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The Daily News

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Weather

Fair and cool, becoming mild in afternoon today and Sunday. Few local fog patches in morning. Winds light to moderate.

Tides

(Pacific Standard Time)

Sunday, December 17, 1944

High	2:35	19.5 feet
	14:10	22.1 feet
Low	8:16	7.9 feet
	20:55	2.0 feet

Six Allied Armies Are Now In Germany

PROVINCIAL GOVT PROVINCIAL LIBRARY 31 Dec 47 130 Provincial Government

egency To e Formed Greece

d of Bitter Civil Struggle pears to be in Sight

HENS, Dec. 16 (P)—An end be in sight for the bitter struggle that has gripped ce for two weeks. Fighting nues but there are indica- that an agreement, includ- provision for creation of a ncy, has been reached be- n Greek and British leaders. is believed that the appoint- of a regency council of was first proposed by Pre- Papandreou. The proposed bers are reported to be bishop Damaskinos of Ath- understudy of foreign af- Philip Dracoumis and Nich- Plastiras, who led the Greek ution of 1922.

stern Front—

lovaks To id Russia

w Move eSen to End Stale- ate at Budapest

OSCOW, Dec. 16 (P)—In Cen- Europe, new Soviet successes e it appear likely that a ting force of 25,000 free choSlovak troops soon may brigaded into Russian ranks. is seen in the Moscow an- cement that Red Army rheads striking into western kia for the first time have ed a big rail junction, Ipoly- on the Budapest-Vienna way. At last word, the Ger- s were reeling back into kia along a 125 mile front e face of the increased tem- of the Russian drive.

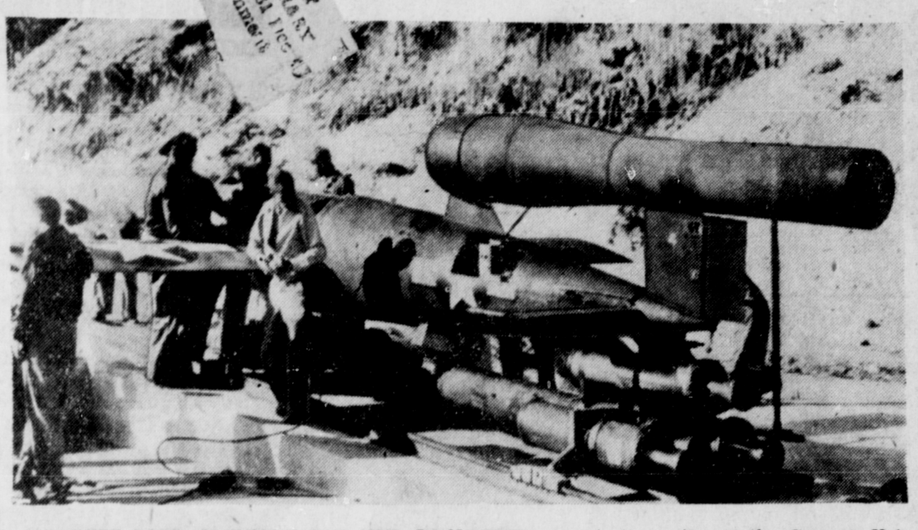
oscow pictures the fighting de western Slovakia as a de- mined effort to break the emate at Budapest, Hun- y's capital. Heavy rains and er German resistance have erfered with progress of the e Russian pincers strangling queen Danube city which is orted to be now one-third in s.

rdnance Contract iven in Vancouver

ANCOUVER, Dec. 16 (P)—Al- S. Gentles, managing direc- of the Dominion Bridge ord- nce plant in Burnaby, an- nces the award of a contract undisclosed value by the Bri- Admiralty. The work would in early in 1945.

BUILT TO STAY

Grand Coulee dam is 500 feet k at its base.



U.S. BUZZ-BOMB IS READY FOR USE—IF NEEDED—America's version of the German V-1 robot bomb is ready for use—if needed. Above is one of the first pictures taken of the launching at an undisclosed proving ground of the air technical service command. The bomb was reconstructed in 30 days using fragments of German bombs found in England, as models. Its launching ramp is an improvement over the Germans, the A.T.S.C. said. It can be built in four days whereas the Nazis required two weeks.

Tells of Far East Fighting—

FIGHT AGAINST JAPAN WILL NOT BE SHORT OR EASY; BATTLE OF SAIPAN REVIEWED BY OFFICER

Grim warning that the fight against Japan will not be short or easy was given to members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce last night by Capt. W. E. Watt, a Canadian officer, who served with an American army division which helped capture the Pacific island of Saipan in June.

Guest speaker at the regular monthly dinner meeting in Reid's cafe, Captain Watt told how, with nine other officers, he had been chosen to gain experience in jungle fighting with the American army.

"We were sent to San Francisco, where we embarked on a converted Liberator bomber for Hamaii. Near Honolulu we were attached to a battle- hardened American division which was refitting for action after fighting on Tarawa and the Marshalls. After six weeks intensive training we embarked on Liberty ships with escort for Saipan. We were in American kit and attached to different companies.

"During two air attacks on the troop convoy all the soldiers were kept below decks so they did not witness the actions. They were 20 days at sea.

At Saipan two Marine divisions took the beachheads and the army division went ashore in support. Capt. Watt remarked on the strong artillery and air support given to ground troops. Each battalion had naval, engineer and air force liaison officers. The guns of one destroyer were available to each battalion as well as fighters and dive bombers and engineer troops should the situation demand it."

A foretaste of the fighting still to come was given by Capt. Watt when he told of the casualties on Saipan.

"Between June 15 and July 7 there were 25,144 Japs killed on the island which was only 17 miles long and seven miles wide," he said. "We captured less than 500 prisoners. American casualties were about 15,000, of which 5,000 were fatalities. Only 10,000 Jap civilians were taken, large numbers of them having committed suicide."

Even after the island had been "secured" the Americans were being killed by snipers. In a final clean-up, the army division was spread across the width of the island and, with men five paces apart, swept along its length. It took two weeks for the division to clean up the island and during that time 900 Jap soldiers were flushed from caves and bushes, and killed.

The colonel and approximately half the officers of the battalion to which Capt. Watt was attached were casualties. The battalion was among the force which bore the brunt of the famous "banzai" charge in which 5,000 Japs broke through the American lines in a suicide charge which was the feature of the campaign.

Jap infiltration into the American lines at night was one of the horrors of the fighting.

Japanese Are Reckless Fighters

"The Japs did not care whether they came back or not, and they would do everything they could to make the Americans give their positions away so they could kill them with grenades or knives. We were under strict orders not to shoot at night. Everything that moved about was considered a Jap."

After Saipan, which is covered with only moderate vegetation, Capt. Watt and his comrades were flown back to Hawaii. There they were told that they would be sent to New Guinea for further jungle fighting.

"The fighting on New Guinea was mild compared with Saipan but diseasees were a major factor. They are discovering new diseases all the time. Bush typhus, when it was first encountered on New Guinea, killed 80 per cent of those who contracted it."

Capt. Watt spent some time in Australia, which he thought was a fine country, and after serving on New Guinea, came back to Canada where he became an instructor in jungle warfare. He is at present attached to a regiment in Prince Rupert.

To Suspend Deferments

Released R.C.A.F. Personnel to Replace Postponees In Industry

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (P)—Selective Service director Arthur MacNamara announced today that released Royal Canadian Air Force personnel unfit for army service will be employed in industry, replacing army men on postponement from military service to relieve the Canadian labor shortage.

Mr. MacNamara said, "all will agree that production of essential war supplies must not suffer. When lay-offs occur, men under postponements of military training are called up where their services can be spared at all by industry."

Plan to Decorate Downtown District

When Prince Rupert people come down town Monday morning and find the Christmas atmosphere of the town enhanced by the appearance of evergreen foliage on Third Avenue electric light standards they will be mistaken if they think it is the handiwork of some of Santa Claus' extra gnomes who had nothing better to do.

Actually, it will be the result of effort by a group of members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, who intend to devote Sunday to installing the display of greenery in the central downtown district. Under the direction of Sam Currie, who was appointed chairman of a committee at last night's meeting, a group of ten will sacrifice their languid Sabbath communion with bed and chesterfield and head off into the forest to harvest Christmas trees which will brighten the city.

FOG CAUSE OF CONCERN

Vancouver is Worried About Herring Fleet—No Relief Yet—Workers Stay Home

VANCOUVER, Dec. 16 (P)— As fog descended again over the city and harbor, authorities were tense because the herring fleet is due back from the grounds after a week's run.

Shipyards told their outside workers not to come back to work if the mist is too thick and it was estimated that the fog is costing them $10,000 a day.

Reich Is Made Real Battleground; Industrial Centres Under Heavy Fire

Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Cologne and Karlsruhe Are On List After Smashing of Siegfried Line

PARIS, Dec. 16 (CP) — On the western front, Seventh Army units forcing their way into the German Palatinate are engaging outpost bunkers and pillboxes of the Siegfried Line. Thirty-five miles ahead of the Seventh Army are the towns of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen—the latter incidentally, having been pounded last night by the Royal Air Force. With the Seventh Army's entry into the Reich, six Allied armies now are fighting on German soil, four American, one British and One Canadian.

The American First and Ninth Armies, first of four American armies to break into Germany, are drawn up along the Roer River fifteen miles beyond Aachen where the Siegfried Line was first broken in September.

The American Third Army, which crashed into the industrial Saarland last month, is hacking its way slowly forward in the first works of the Siegfried fortifications.

The Canadian First Army spearhead is thrust into Germany east of Nijmegen, Holland, but no action was reported today from that sector or elsewhere on the British and Canadian sectors. The Germans said that the Sevnth Army artillery was cratering Karlsruhe

New American Landing In Philippine Islands

Boldest Amphibious Stroke So Far in Pacific War Proves Success — Great Convoy Used

ORMOC IN THE PHILIPPINES, Dec. 16 (CP)—American troops have landed on southern Mindoro island — within 155 miles of Manila, the Japanese-held Philippine capital. The Americans went ashore on Mindoro yesterday from a huge 20-mile-long convoy in the boldest amphibious stroke of the Pacific war. The action was completed with comparative ease and little loss. But preparations are being made for violent enemy reaction.

A headquarters communique says more than three hundred Japanese planes were knocked out in raids which began the day before the Mindoro landings. Already, the Americans have established three strong bridgeheads on Mindoro.

Veterans Are Home

Five-Year Men Overseas Back In Canada On Thirty-Day Leave

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (P) — The first overseas veterans to return to Canada under the army's new rotation leave plan are back in the Dominion. Almost every section of the country's armed forces is represented in the contingent and the five-year veterans of front line and United Kingdom service are happy to be back in time for Christmas. Several hundred of those on leave will spend thirty days at home before returning to the line in France or Italy.

With the army came large numbers of R.C.A.F. personnel who have completed operational tours and there are also a few men of the Royal Canadian Navy.

About four hundred British war brides of Canadian soldiers, many of them with young children, were in the movement.

A number of Canadian war correspondents have also returned from the fighting fronts to spend Christmas with their families. These include Peter Stursberg of CBC.

Among the Canadian soldiers to return to the Dominion on leave are two recent Victoria Cross winners — Major David Currie, of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and Owen Sound, Ontario, and Major John Keefer Mahoney, of New Westminster, British Columbia.

Major Currie was greeted in Toronto by his wife, who was celebrating her birthday and thought her husband's return was the best present she had been given in many years. The Major greeted her with "Happy Birthday, darling."

Major Mahoney, who won the V.C. last May 24 in Italy, has already left by plane for Vancouver. He says that all he wants now is rest.

Bulletins

CIVILIAN PRODUCTION FROZEN

WASHINGTON—The United States War Production Board, in a drastic move to meet vital needs, has ordered that all civilian production be frozen indefinitely at present levels.

TIE UP STREET CARS

VANCOUVER—Complete tie-up of street railway facilities in Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster is threatened by the Street Railwaymen's Union starting January 6 unless the National War Labor Board hands down decisions in a recent wage dispute before January 4. Approximately 2600 men would be involved. Dispute centres around difference in pay between Esquimalt bus drivers and the company.

TERRACE ELECTION

TERRACE — Henry Oliver, lineman, was re-elected to the village council in the annual municipal election this week. He defeated Duncan J. Kerr, partner in the Little, Haughland and Kerr sawmill. The vote was 52 to 38 with five spoiled ballots.

V. C. WINNERS HOME

TORONTO — Canada's two newest Victoria Cross winners —Major David Currie of Moose Jaw and Major John Mahoney of New Westminster—arrived in Toronto by plane enroute to their homes to spend Christmas with their families.

NO TURKEY SHORTAGE

VANCOUVER—There will be no turkey shortage in southern British Columbia. Two and a half million pounds of turkeys, ducks and geese are arriving this week-end.

LONDON, (P)— Less than half the forgetful travellers who leave belongings in London Transport vehicles reclaim them.

Treasure Is Dug Up

Ralhp Wilby Had Buried Over $300,000 of Money and Securities in Back Yard—May Get Leniency

VANCOUVER, Dec. 16 (P)—More than $300,000 in cash, bonds and investment securities has been recovered here, most of it being dug up from a suburban back yard in Burnaby during the past week, it was disclosed when Foreign Exchange Control Board lawyers instituted formalities prior to removal of the funds to New York.

The cash and bonds were taken from the isolated yard by Samuel Halpern, New York attorney, under instructions from Ralph M. Wilby, recently convicted in New York on 17 grand larceny charges involving $275,984and facing sentence of 20 years.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police froze the funds after Halpern deposited them in a safety deposit box.

Wilby was extradited to New York last spring following a sensational series of court actions in Victoria and Vancouver when he fought extradition and claimed that he was kidnapped by United States detectives and taken from Victoria to Nanaimo.

In New York Wilby pleaded guilty to larceny. He was accused of taking money by fraudulent means from a United States department store firm.

The Province said in a news page story that New York authorities are understood to have agreed to a deal under which Ralph Wilby will be given concessions for returning more than $300,000 of the money and securities to the large United States chain department store firm.

In addition to the grand larceny charges, on which he was arrested in Victoria last spring and extradited to the United States following the series of court actions, Wilby was also the central figure in an alleged kidnapping and flight from Victoria to Nanaimo.

The Province said the prison terms would likely be reduced from six to a possible 20 years' imprisonment to tow years and Wilby would get $10,500 to rehabilitate himself and free tickets to Africa for himself and his wife. Nine months of a two-year term are now almost passed since the sentence would date from the time of arrest in Victoria last March.

Important By-Election

Fate of General McNaughton In Grey North Will be Watched With Interest—Bracken May Run

OWEN OUND, Ont., Dec. 16 (P)—The most important by-election in Canada since Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen was defeated in Yorksmouth by J. W. Nosworthy of the C.C.F. in 1941, is slowly taking shape. The by-election is set for February 5 in Ontario's Grey North constituency and it will see Defence Minister McNaughton contesting the seat with a Progressive Conservative candidate and possibly a representative of the C.C.F.

General McNaughton arrived in Owen Sound yesterday to discuss election campaign problems with local Liberal officials. He will return to Ottawa tonight.

Meanwhile, the Progressive Conservative nominee, Mayor Garfield Case of Owen Sound, says that he has heard rumors that the leader of his party, John Bracken, might ask him to stand down so that Mr. Bracken could run against General McNaughton. Mr. Case said he thought these reports were "merely rumors." He added that he had heard nothing along that line from party headquarters and intended to continue his organizational plans. Some months ago it was announced that Bracken might run in the riding of Neepawa, Manitoba, in the province he led as premier for 20 years.

Mayor Case said last night that he had also heard that the C.C.F. party is going to leave the field to the old line parties "to battle it out." There has been no comment from C.C.F. headquarters.

WAR NEWS

Invasion of Germany

PARIS—The American Seventh Army poured more troops into ias four-pronged invasion of Germany today, seizing the French border town of Leuterbourg, only two miles from the Rhine, and beating against the first pillboxes of the Siegfried Line in Bavaria. German artillery reacted violently.

Japs Collopse in North Burma

NEW DELHI—The last Japanese resistance in north central Burma before the new Chinese and Allied drive has collapsed.

Battle of Italy

ROME—Canadian forces of the Eighth Army have enlarged their Naviglio River bridgehead to three thousand yards while British and Polish forces have renewed their attacks southwest of Fanza, Allied headquarters announced today.

ADVANCE BY CANADIANS

Have Established Bridgehead Across Canal in Italy and Are Holding It

ROME, Dec. 16 (P)—Canadians of the British Eighth Army have established a bridgehead west of the steeply-banked Naviglio Canal northeast of Bagnacavallo and are holding it against strong opposition, headquarters announced yesterday. The advance was made by the same forces who smashed across the Lamone River west of Ravenna last Sunday through still German resistance.

Civic Centre Bylaw In Victoria Passed

VANCOUVER, Dec. 16 (P)—Numerous plebiscites and referenda were passed on by the citizens of British Columbia cities and villages when they went to the polls on Thursday to choose civic officials not named by acclamation in the nominations on Monday. In Victoria a $150,000 civic centre bylaw was approved.

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