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YANKS CUT INTO GERMAN FLANK

U.S. Horse Racing Banned; Santa Anita Meeting Off

Man Power Regulations Given Teeth

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (AP)—In its most drastic man power moves of the war, the government today banned horse and dog racing and served notice that materials, fuel and transportation will be denied businesses which defy man power regulations.

The actions capped a week of intensified endeavor to speed up the whole American war effort to the greater pace which the German counteroffensive has shown will be necessary for victory.

Earlier Actions

In earlier moves the government had:

1—Increased the draft rate for January and February from 60,000 to 80,000.

2—Raised its sights on war production to plan on the basis that heavy fighting may continue in Europe for a year or more.

3—Frozen production of civilian goods at current levels indefinitely.

4—Sharply cut the allotment of automobile tires for civilian use.

Today's actions were ordered directly by James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion. It was announced, however, that his request that all racing tracks close by Jan. 3 was issued with President Roosevelt's approval.

Veiled Warning

Byrnes' announcement was couched in the language of an appeal to the sporting spirit of track operators, but he left no doubt that the crackdown is definite by adding:

"I am confident that the management of these tracks can be depended upon to take prompt action without the necessity of recourse to other measures."

Existing war conditions demand the man power and transportation now being used for racing meets, Byrnes said. The horse racing sport has grown to gigantic wartime proportions.

In 17 States, $1,126,308,845 was bet during the 1944 season, of which $55,971,232.87 went for taxes. New York's wagering topped the list at $410,230,402 in 181 racing days.

LaGuardia Applauds

New York City's Mayor, F. H. LaGuardia, outspoken critic of gambling, was one of the first to applaud Byrnes' action, exclaiming, "A Daniel come to judgment."

"I'm for Jimmy for President," he said.

In racing circles, Col. Matt Winn, head of Churchill Downs, expressed the general sentiment, saying, "There is only one thing to do and that's to obey the boss . . . Things must be pretty serious for the government to take such action and we should follow every instruction."

Florida was hit hardest by Byrnes' unexpected double-barreled decision. Florida's Gulfstream track closed a 20-day meeting today, Tropical Park

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'PRO' ATHLETES' DRAFT FITNESS TO BE CHECKED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (AP)—War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes tonight instructed selective service to review the qualifications for military service of men engaged in professional athletics.

In a letter to Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey, Byrnes said it is difficult for him and for the public to understand how men can be physically unfit for military service and "yet be able to compete with the greatest athletes of the nation in games demanding physical fitness."

In view of the man power shortage, Byrnes added, he thinks serious consideration should be given to "recalling these men into the armed services or, where they have not heretofore been inducted, calling them for another physical examination."

Hershey advised Byrnes that he was directing local boards to review the classifications of men known to be engaged in professional athletics.

Showers Due for City Over Yule Holiday

Bible Scenes on Page 4, Part 1

A white Christmas was promised Southern California mountain dwellers last night as the Weather Bureau forecast occasional showers in Los Angeles today and tomorrow.

Snow will fall above 6000 feet but temperature will change little elsewhere, the bureau predicted. Temperature in Los Angeles yesterday ranged from 52 to 60.

Reports of rain came in yesterday from widely scattered areas, ranging from a trace at Compton to .53 of an inch at Santa Maria and .73 at Lompoc.

Among suburban and outlying districts reporting rain were South Gate, .11; Bell and Maywood, .09; Hawthorne, Huntington Park and Redlands, .04; Inglewood, .03, and Oceanside, .01.

President on Air Today at 2:15 p.m.

President Roosevelt will make his annual Christmas address to the nation today from 2:15-2:30 p.m. It will be heard over Stations KMPC, KNX, KFI, KHJ and KECA.

La Plata Political Prisoners Released

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 23. (U.P.) More than 200 political prisoners were released today on government orders. They had been jailed in La Plata, capital of Buenos Aires Province, for more than two months.

55-Day Turf Season Here Blacked Out

BY PAUL LOWRY

Like the re-run of a three-year-old movie reel, Santa Anita last night called off its 55-day winter meeting scheduled to open Dec. 30.

The action was taken in compliance with a request made earlier in the day by James F. Byrnes, War Mobilization Director.

Byrnes urged that race plants in operation bring their meetings to a close by Jan. 3 and that all tracks refrain from resuming until "war conditions permit."

Board Petitioned

Directors of the Los Angeles Turf Club, operators of Santa Anita, interpreted this to mean that their plant should not open this winter—even for three days—and consequently petitioned the California Horse Racing Board to rescind the permit previously granted to open next Saturday.

There were reports earlier in the day that the track, mindful of its responsibility, might endeavor to open early and run a few days in order to bring a measure of financial relief to stranded horsemen.

These ended last night when the Racing Board, its absent members legally queried by wire and their vote registered by the secretary of the board, voted to rescind Santa Anita's permit.

Similar Blackout

It was three years ago that a similar blackout at the big Arcadia plant was effected when Gen. John L. DeWitt, commanding the western area, banned all horse racing and the gathering of crowds above 10,000 persons.

This affected not only Santa Anita horse racing but the Rose Bowl game, which was transferred to Durham, N.C., that year.

More than a week ago there were reports that Santa Anita would not open, but when the wage celling was granted the other day it looked as if the

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W.P.B. DECREES THAT BATH TOWELS BE MADE SHORTER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (AP)—Bath towels will be shorter to make the supply longer.

The War Production Board today ordered manufacturers to hold bath-towel lengths to 40 inches and guest towels to 26 inches after Jan. 22.

W.P.B. estimated this would stretch toweling supplies by 1,300,000 towels a month.

These additional limitations were imposed on the Turkish or terry-woven towels affected: They may not weigh more than 5.45 pounds a dozen in the 20x40-inch size; may not have a hem more than ¾ of an inch wide, and may not contain more than 32 picks per inch on the loom.

Bodies of 10 Found at Air Crash Scene

Muroc Field Plane Strikes and Explodes on Mt. Gleason Side

Army rescue crews last night were removing the bodies of 10 flyers who perished when a B-24 Liberator bomber on a training mission from the Muroc Army Airfield crashed and exploded Friday afternoon in mountainous terrain 1000 yards below Mt. Gleason, about 23 miles from Montrose.

Although bodies of some of the men had been removed from the crash scene last night, identification had not been completed and the removal of others will be resumed today. Pending identification of the dead, Army officials said all men aboard the ship would be listed officially as "missing" and the next of kin have been notified to this effect.

Southlanders Aboard

Two men from the Los Angeles area, the copilot and navigator, were on the ship.

They were 2nd Lt. Robert H. Asplund, 20, copilot, whose father, Henry T. Asplund, lives at 5120 Mt. Helena Ave., and Flight Officer Donald M. Pipkin, 21, whose father is Glenwood R. Pipkin of 8055 California Ave., South Gate.

Others on the ship were:

2nd Lt. Barrett D. Corneille, 21, the pilot, of Oglesby, Ill., whose wife Dorothy lives at 1966 N. Vermont Ave.

Flight Officer Alan P. Dondero, 22, Medford Mass., bombardier.

Cpl. Eugene J. Ferrin, 25, Columbus, O., engineer, whose wife June lives at Muroc.

Cpl. Reuben F. Welk, 19, Bismarck, N.D., assistant engineer.

Cpl. Elliot R. French, 19, Tucson, Ariz., radio operator.

Cpl. Robert E. Jacoby, 19, Mansfield, O., assistant radio operator.

Cpl. Peter P. Boborich, 22, Chester, W.Va., armorer-gunner.

Cpl. Jerry K. Stillinger, 18, Columbus, Neb., whose mother, Mrs. Lorene Stillinger, is visiting his sister, Mrs. Thomas Barnes, of 511 S. Serrano Ave.

Soldiers Rush to Aid

Jeeploads of soldiers were rushed to the scene late yesterday afternoon to assist in the removal operations. The scene of the crash is about 13 miles by winding roads from County Detention Camp No. 5 where inmates saw the plane go over a ridge and heard an explosion about 4:50 p.m. Friday.

Maj. M. R. Blacker, air sur-

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Glen Miller Reported on Missing List

Maj. Glen Miller, peacetime dance-band leader, is reported missing in action in France, his wife last night telephoned her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Burger of Fish Canyon Road, Duarte, where the Millers have a ranch.

In England for some time directing several groups of musicians entertaining the armed forces, Maj. Miller went to France about two weeks ago, Mrs. Miller said.

Mrs. Miller called from Tenafly, N.J., where she had gone to accompany a daughter, recently adopted by the Millers, back to the Coast.

Honduran Rebels in New 'Invasion'

SAN JOSE (Costa Rica) Dec. 23. (AP)—Honduran revolutionists again attempting an overthrow of the President Carias government have began a new "invasion" of their country, this time from Guatemala, according to reports published in Diario de Costarica.

Apparently the invading rebels plan to establish contact with small guerrilla bands which have been operating inside Honduras since Oct. 15.

UNRATIONED FOODS TO GO BACK ON LIST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (AP)—Virtually all point-free meats and canned vegetables will be back on the ration list by the start of the new year, it was learned tonight.

The O.P.A., reliable sources said, is prepared to announce the drastic move next Wednesday.

The decision is understood to affect practically all cuts of beef, veal, lamb and pork as well as all major canned vegetables. The affected foods have been ration-free since last May.

Because of continuing need for freezer space in warehouses for military commodities, frozen fruits and vegetables probably will stay point-free. Jams, jellies and preserves are not expected to be returned to the list.

Restoration of points to the wide variety of meat cuts and vegetables will be a major victory for the O.P.A. over the War Food Administration. One consideration which apparently tipped the scale in O.P.A.'s favor is the prospect that the war in Europe may be drawn out as a result of the German counteroffensive. This would make it necessary to ship more food to the armed forces than first calculated.

Another factor was said to be W.F.A.'s latest estimate that the spring pig crop will be 2 per cent under last year's.

'Gas' for Front Fed Into French Black Market

PARIS, Dec. 23. (AP) — Thousands of gallons of American gasoline intended for the Allied war machines at the front are being hijacked daily and fed into the French black market.

Cigarettes and post exchange supplies as well have been stolen in carload lots—mostly by American soldiers—and sold at fantastic prices. Hundreds have been arrested.

A tightening of the French government's attitude toward the French black market agents involved has been promised. At least 5000 unauthorized automobiles have been taken from civilians who were unable to disclose the source of their gasoline.

Frenchman Gets Off

Two American enlisted men were sentenced to life imprisonment by a general court in November for selling government property to black market agents. Implicated in the same offense was a French civilian. Tried before a French civil court, the Frenchman was let off with a fine of 1000 francs ($26).

American officials immediately called this to the attention of the French government and in future all civilians charged with similar offenses will face a French military tribunal.

Officers say the losses have not affected the great battle now raging in Belgium and Luxembourg one way or another. Maj. Gen. Henry Benton Sayler, chief ordnance officer in the European theater of operations, reported the thefts had no bearing on the current military situation.

At 8 a.m. today in just one detention barracks in Paris 1308 Americans were under arrest and more than half of these are charged with misappropriation of government property.

G.I.'s Flown From War Front to Jerusalem for Christmas

BY REIMAN MORIN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (AP)—American soldiers, who only days ago were slogging through the bloody turmoil of war on the western front, arrived in Jerusalem today to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

They came by airplane directly from the scenes of the world's greatest conflict to the site of history's greatest miracle. Yesterday they heard the guns of war and the shrieks of the wounded and dying; tomorrow, they will hear hymns of rejoicing. They have seen death; they come now to see the birthplace of the One who promised eternal life.

There will not be as many of them for this sixth war Christmas as during the others.

Army authorities and the Red Cross said between 500 and 600 are expected as against over 1000 normally.

Planes are arriving here not only from the battlefields of France and Italy but also from North Africa, the Mideast and the bleak shores of the Persian Gulf, but only a few can come. The war is nearer its climax now.

U.S. Planes Pound Field Near Manila

Challenging Jap Aircraft Shot Down in Heaviest Assault

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24. (AP) — Superfortresses smashed today at the Japheld airbase of Iwo Jima, 750 miles northwest of Saipan. The attack was carried out by B-29's of Brig. Gen. H. S. Hansell's 21st Bomber Command based on Saipan.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, LEYTE (Philippines) Dec. 24 (Sunday) (U.P.)—U.S. warplanes blasted Clark Field near Manila Thursday in apparently the heaviest assault on that area by planes of the Far Eastern Air Forces, it was announced today.

A majority of 100 Japanese planes caught on the ground were destroyed or damaged. Eight of nine Japanese planes which rose to challenge the Americans were shot down.

The Manila area has been attacked steadily by American carrier-borne planes since September but Thursday's attack appeared to be the heaviest staged by land-based planes. The last carrier strikes were Dec. 13, 14 and 15 during which 102 Japanese ships were destroyed or damaged and 280 planes destroyed and 192 damaged in raids on Manila and other parts of Luzon.

Mindoro Nearest Base

Clark Field is 46 miles northwest of Manila. The nearest known American air bases are on Mindoro Island, 188 miles south of Clark Field, and at Leyte, 354 miles southeast of Clark Field.

The daily Allied war bulletin said that there was no ground activity on Mindoro but that 20 Japanese planes were destroyed and two probably destroyed over that island on Wednesday.

On Leyte, the communique said that Japanese remnants in the Ormoc corridor and east of it had been completely destroyed and that 3788 Japanese dead were counted on Thursday. Nine prisoners were taken.

Advance on Post

The American 77th Division, advancing west from the corridor, was reported within 11 miles of the enemy's only escape port of Palompon, which was under steady fire from long-range artillery.

Enemy resistance was disorganized and only a fraction of the army which once numbered approximately 50,000 men could hope to escape Leyte in small boats.

16,661 Japs Killed

In the past week of fighting the Americans have killed 16,661 Japanese and dispatches said that those who escaped into the hills of Northwestern Leyte were being hunted down by fierce Filipino guerrillas.

A United Press dispatch said that the Filipinos were offering a serious menace to the Japanese on Leyte as well as other islands.

Mighty Air Blows Dealt Reich Bases and Troops as Nazis Lose 178 Planes

PARIS, Dec. 24 (Sunday.) (AP)—American relief columns, swinging up through Luxembourg and Southeastern Belgium in their first effective counteraction, have bitten into the southern flank of the German penetration which now has reached Libramont, only 23 miles northeast of historic Sedan, Allied headquarters disclosed last night.

With clearing skies the world's mightiest air force also swung into action with 4500 sorties against the German invasion columns, cutting destructive swaths through their ranks and hammering their rear bases.

Allied headquarters, lifting a 48-hour time lag on front news, gave this report of the situation:

American troops still hold Libramont, a five-way road junction 16 miles from the northeastern French frontier.

Striking north of the city of Luxembourg and also north of Arlon, 13 miles northwest of Luxembourg, American troops have dented the German southern flank.

A front dispatch covering this action through Friday morning said the Luxembourg counteraction was sprung north of Mersch, eight miles above Luxembourg City. Although this dispatch was censored it contained these perhaps significant words:

"It is obvious that in the eight days since the Germans threw the dice in what probably is their last big gamble the Americans have had time to reform their forces."

Encouraging news also came from the northern flank where Associated Press Correspondent Wes Gallagher said that Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt had been forced to pull back one of his crack S.S. (Elite) divisions because it was so badly mauled by hard-fighting doughboys in the Malmedy sector.

Hitler's Youths Killed

The Germans left more than 1000 dead in the snows below Malmedy, Gallagher said, and a hard freeze setting in had the Yanks grouped around small bonfires across the battle-riddled fields and crossroads. Hundreds of Hitler's youthful troops are snow-covered lumps, dead in the no-man's land between the lines in that area, the dispatch said.

The Americans, however, have lost Stavelot, five miles southeast of Malmedy, headquarters disclosed, and also confirmed the German announcement that St. Vith, 12 miles southeast of Stavelot, had been taken by the Germans.

Masses of German armor were reported pushing the Americans back slowly from St. Vith toward Vielsalm, nine miles to the west and seven miles south of Stavelot. S.H.A.E.F. described this action, where the Americans were trying to prevent a link-up of major German columns, as one of the epic stands of the war. The Americans slugged it out toe to toe, and are still fighting with great courage, but are slowly being pressed back by superior forces.

Try to Break Through

In the Malmedy sector the Germans still were trying to gather enough strength to break through and widen their penetration, headquarters said.

In their western penetration one German spearhead is 10 miles advance has reached Marche, 22 miles north of Libramont, and 23 miles southeast of Namur.

A front dispatch said that by Friday morning the Germans also had cut a highway northeast of Hotton, five miles north-east of Marche and 23 miles south of Liege. Heavy fighting was reported between Hotton and Soy, three miles to the northeast.

Headquarters said there was

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Americans Put to Death in Nazi Torture Camps

MOSCOW, Dec. 23. (AP)—A Soviet extraordinary state commission investigating war crimes reported today that 700,000 persons, including an undetermined number of citizens of the United States and Britain, had been killed by the Germans in three camps in Lwow Province, Poland.

The report did not list the names of the Americans and Britons, nor did it give any further details concerning them. The victims, of all nationalities, were said to include both civilians and prisoners of war.

Writers, artists and musicians were made to wash the stairways of one seven-story building with their tongues, and then were compelled to pick up garbage with their lips, the report said.

Children Shot in Air

In another incident, the report related, the commander of one of the camps, the Yanov camp, threw two 4-year-old children into the air and shot them to amuse his own 9-year-old daughter.

The committee said it was also established that at the three camps—Yanov, Sitadel and Lisenitz—the Gestapo devised the "human icicle" treatment, which consisted of putting bound prisoners into barrels of water and then placing the barrels outside in below-zero temperatures, with guards standing over them until they became frozen in ice.

Nazi Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler was said to have participated directly in the crimes,

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Hitler War Talk Rumored

Chicago Daily News Foreign Service

BERN, Dec. 23.—Hitler is to issue a special communique from his secret headquarters on the progress of the German offensive in the west, Berliners have been told, according to reports in the Swiss press.

There is a widespread rumor in the German capital, presumably fostered by officialdom, that the communique, if it comes, might be embodied in a Christmas message by Der Fuehrer whose health lately has been reported as "better."

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Yank Downs Five Nazi Planes in Day

LONDON, Dec. 23. (AP)—Col. Dave Schilling, who commands an ace fighter group in Europe, became a leading ace himself today by getting five German planes, making his total bagged 34½—of which 24½ were in the air and 10 on the ground.

The 26-year-old Traverse City (Mich.) pilot led his group into one of the fiercest dogfights of the war when they tangled with 250 German Messerschmitts and Focke-Wulfs and shot down 35 of them.

THE WORLD'S WAR FRONTS

GERMANY—American relief troops cut into southern flank of Nazi column attacking in Belgium; Germans within 23 miles of historic Sedan. Page 1.

PHILIPPINES—American airplanes heavily attack Manila, destroying more than 100 enemy planes found on ground. Page 1.

RUSSIA—Reds reach Ipoly River on 20-mile stretch from Danube and stand within 100 miles of Vienna. Page 2.

ITALY—Canadians establish six-mile front along Senio River northeast of Faenza. Page 2.

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TIMES THIS WEEK MAGAZINE. Christmas Message to the Troops—1944; Modern Noah; The Lost Santa Claus; Two Stripes and a Star; Wally's Wagon; "Quiz Em;" It Hit the Spot

REMEMBER THIS

Cranks delight in finding a fresh difficulty as soon as one is overcome.