

AMERICAN ARMY WITHIN 22 MILES OF ROME

Roseburg News-Review

VOL. XLVIII NO. 243 OF ROSEBURG REVIEW

ROSEBURG, OREGON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1944.

VOL. XXXII NO. 255 OF THE EVENING NEWS

ARGENTINE BREAK WITH AXIS IMPENDS

Declaration Slated Today, Envoys Hear

Spy Ring Exposure, U. S. Spurning of Bolivian Junta Produce Results

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Diplomats here said a sensational announcement is expected to be made today in Buenos Aires with a strong possibility it would be a formal declaration by Argentina breaking relations with the axis countries.

Such a decision ostensibly would be based upon discovery of a pro-axis espionage ring which led to arrest of an Argentine consul by British authorities at Trinidad, authoritative sources said. They expressed belief Secretary Hull had refrained yesterday from mentioning Argentina in connection with the Bolivian coup d'etat, because Argentina had advised the U. S. ambassador of her contemplated step.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Further joint action by the American republics to uproot and destroy any pro-axis movements under way in South America was foreshadowed today by refusal of the United States and seven other western hemisphere nations to recognize the revolutionary rulers of Bolivia.

The immediate goal in this diplomatic maneuvering is believed to be a break between Nazi Germany and Argentina, which now is the only American nation maintaining relations with Germany. Talk of axis intrigue has been linked with the Bolivian revolution so that every development involving Bolivia now is studied closely for its effect on Argentina.

That Argentine reaction would not be long in forthcoming became apparent when Foreign Minister Gilbert announced at

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THIS Russian charge that Britain is cooking up a separate peace with Germany is interesting, and to us rank outsiders it is mystifying. It probably isn't so mystifying to the top insiders in London and Washington.

It is part of a game, and the REST of the game is totally unknown to us but probably isn't unknown to the top-rank diplomats here and in Britain. We outsiders can only guess that Stalin is up to something. Our top leaders probably have a pretty fair notion of what he is up to.

It might be just as well here to recall a few historical facts. For nearly 400 years, Britain has remained top dog in Europe by the simple policy of teaming up with somebody else against whatever continental nation threatened to get too big to be handled by Britain and her allies.

In pursuance of this policy, which has been extremely profitable to her, Britain has fought both for and against Russia, both for and against France and both for and against Germany. In all this, she hasn't been just fickle and unstable. She has known all the time just what she has been doing and why.

She has been keeping herself on top by keeping somebody else from getting too big.

(THIS isn't said in criticism of Britain. One doesn't criticize nations for looking out for Number One. Fighting whom-

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Operating Jaw Of Russian Trap



Commanding one of the two Russian armies closing in on the German army of 250,000 in the Leningrad area is Gen. K. A. Meretskov, above, former Red army chief of staff. Noted as an ace strategist, Meretskov is credited with saving Moscow in early stages of the war when the Germans were within 30 miles of that city and appeared certain of occupying it.

May Drop Special Army Courses To Cut Father Draft

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The house military committee may recommend abolition of a large part of the army's specialized training program soon in a move designed to save an estimated 200,000 pre-war fathers from military induction.

Committee members made this disclosure privately today as they neared completion of closed hearings on the extent and value of the program.

A survey of the committee indicated overwhelming sentiment against continuing the student training at present rates and a feeling that the entire undertaking, with the possible exception of dental and medical training, should be stopped.

To put weight into its recommendations, expected to be made within the next few weeks, the committee is considering asking the house appropriations committee to cut off any further funds for the program.

The military committee's recommendations would not affect the separate programs for training engineers, and men for military government operations abroad.

It would, however, have a direct bearing on an estimated 140,000 young soldiers now in colleges and universities studying dentistry, surgery, medicine, languages and a wide range of other subjects.

Washington U. Cagers Defeat O. S. C., 38-33

CORVALLIS, Ore., Jan. 25.—(AP)—Outscored from the field, the University of Washington's civilian road team marked up 16 points from the foul line last night to down the Oregon State Beavers 38-33.

The win was the fifth without defeat for the Huskies in conference play and leaves them a full two games ahead of the second place Idaho Vandals.

The Washington squad moved out from a 3-3 deadlock in the early going and were never headed.

Top scoring honors went to Anderson, O. S. C. guard, with 14, followed by Washington's Codd with 9.

The two squads will meet again tonight in the final engagement of Washington's annual Oregon road series.

Russian Trap Tightening on 250,000 Nazis

Chief Escape Railroad Extending West From Leningrad Is Severed

LONDON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Russian forces have severed the principal German escape railway leading west from the Leningrad sector and today a Nazi army estimated to number at least 250,000 was facing possible entrapment by two Soviet armies south of Russia's second city.

The Germans were being herded west and southwest toward the Estonian border by Gen. Govorov's Leningrad front forces and Gen. Meretskov's army based on Novgorod, 100 miles to the south. Junction of these two armies, effected last week, forms a semi-circle around the enemy which is constantly being squeezed tighter, according to advices from Moscow.

Most telling blow against the elaborate Nazi communication and supply system below Leningrad was struck yesterday by Govorov's forces. They stormed down to cut a trunk line near the village of Smolkovo, 40 miles southwest of Leningrad. A Soviet communiqué said the Russians killed 1,500 Germans on the way and captured 10 tanks, 27 guns and other valuable war material.

Further to the east other units of Govorov's army battled their way through 40 towns and villages, including important rail junctions 14 and 28 miles south of Leningrad. Another 800 Nazis were slain in this drive, said the Russian communiqué, and a sizable bag of prisoners was counted.

Moscow made no mention of

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Woman Shoots Boy She Claims Accosted Her

TACOMA, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A 15-year-old boy is in a hospital with a bullet wound in his abdomen, and a soldier's wife, mother of a seven months old baby, told police in a signed statement that she had taken a pistol from her purse and shot the boy last night when she believed he was accosting her on the street.

In a dictated statement to police detectives Mrs. Ethel Waack O'Banion, 20, formerly of Santa Barbara, Calif., said that after firing the shot she kept the youth covered with her pistol and forced him to proceed her up the street to a lighted porch and to ring the doorbell.

Police summoned to the house found Thomas Handley, 15, lying wounded on the doorstep, and Mrs. O'Banion with the pistol in her hand.

Detectives quoted the youth as admitting he had followed Mrs. O'Banion after both had alighted from a bus, "with the idea of a pickup."

Mrs. O'Banion said in her statement that her follower came up behind her and placed his hands on her mouth warning her not to scream.

"I'd taken the gun out of my purse when I realized he was following me," Mrs. O'Banion said. "When he grabbed me I still had it in my hand. I reached my arm around to the side toward him, and pulled the trigger. He said, 'My God, was that a shot?' I told him it wasn't anything else."

Feed Shortage To Slash Turkey Crop, Forecast

ALBANY, Ore., Jan. 25.—(AP)—This year's turkey crop will be reduced 8 per cent by feed shortages despite the heavy demand, predicted N. L. Benion, Oregon State college poultryman, at a meeting of the Linn County Turkey Growers association.

Your Share Of National Debt



Every man, woman and child in the United States, based on a population figure of 130,000,000, will owe \$1985 toward the national debt by June 30, 1945, if continued war compels spending all of President Roosevelt's \$100,000,000,000.

Illicit Spread of Ration Coupons Jails 4 Persons

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A salvage company's paper shredding machine, which apparently failed to shred, has put ration coupons worth 15,000,000 gallons of fuel oil and 5,000,000 gallons of gasoline into illicit circulation on the eastern seaboard, the OPA disclosed today.

OPA said four persons were in custody and others were being sought in connection with the investigation, which has extended into several of the seaboard states.

One of those in custody was described as an employee of the salvage company, located in Washington, which holds a contract for destruction of waste paper from federal offices in the capital.

OPA said that between August and December, 1943, it had turned over to the firm surplus stocks of ration coupons from national and district offices amounting to 23,000 pounds, for conversion into waste paper. These stocks—including coupons which were still valid for cashing and others which had expired—were fed into a shredding machine under official supervision and ostensibly torn up. Afterwards, however, they showed up in consumers' hands.

Consultant to Aid Cities In Public Works Plans

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The League of Oregon Cities will hire a consultant to aid cities in drawing up postwar public works plans and financing programs to go on the ballot in the May primary elections.

The league's executive committee here yesterday also voted to ask the University of Oregon's bureau of municipal research to work out a plan putting municipal airports on a self-supporting basis after they are turned back to the cities by the army and navy.

A retirement system for state employees ineligible for social security also was urged.

"Stone Woman" Seeks Relief From Masseuse

VANCOUVER, B. C. Jan. 25.—(CP)—Mrs. Stuart Barbeau, the "stone woman" of Seattle, whose feet and toes won't bend and who feels when she stoops "as if my skin would break into bits," is in Vancouver for treatments from a medical masseuse.

Mrs. Barbeau suffers no pain with the scleroderma condition, though recently small jagged pieces of calcium formation have been taken from various parts of her body.

Living Costs' Zoom Target Of CIO Head

Murray Disputes Govt. Figures in Appeal for White Collar Groups

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Philip Murray, president of the CIO, told a senate subcommittee investigating the economic problems of white collar workers today that living costs have increased approximately 50 per cent since January, 1941.

Murray said his headquarters would issue a formal report later in the day to dispute estimates by the Bureau of Labor statistics showing an increase of 23.4 per cent from January, 1941, to November, 1943.

"The cost of living survey of the CIO," Murray testified, "will show most shocking revelations." He asserted that the government's "wage policy must be adjusted to allow for the increase in the cost of living in accordance with the stabilization act of Oct. 2, 1942."

"This is for the benefit of industrial workers, white-collar workers, government employees, and all of the people of the country because it assures continued, uninterrupted, and maximum production."

Instead of a 23.4 increase, he reiterated, the CIO survey will show "more than double that amount."

"It will indicate the deceit practiced in the Bureau of Labor statistics figures," Murray asserted.

"We have discovered the average housewife in filling her basket with food and maintaining her household pays 50 per cent more for these necessities as of December, 1943, than she did in January, 1941."

He said the government estimate did not reflect quality deterioration and upgrading, disappearance of cheaper goods, rent increases outside of 34 cities and "price violations and black markets."

Groups Being Organized
First witness in the inquiry to determine whether the pay envelopes of the nation's 15,000,000 white collar workers contain enough money to meet living expenses, Murray said the CIO was organizing white-collar groups, including salaried workers and

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Briggs Indicted on Forgery Charge in "Hopkins Letter"

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—George N. Briggs, suspended assistant to Interior Secretary Ickes, was indicted by a federal grand jury today in connection with the celebrated "Hopkins letter affair."

The 55-year-old Briggs was charged with forgery, false pretense and use of the mails to defraud.

The grand jury said Harry L. Hopkins, presidential adviser; Dr. Humphrey Lee and Frank Phillips, prominent members of the mystery thriller's cast had no knowledge of the letter.

Three indictments containing a total of 11 counts were returned against Briggs, who was suspended from his position in Ickes' office when his name was brought into the case recently.

The maximum penalty upon conviction of all counts is 53 years and a fine of \$8,000.

The letter in question, purporting to be from Hopkins to Dr. Lee, president of Southern Methodist university, Dallas, Texas, predicted Wendell Willkie's re-nomination by the republicans again this year and broadly implied that some sort of cooperative understanding existed between the writer and Willkie.

Senator Van Nuys Of Indiana Dies



WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Senator Frederick Van Nuys, 69, of Indiana died today.

Van Nuys, a democrat, was the chairman of the senate judiciary committee and chairman of a subcommittee currently investigating the liquor situation. He had served in the senate since March 4, 1933.

Van Nuys was the senate sponsor for the controversial anti-lynching bill, which still is pending before the judiciary committee. He also advocated federal legislation to outlaw the poll tax as a qualification for voting.

His death reduced the democratic-held seats in the senate to 57, with the republicans holding 37 and the progressive party one.

However, Indiana's democratic governor, Henry F. Schricker, doubtless will appoint a democrat to serve out the year remaining of Van Nuys' term.

The senator's only son, William, is a naval air corps lieutenant serving overseas.

Southern Demos Seeking Running Mate for F. D. R.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Southern members of congress and of the democratic national committee have started a campaign to put a southerner in second place on a ticket they now nearly all believe will carry President Roosevelt's name as a candidate for reelection in November.

The groundwork for the drive was laid at informal conferences last week but Senator Maybank (D-S. C.) said today there is as yet no agreement on who the southern candidate should be.

"We all want to see a southerner nominated but we can't agree on the man," Maybank said.

Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas as generally is conceded to be the favorite for the place among southern democrats in congress, although Rayburn is from a southwestern state.

There is some support, particularly among southerners in the senate, for War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, a former senator from South Carolina.

Jail Sentence Moted To Death Car Operator

Oregon City, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A six-month jail sentence and a \$500 fine were meted Marshall Stewart, 33, Salem, by Circuit Judge Latourette yesterday following Stewart's plea of guilty to a negligent homicide charge in connection with the traffic death of Walter Schubel, Gladstone, on the Pacific highway here January 7.

The sailor, home on leave from a hospital where he was treated for malaria contracted in the Southwest Pacific, was accused of driving into the rear of the car operated by Schubel.

Appian Way, Main Rail Line From Coast Cut; Nazi Troops Shifted for Decisive Combat

(By the Associated Press)

The Berlin radio indicated today that American troops had driven within 22 miles of Rome and cut the Appian way and main coastal railway by capturing Velletri, 18 miles northeast of Nettuno.

"American troops are finding debris and ashes there after their own bombs transformed the little town into a heap of ruins," the radio report said. Velletri is on the Appian way and only nine miles from the Via Casilina, the inland highway leading to the Cassino battlefield to the south.

Allied headquarters announced only that American and British troops had advanced 12 miles inland. The Germans were reported shifting their troops from the Cassino-Garigliano front in the south to meet the new threat to Rome. A headquarters office said Hitler, desperately needing a victory, "may decide to throw great forces into Italy and tell his generals they must produce a victory at any cost."

Meat Spoilage Charge Leads to Senate Inquiry

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A senate investigation was begun today into charges by Senator Thomas (R-Idaho) that "large quantities" of meat have spoiled or had to be destroyed because government officials refused to suspend meat rationing temporarily.

Representatives of independent meat packers were invited to testify before an agriculture subcommittee named to hear Thomas' plea that a rationing holiday be declared to allow consumers to buy up a current surplus, particularly of pork.

In a resolution asking the senate to go on record as favoring an indefinite rationing recess, Thomas asserted:

"Packers and slaughterers have been compelled to remove surplus meat from storage facilities in order to provide space for new supplies, with the result that large quantities of such (meat) products have been destroyed or allowed to spoil."

Thomas introduced a resolution asking the senate to endorse an indefinite rationing recess after War Food administration and OPA officials had contended such a recess would result in a maldistribution of supplies and had denied that a real meat surplus exists in the light of prospective heavy future demands.

U. S. War Casualties Reach Total of 142,289

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Latest available figures on American war casualties total 142,289, including 32,662 killed in action.

The office of war information announced the figures today. They cover navy casualties through January 22 and army losses through December 31.

Navy casualties were listed as 35,572, numbering 15,520 dead, 7,206 wounded, 8,562 missing and 4,284 captured by the enemy. (These figures include marine corps and coast guard casualties.)

Army casualties to the end of December totaled 106,717, with 17,142 killed, 39,917 wounded, 24,137 missing and 25,521 prisoners of war.

Death-Dealing Blast Doesn't Halt Bond Rally

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Despite an explosion which killed five persons and injured 11 others, employees of the South Chicago plant of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., went ahead with their scheduled war bond rally.

The tragedy occurred yesterday when a recently-overhauled steam turbine, which had been undergoing tests, exploded, whipped pieces of steel around the room like shrapnel, and blew out a section of brick wall. Officials, however, said war production would not be interrupted. The war bond rally was held later.

Trio of Sailors Accused In Shooting of State Cop

DALLAS ORE., Jan. 25.—(AP)—Charges of assault and battery while armed with a dangerous weapon were filed here yesterday against the three sailors held in connection with the shooting of State Policeman Karl Murphy near Rickreall January 14.

The men, Samuel Wells, Jr., and Clarence Charles Larson, both of Bremerton, Wash., and Byron Neil Dyson, San Francisco, waived grand jury proceedings. Police said Murphy identified them as the men he had halted in a stolen car when he was shot.

Resilient Fifth army patrols recrossed the Rapido river in the Cassino area 60 miles southeast of Nettuno. German attacks decreased in number and intensity, suggesting a shift in enemy power.

The bridgehead less than 30 miles below Rome was lengthened as well as deepened and reinforcements and supplies poured into to brace the sector against the inevitable German counterattack which allied commanders expect.

Allied headquarters did not say specifically that the Appian way and railway had been cut but both are generally about 12 miles inland and certainly dominated by allied guns, if not actually cut.

Headquarters said "hastily organized battle groups" opposed allied spearheads in the expanding Rome front. Americans around Cassino engaged the Germans in fierce battle; the French beat back several Nazi snobs around Mt. Croce; and the British on the Garigliano near the Mediterranean held their bridgeheads.

Allied heavyweights from Italy struck the Vratitsa rail yards near the Bulgarian capital of Sofia and also bombed Skopje in Yugoslavia. In flying cover to the convoys and the invasion beaches below Rome, the allies rung up a 15-11 victory total.

German troops have occupied the Croat coastal town of Senj, 35 miles southeast of Fiume, after fierce fighting in which Yugoslav partisans forced the invaders to pay heavily in men and equipment. Marshal Broz (Tito) announced today.

Strong formations of allied bombers assaulted the French invasion coast from Dunkerque to Boulogne for the third successive day. In operations Monday extending into western Germany, American planes destroyed 21 German craft at the cost of 13, including two bombers.

Red Cross Shies at Pre-Marital Inquiry

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The Australian Red Cross has rejected an American Red Cross request for information about the family and background of Australian girls wishing to marry American soldiers.

The Australian society pointed out there was no means of reciprocity as it was impossible to ascertain conditions of family life of the American Australian girls. Anyway, the society said, such matters were outside its charter.

American Red Cross representatives said they would continue to interview prospective brides and bridegrooms, and attempt to discourage marriages they considered inadvisable.

Jefferson First County To Reach "E" Bond Goal

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Sale of series "E" bonds in Oregon has reached more than 18.5 per cent of quota in the Fourth War Loan campaign, state bond headquarters said today.

Jefferson became the first county to fill its series "E" goal, buying \$69,000 worth of bonds.

Multnomah county led the state in dollar volume with "E" bond sales of \$4,279,085, or 21 per cent of quota, while Josephine county reached 50 per cent with a total of \$175,000.

The state goal is \$99,000,000.

Lovery Fact Rant

Whether the pen is mightier than the sword has long been a debatable question, but there's no argument as to which of the two the majority of Americans would prefer to use on the new federal income tax forms.