

CAPTAIN OLAF ECKSTROM HAS A WORD FOR IT

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 (AP)—The captain of an oil tanker sent to the bottom of the enemy submarine expressed hope Wednesday that the United States navy would "get that Jap submarine before she gets another American ship."

A submarine sank the Union oil tanker Montebello off the California coast Tuesday, but the Richfield oil tanker Larry Doherty fled to a cove and escaped after being fired upon.

The attacks followed the sudden appearance of axis submarines preying on Pacific coast shipping.

Captain Olaf Eckstrom, tall, blond nose skipper of the Montebello, praised his crew of 40 men after they all reached shore, suffering only shock and exposure.

"I hope the navy gets that Jap submarine before she gets another American ship," he said. "I am proud of the men under my command. God bless them. They performed like American seamen."

The torpedo which hit the Montebello caused such a terrific explosion that it awakened residents on shore six miles away. The missile struck the only compartment of the tanker not loaded with gasoline, or the whole ship would have blown up.

The submarine then fired several shots at the sinking ship. "We had no warning at all," said Captain Eckstrom. "The ship sank very quickly but we had time to take to the boats. My boat was waterlogged and in the rough sea it was tough going."

In operations extending over hundreds of miles, the invading undersea craft also were reported to have attempted a second attack on the Standard oil tanker H. M. Storey and a third on the Texas Oil company tanker Idaho.

The Canadian freighter Rosebank, enroute to a California port, was reported overdue more than 24 hours. The navy said it had no information regarding the 2410-ton vessel, whose home port is Vancouver, B. C.

After shaking off an enemy submarine which missed her with two torpedoes Monday morning, the 10,763-ton H. M. Storey made port under forced draught with a tale she had again escaped two torpedoes while five miles off the coast and lost herself in a smoke screen of her own making.

The tanker Idaho, 994 tons, reported that for three days and nights a submarine had lurked astern attacking her while she steered a zig-zag course.

The Idaho's captain said at one time the submarine surfaced during the night and demanded in international code to know the ship's identity, but he refused to answer and ordered full speed ahead.

The most frequent comment among disembarking sailors of both vessels was: "If we only had a good gun."

The Pacific coast situation looked this way: Sunk: Montebello, 8272 tons. Probably sunk: Emdio, 6912 tons. Rosebank, 2410 tons.

Attacked: Agwiworld, 6770 tons; Larry Doherty, 7033 tons; H. M. Storey, 10,763 tons; Samoa, 1172 tons and Idaho, 994 tons.

All the attacked ships were reported to have made various Wednesdays night.

Barber's Union To Use Surplus Funds for Bonds

Members of the Klamath Falls barbers' union have decided to spend surplus funds of the union in purchase of defense savings bonds.

The action was taken after a talk by Buell Orell to the union, according to Harry Bolvin, in charge of speakers for the county defense savings committee. Myrtle C. Adams last week spoke to the Shasta P.T.A. on defense savings, according to O'Brien.

Transportation News

Much Coal Furnished By U. S. Railroads

Railroads furnish 85 per cent of the nation's coal transportation, according to a recent announcement by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, the country's solid fuel coordinator as well as its oil coordinator.

He also stated that although "all rail" shipments of coal this year have been 30 per cent higher than in 1940, there has been no curtailment of mine production because of lack of available coal cars. There have been some "spot" car shortages at particular mines for brief periods, but it was stated that the mines affected by such temporary conditions have been able to make up the lost time.

Railways Install Freight Cars

The railroads installed 65,000 new freight cars in service during the first ten months of 1941, or about 10,000 more than in the same period last year. November 1 they also had an additional 80,000 new freight cars on order.

The number of new freight cars on order now is over 50,000 greater than in November a year ago. Over 600 new locomotives also are on order now.

Private Flying Prohibited Along California Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 (AP)—Private flying within 150 miles of the Pacific ocean from Oregon to Mexico has been grounded on orders of the civil aeronautics authority.

Private flying schools and plane owners had the choice of moving inland beyond the restricted zone or storing their craft in hangars, where they must maintain an armed guard day and night to guard planes against possible destruction by enemy agents.

Transcontinental mail and passenger airlines were not affected by the grounding order which affects some 2000 civilian pilots and more than 200 airplanes.

Planes belonging to a flying school in San Jose were flown to Reno in the company of an army escort yesterday. The CAA announced that the army would accompany planes granted permission to fly inland.

All aviation ground school classes in schools and colleges were also ordered closed.

The order was expected to remain in effect for the duration of the war.

CARRY OVER
MT. VERNON, Ill. (AP)—The Mt. Vernon unit of the Woman's Council of National Defense wound up its affairs in 1918 at the end of the last war with a surplus fund.

The fund, now totaling \$62.29 after surviving two bank failures, was turned over to the Mt. Vernon defense council to be put to use in world war II.

YULETIDE GLUM FOR ALLIES IN FAR EAST WAR

By DeWITT MacKENZIE, Wide World Analyst

The Christmas story from the far east lacks the cheer of the season for the anti-axis forces, since on the whole the Japanese have driven their spearheads closer to the heart of the allied defense—the all-essential base of Singapore.

The citadel of Hongkong finally has surrendered after a gallant stand, thereby giving the Japs a highly important base from which to strike at Singapore and the Philippines. The Nipponese also reportedly have captured Kuching, capital of Sarawak, on the great island of Borneo which lies close to Singapore, thereby creating still another threat against the British stronghold.

Thus the Japs have continued to whittle down the vast line of island defenses which shield Singapore from the east and permit passage of aid to this beleaguered base from this direction. That's the Japanese strategy, for they can't reach the western approaches to Singapore now.

Over the most important position in this defensive eastern group—the Philippines—the Stars and Stripes still fly to broadcast proudly to the world today's declaration by our command that "we will fight to the last man." Still, the move in declaring Manila an open city isn't a very good sign, for it emphasizes our lack of control of the air there—a vital weakness. The battle would seem to have resolved itself into a test of endurance which will determine whether our forces can hold out until reinforcements arrive.

But while this war-time yuletide has brought its burdens, it has had its good spots as well. The Russians report that they have captured another hundred villages and continue their devastating counter-offensive against the Germans.

The allied triumph in Libya has vastly strengthened the British control of the Mediterranean and has removed any immediate threat to Egypt.

And if one may be permitted to inject a rather personal note, Christmas has brought to me a feeling which I should like to share with you. It is reinforcement of the belief that there's only one way in which we can lose this war—just one way: It's through selfishness—personal selfishness, which is the basis of collective selfishness.

This greatest crisis of our history can be solved only through the utmost sacrifice by each of us. We can't leave it to George. It's a case of every one sharing fully according to his talents and resources.

It may be a matter of money, of personal service, of sweat in what once was our leisure time. The individual must figure that out for himself, and in addition accept cheerfully the sacrifices which the government has to impose.

This is a total war, the like of which the world never before has seen. It calls for total sacrifice—total unselfishness. In short, the certain way to victory is for every man, woman and child to jump in and fight like hell, each after his own capabilities.

We can't lose if we do that.

California Forms Ski Home Guard

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 (AP)—A home guard of skiers versed in the ways of winter warfare is being organized by the California Ski association.

"Skiing is a crucial part of national defense," said Ski Association President Dr. Frank Howard. "Skiers will be needed to guard strategic communication lines and industries in the California mountains."

SPECTACULAR STAGE STAR DIES AT S. F.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 (AP)—Blanche Bates Creel, who played many a spectacular stage role and once stopped an incipient panic in a Philadelphia theatre, died of a heart attack after a quiet Christmas reception at her home yesterday. She was 69.

Mistress of both comedy and tragedy, Miss Bates always did the spectacular.

In 1923, while appearing in Philadelphia, a fire scare occurred. She took complete charge of the situation.

"There's no fire here," she yelled at the audience, "and if there were, what the hell would you do about it?" The play went on.

She made her professional debut here in San Francisco in 1894, as Mrs. Hillary in "The Stars and Stripes" later she appeared in "Sweet Lavender," then toured the west and achieved an artistic triumph as Nora in Isben's "The Doll House."

She was married in 1912 to George Creel, then editorial writer for the Rocky Mountain News and reform police commissioner of Denver.

Friends visited the Creel home yesterday, chatted with the former actress and her husband, and their children. Then Mrs. Creel went upstairs to rest, and died in her sleep.

SKI CENTER

ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 26 (AP)—Recognizing the increasing popularity of snow sports, Cornell university will open a ski center this winter. The university has acquired 30 acres of hill property eight miles from the campus and has appropriated funds to clear the slopes and install a ski tow, ski jump and shelter house.

LIVE SQUEAK

PORTLAND, Dec. 26 (AP)—R. C. Warner, service station man, boxed the squeak he found in the motor of Harold Beer's car. He found a large gray squirrel perched uneasily on a radiator hose connection, clapped it into a box and released it in a park.

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For further information see or write P. R. HARDY, Trustee, J. E. FLURRY LUMBER CO., Bankrupt.