

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON Wide World War Analyst For The Statesman

Reports that the Russians have cracked the Staraya Russa pivot of German lines just south of Lake Ilmen and have advanced in the Smolensk sector, 250 miles farther south, suggest that the Stalin counter offensive is rolling again in high gear. A nazi stand at Staraya Russa

has been holding up for many

days what has appeared to be the cutting edge of a vast Rus-

sian squeeze play aimed at lop-

ping off the whole nazi left flank. If Staraya Russa has fallen be-

fore the onslaught of Russian

troops who claim they have

army in that area, the direct road

to Pskov junction, key to German communications on the Bal-

from Leningrad will certainly be

in order if the road cannot be

It was through the Pskov-

Porkov gateway that the Ger-

mans drove from Estonia, out-

flanking the Lake Peipus fron-

tier moat to the south, to lay siege to Leningrad. Half a score

railroads and highways con-

Staraya Russa itself is an im-

portant rail and road junction. A

double system leads northwest

around the lower shore of Lake

Ilmen to Shimsk where it intercepts the main communication

line supporting German forces

Another 40-mile stride to

Shimsk would isolate nazi forces

along the Volkov river. It also

would open a second route westward to cut direct Pskov-Lenin-

grad communications. A converg-

ing attack on Pskov itself from

the west and northwest would be

possible, although that vital Ger-

man junction still is more than

100 miles distant from the near-

Coupled with a red drive to

within 50 miles of Smolensk,

the Staraya Russa operation

takes an added significance. To

meet both threats Hitler must

rush heavy reinforcements by

The Russians have the advan-

tage of interior communication

lines. Their hopes of clearing the

foe from all the north flank to

the Esthonian border and also

gant if the attack can be kept

land and indirect routes.

est known Russian spearhead.

verge at Pskov.

holding Novogorod.

Service Men Where They Are

What They're Doing

Corp. Douglas L. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Jones, 655 North 17th street, Salem, has smashed a three-division German been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Alfred H. Yunker, son of Mr. tic flank, is open. A nazi retreat and Mrs. Otto A. Yunker, Scio, was recently promoted to the rank of corporal at McChord field, promptly blocked. Wash. He is now stationed in Fort Dix, New Jersey, for a training period as a radio operator. He is the brother of Otto A. Yunker, route two, Salem.

Robert Spence and Don Curtis Brunson, Albany; Andrew H. Zediwck and Ralph B. Woodcock, Corvallis; Donald E. Slonkcker, Sweet Home and Darrell L. Davis, Independence, have enlisted in the navy recently.

Mrs. Cayrene Starr, Salem and her daughter, Mrs. Frank Porter, Silverton Hills, have returned from a visit with Sgt. William Benson, at Fort Stevens. They are Bentson's mother and sister.

LYONS-A farewell dance, sponsored by the Mehama Woman's club, was held Friday at the Santiam Valley grange, for boys who are entering the service this week. Those leaving are Norvill Carter, Hubert Wagner, Glen Beringer, Charles Bosch, Clarence Fetrow, Raymond Haney and Bill McCall, Mehama, Donald Thayer and Henry Holzfuss, Lyons. Raymond Haney and Henry Holzfuss were unable to be present, Haney being in Missouri visiting his parents before he goes. Others were present from Stayton, West Stayton, Gates and De-

UNION HILL - Mr. and Mrs. forcing a wide nazi retreat in Otto Berg, Lebanon, and son, white Russia are not too extrava-Elaf, of the US marines, visited at the homes of Mrs. Mary Tate and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Tate Friday. Berg, who has been stationed in Iceland, is home on a Pastor Group furlough.

J. Welton motored to Ft. Lewis Sunday to visit their son, Micky, They over the two day holiday. They found that Micky and Edmond Fennimore, another youth from Mt. Angel, are to be sent to a Texas airfield.

BUENA VISTA-Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Prather received word by this organization. Services this from their son, Guy, at Logan, Utah, that he has joined the ser-

DALLAS-Two Polk county boys, Sgts. J. C. Pleasant and John Benge, were in Dallas recently visiting with their families before leaving for Ft. Benning, Ga., where they will spend several months in training for commissions.

Robert Gahlsdorf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gahlsdorf, 985 North Church street, has enlisted with the US navy in airplane maintenance and is to leave for Portland on Saturday to entrain for San Diego.

He was graduated in 1938 from Salem high school, where he was a member of the National Honor society. Since then he has been employed as a shop mechanic. His father is commander of Capital post, American Legion.

PORTLAND, Feb. 25-(AP)-The Portland navy recruiting district announced the following enlistments in the naval reserve: Salem-Harry E. Wilcox, Mer-

rill V. Ames, Johnnie N. Howe, Arthur R. Terpening. McMinnville-James H. Coats,

Leslie D. Bennett. Independence-Hollie R. Chisholm, Wilson B. Chisholm.

Stayton-Donald M. Thayer. Newberg-Walter W. Schroe-

Ricedi Heart.

### **Defense Carpenter Trainees Build Houses for Practice**

Building of frame structures, just for practice, near the senior high school symbolizes the activities of national defense train- grandstand and converting the ing in Salem now, Coordinator C. A. Guderian declared Tues- space to classrooms and a workday. The trainees are members of the newest class, rough and shop. Most of the work, however, finish carpentry, which has been

army cantonments. Although welding classes are full at present, some vacancies exist in aviation sheet metal courses, from which consider-

in session one week and is directable employment is forecast for ed at providing workmen for the the near future by M. B. Lamb, defense employment officer at the Salem office of the US employment service. He said journeymen machinists are also needed in several coast indus-

tries. The carpentry course has 80 men enrolled in four classes, two running concurrently through the daylight hours. The work is six hours daily for six days per week.

Enrollees began by removing For Politics some partitions under the Olinger is done outside, just east of the grandstand. Following blueprints, the men soon change piles of lumber into small frame buildings.

Guderian said the trainees would probably be ready for work when cantonment employment is

## **Land Board Agent Quits**

Marvin Klemme, Burns, Wednesday resigned as special agent for the state land board, to become a candidate for the republican nomination for representative in congress from the second congressional district.

Klemme has been in charge of blocking school lands in eastern Oregon. He previously

was with the grazing division of the department of the in-terior until 1938 when he resigned to make a world tour to study grazing problems in Europe and Asia.

Klemme filed his declaration in the state department here afman, Pendleton, who previously Hutton. filed his declaration of candidacy.

his declaration. Walter M. Pierce, LaGrande, democrat, is the incumbent, and day, east Salem; Tuesday, south, will seek reelection.

### Fire Reserves **Conduct Drill**

An even dozen men drilled Wednesday night at the central ter his resignation was ac- fire station for the second time, cepted by the land board. He as part of the city fire reserves, will be opposed by Lowell Stock- in charge of Chief Harry "Buck"

Meetings of the reserves have "Whiping the Japs is Klemme's all been changed from 7:30 to first consideration," according to 7 p.m., in order to take advantage of daylight. Drill nights at the outlying stations are Monand Friday, north.

# commons

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MT. ANGEL-Mr. and Mrs. R. Makes Plans

The Salem Ministerial association at its monthly meeting at the Argon hotel Tuesday morning made plans for the annual Good Friday services sponsored year are to be held at the First Evangelical church, Rev. Paul Petticord, pastor.

Preliminary plans were also made for the Easter sunrise services at Belcrest Memorial park. Don Douris, Rev. Edward Allen and Rev. W. H. Lyman were appointed on a committee to make arrangements.

Rev. Weaver Hess, new pastor of the Nazarene church, was welcomed as a member.



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