

# NAZIS LAUNCH VIOLENT ATTACKS

## The Herald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1944

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Weather News	
December 18, 1944	
Max. (Dec. 17)	48 Min. 29
Precipitation last 24 hours	4.00
Stream year to date	3.00
Normal	5.84 Last year 2.29
Forecast: Cloudy	5.84
Tuesday Awaiting Hours	
Oregon: Open	7.30 Close 5.13
Tulelake: Open	7.30 Close 5.13

## Counterblow Develops Into Fierce Battle

PARIS, Dec. 18. (AP)—Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' U. S. 1st army struck back at advancing German columns of infantry and armor in Belgium and Luxembourg today in a fierce battle which may prove to be one of the most decisive of the war.

The allied command accepted the challenge of Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt, who was attempting his greatest counteroffensive against American troops in Europe.

But the situation at the front was reported extremely fluid and for this reason supreme headquarters decided upon a strict blackout on detailed information concerning the extent of the enemy advances and the countermoves of the Americans.

However, front line dispatches said Hodges had thrown armor against the German thrusts, and that British Spitfires and Tempests came down from Holland to lend a hand to allied air forces.

The German air force continued to support the German winter strike on the biggest scale since the allied landings in Normandy. A new type of V-weapon was used by the Germans along the 9th army front both by night and day.

**Nazi Paratroops Dropped**  
More Nazi paratroops were dropped behind American lines last night. But these may have numbered no more than 10. Six were caught.

Tabulations from 9th tactical air command headquarters said 129 German planes had been shot down in 24 hours—more than 20 per cent of the number of carefully husbanded aircraft put over the lines by the German air force.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, commander of the 9th U. S. Army on Hodges' left flank, praised the work of the allied tactical airman, declaring that despite the great number of planes used by the Germans they are "not able to bother us a great deal."

(The Germans declared forward American positions along a 20-mile front had been overrun between Luxembourg and the Hohe Venn, "high marshland," a swampy tract 2200 feet above sea level extending for 30 miles from Rotgen to Malmédy.

**Nazis Withhold Details**  
(But the German command also adopted a cautious attitude and said it was withholding details of the action.)

(A Blue network correspondent at the front said the American 2nd division from Texas and the 78th division were among American forces opposing the new push.)

Throwing hundreds of carefully conserved planes, hundreds of tanks, many divisions and even paratroops into a surprising winter counteroffensive, Field Marshal von Rundstedt had achieved a penetration of several miles in the American lines, re-invaded Belgium in the Monschau area 16 miles south of Aachen, and re-entered Luxembourg at two other points.

Today the Germans were pushing their advance along an 80-mile front from the Monschau area to the southern tip of the Luxembourg border with new and more violent attacks.

**Scenes of Attack Secret**  
Allied military authorities directing the battle said it had been decided not to make public specific information now as to the exact places where the German columns were smashing through and how far they had advanced.

But 1st army headquarters dispatches said the Germans had gained several miles and American troops were locked in battle. The penetration apparently had been at least four miles in one area 10 miles east of Malmédy, a Belgian town just north of the Luxembourg border.

This was a push by a strong German armored column supported overnight by artillery and bombing and strafing warplanes on a seven-mile front.

Several German armored divisions and infantry divisions were striking savagely and bending back the lines of the fiercely struggling doughboys.

**War Becomes More Violent**  
Elsewhere along the 80-mile front the Germans were delivering stiff punches aimed at seeking soft spots and there were indications the supreme German effort would mount in intensity before it subsided.

On many other army fronts there were signs of impending German blows.

U. S. 3rd army dispatches said the heaviest enemy rail movement ever seen behind the 3rd army front had been observed yesterday.

Reports from the British 2nd army front to the north said German flares in the greatest strength since D-day had appeared in the skies along the Aachen sector, along with many reconnaissance aircraft over the British front.

A 10-mile long German column was blasted by allied fighter-bombers in the Neunkirchen area, 10 miles northeast of Saarbrücken.

In the Alsace plain German counterattacks rolled over three villages in the Colar and Seletat areas.

## Sensational Developments Expected in Investigation As Woman in Case Escapes

The reported escape from city police Sunday of a young woman held on a vagrancy charge here today indicated the imminence of sensational developments in a mysterious criminal investigation by the district attorney's office.

She came out, and asked permission to go to a washroom. The chief said that he was in the front of the building, and presumed that Gerlieve was a

**Girl Questioned**  
District Attorney L. Orth Sisco more said this afternoon that the young woman had been questioned (Continued on Page Two)

**Electors Cast Votes for FDR**  
SALEM, Dec. 18 (AP)—Oregon voted for President Roosevelt this noon when the state's six electors met at the state capitol here to cast their ballots, as directed by the people.

Walter Pierce, La Grande; Celia L. Gavin, The Dalles; Elton Watkins, Portland; Harriet G. Starkweather and Mrs. Amanda J. Hart, Milwaukie; and Richard G. Scott of Sherwood signed the official state ballot in the private office of the president of the senate a few minutes after the town clock struck 12 this noon.

**U. S. Seizure Of Stores Looms**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—Both the government and Montgomery Ward appeared today to be preparing the country for a new and possibly more extensive presidential seizure.

With a midnight deadline for company compliance with war labor board directives in seven cities less than 12 hours away, WLB Chairman William H. Davis voiced a new appeal to the concern, saying that continued defiance of the government... could prolong the war.

## Justice Department To Operate Tulelake

### RULE AFFECTS JAP CENTER AT TULELAKE

Nipponese - American Citizens to Return

Washington sources reported today that the justice department will take over operation of the Tulelake segregation center at an unspecified date.

The news came on the heels of an army announcement that its order excluding Japanese from the Pacific coast will be revoked January 2, and the WRA began making plans to return Japanese from relocation centers to their west coast homes.

**Now Under WRA**  
The big Tulelake center, for technically disloyal persons of Japanese descent, has been operated from its inception by the WRA, whose officials at Tulelake said today they have no information that the justice department is going to "take over."

There have been, however, repeated reports that such a development was in the offing, climaxed by today's definite story from Washington.

There are approximately 18,700 persons in the Tulelake center. (Continued on Page Two)

### BUDAPEST POUNDED BY RUSSIAN STEEL

By EDDY GILMORE  
MOSCOW, Dec. 18 (AP)—Soviet big guns firing from newly won positions within 5 1/2 miles of Budapest crashed an avalanche of steel against the inner defenses of the Hungarian capital today while red army units reached the Slovak border at a new point 72 miles northeast of the city.

The scope of the red army's Hungarian offensive was emphasized by the official communist party newspaper, Pravda, which said that as many German divisions were engaged on the southern sector of the eastern front as against all the allied forces in the west. Pravda repeated figures purporting to

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### British Drive Against Elsas To Free Athens From Seige

By STEPHEN BARBER  
ATHENS, Dec. 18 (AP)—British forces launched a full-scale drive against leftwing Elsas forces in Athens today and it appeared likely to be only a matter of hours before the siege of the capital is lifted.

Within a short time after jumping off at dawn the British had captured an Elsas stronghold on the highway leading from Athens through the summer resort of Phaleron to the Kalamaki airport. The Elsas forces, estimated at about 200, had barricaded themselves in a brewery and were equipped with heavy machine guns.

**Partly Cleared**  
The Kalamaki airport already had been cleared to a depth of 300 yards and British armored vehicles were traversing the road from Athens to Piraeus.

Before the main attack began, British forces took Sikelias hill, due south of the Acropolis, which had been strongly held by the Elsas.

Armored forces as well as infantry participated. A number of prisoners were taken in the first hours of the drive.

**Simultaneous Blows**  
Strong Elsas forces, meanwhile, made simultaneous attacks upon RAF headquarters and Averoff prison, which was held by a British detachment and Greek police. The prison houses a number of political prisoners.

RAF headquarters was defended by RAF forces and British infantry.

Fighting increased over the weekend following a rejection by British Commander Lt. Gen. R. M. Scoble of leftwing EAM peace proposals.

British headquarters reported

### B-29s Hit Nagoya; Invading Doughboys Score Sharp Gains

By ELDON OTTENHEIMER  
Associated Press War Editor

Superfortresses, possibly 200 strong, hit vulnerable Nagoya, Japanese industrial city, and Hankow, China, today as American doughboys on newly-invaded Mindoro in the Philippines made sharp gains while bloody fighting continued on Leyte.

Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, commander of the strategic air forces, Pacific ocean areas, holds no hope that B-29 raids will knock Japan out of the war quickly and says, "We expect Japan will be on her feet and fighting in 1946."

But, in Japan, Tokyo's influential newspaper Asahi views the invasion of Mindoro with trepidation and in an editorial warns victory there would give America "full control of tomorrow's military situation."

**U. S. TO ACCEPT ALLIED AGREEMENT**  
The Japanese news agency Domei in an unconfirmed broadcast said Nipponese planes sighted an enemy fleet of considerable strength in the Sulu sea south of Mindoro, which may mean another invasion of a Philippines island is in the making or the fleet is on the prowl for Japanese shipping.

Superfortresses flying from bases in the Marianas bombed Nagoya for two hours with approximately the same number of planes as left the Mitsubishi-owned Hatsudoki air plane factory in flames December 13.

**100 Participated**  
In the previous raid it was indicated at least 100 of the big bombers participated. None was lost over the target, but one was forced down at sea. Its crew was rescued.

Vern Haugland, Associated Press war correspondent with the 21st bomber command, said after the planes took off today Brig. Gen. Haywood Hansell, Jr., revealed that photos of last Friday's Nagoya raid showed the airplane factory, one of Japan's largest, had been damaged more than previously supposed. He said four large assembly buildings and 22 smaller structures in the factory area were destroyed or damaged.

**Clear Weather**  
Today's raiders, Haugland wrote, had reports of clear weather ahead, but also faced the prospect of heavier ack-ack fire. Reconnaissance photographs showed the Japanese had moved more anti-aircraft guns into the Nagoya area.

Yank forces on Mindoro were 11 miles from their beachhead established Friday morning and meeting little resistance. (Continued on Page Two)

### 8th Holds Line Along Senio

ROME, Dec. 18 (AP)—Eighth army troops held a line along the Senio river today stretching five miles southward from the Bologna-Rimini highway, allied headquarters announced.

The south anchor of the line was held by Polish troops who yesterday captured Limisano and Casette in a drive toward the river against strong enemy resistance.

Canadian troops to the north made further gains near Baginacavallo while other eighth army units virtually cleared the Germans from captured Faenza, which fell to New Zealand troops yesterday. Headquarters said isolated pockets of enemy resistance still remain in the northern outskirts of the highway stronghold.

### Handful of Yank Survivors Describe Murderous Nazi Attack on Unarmed GI's

By HAL BOYLE  
AN AMERICAN FRONTLINE CLEARING STATION, Belgium, Dec. 17 (Delayed AP)—Weeping with rage, a handful of doughboy survivors described today how a German tank force ruthlessly poured machine gun fire into a group of about 150 Americans who had been disarmed and herded into a field in the opening hours of the present Nazi counter-offensive.

"We had to lie there and listen to German non-coms kill with pistols every one of our wounded men who groaned or tried to move," said T-5 William B. Summers, of Glenville, W. Va., who escaped by playing dead.

**Yanks Ambushed**  
The Americans were members of an artillery observation battalion ambushed and trapped at a road fork by a powerful German armored column of T-4 tanks, whose heavy guns quickly shot up the two dozen

A grimy soldier sitting in the little room here with Summers

ran his hands through muddied hair and broke into sobs. "There were tears in Summers' eyes as he went on."

**Murder Troops**  
"Then they opened up on us from their armored cars with machine guns. We hadn't tried to run away or anything. We were just standing there with our hands up and they tried to murder us all. And they did murder a lot of us."

"There was nothing to do but flop and play dead."

"I never saw much slaughter before in this war," said Pvt. William F. Beem of Elizabethtown, Pa. "They were cutting us down like guinea pigs. Then those German non-coms began walking around knocking off our wounded. I kept my head down, but after they had emptied their pistols I could hear them click fresh cartridges in their hands while they were reloading. Then they went on (Continued on Page Two)

### Congressman Mott Visits Klamath



Oregon's Congressman James Mott, ranking republican member of the house naval affairs committee, is shown above just after he flew into Klamath Falls on a navy plane on an inspection tour of the Klamath Barracks and Klamath naval air station. He is chatting with Lt. Commander J. F. Fitzpatrick, public works officer at the station.

### Congressman Mott Studies Housing Shortage in Area

Klamath's serious housing situation as it affects and is affected by the local military installations was thoroughly studied here Sunday and Monday by Congressman James Mott of the first Oregon district, ranking republican member of the house naval affairs committee in the new congress.

Congressman Mott flew here in a navy plane to inspect the Klamath naval air station and the Marine Barracks, two navy installations he had not previously seen. Military leaders and civic officials here took occasion to give the congressman the full story of the housing shortage, and he said he would do anything he can to help relieve the situation.

**Asks for Memorandum**  
He asked for a memorandum which shows the special need for additional navy housing here for families of military personnel.

The local men impressed upon him that Klamath, as a center for returned veterans of the Pacific fighting who bring their families here after long absence, is in a different status as to housing need as compared with straight training communities. It was also pointed out that the squadron men from the navy station here are on final domestic duty before going into combat service.

**Favors Construction**  
Mott indicated he would favor housing construction as a straight navy project for marine and navy families.

The congressman expressed great interest in both installations here. He discussed the possibilities of continuation of navy activity here after the war.

After viewing the Marine Barracks he said it was a most impressive project and that he believed the fine work being done there might well be duplicated in other installations.

Mott was a guest at the navy station for lunch Sunday, and remained over night at the barracks. He was accompanied by plans to Salem Monday by Commander L. T. Coggeshall, senior medical officer of the Marine Barracks.

### Gas Shortage Hits Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—Federal officials tried to work out today an emergency program assuring extra supplies of gasoline before Wednesday as the year's worst shortage spread throughout the capital.

Officials announced they would designate a number of filling stations still having gasoline as emergency depots for doctors and others in essential activities. The industry held little hope for relief before Wednesday when a new allocation period begins.

### Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS  
CRITICAL news comes from the western front—where the Germans are COUNTER-ATTACKING in what seems to be real force.

THEIR drive, well supported by tanks and planes, appears to center today on an 80-mile front extending from just south of Aachen to the southern tip of Luxembourg—pointed toward the Ardennes forest in eastern Belgium, which they chose as their original invasion route in 1940. But there are signs of impending German activity from Arnhem, clear up in Holland, to Alsace, at the far southern end of the western front.

WE are presumed to have been getting ready for days for another BIG smash at the Roer, and it is guessed that the Germans are HITTING FIRST to throw us off balance.

ONE can't help recalling that in these big late-in-the-war offensives the Germans seem to FOLLOW A PATTERN.

They launched one in the spring of 1918, and those who are old enough will remember that it came perilously near to succeeding. It was stopped barely in time. The effort broke the back of German striking power and Germany surrendered in November.

In the present war, after the Russians had driven them back to the line of the Donets, they mounted another which made the whole allied world nervous. It, too, was stopped in time, and thereafter the Germans retreated steadily to their present lines on the eastern front.

WITH this pattern possibly in mind, our headquarters in Paris says this morning that the allied command is taking measures to deal with the situation and there is no cause for undue alarm.

But until we know what the Germans have in the bag this time there will be anxious days ahead.

THE nazis have launched their new V-3, and a bare announcement today says they are bombarding our rear areas with it day and night. Whether the mysterious "g h o s t l y silvery balls" mentioned several days ago are a part of it we do not know.

UNTIL events develop, we won't know whether this is a Nazi version of the Jap "banzai" charge or something altogether different. We DO know that we'd like to see the Russians crash in with the big offensive they are supposed to have been preparing for months.

We still have faith in the Russians, but our minds have been unsettled by all the diplomatic mumbo-jumbo in connection with the POLITICAL warfare in Greece and elsewhere.

WE aren't eased on this point by Secretary of State Stettinius' cryptic "announcement" this morning that the U. S. government "would have no objection to an agreement on the function (Continued on Page Two)

### Van Orden Now Full Colonel

Lt. Col. George Van Orden, commanding officer of the Marine Barracks at Klamath Falls, Sunday began wearing the eagles of a full colonel.

The promotion made the Klamath officer the youngest line colonel in the marine corps, at the age of 38. His father, now retired, also won his eagles when 38 at the time of World War I.

Col. Van Orden came up from the navy academy. After two years in the navy academy, he resigned and went into the marine corps as an enlisted man. He is a veteran of the Pacific fighting, and holds the Navy Cross and Purple Heart. He was wounded at Bougainville.

### SHOPPING DAYS Left BETTER HURRY BUY Christmas SEALS

