

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.

Herald and News

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN THE SHASTA-CASCADE WONDERLAND

NEA FEATURES

PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE 'MUNDRA' ARMY ALLIANCE

OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1942

Number 9668

Weather News

December 13—High 43, Low 22
Precipitation as of December 7, 1942
Stream year to date 5.13
Last year 2.97 Normal 3.14
Dec. 15—Sunrise 8:23 Sunset 5:10

ROMMEL RETREATS WESTWARD

Yanks Bomb Munda

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

TODAY'S most surprising news is Rommel's retreat at El Aghella.

He seems to be pulling out of this strong point without much resistance, and Montgomery's British 8th army is reported to be in swift but CAUTIOUS pursuit. British observers in London are said to regard the circumstances as slightly suspicious. It is obvious that another trap is feared.

ROMMEL has been chased 700 miles from El Alamein to El Aghella. History tells us that only a very great leader commanding forces of exceptional stamina can be chased 700 miles and still retain his morale and fighting power unimpaired.

If Rommel can do it, he is one of the military wonders of the world.

STILL, it is obvious that the British have a high regard for his ability and think he still has a good fight left in his system. That is why his retreat at El Aghella is looked upon as suspicious.

ALLIED fighter-bombers are said in the dispatches today to have operated on an UNPRECEDENTED scale in the latest attack on Rommel. Fighter-bombers, as their name implies, are a combination of bomber and fighter, light enough for maneuverability in fighting off attack and carrying bombs heavy enough to do real damage.

When Rommel is flushed from his cover and forced to run for it, these fighter-bombers evidently disrupt his transport, wreck his armored equipment and disperse his men.

Command of the air is extremely useful in modern war.

THE Japs seem to have sent a boy to mill again in the Solomon.

Today's dispatches tell a somewhat confused story of a foray by eleven Jap destroyers at Guadalcanal on Friday. The Japs were met by our air and surface naval forces and at least temporarily driven back. Their loss is reported as one destroyer definitely sunk and several damaged.

Whether they succeeded in making a landing on Guadalcanal and getting relief of some sort to their troops there isn't known on the basis of information available as this is written.

WHY the Japs continue to send these comparatively small relief forces against us in the Solomons, apparently suffering severe losses each time, remains a mystery to those of us who are on the outside looking in. Our leaders, who are in possession of more complete information, may understand it.

On the surface, it looks as if the Japs are playing our game—which hardly seems probable.

THE new Jap airfield at Munda, 150 miles northwest of Guadalcanal, has been blasted again by Flying Fortresses, and today's dispatches suggest that it has been rendered temporarily unfit for use.

Our attacking bombers met no resistance from Jap fighters, leading to the conclusion that the Japs haven't yet got the new field into operation.

THE Germans are still counter-attacking before Stalingrad, and are reported in Moscow dispatches to be held by the Russian artillery.

The Germans are having better luck with the weather this year than they had last. The early winter snows are not so heavy. (Continued on Page Two)

FDR Stands Pat On Opposition To Parity Shift

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (AP)—President Roosevelt today in his opposition to any change in farm parity price formulas.

A house-approved proposal to boost parity levels by including the cost of all farm labor, on the senate calendar with the unanimous endorsement of the agriculture committee, may be junked by a midweek adjournment of congress.

Farm leaders said, however, they would reintroduce it in the new session starting early next month.

The president was reported to have told some senators that he felt that reassessment of parity along the lines proposed would boost price levels by 10 per cent and increase the cost of living at a time when every effort was being made to prevent inflation.

Parity is a standard calculated to equalize the ratio between a farmer's income from crops and his necessary expenditures for manufactured articles.

CLERK ASKS COPY OF INSTRUCTIONS

Motion Filed in Over-time Pay Case Here

County Clerk Mae K. Short on Monday filed a motion in circuit court asking that A. L. Brandt, circuit court reporter, be required to furnish her with a copy of Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg's instructions to the grand jury prior to her recent indictment on charges of receiving unauthorized payments.

Mrs. Short also asserted in papers filed Monday that on October 21 Judge Vandenberg assaulted and cursed her in her office, an allegation which Judge Vandenberg denied.

Asks Transcript
The county clerk addressed her motion to Circuit Judge L. G. Lewelling, Albany, who has been appointed by the supreme court to replace Judge Vandenberg. (Continued on Page Two)

Sen. Bone Says He Will Carry On With Power Bill

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (AP)—Senator Bone (D-Wash.) asserted upon his return today from a month's visit in his home state that if congress adjourns without acting upon his bill (S2430) to create a Columbia power administration he will reinforce it as soon as the next session opens.

The measure has not reached the senate floor, having been subject to a long series of hearings by a joint house and senate committee which has not concluded its work. It would authorize the CPA to buy out and resell to public bodies private power companies in Washington and Oregon.

Repair Work Started in Algoma Flood District

Repair of protective structures and draining of the Algoma flood area has been started as a result of non-prejudice agreements between litigants in the Algoma flood cases.

Contractor H. R. Warner of Klamath Falls is doing the work, with William Wales as engineer. Pumping from the new arm of the lake, formed when the flood occurred in May, 1940, is now underway and the water is steadily decreasing.

The place where the original break occurred, in what is

JAP DESTROYER SUNK IN TASK FORCE BATTLE

Landing Attempt in Solomons Frustrated

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (AP)—American air forces in the South Pacific were reported by the navy today to be continuing their heavy bombardment of the new Japanese air base at Munda on New Georgia island in the Central Solomons.

Navy communique number 219:

"South Pacific: (All dates are east longitude)

"1. On December 13:

"(A) Ground action on Guadalcanal island was limited to routine patrol activity.

"(B) A lone enemy plane dropped three bombs in the vicinity of our airfield.

"Fourth Assault

"(C) United States planes continued bombing attacks on the enemy installations and air field at Munda.

The Sunday attack on the Munda airfield as reported today apparently was the fourth heavy aerial assault made on the enemy base, constructed as a buffer and an offensive threat to the American airfield on Guadalcanal.

Task Force Hit
No American planes were lost in those attacks and there was no mention of any interception on the part of Japanese zero fighters, facts which led to the speculation here that the Japs apparently have not put the (Continued on Page Two)

Registration of Klamath Youths For Draft Opens

Selective service registration of men whose 18th birthdays occur in the last half of 1942 began at Klamath Union high school and other high schools of the county Monday.

Most of the men in this age bracket are in high school, but any who are not were advised to go to their nearest high school during school hours and register. Principals of the schools are in charge of registration. Men who must register were urged to do so this week.

Traffic Engineer Takes War Job

SALEM, Dec. 14 (AP)—John Beakey, traffic engineer for the state highway commission for 14 years, was granted a leave of absence today to become a captain in the army transportation department. He will report for duty Wednesday in Portland, where he will be stationed.

He has worked for the commission for 20 years.

known as the Ketsdever dike, has been plugged. A levee is now being built in the Barclay springs area at the north end of the flooded land.

It is expected the work will proceed as speedily as weather permits and the entire flooded area will be drained.

The flood waters have covered a considerable area of farm land and, at the outset, covered a section of The Dalles-California highway. The highway was raised and traffic for the past (Continued on Page Two)

Shopping's a Pleasure



Even harassed Christmas shoppers must smile at Mary Lloy—who is as pretty as a picture behind her holiday candy counter. Mary beamed on the photographer who found the "V" for Victory angel of candles a nice frame for the dark haired clerk.

Rooms Asked for Service Men Here Over Christmas

About 200 men from Camp White and probably 20 or so from Camp Newell will spend Christmas day and the succeeding few days in Klamath Falls. It was announced Monday by the local troop entertainment committee.

The service men from camp White, who are members of the 363rd infantry, will arrive on the morning of December 25 and remain here until December 27. A similar visitation from service men will probably take place at New Year's.

Local people who can provide meals, rooms or both for the visitors were asked Monday to fill out a form which appears on Page 10 of today's paper and mail it to the Commando service center.

People who need to do so may inquire about the program by telephone by calling the chamber of commerce, 5193, in the mornings, and the Commando headquarters, 1103, in the afternoons. It was requested, however, that telephone calls be avoided if possible.

39 Crewmen Lost In Torpedoing of United States Ship

By The Associated Press
Thirty-nine crewmen of a medium-sized United States merchant vessel lost their lives when the ship was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine in the Atlantic early in November, the navy disclosed today.

Fourteen of the crew were rescued by a United States warship after drifting on rafts for two days.

The sinking, together with eight announced last week, raised to 557 the Associated Press count of announced losses of allied and neutral merchantmen in the western Atlantic since the nation entered the war.

Nearly 6000 persons, passengers as well as crewmen, were lost with those ships. The rolls of the dead list 3740 and the missing, 2233—with little hope held out for most of the latter.

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ALLIES SMASH NAZI COLUMN IN TUNISIA

French Guerillas Destroy Troop Train

By Was Gallagher

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Dec. 14 (AP)—American and British artillery have broken up a German motor column northeast of Medjez El Bab, it was announced today, while the French high command in Tunisia reported destruction of an entire troop train by French high command in Tunisia reported destruction of an entire troop train by French guerillas operating between Sfax and Sousse.

(There was no elaboration of the reference to the allied artillery action in this dispatch, which cleared through military censorship.)

French In It

A spokesman at the French army headquarters of Gen. Henri Honoré Giraud said 282 out of 300 troops on the train between Sfax and Sousse were killed, wounded or captured when a mine exploded on the tracks and French troops hidden at the side opened fire with machine-guns.

He also reported that one 1917 model French armored car, and a few French motorcycle units with American air support broke up and captured an entire Italian armored column near Faid, in Central Tunisia.

Armored Cars Wait
"Our French troops encountered the Italian column, which included two tanks and opened fire on the Italians, who stopped," the spokesman said. "Our troops then called upon American air support and when the fighters and bombers came the Italians ran and we took the column."

The spokesman said six light armored cars lay in wait for the axis troop train after the track had been mined.
"The coaches piled one on the other when the mine exploded and only 18 Germans escaped (Continued on Page Two)

Klamath Motorists Go All-Out for Christmas Greens

Klamath county motorists were on the highways leading in to the timber Sunday and it looked like a mass evacuation. But it was Christmas trees they were after and returning cars were heavily laden.

Hundreds of families took advantage of the clear weather which prevailed in the mountain area and tramped through the snow for their trees and greens. The Green Springs highway was a busy road during mid-afternoon hours and greens hunters traveled along Lakeshore and the Bear Wallow section. Juniper trees were heavily laden with blue berries, and Oregon grape which serves as Klamath's cedar, branches bore yellow blossoms and all in all it was a profitable day for gatherers.

Alaskan Censorship Legal, Biddle Tells Committee

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (AP)—Attorney General Biddle said today he had no doubt the present censorship of communications between Alaska and the United States was entirely legal but "we would feel very much better if congress underlined the president's authority."

Declaring that the enemy had "invaded Alaska," Biddle told the senate judiciary committee that censorship of communications to and from that territory came under the president's authority as military commander in chief.

Senator Burton (R-Ohio) objected that all Alaska was included in the censorship areas while the Japanese were still hundreds of miles away on the tip of the Aleutian islands. Biddle replied that it might be relatively easy for persons in Alaska proper to communicate with the Japanese.

British Push Toward Tripoli For Climax

By JAMES M. LONG
Associated Press War Editor

Field Marshal Rommel's carefully prepared El Aghella defense line has collapsed under a single assault by Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British eighth army, which pushed on the west today toward Tripoli and a showdown.

The onslaught which once more drove Rommel, the desert fox, out of his burrow was timed to coincide with smashing aerial assaults on the enemy's Tunisian strongholds in thundering evidence of the rising air might of the allies.

The announcement that the eighth army again was on the march came early today in a brief communique from Cairo which said:

"Rommel has been driven from his strong positions at El Aghella and is in retreat to the west."

The cost, a later communique declared, was slight and the pursuit relentless.

SOVIETS, NAZIS NEAR DEADLOCK

Nazi, Unable to Get Offensive Going, Slow Reds

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW, Dec. 14 (AP)—The double-barreled Russian offensive on the Stalingrad and central fronts appeared to be approaching a deadlock, today with the Germans unable to get a sustained counter-offensive rolling, but still slowing the red army's progress with vicious and repeated counterattacks.

Since the Russian offensive started Nov. 19 on the Stalingrad front and six days later on the central front no important German progress has been (Continued on Page Two)

New Spud Ceiling Expected To Be Announced Thursday

Next Thursday is now the date on which publication of new price ceilings for Klamath potatoes is expected.

Chester Main, president of Tulelake Growers, on Monday received the following telegram from Senator Sheridan Downey:

"Publication on price ceiling Klamath potatoes now delayed until next Thursday. Still looks encouraging."

Parcel-Laden Patrons Jam KF Post Office Lobby

Three lines of parcel laden patrons filled the Klamath Falls postoffice lobby Monday as the Christmas mailing program reached a new high for the season. Two windows were serving the customers and a third may be opened later in the week, it was learned.

The postoffice is open at 8 a. m. and windows close at 6 p. m., postal authorities stated.

110 Merrymakers Die as Hostel Goes Up in Flames

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, Dec. 14 (AP)—Fire and panic in the midst of an old-time barn dance cost the lives of 110 merrymakers and injured 102 others as a Servicemen's hostel and recreation center went up in flames Saturday night only 200 yards from the fire station on St. John's Main street.

Like the Coconut Grove disaster in Boston, which claimed nearly 500 lives, many were trampled to death in the rush for the exits and the victims included servicemen and women. It was believed that there may have been Americans among them.

for men in the armed services, the wooden structure was crowded with 500 persons when fire roared through the building and burst from the doors and windows in huge columns of flame that towered in the sky.

The authorities still were without knowledge today of the cause of the disaster but an eyewitness said the fire "seemed to do its dreadful work in 10 minutes."

The terrified dancers, trying to force their way out through the four exits of the building, piled up in tangled masses of bodies.

Sixty-nine of the dead had (Continued on Page Two)

9 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT!

"TO GET A FOOTBALL FOR JIM"

Buy Christmas Seals