

Shipyards Celebrate But Future Uncertain

PORTLAND, (UP)—Impact of peace upon the shipyards of the Portland-Vancouver area is expected to touch off a big celebration but the future of the wartime enterprises is uncertain.

From the peak of 125,000 shipyard workers last year, employment has tapered off until there are now about 80,000 workers on the job. The three Kaiser yards employ about 65,000 of this number.

Admiral Howard Vickery of the maritime commission has assured Kaiser and other shipyard heads repeatedly any cutback in operations will be gradual. But practical-minded employment bosses believe that the workers will not wait for a closedown but will leave in large numbers. Many already have left for their former homes to get reestablished. On the basis of existing contracts, however, there is plenty of work lined up. The Vancouver shipyard of the Kaiser company is building large troop transports on a schedule through 1946, and the ships are adaptable to merchant marine cargo purposes. So are the Victory ships constructed at Oregon shipyard, with contracts at least through 1945.

Large Supply

The tanker contracts at Swan Island are more likely to be cut, as there is undoubtedly a large supply of tankers available.

Many of the shipyard operations in this area can do ship repair work but the yards built for

Air Strips Now Building in Chile

PUNTA ARENAS, Chile (UP)—Work is going on to connect the extreme south of Chile to the rest of the world by air. Airfields are being constructed at Porvenir, Springhill, Felipe bay, Gente Grande, Cape Catalina and Cape Delgada with the co-operation of local sheep interests.

These modern installations will be the stepping stones for the Chilean Air Line "LAN" services to the Punta Arenas, Tierra del Fuego and Ultima Esperanza regions.

new construction are not too likely to be converted into other industries, one high official said. He pointed out a shipyard, like most other wartime enterprises, is made for one specific purpose and is expendable for the war effort.



Yanks Bargain and Barter In Paris Exchange Mart

By ROSETTE HARGROVE
NEA Staff Correspondent

PARIS—Parisians in the market for cameras, fieldglasses, lighters, fountain pens, watches, radios—all articles which have long since disappeared from French stores—are finding their way to G. I. exchange mart. Its location is in that section of Paris which goes from Rainbow corner to the Madeleine. It operates somewhat erratically. As a matter of fact, it largely depends on troop movements—no longer a military secret—but there's more of a crowd at the "aperitif" hour than at any time of the day.

Paris is one of the largest levee centers for U. S. forces. Into the city every day pour thousands of GIs on passes. Many of them belong to our occupation troops in Germany and there are few Joes who, in their passage through the Reich, have not picked up some "souvenirs."

Expensive City

Paris is an expensive city, especially in terms of GI pay. The "souvenirs" can only be acquired by the French at Black Market prices. It didn't take long for men on furlough to find they could exchange a watch or a camera for quite a respectable number of francs. Enough, at any rate to buy champagne in night clubs and costume jewelry and perfume for the girl friends back home. Prices are at least 50 per cent below current rates and French buyers consider this a fair deal. The GI "exchange and mart" usually attract a sizeable crowd of interested spectators.

Crowds gather daily in Paris, in the area between the Madeleine and the Opera, to attend the GI exchange mart. Here Yanks sell souvenirs, most of them picked up in Germany. Parisians purchase scarce cameras, watches, lighters, field glasses, and fountain pens. Black Market prices prevail.



This enterprising Yank bought a bicycle in England and brought it to Paris. At the exchange mart, Parisians will test their limited English vocabulary on Yanks with goods to sell, while GIs improve their bargaining abilities.

Soldiers are constantly accosted by French men and women, and even by youngsters, anxious to secure a bargain. Negotiations is wide open and above-board.

X-ray Field Offers Places For Women

CHICAGO (UP)—Women who are skilled in the use of X-ray will find a growing demand for their services after the war, according to the U. S. department of labor. Approximately 80 per cent of

the 20,000 registered X-ray technicians working in hospitals, doctors' offices, and other medical establishments during 1945 are women, the department reported.

The X-raying millions of men for selective service accelerated the demand for technicians. Orthopedic injuries resulting from the war further have increased

the demand, the labor department report stated.

In the years to come, the report predicted, periodic chest X-rays will be generally recognized to be as important as periodic dental examinations.

Although the plural of goose is geese, the plural of mongoose is mongooses.



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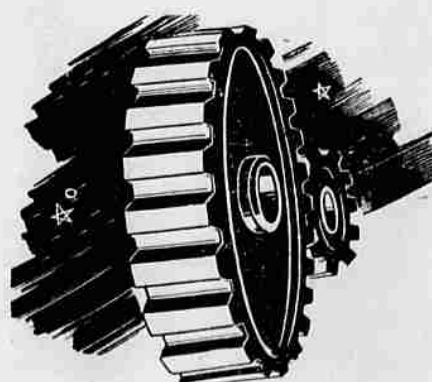


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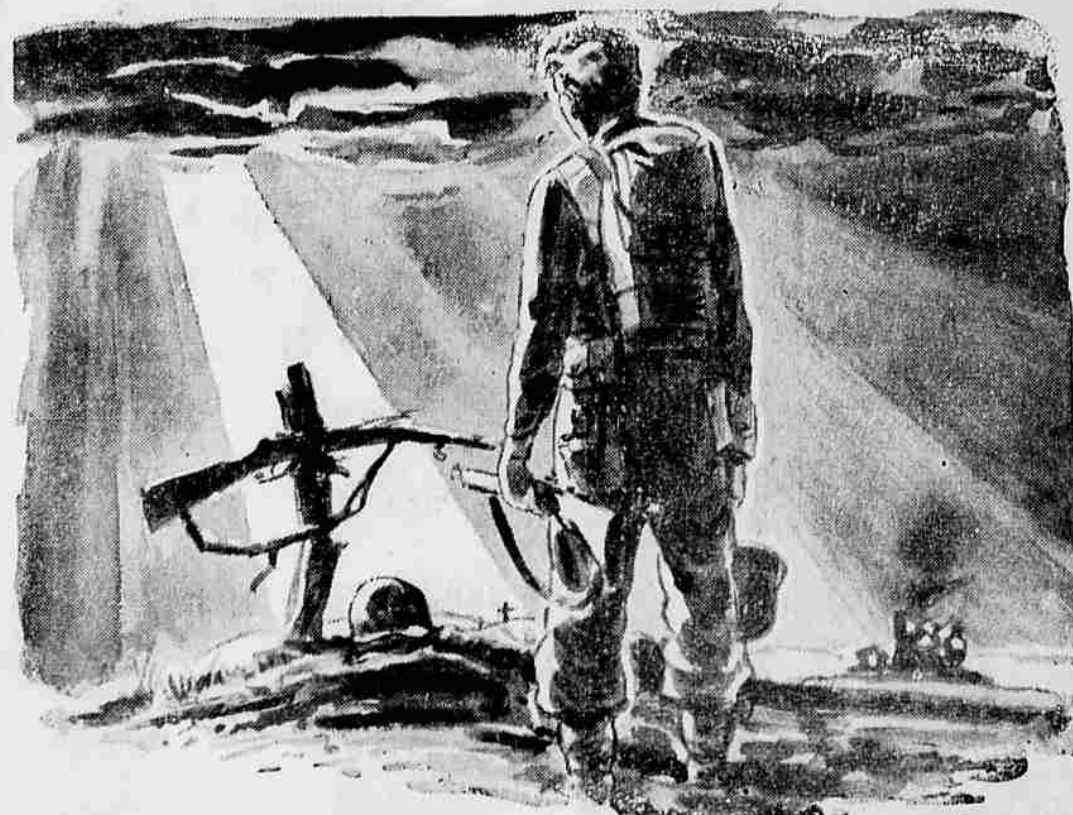


The Wheels of War...

are stopped. Now we must speed the wheels of progress for the creation of peacetime jobs and prosperity.

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