



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.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

AMERICANS, waiting feverishly for every scrap of news from their countrymen who are holding on against heavy odds in the Philippines until reinforcements can arrive, listen to Winston Churchill, speaking in the senate of the United States, before the assembled congress.

They listen with confidence, for in the more than two years his country has been at war Churchill has never failed to give the picture exactly as it is.

WE were caught, he tells us, unprepared.

As a result, these early days of war are dark. He offers the prediction that there "may be much ground that will be lost that will be difficult to regain. (Manila, perhaps; even Singapore.)"

He adds: "Our (Britain's and America's) resources of materials and manpower are greater than theirs, but we both have much to learn of the cruel art of war."

He says: "We are fighting wicked men who had gathered great stores of weapons to carry out plans which had been long contrived and matured."

SO much for the present. Of the future, he says: "U. S.-British production, within a year on 18 months, will result in war power output beyond anything ever seen in the axis states."

That is to say (in particular) air power, which since the beginning of the war has been on the side of the axis, will shift within 12 to 18 months overwhelming to OUR SIDE.

By then we will have hit our stride.

SPEAKING of the Germans, the Japs and the Italians, he asks: "What kind of people do they think we are? Do they not realize we shall never cease to persevere against them until we have taught them a lesson which they and the world will never forget?"

He is right. We SHALL. Along with the British, we are slow starters. But, once well started, we make our weight felt. We always have, and we still shall.

PEACE-LOVING democracies are necessarily slow to start, for it is not in their nature to maintain vast armies and build up vast war supplies in time of peace.

But, as Oliver Cromwell said, when they fight "they know what they are fighting for and LOVE what they know."

CHURCHILL says:

"I am pleased with the depth and breadth of American understanding of what is involved in this war." He means that we understand it is a WORLD war, with our Pacific front only one of many fronts. On our own front, caught unprepared and outnumbered by a fully prepared enemy, we are losing ground. Slowly and stubbornly, and selling every foot of it dearly, but until reinforcements arrive we shall probably continue to lose ground.

From the other fronts, the news is good. The Russians continue to push forward. The British continue to chase the weakened Germans and Italians in Africa, meanwhile preventing their reinforcement from across the Mediterranean.

Santa Claus Loses Pants

ASTORIA, Dec. 26 (P) — Santa Claus lost his pants and retired in confusion—and red flannel underwear—from a Christmas party at the Moose lodge hall.

Andrew Cetina, playing Santa, made a few hasty repairs off-stage and nonchalantly returned to finish distributing presents.

JAP FORCES THREATEN MANILA

Churchill Sees Long War

DeGaulle Spurns Protest Over Isle Seizure

ST. PIERRE, St. Pierre-et-Miquelon, Dec. 26 (P) — The free French news service announced today that these islands off the Newfoundland coast were occupied under a formal order by General Charles De Gaulle and that the "diplomatic question" arising would be discussed between him and the "interested governments."

De Gaulle is the leader of the Free French movement, with headquarters at London. The agency said that Baron De Bournat, the Vichy-appointed (Continued on Page Two)

STORIES TOLD BY HAWAII EVACUEES

Potatoes Thrown at Raiding Japs, Sailor Says

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 (P) — Hundreds of evacuees and wounded, conveyed safely through waters infested with Japanese submarines, today related acts of heroism and praised the morale in embattled Hawaii.

Planes circled overhead as the passenger vessels, wearing a dark blue war paint, slipped quietly through the Golden Gate yesterday.

Lifelines were worn during the trip by all passengers—even by the many children while they played games—and the ships were blacked out completely at night.

They zigzagged constantly between (Continued on Page Two)

MAN DIES IN FIRE AT POE VALLEY RANCH

Three Deaths Occur In Klamath on Christmas

Sudden death provided a tragic note to the Christmas observance here, with one life lost in a ranch fire, one well-known citizen dying of heart failure at Christmas dinner, and a visitor dropping dead in a local hotel.

The victims: James Arthur Campbell, 30, burned to death when fire destroyed a bunkhouse on Christmas eve at the Chet Barton ranch in Poe valley. Three other men were painfully burned.

Arthur Roy Thrash, 53, passed away at his home here at the beginning of Christmas dinner.

Lewis H. Hawk, 71, who died suddenly at a local hotel.

The Barton bunkhouse burned about 10 p. m. Christmas eve, the fire apparently spreading rapidly through the frame building from a stove.

Investigating officers said that in the bunkhouse Christmas eve were Campbell, Delbert Pruitt, Lowell McFadden, E. C. Mills and E. P. Meyers, all employees of Barton, prominent rancher.

Three Injured

The men had gone to bed. Survivors told the officers they awoke to find the place in flames, and each made a break for safety. Campbell apparently was overcome by smoke and heat, and died on his bed.

Pruitt alone escaped without injury. Mills, Meyers and Mc (Continued on Page Two)

British Capture Bengasi, Chase German Force

CAIRO, Dec. 26 (P) — The British army, with the ruins of Bengasi in its possession, hammered home its advantages today and was reported by the middle east command to be taking a heavy toll of German forces seeking to retreat farther westward after loss of Libya's second-largest city.

The bulk of the axis troops, said today's communique, was engaged by the British in "confused fighting" north of Agadabia, 60 miles south of Bengasi on the coast road to Tripoli, capital of Italy's north African empire. Near Bengasi itself and around Barca only "isolated bodies in various stages of disorganization" still were offering resistance.

The RAF, in operations ranging as far west as Tripoli itself, also harried the axis forces in the Agadabia sector. Its communique reported "considerable damage" done to armored cars, guns and motor transports south-west of Agadabia. The airforce said direct hits were scored on the Karamanli mole at Tripoli.

The British communique said 13,000 axis prisoners already had been shipped to the rear.

CHRISTMAS TRADE HITS PEAK HERE

Cash Deals Dominate Buying; Stocks Run Low

"One of the biggest cash-business Christmases Klamath Falls ever had"—that was the consensus of opinion among city businessmen Friday. Cash sales in all instances went far over last year's records, with every one determined to make this a "bang-up" holiday. A definite slump, in comparison to last year's figures, however, was felt in credit business.

Local business men agreed that, had the war not broken at the beginning of the Christmas shopping season, business here would have outstripped all previous records. After the preliminary slump which followed the Japanese attack on the U. S., buying returned to normal, but people showed themselves unwilling to make commitments for future payments. Cash down was the general rule among shoppers.

Several retail stores reported the largest pre-Christmas crowds in history, and stocks of "gadgets" were cleaned out. Not only was this a practical Christmas, with gifts of lasting value on (Continued on Page Two)

Death Strikes Over 400 in Holiday Period

By The Associated Press

A nation already counting its war dead emerged today (Friday) from a not-too-gay Christmas celebration only to find it must persevere another macabre toll—that of violent holiday deaths.

California, 33 traffic deaths, seven miscellaneous deaths; Ohio, 30 traffic, nine miscellaneous—and so it went for the two-day Yuletide period until finally, at dawn today, 40 states and the District of Columbia had reported 431 dead.

Death stalked the highways closest, automobiles and other vehicles taking 334 lives, but also struck 97 times in other forms—fire, guns, lightning, planes.

Worst tragedy was the combined wreck and fire that killed 10 persons in a bus at St. Louis. Most of them had attended midnight mass and were returning home.

ALLIES TO BE READY IN 1943 FOR OFFENSIVE

Unforgettable Lesson To Axis Promised Before Congress

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (P) — Prime Minister Winston Churchill told congress today the allies would be ready "to take the initiative on an ample scale" by 1943 and in the end give the axis powers a lesson the world "will never forget."

Standing in the center of the green-carpeted senate rostrum, the stocky Briton asked his intently-listening audience these questions about the Germans, Japanese and Italians: "What kind of people do they think we are?"

Perseverance

"Do they not realize that we shall never cease to persevere against them until we have taught them a lesson which they and the world will never forget?"

This brought a roar of applause from the packed-and-jammed senate chamber, where house members were sandwiched in between the regular senate desks. Members of the supreme court, the cabinet and the diplomatic corps were also in his audience.

Production Record

The United States-British production, within a year or 18 months, Churchill said, would result in war power output beyond "anything ever seen in the axis states."

Churchill said it was natural that the planning and plotting by the axis powers had placed the United States at a disadvantage. But, saying that we should be thankful that we had time to prepare for war, he added:

"If Germany had tried to invade Britain in June, 1940, and Japan had declared war on the (Continued on Page Two)

Winners Named In Christmas Light Contest

Grand sweepstakes award in the junior chamber of commerce Christmas lighting contest held throughout the city went to Mr. and Mrs. Henry I. McKim, 1530 Crescent avenue. The McKim display, a Christ Child scene placed in the window as a background for a glowing arrangement of colored lights, also won the sectional award.

Second prize in the unlimited class went to Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hamm, 614 Conger avenue. The Hamm's used a Santa Claus with reindeer on the rooftop.

First prize in the limited class, where an expenditure of \$5 or less was placed by the organizing group, went to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gilson, 1426 Crescent avenue. Their display featured an electrical "Merry Christmas" which flashed on and off. Second (Continued on Page Two)

Alvin York From Klamath Enlists

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Dec. 26 (P) — Camp Callan boasted its own Alvin York today.

The recruit, Private Alvin York, was born August 10, 1916, in Klamath Falls, Ore. Injured by the Pearl Harbor attack, York enlisted in Los Angeles this month and has just started his first eight weeks' training at the coast artillery replacement center.

"I'll try to do as good as the other York," the private commented, "but that's a big job." The "other" York is Sgt. Alvin York of world war No. 1 fame.

Japs Threaten Manila



An army communique announced that heavy fighting was developing as the Japanese struck furious blows in the Lamon-Antimonan sector (1) on the island of Luzon southeast of Manila Friday. Manila (3) was declared an open city to avoid heavy damage from bombers. The Jap thrust in the Lingayen gulf area was reported held.

Hongkong Falls To Jap Forces On Christmas

TOKYO, Dec. 26 — (Official Broadcast Recorded by AP) — The remnants of the British imperial garrison at Hongkong, estimated at 6000 men, was reported to have been ordered to stack arms by noon today in conformity with yesterday's surrender to Japanese siege assault.

The disarming got swiftly under way at various points of the now occupied British crown colony following the British command's formal acceptance early this morning of demands presented by representatives of the Japanese army and navy.

The Japanese demands provided:

1. Stationing of a "certain number" of Japanese troops for maintenance of order.
2. British assumption of full responsibility for cessation of hostilities and prevention of "un-toward incidents."
3. That decisions on further details of the British surrender should be made later.

Bomber Destroys Raiding Sub

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (P) — An army communique early yesterday said a western defense command bomber sank an enemy submarine off the California coast. The communique said "soon after the submarine was sighted it made an emergency dive. A bomb was dropped and the submarine emerged and then sank. Two more bombs were dropped, apparently scoring direct hits, and filling the air with debris."

Japs Using Small-bore Guns in Luzon Attack, Witness Reports

(Editor's Note: Clark Lee, Associated Press staff reporter with wide experience in Asia, tells here what he saw during a trip to the Lingayen front in the Philippines. Lee was born in Oakland, Calif. He entered the AP in 1929 and has worked in New York, Newark, Mexico City, Honolulu and all over the Orient.)

By CLARK LEE

MANILA, Dec. 26 (P) — Masses of Japanese troops—some of them boys of 15 to 18 years old and poorly equipped with .25 caliber guns—are dying in attacks on the Lingayen front as if simply accepting the inevitable.

An American officer who commanded one of the beach defenses told me there was "no hysterical exaltation" in the charge on the shore last Monday, when the major invasion began.

NAVY REPORTS TWO JAP WAR VESSELS SUNK

Bombing Avoided by Declaring Manila 'Open City'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (P) The navy confirmed the sinking of two Japanese warships in the Far East and the probable sinking of two others in a communique today as the army reported repulse of repeated enemy attacks on the main Lingayen front in Luzon, largest of the Philippine islands.

The navy said that Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander of the Asiatic fleet, listed one enemy transport and one mine sweeper sunk with the probable sinking also of another transport and a seaplane tender.

Naval operations are being pressed against submarines in the western Pacific, where attacks have taken place off the California coast, the communique said.

By The Associated Press

Violent tank battles are raging southeast of Manila and Japan's invasion armies are now bringing "very heavy pressure to bear against American and Filipino defenses. U. S. army headquarters reported late today.

The army's announcement, reporting heavy casualties on both sides, indicated a grave turn in the situation.

An earlier communique had declared that the 20-day-old battle of the Philippines was "going well" on all fronts.

An army communique, timed 5:50 p. m. Manila time (12:50 a. m. PST) said the Japanese were striking with peak fury from their Lamon bay beachheads 55 to 75 miles south of the capital.

All U. S. soldiers and marines had been removed from Manila itself by this afternoon, dispatches said, in accordance with an announcement that the city was "open" and undefended. Unmovable military stores were destroyed.

Attacks Repulsed

A war department bulletin painted a brighter picture north of Manila, declaring that repeated Japanese assaults on the main American fighting line near Lingayen gulf, 110 miles above the Philippine capital, had been beaten off.

The communique said Gen. Douglas MacArthur had reorganized and strengthened defense positions in the Lingayen sector, while the Japanese were also reported to be heavily reinforcing their troops. Heavy artillery duels were in progress.

Brisk fighting was reported from other fronts on Luzon is (Continued on Page Two)

Temperature Drops To 15 Degrees, Coldest of Year

The year's records toppled early Friday morning when a minimum of 15 degrees was hung up by the weatherman who said it was the coldest day of the year, and coldest since December 13 and 14, 1940, when the season's low of 10 degrees was recorded.

On Christmas day the thermometer fell to 16 degrees. Maximum was 30.

Residents of the Sand Creek area on Sun mountain shivered in a one degree below zero temperature, according to the state highway department Friday morning. There was no new snow but road beds were said to be exceptionally slick.

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