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Roseburg News-Review

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CIRCUS HOLOCAUST DEATH TOLL REACHES 149

250 Injured, In Hospitals At Hartford

Five Officials of Circus Held in Heavy Bail On Manslaughter Charge

HARTFORD, Conn., July 7.—(AP)—The death toll in the fire which destroyed the main-top of the Ringling Brothers circus, beneath which 6,000 pan-stricken, shrieking spectators fought to escape enveloping shrouds of burning canvas, jumped to 149 today as investigators pressed inquiries into the origin of the blaze and simultaneously held in heavy bail five officials of the company.

The injured, counted at 250, at least 25 of whom were in serious condition, were scattered in three Hartford hospitals.

Not a circus performer was lost in the holocaust.

As a steady stream of weary relatives continued to wend through the grim aisles of the dead in the state armory, these officials of the circus were arraigned in police court charged with manslaughter.

J. A. Harley, vice president; George W. Smith, general manager; Leonard Aylesworth, boss canvas man; Edward Versteig, chief electrician, and David Blanchfield, chief wagon man, Harley and Smith were held in \$15,000 bail and the others in \$10,000 for a hearing July 19.

Cause of Fire Sought

Meanwhile investigators sought to establish a reason for the startlingly rapid spread of the blaze which all eye-witnesses agreed mushroomed with incredible speed from a tiny finger of flame near the main entrance to a gigantic inferno of smoke and fire.

Police Court Prosecutor James F. Kennedy announced that his preliminary investigation had es-

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

RUSSIAN possibilities still dominate the war picture.

With Minsk and Polotsk behind them, the reds are pushing on toward the Baltic states of Lithuania and Latvia. At the rate they are going now, they might get there in three or four days.

Their first objective will be cutting the great railroad (one of Europe's best) that runs from Berlin through Warsaw to Leningrad. This railroad now permits shifting of German forces and supplies back and forth to meet Russian attacks—which the reds will obviously want to stop.

THE Finns say the Russians are making large landings in Viipuri bay, in an apparent effort to get behind the Finnish lines. There are other reports of Russian landings on islands in Narvik bay, in Estonia.

The national guess is that Russia is aiming at a clean-up of the Baltic states and southern Finland, thus closing the eastern Baltic to the Germans and LETTING THE RUSSIANS INTO the rest of the Baltic.

HERE'S a thought along that line:

By the way of the Arctic and the Russian canal systems, allied warships as large as light cruisers can GET INTO THE BALTIC sea to back up the Russian navy.

Civilians of Saipan Offered Surrender Chance; Chinese Break Jap Grip on Hengyang

Trapped Nippon Troops Continue Last Ditch Fight

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, July 7.—(AP)—United States forces closing in for the kill on Japanese troops pocketed on northern Saipan today offered the ten to 15 thousand civilians trapped within an avenue to life-saving surrender.

AP Correspondent Rembert James reported from the western Pacific island that American commanders decreed that a single highway could be used by the civilians to come into the U. S. lines.

Already some 7,000 Japanese civilians have been interned by the marine and army forces who have cornered the Nipponese on Saipan's northern tip. The enemy soldiers seemed determined on a desperate last stand, doomed though they were.

Among the civilians still hiding out were Japanese business owners, government officials and white collar workers and their families.

The U. S. commanders, delivering their offer of surrender by word of mouth, and through pamphlets dropped from planes and shot from mortars, promised water, food and complete safety to those accepting.

"Meantime," James wrote, "marines and army forces pushed in to destroy the remnants of defending forces under circumstances in which no one could doubt it had the end of military operations was in sight."

More Jap Ships Sunk

Elsewhere the western Pacific drive rolled on with a new invasion 800 miles from the Philippines and the sinking of five more enemy ships by carrier task force planes within 600 miles of Tokyo.

The new landing brought nearer the fall of Japan's last airfield on nearby Noemfoor, off

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Efforts to Rescue 64 Coal Miners Continue

(By the Associated Press.)

Near Bellaire, Ohio, workers today prepared to drill through 350 feet of earth, hoping to reach 64 miners entombed when a rockfall and fire cut them off from escape through the main shaft of the mine two days ago.

No word or signal had been received from the trapped men, and company officials estimated it would take two days to reach the mine shaft with a small drill, five days with a larger one.

In still another disaster eight persons were counted dead in Oil City, Pa., where a series of explosions and fire razed a unit of the defense plant corporation's 100-octane aviation gasoline plant.

Eight others were injured seriously in the explosions, the cause of which was not determined immediately.

Loan Rate on Wheat Due For Seven Cent Boost

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP)—The War Food administration is expected to announce late today an increase of about 7 cents a bushel in the national average loan rate on wheat to move to bolster sagging market prices.

The new rate would be about \$1.35 compared with \$1.28 announced in May for the 1944 crop.

The rate would be increased from 85 to 90 percent of parity, which is \$1.50 a bushel.

War Situation In China Gives F. D. R. Concern

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP)—President Roosevelt said today the war in China is not going well and that we are a good deal concerned over the outlook.

Mr. Roosevelt tempered his news conference remark, however, by saying the Japanese are in a poor strategic position because their supply lines are so extended and are being menaced by the allies.

The fighting in China does not seem to be stopping the Japanese advances, the president said.

He agreed with a reporter who observed that if the coast of China is lost the situation would be serious but said it would not be so serious today as a year ago because we are now within bombing range of Japan.

That is something, the president observed.

A reporter told the president that the Chinese ministry of information contended the deeper Japanese forces get into China the worse off Japan is from the standpoint of global war.

Extended Line Perilous

That is a strategic thought, the president observed, and it is perfectly true. The Japanese are very much extended both from the military and supply point of view.

Their line of communication is dangerously long unless they can maintain it, he said, adding that we have been threatening it for a year.

It may be wishful thinking, he continued, but apparently Japan is having difficulty getting raw materials and replacements to her far-flung forces.

Consequently, he said, the Japanese strategic situation is not a good one.

But, he went on, the distance from Japan to China is not very great and the Japanese are carrying on what he termed an occupation of movement in that country, jumping their forces from place to place.

Good Progress is Made in Salvage Of Waste Paper

Excellent progress was being made today with the waste paper salvage drive, according to Elmer Hampton, chairman. Ten trucks donated by the Roseburg Lumber company, Douglas Flour Mills and Dunham's Transfer were being used in the collection today, being manned by members of the Eagles lodge, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. The leading is in progress at the Roseburg Lumber company docks, where one car was reported filled at noon today and a start had been made on a second car.

The committee estimated that at least two and possibly three carloads would be obtained.

The committee members were particularly gratified by the wholesale response to the appeal and the thoroughness with which bundles were tied, greatly simplifying the task of the collectors.

Collection of all paper is guaranteed, it was reported. In the event any bundles are overlooked, it is requested that Elmer Hampton, phone 468, or Bruce Elliott, phone 694, be notified.

Collections will continue through Saturday and, unless the task can be completed tomorrow, the trucks will continue to operate Sunday.

Foe Hurlled Back 25 Miles; Canton Army is Stalled

CHUNGKING, July 7.—(AP)—Chinese troops have made a smashing comeback in Hunan province, breaking the siege of Hengyang and driving back a distance of 25 miles the main body of Japanese troops which had bypassed that vital rail junction in their drive south along the Han-Kanton railway, a Chinese army spokesman declared today.

The victory, scored with the aid of reinforcements moving up from the southwest, has "removed for some time to come" the Japanese threat to occupy the whole of that vital rail line and cut China in two, the spokesman said.

Announcement of the sudden success came as China entered the eighth year of her war with the Japanese invaders, confident that with the help of the united nations she eventually would drive the enemy from her soil.

"Liberation is close at hand," declared Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, China's president.

The army spokesman said that only scattered Japanese remnants which are being surrounded and wiped out now remain south of Luyang, railway town 34 miles south southeast of Hengyang.

Luyang itself, he added, is firmly in Chinese hands.

Japs Forced To Retreat

The main force of Japanese is retreating in a northeasterly direction, the spokesman asserted, and the enemy column which has been driving northward from the Canton area has been stalled completely.

Declaring that the Chinese counter-attack was in full swing

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Sgt. R. H. Holcomb Missing in Action

Staff Sergeant Ralph H. Holcomb, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. K. Holcomb of Kellogg, has been reported missing in action, according to word received by his parents. In service with the U. S. 8th air force as a radio operator and machine gunner, he failed to return from a mission June 21, according to the official notification.

A graduate of Elkton high school with the class of 1939, he enlisted in the army in October, 1941, and was assigned for several months to the troops engaged in the aircraft warning service. He was later transferred to training as radio man and aerial gunner and went overseas in October, 1943.

He was with the first American bomber force to bomb Berlin, his picture appearing in Life magazine at the time the pictures of the group making the historical raid was printed in that publication.

Slayer of Defective Baby Sentenced to Death

PITTSFIELD, Mass., July 7.—(AP)—Protesting his innocence, John F. Noxon, Jr., 47-year-old lawyer, was sentenced today to electrocution for the slaying last Sept. 22 of his mentally deficient child—killed by an electric current.

The sentence paralleled the words used in the grand jury indictment, which charged that Noxon killed six-months-old baby Lawrence Noxon "by causing the passage of electricity through his body."

Reserve Cash Of City Buys War Bonds

Conversion Authorized By Council; Salary of Treasurer Is Increased

An order for investment of cash held in reserve funds in war bonds, first reading of an ordinance fixing salaries of city officers, sale of several city owned lots, adoption of a resolution for vacation of an alleyway and routine business marked the meeting of the Roseburg city council Thursday afternoon. The meeting was held at 5 p. m. Thursday, after having been twice continued due to lack of a quorum.

City Recorder A. J. Geddes informed the council he is holding \$1,797 cash in the swimming pool fund and \$2,558 cash in the fire equipment reserve fund. He reported he had previously invested in war bonds having maturity values of \$5,900 for the swimming pool fund and \$3,300 for the fire equipment reserve fund and requested authority to similarly invest the cash on hand. The purchase of bonds was authorized.

Treasurer's Salary Up

An ordinance fixing the salaries of city officers to meet the raises provided in the recently adopted city budget was placed on first and second reading. Prior to presenting the ordinance for reading the council voted an increase of \$15 per month for the city treasurer, whose salary had been left unchanged when other city officers were given increases.

The treasurer's salary was raised from \$125 to \$140 per month.

Sale of lots 1 to 4 inclusive, block 5, Hamilton's addition, to the firm of Nelson and Abelen was approved, the sale price being \$300. The council also approved the sale of lot 17, block 51, Kinney's improved plat, to

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17 Die, 80 Hurt In Troop Train Plunge

JELLICO, Tenn., July 7.—(AP)—at least 17 persons, all but two of them soldiers, were killed last night when a troops train plunged into a 50-foot gorge of the Clear river 11 miles south of here.

Dr. E. P. Muncey, resident physician of Knoxville's general hospital, said the death toll probably would exceed 40.

The locomotive and four cars were piled at the ravine's bottom, and a fifth hung over the precipitous edge, where it left the Louisville and Nashville railroad tracks.

The train was a special carrying only soldiers and the train crew.

An emergency train was made up from the twelve cars which did not leave the track and left this morning taking fifty of the injured to Lake City, Tenn., en route to the government hospital at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and at least thirty other injured service men were sent to Oak Ridge hospital in ambulances.

Tule Lake Soldier Freed In Killing of Japanese

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., July 7.—(AP)—Following a general court-martial, Private Bernard W. Goe of San Francisco was acquitted last night in the fatal shooting of a Tule Lake Japanese evacuee, Shiochi James Okamoto, on May 1 last.

Okamoto was shot at the main gate of the project. He was driver of a truck permitted to pass through the gate to get supplies and Private Goe was a sentry there. Testimony indicated Okamoto was shot when he made a threatening gesture toward Goe after getting out of the truck.

5th Army At Near Halt In Italy Surge

Nazi Resistance Takes On More Power; Pace of Eighth Also Slowed

ROME, July 7.—(AP)—Lashing out from outposts of the heavily fortified Gothic line in their first aggressive action in two months, the German defenders of northern Italy have brought the Fifth army's drive toward Livorno (Leghorn), Pisa and Florence almost to a halt, allied headquarters said today.

The Eighth army also measured its gains in yards instead of miles.

A stiff house-to-house battle continued to rage day and night in the village of Rosignano, where American infantry who have penetrated to within ten air-line miles of Livorno were attempting to smash through heavily manned strongpoints.

The severity of the fighting was shown in official reports. The Americans, who on the preceding day held half of the town, were able to claim only two-thirds of its battered ruins last night after a struggle reminiscent of the bitter, bloody combat at Cassino several months ago.

Nazis Use Heavy Guns

From the west coast along a sector extending at least 30 miles inland, the enemy struck back at the Americans. At some points the Germans strove to infiltrate and break into newly-gained allied positions and were thrown back only after brisk engagements.

Also along this front enemy infantry and tanks were backed up by increasingly active German artillery, with long range 170-millimeter rifles sending big shells screaming over the lines in a harassing fire against Fifth army supply routes. Six-barreled Nebelwerfers were used profusely against American armor.

Arzo Defense Stubborn

Fighting on the Eighth army front was featured by the enemy's

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\$500 War Bond Club's Roster is Increased by 28

Twenty-eight new names were added today to the Roseburg chamber of commerce \$500 club, bringing to 91 the total membership. Each member, purchaser of one or more bonds in denominations of \$500, will be a guest of J. A. Harding, owner-manager of the Umpqua hotel, at a banquet to be presented Monday, July 10, at the hotel civic room. E. C. Sammons, chairman of the state war finance staff, will be the principal speaker at an interesting program. Club members have purchased a total of \$61,800 worth of war bonds. Memberships will be accepted until the close of business Saturday, July 8.

Attractive souvenir tickets have been printed, and members are invited to call at the chamber of commerce office and obtain their tickets in advance of the banquet. Those who find it impossible to call at the chamber of commerce office, will receive their tickets at the hotel Tuesday night.

New members reported today include Arthur Joelson, Tom Holland, Paul Geddes, Stewart Hall, Mrs. H. Watzig, W. J. Adair, Walter Fisher, J. A. Hart, Mrs. Geo. Sommerholder, Richard Maddox, D. N. Busenbark, Mrs. D. N. Busenbark, Jack Sinniger, Jay Garfield, May Garfield, Mrs. Minnie E. Ritter, Morrill E. Ritter, Gay Mowery, Henry Wedekind, Kenneth Ford, Eugene B. Bolse, Samuel George Duncan, James A. Cobb, Noble C. Standley, F. E. Bullock, James H. Kinnaid, J. Howard Carnes.

Yanks Closing In On La Haye, Take Outpost

British Surge to Caen's Dock Area; Reich's Plane, Oil Plants Hammered

By WES GALLACHER

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, July 7.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Bradley's American army, springing at dawn today in a new attack on the Nazi-defended bottle-necks through the marshy lowlands of Normandy, stabbed forward more than a mile across the Vire river and captured the village of Aerle.

This attack toward the west above St. Lo surged forward under a concentrated hail from big guns which dazed enemy machine gunners and sent German artillery observers scampering.

Local American attacks around La Haye Du Puits at the western end of the blazing 25-mile front almost surrounded that pivotal point.

The Americans were now attacking along a huge semi-circular front, with the newest offensive pressing in from the eastern side of the arc, and the German grip slowly melting under the pressure around La Haye at the western end.

British Reach Caen Docks

While the Germans here were in grave danger of being trapped, headquarters announced no major action on the British front around Caen at the eastern end of the battlefield.

Earlier reports to headquarters however, said one of the patrols of the British second army had reached the dock area of Caen.

The report said no Germans were encountered in the penetration.

However, front line dispatches reported no indication that the Germans were abandoning their long-contested eastern pivot. It was believed the Germans were holding only parts of the town as strong-points as the result of severe bombings.

Although all but one escape bridge from Caen, a pontoon bridge across the Orne river, had been destroyed, Roger D. Greene, Associated Press war correspondent

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Douglas to Reach Goal on E Bonds Today, Expectation

Attainment of the Douglas county quota on Series E bond sales is expected today, Dr. E. E. Boring, Fifth War Loan campaign chairman, reports. Known sales amounted to \$504,875 as compared with a quota of \$529,000, leaving \$24,125 to go to reach the goal. There are known to have been unreported sales from communities other than Roseburg, as the figures in the hands of the committee included only reports of agencies up to and including July 5, when totals for the county were \$488,000.

Sales tabulated in Roseburg amounted to \$16,875, but reports were not received from points outside the city.

Efforts were being made today to assure completion of the quota by a goal of \$25,000 in Roseburg, making certain that the county can be reported 100 per cent complete by Saturday, the date for the official closing of the campaign, although payroll deductions and other sales to individuals made during July will be credited to the county, thus assuring a final report well beyond the assigned quota.

Quotas in other departments have been exceeded and completion of the Series E bond campaign will qualify the county as one of the first in Oregon to meet every assignment, Boring said.

NAVY BASE OF SASEBO IS TARGET

Steel Center of Yawata Also Lashed in Raid by U. S. Superfortresses

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP)—Superfortresses of the U. S. 20th air force bombed the Japanese naval base of Sasebo and the steel center of Yawata, both on the island of Kyushu Friday night, in the second attack by the huge B-29's on the Japanese mainland.

General H. H. Arnold, chief of the air forces, announced the assault in a communique at Washington. It was the third time since Pearl Harbor that American planes have rained bombs on Japan proper.

No additional information was available immediately.

Sasebo, comparable to the U. S. naval establishments at Norfolk, Va., or Bremerton, Wash., was hit for the first time since the start of the war. It lies to the west of Yawata, which was the target of the first B-29 Superfortress attack on the Japanese home islands on June 15.

The target of today's attack, which occurred on the seventh anniversary of Japan's initiation of the war with China, lies just north of the great Japanese port of Nagasaki.

The attack on Yawata, also by Superfortresses of the 20th bomber command based in China, occurred in the pre-dawn hours of June 15.

The great weight of explosives was poured on the factories of that city at the northern end of Kyushu island, and air forces officers reported a high degree of successful hits on the industrial targets.

Four of the B-29's failed to return to their base in China after the Yawata raid. One was shot down by anti-aircraft fire over the target, and operational accidents prevented two others from getting back. The fourth is listed as missing.

That was the first air attack on the Japanese islands since medium bombers under Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle were launched from the aircraft carrier Hornet to hit Tokyo and other Japanese cities on April 18, 1942.

U. S. Plan Followed

Yawata's steel plants are estimated to produce about one-fifth of the steel critically needed by Japan in its armament and ship construction program.

The return of the B-29's to Yawata after a three-week interval follows the pattern of strategic bombing set in the European operations—an initial attack, with an interval during which the enemy attempts repairs, then a new attack to smash the repairs and keep the munitions-producing fac-

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John Trozelle, Arland Bender, Wounded in War

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Trozelle, N. Jackson street, Roseburg, have received word their son, Technical Sergeant John Trozelle, has been wounded in action. In addition to formal notification of his injury, they have received a letter written by him from a South Pacific hospital, reporting that his wounds were not of a serious nature and that he expects to be able to return to active duty soon.

He reported, however, that he was not permitted to give details.

Word also has been received that Arland Bender has been wounded and is in hospital. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bender, who recently moved from Roseburg to Portland.

Both Trozelle and Bender were members of the Roseburg National guard company, and are now with the 41st division in the South Pacific.

Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Reizenstein

It looks like twice-divorced Elliott Roosevelt, who is again engaged, is determined to make his number of romances equal his sire's number of terms in the White House. What if Papa lands a fourth term?