

VETERAN HOUSING PRIORITIES ORDER PLACED IN EFFECT

50 Per Cent of Scarce Construction Material Must Go to Low Cost Dwellings

Washington, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—The government today ordered into effect Jan. 15 a program of priorities that will reserve 50 per cent of scarce construction material for low and moderate cost housing and will give housing preference to veterans.

Civilian Production Administrator John D. Small announced a list of 10 scarce housing materials. Under the program only veterans who wish to build houses for themselves, or builders who agree to sell or rent the houses to veterans, would be eligible for priorities to obtain these materials.

Each house built under this plan must sell for not more than \$10,000, including land and improvements, or must rent for not more than \$80 a month.

Builders will receive priorities for the following materials: Common and face brick, clay sewer pipe, structural tile, gypsum board, gypsum lath, cast iron pipe and fittings, cast iron radiation, bath tubs, lumber and millwork.

The 52 field offices of the Federal Housing Administration will issue priorities to builders willing to set a \$10,000 ceiling price on new construction or an \$80 ceiling on rental construction.

The builder must give veterans preference in buying or renting during the period of construction and for 30 days after completion.

To June 30, 1946

Small said that under this program priorities for materials will be granted from Jan. 15 until June 30, 1946, when the second war powers act amended expires. Small said he hoped the act would be extended by congress next year so that this priorities regulation could remain in effect throughout 1946.

Small also pointed out the program does not mean the government will guarantee materials to a builder. OPA will do spot checking to find out whether or more priorities have been issued than materials are available to fill them. He said, however, that about 50 per cent of the supplies of the 10 critical items will be set aside for this program.

Anyone who buys a house built under the program must sell at the ceiling price established under the regulation. No sale or re-let can be above that approved by FHA.

Millions Need Homes

Small said he expected 40 per cent of the 400,000 homes to be built next year will be started before July 1.

He estimated that between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 veterans and their families will need housing in 1946, so that the program will only partially fill the need.

Small said that it might be necessary to set quotas geographically to assure all parts of the country a supply of new homes.

He also emphasized that "if an undue proportion of applications are for construction right at the ceiling," OPA may set up quotas to assure a proper amount of construction below \$10,000.

"FHA will not approve applications for homes costing \$4,000 which a builder plans to sell for \$10,000," he said.

HARLAN BOSWORTH HOME FROM ARMY

Lt. Col. Harlan Bosworth, who during 27 months duty in Europe was decorated by the American, British and Netherlands governments, has returned home and is now on terminal leave from the army engineer corps. Col. Bosworth holds the Netherlands "Order of the Orange-Nassau," the "Order of the British Empire" and the United States "Legion of Merit."

Col. Bosworth, whose duties with the engineer corps were concerned with utilities, aided the Netherlands government in re-establishment of the nation's utilities and with rebuilding of dikes. After the first of the year Col. Bosworth, formerly an employee of the California-Oregon Power company here will return to his duties as manager of the firm at Klamath Falls.

During Bosworth's absence his wife and four children have resided at 23 North Orange street in Medford. The family will move to Klamath Falls at the end of the current school term.

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GENERAL PATTON DIES



Gen. George S. Patton

PATTON ESCAPED DEATH THRICE IN EUROPEAN SWEEP

(The writer of the following dispatch was assigned to the U. S. Third Army during the last nine months of the European war and was with Gen. George S. Patton from Le Mans, France, to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia.)

By Robert Richards United Press Staff Correspondent

New York, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—Lots of people expected George Patton to get killed. He even talked about it, himself, in the wild days when his Third Army swept hell-bent across Europe.

But no one thought it would happen like this.

No one expected to see him killed in peacetime—the victim of a traffic accident.

Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., had at least three brushes with death, back in the times when his Sherman and tank destroyers were still hurling their shells and all good G. I.'s called Germans "Krauts."

A German 380 millimeter gun just missed his headquarters at Nancy, France. Once it even hit the headquarters, but Patton wasn't home.

Dud Lands Near Another time a large shell landed within 10 feet of Patton's parked jeep, but it was a dud. "If it had gone off, I wouldn't be here," he said.

Then near Nuernberg, at the end of the war, a German fighter attacked Patton's tiny liaison plane. The skilled pilot managed to dive close to the ground and the fighter, unable to pull out, crashed in flames.

At the height of the Ardennes bulge battle, it was rumored that picked German troops had special orders to come after Patton.

The general always patted his pistol when he talked about possible capture. "They won't take me alive," he said, and he meant it. His eyes always lighted up while he talked, as if he might enjoy such a fight.

"Officers should never let themselves be captured," he said.

Men Liked Him I followed the Third Army from the Le Mans area, in France, to Pilsen, in Czechoslovakia, on V-E day. I saw the thirders' doughnut close-up day after day, and I think the vast majority of them liked Patton. And most were proud to be in his army.

Why? I think it was because he had such tremendous vitality, and such complete self-confidence.

And, despite his reckless reputation, in battle he seldom wasted lives. He took big chances only when he knew it was reasonably safe to take them.

He thought that the Third Army was the best in the world, and he made his men feel it.

He once said, "Why, Julius Caesar wouldn't have been but a one-star general in the Third Army."

He always admired skilled and daring fighting. Speaking of one armored division lieutenant, he said: "He's a good man, and he'll get killed. All the good ones get killed."

It was not always easy to tell whether Patton was joking or serious.

Good Actor He prefaced each press conference with the remark, "all right, boys, don't quote me unless you want me to go home."

He knew the full value of acting. Once some SHAEF correspondents came down to interview Patton at Nancy. At his normal press meetings he usually wore only one pistol, swung low in western fashion.

This time he came in loaded down with at least three. He proceeded to pull them out and elaborately laid them on a nearby table. You could almost hear the SHAEF boys saying: "Gee, just like we expected."

PERILED TROOP CARRIERS BEING TOWED IN PACIFIC

San Francisco, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—The 7,000-ton army motorship U. S. S. Imperial, carrying 700 service personnel to the mainland, flashed a call for assistance off the storm-swept northern California coast today and was taken in tow in a 50-mile gale by a coast guard cutter.

Another ship which had been in distress was being towed to port. The landing craft LST 224, on a routine ammunition-dumping assignment from Port Chicago, Cal., was in danger of foundering for several hours during the night when her ramp door jammed during the rescue of two crewmen who had been washed overboard.

SANTA CLAUS TO ARRIVE HERE BY TRAIN SATURDAY

Santa Claus will arrive in Medford Saturday evening on the train and all kiddies of the district are invited to be at the depot at 6:55 p. m. to meet him. This year Santa Claus will be accompanied by a police motorcycle side-car and there will be met by the high school band. After community singing of carols, Santa will distribute gifts of candy and nuts to children. The party at the park will probably be over about 8:30 p. m. since Santa Claus is very busy and must hurry back to the North Pole.

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Washington, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—The administration today gave government fact-finding panels extensive authority to inquire into a company's ability to pay when recommending a wage boost for settlement of an industrial dispute.

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The only limitation imposed was that a panel "ought not to recommend a wage increase which it believes will require the employer after six months to obtain price relief."

Price Hike Oked Needed Under present government policy, employers may increase wages by any amount if they do not seek office of price administration approval to raise prices. They are permitted, however, to make such application if, after a six months trial, they find that such wage boosts have forced them into unprofitable operations.

The directive gave the panels no power to subpoena books or to enforce their recommendations. It was granted for a demand by the oil workers union (CIO) for a 30 per cent wage rate increase from 10 major oil refining companies.

MAIN DIRECTIVES GIVEN JAPANESE FOR FUTURE RULE

Neither the Imperial nor the LST 224 were believed in immediate danger. The coast guard cutter Shawnee, from Eureka, Cal., secured lines to the Imperial after a two-hour struggle with heavy winds blowing down from Cape Mendocino. Troops aboard the Imperial were headed for discharge at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The door of the LST 224 was repaired and the vessel was being taken into San Francisco by a coast guard tug. The attack transport 236 was standing by in event further assistance was necessary.

REQUEST GRANTED FOR MIS-TRIAL IN CAR DAMAGE SUIT

A mis-trial in the \$5000 damage suit of Billy Skeeters against Fred Svynth was ordered yesterday by Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna, upon motion of the defense, when it was brought out that during a recess a statement regarding the case had been made by one of the plaintiffs in the presence of one of the jurors.

Before the recess Judge Hanna cautioned all concerned against making statements while mingling in the hall. It developed the husband of the plaintiff, also a party to the suit, said to the defendant, Svynth:

"I'm not mad at you. I'm suing the insurance company." A juror was nearby.

Attorney John Gearin of Portland, representing Svynth, heard the remark. When court reconvened he filed a motion for a mis-trial and it was granted.

Judge Hanna re-set the trial of the action for opening day of court in February. The court will be in Josephine county most of January.

The suit is based on an auto accident on the Crater Lake Highway near Prospect last summer in which a truck driven by an employee of Svynth and an auto driven by the plaintiff collided. Husband of the plaintiff is also party to the suit seeking payment for damage to and loss of use of the auto.

Today Is Shortest And Marks Advent Of Official Winter

In spite of the fact that valley thermometers fell to 16 degrees several days ago, winter hasn't started yet. Scientifically and officially, winter sets in at 9 p. m. tonight when the sun reaches a certain spot.

This makes Dec. 21 the shortest day of the year and from now on the days lengthen. The sun rose today at 7:36 a. m. and sets at 4:43 p. m., making the day but nine hours and seven minutes long according to weather bureau officials.

Forecast locally is for slightly cooler tonight with showers to-morrow.

Woodshed, Garage Damaged by Fire

Considerable damage by fire at about 6:45 o'clock last night was caused a woodshed, garage and sedan at the residence of Mrs. Eudora Smith, 516 West Jackson street, city firmen, who extinguished the fire, reported today. Windshield, headlights and interior of a Ford sedan belonging to Mrs. Smith, were damaged by the flames of unknown origin.

Earlier last evening firemen extinguished a flue fire at the home of John J. Walter, 36 Chestnut street. No damage was reported.

San Onofre, Cal., Dec. 21—(U.P.)—Two persons were killed and 16 injured when a Santa Fe Trailways bus skidded off the highway over a three-foot embankment a mile and a half south of here today.

CONGRESS QUILTS AFTER EULOGIES GIVEN GENERAL

Both Houses Adjourn Until January 14; Regret Passing Great Military Leader

Washington, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—The 79th congress adjourned today until Jan. 14 after hearing eulogies in both houses of the late Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.

The house adjourned at 2:11 p. m. and the senate followed suit at 3:47 p. m. Members recalled that Patton contributed greatly to victory in four important theaters of that war—North Africa, Mediterranean, French, and German.

Rayburn Regrets Speaker Sam Rayburn expressed his "very deep regret at the passing of a very great soldier and a very great man."

With tears in his eyes, Rep. John E. Rankin, D. Miss., said Patton "deserves to take a place among the greatest of them all."

He is the heir of all eternity—the hero of this and future generations," Rankin said.

Rankin compared Patton to "Stonewall Jackson, Gen. Nathan W. Forrest, Napoleon, Hannibal and Caesar."

FRISCO CHANCE FOR UNO FADES

London, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—San Francisco's chance of becoming permanent headquarters for the United Nations organization faded today when the British delegation began mustering opposition to the selection of any American west coast city.

Professor C. K. Webster, British delegate on the UNO preparatory commission, challenged San Francisco's candidacy on the ground that it was too remote from Europe.

"Chivalry and sound judgment are abroad in the world if after the narrowness of the vote on Europe, the UNO seat is put 2,000 miles farther from Europe," Webster told the commission.

The investigation was touched off by discovery at Matsuyama of "large stores" of weapons training rifles, sabers, spears and bayonet stacked in elementary school houses. Propaganda books, maps and charts were also found in sixth-grade text books. In the yard of another school investigators found an obstacle course and straw dummies for bayonet practice. The equipment was destroyed.

Dr. Kotaro Tanaka, chief of the school bureau of the Ministry of Education, said that new Japanese textbooks will be compiled to comply with directives abolishing state Shintoism. It will be simpler, he said, to make new textbooks than to remove Japanese references to Japan as a divine country, and to her people as a superior race. Children will be taught to respect their emperor, not as a god, but as head of their country, he said.

Camp White Listed As Training Spot

Camp White, recently re-activated with the arrival of more than 2000 engineer troops, will be retained permanently for training of between 2000 and 3000 men pending decision by congress of the size of the post-war army. This information was furnished Senator Guy Cordon by the war department according to a Washington dispatch today.

The engineer troops have been arriving for the past several days, coming here from Texas, Mississippi and Kentucky camps. Many of the men now stationed at the camp are veterans of overseas service.

FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Santa Barbara, Calif., Dec. 21—(U.P.)—Ten years' experimental study was wasted today when vandals, after a Christmas tree, stole into the botanical gardens here and cut down a priceless white fir. The tree, a six-foot, ten-inch specimen which botanists had watched grow from a 25-inch slip planted in 1935, was chopped down and carried away, authorities said.

STRIKES IN BRIEF

A total of 431,000 U. S. workers were away from their jobs in labor disputes today, according to a United Press survey. The major highlights:

Automotive—The CIO auto workers' nationwide strike against General Motors entered its second month as company and union officials met in Washington to decide whether to resume collective bargaining.

Transportation—Government labor officials still awaited assurances from union and Greyhound bus officials that they would resume operations and allow a fact-finding board to study the wage issue which has curtailed service in 18 northeastern states.

Utilities—CIO United Electric workers went ahead with plans to strike Jan. 3 at 21 Western Electric plants in northern New Jersey and New York to back up wage demands.

Lumber—30,000 AFL lumber workers remained away from their jobs in Pacific north-west pine mills, pressing for an industrywide \$1.10 minimum hourly wage.

NEW SNOW FALLS OVER CORN BELT AND LAKES AREA

New snow spread eastward across the corn belt and great lakes region today with the official arrival of winter.

Winter becomes official at 11:02 p. m. (CST), when the sun reaches a point 22½ degrees south of the equator.

H. S. Kenny, U. S. weather forecaster at Chicago, said the new snow moving into the midwest from the Dakotas and Minnesota will continue its eastern course and reach the Atlantic coast in 24 to 48 hours.

Sub-zero temperatures continued throughout most of the midwest, with Pembina, N. D., reporting a low of 20 below. But it was warmer in Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri and southern Illinois.

Local warm winds drove the mercury up 65 degrees at Cheyenne, Wyo., from a low of 13 below Wednesday morning.

The mercury stayed near or below zero in most of New England today, but temperatures in the middle Atlantic states ranged from 10 to 25 above. Temperatures returned to normal today throughout most of the south and along the west coast.

T. E. Wade Injured When Hit by Car

T. E. Wade, 712 West 12th street, was reported in fair condition in Community hospital today, where he was taken by a Conger-Morris ambulance yesterday for treatment of injuries sustained in a traffic mishap.

Wade reportedly was struck by a car operated by F. O. Livingston, 513 King street, at about 5 o'clock yesterday, while crossing the King street and Oakdale avenue intersection.

Japanese People Said In No Danger of Starving For Year

Tokyo, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—Col. Crawford F. Sams, chief of the public health and welfare section of Allied supreme headquarters today accused the Japanese government of falsely representing the country's food situation in an attempt to get the United States to furnish food.

He asserted that the Japanese are in no danger of starvation this winter.

"The Japanese will have relatively more food this winter than the peoples of defeated European nations," Sams said.

He pointed out that Japanese sources estimated their own food production will furnish 1,375 calories and 41 grams of protein daily for each person in Japan for the next calendar year.

LUNG INFECTION IS AFTERMATH OF SMASHUP INJURY

Turn for Worse Comes After Long Series of Optimistic Bulletins From Bedside.

Heidelberg, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—Gen. George S. Patton, "Old Blood and Guts," died in the army hospital here today.

Brig. Gen. John M. Willems, chief of staff of the Seventh Army, announced that Patton died peacefully at 5:50 p. m. (11:50 a. m. EST).

Patton will be buried in Europe as the result of a decision made tonight by his wife.

Patton lost his fight against injury suffered Dec. 9 when his car collided with an army truck as he was motoring to hunt pheasants not far from his headquarters.

Partially Paralyzed The tough and stormy army veteran suffered a broken neck in the accident and was partially paralyzed. But a little more than 48 hours after being rushed to the hospital he was pronounced "out of danger" unless unforeseen complications set in.

Those complications, in the form of a bronchial infection, suddenly developed Wednesday night. Yesterday and last night his condition rapidly worsened.

Patton's death was overshadowed by an afternoon medical bulletin from the Heidelberg army hospital disclosing that his heart had been affected by the strain, and that secretions were accumulating in his lungs.

Long Optimistic The turn for the worst came after a long series of optimistic bulletins reporting steady improvement in Patton's condition.

After the initial shock of the broken neck, the tough soldier who led the U. S. Third Army across western Europe in the victorious drive against Germany rallied rapidly and began edging back from the shadow of death into which he was cast by the collision of his automobile and an army truck a week ago Sunday.

Mrs. Patton left Washington the night her husband was injured and made a dangerous flight to Heidelberg. Her arrival bucked him up, and she professed confidence he would pull through.

Plans already had been announced to fly him back to the United States in a month or six weeks for treatment at an unspecified hospital on the eastern seaboard.

SILVER THAW HITS WESTERN OREGON

Portland, Ore., Dec. 21—(U.P.)—State police announced today the Upper Columbia River highway east of Portland was closed because of ice and snow as the western part of the state labored under a near silver thaw.

Portland was undergoing its second icy session within a week with the city's wires, trees, and automobiles taking on sheets of ice.

Weather Bureau spokesmen, however, had a hopeful outlook of rising temperatures later today to counter the freeze.

Most interurban buses were maintaining schedules, but those from Spokane, Yakima and other communities in eastern Washington were delayed because of ice on highways.

Several schools were closed throughout the area due to the cold spell as principals reported unprecedented absences due to the flu.

RATIONING AUTHORITY CONTINUED UNTIL JUNE

Washington, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—Congress has given President Truman authority to continue emergency rationing until June 30.

The senate passed a House-approved bill late yesterday extending his war-time powers for six months. They were scheduled to expire Dec. 31.

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