

Blackout Signal

One 5-minute blast on sirens and whistles is the signal for a blackout in Klamath Falls. Another long blast, during a blackout, is a signal for all-clear. In precautionary periods, watch your street lights.

WEATHER

Low 32
PRECIPITATION
24 hours to 8 a. m. 4.02
Season to date 5.07
Normal precipitation 3.74
Last year to date 3.08



TWO SECTIONS

PRICE FIVE CENTS

U. S. SUBS SINK JAP TRANSPORT

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
AT yesterday's meeting of the Oregon state defense council, which has been referred to already in this column, blackouts furnished the principal topic for discussion—as is natural.

In a state of war, with the Pacific coast nearest to the enemy, anything can happen, but it is generally agreed that a night air raid is the thing most likely to happen first—and the blackout is the first defensive answer to the night air raid.

THE objective is to black out quickly and to black out COMPLETELY. Early efforts have left much to be desired, but there was general agreement that people are learning rapidly.

THERE are problems. Among them so far lighted dairy barns and poultry houses have loomed rather large west of the mountains. Not that dairymen and poultrymen have been unwilling to cooperate. Far from it.

The problem is to GET WORD to the operators of such places. The idea now is that they will have to be closed in so that the lights can burn without being seen.

THE real problem is the sawmill trash-burner. No satisfactory method of blacking out the trash-burner quickly has yet been devised.

One sawmill operator has been experimenting with steam and thinks it offers some possibilities.

THERE is plenty of authority to deal with blackout violators—of that there is no doubt. When the order to black out is given by the army, failure to comply with it becomes a military offense. When the order is given by the civil authorities, their emergency powers for enforcement are ample.

So far NO intentional violators have been reported. The problem has been to get out a warning that can be heard and understood by all.

Warning devices now in use are far from satisfactory.

THIS question is in every mind: Have enemy planes actually been over the Pacific coast?

There is no flat and authoritative answer, but informed opinion holds that they may have been and MAY BE AGAIN at any moment. Present at Monday's meeting was an army officer who has spent several years in Japan. Slipping in an aircraft carrier and raiding Pacific coast cities, he says, would appeal strongly to the Japanese.

We must be prepared for anything.

THERE have been rumors of evacuation of Pacific coast cities and towns.

NONE have been ordered. But again no one knows when such a thing may become necessary. Handling evacuations is one of the problems under study.

If such a thing should become necessary, careful advance planning and discipline and calmness on the part of the population would be vitally important.

AND so it would be if Pacific coast towns and cities should be raided from the air. The results of panic would be incalculably terrible. Panic follows surprise and lack of preparation. It is prevented by discipline and readiness.

THIS is still sound advice: Don't get excited. Go about your ordinary business in your ordinary way EXCEPT insofar as discipline and preparedness for whatever may happen are concerned. Remember that if your boy in the armed services can take it YOU can take it. BE PROUD of the fact that you are sharing the dangers of war with him. Accept (Continued on Page Two)

JAPS RAID DUTCH ISLES

NEW ATTACKS THREATEN TO TAKE PENANG

Nippon Offensive in Malaya Cuts Off British Base

BATAVIA, Java, N. E. I., Dec. 18 (AP)—The Japanese have extended their Pacific offensive with air raids on the Dutch island of Ternate and a coastal village of the Dutch part of New Guinea, the Dutch command announced today in a communique circulated by the news agency Aneta. The enemy, however, was said to have been put quickly to flight by defending Dutch naval planes. All the Japanese bombs, aimed at objectives in or near Sorong, northwestern New Guinea, missed their mark, according to the communique.

By C. YATES M'DANIEL, SINGAPORE, Dec. 18 (AP)—Japan's offensive by land, sea and air, smashing at many points along a vast arc from Burma and the Malay peninsula to the jagged coast of Dutch New Guinea, developed its direst threat today on the road to Singapore.

That threat in northwestern British Malaya seemed to have all but sealed the fate of the island state and port of Penang. Penang and another Straits Settlements state, province Wellesley, have been cut off from direct communication with the rest of Malaya by a British withdrawal in Kedah province. Official concessions indicated that all of the 115-mile-long state of Kedah had been yielded.

This meant that the Japanese were able to advance the full length of Kedah, on the northwestern side of Malaya, along the coastal railway terminating at Singapore, bastion of British naval and air-power in the Far East. Singapore had heard nothing from Penang for 24 hours, but (Continued on Page Two)

U. S. Army Group Learns Japanese

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif., Dec. 18 (AP)—Seven Japanese privates in the U. S. army here are teaching a class of more than 100 officers and enlisted men how to say "hello" and "how do I get there?" in Japanese. The private professors, American-born all, are giving a course in simple conversation, greetings, and basic grammar forms. It pays to be prepared, the army believes!

F. R. Cites Heroism of Flier In Note to 1956 Successor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—In an unusual token of appreciation of a deed of heroism, President Roosevelt has addressed a letter to the president of the United States—whenever he may be—in 1956 requesting the appointment as a West Point cadet of Colin P. Kelly, III. Now less than two years old, Colin P. Kelly, III, is the son of 28-year-old Captain Colin P. Kelly Jr., who scored three bomb hits and sunk the Japanese battleship Haruna off Luzon December 9. Captain Kelly, of Madison, Fla., lost his life in the action which destroyed the first Japanese warship in the war which began December 7 with the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. The president's letter, written on White House stationery and

After Jap Bombers Passed Over



Japanese bombers roared over Honolulu in a surprise attack and left this wrecked corner. It once was a thriving business district, but incendiary bombs started a fire which destroyed 20 buildings.

500 LOST AS SHIP HITS MANILA MINE

Passenger Ship Goes Down in Bay; 300 Saved

MANILA, Dec. 18 (AP)—Approximately 500 persons apparently were lost in the sinking of the inter-island passenger steamer Corregidor in deep, shark-infested waters near Manila bay yesterday, it was reported today.

The ship was carrying about 800 persons, including passengers and crew, and approximately 300 were known to have been rescued. Little hope was held for recovering many bodies. Although there apparently was no accurate check of those on board, water front circles said inter-island vessels usually carry double the total of listed passengers because many travelers pay their fare aboard ship.

The 1881-ton Corregidor, once the Engadine and the first seaplane carrier in history, took part in the World war battle of Jutland. She received special army permission to sail Tuesday night and hit a mine before daylight yesterday.

Many survivors were in the water five hours or more. The missing included Assemblyman Juan M. Reyes and Professor Jose Reyes, of Santo Tomas university, both brothers of Archbishop Gabriel Reyes, of Cebu.

Wage Boosts Given at Two Klamath Mills

The Chiloquin Lumber company of Chiloquin has granted a 2 1/2-cent per hour wage increase to nearly 200 of its employees, the International Woodworkers of America (IWO) announced Thursday afternoon.

It was the second 2 1/2-cent pay boost announced for basin millworkers in the last 24 hours. Late Wednesday night, Wilbur Yeoman, representative of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers (AFL) revealed that employees of the Big Lakes Box company have been given a similar increase.

Both firms' employees also were granted a week's vacation with pay in 1942. The wage increase will become effective on January 1.

Air Force Head Reported Lost On Hop West

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—The war department announced today an army plane carrying Major General Herbert A. Dargue, commander of the 1st air force, had been missing since December 12 on a transcontinental flight.

There were seven other passengers in the plane, five of them officers and two enlisted men. Secretary of War Stimson said the ship was last reported near Palmdale, Calif., and it was believed that it had crashed or been forced down in that vicinity.

General Dargue is a veteran flying officer, and usually pilots his own plane. Those listed as missing with him were: Col. Charles W. Bundy, war department general staff, home, Washington. Lieut. Col. George W. Ricker, war department general staff, home, Washington. Major Hugh F. McCaffery, Mitchell field, New York. Captain J. G. Leavitt, March field, Calif., home, Los Angeles. First Lieutenant Homer C. Burns, March field, Calif., home, Spokane.

Staff Sergeant Stephen Hoffman, March field, Calif. (Native of Sun, W. Va.) Private Samuel J. Van Hamm, Jr., March field, Calif., native of (Continued on Page Two)

SPUD CROP REPORT REVEALS BIG DROP

Continued Firming of Prices Seen in New Figures

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—Final estimates of the nation's most important farm crops, issued today by the department of agriculture, placed the potato crop at 357,783,000 bushels. Last year's crop totaled 378,103,000 and the 10-year average is 370,045,000 bushels.

Klamath agriculturists forecast continued firming of the potato market as a result of the Washington crop report Thursday. On November 10, the USDA figure on the potato crop was 376,701,000 bushels, and the marked decrease shown in the final report is believed certain to have a favorable effect on the market for the growers.

Stronger conditions are already in effect. Four days ago, according to a reliable source, potatoes here were selling at \$1.65 a cwt. for four-ounce sizes or better, whereas Thursday \$1.75 was offered for straight US No. 1 grade regardless of size. Four days ago, No. 2 spuds were quoted at 85 cents, whereas \$1 was offered Thursday.

Disease and deterioration in storage over the nation as a whole were regarded here as main factors in sharp decrease indicated in the final report.

Guard Captain



Captain Dayton E. Van Vactor, who has been appointed to command the Klamath unit of the state guard. (Story on Page 14)

TURNING POINT LOOMS AS AXIS FACES DEFEAT

British See Victory In Libya War as Reds Push On

WITH THE RED ARMY ON THE MOSCOW FRONT, Dec. 18 (AP)—Now striking at the center of the Germans' Moscow line, that is, west of the capital, the red army was reported tonight to have recaptured 200 communities, with its vanguard approaching Ruza, just northeast of Moshaisk.

Moshaisk is 87 miles west of Moscow. The Russian offensive thus has become general along the entire Moscow front, after German salients had been wiped out on the northern and southern flanks of the city.

By The Associated Press A great, perhaps decisive turning-point marked Europe's war on two fronts today as Britain announced officially that the axis front in North Africa has been completely shattered and Russia declared that Adolf Hitler's invasion armies were fleeing in chaos.

A soviet broadcast reported bitter hatred flaring among the axis forces, asserting that Russian cavalry in the Donets basin had captured retreating German, Italian and Rumanian troops when they fell to fighting one another.

Meeting The broadcast said Rumanian soldiers joined with the Italians against the Germans. Just one month to the day after Britain's desert armies struck back into Libya in their second North African offensive, British middle east headquarters announced: "Axis forces in eastern Ciro" (Continued on Page Two)

Sub Attacked Off U. S. Coast

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 18 (AP)—A submarine has been attacked by an airplane based on the continental United States, Maj. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, commander of the second air force, reported today.

The time and place of the attack and the nationality of the enemy vessel were not disclosed by the general, who told of the attack by a second air force plane in a letter of commendation to the officers of his command.

He said the action took place "after the Japanese attack on Hawaii Sunday, December 7." "Combat units performed with high efficiency and special commendation must be paid to the alertness and promptness of the airplane commander and crew of a squadron in this air force in spying and attacking a submarine," the general said in his letter.

Klamath Stores To Remain Open For Gift Buyers

Klamath Falls stores will remain open later hours on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings to accommodate late Christmas shoppers, it was announced by the Klamath retail trade bureau Thursday.

In general, the closing hours will be 8 p. m. for department stores and 10 p. m. for men's stores.

On Wednesday, stores will close at 8 p. m. to permit store employees to participate in Christmas eve festivities. Christmas shopping was moving at a rapid pace in the local business district Thursday, despite unfavorable weather conditions which made the going a bit tough. Friday and Saturday were expected to be shopping banner days of the year and stores retained extra help for those days to accommodate the anticipated influx of customers.

Invaders Shoved Back at Vigan On Luzon Isle

MANILA, Dec. 18 (AP)—Japanese invaders have been shoved back many miles in the Vigan area of northwestern Luzon, the United States far eastern command announced today.

An indefinite number of Japanese dead and wounded were left on the field of battle, south of Vigan, in that action on Monday afternoon, it was said. There was no further word on what had developed since then. Sea-borne Japanese troops secured their Vigan foothold, about 200 miles north of Manila, soon after the outbreak of the war in the Pacific.

Manila had its first air raid alarm in three days at 1:55 p. m., today (11:55 p. m., Wednesday PST) and before the all clear came 35 minutes later Japanese bombers, preceded by a small number of fighters, flew across the city. In all, 12 planes were counted. They were so high they could (Continued on Page Two)

MARSHALL APPEALS FOR LOWER DRAFT

Senate Asked to Cut Age Limit to 19 In Army Bill

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—General George C. Marshall appealed to the senate today to notify all men between 19 and 44 years, inclusive, that they were liable for active military service.

Chairman Reynolds (D-N.C.) of the senate military committee read the appeal from the army chief of staff as the senate debated reduction of the present 21-year minimum for compulsory military service to 19 years.

Marshall told the senate victory in this war "will require maximum national effort" and use of all manpower "either in uniform or in industry." His letter was read after Secretary of War Stimson announced the war department was planning to expand the army to the greatest strength needed and would depend entirely on the selective service system to make the increase.

All voluntary enlistments are to be halted as soon as "the present rush subsides," Stimson told a press conference. An immediate increase of more than 150,000 men already has been recommended in a bill which Stimson said was on President Roosevelt's desk.

The war secretary apparently referred to the \$10,077,000,000 military appropriations bill signed today by President Roosevelt. It provided for a net increase of 277,026 in the army's enlisted (Continued on Page Two)

Allied Supreme War Strategy Board Visioned

LONDON, Dec. 18 (AP)—Discussions are under way for establishment of a supreme allied war authority to direct high strategy against the axis, the authoritative British Press association said tonight, and some quarters here believe that Washington should be its headquarters.

Informed opinion in London was divided on the desirability of Washington or London as the seat of the prospective allied grand council. Keynoting comment of British news organizations, the press association said:

"In capitals of each of the four great allied powers (the United States, Britain, China and Russia) leaders and spokesmen have already indicated their agreement to the general principle of a supreme authority for direction of the war. "Discussions which now are proceeding between service and political experts are designed to bring the necessary machinery into being."

NEW HAWAII COMMANDERS TAKE CHARGE

Pacific Forces Under Admiral Nimitz In Shakeup

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—The navy department reported today that United States submarines active in the Far East had sunk an enemy transport and probably sunk a destroyer as well.

This information was contained in the navy's late afternoon communique which reported "no new developments" in the central and eastern Pacific. It said also that the naval situation had been without incident in the Atlantic area where heavy weather prevails.

The communique: "Atlantic area—The naval situation has been without incident. Heavy weather continues in the western Atlantic.

"Eastern Pacific—There are no new developments to report. "Central Pacific—There are no new developments to report.

"Far East—Submarine actions against enemy forces in the Far East have resulted in sinking of an enemy transport and the probable loss of one enemy destroyer."

A war department communique issued at the same time, outlined the military situation as of 5 p. m. EST as follows: "1. Philippines; the commanding general, far eastern command, reports that enemy air activity during Dec. 18 was confined to mild raids over Luzon. Ground operations were unimportant patrol actions."

"2. There is nothing to report from other areas." War Strategy Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the man who has been given the terrific responsibility of the command of the Pacific fleet, was one of seven high officers called to the White House today for a conference on war strategy. Nimitz, along with Ernest J. King, head of the Atlantic fleet, (Continued on Page Two)

Ten Youths Die in Burning Bus Wreckage

ROBINSON, Ill., Dec. 18 (AP)—Ten youths perished last night in the burning wreckage of a National Youth administration bus that overturned near West Union.

At first only seven were believed trapped in the charred bus but today the bodies of 10 were found, all burned beyond casual identification. The bodies were moved to a vacant store building at Marshall, Ill., and behind curtained windows today, grief-stricken relatives viewed them in an attempt to establish their identities.

Clark County Coroner Howard E. Swinford said the dead were Richard McClure, 20, Bernard Shonk, 15, Earl Melton, Leland Johnson, Tom Ollinger, 17, Henry Ollinger, 16, James Hoback, 15, and Henry Walters, all of Marshall, and Winifred Andrews and Victor Turner of Casey.

The bus was driven by Ferris Williams of Casey, 35, who is in critical condition from burns at a Robinson hospital. The youths were returning to Marshall from Oblong where they had engaged in NYA project work.

News Index

Agriculture	Page 20
City Briefs	Page 8
Comics and Story	Page 18
Courthouse Records	Page 4
Editorials	Page 4
High School News	Page 9
Information	Page 8
Market, Financial	Page 10
Midland Empire News	Page 19
Pattern	Page 3
Sports	Page 12, 13