

WEATHER

Snow in north and west portion and rain mixed with snow and sleet in southeast portion today, tonight and Wednesday and continued cold.

The Shelby Daily Star

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- State Theatre Today - "THAT'S THE SPIRIT" JACK OAKIE PEGGY RYAN

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SHELBY, N. C.

TUESDAY, DEC. 18, 1945

TELEMAT PICTURES

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UNION REJECTS FORD'S OFFER OF WAGE INCREASE

FLEET SAFER IN PEARL HARBOR THAN OUTSIDE

Wilkinson Says Harbor Defenses Best That Could Be Provided

'LOST' JAP SHIPS

By Jack Bell WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Vice Admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson asserted today the U. S. fleet would have been in greater danger on Dec. 7, 1941, if it had been attacked outside Pearl Harbor or on the west coast rather than at the Hawaiian anchorage.

The former chief of naval intelligence told the Congressional Pearl Harbor committee, in effect, that the harbor defenses were the best that could be provided.

His testimony was in response to questions by Rep. Murphy (D-Pa.) who asked:

"If the fleet had been in Lantana Roads instead of in Pearl Harbor would it have been less secure?"

"I would say it would have been less secure because it would also have been exposed to submarine attack while there would have been the same danger from air attack", Wilkinson said.

"Would it have been any more safe at Puget Sound or San Pedro (on the west coast)?"

LESS SAFE "Rather less safe," Wilkinson said, "the anti-aircraft protection was not as complete as at Pearl Harbor."

Senator Lucas (D-Ill.) said today he wants to know more about the Navy's effort to find some trace of the Japanese naval units it lost track of three weeks before Pearl Harbor.

These carriers and battleships were the ones, the Illinois Senator noted to a reporter, which lost the crippling blow against Hawaii.

Vice Adm. Theodore S. Wilkinson told the Congressional Investigating Committee yesterday that the navy in mid-November, 1941, had lost track of the Japanese warships. But he added that the radio-silence trick employed was made to work both ways.

"Admiral (William F.) Halsey's fleet bobbed up in several positions that were very annoying to the Japanese," the crisp-speaking witness reminded the senators and representatives. Wilkinson was a chief of naval intelligence at the time of Pearl Harbor.

CHIEF TASK Joining Lucas in his quest for more information on what was done about the missing units, Rep. Murphy (D-Pa.) said he understood it was the chief task of an American monitoring station in Hawaii to intercept Japanese messages and thus keep track of ship movements.

Gerhard Gesell, committee counsel, noted that there were conflicting reports within the Navy's files about this missing striking force.

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NEWSPRINT PRICE UPPED

\$6-Per-Ton Increase Is Granted; Will Cost Publishers \$20,000,000

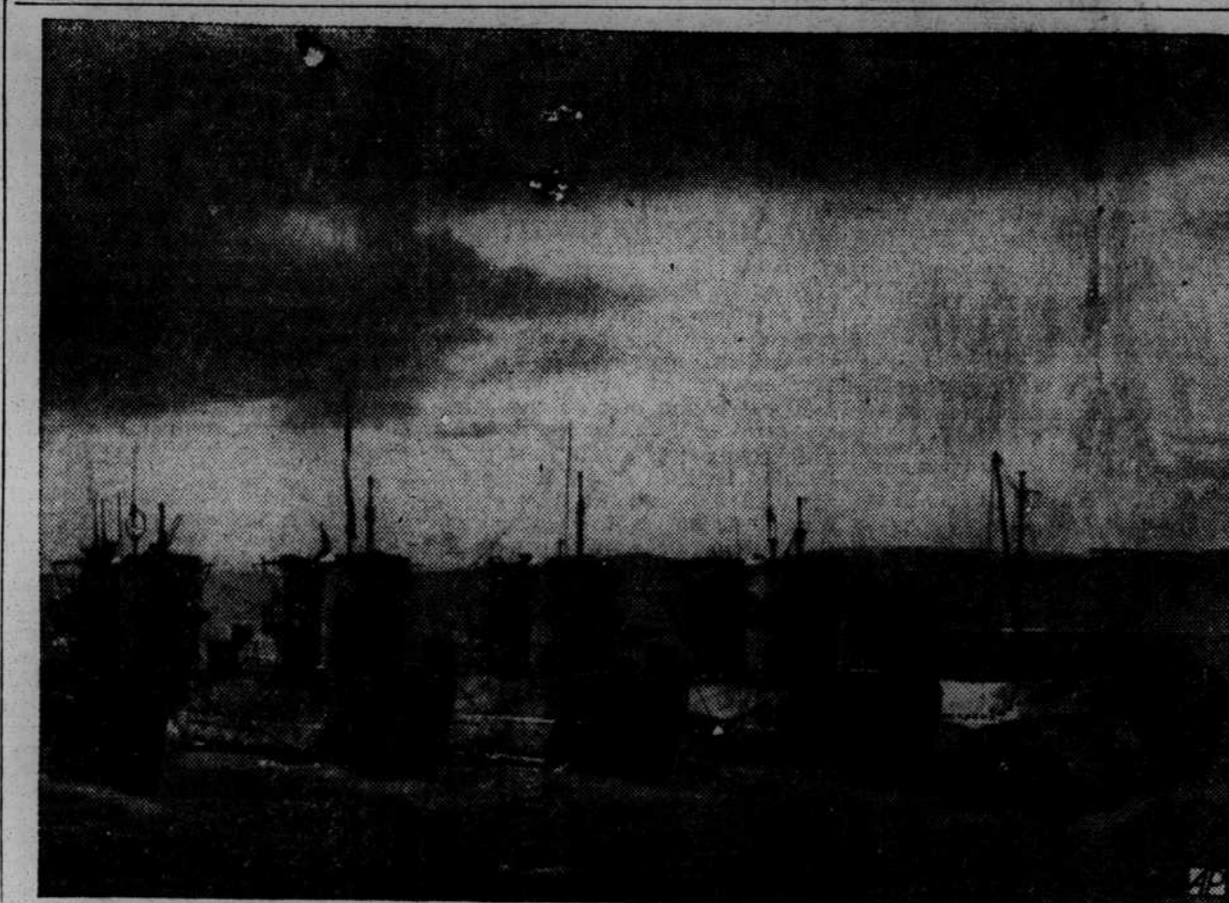
NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—(AP)—American newspaper publishers will pay approximately \$20,000,000 more to put out their papers next year on the basis of an increase of \$6 a ton just granted on the price of newsprint.

The action was taken, government quarters said, to "check further decrease in U. S. newsprint production, which has been gradually declining for some years."

PRODUCTION DOWN As production has gone down, the price of newsprint has risen steadily. The price of newsprint delivered in New York was \$60 a ton just prior to Pearl Harbor. With the latest increase the new ceiling will be \$77 a ton on the same basis.

The American Newspaper Publishers Association, which has made no public comment on the newsprint price increase, figures that 140,000 full sized newspaper pages can be produced from a ton of newsprint. This would figure down to 4,666 copies of a 30-page newspaper per ton.

Government sources estimated that approximately 3,250,000 tons of newsprint are consumed in this country annually.



NAZI SUBS TO BE SUNK—German submarines are tied up in the U-boat "tots" at Loch Ryan, Scotland, waiting to be towed to a "graveyard" off Bloody Foreland, Northwest Ireland, where they will be sunk by destroyer gunfire. Hitler's U-boat packs are being towed six to eight at a time from Loch Ryan and are being sunk in what the Royal Navy terms "operation deadlight."

DR. ROYSTER IS NEW C OF C HEAD

Retiring President Short Presented Silver Platter For Work

With a vigor that belied his 70-odd years, Dr. S. S. Royster today undertook presidency of Shelby's Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association pledged to make it a "bigger and a better force" for the advancement of Shelby.

Dr. Royster's election to head the organization, which he has served vigorously the past several years as an honorary member of the directing board, was by acclamation as directors held their first meeting with the newly-elected members present last night.

Holt McPherson was re-elected vice-president while J. Dale Stentz was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

PRIZE FOR SHORT A sterling silver engraved platter was presented retiring President Clyde A. Short on behalf of the directors and members by Worth Morris, chairman of the merchants division, who praised the selfless and devoted civic service that had characterized his presidency.

New board members welcomed to the directorate were Charles Dover, Charles Hoey, Henry Edwards, Will Arey, Jr., Holt McPherson, Worth Morris, chairman, and Vance Weaver, vice-chairman, of the merchants division.

A report by J. H. Grigg for the special committee investigating a course for the credit bureau recommended that the work be stepped up to standard reporting requirements and get recognition as such so that its usefulness to local merchants.

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Communists See Halt To Civil Strife As China's First Need

CHUNGKING, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The head of the Chinese Communist peace delegation declared today that a halt to civil warfare was China's first need, and peaceful national reconstruction was her second.

For that reason, Gen. Chou En-Lai said he would seek a cessation of hostilities before the all-party political consultative council convenes its peace session. Date for the session has not been set.

Falling that, Chou said, he would insist that this be the first item on the council's agenda. He said the Communists had their own plans for stopping civil strife but declined to disclose them.

He also announced that the Communists would demand an open general election for the national assembly, which he said was selected before the war with Japan and no longer was representative.

General Assembly Likely To Choose City For UNO Home

LONDON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Choice of a specific American city as the site for the permanent United Nations Organization headquarters probably will be left up to the general assembly which convenes Jan. 10, delegates to the preparatory commission said today.

FLU, NO COAL COMPLICATE COLD WEATHER

The weather man continues to call the plays. After dealing out a five-degree low temperature yesterday, resulting in frozen pipes and radiators all around, he promises for tonight and Wednesday continued cold with snow, sleet and rain.

Yesterday was the coldest December 17 on record here in more than 50 years. Complicating normal problems which result from cold weather, Shelby was faced with a scarcity of coal which threatened to become serious.

Local dealers had on hand a supply of stoker coal, but lump coal, the kind burned in grates and stoves, was not to be had. Some of them said they had no assurance when more fuel would be received.

Also making the pinch felt more severely is the prevalence of influenza in many homes. The hospital itself has not been spared from this apparent epidemic, several of the nurses becoming patients themselves. Physicians are working overtime trying to answer the flood of calls pouring in.

Chinese Nationalist Troops Not In Mukden

PEIPING, Dec. 17.—(Delayed)—(AP)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's provincial headquarters said today that contrary to previous reports there were no central government troops in Mukden.

Furthermore, the announcement said, diplomatic and military preparations for the occupation of that biggest city in Manchuria had yet to be completed.

(Previous Chungking reports said that not only had National government troops entered Mukden overland but some even were fanning out to the north and northwest.)

One Major General, charged with liaison with front line troops, said he had no information in the past three days and did not know where the National troops were. No one seemed concerned, either about the lack of information or the delay in the occupation of Mukden.

Kerr May Succeed Lord Halifax

LONDON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Three London newspapers reported today that Lord Halifax, Ambassador to the United States since 1941, would be succeeded soon by Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, present British Ambassador to Russia.

Extra Coal Moves For N. C. Dealers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—An increase of 33 1-3 per cent in North Carolina's coal allotment for this month has been approved by the Solid Fuels Administration, Senator Clyde R. Hoey announced today.

Hoey said it is hoped that the additional allotment will be in dealers' hands before the end of the month. The increase was approved, he said, because of increased sickness and colds brought on by recent cold weather in North Carolina.

SFA officials have been investigating the coal situation in North Carolina for several weeks, at Hoey's request.

80 KILLED IN JAVA FIGHTING

Battle British At Buitenzorg; All Dead Are Indonesians

BATAVIA, Dec. 18.—(AP)—At least 80 Indonesians were killed yesterday in bitter hand to hand fighting at Buitenzorg with a British Indian column which suffered 32 casualties, the newspaper of the 23rd Indian division reported today.

Three Indians were killed. A British officer and 28 Indians were wounded when the column encountered a road block 30 miles south of Batavia, the newspaper "Fighting Cock" said. The Indonesians were estimated to total 300.

An official British press statement issued earlier minimized the action and did not list the Indonesian casualties, asserting that two British troops were killed and five were wounded. The Indonesians were armed with machine-guns and rifles.

BANDOENG EVACUEES Two hundred and fifty Europeans and Eurasians were evacuated from Bandoeng. Some of the evacuees said that Indonesians seized 32 persons there Dec. 9, and that nothing had been heard from them since.

Indonesians were reported to have occupied Ambarawa, which was evacuated recently by the British.

An RAF Thunderbolt was shot down yesterday near Soerabaja, but the pilot was reported to have bailed out successfully. A RAF spokesman said that Indonesian anti-aircraft gunners were inflicting heavier proportional losses than the Japanese were able to do in Burma.

Group Capt. W. D. Davis, senior staff officer of the allied forces in the Netherlands East Indies, told reporters that the British lost 13 or 14 planes in Java, and that four or five of this number were shot down.

Moon To Be Seen In Eclipse Tonight

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The moon will be seen in eclipse in parts of the United States where weather permits tonight.

The earth's shadow will begin passing across the satellite at 7:30 p. m., eastern standard time and will clear it at 11:03 p. m.

Even during totality—from 8:40 p. m. to 10 p. m.—the moon will be visible, with a dull, coppery hue.

WHAT'S DOING

TODAY 8:30 p. m.—Rotary club directors meet with Willis McMurray at his home.

7:00 p. m.—Lions club entertains children at Christmas party at high school cafeteria.

7:30 p. m.—CAP cadets will have dance at armory.

WEDNESDAY 7:30 p. m.—Fellowship hour at Central Methodist church.

7:45 p. m.—Midweek prayer and praise service at First Baptist church.

Japanese Diet Goes Home To Prepare For Free Election

TOKYO, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The Japanese Diet dissolved today after 22 days of its 89th extraordinary session and legislators started back home to prepare for the first free election in over a decade.

Before the dissolution, the house of peers passed the farm reformation and labor union measures, both introduced at the prodding of Allied headquarters and previously approved by the house.

The elections, tentatively scheduled for next January, will be the first test since 1942 for legislators seeking re-election.

FACT-FINDING BOARD Wrestles With Profits, Prices Problem

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Some of the problems—and much of the pattern—of government fact-finding took shape today as labor and industry waited to learn whether profits and prices are to figure in the wage studies.

The question—regarded by the CIO as fundamental but opposed by industry on the contention it would be a forerunner of government "snooping"—nearly broke up the first session of the oil wage fact-finding board yesterday.

Unable to decide itself whether it should relate possible price ad-

STALIN BACK AFTER LONG VACATION

Foreign Ministers Prepare For Third Formal Session Of Meet

68-DAY HOLIDAY

MOSCOW, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Generalissimo Stalin, rested by a long vacation, was back at his desk today as the foreign ministers of Soviet Russia, Great Britain and the United States prepared for their third formal session on world problems with a feeling of reserved optimism.

Stalin returned from his 68-day holiday yesterday, just four days before his 69th birthday, and plunged immediately into his duties as president of the council of people's commissars.

His long absence from the Kremlin had given rise to rumors abroad that he was ill, but these reports had been denied both by Soviet officials and by U. S. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, who visited him at his Black Sea retreat near Sochi.

Harriman reported on his return that he had found Stalin in excellent health and enjoying his holiday. Similar assurances as to the generalissimo's health were given only two days ago to U. S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin by high Soviet officials.

Stalin's return was announced by a brief statement published in all Moscow newspapers, saying:

"Yesterday, Dec. 17, the president of the council of people's commissars, U. S. S. R., Comrade Stalin, returned from his vacation to Moscow and entered upon the fulfillment of his duties."

The announcement came as the "Big Three" foreign ministers, meeting here since Sunday, finished their preliminary talks and prepared to get down to discussion of some of the basic issues of world peace and prosperity which were believed to be on their agenda.

OPTIMISTIC Both Byrnes and Bevin were said by diplomatic observers to have emerged from yesterday's meeting with a feeling of reserved optimism, looking not so much for

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Chiangs Return To Nanking Today

CHUNGKING, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek returned triumphantly today to Nanking from which they were forced by the Japanese to flee in 1937, a semi-official dispatch reported.

They traveled to the former Chinese capital from Peiping in Chiang's special plane, "Mei Ling," which he named after his wife.

Thousands crowded the old Ming airfield to greet the couple, who afterwards motored through the ancient city to the acclaim of the cheering inhabitants, the dispatch said.

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7:45 p. m.—Midweek prayer and praise service at First Baptist church.



MEETING HONORS LAD—Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, pins a convention badge on 8-year-old Jackie Shea of Arlington, Mass., in New York City. The convention honored the boy and his late father, Comdr. John Joseph Shea, who wrote a famous father-to-son letter.

Navy Would Give Ships To China

Shapers Of Naval Policy In Congress Vigorously Oppose Proposed Plan

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Shapers of congressional naval policy cast a dubious eye today at a navy proposal to turn over excess fighting ships to the republic of China.

The proposal, advanced yesterday by Secretary of the Navy Forrestal in a letter to Speaker Rayburn (D-Texas), caught Capitol Hill off guard.

"This is the first I have heard of it," Chairman Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) of the house naval committee told reporters. "I'm not saying anything until I know more about what they have in mind."

Vinson indicated he would be in no hurry to call the navy's suggestion to the attention of his committee.

"This is a complete surprise to me," said Rep. Sheppard (D-Calif.), chairman of the appropriations subcommittee handling naval funds. "I don't know a thing about it and there are lots of things I want to know."

Several members of Vinson's committee expressed outright opposition.

PLAY POLITICS "This looks like a move in the direction of using the navy to play world politics," one said privately. "Apparently we are to give away our surplus ships to strengthen the hand of Chiang Kai-shek in his fight with the communists."

A few months ago the naval committee reported that there would be a surplus of 222 major combat ships after the navy's post-war needs are met.

"Among these are six battleships, four carriers and eleven cruisers," a committee member said, "and before we give them away or sell them we should be certain that we don't need them ourselves, and that there is no chance they will ever be used."

See NAVY Page 2

Shelbian Offers Stranger A Ride, Gets Slugged, Robbed

RUTHERFORDTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Theodore Whinsant of Shelby was in Rutherford hospital today—because he offered a stranger a ride.

Whinsant told police he picked up a man in sailor uniform in Spindale last night while enroute to Marion. He said his unknown companion, whom he thought he knew when he stopped to pick him up, struck him, robbed him of \$140 and fled.

Whinsant revived and drove on to Rutherfordton where he made his report to police.

EXTENDED FORECAST Extended forecast for Carolina from 7:30 p. m. today to 7:30 p. m. Saturday—Precipitation Tuesday night and probably Wednesday followed by clearing Wednesday night and Thursday; Friday, fair, precipitation beginning again about Saturday and continued rather cold to end of period.

15 CENTS AN HOUR RAISE IS PROFFERED

Demands Company Security Promises From Workers In Exchange

12.4 PER CENT

DETROIT, Dec. 18.—(AP)—A pay increase of 15 cents an hour was offered the CIO's United Auto Workers by the Ford Motor Company today, and the union promptly rejected it.

The company combined its wage offer with a demand on the union for a "company security" arrangement, involving fines up to \$5,000 for "illegitimate strikes."

Richard T. Leonard, Ford director for the UAW-CIO, announced immediately after a reading of the company proposals that Ford's offer was "completely unacceptable to the union."

Ford said its offer would represent a 12.4 percent increase and a total of approximately \$33,000,000 a year. In its last employment figures the company said it had 109,000 employees.

The Ford offer compared with a 10 percent increase offered the UAW-CIO by General Motors. This has been estimated at 13 1-2 cents an hour.

RESUME TALKS While union negotiations announced their rejection of the Ford proposal, they said discussions would be resumed Thursday.

After its rejection of General Motors' 10 percent offer, the UAW-CIO went on strike against GM Nov. 21 and 175,000 GM production workers have since been idle in the wage stalemate.

The Ford company today amplified its original company security proposal to the UAW-CIO, among the chief proposed points was this one:

"That the union would be liable to the company for the sum of \$5,000 for each person found guilty of 'instigating an illegitimate strike' when such person has an 'official or representative position in the union' but is not an employee."

In labor-management disputes in the auto industry this has been put by management under the heading of "outside interference."

In the Ford proposal an umpire mutually agreed upon by the parties to the contract would determine guilt or innocence.

SUBJECT TO DISCHARGE Ford proposed to the UAW-CIO that any employee found guilty of "instigating, fomenting, actively supporting or giving leadership" to an "illegitimate strike" should be subject to discharge.

Any other employees who takes part in such a strike would be liable to "liquidated damages" to the company. For his first offense the damages would be \$1.50 a day, for the second \$2.50 a day.

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GALE DAMAGES TWO WARSHIPS

LONDON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Two American warships, the aircraft carrier Wasp and the cruiser Augusta, were damaged in a 70-mile an hour gale which swept over the Mid-Atlantic and battered the coast of England today.

The U. S. Navy port office at Southampton announced that the Wasp was enroute to Southampton to pick up troops when she ran into the storm Sunday. Steel curtains on the hangar deck were washed away.

The Augusta, en route to the United States from Le Havre with troops, had her starboard side crushed in one or two inches and received similar damage to her bulkheads.

No casualties were reported on either ship.

5 SHOPPING DAYS Left

Buy CHRISTMAS SEALS