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Soviet Offensive Is Unchecked

American Fliers Pound Japs

Getting Ready for Christmas Raid on Wake



A U. S. bomber crew at a Pacific base prepares to leave for a surprise Christmas Eve raid on Jap-held Wake Island. They are donning their "Mac West" vests. More than 75,000 pounds of bombs were dropped on the targets, starting fires that cast a glow 75 miles to sea, before the raiders sped back to their base unscathed. Col. William A. Matheny (4th from left), of Carrington, N. D., led the raid. This is a U. S. Army Air Force photo. (Central Press)

Destroyers Are Bombed In Solomons

Enemy Air Field at Munda Is Raided Again; Japanese Forces on New Guinea Are Surrounded and Face Annihilation

Washington, Jan. 4.—(AP)—American fliers continued their assault against Japanese ground and sea forces in the Solomon islands, over the week-end, pounding the enemy air field at Munda and bombing two destroyers.

One of the destroyers was left burning badly and the other appeared to be sinking after an attack 30 miles northwest of Rendova island in the New Georgia group Saturday night (Solomons time). The attack was carried out by Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by Wildcat Lightning fighters.

Earlier, the Navy reported, enemy destroyers were attacked 30 miles south of Shortland island. No hits were observed.

Anti-aircraft emplacements and other installations at the Munda air field on New Georgia island were hit in raids Saturday and Sunday. The Navy said no enemy planes were observed in the air or on the field.

Land forces continued on Guadalcanal island, with between 20 and 35 Japanese reported killed in patrol clashes. Enemy artillery was reported active for the first time in weeks.

Allied Headquarters in Australia, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Surrounded and facing annihilation, the only Japanese forces remaining on the Papuan peninsula of New Guinea were confined today in a narrow pocket on Sananda Point by American and Australian troops who wiped out the last vestiges of enemy resistance around Buna over the week-end.

"The enemy's position is now hopeless," declared a communique from General MacArthur's headquarters, adding that allied troops already were moving up for the fall.

Tersely the bulletin announced that the allies had "completed the destruction of the enemy's defeated

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BANK STATEMENTS ARE CALLED FOR

Washington, Jan. 4.—(AP)—The comptroller of the currency today issued a call for a statement of the condition of all national banks at the close of business Thursday, December 31.

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Commissioner of Banks Gurney P. Hood today called on all North Carolina banking institutions for a statement of conditions at the close of business December 31.

Police Probe Elizabeth City Ambush Case

Elizabeth City, Jan. 4.—(AP)—County and city police pushed an investigation today into the Friday night shooting of three white men from an ambush which precipitated a tense situation here for a time.

Meantime, evidence of tension had disappeared and State highway patrolmen who were rushed here by order of Governor Broughton and extra armed patrol and sailors and Marines were returned to their normal stations.

Andrew Jackson Sawyer, 19, was fatally wounded and two companions were less seriously hurt by a charge of buckshot from the darkness as Sawyer was about to enter his home.

Several Negroes were questioned by investigating officers who said they were told the three young men had exchanged words with a Negro in the street earlier in the night.

After the Nazis Retreated



This radiophoto from Moscow shows Russian women looking through the hard-packed snow for bodies of loved ones near Vertyaeni, on the outskirts of Stalinsk, after Russian troops had recaptured the town. The fleeing Germans left many pathetic scenes behind them as they ran before the Russian troops. (Central Press)

Reds Report More Gains Along Front

Germans Set Back at Both Ends of 1,000-Mile Long Battle Field; Allied Forces Score Against Axis in North Africa

(By The Associated Press) The new Russian offensive which smashed the Germans back from Mzodok and the Grozny oil fields was reported unchecked today, while the Red army announced further gains in the Kalmyk steppes, the middle Don and on the north central front 70 miles from the Latvian border.

This offensive set the Germans back at both ends of a battle field more than 1000 miles long.

On the north African front British tanks raided Axis positions northwest of Medjez-el-Bab, French forces stabbed closer to the Tunis-Tripoli highway and pushed deeper into Libya from the south, and allied air power came out winner again by a heavy margin in the battle for the skies.

At allied headquarters in north Africa it was announced that heavy attacks by German and Italian tank forces yesterday upon French positions near Foudouk were beaten off by a counter attack. The French were supported by American anti-tank units and planes.

It was the first mention of American ground forces such as the anti-tank units in this sector.

A spokesman said the axis tanks apparently were unloaded at Sousse, and there was nothing to indicate that their representative part of Marshal Rommel's forces withdrawn from Tripolitania.

Battlefront dispatches and the Moscow communique gave this account of the long east front.

Caucasus—The Russians pressed northwest and west on the heels of German troops retreating from Mzodok, recapturing "several more populated places." The Moscow war bulletin said "the enemy is suffering heavy losses."

Kalmyk steppes and lower Don—The Red army thrust deeper into new positions on a fan-shaped front from the Don, across the Stalinsk railway in the Kalmyk wastelands.

Middle Don—"Our troops continued their offensive and occupied a number of populated places," the communique announced.

Northwest of Moscow—The Russians thrust westward beyond recaptured Velikiye Luki, long an anchor of the maze line and reached a point 65 miles from the Latvian border.

In a striking display of growing allied air might in Tunisia, American and British planes shot down 28 planes and damaged 34 others over the week-end.

Most of the toll was taken by American bomber and fighter planes in a Saturday raid into the blaze of anti-aircraft fire and fighter defenses the axis has concentrated at Tunis.

The Flying Fortresses accounted for 17 of the swarm of German and Italian planes which tried in vain to save Tunis harbor and waterfront from another battering.

Not one of the Fortresses was lost. Altogether, allied losses were seven planes, two of them American. The allied planes attacked Sousse and the hard hot rail line between Sousse and Sfax, and intercepted an axis air attack on the Algerian port of Bone.

Stocks Resume Cotton Prices Forward Move Again Higher

New York, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Stocks generally resumed the forward move in today's market. Bonds and commodities pushed upward.

	Previous Close	Today's Open
January	19.34	19.34
March	19.42	19.46
May	19.32	19.34
July	19.26	19.31
October	19.20	19.26
December	19.21	19.27

Incoming Congress Faces Tough Jobs

Fertilizer Prices Higher

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Prices of mixed fertilizer, superphosphate, and potash were revised upward today to meet increased production and transportation costs.

In notifying Coltrane of the changes, the office of price administration said the upward adjustments represented an absolute minimum needed to obtain sufficient production of commercial fertilizer to enable farmers to increase their yields for war requirements.

Oil Crisis Not Altered

Ickes Says 'Hand to Mouth' Status to Continue for Months to Come in Eastern U. S.

Washington, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Petroleum Administrator Ickes today said the eastern seaboard's gasoline and fuel oil supplies were on a "hand to mouth basis" and were likely to continue in that status for months to come.

The first witness in an investigation of the petroleum shortage, the petroleum administrator said he had not felt justified in "holding out any rosary rationing of gasoline" and hope in the relaxation of every necessary rationing for only slight easing in fuel oil quotas.

"When all is said and done," he testified, "we are living on a hand to mouth basis and we are going to continue on a hand to mouth basis."

Ickes said the new pipeline from east Texas to Illinois, going into operation February 1, would help relieve the situation, but petroleum demands for the American forces in north Africa were growing.

The sea haul across the Atlantic from the east coast is shorter and safer than the route from Texas gulf ports, he said, and consequently the drain on eastern petroleum supplies is large.

This Ickes said he hoped a new 225-mile pipeline from Illinois to New Jersey could be completed by June 1.

This would deliver 350,000 barrels daily to the east coast, but he said that military demands were accelerating and could be expected to continue to climb. The war production board is considering another pipeline from Texas to the east coast, he said, observing that committee members need not be surprised if a third line later were suggested.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Much colder, hard freeze.

Unexpected Fight Looms In Raleigh

Early Arrivals for Legislature Hear That Joint Resolution Will Be Introduced Demanding Probe of Revenue Department

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Early legislative arrivals were few today on the eve of a Democratic caucus, but they brought tidings of an unexpected fight.

Reliable sources on Capitol Hill said a joint resolution would be introduced to cause an investigation of the entire setup of the Revenue department. That such a resolution would be opposed there was little doubt.

The Revenue department, swept by an embezzlement scandal a year ago, was placed in new hands July 1 when Edwin Gill, then porous commissioner, succeeded A. J. Maxwell, who in turn was placed at the head of the tax research office.

A determined drive toward early adjournment may itself be a barrier to such a resolution, especially with the assembly getting off to a last start.

The caucus tomorrow night is expected to be perfunctory, with John H. Kerr of Warrenton getting the nomination for speaker and J. Hampton Price of Rockingham county the nomination for president pro tem of the senate.

State Revenues Show Decline

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Income of the State revenue and gasoline division increased \$290,259.75 during December, compared with December, 1941, but the six-month period ending December 31 saw the revenue decrease \$1,392,544.22 under the same period in 1941.

The motor vehicles department, whose figures were compiled separately, saw its revenue decrease \$644,650.46 during last December, compared with the previous December, and its income for the six-month period ending December 31 decreased \$866,318.14 over the comparable period in 1941.

N. C. Potato Trial Opens

Corporations and Individuals on Trial on Charges of Violating Sherman Law

Wilson, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Selection of a jury from a special venire of 200 eastern North Carolina men was begun this morning as 14 corporations and 17 individuals went on trial in U. S. district court on charges of violating Sherman anti-trust law in connection with trading in potatoes.

Because of the large number of defendants, attorneys and potential jurors, the scene of the trial was shifted from the U. S. Court to the Wilson county superior court room.

The government charges price fixing and conspiracy to "fix prices and conspire to produce in North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland and for conspiracy to monopolize trade and commerce in potatoes produced in these states."

Whether the torpedo boats succeeded in turning back the Japanese attack was not stated by the Navy, but it was noted that only a torpedo hit on one vessel was reported as certain. It would have been possible for the others to continue their high speed run into the northwestern tip of Guadalcanal and get out again without having to undergo further attack.

Ohio Flood Hits Crest

Impending Cold Weather Promises Moderately Fast Run-off; Peak Passed at Portsmouth

Cincinnati, Jan. 4.—(AP)—A 150-mile long flood crest moved slowly down the Ohio river through the Cincinnati district today, covering bottoms with muddy water, stopping navigation, shutting down some war plants and chasing lowland residents to higher ground.

However, impending cold weather, plus low stages in all tributaries above Louisville—150 miles downstream—promised a moderately fast run-off, leaving little material damage behind, barring heavy rains.

The river, over flood stage for its 500 miles, had crest at Portsmouth, Ohio, manufacturing city of 100,000, yesterday and then started falling slowly. Portsmouth's peak was 61 feet under the top of it 150-mile flood wall, 60-foot stages paralleled today from 1242 to Cincinnati, a distance of 130 miles.

Jap Vessels In Solomons

Motor Torpedo Boats Attack Eight Destroyers Discovered Off Tip of Guadalcanal

Washington, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Japanese destroyers were discovered off the northwestern end of Guadalcanal island last Saturday, the Navy reported today and were attacked by motor torpedo boats which definitely scored a hit on one vessel and three possible hits on two more.

This apparently was the latest Japanese attempt to supply their troops on Guadalcanal since they dropped about 20 parachute cargoes on a beach December 27. The parachute supplies were bombed and strafed by American Army planes.

Whether the torpedo boats succeeded in turning back the Japanese attack was not stated by the Navy, but it was noted that only a torpedo hit on one vessel was reported as certain. It would have been possible for the others to continue their high speed run into the northwestern tip of Guadalcanal and get out again without having to undergo further attack.

Nine Persons Die Violently On Week-End

Charlotte, Jan. 1.—(AP)—At least nine persons died by violence in North Carolina during the week-end.

Four members of a family were fatally burned when a stove exploded at the home of Rufus Robbins, 61, near Polkville. Mrs. R. C. Robbins, 47, John Lee Head, 32, his wife, 22, and Roy Lee Head, four, died of burns.

Andrew Jackson Sawyer, 19, of Elizabeth City, was killed by a charge of buckshot and two companions were wounded as they were entering Sawyer's home near the edge of the city. Police Chief Walter Spence quoted the wounded men, Marvin and Randall Sawyer, as saying the three had had an argument with a Negro earlier in the night.

Henry Henderly, 67, a farmer of Anson county, was found dead beside a pasture fence near his home two miles north of Ansonville, and Sheriff S. M. Gaddy and Coroner H. H. Leavitt expressed belief he was killed by a mad hog. They said Henderly died of a deep gash in the leg and explained that a trail of blood

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