

Garden Time
Victory gardener, or flower gardener, you'll be paying increasing attention to that little plot of ground in coming weeks. Read Lillie Madson's advice to gardeners, in The Sunday Statesman.

Relax!
Sports help you relax from the worries of war. Follow the events daily on the Statesman sport page, with comments by Al Lightner.

NINETY-FIRST YEAR

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Russ Smash German Army; 12,000 Killed

Rout Told Of 45,000 In Battle

Vital Northern Sector Won by Great Victory

MOSCOW, Feb. 25—(Wednesday)—(AP)—An entire German army of 45,000 men has been shattered and 12,000 of the enemy killed in a smashing, 10-day red army victory below Leningrad, the Russians announced early today in a special communique.

This Nazi army—the 16th—was encircled in the vital Staraya Russia district, 140 miles south of Leningrad and 270 miles northwest of Moscow, and suffered one of the most crushing defeats yet inflicted upon Adolf Hitler's legions.

So complete was the rout of the Germans that they left behind vast and still uncounted stores of booty. Guns by the thousands, more than 1000 motor vehicles, railroad rolling stock, tanks, munitions and horses by the hundreds fell into soviet hands.

Listed officially as smashed were the 290th infantry division of the second German army corps, the 13th infantry division of the 10th army and a division of Hitler's picked blackshirt SS elite guards.

Besides the enormous losses in men and material, the defeat cost Hitler vital positions he needed to protect his imperiled forces holding the town of Staraya Russia itself, keystone of all his positions on the northwestern front.

The town lies some 12 miles south of Lake Ilmen, and is a communications center on an east-west railroad connecting the main Moscow-Leningrad line and another running south from Leningrad farther west and a third which skirts the west shores of Ilmen and is linked directly to the long line to Murmansk.

Russians who had anticipated a big victory announcement during the celebration of the red army's 24th anniversary Monday got it today.

There was an anniversary announcement of a drive to within 50 miles of Smolensk, strongest Nazi position remaining on the central front, but that was not as impressive as the triumph they learned about 24 hours later.

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Top Honor to Dr. Millikan

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24—(AP)—The American education award, one of the topmost honors of its kind, was conferred Tuesday upon Dr. Robert A. Millikan, noted cosmic ray researcher and president of the California Institute of Technology.

The award is presented annually by the American Association of School Administrators, the National Education Association and affiliated bodies. Previous recipients have included Jane Addams, noted social worker; Dr. William Lyon Phelps, former president of Yale university; Lorado Taft, sculptor, and Walter J. Damrosch, noted musician.

PRESS TIME!

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Don't Need Pants to Fight



Looking like truly primitive warriors, the head-hunting Igorots of the Philippines are seen in action with MacArthur's troops. Igorots ride the tanks, MacArthur reports, directing tank movements through heavy jungle country. One report said Igorot warriors didn't mind wearing uniforms—if they could leave off the pants.

Salem Building Firm Gets Big House Deal

Keith Brown Takes Defense Order of 2000 Prefabricated Units; Will Employ 80 Men On Three-Shift Basis for Four Months

By STEPHEN C. MERGLER

What might well prove Salem's largest single defense contract to date, an order for 2000 prefabricated houses, was awarded Tuesday to the Keith Brown Building Supply, the proprietor, Keith Brown, reported from Portland.

"We will start up our plant in Salem immediately and employ probably 80 men," Brown announced.

The firm took its first order for prefabricated housing wall sections last July, set up a semi-open-air plant on the site of the old Salem Brick & Tile company and turned out 345 units in ten weeks during the late summer and the fall for a Vallejo, Calif., defense housing project.

The latest contract is for similar wall sections for 2000 houses to go up in the Ogden, Utah, defense area. It was obtained as a subcontract from Better-Built Homes & Associates, holders of the prime contract, of Beverly Hills, Calif.

Whereas Brown's plant employed 35 men in two shifts on the Vallejo contract, it will retain at least 80 on a three-shift basis for four months on the new order, Brown estimated.

Indicating that his crew was arranged for, Brown emphasized that "no labor will be engaged at the present time."

If each housing unit cost \$500, value of the new contract in payroll and materials would be \$1,000,000. Brown, however, did not disclose the amount of his bid.

The contract calls for production of wall sections built-up from plywood for houses 24 by 28 feet in dimension, with four rooms and dining space. Floors, ceilings and roofs will be produced by another contractor.

Brown's housing plant, which has 14,400 square feet of unobstructed floor space under one roof, will get into full production on the new order within two to three weeks.

City Recorder Not Candidate

List of possible candidates for the office of city recorder was reduced by one Tuesday with the announcement of Mrs. Hannah Martin Hansen she would not be a candidate to succeed herself. She took office in January, 1941. Alderman L. F. LeGarie, however, filed his candidacy for the recordership, putting the race so far between two councilmen. The other is A. O. Davison, who filed last week.

LeGarie, from ward two, gave as his campaign slogan, "My desire is to serve Salem efficiently."

Monday's Weather

Weather forecasts withheld and temperature data delayed by army request. River Tuesday 1.2 feet. Max. temperature Monday, 48, min., 38.

Navy Men Saved In Disaster

Villagers Rescue 43 Survivors of Truxton, Pollux

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland, Feb. 24—(AP)—On a swaying bosun's chair slung over a 200-foot cliff, 43 men from the United States destroyer Truxton and the US naval supply ship Pollux were rescued after their vessels were smashed to bits against the Newfoundland coast in a raging storm.

While at least 189 other seamen perished in the pounding seas at the foot of the tall bluffs, residents of the shore village of Truxton dragged the 43 to safety from a ledge just above the water, to which the survivors were clinging.

As the story of the rescue reached here, it was learned a third US ship had struck shore in the same blinding storm that ran the doomed two off their course. But the third craft floated clear and managed to make harbor safely. Her ultimate destination was not disclosed.

The news that 43 had been saved from the lost ships was the first word of the number rescued. Tuesday's announcement of the wrecks from Washington told only of the estimated number of casualties.

When word reached the villagers of St. Lawrence that the two ships were in distress, men, women and children set out across three miles of snow-covered, windswept hills to the scene.

Reaching the edge of a cliff above one of the ships they found a cluster of men clinging to its precipitous face.

Using the bosun's chair, a rough wooden seat slung from a rope, they began hauling the men to safety.

Fishermen tried to rescue others in the surf by means of a dory lowered from the top of the cliff. But the little boat was swamped as soon as it hit the breakers, though its crew was saved.

The rescued American seamen, suffering from exposure and battering against the rocks, were distributed among the settler's homes where they were supplied with clothing and food.

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US to Alaska Route to Be Talked Today

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—(AP)—The American-Canadian joint defense board will meet in New York Wednesday to discuss possible routes for a United States to Alaska highway, informed sources said today.

These same sources said the discussions would center on a so-called "Prairie Route" extending north from Edmonton, Alberta, through the Peace River country to Whitehorse in the Yukon and thence into Alaska. It was emphasized, however, that no route has been selected and probably none would be until the joint board acts and US army engineers complete their preliminary investigations.

Among those registering were delegates from 4H clubs, granges, Parent-Teacher associations, churches, Farmers Unions, schools, junior and senior women's clubs, YMCA, YWCA, home demonstration units and teachers of physical education from several schools. Salem and surrounding communities with rural route addresses, Brooks, Chemawa, Sublimity, Jefferson, Woodburn, Silverton and Gervais were represented.

Miss Gardner, whose headquarters are Washington, DC, is in this area on a special assignment, working in Marion county through the office of Miss Frances Clinton, home demonstration agent.

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British Abandoning Rangoon As Jap Drive Menaces Burma

Japs Hit Rat In Attack on NEI Army HQ

Cars Machinegunned In Bandoeng Streets; Invasion Is Awaited

BANDOENG, Java, Feb. 24—(AP)—Japanese bombers machine-gunned automobiles in the streets and fired oil drums in this army headquarters area Tuesday as civil and military leaders of the East Indies declared the moment of mass assault on Java was approaching, pledged their people to fight "with faith and an iron will" and urged reinforced counter-assaults by United Nations' naval forces.

It was the third attack on Bandoeng, inland site of the NEI army headquarters and important military installations.

Ten bombers dropped from the clouds in two waves of five, gliding silently toward their objectives without apparent fighter support. They dropped very light bombs which caused only small craters. Some oil drums caught fire at one point, causing enormous smoke clouds which made the damage seem greater than it actually was. A communique described the damage as "very slight."

Despite the machine-gunning of motor cars and the bombing, the only known fatality in the raid was a rat, found near a bomb crater. Some houses, however, were hit.

Anti-aircraft guns crashed into voice soon after the alert sounded and United Nations' fighters took to the air. At least one enemy bomber was shot down and several others were damaged.

Communications preserved silence about the situation of invader and defender on Bali to the east and Sumatra to the west, both of which are in part overrun by the enemy, despite the crippling blows by naval and air forces of the United Nations and staunch resistance by out-numbered land forces.

The Dutch were urging that stronger allied naval forces be concentrated in the southwest Pacific for even wider counter-offensive action than that which destroyed, damaged or put to flight the Japanese sea units which attacked Bali last week.

Writing in the Batavia newspaper Java Bode, H. V. Quispel, head of the information section of the NEI navy department, expressed belief that the allies could hold out in Java but only if United Nations' sea forces are quickly and strongly reinforced in order to relieve pressure on this island and avoid strangulation of allied positions in the area.

Dance at Fairgrounds Draws Large Crowd

More than 600 Salem girls danced at the state fairgrounds pavilion Tuesday night under United Hospitality association auspices to the music of an army orchestra and with army men as partners.

First of the series of UHA dances held outside the armory, the party was a cooperative venture, with the army providing transportation for the young women.

Observation Plane Lost

SEATTLE, Feb. 24—(AP)—Four coast guard cutters and a fleet of planes, both naval and Royal Canadian air force, searched Tuesday night for a scout observation plane from the Sand Point naval air station, which has been missing since 8:30 p.m. Monday night. The ship was believed to have carried two men.

Thirteenth naval district headquarters said it disappeared during poor visibility on a routine flight.

As Japan Strikes in Burma



This map of British Burma will help you follow the war news in that area as Japan, flushed with victory in Malaya and Singapore, pushes a major attack aiming at Rangoon and the cutting of the supply line that feeds the Chinese. As the Japs passed Fegu, (A) on map, the British were hurriedly evacuating Rangoon. Latest reports indicate the defenders have given up hope of saving Burma's capital city. Shaded area indicates the extent of the Jap advance.

Hitler Blames Weather In Message to Munich

Tells Nazi Chiefs on Anniversary of Party Preparations for Final Fight With Russians Keep Him on Front

Editor's Note: On October 4, 1941, less than four months after Hitler invaded Russia, he told his people: "Now it can be declared that the enemy already is broken and will never rise again." Now...

MUNICH—(FROM GERMAN BROADCASTS)—Feb. 24 (AP)—Adolf Hitler, in a message Tuesday night from his Russian front headquarters to Nazi chiefs observing the 22nd anniversary of the party platform here, declared that the red army's hope of inflicting "a Napoleonic retreat" on the German army "has collapsed miserably."

Again, the German leader blamed the winter weather, "which took us by surprise," and world Jewry for his troubles in Russia, but he said the snow now was melting in Russia and "it is impossible for me to leave my place where preparations have been made for the final struggle."

District Leader Adolf Wagner read Hitler's message. "Now that the worst of the cold is over and in the south of Russia is beginning to melt," his message said, "it is impossible for me to leave my place where the preparations have been made for the final struggle."

Hitler asserted that the Russian hopes of smashing the German military machine "has collapsed miserably." "It collapsed," he went on, "above all before the bravery and self-sacrifice of our unique men who side by side with our allies weathered icy storms of December, January and February just as they had previously won imperishable victories in the glowing heat of June, July, August and September."

The impending spring struggle, he said, will be "a settling up with that conspiracy which has (Turn to Page 2, Col. 7)

Yank Officials Speed Tons of China Supplies

Outlook Hopeless as Invaders Attempt to Bridge India Gap

By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE Associated Press War Editor

The allied position was imminently menaced last Tuesday night in the whole of southern Burma and Rangoon itself, the capital of that crown colony and bridge between China and India, was in effect already gone as a British stronghold.

Sharp and immediate was the crisis—so much so that the Japanese enemy's stealthy maneuvers far to the southeast in his slowly developing invasion of the key allied south Pacific bastion of Dutch Java were all but overshadowed—and it was officially recognized that the battle for Burma had now become actually the battle for the outer defenses of India itself.

This was signalled by the fact that the British commander-in-chief for India, General Sir Alan Fleming Hartley, was made responsible as well for Burma operations—a step that was understood to have pleased the Chinese, who must be depended upon in great measure to help hold northern Burma at least as a link between the two greatest peoples of the Asiatic world.

Rangoon—the sea head of the Burma supply road to China—was being abandoned, and while the American military mission sweated to get out one last shipment of thousands of tons of supplies for the Chinese the British themselves were reported burning all unmovable military stores.

In an offensive strengthened by the arrival of more and more reinforcements the Japanese had beaten forward to and over the last natural defense line east of Rangoon, the Sittoung river, and in apparently overwhelming force were smashing at the British imperial forces for 100 miles up and down the Sittoung.

The invader stood within 60 miles of Rangoon itself—and within 20 miles of the Rangoon-Mandalay-Lashio rail leg of the Burma road—and the intervening terrain was less difficult than he had already traversed.

The Japanese casualties were and had been enormous—but still they came on.

All of southern Burma, it appeared, could be saved only with material help, and of this there was no real prospect, so poor are communications from India. There was nothing to indicate that Chinese troops standing in northern Burma would be able to come down in time.

Refugee Ship Sunk by Mine

VICHY, Feb. 24—(AP)—The small steamer Struma with 750 Jewish refugees from Rumania and Bulgaria was blown to pieces in the Black Sea about five miles north of the Bosphorus, apparently by a stray mine, an Istanbul dispatch to the Vichy news agency said. There have been no reports of survivors, but a search was begun immediately.

The vessel, of less than 400 tons, was flying the Panama flag and at the time of the explosion was being towed by a Turkish tug. The Struma sank immediately, it was said.

Precautionary Alert Ordered

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24—(AP)—The fourth interceptor command Tuesday ordered a precautionary alert in southern California, extending from San Luis Obispo to the Mexican border.

A spokesman said the air raid warning service said a "state of readiness" had been established but there had been no specific reports of enemy activities.