

Service Men

Our boys of Salem and vicinity are in uniform with Uncle Sam over the face of the globe. Follow them daily in The Statesman's 'Service Men' column.

The Oregon Statesman

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NINETY-SECOND YEAR

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No. 177

Aerial Battles Over Tunisia Unequaled

Russians Continue Advance

Airmen Destroy Nazi Air Transports; Fighting Fierce

By EDDY GILMORE MOSCOW, Wednesday, Dec. 2.—(AP)—Russian airmen have destroyed 50 big German transport planes trying to supply troops fighting against a red army encirclement in the Stalingrad area and the soviet armies continued to advance in that sector and on the center salient, west of Moscow, it was announced early Wednesday.

The regular noon communique Tuesday and the midnight bulletin disclosed that approximately 6000 more Germans had fallen on the snow-covered battlefields in an increasingly stubborn effort to hold up the red army.

Twenty of the big tri-motored Junkers planes were shot down and 30 were destroyed on the ground on Monday alone as the Germans attempted "to bring up supplies and war materials" in the area west of Stalingrad between the Volga and Don rivers, the midnight bulletin said. Soviet reports on air activities generally are a day late.

The Russians still were reported fighting on the eastern bank of the Don river in their efforts to close a trap on the Germans. Nazi railway communications to the rear already had been snapped by the Russians both northwest and southwest of Stalingrad.

The toll of 6000 German dead Tuesday raised the total to 161,700 for both the Stalingrad and central front sectors on the basis of previous special announcements. No special communique was issued last night on the continuing operations.

The Russians said their troops (Turn to Page 2)

Farmers Must Plant Within 10 per Cent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—Farmers will have to plant within 10 per cent of their 1943 AAA crop allotments in order to obtain maximum benefit payments authorized by farm legislation.

This regulation was announced Tuesday by the agriculture department in a move designed to obtain a high degree of compliance with next year's record farm production program.

The total amount of payments to be distributed under the 1943 program has not been determined. It has been averaging about \$750,000,000 a year.

The department will announce later the rates it will pay farmers for complying with AAA allotments for corn, cotton, peanuts, rice, tobacco and wheat. The rates usually are set at a certain number of cents per bushel depending upon the commodity. Failure to plant at least 90 per cent of these crop allotments will result in payment deductions at a rate five times the compliance rate. This means that a farmer's crop payment would be wiped out entirely should he plant only 70 per cent of his allotment.

Salem, Aumsville Men Get Purple Heart Award

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—The army conferred decorations Tuesday on 102 soldiers wounded in action against the French in Morocco during the initial Ameri-

20 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT... Buy Christmas Seals

'Mac' Alights



Gen. Douglas MacArthur (above) steps from his plane at an advanced allied base somewhere in New Guinea to direct the assault against the Buna-Buna sector.—Associated Press Telemat.

Jap Warships Attempt Help

Four Destroyers Off Guinea; Aussies Tighten Grip

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Wednesday, Dec. 2.—(AP)—Despite their heavy losses in previous abortive attempts to reinforce their isolated troops in the Buna-Gona area of New Guinea, the Japanese sent four destroyers toward Buna Wednesday in another attempt to strengthen their forces.

Allied planes scored hits and near misses on some of the ships, but there was no report whether this latest attempt at reinforcement had been turned back, a spokesman for Gen. Douglas MacArthur said.

With MacArthur's airforce smashing repeatedly at Japanese positions, especially in the vicinity of Buna, American and Australian ground forces were slowly contracting their grip on the enemy, according to the allied communique.

Wave after wave of allied planes—Aircobras, B-26s, A-20s, and B-25s—hammered the Japanese lines and started fires in the vicinity of Buna Mission.

The Japanese sent fighters and dive-bombers to strafe the allied-held airstrip near the northern coast but two fighters and one dive bomber were shot down.

Albania Fighters Warn Italians

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1.—(AP)—A band of 600 Albanian guerrilla patriots crept into Tirana, former Albanian capital, one night recently and put up posters threatening to kill ten Italians in retaliation for each Albanian killed. Albanian sources here reported Tuesday.

can landings in North Africa November 8.

Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, commanding general of the army ground forces, presented the purple heart to six officers and 98 enlisted men at Walter Reed hospital here, reading the brief citations personally and congratulating each man on his heroism.

Among those who received the award by states, with name and rank, battle area in which each was wounded, and home town, respectively were: Oregon—Robert L. Bethell, private, infantry, Fedala, Aumsville; Deryl Butters, corporal, infantry, Fedala; Eugene, Donald W. Davis, private, infantry, Casablanca, La Grande; John W. Larson, private, first class, infantry, Fedala, Baker; Roy E. Potter, corporal, infantry, Fedala, Salem.

2 in Last Die From Fluoride

Nosen Confesses New Story on Getting Of Fatal Poison

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1.—(AP)—The same type of poison which took the lives of 47 persons recently in an Oregon insane asylum was believed responsible Tuesday night for the deaths of two Philadelphians and the serious illness of two others.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Labe, both 49, died an hour apart in a hospital here Tuesday. Mrs. Mildred Groff, 22, and her son, Charles, 4, who lived with the Labes, were given a chance to recover because Mrs. Laura Anderson, 57, forced them to drink large quantities of milk, which acted as an antidote, when they became ill.

Deputy Coroner Matthew A. Roth said a quantity of roach powder, containing the same deadly poison as that identified as the cause of the Oregon deaths, apparently became mixed with flour used in preparing a meat pie.

How George Nosen, 27, volunteer Oregon state hospital patient from Medford, happened to mistake roach powder for powdered milk, an error that resulted in the poisoning of 467 patients two weeks ago tonight, was disclosed in a new confession made by the inmate and disclosed Tuesday by Capt. Walter Lansing of the state police department.

The roach powder, mixed into a batch of scrambled eggs in the hospital kitchen on November 18, resulted in death to 47 patients and severe illness to 420 others.

Nosen, in his new confession, told Lansing that he and A. B. McKillop, assistant hospital cook, went to the basement of the institution on November 17 and entered (Turn to Page 2)

AFL and CIO Committees Harmonious

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—AFL and CIO committees, returning to the peace table after a three-year lapse, explored the possibility of a united labor movement Tuesday, reported a spokesman for the AFL committee to continue their talks Wednesday.

Harry C. Bates, president of the bricklayers union and chairman of the AFL peace committee, made this one sentence announcement to newsmen at the end of a two and one half hour session: "We had a very harmonious meeting this afternoon and we will hold another tomorrow at 10."

Philip Murray, CIO president, added: "I subscribe."

The conferees, apparently in an amiable frame of mind but dodging interrogation, left immediately. Daniel J. Tobin, general president of the AFL teamsters union, dropped the casual comment that "we may have some news for you tomorrow," but whether he was indicating significant developments was purely speculative.

The CIO leadership, it was learned authoritatively, had prepared the outline of a peace plan, based on immediate merger of the two movements. The entity of each of the constituent AFL and CIO unions would be preserved, at least temporarily, and they would have proportional representation on the executive board. Jurisdictional conflicts would be worked out within the united organization.

Inmate Suicides At State Prison

William Ede, 55, who was received at the state penitentiary here February 5 of this year on sentence for larceny of livestock in Curry county, hanged himself by a piece of sheet in his cell at the prison Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Ede, described by Deputy Warden Eugene Halley as a "good prisoner," had been morose, Halley said. Survivors include the widow at Myrtle Point and his mother, Mrs. M. B. Welch at Glendale.

Camp Adair's First GI Bread



Col. T. A. Baumeister, director of supply at Camp Adair, inspects the first pan-ful of GI bread, brought by Pvt. Frank S. Arcadia from an oven of the post's new and ultra-modern bakery. Starting Tuesday soldiers of Camp Adair began eating all of their "staff of life" as produced in their own plant.—Public Relations Photo. (See story on page two).

West Joins Four Gallon Parade

Boston Clamps Down on Clubs

Inspection of All Arises From Probe Of Fire Deaths

BOSTON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—A ban was clamped Tuesday night on all amusement and dancing in 1161 Boston night clubs, hotels and restaurants as an aftermath of the Cocoanut Grove fire disaster, while separate city and state probes produced testimony that the night club was of "underbox construction" and that flames had raced like lightning through draperies that "looked like gauze."

While scores of funerals of fire victims were held throughout New England, there were these developments:

1. The death toll of the Saturday night blaze was revised downward by the Boston committee on public safety from 484 to 474, but a number known to be dead were not named on the committee's list and unofficial compilations indicated the final cost in human life would approach 500.

2. Gov. Leverett Saltonstall (Turn to Page 2)

French Sub In Algeria

LONDON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—The seagoing 1379-ton French submarine Le Glorieux joined a sister ship, the Casablanca and the smaller Marsquin in allied north African ports Tuesday as the only units of the French fleet at Toulon to escape capture, destruction or internment.

The Morocco radio announced Tuesday night the arrival of Le Glorieux at Oram after a voyage which had taken it to Valencia, Spain. The submarine stopped there less than 24 hours.

The Casablanca and the Marsquin arrived at Algiers Monday where they put themselves under the orders of Adm. Jean Darlan. A fourth submarine, the Iris, which escaped from Toulon, was interned by Spanish authorities at Barcelona when it failed to leave in 24 hours, the normal period allowed a belligerent ship in a neutral port under international law.

47 War Prisoners Listed From US

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—The names of 47 Americans held as prisoners of war were made public Tuesday by the war department.

The group included 12 officers and five enlisted men of the army, a navy officer and a navy enlisted man, 24 merchant marine seamen and four members of the American field service which operates ambulances with the United Nations forces.

The men came from 19 states, and most were reported held in German prison camps.

'Fill 'Er Up' Disappears From Scene

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 1.—(AP)—Three little words—"fill 'er up"—disappeared from the national language Tuesday as the west, still kicking and screaming, joined the east in gasoline rationing.

They'll probably be replaced by "gimme four" since four gallons likely will be the average purchase of the average motorist who'll part with his ration coupons with all the reluctance of the Russians giving up streets in Stalingrad.

Unlike the east, which was forced into gas rationing months ago by a shortage, the oil producing west started off with car tanks full, not to mention a jug and a few beer bottles filled and tucked away in the garage—just for an emergency.

For instance there was the motorist at Dallas, Tex., who rolled up to a filling station and said "fill 'er up—a s y." The pump hand stopped on three pennies worth.

At Winfield, Kan., one station manager, along about midnight, sighed and pointed to a cigarette paper with some tobacco sprinkled on it lying on a table.

"I laid it there at noon and haven't had time to roll it yet," he explained. "How many, sir?" In St. Louis automobile traffic fell off sharply the first day of rationing but in Kansas City the decrease was slight.

However, traffic officials said that as the gasoline gauge pointed in automobiles nearer zero the traffic flow would diminish.

Farmers of the country, who had protested vehemently earlier, have been quieted by OPA boss (Turn to Page 2)

Darlan Takes African Lead

LONDON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—Adm. Jean Darlan, acting with the assertion that Marshal Petain is a prisoner of the Germans at Vichy, has taken over authority as chief of state in French Africa, it was announced Tuesday night from Morocco.

The Morocco radio said Darlan, who is cooperating with the allies, had set up an imperial council to advise him. This was announced after Darlan had conferred with Auguste Nogues and Pierre Boisson, governors general in Morocco and French West Africa, which embraces Dakar.

Fighting French quarters in London, who still regard Darlan as a traitor to France because of his Vichy record, said they assumed that Darlan's assumption of his new powers was in an effort to strengthen his political position. Presumably, it was his intention to set up a full-fledged French government in north and west Africa.

Farmers Angry At Rationing

Market May Be Shut; Bus Traffic Not Up Greatly

PORTLAND, Dec. 1.—(AP)—Portlanders cling to their transportation habits for the most part Tuesday as gasoline rationing went into effect, but farmers supplying the produce market protested a lack of motor fuel.

"Hyman H. Cohen, market editor of the Journal, said producers

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 1.—(AP)—Strange were the containers which filling station attendants were asked to fill to the brim Monday night.

A north side dealer reported a woman brought a six-ounce perfume bottle to be filled. A few minutes later a man drove up with a hollow lawn roller tied to the car. "Please fill 'em up," he said.

Market Master William Garbarino said the farmers would appeal to the Oregon state grange for assistance in obtaining increased gasoline allotments. Otherwise, rationing caused hardly a ripple. Most motorists apparently had filled their tanks before the midnight deadline and were using their cars Tuesday.

The Portland Traction company reported that streetcar and bus patronage was about the same as before but President Gordon Steele said he expected an increase in passengers to start in two days and develop gradually, to a point about 25 per cent greater than at present.

Some parking lots said their business dropped off Tuesday, but others said they noticed no difference.

Ration boards, however, were swamped with applications for B and C rationing books which call for additional gasoline supplies.

Thompson Asserts Farms to Comply

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 1.—(AP)—The American farmer is going to increase production despite difficulties, James H. Thompson, Salem, recently named FFA star farmer of America, told the Kiwanis club Tuesday.

"Last year American farmers produced 12 per cent more than they did the year previous and now we have been called to beat that record by another 12 per cent, and we'll do it. We're not going to give," Thompson said.

Allies Cut Axis Into Pockets Along Coast

Hitler Rushes Reserves Into Africa; 8th Army Feeling Out Rommel

LONDON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—An air struggle of an intensity unequalled since the battle of Britain was reported raging over Tunisia Tuesday night as Germans and Italians rushed in reinforcements by sea and air in a frantic bid to keep their footholds on the coastal rim and British, Americans and French drove spearheads forward to slice them into at least three pockets.

The Morocco radio said Tuesday night that one of these spearheads, composed of Americans and French, already had driven to the east coast between Gabes and Sfax, cutting out one pocket.

In the north, the Morocco broadcast added, the allies have driven through enemy minefields and overrun the resistance of German heavy tanks in the drive to divide the Germans in Tunis and Bizerte.

Apparently, the radio continued, the British First army now has come up "against the nucleus of enemy resistance."

Lt.-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has thrown everything in his aerial army, from Flying Fortresses to twin-tailed fighters, in a virtually non-stop assault on Bizerte, Tunis, Sfax and Gabes, the four key coastal points held by the axis, in the last 24 hours, said dispatches from allied headquarters in North Africa where a spokesman described the battle as at a critical stage.

Wes Gallaher, Associated Press correspondent at allied headquarters, who witnessed air battles over Greece and reported the first great clashes between the German air force and American Fortresses flying from Britain, said the struggle now taking place in North Africa was unequalled in intensity since the assault on England in 1940-41.

Round-the-clock allied assaults were reported in some dispatches to have made axis air bases at Bizerte virtually untenable, with Hitler forced to withdraw some of his planes to operating bases in Sicily.

But the Germans were trying desperately to halt the devastating series of raids, and American airmen flying twin-motored P-38 Lightnings (Lockheed fighters) encountered Germany's fastest high-altitude fighters, Focke-Wulf 190s and Messerschmitt 109s, for the first time over North Africa.

Hitler was bringing in air reserves from western Europe and the Russian front to stem the tide. One German pilot shot down had been flying over Stalingrad less than two weeks ago. (Turn to Page 2)

Pacific Subs Sink 5 More Jap Vessels

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—(AP)—The virtually unscathed heroes of America's Pacific fleet, the submariners who often stalk their quarry in Japan's closely guarded home waters, have sunk five more Japanese ships, including a destroyer, the navy announced Tuesday, and damaged two others, one of which probably sank.

This bag of seven vessels raised to 148 the number of enemy ships announced as sunk or damaged by American undersea action in the Pacific since the war started.

Naval officials said this total represented one of the greatest contributions made in the steady campaign of American forces to reduce Japan's ability to maintain her far-flung supply lines in the western Pacific and the China sea.

The ships announced sunk in Tuesday's communique were a destroyer of unidentified class and size, a 9000-ton tanker and three cargo ships of 8000, 6300 and 2000 tons respectively. In addition a 12,000-ton cargo ship was damaged. The total tonnage sunk or damaged was 43,300.

Prior to issuance of the communique Secretary Knox told a news conference that United States submarines in the Pacific were "doing a swell job."

River to Reach 21.5 Feet Here

Some Roads Closed; Army Asserts Dams Not Threatened

The Willamette river was due to reach a crest of 21.5 feet here early this morning but at 11:30 Tuesday night it was still falling and the gauge stood at 19 feet.

While it had been predicted earlier that the river would go to 24.5 feet, the Portland weather bureau said at 6:30 Tuesday night that "river conditions had improved" and it would not go higher than 21.5 at Salem.

This will be the third crest the river will have reached in eight days. Each time it has dropped for a time before starting to rise again as flood waters come in from up the river.

Rainfall during the month of November totaled 13.38 inches or more than twice the normal November figure, 5.89 inches, according to the Salem observer.

The bridge over Sardinia creek on the North Santiam highway is still impassable and repairs can not be made until the creek is lowered to a point where a crew can work. The Woodburn-Molalla secondary highway was reported flooded at the Pudding river bridge.

Many persons working in Salem and living in West Salem were concerned early Tuesday night as to whether they would be able to get across the Marion-Polk county bridge this morning. Such concern was relieved by the early report from the Portland weather bureau.

Local river observers said that the river would have to reach a height of 28 or 29 feet before traffic over the bridge would be impossible and then it would be because the highway through West Salem, Edgewater street, would be overflowed.

PORTLAND, Dec. 1.—(AP)—Col. Donald J. Leehy, district army engineer, Tuesday night denied a rumor that the Foxe Ridge and Cottage Grove dams had burst.

Leehy blamed Willamette valley radio stations for spreading a false report that a 20-foot wall of water was sweeping down the valley.

He criticized them for making the announcements Monday night without investigating the rumor.

Leehy said, "Both dams are retaining flood waters and are not full. They have not given the valley full flood protection since (Turn to Page 2)

Tripoli Photos Show Damage

CAIRO, Dec. 1.—(AP)—A remarkable series of photographs taken from United States airforce bombers which raided Tripoli harbor Sunday, showed Tuesday that damage was more extensive than originally believed.

The photographs, taken in succession by each of the planes to go over the target area, showed all stages of the raid from the tranquil scene snapped by the first plane to the spectacle of smoke and flame and sinking ships caught by the final bombers' cam-