

Red Columns Snap Shut Nazi Escape Lines

Manpower Board To Control Hiring In Shortage Areas

Workers Seek Information; Training Set

Instructions Coming On Draft Order; Classes Speeded

Specific instructions concerning local effects of the war manpower commission's announcement Wednesday, which canceled dependency draft deferments for men in non-essential industries, are expected within the next several days by William H. Baillie, Salem, office manager of the US employment service.

A constant flow of both workers and employers has besieged the office, Baillie said, seeking information as to what they may expect from the commission's ruling.

Plans to step up war training in the Salem area to accommodate men who find they have no training or background to enter an essential war industry were announced Thursday by Baillie and C. A. Guderian, coordinator for the Salem war training program. Guderian announced that his department is ready to offer training to the limit of its facilities, which offer space for 200 trainees ready immediately.

Present classes include shipyard welding, aviation sheet metal, general sheet metal and machine shop. Both day and night classes are maintained in shipyard welding, for which there is a great demand for workers, with a night class in aviation sheet metal possible if trainees demand it. Both classes are open to both men and women. Machine shop class meets each night, allowing trainees to continue in their daytime employment. Later, if demanded, a class in marine wiring will be offered, Guderian stated.

Classes are offered at no expense to the trainee, except for personal equipment. Basic pay for welders is \$1.20 an hour and advancement to employment is based on tests of ability, not upon a time requirement. Persons interested may apply through the US employment service, or to Guderian evenings at the high school shops.

By The Associated Press

By the hundreds of thousands, men of draft age are already seeking war work, a survey indicated Thursday, as a result of the war manpower commission's warning that beginning April 1 dependents will be no cause for deferment of those in certain non-essential occupations.

In New York City, applications with the US employment service for war jobs jumped to 29,802 Wednesday, the day after the warning, compared with 8000 daily before then. The rush continued yesterday with 13,493 interviewed.

The Philadelphia office of the service reported 500 telephone inquiries an hour. Applications were up 50 per cent in Omaha, 35 per cent in Chicago and 30 per cent in Des Moines.

In Washington, whose workers fall largely into two classes, those in the government and those in service industries, officials of the employment service were considering putting on special evening shifts of interviewers.

In issuing the warning, the manpower commission said 3,200,000 transfers from non-essential occupations to war work must be made in 1943.

Order Expected to Hold Workers in Essential Jobs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4-(AP)—Chairman Paul V. McNutt announced Thursday night that the war manpower commission would take control of the hiring of labor in shortage areas, a step expected to freeze millions of persons in war industries or other tasks deemed essential. Under the system, McNutt said, the manpower commission or agencies approved by it will furnish workers to employers on a priority system based on the importance of the employer in the war effort. New barriers will be raised to prevent workers shifting from vital occupations to less essential ones, and limits will be placed on the authority of employers to fire workers assigned to them through the manpower commission.

WMC officials emphasized that no one would be pegged irrevocably in any particular job or even in any line of work, if he had "good reasons" to leave, but one aim of the controls is to prevent persons from leaving war work for non-essential jobs without reasons considered sufficient.

Nothing in the regulations would prevent a man from getting a promotion or, for example, progressing from a low-paying job to a higher-paying one in his factory.

Moreover, the officials said, appeals procedure will function to protect the workers' rights, and (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Subs, Bombers Get 14 Ships Above Africa

LONDON, Feb. 4-(AP)—New successes in the allied campaign of attrition against axis sea communications—the destruction of 14 and perhaps 16 axis ships in the Mediterranean by submarine and bomber action over a period of several days—were announced Thursday as land action in Tunisia again fell into a lull.

In what the allied headquarters communique described as "a limited success," the British in a local attack seized a height six miles south of Bou Arada, in the central mountainous area of Tunisia, and threw back a German counter-attack. A check-over of prisoners taken by the Americans in earlier actions disclosed that an Italian brigadier-general was among them.

At the eastern end of the line, the British Eighth army pursuing Marshal Rommel westward from Libya reported only patrol activity against his rear guard. The bulk of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British forces were at, or very near, the Tunisian frontier, with some advanced elements operating well within Tunisia.

Allied air action was reported heavy from Tunisia to Sicily and Italy, and the day's official reports showed eight allied planes lost in the Tunisian theatre to six for the axis—a favorable ratio for the enemy not often achieved.

Of the 14 axis ships reported sunk in the Mediterranean, four went down under bomber attack and 10 under submarine assault. Two others were known to have been hit and were believed sunk.

Nazis Puzzled Over Churchill

The Berlin radio displayed a perplexed but continuing interest Thursday and Thursday night in the movements of British Prime Minister Churchill.

Adolf Dead?



JOSEPH E. DAVIES

Davies Suggests Hitler Mourned

Predicts Situation, If True, Would Not End Nazis

NEW YORK, Feb. 4-(AP)—Joseph E. Davies, former ambassador to Russia, suggested Thursday night on the "March of Time" program heard over NBC, the possibility that Adolf Hitler is dead.

"These days of mourning and grief in Germany supposedly because of the Stalingrad defeat and the fact that Hitler did not make his 10th anniversary speech last week suggests the possibility that Hitler is dead," he said.

"But suppose Hitler is dead," Davies added. "The Nazi party with its industrial fascists and taxation voted to report out favorably Rep. John Steelhammer's bill taxing pinball machines and 'juke boxes' for the benefit of the public welfare fund."

The committee previously had hesitated for fear that, by increasing (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

military leaders is still alive. . . . And even though Hitler were dead, the depression of the German people fed by Goebbels' propaganda and the horror of a United Nations' victory will sustain the German war machine. A gigantic attempt to break through to the Baku oil field may be expected therefore this summer."

Davies, praising the Russian advance, declared that the German campaign there "is on the verge of being completely smashed."

Inquiries poured into newspapers in Omaha, Utica, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Cincinnati. The New York Daily News, in an editorial last Tuesday, speculated on the possibility that Hitler was dead.

The editorial stated in part that "on the face of the known facts on the January 30 Berlin observance of Adolf Hitler's rise to power, we think it is just possible that Hitler is dead."

The editorial added that "we have no inside lowdown which prompts this editorial."

Canada's Oil To Be Found

CALGARY, Friday, Feb. 5-(CP)—The Calgary Albertan Friday quoted reliable sources that "drilling of wildcat oil wells in about 40 different areas of the far north is slated to get underway next summer." The program will be the biggest of Canada's history, it said.

"The program is designed to furnish oil for the partially constructed pipeline from Fort Norman to the Alaska highway," the newspaper stated, adding that the 1943 program "is under the auspices of and largely financed by the United States army."

As a result, a vast development program is planned bringing into the picture besides Imperial Oil Limited, already operating in the area, the Union Oil company of California, the Noble Drilling company and the American government.

Hospital Bill In Disfavor

Houses Pass 41 Bills; Committees Okeh Tax, Spending

By RALPH C. CURTIS

Objecting to the absence of cost estimates, the Oregon legislature's joint ways and means committee Thursday disapproved of a bill which would have referred to the voters the question of establishing a psychiatric hospital in Portland.

The bill, introduced by Rep. F. H. Dammash, Multnomah, was reported out "do not pass" after Sen. W. H. Strayer, Baker, said he was advised the cost would be about \$2,000,000, but that the voters should be given some idea of the necessary outlay.

In a day marked by long sessions of the two houses, in which 41 bills were approved on third reading and others were defeated or indefinitely postponed, committees nevertheless found time for these insignificant decisions:

Deciding to "do something for the old folks" as recommended by Gov. Earl Snell but by a different means, the house committee on assessment and

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR Third readings Friday: In House: HB 62, 97, 103, 126, 137, 168, 182, 187, 205, 213, 228, 232, 249, 262, 263, 272, 284, 307, 311, SB 19. In Senate: SB 73, 92, 101, 102, HB 22, 74, 116.

taxation voted to report out favorably Rep. John Steelhammer's bill taxing pinball machines and "juke boxes" for the benefit of the public welfare fund.

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USO Advised As Operator Of 3rd Center

Recommending that the USO, with the YMCA as predominating influence, operate Salem's proposed new downtown service men's center, Salem's defense recreation committee took action Thursday afternoon at its meeting to get operations plans lined up should the Breyman building reconstruction plans be accepted by the federal securities agency.

Acceptable here also would be Catholic charities or Salvation Army operation of the new center, although the original USO center has the national YMCA supervision and committee members believed there might be less confusion and more efficiency if both were under the same setup.

Installation of motion picture equipment has been commenced at the currently-operating USO center here. Complete sound projection equipment was included in the shipment received recently from New York but a screen and pictures are still lacking. Current movies are to be selected from 16-millimeter stocks in specified Portland film exchanges.

The equipment is to be used at the center on certain days, to be established, and at other times is to be sent to outposts in this area and to Camp Adair for use of men in quarantine.

Norway Press Change Told

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 4-(AP)—The newest secret instructions by the Nazis to the Norwegian press, order editors "not to write as if it is already certain that Germany is going to win the war," the Swedish-Norwegian news agency said Thursday night.

"Contrary to earlier orders," the instructions were quoted as saying, "German defeats and the seriousness of the situation must be emphasized. Until further notice there should be no unbalanced attacks against England."

Wounded Gunner Treated Under Fire



A British gun crew member in Tripolitania treats the wounded shoulder of a comrade in a slit trench while their six-pounder in background continues to blast at axis forces retreating toward Tunisia. This is an official British photo.—Associated Press Telemat.

Cities Request Road Revenues

Commission Opposes Allocation for Street Use

Allocation of 15 per cent of all highway department revenues from state sources, to cities for use in construction and maintenance of streets, was advocated by spokesmen for the League of Oregon Cities at a meeting of the house high-way and highway revenue committee Thursday afternoon.

The bill proposing such allocation was opposed by R. H. Baldock, engineer for the highway commission, on the commission's behalf. He estimated highway revenues would be reduced 40 per cent this year and next because of rubber and gasoline rationing and said the commission would be hard pressed for funds, purely for debt retirement and maintenance without undertaking any new construction. He said \$1,780,000 had been spent in cities in 1942, on "highway" streets and on other streets used by logging trucks.

Virgil Langtry of the League of Oregon Cities said the bill provided for no allocation to cities unless revenues to the highway department exceeded \$10,000,000, and the cities would receive no portion of the receipts below that figure. But Howard Merriam of (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Defense Plant Workers Here Go on Strike

Putting away tools and equipment at 8 o'clock in the middle of the shift, workmen at the Keith Brown Building Supply company shops here went on strike Thursday night to become, if union officials at a recent Salem convention spoke correctly, the first building trades union on a defense job in Oregon to lose an hour because of labor trouble. One hundred men are involved.

A mediator has already been requested, members of the employees group declared Thursday night.

The question is that of hourly wage on a new defense contract, it was said. Work of building prefabricated houses on the current contract by the Brown company nears completion, while a new task was getting under way this week, it was said.

If the new job is millwork, as in the case of construction of the prefabricated houses, the union wage is \$1.12 1/2 an hour; if it is box factory work, the union scale is 95 cents, it was said.

Stayton Soldier Taken Prisoner

STAYTON, Feb. 4-(AP)—A communication from the war department this week to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Neitling of Sublimity revealed that their son, Al F. Neitling, was taken a prisoner on Bataan. Another son, Leo, was killed several months ago in the crash of an army bomber out of McCord field and the word that Al is alive, although a prisoner, was received with great joy.

RAF Bombers Slash Italy And Germany

LONDON, Feb. 5-(AP)—Home-based RAF bombers smashed at Italy and enemy-occupied territory Thursday night, it was stated authoritatively Friday.

This was the first raid of the year by bombers from Britain against Italy, though that country has been struck a number of times by British and American bombers in the Mediterranean area.

It marked the third successive night attack in the heavy allied day and night offensive against axis objectives and followed a day in which bombers of the US army air forces, making their second raid of the war on Germany, struck at northwest Germany.

Large formations of American Flying Fortresses and their four-motored mates of the RAF dropped hundreds of tons of high explosives in an around-the-clock offensive Wednesday night and Thursday which was aimed at the area where Adolf Hitler's most essential submarine works are concentrated.

Preliminary indications were that the powerful night attack by the British on Hamburg, followed Thursday by large formations of Flying Fortresses, was meant to be one of the biggest allied aerial offensives of the war, but icy clouds and deadly opposition were encountered and 21 bombers were lost in all—five of them American.

Swarms of Messerschmitt 109s, 110s, and 510s, Focke-Wulf 190s and Junkers 88s, jumped the Fortresses and gave them their biggest battle yet, it was reported.

Two Messerschmitt 109s were claimed by Staff Sgt. Stanley Tucker, Danner, (Malheur county) Ore., top turret gunner in Cramer's plane. Staff Sgt. William Withus, the Bronx, New York, ball turret gunner, said he saw them crash in the sea.

Reds Assured More Weapons

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4-(AP)—Secy. of War Stimson combined a promise of increased delivery of weapons to Russia with the observation Thursday that destruction of the German Sixth army before Stalingrad had freed large numbers of Soviet troops for offensive operations.

The Stalingrad disaster was one of the greatest military defeats ever suffered by German arms, Stimson told a press conference. Yet he said the Nazis fought bravely, there was no sign of general demoralization in their army and, despite a generally favorable situation on all fronts, there is "no ground for excessive optimism concerning an early end of the struggle."

In promising stepped-up shipments of arms to the Soviets, Stimson said losses on convoy routes to Murmansk had been reduced and transportation facilities expanded on the southern route via the Persian gulf and Iran.

German Armies Squeezed

All Roads to Rostov Closed; Defense Lines Broken

By The Associated Press

The red army smashed its way across the northern Caucasus to within 38 miles of the Sea of Azov Thursday, the Russians announced early Friday, and the soviet troops effectively cut off from escape through Rostov the Nazi Caucasian army of 200,000 badly-mauled troops.

This army now seemed trapped, with escape apparently possible only across water to the Crimean peninsula, a hazardous route on which they certainly would be subjected to the full fury of a red army, land, sea and air pummeling.

The Soviet counter-offensive has rolled forward at such astounding speed that it has surpassed even the most optimistic expectations of Joseph Stalin and his red army commanders, who are now raising their sights in the belief that the German army is beaten, London informants reported.

This hint that the red army is preparing to drive forward in a continuing offensive that may change drastically in a few months even the present favorable allied situation was given by unnamed informants thoroughly familiar with the eastern position as five new developments were reported:

1. These informants said Germany and her satellites were reckoned to have lost more than 1,000,000 men since November 19, when the red army began its general counter-attack.

2. Moscow announced capture of the Caucasian towns of Starominskaya and Kanevskaya, each only 38 miles from the sea of Azov below Rostov, and said the red army had broken through the first line of new Nazi defenses south of Rostov.

3. With this smash toward the sea of Azov, the German Caucasian army seemed trapped around Novorossiisk and Krasnodar, with escape apparently possible only through the Crimean peninsula.

4. The Berlin radio itself reported a Russian marine landing on the Taman peninsula which threatened to block an escape across to the Crimea.

5. The Russians announced in a special communique that another German army, once estimated at nine divisions, or more than 100,000 men, had been squeezed and cut in two west of Voronezh and reduced by 44,000 men killed and captured in the last nine days.

The developments south of Rostov indicated that the troops of German Field Marshal Stogmund Wilhelm List were being cut into segments and already were virtually isolated by multiple red army landward thrusts from the south and east and by red fleet detachments from the sea.

The capture of Starominskaya and Kanevskaya indicated that the Russians had thrown heavy masses of men and materials into a push west of the Rostov-Baku railway and were in heavy force between the German forces at Rostov and those still clinging to Krasnodar and the Black sea port of Novorossiisk farther to the south in the Caucasus.

All main roads and railroads for the Germans' escape northward to Rostov were in Russian hands.

The Russians said their forces in driving toward the sea of Azov had smashed irresistibly against a dense defense belt of barbed wire entanglements, trenches, blockhouses and minefields which the Germans had perfected through many months of hard work to defend Rostov.

Annie's Back!

Statesman readers who have missed "Little Annie Roemer" on the comic page this week will find her back in her usual place today. Two panels a day will be run until this popular comic—which the syndicate supplying it failed to include with other comics early this week—has caught up with itself. Turn to the comic page.