

Horrors of Air War Revealed Correspondent Can't Sleep

Little Girls, Torn Mothers Sob, Scream

By ROBERT ST. JOHN
Special to The Statesman
CAIRO, May 6.—A little more than 100 hours ago they were writing my obituary here in Cairo.

I had been killed, they thought, in a sardine boat that hit a mine in the Adriatic sea. Or in a troop train machine gunned along an Ionian cliff. Or in a bombed hospital in Peloponnesus.

But now I am back from the land of the dead.

There were clean white sheets on the beds when I arrived in Cairo. I touched the sheets gently. We hadn't seen sheets in four weeks. They were real sheets. Symbols of civilization. And taxis were honking in the streets.

People Were Laughing
There was butter, rich yellow butter, on the tables.

People were laughing. People were drinking cocktails. People were dancing.

You can sleep nights in Cairo. At dusk, black-skinned street hawkers accost you, whining an appeal to buy their pornographic post cards and fly chasers.

You can sleep because no airplanes come over Cairo. But we did not sleep. I still cannot sleep. They have torn up my obituary but I still belong in the land of the dead.

War is just a lot of noises and smells. Not very pleasant noises or smells either. Bombs make the flesh creep when they come whistling down towards you.

Then there is the dull noise when they land. And there are noises people make. You can forget other noises but not those of war.

There was the noise made by a dark-haired little Greek girl of 5 or 6. She lay on a mattress on the floor of the whitewashed hospital in the Greek town of Argos. We lay on mattresses scattered around her.

None Could Sleep
It was inky dark. She sobbed softly. None of us could sleep. She sobbed repeatedly, uttering a Greek word we could not understand. It was like a litaney.

EDITORS NOTE: War Correspondent Robert St. John, safe in Egypt, although wounded, after a harrowing trip out of Yugoslavia and Greece, finds it difficult to sleep because of the memories. Here he tells why, for the readers of the Oregon Statesman.

"Blimey, what's wrong with the little tyke?" asked a British soldier beside me, ignoring the wounds which were going to cost him his own life the next day.

"Why does she sob?" I asked the nurse who was doing her best to make these bomb-blasted pieces of humanity comfortable.

The nurse turned on her flashlight. Then I saw what was wrong. The child's thin little right arm was only half an arm. It ended in shreds. Shreds of torn, blackened flesh.

There were no doctors in Argos to make a clean amputation.

"What does she sob?" I asked. "She cries for her mother," said the nurse and bit her lip. But the mother was dead. So was the child's father. So were other children like this girl.

Now I am in Cairo but I cannot sleep because the little Greek girl in Argos with only a piece of an arm still sobs for her mother.

Screamed His Hatred

I cannot sleep because there was a man lying on the lawn of the emergency dressing station near the Greek coast with arms and legs blown away. There was little left except his heart which still beat and his lungs which breathed. We thought he was dead. The nurse said he would be in a few minutes. No one could bother about him.

The bandages must be used on those who had a chance to live.

Then suddenly he started to scream. They told me he was screaming hatred at the airplanes which rain death from the sky. He lay there screaming for hours.

We asked a passing ambulance driver for narcotic pills. We forced them into his mangled mouth. But the screams went on.

Clean Sheets At Cairo Fail War Writer

How can anyone sleep between clean white sheets when a man lies on the grass in a Greek town screaming because he has no other way of expressing his hatred of planes which dropped suffering on quiet Greek towns?

How can anyone sleep when he hears the sobs of that woman in Corinth who wanted someone to give her enough morphine so that she could go to sleep forever and forget she would never be able to walk again?

Crying and Cursing
Or the crying of that mother in Patras who was led to a wicker basket covered with a white cloth when she asked what had happened to her boy who had been playing near the railroad yards?

Or the curses of an old man we saw digging with his cane in the rubble of what had been his home for the wife he left there when he went into the street to see why the sirens were blowing? Then those noises which came from the 30-car hospital train full of wounded after bombs had set it afire. Those are noises of war men don't forget.

I heard those noises from Belgrade to Mylos when undefended cities, sleeping villages and towns were attacked by planes which flew so low that you could almost see the faces of the men behind the guns. I know what everyone else knows who has been through it.

I know that the determination of the Yugoslavs, the bravery of the Greeks and the resolution of the British are all of no avail when they have too few planes to keep off the machines which make these horrible memories.

That is the secret of war as it is being fought today.

Now I am in Cairo where people dance and sing and ride in taxicabs and eat rich yellow butter and sleep between snowy white sheets. But I still cannot sleep because these noises of war beat through my head.

I still belong in the land of the dead.

Hospital Rate Schedule Sent Out by Board

A schedule of hospital rates, applicable to patients covered by the workmen's compensation act, was announced by the state industrial accident commission here Tuesday in letters sent to every hospital in Oregon.

The new rates adopted by the commission are approximately \$1 a day in excess of the present charge but \$1 less than the rate recently announced by the Portland Hospital association which includes five hospitals now operating in that city. The new rates of the commission become effective June 1.

Commission members said the increase of \$1 a day for hospitalization of state cases would cost an additional \$75,000 a year, based on previous experience. The commission schedule also will apply to hospitalization provided for indigents injured in automobile accidents under a new law of the 1941 legislature. Under this law the cost of automobile drivers' licenses is increased from \$1 to \$1.50 with 50 cents of each fee going into a so-called hospital fund.

Club Closes Series

SILVER CLIFF—The Booster club will close its winter series of meetings Friday night. New officers will be elected.

Aviation Sheet Metal Classes Filled; New Units Planned

Four shifts of aviation sheet metal classes conducted at the Salem high school shops have reached their capacity enrollment, 20 to 25 students each, but men interested may enroll for classes to start later, Frank G. Ferris, defense training director for the Salem employment office, advised Tuesday.

Agriculture Unbalanced Says Expert

CORVALLIS, May 6.—Agriculture is unbalanced in comparison with labor and industry, Mac Hoke, member of the state board of higher education and president of the Oregon Farm Bureau federation, said here Monday night. In a speech before the men's faculty club of Oregon State college, Hoke, operator of a large sheep and wheat ranch at Pendleton, declared that despite the government's 1933 declaration of policy to help agriculture attain parity income, it had never been achieved except for a brief period in 1937.

Under the stimulus of defense activity, industry has attained an index of 150, labor 200, while agriculture is at 75, Hoke said. The American consuming public has come to expect to purchase food at below cost of production, he added.

Salem's Quota Is \$5000 for Service Clubs

Salem will attempt to raise \$5000 to contribute as its quota to the United Service organizations fund for providing welfare and recreational facilities for men in the armed forces of the United States.

The United Service organizations campaign here will start June 1 under the direction of a permanent committee appointed by Mayor W. W. Chadwick. The Salem quota is part of a state quota of \$76,000.

The organizations represented include the YMCA, the National Catholic Community Service, Salvation Army, YWCA, Jewish Welfare Board and the National Traveler's Aid association.

Members of the committee are: Guy Hickok, T. M. Hicks, Floyd Miller, Col. C. A. Robertson, William McGilchrist, Jr., Harry A. Brown, Harry Scott, C. A. Kelly, H. L. Braden, Paul B. Wallace, Mrs. Karl Becke, T. A. Windsor, Ray Stumbo, Senator Douglas McKay, Irl S. McSherry and Justice George Rossman.

Auditors Open Parley

Field auditors of the state utilities commission opened their annual conference here Tuesday. General accounting rules and regulations and a proposed uniform system of accounts for class A and B motor carriers featured the discussions.

Musical Fun Demonstrated

How to have fun with music was demonstrated by Prof. George Hopkins, of the University of Oregon music school, when he spoke before the Kiwanis club at their luncheon meeting Tuesday at the Marion hotel.

By illustration at the piano, Hopkins humorously showed how chords are the foundation or basis of all music and through the same chords, in different keys, the musician may build a composition of his own choice, whether it be jazz or classical.

Hopkins termed music as ranking second in universal influence and stressed the point that by getting away from the worry of the mechanics of scales and notes, many a business man has found piano playing a popular hobby.

Also appearing on the program, which was specially arranged for music week, was Nellie Jane Pearmine, violinist, who was accompanied by Margaret Wonderlick, and Jean Claire Swift, who played the piano.

Basket Social Slated

Englewood United Brethren church, Nebraska and 17th street, is holding a basket social Friday, beginning at 7:30. An invitation is extended to members and interested friends. The annual mother-daughter banquet will be held Tuesday at 6:30 p. m.

WCS Meets Today

WEST SALEM—The WCS of the Methodist church will meet at the home of Mrs. Don Huckabee this afternoon at 2 o'clock for the regular business meeting.

Willamette Valley Briefs

Entertains Guests

LINCOLN—Mrs. Alice Simpson had as her visitors the past few days her daughter, Mrs. H. E. Smith, Portland; a cousin, Mrs. R. Isenheart and son Carol, Silverton, and a brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crangle and Mr. and Mrs. C. Gentry and sons of Salem.

Visits Brothers

HAZEL GREEN—Miss Carolyn Johnson of Seattle is visiting her brothers, Albert Johnson and F. O. Johnson. Miss Johnson came for the marriage of her nephew, Earl Johnson, to Miss Helen Beckley of Sunnyside.

Social Scheduled

PRATUM—A cooperative supper and social is to be held at the Pratum Methodist church Thursday at 7 p. m. An offering will be taken for the benefit of the women's division of the Christian service. The public is invited.

Returns to Chicago

BROOKS—Mrs. Mary Morton, who has been a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Streeter, left for her home in Chicago Saturday.

Recovering Health

SILVERTON—Dr. Edgar Wrightman, Jr., who has been quite ill at a Portland hospital, is reported improved. He is convalescing at the home of his uncle, L. J. Johnson, and will remain there until he is sufficiently recovered to take up his practice at Silverton again.

Tillicum Club Quits

AUMSVILLE—The Tillicum club met Wednesday at the club-rooms. Quills were worked on for Mrs. Howard Strunk, Mrs. A. E. Bradley and Mrs. Peterson. A covered dish luncheon was served.

Mrs. Purdy Speaks

STAYTON—Mrs. J. Edgar Purdy, Salem, wife of the district superintendent of the Methodist church, will be guest speaker at the mother-daughter banquet sponsored by the WSCS at the Methodist church basement, Wednesday, 6:30 p. m.

Mothers Entertained

WEST SALEM—Members of the Kingwood Legion auxiliary will meet in the hall Thursday noon at 12 o'clock for their annual Mothers' day entertainment. Each lady is asked to bring her mother or an elderly lady.

Two Divisions Preparing for Biggest Review in Northwest

FORT LEWIS, May 6.—(AP)—Officers of the 3rd and 41st divisions began making preparations Tuesday night for the biggest review in Pacific northwest military history Friday as the 3rd completed a two day war game that was described as a "splendid performance."

The 13,500 troops of the 3rd returned to the fort after holding off a theoretical enemy Monday, withdrawing five miles during the night of no defense positions and repulsing an early morning assault by a superior "red" force. Friday's review will see more than 40,000 men, hundreds of trucks and guns and scores of

Scout Officers Elected by Church Men

Men of Leslie Methodist church interested in the Boy Scout program sponsored by the church through troop No. 2, met at the church Monday night to elect a scoutmaster and troop committeemen for the ensuing year. Elected were: John Van Osdel, chairman; G. K. Sundlie, advancement; Sam Randall, outdoor; C. F. French, membership, and Harold Douris, publicity.

Robert Ray, representative of Cascade area Boy Scout headquarters, explained the local program outlined for the year. Keith Morris, junior assistant scoutmaster of troop No. 2, appeared as troop representative.

Boy Scouts who have already registered for the new year are: Daryl Jones, Joe Formick, Alden Sundlie, George Stackman, Keith Morris, Willis Estes and Charles Poindexter.

Members of the troop committee will meet at the home of Harold Douris, 1638 South Commercial street, Sunday afternoon to outline the year's program.

Births

Hart—To Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Hart, Jefferson, daughter, Madeline Carol, born May 2, Salem General hospital.

Lattimer—To Mr. and Mrs. Eldon C. Lattimer, West Salem, a son, Gary Lee, born April 28, Salem General hospital.

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