

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

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1942

Number 9873

Weather News

December 19—High 48, Low 23
Precipitation as of December 12, 1942
Stream year to date 1.24
Last year 1.37 Normal 3.44
Dec. 20—Sunrise 8:26 Sunset 5:12

BRITISH ARMY STRIKES IN BURMA

Rommel Avoids Showdown

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THERE'S a new hen on the nest today.

British troops cross the Indian border and advance 40 miles into Jap-occupied Burma. The Japs withdraw from their positions without putting up a fight. The dispatches give no indication of the size of the attacking British army.

NOTE the statement that it is a British army. Wavell is in command in India, and it is to be presumed that the overwhelming bulk of the army that crossed the border is British. But we may be quite sure that Americans are included.

We know that American air forces of considerable size are based in India.

WHY the Japs withdrew without a fight is unexplained. Your guess is as good as anybody's. It couldn't have been a complete surprise, as increasing air activity has been reported from this front for several days.

Increasing air activity is usually a dependable sign that something is in the wind.

THE British struck southward from the border, which runs diagonally from southwest to northeast at this point. The spearhead of their striking force is reported to be only 60 miles from the Burmese port of Akyab, which lies just across the northern end of the Bay of Bengal from Calcutta.

The season of the monsoon rains is just ending, which means that better fighting weather is ahead. There has been general expectation that Japan may attack India.

Maybe our side hit first.

IT'S too early for us outsiders to draw conclusions from this new development, which may be the beginning of something big or may not be.

When the WORLD is the checkerboard, it is always probable that each move has some relation to the rest of the board. Only the insiders of the high commands can know what these relationships are.

IN the rest of the world, the situation remains more or less unchanged today.

The British 8th army has chased Rommel's main force almost to Sirte (another point where water is obtainable). Sirte is 155 miles west of Al Agheila and 240 miles east of Tripoli.

Cairo intimates today that a part of Rommel's trapped rear guard may have broken out. There is no estimate of the losses it may have suffered.

Whether Rommel will stop at Tripoli or try to get on to Tunis is still anybody's guess.

THERE'S nothing particularly new from Russia — just bloody fighting and plenty of it. Note that the Germans are counter-attacking vigorously. There is as yet no sign of German demoralization on the Russian fronts.

THE Japs are still hanging on at Buna. More Jap air activity is noted. Jap planes have raided Port Moresby again. MacArthur's planes are harassing the Japs that got ashore at the river mouths north of Buna.

Allied bombers continue to hit Jap positions on the island of Timor, NORTHWEST of Australia, indicating that MacArthur continues to regard Timor as a danger point.

MEANWHILE, on the home front, handbills in Chicago seize an armored truck containing...

OPA ANNOUNCES 10-CENT RISE IN POTATO CEILING

New Ceiling \$2.20 for December; \$2.25 For January

New price ceiling for potatoes at a 10-cent increase over previously established maximums was announced by the OPA Saturday, to be effective Monday.

The new ceiling is \$2.20 for December, \$2.25 for January, \$2.30 for February, \$2.40 for March, \$2.50 for April, \$2.55 for May, \$2.60 for June.

The maximums apply to potatoes grown in Klamath, Modoc and Siskiyou counties. The OPA announcement, received over the Associated Press from OPA, was confirmed by telegrams from Senator Downey to the Tulelake Growers and Senator McNary to the Klamath Potato Growers' association.

The two associations have worked incessantly on this project since the ceilings were established. Although the ceiling increases are not so much as had been hoped for in this basin, it was estimated they may mean a difference of from \$180,000 to \$200,000.

Shorter Lumber Camp Shutdown Predicted for '42

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (P) — The Pacific northwest lumber camps' traditional holiday shutdown, which usually lasts several weeks, will be reduced to three days this year.

This is the prediction of F. H. Brundage, western log and lumber administrator, who sent a directive to loggers asking that camps close only over the Christmas weekend because of the need for lumber.

Army Bombers Splatter Jap Base at Kiska

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (P) — Army heavy bombers splattered Japan's base on Kiska island in the Aleutians with explosives on December 17, the navy announced today, causing heavy explosions and starting fires.

Navy communique No. 225 said:

"North Pacific:
"1. On December 17 a force of army 'Liberator' heavy bombers (Consolidated B-24) attacked Japanese shore installations on the island of Kiska. Heavy explosions and fires were observed.

"South Pacific (all dates are east longitude.)

"2. On December 18 army 'Flying Fortresses' (Boeing B17), with fighter escort, carried out...

BUNA BATTLE AT CLIMACTIC PITCH

Cornered Japs Offer Intense Resistance

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Dec. 19 (P) — Ground fighting for control of the Buna government station and its nearby plane landing strip approached a new pitch of intensity today as cornered Japanese troops continued to offer fierce resistance in their attempts to hold this silver of the New Guinea coast.

The bodies of 96 Japanese dead were counted by American and Australian troops trying to extend their control of the Buna village area yesterday.

Air Arm Acts
Heavy artillery, machine gun and mortar fire were exchanged in the struggle.

An allied communique in a tense report of the action, said that "our air force is acting in support of our ground troops."

Japanese air activity was (Continued on Page Four)

ALLIED AIR ARM WALLOPS TUNISIAN LINE

British Vanguard at Sirte, 240 Miles From Tripoli

By The Associated Press
LONDON, Dec. 19 — The British chase of Nazi Marshal Rommel's retreating army rolled swiftly westward today and the Morocco radio reported that vanguards of the pursuers were within 19 miles of Sirte, 155 miles beyond El Agheila, starting point of the current drive, and only 240 miles from Tripoli.

The British communique said only that axis forces continued their flight yesterday on the road to Tripoli under day-long ground and air blows.

Air Battles Spread
Across the enemy's narrowing foothold in North Africa, the increasing fury of the allied air attack on axis strongholds in Tunisia and widespread patrol probing all along that hilly front in improving weather suggested that the all-out allied drive on Tunis and Bizerte may be near.

Rommel Ahead
The Italian communique, still reporting the fascist retreat only (Continued on Page Four)

Turks Read Warning Into Nazi Editorial

ANKARA, Turkey, Dec. 19 (Delayed) (P) — An article appearing in Adolf Hitler's Berlin newspaper Voelkischer Beobachter shortly after the Turkish ambassador left the German capital for Ankara yesterday was interpreted by many Turks today as a thinly veiled warning to this country to observe strict neutrality.

"To those who play with the dangerous idea of holding their territory ready as a platform for Europe's enemies, 'a fate of Poland should be a warning,' declared the Beobachter.

The article took the form of a reply to a question posed in a recent editorial in the semi-official Turkish newspaper Aksham, which asked:

"Is it true, as Germany's enemies say, that there will be no place in the new order for independent nations?"

In reply the Beobachter declared that "imaginary parliamentarism of small nations will not be permitted to exist in the new order."

"Europe cannot permit secondary misunderstandings of small nations to set the world afire," the article added. "European nations will be obliged to make sacrifices."

1500 Strike at Detroit Plant

DETROIT, Dec. 19 (P) — The Eureka Vacuum Cleaner company's plant here, engaged in making gas masks, was closed today when 1500 employees, members of the Independent Mechanics Educational society, went on strike.

Orville Plake, international representative of the union, said the strike was in protest over dismissal of a union steward, "anti-union" policies of a new works manager, and failure of the company to give consideration to a demand for a wage increase for women workers.

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Charlotte, Jimmy and Dwight Fitzgerald of Thompson street are typical of the younger Christmas shoppers seen in Klamath's stores this week.

HUGE AIR BATTLES SWEEP RED FRONT

Nazis Seek to Relieve Hard-Pressed Don Forces

MOSCOW, Sunday, Dec. 20 (P) — Two red army forces striking coordinated blows from the southwest of Moscow and from the Voronezh region on the Don have opened a third great Russian winter offensive.

The offensive has penetrated a German defense to a depth of 30 to 37 miles and resulted in the killing of 20,000 Germans and the capture of 10,000 more, the soviet information bureau announced in a special communique today.

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, Dec. 19 (P) — Major air battles were fought on the Stalingrad front today as the German air force sought to relieve the hard-pressed Nazi army between the Don and Volga rivers with mass bombings, while all along the battle line German (Continued on Page Four)

Check-Up Indicates Confirmation of Brown as OPA Chief

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (P) — An administration checkup indicated today that Senator Prentiss Brown of Michigan will win prompt confirmation as price administrator if President Roosevelt submits his name to the senate in January to succeed Leon Henderson.

Despite opposition expressed privately by some farm leaders, Brown's name is expected to go to the senate shortly after the new congress convenes and to receive favorable action so he can take over the reins of the office of price control by January 15.

4 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT...
NO! I STILL HAVE TO BUY
SWIRTS-TOYS-A PIPE...



"Terrible Touhy" Gang Suspected in Chicago Robbery

CHICAGO, Dec. 19 (P) — An armored truck containing \$20,000 was seized by five masked gunmen in a spectacular robbery outside a big war plant in a west suburban district yesterday and police expressed belief members of the "Terrible Touhy" gang were involved in the holdup.

"It looks as though the Touhy mob has come out of hiding to get a stake," said Lieut. Thomas Kelly of the state's attorney police after investigating the robbery, which he said was staged in typical "Touhy style," and probably by members of the Touhy mob.

He referred to Roger Touhy, one of the country's most desperate criminals, his ace machine gunner, Basil (the owl) Banghart, who with five other long-term convicts escaped from (Continued on Page Four)

Chinese Ring Jap Force on Middle Yangtze River

CHUNGKING, Dec. 19 (P) — The Japanese in the area of Hsueh, on the middle Yangtze, have been routed and are "facing imminent annihilation" within a Chinese ring, an army communique announced tonight.

The Japanese, who had held the river port for two days, were reported yesterday to have been driven out with loss of 400 to 500 men. The Chinese recapture of Hsueh again endangered the invaders' communications between their big Hankow base and most westerly outpost at Ichang.

Quality of Jap Pilots Slipping, Says Rickenbacker; Yank Soldiers Praised

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (P) — Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, back from a far-flung war survey which brought him three harrowing weeks adrift on a life raft in the Pacific, reported today that the quality of Japanese fighter and bomber pilots is "going down very rapidly."

In contrast, the World War flying ace said, the level of the American fliers in the South Pacific "is going uphill."

Rickenbacker landed in Washington today, met his wife for the first time since his rescue, and then saw newspapermen at Secretary of War Stimson's press conference.

EASTERN B. C. GAS RATION CARDS CUT

Suspension on Sales of Gasoline Lifted

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (P) — Price Administrator Leon Henderson announced today that the value of B and C gasoline ration coupons would be reduced to three gallons in the existing four gallons in the 17 eastern states at 12:01 a. m. Monday, coincidentally with the lifting of the suspension on sales of gasoline.

"I have been advised by the petroleum administrator for war," Henderson told a press conference, "that supplies of gasoline will be available as of that time to handle civilian requirements under the program which OPA has adapted to ration these supplies as equitably as possible."

Acute Shortage
The value of A coupons will remain at three gallons in the 18 eastern states and the District of Columbia and is reduced from four to three gallons for all of West Virginia.

The reduction is ordered, Henderson said, because of the "acute existing petroleum supply situation" and because of a contemplated further cut in eastern consumption to 331,000 barrels a day in January, as compared to 365,000 barrels a day at present.

Crack-Down
The price administrator announced also a determined drive (Continued on Page Four)

SWIFT MOVE MADE WITHOUT OPPOSITION

Japs Beaten to Punch; Allies Aim at Port Of Akyab

NEW DELHI, Dec. 19 (P) — Beating the Japanese to the punch, Britain's army of India has struck across the mountainous border into Japanese-held Burma, and a communique announced today that the thrust had carried some 40 miles through enemy positions to within 60 miles of the port of Akyab.

The British advance, started after a terrific aerial bombardment of Japanese positions between the Indian border and Akyab, was made without opposition. Japanese forces withdrew before the approaching British, the communique said.

Size Unknown

Both British and United States planes have been blasting Japanese concentrations between the Indian frontier and Akyab for a week.

While there was nothing to indicate that the British thrust was part of a general allied offensive, the action did put the initiative in allied hands at least temporarily for the first time since the Japanese occupied Akyab last May.

There was no indication of the size of Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell's attacking army, and the communique did not disclose whether American and Chinese units were taking part in the action.

No Opposition

Wavell, commander-in-chief of British forces in India, launched his attack—the first step toward the promised preoccupation of the former British protectorate—as the monsoon season ended, permitting large scale operations.

"The enemy, who had been in occupation of this area since our withdrawal from Burma and had prepared defenses, withdrew (Continued on Page Four)

British Subs Get Three More Axis Supply Vessels

LONDON, Dec. 19 (P) — British submarines have destroyed three more axis supply vessels on the Tunisian sea route and damaged another, the admiralty announced today.

One of the sunken supply ships "blew up with such force that an escorting enemy aircraft was disintegrated," the admiralty said.

The announcement paralleled a similar one yesterday in which the admiralty credited submarines with probably sinking three enemy supply ships, and followed a statement by Admiral Sir Andrew B. Cunningham, allied naval chief in North Africa, that the enemy is losing an average of a ship a day trying to keep his forces supplied in Tunisia.



Ralph Foster, number three, stretches high to flip in a one-handed field goal under the basket for two more Pelican points in the last half of the Klamath Falls-Grants Pass hoop tilt which the Pelicans won 42-36 Friday night. The Pelicans will play the last game of the double-header series on the local floor tonight.