

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

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Weather News

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Last year 9.92 Normal 8.41

NAZIS FORGING KHARKOV AREA

Wage Boost Given

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THE Germans in Russia have turned on their pursuers and are HITTING HARD—as every one who has read the news intelligently has expected them to do sooner or later.

Since the Germans were stopped at the Volga they have made mistakes. They hung on too long before Stalingrad, thus enabling the Russians to encircle and trap a large part of their forces. They evidently miscalculated Russia's power to strike back.

But in the German retirement since Stalingrad, there have been few signs of rout or panic.

AN army that falls back without rout or panic usually has another good fight left in its system. The Germans are proving that now.

KEEP this in mind:

As the Russians have moved forward, they have lengthened their supply lines. As the Germans have fallen back, they have SHORTENED their supply lines.

THE fighting in Russia differs from the fighting in Africa, where ground gained or lost means little and losses inflicted on the enemy mean everything. Ground in southern Russia is important, for it contains mineral wealth and food-producing power. Coal, iron, oil and food are war essentials.

But relative strength (which involves relative losses in the fighting that has already taken place) is still the deciding factor. If the Germans have MORE STRENGTH LEFT than the Russians, we're due for some bad news.

If the contrary is true, the news over the long pull will be good.

WE outsiders can't know such important inside facts. We can only watch and wait and draw conclusions from what happens from day to day.

If you will keep this thought in mind, you will be able to follow more intelligently the news of the fighting in Russia in the next few weeks.

ASIDE from the weather, which has turned bad again, the most interesting news from Africa today is a Cairo dispatch telling of a new British weapon—tank-buster PLANES, which are described as a new type of Hurricane (British-built) fighter, equipped with CANNON.

They are said to have secured direct hits on 74 German tanks in the African fighting of the past few months and to have accounted for 20 German armored vehicles in the fighting at the Mareth line during the past week.

MANY American air men have believed that the plane will ultimately master the tank. They point out that an armor-piercing bomb launched from a low-flying FAST plane has almost as much destructive power as a shell from a gun.

There is no mention of use of bombs by these new tank-busting planes, only that they cannot be referred to in the dispatch. But we are told that squadrons of them are being organized in England for the invasion of Europe.

Anyway, it is an interesting development.

WE read Kiska again, this time dropping 27 tons of bombs on Jap installations there and evidently doing quite a lot of damage. Eugene Burns, AP correspondent, quotes a high-ranking

Nazis Search Buildings For French Labor

BERN, Switzerland, March 15 (AP)—German troops started a house-to-house search in Lyon today for French youths resisting labor conscription as the internal situation of France grew more serious hourly, the Tribune de Geneve said.

An axis ultimatum to several thousand heavily armed young Frenchmen in mountain hide-outs along the southern shore of Lake Geneva was reported by the newspaper to have expired at noon, but no further definite advice was received.

Swiss frontier residents for the past three days have heard the sounds of sporadic firing. Lyon lies in the Rhone river valley southwest of the partisans' rendezvous, the Haute Savoie region.

(The Algiers radio broadcast a report that French guerrillas (Continued on Page Two)

KISKA JAPS HIT BY U. S. BOMBERS

Bombings May Herald Mighty Spring Offensive

By EUGENE BURNS
AN ADVANCED BASE IN ALASKA, March 10 (AP)—(Delayed)—Army light and heavy bombers, accompanied by midget fighters, today released the heaviest load of explosives of the year on Japanese installations and barracks at Kiska.

One high-ranking army officer said this bombing heralded the opening of a mighty spring offensive against Kiska, weather conditions permitting.

Once more planes, ammunition and pilots are ready. Today's pay load was 53,500 pounds of demolition and fragmentation bombs and boosted the nine months' total dropped on the Japanese occupied island to 1,437,000 pounds, quoting army figures.

This weight does not include thousands upon thousands of machinegun shells, and 20 millimeter and 37 millimeter cannon shells.

Many of the enemy's anti-aircraft guns failed before today's five minute reception was over. (The navy department, reporting on this action in a communique March 12, said the attack was made by Liberator and Mitchell bombers and that bomb hits were scored on both anti-aircraft batteries and buildings in the camp area without loss to the raiders.)

Many buildings took fire, but this is not the worst of the bombing. If our 50,000 pounds of dynamite shook the ground at Kiska today as much as the (Continued on Page Two)

WAGE BOOST AWAITS ONLY OPA APPROVAL

Pine Scale Increased To 87½-Cent Minimum in Klamath

PORTLAND, Ore., March 15 (AP)—A wage increase averaging 7½ cents hourly was promised tentatively today to 27,000 pine lumber workers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, northern California and western Montana.

The proposed increase is up for decision before the office of price administration, which will decide whether it would necessitate price ceiling adjustments for pine products.

The increase, calling for payment in war bonds and stamps of approximately \$2,000,000 in back wages, was ordered by the West Coast Lumber commission and approved by the war labor board.

Uniform Plan Loses
Benjamin H. Kizer, commission chairman, said a union demand for a uniform minimum wage was denied, but that the proposed increase would establish these regional scales:
An 87½-cent minimum in central (Continued on Page Two)

Chinese Claim Jap Offensive In Collapse

CHUNGKING, March 15 (AP)—The Chinese high command declared today that the big Japanese offensive which began March 9 along a 100-mile stretch of the Yangtze river from the Japanese base at Yochow near the border of Hunan and Hupeh provinces had collapsed and that most of 20,000 enemy troops were under harassing retreat.

One body of Japanese troops has been surrounded, a communique said, while another column is being encircled. Chinese forces on the northern bank of the Yangtze were reported to have launched an "extensive" counter attack.

The Chinese said the collapse of the Japanese offensive, which had been designed to protect the enemy's communications along the Yangtze, had greatly lessened the danger of another Japanese drive on Changsha, which has withstood three previous attacks.

Observers said it was too early to predict whether the Japanese would try to hold their key points on the south bank of the Yangtze. These points in Chinese possession would expose enemy river traffic to the danger of mines and artillery fire.

They're Champs—And Do the Girls Like Champs!



Pretty Klamath Union high school girls are here admiring the state basketball champs freshly back from the tournament held in Salem and vice versa. Back row, left to right, Al Bellotti, Jim Cox, Rex Young, Wilbur Welch, Captain Jim Bocchi, and Don Bigler. Front row, Dean Hamilton, Roberts Tucker, Carol Tiller, and Baldy Foster. Plans were on foot Monday to fete the state title-holders with banquets, service club appearances, etc. Full details of the state title game, in which the Klamaths beat Baker, 52 to 28 Saturday night, will be found on today's sports page.

U. S. BOMBERS HIT NAZIS' MARETH LINE

Aerial Assault Tends To Soften Rommel Positions

By DANIEL de LUCE
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 15 (AP)—U. S. Mitchell bombers raided Marshal Erwin Rommel's positions yesterday in a continuation of the aerial assault intended to soften the Mareth line for the British eighth army's coming push although bad weather almost paralyzed the air war elsewhere in Tunisia.

Spitfires and Warhawks of the western desert air force escorted the Mitchell formations on their missions of destruction and made numerous sweeps independently without interception, military sources said.

Rommel holds ground in a semi-circle before Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's forward elite (Continued on Page Two)

Snell Approves Ten House Bills

SALEM, March 15 (AP)—Governor Earl Snell today approved and signed 10 house bills of the recently adjourned legislature.

Included were two appropriations measures, two providing deductions in income tax payments, an amendment to the accident report law, a measure to permit political subdivisions to acquire and operate airports, one providing veteran relief and another setting aside racing commission moneys for postwar use.

Gen. Giraud Offers To Meet De Gaulle Half-way

By WES GALLAGHER
ALGIERS, March 15 (AP)—Gen. Henri Giraud, after offering to meet Gen. Charles de Gaulle half-way in a union that "must be effected" among all anti-axis Frenchmen fighting for a rebirth of the French republic, today drafted a series of decrees repudiating the last vestiges of Vichy influence in North and West Africa.

In a Casablanca conference aftermath, the civil and military commander-in-chief also disclosed that he was welding a striking force of 300,000 men equipped with American weapons and solemnly promised the people of his conquered homeland that "their sacred rights to

Two Army Planes Down in M'Cloud River Country

REDDING, Calif., March 15 (AP)—Searching parties went into the rugged McCloud river country north of here today in an attempt to locate two large planes—one known to be an army craft—believed down in the area.

Sgt. M. P. Howard of the state highway patrol said an army lieutenant parachuted from one of the planes Saturday after the craft's controls jammed up on a flight from Sacramento to Portland. The lieutenant, who walked to Salt Creek lodge 30 miles north of here Saturday night, said he believed the other five men aboard also bailed out. The fliers' names were not disclosed.

A fighting French delegation headed by Gen. Georges Catroux is expected in Algiers shortly, and some observers believe this (Continued on page two)

Postal Employees Voted Pay Raise

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP)—The house voted today to increase the pay of postal employees to meet added living costs. The 383 to 4 vote sent the legislation to the senate.

The increases are applicable to all employees of the field service and will be in effect until six months after the war.

For all officers and employees, except fourth class postmasters and those working on an hourly basis, the increase would be \$300 annually. Fourth class postmasters, third class clerks, postal delivery messengers, and workers paid by the day or hour would receive a fifteen per cent increase, not to exceed \$300 annually.

Gen. Giraud Offers To Meet De Gaulle Half-way

Gen. Giraud did not mention De Gaulle by name, but he implied in a speech last night that he and De Gaulle could work out a form of mutual trusteeship pending the day of victory when their freed peoples could choose their own leaders by lot "according to the rules of the French republic."

Giraud embraced the principles of the Atlantic charter, and promised to abolish all Vichy legislation—particularly the anti-Jewish decrees, to restore democratic functions in North Africa including the election of municipal assemblies and consuls general, and to eliminate all axis influences whether "measures or men."

The first formal decrees are expected to be published within the next few days.

"I wish with all my heart the union of all of us," said the hero of two world wars. "The union must be effected. That union is indispensable. I should like to cooperate with all those who accept the traditional principles (of the French republic)."

Giraud's promise to eliminate "measures or men" deemed injurious to the allied war effort was interpreted by some to mean that Gen. Jean Marie Bergeter and Gen. Auguste Nogues, two members of Giraud's war committee, would be jettisoned.

These two men were not present at the opera house where Giraud addressed a rally protesting the German annexation of Alsace and Lorraine. The fighting French have pronounced them pro-Vichy and demanded that they be ousted.

A fighting French delegation headed by Gen. Georges Catroux is expected in Algiers shortly, and some observers believe this (Continued on page two)

AMERICANS BLAST JAPANESE SHIPPING

Growing Concentration of Jap Vessels Noted

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, March 15 (AP)—Growing concentrations of Japanese shipping at island bases in the Banda sea area within 500 miles of Darwin, Australia, were reported today as General MacArthur's headquarters announced that allied airmen had blasted two more ships in an enemy convoy off Wewak, New Guinea.

A communique said the Japanese are massing both transports and supply ships in the Amboina (Ambon)-Dobo area northwest of New Guinea and declared that enemy ground forces there are being reinforced. New airfields also are being constructed in that sector by the Japanese, the bulletin said.

The island of Amboina, former Dutch possession and once the site of one of the most important naval bases in the Netherlands East Indies, is about 600 miles northwest of Darwin.

Dobo, southeast of Amboina, is about 100 miles nearer Darwin.

Spokesmen at allied headquarters declined to comment on the possible significance of this Japanese activity, but the bare statement in the communique added emphasis to recent official warnings that the enemy must not be under-rated in this theater.

The Japanese, meanwhile, were paying a heavy price for (Continued on Page Two)

Hull, Eden Warn Public About Possible Long War

By WADE WERNER
WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP)—Secretary of State Hull, after an hour conference today with Anthony Eden, said he was entirely in accord with the British foreign secretary's warning of last Saturday that the American and British public must not reach hasty conclusions about the duration of the war.

The conflict will be more long-drawn-out—according to all reasonable calculations—than one might expect on the basis of a hasty judgment, Hull told a press conference. Eden and Lord Halifax, British ambassador, stood beside Hull as he spoke.

Eden had made a very satisfactory beginning of the task ahead of them. He invited Eden to say something too. The British leader smilingly replied that he had really come to the state department for "a little instruction" and already had learned quite a bit. He and Hull had begun their work today, he said, and will have other talks later.

As for himself, he added, he already felt better as a result of today's exchange of views, and looked forward hopefully to further conversations.

Hull was asked if particular points which he thought should be borne in mind in connection (Continued on Page Two)

REDS BATTLE AGAINST ODDS TO HOLD CITY

Steel City Eyed as Spot for Great Offensive

By CARL C. CRANMER
Associated Press War Editor

The possession of Kharkov, possible jumping-off place for a third great German summer offensive in a last desperate effort to crush Russia, was in doubt today as the nazis announced its recapture and Russian dispatches indicated the red army was waging a battle against great odds to hold that bastion of the Ukraine.

Not conceding the loss of the big steel city which they captured February 16, or even admitting fighting within the city itself, the Russians nevertheless admitted today that their lines had been progressively forced back in the "Kharkov area" in the face of hundreds of tanks and overwhelmingly superior German numbers.

"It looks as though Kharkov is gone," military sources in London admitted, while the Germans in today's communique declared their offensive, spreading northward, had resulted in a bloody collapse of Russian counterattacks west of Belgorod.

"During the day and night red army men of one unit repulsed incessant Hitlerite attacks," the mid-day communique from Moscow announced. It reported the destruction of 14 enemy tanks and 600 enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand fighting in one small sector.

Claiming a sort of vindication for Adolf Hitler's Waffen SS—combat units of the Nazi party's elite guard—the German high command in a special communique last night announced the recapture of the city held by the Germans from October, 1941, until last February and gave the entire credit for the immediate (Continued on Page Two)

Joe Gordon Hits Power Line at Local Airport

Joe Gordon, famed second baseman of the New York Yankees, narrowly escaped injury Saturday afternoon when an airplane he was riding struck a power line when coming into the Klamath Falls airport.

John Shaeffer of Eugene was flying the plane, with Gordon as passenger. The plane came down on the east-west runway, and skidded some distance, damaging the propeller and landing gear. Neither Shaeffer nor Gordon were hurt.

It is understood Gordon, part owner of the plane, had come here to take it to Bend for possible sale.

Copco officials said the line is a 4000-volter, and that there has been discussion for several months regarding its removal. The line was repaired Saturday afternoon.