successful Campaign in Philippine Islands

By United Press
 Tokyo betrayed mounting war jitters over the successful American campaign in the Philippines today. Hinting that Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso may be forced to resign while reporting new air blows against the Japanese islands bastion of Formosa.

DOUBLE EXECUTION IN SALEM PRISON PAYS FOR SLAYING

Salem, Ore., Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—Henry William Merten, 32, and Walter Lorne Wilson, 35, died today in the first double lethal gas execution conducted in Oregon. They died for the hold-up slaying of Ralph Dahlen, 27, Oak Grove, early in the morning of July 22, 1943.

HIGH SENTENCED TO PRISON TERM

Robert N. (Babe) High, entered a plea of guilty to obtaining money under false pretenses and was given a sentence not to exceed 18 months in state prison by Circuit Judge James W. Crawford, High, held in the county jail for several months, has been involved in a number of check cases, while acting as the local representative of an insurance company. He was indicted by the October grand jury.

issued a communique reporting that the carrier planes bombed numerous airfields and communication facilities and also strafed and bombed Taichu, Shoka, Takao and other villages for four and a half hours—from 8:30 a. m. to 1 p. m. (Tokyo time). Five of the raiders were said to have been shot down and another damaged.

300 Planes Attack
 At least 200 U. S. carrier planes raked Formosa's airfields and communication lines, Tokyo said, in the fourth major strike this year to prevent the Japanese from moving air and troop reinforcements southward to embattled Luzon.

30 Miles Inland
 The doughboys already have pushed some 30 miles inland from Lingayen gulf—more than a quarter of the distance to Manila—while widening their beachhead along the gulf itself to 45 miles.

FISH RESERVED
 Washington, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—The war food administration today ordered packers to reserve for the government their entire production of California pilchards, Pacific mackerel, and Pacific horse mackerel.

Jolson Suffering Infection of Lung

Hollywood, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—Musical Comedy and Film Star Al Jolson was in the Cedars of Lebanon hospital today for observation for a lung infection. Jolson's physician, Dr. Frank S. Dole, said there was no indication Jolson's condition would become critical.

Japanese resistance, particularly in the path of the push to Manila, continued negligible and Filipino guerrilla leaders reported to Gen. MacArthur's headquarters that a large portion of the enemy garrison in central Luzon had withdrawn to the mountainous northern portion of the island.

Divinity Student Is Held For FBI

City police today held Alton Dale Manning, alias Elmer A. Manning, 18, who gave his occupation as a divinity student, at request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The youth was picked up at 1039 South Riverside avenue Sunday, the police report said.

Draft Board Clerk Escapes Clutches of Would-Be Kidnaper

Twin Falls, Ida., Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—All roads leaving Twin Falls were under tight police check-up this afternoon as city, county and state officers conducted a wide manhunt for a motorist who attempted today to kidnap pretty Leona Rae Hughes, 23, draft board clerk.

German High Command Reports Bitter Fighting On East—War End Aim

London, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—Marshal Ivan S. Konev's red army, spearheading what the Germans called a record Soviet offensive on a 600-mile eastern front, captured the Polish city of Kielce today in its drive toward German Silesia.

One of the greatest battles of the war raged today along a virtually unbroken front from Lithuania to Yugoslavia, with possibly 3,250,000 Russians and Germans locked in at least nine closely synchronized struggles.

Aim At Krakow
 So far Moscow had confirmed only Marshal Ivan S. Konev's push across the frozen plains of south-central Poland, aimed squarely at the great Nazi defense bastion of Krakow and the rich industries of German Silesia.

But Berlin said the red army offensive had raced to both ends of the front, with sledgehammer blows so near each other that it was difficult to determine where one attack left off and another began.

Manpower Shortage Due to Frozen Wage Levels

Chairman Andrew J. May, D., Ky., of the house military affairs committee, urged prompt enactment of a work-or-fight bill with provisions to put all essential war industries on a 48-hour work-week basis.

SNOW FLURRIES COVER MIDWEST

Albert Hamilton, Vienna, Va., farmer, appearing for the Socialist party, also attacked May's work-or-fight bill. He said the manpower problem did not justify a labor draft, that voluntary recruitment methods had not been exhausted, and that a manpower draft was an "undemocratic" device which would hamper production.

WOMAN BEATEN IN HOTEL ROOM

Cockerham Infant Succumbs Despite Incubator Effort

U. P. IN ROME
 Rome, Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—The United Press began service today when allied restrictions on the Italian press were lifted. Until today news was furnished to the Italian papers by the psychological warfare board exclusively.