

Soviets Speed Up Offensive As German Retreat Spreads

Moscow. — The Red army lengthened the stride of its December offensive yesterday in virtually all sectors from far north of Leningrad to the Black Sea, reclaiming hundreds of towns and villages from German occupation.

Plunging through the hole made in the German lines by the rout of six divisions from Kallinin, 95 miles northwest of the capital, the fast moving Red offensive was said by the government to have taken Vysokoe, 44 miles to the west. Other reports said another town five miles farther on had been captured.

Here, what was left of these six German divisions apparently was too disorganized to offer effective resistance, while in the Tula region, 100 miles south of the capital, some Germans were said to be so dispirited that they were taking to their heels without putting up a fight.

(The British radio, heard by CBS, said the Germans had been driven back 90 miles in a week in the Orel sector 200 miles

south of Moscow, and about 60 miles in the Tikhvin region to the southeast of Leningrad.

(The German communique admitted German troops were retreating, but said it was a part of a systematic shortening of the lines following abandonment of aggressive operations for stationary winter warfare.)

From north to south the situation was thus presented by various sources:

Leningrad area: A swift Soviet advance did not permit the Germans to pick up all their wounded. Some German groups were trapped and the Red army is heavily engaged in mopping them up, Tass announced.

An ambitious young man, on entering the army, worked well. At the end of three months he was made a corporal.

Writing home to his wife he said: "I have taken my first step in promotion. But do not move to a larger house yet, and speak to the neighbors as usual."

F. D. R. Wins Full Power, Loses Draft

The House yesterday completed congressional action giving President Roosevelt broader powers than those wielded by President Wilson during World War No. 1, but rejected the President's request to include manpower under 21 years of age in the scope of the draft.

In passing the draft revision bill, the house created a potential army of six million men between the ages of 21 and 45. President Roosevelt had asked the Congress to authorize the drafting for military service of men between 18 and 45.

The bill requires all men between 18 and 65 to register for either military or non-combatant service.

Censorship Plan Being Drawn
Meanwhile, three cabinet members drafted a far-reaching censorship program authorized under the bill giving the President the broadest powers a chief executive of the United States ever has held.

The empowering measure was sent to the White House when the chamber accepted minor changes voted by the Senate.

BY THE STUDENTS— Mountain View School Reports

The Christmas program of Mountain View school will be given Thursday night, December 18, at 7:30 o'clock. The pageant will be based on the story "Why the Chimes Rang," with special music furnished by the high school glee club and a choir of fourteen boys from the third and fourth grades.

The character of the little boy Pedro will be portrayed by Paul Eolbrook. He is the only person who causes the chimes to ring in the gigantic cathedral and only through his kindness is he able to bring about this miracle.

Another strong character part is that of the old woman. She has started to the Christmas service but loses her way in the snow storm and knocks at the but where Pedro and his family live. Nannie Lee Stone.

Pedro's mother is Louise Wiles; his father, Wayne Elledge and his brother, Wade McNeil.

The second scene of the play is laid in the cathedral. This scene opens with a great procession including nearly the entire cast. The procession is led by four candle bearers: Buddy Woodruff, Carl Cleary, Dolman Harrold, and Jack Harrold. They are followed by the priest, Bill Hayes; and the choir boys, Joe Woody, L. B. Brooks, Don Brewer, Ralph Fel's, David Rosselle, Glenn Wiles, James Emerson, Rex Adams, Richard Watt, Walton Brewer, Charles Higgins and Billy Baugess. Other people who came to the Christmas service are: The king, Carroll Dancy; the queen, Laurene Sebastian; lords and ladies, G. B. Gentry, Juno Harrold, Elgie Teague and Kate Younce; peasant men and women, Jackie Johnson, Pressley Jennings, Johnnie Mae Sebastian and Edith Bridges.

After the procession the service proceeds with the singing of Christmas carols and the reading of the Christmas story. Later each person places his gift on the altar with the hope that it will be worthy enough to cause the chimes to ring. All the gifts are present but still there is no sound from the chimes in the great tower. In the meantime Pedro and the old woman have quietly entered the cathedral and Pedro timidly goes forward with his small gift. As he places it on the altar the chimes ring and three angels appear at the altar. They are Nancy Woodruff, Tony Haynes and Phyllis Sue Wood. The scene closes with the entire cast singing "The Holy City." Soloist for the program will be Mrs. Lucille Hemphill of the school faculty.

Fight Japs As United Americans Lindbergh Says

Chicago, Dec. 3. — Charles A. Lindbergh, isolationist spokesman, said today that we must meet war with Japan "as united Americans." He said:

"We have been stepping closer to war for many months. Now it has come and we must meet it as united Americans, regardless of our attitude in the past toward the policy our government has followed.

"Our own defenses and our own military position have all ready been neglected too long. We must now turn every effort to building the greatest and most efficient army, navy and air force in the world."

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HEAVY FROSTS COVER WILKES

By MRS. FLOYD M. JENNINGS

Winter is the season of frost, sleet, and snow with frost in the lead in this section. Scientists tell us that frost is determined by the prevailing winds and the degree of latitude upon the globe; that there are two forms, granular and crystalline; that heavy formations usually appear three nights in duration, giving way to a change. Therefore, the heavy frosts of the past few weeks remind us that the seasons have not changed as many people

would have us believe.

On a clear night, when the earth's surface cools rapidly to a freezing temperature, a fairylike granular coating forms in valleys or places where fog is common; but on a misty night when the fog prevents the rapid cooling of the air, there is little chance of frost forming. You may hear crystals shoot in the dead of a clear night, as if the moonbeams were sprinkling arrows on the ground in melodious ministry! We must be content to listen and

wonder at its invisible workmanship for its principle is hidden from the inquisitive eye. Patterns thus crystallized from water vapor, may appear remarkably like things in nature, such as trees, stars, ferns, corals, and even faces, determined by the crystals themselves; and the conditions of the wind, air currents, scare or lines on objects. The next morning the sun comes out, and by the middle of the calm, dazzling forenoon, a "young snow" has vanished. Friends, not native to tropical lands, tell us that the climatic sameness there is depressive; that it is difficult to temper their

desires to a land bereft of change, and that we should deem ourselves fortunate to live in a season frequented by weather changes including frost, for it gives variety and adds zest to living.

Mrs. Gaither Vannoy Claimed By Death

Last rites were conducted this afternoon at Little River church for Mrs. Pearl Dancy Vannoy, age 39, wife of Gaither Vannoy, of Union township. Rev. Ed Hayes conducted the service. She died Wednesday night. Surviving are her husband and three children, James, Clyde and Louise Vannoy.



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