

REDS HOLD KEY TO ALLIED UNITY

Eden's Mission to Moscow May Outrank Churchill's Visit to U. S.

By EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER
Correspondent, 1941, for The Indianapolis Times and The Chicago Daily News, Inc.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill will have no great difficulty in establishing their part of an Allied Supreme Council and even an Allied General Staff, into which the British dominions, Holland and China will doubtless be drawn.

The difficulty is Russia, and for this reason Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's visit to Moscow may be more important even than Mr. Churchill's visit to this country.

For the war cannot be won on the sea. It must be won on land.

Today land warfare on our side is waged by Russia which alone seems in a position to exert such constant pressure upon the German front as to limit, if not prevent, German offensives elsewhere.

Need Mutual Confidence

Russia and China are the great reserves of manpower near the actual battlefields, as the British and Chinese soldiers are to defend Burma, while without the Soviets a supreme council would be a lame thing, incapable of synchronization of war effort believed essential to victory.

Will the Bolsheviks in Moscow accept membership in such a council, with the full exchange of information that such a position implies? Well, in the words of one Russian official, "it all depends upon the degree of confidence that can be established."

The Russians still distrust Britain and the United States to some extent. The Russians have not ceased to wonder why the British and Americans did not ask for military solidarity in the Far East before Japan struck at Pearl Harbor. Then, these same Russians admit, they were afraid that Japan would strike first at Vladivostok, as Hitler was pressing them to strike.

Want Secrets Kept

Another point that bothers the Soviet leaders is what they call the incurable garrulosity of the democracies. Russia, it is noted, managed so well to keep its own counsels that in time of peace it successfully held from the entire world the full extent of its military preparation.

During the recent fighting, the Soviet baffled the German intelligence service and beat the German armies by collecting behind the lines and suddenly launching a mass of manpower of not less than 20 divisions. The democracies are, however, so "garrulous" that even a matter of strict secrecy, like the trip of Winston Churchill to this country, was known to many in both countries, including "even" newspapermen.

The Moscow leaders know they can keep secret matters secret and fear that the democracies cannot.

NEEDY IN WARREN TO GET BASKETS

Ten committees have been named from among members of the Warren Club, the Sunshine Society and the Hi-Y Club to prepare Christmas baskets for needy Warren Township families.

Co-chairmen of the committees are Genevieve Kreiger and Bernie Berry. Eileen Pollard and Dick Gale, Marilyn Gleason and Richard Rodebeck, Patricia Rodebeck and Don Ping, Mary Wohnen and Harold White, Bertha Dickinson and Clifford Toombs, Dorothy Peters and Marvin Rodebeck, Irma Piel and Alan Gaudell, Coila Snider and Charles Martin, and Dawn Steele and Albert Mathias.

Seventh grade girl members of the Girl Scouts dressed dolls to be included in the baskets.

GET CHICAGO DEGREES

Three Indiana residents have been given degrees at the University of Chicago's 20th convocation. Mrs. Alice Reynolds Smith, 2030 N. Delaware St., was awarded a master's degree; James F. Failey, 57 E. 57th St., a bachelor's degree, and Milton F. Levey, 2015 N. Meridian St., doctor of medicine.

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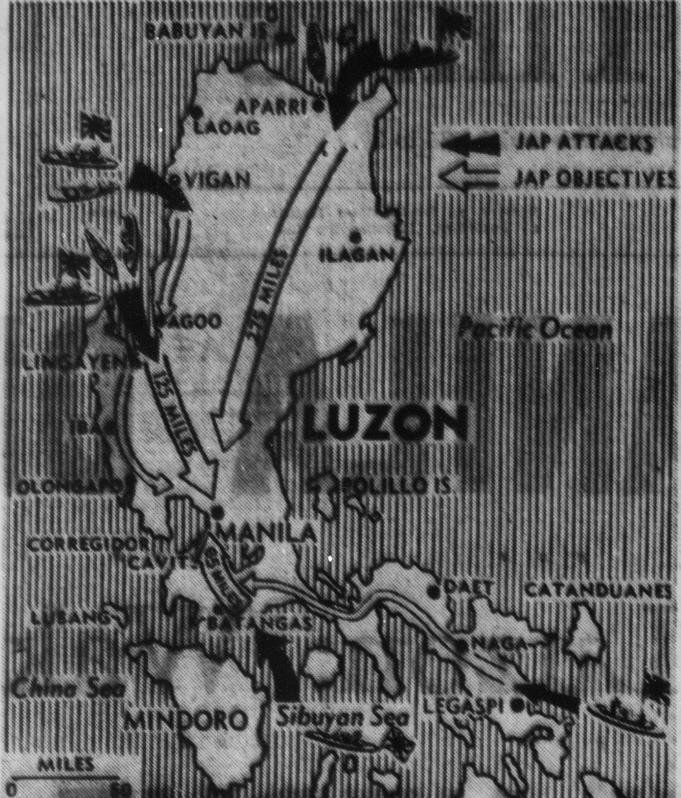
10:30 P. M.

Christmas Eve,
Wednesday, Dec. 24th

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Try Pincers on Manila



This map shows the prongs of Japanese thrusts in an all-out drive underway on Luzon Island today. A surprise landing today at Batangas, due south of Manila, indicated that the Japanese were attempting major drives upon the island capital from three points in a pincer operation. Earlier, an estimated 40 transports had attempted to land probably 40,000

REDS HIT HARD IN NORTH AREA

Hurting Forces at Nazis in Drive to End Siege of Leningrad.

By HENRY SHAPIRO
United Press Staff Correspondent

MOSCOW, Dec. 24.—The Red Army continues an uninterrupted advance on the Leningrad, Moscow and southwestern fronts, overcoming fierce rear guard resistance and breaking up an orderly German retreat, dispatches reported today.

Forces under Gen. K. A. Meretskov smashed German defenses along the Volkov River and pressed northward, threatening to entrap enemy troops holding the southern approaches of Leningrad, besieged for months.

Another force, bolstered by ski detachments, pressed southwestward, aiming to flank Novgorod, while a southern army pushed on from the area around Lake Inmen.

The most notable success on the Moscow front was scored in the Tula sector where the Russians recaptured Gorbatchevo, junction of four railroads linking Moscow and Khar'kov and Saratov and Smolensk.

Desperate German resistance and fierce counter-attacks failed to halt the Red Army advance along the Moscow defense arc.

Germany has rushed reserves—including Austrians, Czechs, Hungarians and Finns—for renewed counter-attacks on the Moshaisk salient of the Moscow front.

Two Men

They Smiled and One Of Them Climbed Upon a Chair.

(Continued from Page One)

up the furrows of care and worry in a face that has, so often in these latter days, looked squarely into a world full of trouble.

YOU COULD feel the quickening pulse of free peoples in the very atmosphere of that room.

Because, more than all else, of the simplicity of the occasion—or the comfortable laughter from men unafraid.

The planes feigned a dog fight, and the people thronged to the streets, thinking the planes were maneuvering. At this point the planes swept down and machine-gunned the streets.

The planes dropped several incendiary and demolition bombs which set fire to and destroyed half the town proper, including the entire commercial district.

From 50 to 100 citizens were killed outright and hundreds were wounded.

A dispatch to the newspaper detailed that Japanese planes machine-gunned civilians in the town of Portau and then dropped bombs which burned the business district and killed and wounded the townspeople.

SANTA'S FIRST STOP IN U. S. 'ON ALERT'

(Continued from Page One)

Penasse, Minn., Dec. 24 (U. P.)—The half-frozen children of this north country village prepared today to make the most of their geographic advantage in the cold millions of other small boys and girls in the United States.

Because Penasse is the northernmost point in the nation, it is traditionally the first U. S. stop for Santa Claus when his sleigh glides down from the north on Christmas Eve.

Juvenile preparations consisted primarily of washing behind the ears, offering to run errands, and generally behaving in a manner suitable only to the day before Christmas.

And there is a Santa Claus who always appears at this northern gateway to the U. S. located in the northwest angle miles above the 49th parallel which forms the boundary between the United States and Canada. This Santa bears a strong resemblance to the proprietor of Penasse's general store.

Penasse's Santa never has missed—
in depression or prosperity, war or peace. And once when there was no snow he made it anyway.

JAPS BEGIN ATROCITY STORIES AGAINST U. S.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24 (U. P.)—The Tokyo radio revealed today that a campaign to whip the Japanese people into frenzied hatred of the United States is under way.

Hill was cheerful, if annoyed, with the Japanese. Picking up several pieces of shrapnel, he tossed them toward me and said:

"I was that close but they missed me."

Philippines anger mounted at additional reports of a Japanese propaganda technique used by the Japanese to discredit and peddle stories of their own.

Numerous civilians were killed, largely Filipino women and children from the Manila area.

A witness to a Japanese attack on

Misplaced Bumps Spoil Boys' 'Perfect Crime'

Three drugstore delivery boys were in the custody of Police Juvenile Aid Authorities today. Theirs was not the perfect crime.

At Headquarters yesterday, the boys, from 14 to 15 years old, told Detective Sgt. Elbert Romeril how they had been waylaid and slugged with whisky bottles by bandits who escaped with \$10 belonging to two drug stores.

They even showed the bumps on their heads to prove it. Detective had taken turns bumping each other on the head with a length of iron pipe.

Then, to make it look "real," they had thumped their felt hats with bottles on the sidewalk. All for \$16. It was not, Detective Romeril reflected, quite the perfect crime.

LAMP BURNS 37 YEARS

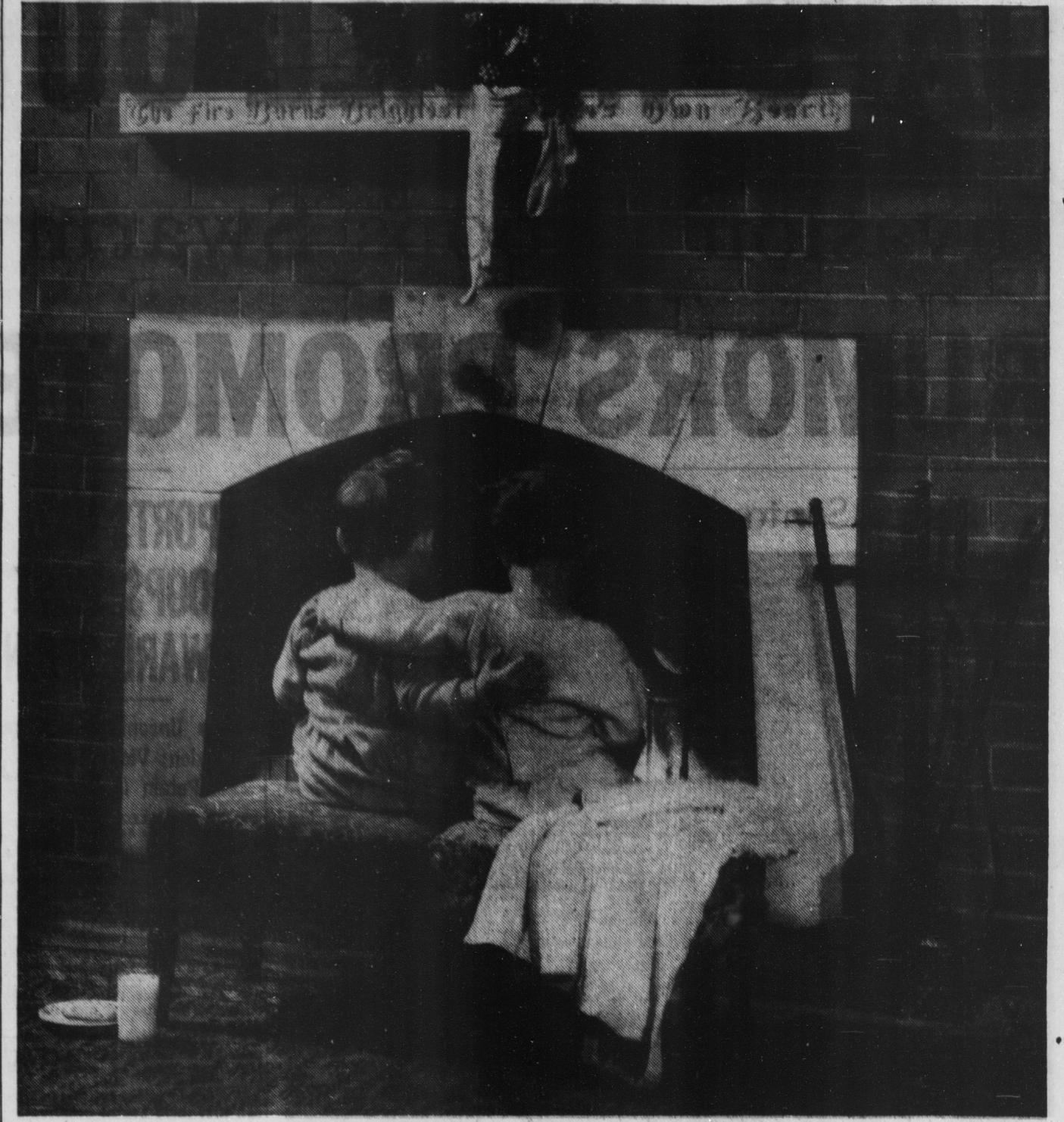
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah U. P.)—An old time carbon filament lamp, purchased in 1904, has been burning almost continuously at a Salt Lake City railroad switch board.

SMALLEST CHURCH ASKS RECOGNITION

ST. MARY'S, Pa. (U. P.)—Residents of this community are proud of Decker Chapel, the "smallest church in the United States," and are sponsoring a campaign to call attention to the tiny house of worship.

The little church, which accommodates 30 persons, is always open to visitors, and last year 3800 people from 40 states came to see the chapel.

The structure was built in 1886 by Michael Decker as a thank offering for his recovery from an injury.



The Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house.

I. Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

II. While visions of sugar plum danced in their heads;

And Mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,

Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there rose such a clatter,

III. I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,

IV. Gave a luster of midday to objects below;

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,

But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,

V. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,

And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.

But no more.

There was a man, now, who sat

beside him.

And millions and millions of others in great cities and small towns and on the farms, ready

to stand beside him in a common cause, and work for it and fight for it.

He finished, and smiled again.

operations depend to a great extent on how many men and planes he has been able to spare from Russia, where he is on the defensive along a vast front. The Russian campaign has been by no means stabilized for the winter.

In view of the German retreat and the fury of the Russian assault, it seems unlikely that Hitler can spare much from the East if he is to establish firm winter lines to the rear of his present positions.

With the French held in his hands, however, Hitler could cause the British serious trouble in the western and central Mediterranean.

French submarines could be used to disrupt British sea communications. Surface vessels, working with planes, could improve Axis communications with Libya.

At present, the British estimate that 60 per cent of Axis supply ships and transports never reach Africa.

Hitler might even try to strike a blow at British naval strength in the central Mediterranean by attempting a sea and air attack on Malta, the essential British island base lying between Sicily and Libya.

This is suggested by London observers, might be accompanied by waves of parachutists from Sicily, in an attempt to duplicate the capture of Crete.

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,

When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,

So, up to the house-top the coursers they flew,

With a sleigh full of toys—and St. Nicholas, too!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,

And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer, Now, Vixen!"

VI. On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donder! and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!

Now, dash away, dash away, dash away, all!"

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,

And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger tip on his nose,

And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

This Immortal Poem Is a Part of Every Child's Christmas

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