

## Tobacco Kit New Industry

Virginia Firm Packs Soldier 'Smokes' In Salem Plant

(Continued from Page 1) E

agency of Blake, Moffitt & Towne, for the three-ply waterproof paper sacks and liners.

The kit method of shipping tobacco to army units has an advantage over the older method of sending cigarettes, tobacco and matches, packed in separate cases, in that each kit contains an assortment of goods selected on the basis of army surveys showing the demands of a representative group of 200 service men, according to Howard. His firm was the first to receive a kit-assembly contract from the quartermaster corps. The first packing plant was set up at Richmond, Va.; the one in Salem is the company's second unit, and the only one of its kind on the Pacific coast.

The assembly plant occupies 20,000 square feet of floor space for the production line and associated ceiling-high tiers of tobacco goods, whose value regularly runs into hundreds of thousands of dollars; 7000 feet more of space on the second floor of the warehouse is used for storage.

How the company came to locate in Salem is an interesting story in itself, according to statements made by Howard and correspondence in the files of the Salem chamber of commerce.

First inkling that such an industry might be secured for the capital city came to Manager Clay C. Cochran of the chamber last October 22 in a telegram from the Richmond chamber inquiring about any plant facilities and labor supply that might be available here for an unnamed "non-hazardous war industry." Cochran wired in reply that Salem was an ideal location, then began a hurried search with Pres. Carl W. Hogg of the chamber for an industrial floor space of the right size, with adequate heating and transportation facilities.

Twelve days later Mr. Howard and an associate, Joseph Wiggins, from the Detroit office of the firm, arrived in Salem. No suitable site had yet been found, but the chamber officials assured the men they would obtain the type of quarters desired.

"We had 17 locations under consideration," said Howard Wednesday, "but it seemed that we always turned back to Salem. The people have been wonderfully helpful here."

After assisting in arrangements preliminary to starting full-scale operations of the plant, Mr. Wiggins left Salem last week to return to Detroit. Mr. Howard will remain here for an indefinite time.

All labor in the assembly plant was recruited locally. The crews are fully staffed at the present time, Howard said.

The assembly operation of Larus & Brother, whose best-known products are Edgeworth pipe tobacco and Chelsea and Domino cigarettes, is primarily a service and goodwill undertaking rather than a profit-making venture, according to Howard.

"We'll break even, but that's about all," he declared. "The goodwill we get out of this wartime venture is all that we expect in return."

## Late Sports

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
At McMinnville, Ore., Linfield 53, Oregon College of Education 41.

At Boise, Idaho, Eastern Oregon Normal 50 Boise JC 45.

## British Vets Gain, Tunisia

(Continued from Page 1) G

mandos and paratroopers won the battle over some of the best German troops in a three-hour fight).

RAF Hurricane bombers and fighters supported the British on the ground. An RAF spokesman said that in battles yesterday four German Fock-Wulf 419 fighters and one Junkers 87 dive bombers were downed at the cost of one plane.

In addition to the Fortress attack on Sfax, American Marauder bombers struck at a Nazi airbase at Kairouan, about 36 miles southwest of Sousse.

Although the Cairo communiques of the RAF and the American headquarters told of air action in support of the allies in Tunisia, there was nothing to report from the land forces pursuing Nazi Marshal Rommel in Libya.

## Oregon Given \$3000 For Nursery Care

PORTLAND, Jan. 6 (AP)—Oregon has been granted \$3000 for the care of working mothers' children, the office of war information here announced Wednesday.

The grant was made by Paul V. McNutt, director of defense health and welfare services upon recommendation of the US office of education, the OWI said.

## Bodies Sought by Dragging; Flood Relief Groups Busy

Resorting to dragging the river today, men from state police, highway department and army units stationed in this area plan to continue their search for bodies of Archie Cook of Woodburn, and Michael Maurer of Stayton.

The two men, members of a state highway department crew working Saturday night to remove the Mellow Moon skating rink from the place where flood waters of the Willamette had lodged it against the Polk county approach to the inter-county bridge, fell into the river when the floor of the old building disintegrated beneath them.

All day Wednesday crews of workers searched in the lowlands from which water had receded.

Meanwhile, volunteer workers thronged to Red Cross headquarters here to aid with work of serving flood sufferers; the Marshall-Stolz drier near Woodburn operated to dry bedding dampened in the high water and hauled to the drier by a county truck.

John Scott, state field representative for the organization, and Gladys Guinaw, disaster relief worker, left Wednesday afternoon for Eugene, there to confer with other flood relief workers on the situation as a whole.

Queries from relatives in other states poured into Red Cross chapter offices, and workers pointed to them as a reason why every person in the stricken areas should register. The telegrams inquiring as to condition of kinfolk here will be answered by the Red Cross, but only after a record has been secured of condition of the parties concerning whom the questions were asked. Irl S. McSherry, county disaster relief chairman, said.

In some areas where flood water stood last weekend residents have been found drinking well water without first properly cleansing the source or boiling the water. Dr. W. J. Stone, county health officer, was informed Wednesday. Danger of typhoid from such sources is very real and may remain so for some time because of the type of debris washed down by the high water and the considerable loss of livestock, much of which is decaying in the river, health authorities have declared.

## 1200 Added Miners Join Coal Strike

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Jan. 6 (AP)—Twelve hundred more anthracite miners declared a holiday Wednesday night in a meeting at nearby Olyphant, while Thomas Kennedy, international secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America was appealing to more than 9000 strikers here to go back to work and adjust their grievances over wages and increased dues through "proper channels."

Kennedy's plea, climaxing a series of fast-breaking developments in the anthracite industry Wednesday, was made at a closed meeting of local union committee. He declared the union's executive committee would hear any protest over dues and said operators would be asked to open their contracts for wage negotiations as soon as the six-day week question is settled.

The committeemen agreed to take Kennedy's recommendations back to their locals and submit them to a vote at special meetings.

## Finnish Paper Sees Hostility

HELSINKI, Finland, Jan. 6 (AP)—The Helsinki newspaper Uusi Suomi Wednesday charged that powerful hostile interests who view with disfavor continuance of Finnish-American relations were systematically sabotaging Finnish sympathies in the United States.

This national coalition party newspaper cited what it called "exaggerated and untrue" stories about Finland appearing in the American press.

It accused the hostile interests with trying to portray members of the Finnish government as personally ill-disposed toward America, as in the Japanese film incident.

(The office of war information on Dec. 17 broadcast to Finland a report that Finnish cabinet members had attended a Japanese legation party in Helsinki on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor and had congratulated the Japanese.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (AP)—H. F. Arthur Schoenfeld, United States minister to Finland, made the single statement, "I have been ordered back for consultation," as he arrived at La Guardia field Wednesday after a trans-Atlantic flight.

## Workers to Return

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6 (AP)—One phase of a labor controversy affecting work in two transbay shipyards was settled Wednesday with the announcement by four federal mediators that 24 CIO machinists, idle for seven days, would return to work Thursday at the General Engineering company, Alameda.

## Enemy Planes, Ships Wrecked

Kiska Cargo Vessel Sunk; Navy Force Batters Munda

(Continued from Page 1) A

ka. This would place it in the Bering sea and far off the usual supply routes from Japan to Kiska. There were possibilities that it had been driven off its course by bad weather, or had purposely made a wide circle in an effort to avoid American air patrols.

A Liberator heavy bomber located the other Japanese ship 185 miles southwest of Kiska Wednesday. It scored one direct hit and two near hits on the vessel.

The actions brought the Japanese ship losses in the Aleutians to 14 sunk, six probably sunk and 31 damaged.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (AP)—In a daring foray into the Japanese-dominated middle Solomons, an American force of surface warships has shelled and battered the enemy air base and installations at Munda, New Georgia Island.

The operation, which was carried out during the early morning darkness Tuesday, was reported in a navy communique Wednesday which told also of an air attack, with uncertain results, on a heavy Japanese cruiser, and the bombing of an enemy transport some 300 miles north of Guadalcanal Island.

In addition, the communique related that 84 Japanese were killed in mopping up operations in the Mount Austen sector of Guadalcanal. Mount Austen, a 1514-foot peak southwest of the American-held airfield, was wrested from the Japanese January 4.

In all the operations, seven Japanese planes definitely were shot down and four others were probably destroyed. Two United States planes were lost.

Flying Fortresses attacked the Japanese cruiser at Buin, Bougainville Island. They were accompanied by Lockheed Lightning fighters which got into a battle with 25 Japanese planes. Three of the enemy were shot down and two others probably downed.

The Japanese transport hit by bombs was attacked by Flying Fortresses in the Shortland Island area.

All these attacks, together with an air raid on Rabaul, in which Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported that nine ships were hit, fell into a general pattern of operations designed to upset an apparently impending Japanese move in the southwest Pacific.

## Davis Doubts Halsey Stand For '43 Win

(Continued from Page 1) F

ently were finding the publication hard to answer.

German, Italian and Japanese radios still are showing a great deal of indignation about the white book, Davis told his press conference, and for want of a better reply "are telling their people, for instance, that it is a 'series of counterfeits.'"

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan. 6 (AP)—Adm. William F. Halsey, Jr., United Nations commander-in-chief in the south Pacific who recently predicted the complete defeat of the axis in 1943, has a low estimate of the Japanese service man.

In an interview in New Zealand, the United States admiral stood confidently on his prediction of allied victory this year and added:

"When we first started out, I held one of our men equal to three Japanese. I now increase this to 20.

"They are not supermen although they try to make us believe they are. They are just low monkeys. I say monkeys because I cannot say what I would like to call them."

## Rating Order Revoked, Dam

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (AP)—The war production board revoked Wednesday preference ratings orders issued to the corps of engineers for 65 flood control and river and harbor projects included in the army's civil works program.

The office of war information said the action was in line with the policy to curtail work on non-war nature in order to conserve materials and equipment essential to the war effort.

Among the projects were: Oregon: Deschutes reservoir (relocation); Malheur river (sagging); Westport district.

Washington: Columbia river, Vancouver, Washington, to Bonnevill, Oregon (river and harbor project).

Preference rating orders revoked today included one issued to American Food Products corporation for building and equipment for producing pre-cooked dehydrated potato shreds at Klamath Falls, Oregon.



By ISABEL CHILDS

When the AP wires brought in tonight (Wednesday) the story of the finding of Buzz Wagner's body, I stretched a long arm across my desk to a blue-covered volume I had a few hours earlier placed beside the old red Roget's Thesaurus. And I read again the blithe chapter there in entitled "Buzz Wagner Goes Aloft."

The book, Stewart Holbrook's latest, is "None More Courageous," and it wasn't placed on my desk as a reference work, although many a newspaper person over the nation will so use it. Rather, I had it there to make sure that this column stayed between the column rules and as a sort of exhibit.

Then it goes home to its place in the bookshelves that aren't there (wanted a cabinet-maker). For it's a volume I shall want to keep. In his own breezy, understanding style, Stewart Holbrook has helped the heroes of the first months of America's participation in the war on to immortality.

When I first knew him, he was going just that for police officers, district attorneys and now and then a gunman of the old west as he wrote true stories of crimes in the wilds of southwestern Oregon. Sawdust, too, was in his blood, and he could put into his yarns from logging camp and sawmill the unpolished and the ideas and the ideals of rough characters, all woven together in such a way that it came out living, breathing, readable stuff—he'd blush at the description, but it met the qualifications one of my university professors used to hand out for "prose poetry."

Since that day, Stewart Holbrook has put part of his research

into criminal records in a book called "Murder Out Yonder," which graces the shelves of many a fine library.

The sawdust odor hangs around "Holy Old Mackinaw," his first published book, which was a best seller and still is the best book available on the subject—he calls it "a natural history of the American Lumberjack."

Readers of history know of Holbrook as author of that stirring biography, "Ethan Allen," while I equally enjoyed the book he says cost him the most life-risking effort, "Iron Brew," story of a century of American ore and steel.

Now, you see, I've scarcely touched on "None More Courageous," despite its presence on my desk and the fact that I've read it once and re-read the chapter on Buzz Wagner.

Only Willamette valley here mentioned in the volume is Elwyn L. Christman, Mt. Angel, listed among those from Paving Ten who received the navy cross.

But "The Voyage of Harley Olson" occupies one chapter with its story of Merchant Sailor Olson, who recalled days and songs at Washington high school, Portland.

Holbrook, known to most Oregon newspaper folk and to many newspaper readers, went east late last summer to meet and interview such men as Wagner and Bulkeley of torpedo boat fame and to view for himself army and navy records of heroic men and women (there's a chapter on nurses in the Philippines) who already have blazoned records for themselves and their country across the scarlet page of this war.

## Body of Ace Boyd Wagner Found, Plane

(Continued from Page 1) D

have shot down between 15 and 50 Japanese ships. He was sent home on special assignments last fall.

Wagner left Eglin Field, Fla., November 29 and last was heard from by radio as he passed near Crestview, Fla., 50 miles north.

Wagner's father joined in the search for his son last month, but returned home recently, badly worn out physically.

Wagner quit the University of Pittsburgh in his junior year to enlist as a flying cadet. He was made a second lieutenant in 1938.

"Buzz" was a taciturn sort of fellow who dealt more in action than words. He never would discuss his personal activities, although associates said he destroyed somewhere between 15 and 50 Japanese planes in the early weeks of the war.

When the war broke out, Wagner was a first lieutenant stationed near Manila. There are many stories about his feats which led to his becoming the youngest lieutenant colonel in the army after he had been transferred to Australia.

One of these was about the time "Buzz" and a squadron dove on a Jap landing party at Vigan. His companions were all shot down, but "Buzz" made five separate attacks, returning each time for more fuel and ammunition.

Another story was about the time three "Zeros" chased him around a volcano. His plane was faster on a level flight, but slower as a climber, so he kept going around the volcano until he was chasing the Japs.

Wagner was credited with downing three planes during one of the biggest aerial dogfights of the early New Guinea campaign.

## Gable Gains Gun Emblem

TYNDALL FIELD, Fla., Jan. 6 (AP)—Clark Gable quit the movies to try for a job as army aerial gunner—and that's how it's going to be.

Tall, tanned, and wearing the mustache which identified him in many a Hollywood production, Gable received Wednesday the silver wings of an air force gunner, emblematic of successful completion of Tyndall Field's tough course.

Where he'll go now is something even Gable doesn't know—but he hopes it'll be to combat service, to get a crack at Tojo and the Jerries with the business end of a heavy machine gun.

Awarding the silver emblem to Gable, now a first lieutenant in the air force, Col. W. A. Maxwell described the former film star as "an excellent student."

## Produce Price Top Simplified

Fixed Margins Set; Machinery Ready To Hit Shortages

(Continued from Page 1) E

had established machinery for dealing with temporary local shortages of meats, butter, eggs and other essential foods arising out of maldistribution.

Reports of shortages have been received by the food administration from many areas, particularly from cities which have had sharp increases in population resulting from defense plant employment.

The machinery provides for the creation of state and area food committees, to be composed of representatives of the food industry and government officials, to handle critical supply problems.

These committees, expected to be functioning throughout the country within ten days, will receive and investigate complaints of shortages, and, where complaints are verified, arrange for the movement of supplies to alleviate conditions. The committees also will determine causes of shortages and recommend steps to prevent their recurrence.

This machinery will serve pending the inauguration of consumer rationing of short foods. Food officials said they expected rationing to correct many problems of maldistribution that have arisen as a result of short supplies and the war economy.

In telegrams to regional directors of the food distribution administration authorizing the appointment of state and local food committees, Director Roy F. Hendrickson said when a genuine shortage is found the local food committees should take steps to relieve the situation through voluntary cooperation by calling on manufacturers or distributors to expedite movement to the point of shortage. If the situation can not be corrected locally, the committees were directed to call upon state committees or upon the food distribution administration in Washington for assistance in moving in supplies.

## Economic Staff Urged

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (AP)—Legislation to set up an "economic general staff" to take charge of war production in all its phases, including manpower, with a "drastic reorganization of existing agencies," was recommended by a senate subcommittee Wednesday.

## ELSIDORE TODAY, FRI., SAT.

Their Greatest Joy-Filled Hit

ASTAIRE HAYWORTH

You Were Never So Lively

WAGNER AND HIS ORCHESTRA

PLUS "CARE, SOFT SHOULDERS"

Plus - Hit Cartoon

## CAPITOL Last Times Today

BRENT MARSHALL

You Can't Escape Forever

Plus - Tim Holt in "DUDE COW-BOY"

## Internal Revenue Offices Aid, Tax

J. W. Maloney, collector of internal revenue for the district of Oregon, has announced that, in accordance with instructions received from the commissioner of internal revenue, Washington, DC, major zone offices have been established at Salem, Eugene, Klamath Falls and Pendleton.

These offices will be kept open for service to the public during the entire business day, and as personnel and equipment become available the service extended will be enlarged to include the distribution of forms, acceptance of current returns and payments, including cash, and, if warranted, the sale of revenue stamps in limited kinds and quantities.

During the absence of zone deputy collectors the offices will be in charge of a clerk-stenographer who is qualified to render assistance to the public.

## Cain to Speak

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 6 (AP)—Mayor Harry P. Cain of Tacoma will address Oregon democrats at their annual Jackson day dinner here Saturday.

## 8th ANNIVERSARY REVUE

Plus Feature

HAIR-RAISING ACTION

Boston Blackie Goes Hollywood

Plus Feature

WINGS FOR THE EAGLE

Ann SHERIDAN

## Two Chicago Fires Kill 6 Persons, Hurt 40 Others

CHICAGO, Jan. 6 (AP)—Two explosive fires—one in a crowded bowling alley Tuesday midnight and the other in a truck repair plant Wednesday—brought death to six persons and sent 40 others to hospitals.

Seven workers were injured when flames and three explosions swept through the repair shop of the Neil company at 2958 Cottage Grove avenue late Wednesday.

Six men perished, 33 persons were hurt seriously enough to require hospital treatment and scores of others suffered minor injuries in the midnight bowling alley blaze. Some investigators theorized that it may have been started by crossed wires in a foul signal system and that the subsequent explosion may have resulted from pin cleaning fluid on the premises.

LOWELL, Mass., Jan. 6 (AP)—A dozen persons were injured as panicked men and women were rescued from a fire in the Omaha Packing company plant Wednesday, some of them with their clothing and hair in flames.

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