

80 JAPANESE TRANSPORTS SIGHTED OFF LUZON COAST; ARMY MAKES READY FOR MAJOR DRIVE ON PHILIPPINES; HITLER ASSUMES PERSONAL COMMAND OF NAZI ARMIES

Fuehrer Pleads With Retreating Soldiers To Hold Till Spring

Foreign Observers See Major Crack Developing In German High Command As Legions Fall Back Both In Russian And Libya

TROOPS EXHORTED TO 'FANATICISM'

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Publicly recognizing the cold difficulties and torments suffered by the retreating German armies in Russia, Adolf Hitler announced tonight he was taking over personal direction of the Nazi land forces, and he immediately appealed to his soldiers—"fanatically," as he put it—to wait out the winter for new arms and troops.

GERMANS TOLD GRIEVOUS NEWS

Rumors Of Army's Shakeup Long Rife; Facts Of Retreat Withheld

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The German nation heard its most grievous news since Adolf Hitler put on his field-gray uniform Sept. 1, 1939, to wear to victory or death, when it was told tonight that its fuhrer had cast aside the man to whom he had given command of his armies.

Field Marshal General Walther von Brauchitsch, commander-in-chief of the German army, has been fired while the gray legions are on the run for the first time in more than two years of war—both in Russia and Libya.

The implications of his displacement—by Hitler, himself—are inescapable.

In German minds, this sudden shift of topmost command at such a moment may rank even with the mysterious flight of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy fuhrer, as a sign of trouble in the nation's leadership.

Rumors had been current in the last week that such a shakeup was imminent. They said von Brauchitsch had been seen in civilian clothes in Vienna and that Gen. Feodor von Bock, commander of German forces on the Moscow front, also had been relieved of his command by Field Marshal Sigmund Wilhelm List, who led the Balkan campaign.

One of the last reports of von Brauchitsch in the field was that he had been sent early this month to try to bolster the stalled and repulsed German offensive on the

Pt. Fisher's Lonesome Soldiers Need Records For Their Phonograph

How would you like to have a phonograph and not one record to play on it? That's the situation the men of the 156th Infantry at Fort Fisher find themselves in, according to Regimental Chaplain Guy A. Smith. Someone gave them a nice record-player, but they have no records.

So, if you have some records that you're getting tired of hearing, the 156th would appreciate getting them. They want any sort of records as long as it's music—swing, classical, religious or military.

Records may be left for the troops at the YMCA, or if you'll call Chaplain Smith at 2841, he'll come get them.

Shattered Axis Armies Fall Back On Bengasi

BULLETIN NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Some units of German Gen. Erwin Rommel's African forces are abandoning Bengasi and retreating toward Tripoli, the British radio declared today.

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The Axis shattered army in Libya, split and in headlong flight, was pictured by British headquarters tonight as too disorganized to collect its strength for an effective defense of Bengasi, the enemy's last major position east of Tripoli.

Hitler first announced in a surprise move that he had replaced Gen. Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch as commander of the armies.

Then, he addressed his soldiers, speaking to them as a bitterly

WALPURGIS NIGHT!

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21.—(AP)—A mysterious anti-Nazi radio broadcasting tonight from German-occupied Central Europe said Hitler's military reverses had created unrest in Germany and that hasty measures were being taken against demonstrations.

The announcer reported barricades were being built on many German roads, machine-gun nests installed at important highway junctions and SS Black-Shirt Elite Guard garrisons heavily reinforced.

experienced, wounded, almost blinded, old soldier; as one who knows the horrors of war.

He said "intuition" led him to his fateful decision.

The dramatic announcements, including the hold-fast exhortation to his troops, contained the harsh admission that the great Red army offensive of recent weeks was hurting Germany to the core—and on

PROMINENT EDITOR OF KINSTON DIES

Long Illness Proves Fatal To Charles McDevett, Noted Writer

KINSTON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Charles Warren McDevett, managing editor of the Kinston Free Press for about 30 years and author of hundreds of freak nature stories, died early today in a Winston-Salem hospital. He became ill in October and since then his condition gradually had grown worse.

British Say Dutch Have Three More Jap Vessels

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(AP)—A British broadcast quoted Batavia reports today that Netherlands forces had sunk three more Japanese troopships off Borneo.

The broadcast, heard here by CBS, said two were sunk by naval forces and a third by a Dutch torpedo bomber.

driven to Soluch, about 35 miles south of Bengasi, and Italian infantry was declared virtually isolated northeast of the port.

The rapid pace of the British pursuit, pressed despite severe dust storms, was indicated by the fact that Soluch, inland terminal of a spur railroad from Bengasi, is 160 miles southwest of Derna, whose capture the British announced only yesterday, and 280 miles west of the Egyptian frontier starting point of the British offensive Nov. 18.

Thus, almost overnight, the British armored forces had been



AWARD TO POSTER WINNER Mrs. Rogers Balcom (left), executive chairman of the Medical and Surgical Relief committee of America, presents a check for \$25 to Frances Bird, first prize winner in the poster contest conducted by the committee among students of New York schools. — Central Press Photo.

Nazi Tank Divisions Smashed By Russians

General Flight Of Germans Along Far-Flung Front Continues As Reds Sweep Onward

By HENRY C. CASSIDY WITH THE RED ARMY ON THE MOSCOW FRONT, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The steel skeletons of two German tank divisions lay along the Klin-Volokolamsk road, a narrow, tunnel-like path winding through a frosted pine forest, where they were overtaken and smashed by the Red army.

The ghastly graveyard of the Nazi panzer forces was marked by masses of mangled machines, piles of frozen bodies and a litter of personal belongings.

The German Sixth and Seventh tank divisions had passed this way. The vengeance visited on them, by the Russians indicated that what had started as an orderly withdrawal on the northern flank of the Moscow front was turned into panicky flight and final disaster.

CASTEEN ISSUES FIREWORKS BAN

City Ordinance Will Be Enforced To Limit, Chief Warns

A warning to all Wilmingtonians that the discharge of fireworks within the city limits strictly is against the law was issued Sunday night by Chief of Police Charles H. Casteen.

"We have a city ordinance which prohibits the sale and shooting of firecrackers and fireworks within the city limits," the chief said. "I am instructing every member of the police force to enforce this ordinance."

Chief Casteen said that anyone above 13 years of age caught shooting firecrackers within the city limits would be cited to recorder's court. Children under 16 will be sent to the juvenile court.

"I am asking the cooperation of the parents of all children in the city in not giving fireworks to them," the chief said.

He also emphasized the fact that it was just as much against the law to discharge fireworks on personal property as it was to discharge them in the streets.

Last Christmas, the city council temporarily lifted the ban on fireworks to permit the discharge of fireworks on personal property during the 1940 Christmas season.

However, the anti fireworks ordinance, first passed by the city council in 1922, is very much in force in its entirety this year.

The penalty for violating the ordinance is left up to the discretion of the recorder and of the juvenile court judge.

QUAKE ROCKS CHILE SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 21.—(AP)—A fairly strong earthquake was felt here at 3:47 p. m. (2:47 p. m., EST) today.

Knox Says 14 Enemy Subs Sunk

All Undersea Craft Reported Operating In Atlantic On East Coast

FLEET ON ALERT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Secretary Knox announced tonight that up to the present, American naval forces probably have sunk or damaged "at least 14 enemy submarines" in Atlantic waters and have "effectively dealt with several Japanese submarines" in the Pacific.

In his announcement, Knox said he "could assure the public that the Navy has already adequately dealt with more than one submarine which has sought to make attacks on our naval and merchant vessels."

He added that after weighing the evidence carefully, he could "now state that in the Atlantic ocean, U. S. naval forces have up to the present time probably sunk or damaged at least 14 enemy submarines."

The text of Knox's announcement, issued by the Navy department, follows:

1.—The Navy has been aware for some time that enemy submarine activity in and near American waters

7 ALARMS KEEP FIREMEN MOVING

Only Serious Blaze Destroys Home Of Negro At Seventh, Nun

Seven alarms kept the municipal fire department in action for the greater part of the day Sunday.

The largest, reported at 4:04 a. m., virtually gutted the home of Ruth Hall, negro, at Seventh and Nun sts. The house was filled with smoke and flames when the firemen arrived and several heavy flood streams were necessary to subdue the blaze.

Other alarms answered during the day were:

10:25 a. m., Carrie Justice, 813 Millis alley, single fire; 12:05 p. m., Box 114, false alarm; 1:01 p. m., Box 416, gas fire; 3:53 p. m., Lotricia Cowman, 718 McRae st., small fire; 1:32 p. m., 2017 Creasy ave., grass fire; 4:25 p. m., Seventeenth and Nun, grass fire.

GIANNINI'S WIFE DEAD

SAN MATEO, Calif., Dec. 21.—(AP)—Mrs. A. P. Giannini, 72, wife of the noted California banker, died today. A son, Lawrence Mario Giannini, is an executive of the Bank of America.

Santa Claus Still Has A Big Job To Do Here!

It takes a heap of fixing to make Christmas joyful for every one of more than 2,000 children. But, that's just what the Empty Stocking fund has to do.

The 2,000-odd children are not in occupied France or China or some other far-off place, but are right here in Wilmington.

And, unless the Empty Stocking Fund can reach

All members of the North Carolina Sorosis are reminded to be on hand at 10 a. m. Tuesday in the 252nd Coast Artillery armory at 814 Market st., to help prepare the packages which will be distributed through the Empty Stocking Fund.



HE FIXED IT Visit of Adm. Frederick H. Knox to the French island of Martinique resulted in an accord with the U. S. which is perfectly satisfactory, according to the State department. Under the agreement, the Caribbean naval base pledged that French vessels and nationals there will take no action detrimental to the U. S.—Central Press Photo.

MAJOR LITAKER TO PLAY SANTA

General Smith Will Speak At 2 Christmas Parties For Soldier Children

Maj. Oliver M. Litaker, who heads the legal staff for Camp Davis, will turn aside from his regular duties Monday and play the role of jovial Santa Claus when several hundred children, under the 'teen age, gather at the USO hut, Second and Orange sts., to attend the Christmas party.

Old Santa will hand out presents and the commanding general, Maj. Gen. Frederic H. Smith, will address the group.

Presents were purchased and the big Christmas tree decorated by the Camp Davis Welfare Association, headed by the wife of the commanding general, Mrs. Frederic H. Smith. Warrant Officer Sprang will lead the 83rd orchestra in a series of marches and carols.

A similar program will be staged Tuesday afternoon for the colored children of the military personnel at the colored USO, Ninth and Nixon. General Smith will speak at this party and the 99th CA band will play.

Missing Plane Located On Lake Near Fairbanks

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The disabled plane of Archie Ferguson, missing since Thursday with two passengers, was located yesterday on a small lake, just inside the Arctic circle between Kotzebue sound and Fairbanks.

Because the lake was too small for the large rescue planes to alight, supplies were dropped to the marooned men, none of whom was reported injured. Smaller planes will take them off the ice.

Dr. David Hoehn, Fairbanks, and Norman Anthony, attorney of Kotzebue, were with Ferguson. The plane, endangered by ice on the wings, made a forced landing on the frozen lake while enroute here.

WEATHER

FORECAST: NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA: Considerable cloudiness with slowly rising temperature Monday.

(Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday): (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Temperature: 1:30 a. m. 45; 7:30 a. m. 36; 1:30 p. m. 52; 7:30 p. m. 46; maximum 54; minimum 35; mean 44; normal 48.

Humidity: 1:30 a. m. 51; 7:30 a. m. 65; 1:30 p. m. 35; 7:30 p. m. 57.

Precipitation: Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 0.90 inches; total since the first of the month, 1.88 inches.

Flotilla Apparently Headed For Lingayen To Reinforce Troops

Announcement Says 'Undoubtedly' Nipponese Now Starting Determined Effort To Wrest Islands From Possession Of U. S.

DEFENSES SET FOR 'ANY EMERGENCY'

MANILA, Monday, Dec. 22—(11:15 a. m.—9:15 p. m. Sunday, EST)—A flotilla of 80 enemy transports was sighted this morning off Lingayen gulf, north of here on the west coast of Luzon, and the Army, in announcing the hostile approach, said there was no doubt that this was the beginning of Japan's major drive on the Philippines.

The port of Lingayen, 110 miles northwest of Manila, lies in the sheltered waters of the Gulf of the same name. The Japanese tried one landing there last week, but were pushed back into the sea by Philippine land forces.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters has anticipated an attempted landing in force there and preparations have long been completed to meet just such an eventuality.

The first repulsed Japanese thrust at Lingayen was the initial encounter between the invaders and the Philippines' stout land defenders.

In other Luzon landings, which were unopposed, the Japanese have gained small beachheads on the Luzon coast at Aparri, in the north, and at Vigan, in the northwest, some 100 miles above Lingayen.

The Japanese also have gained footholds at Legaspi, southeast of Manila, and at Davao, heavily Japanese-populated port, 600 miles south of Manila on Mindanao island.

At Legaspi, the invaders have been under ceaseless aerial assault while at Davao, Army headquarters here said, confused fighting raged but no clear picture of developments there was available.

A communique from General MacArthur's headquarters issued this morning before the Japanese flotilla was sighted in Lingayen gulf said: "There is continuing activity south of Vigan, but nothing serious has developed. Conflicting reports of enemy reinforcements have not been confirmed.

"No reliable information has been received from Davao."

SANTA WILL VISIT TRAILER SITE HERE

Children Of Workers In Shipyard To Have USO-Sponsored Party Monday

One of the first Christmas parties to be given for the children of defense workers quartered in trailer camps at war industry centers over the nation will be held at the trailer camp at the shipyard here Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock for the 200-odd children of the camp who will not be able to be home for Christmas because their fathers cannot be spared from the vital task of building ships.

The Christmas exercises will be held in the center of the camp where a Christmas tree has been erected. Santa Claus will distribute presents to the children, after which a group of costumed Christmas carollers will sing.

A short Christmas playlet also will be presented. All of the trailers in the camp have been decorated by the wives of shipyard workers for the Christmas season.

Monday's party is being put on by the USO club at Fifth and Orange sts., which is sponsored by the Woman's division of the National Catholic Community service.

Grim Hong Kong Garrison Fights Off Major Attack

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Hong Kong's grimly resisting defenders still defied overwhelming Japanese might tonight, urged on to hold their rock-hewn strongholds in the island's peak by an exhortation of its governor:

"The eyes of the Empire are upon you! Be strong! Be resolute, and do your duty!"

3 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT BUY MOTHER THAT JEWELRY Buy Christmas Seals

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