

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Stryker

IT SEEMS TO ME that the state police have done a remarkable piece of detection in locating the man who admits he is responsible for the drowning of Miss Ruth Hildebrand. The clues with which to start work were few. For days the identity of the girl pulled from the waters of the Willamette was unknown. Later her clothes and a bus ticket were found; her name was learned and her movements traced. The step-by-step process of elimination and search proceeded, and finally the suspect confessed the dual crime of rape and striking the girl so she fell into the river and was drowned. The success of the police officers makes them rate with Scotland Yard and the detectives of Conan Doyle's fiction.

But what a sorry story this is: a man of mature years, 36, powerful in stature, who had served as a police officer in two towns in Oregon, so debased that he made it a practice of picking up girls or women and assaulting them. This Hildebrand girl was only 17. And what business, one may ask, did she have ranging around the countryside alone, late at night?

If the rapist had been a soldier, the whole army of soldiers would be in disrepute. If he had been a negro his race would have been blamed and in some sections a necktie party would be arranged. But here we have a white man of enough intelligence and standing to get a police job in at least one community where he must have been known. But the white race, as a race, feels no guilt because of one man's misdeeds. The affair ought to teach the lesson that rape and murder are not due to race or occupation, but to moral lapse, a common sin of all humanity.

Bomb Load Explosion Damages Road

RED BLUFF, Calif., July 8.—(AP)—A trailer-load of 100-pound fragmentation bombs exploded with an earth-shaking roar heard 20 miles away Thursday, starting a small forest fire and tearing up huge chunks of highway.

The truck driver, Earl Dan Neal of San Francisco, grabbed his fire extinguisher when he discovered his trailer on fire, but he was unable to halt the flames which menaced the 10-ton load of explosives.

Neal unhitched the trailer and drove away in the truck, itself loaded with six tons of bombs, and waited for the explosion. He didn't have to wait long.

Bomb fragments set a fire in trees bordering the Red Bluff-Susanville highway and the blast itself wrecked a large portion of the road 23 miles east of Red Bluff.

Neal blamed the fire on some mechanical difficulty in the trailer's brakes or wheels.

The load was en route to Seattle.

First Kaiser Carrier Is Commissioned

ASTORIA, Ore., July 8.—(AP)—The first aircraft escort vessel launched by Henry J. Kaiser shipyards was commissioned Thursday and turned over to its captain, Cmdr. S. W. Callaway, and his crew. The vessel was named the Casabianca.

Capt. J. D. Barner, commandant of the Astoria naval station, commissioned the ship on behalf of Vice Admiral Frank J. Fletcher, commandant of the 13th naval district.

Cmdr. Callaway, his officers and men arrived here Wednesday night by special train from Bremerton. The ship's executive officer is Lt. Cmdr. T. Ashcraft.

Rains Bring New Crisis In Local Cherry Harvest

By RALPH C. CURTIS

Recent showers have precipitated—no pun intended—a new crisis in the cherry harvest. The outcome depends quite largely upon subsequent weather, but the advent of rain serves to emphasize the need for sustained effort toward completion of the community's cherry-picking chore.

Contrary to any impression that may have been gained from reports that the demand for additional, new pickers was slackening off, the cherry harvest as a whole is not on the wane. According to Robert H. Shinn of Willamette Cherry Growers, there still are as many cherries on the trees as have been picked.

If there is no further rain in the near future and if the weather

Yank Patrols Engage Jap Munda Defenses; Nazi Tanks Drive New Wedge at Heavy Loss

Nazi Dead 35,000

Foe Infantry Unit Cut Off by Reds And Badly Beaten

LONDON, Friday, July 9.—(AP) German tanks drove still another wedge into Soviet lines in the Belgorod sector below the Kursk bulge Thursday in history's greatest armored conflict, but Moscow declared early today that the Red army stood firm elsewhere and even had recovered some lost ground to the north.

Russian fire smashed 304 more German tanks and downed 61 more enemy planes for a four-day toll of 1,843 tanks and 810 planes, said the midnight bulletin recorded by the Soviet Monitor.

German casualties had passed the 35,000 mark, the communists said. Five thousand enemy troops fell Thursday in a single narrow sector of the Kursk-Orel front where the Germans hurled 90,000 men against Red army lines without achieving a breakthrough, it said.

In the Belgorod sector the Russians said their troops had allowed the axis tanks to get through, cutting off the enemy infantry and "inflicting devastating blows on them," while Russian anti-tank gunners and tank crews began whittling down the enemy armor in the wedge.

This statement offered some hope that the German wedge soon would be wiped out in this sector, where the Germans have advanced four times in as many days.

In the Kursk-Orel sector Russian counterattacks were reported (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

RAF Bombers Over Reich Last Night

LONDON, Friday, July 9.—(AP)—RAF bombers returned to the assault on Germany Thursday night after a four-night lull in the allied aerial offensive against the reich, the British announced today.

As usual, the preliminary announcement did not disclose the specific target of the British raiders. There were indications, however, that the attack was carried out in some strength, observers on the British southeast coast reporting that considerable numbers of bombers were heard heading eastward across the channel last night.

The operation was aided by favorable weather, the skies clearing last evening after a day of thunderstorms.

It was the RAF's first assault on Germany since last Saturday night, when Cologne, Hamburg and objectives in the Ruhr were subjected to a heavy attack.

Sikorski Remains Taken to Britain

MADRID, July 8.—(AP)—A Cifra (Spanish news agency) dispatch from Algiers said Thursday night that Polish destroyers with the body of Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski left Gibraltar for Britain.

The Polish premier crashed to his death in a passenger plane taking off from Gibraltar Sunday night.

Where Pacific Battle Centers

Aerial view of Rendova island (top photo) in the New Guinea group, shows the island, five miles from the Jap Munda air base, which is the center of operations against enemy forces in the Solomons. The island had a small enemy garrison which was wiped out within two hours after the June 30 landing. Viru harbor, only navigable harbor in the New Georgia group (lower photo), is located on New Georgia island. It was one of the first points taken over by American forces. The harbor is 30 miles from the Japanese air base at Munda.

does not turn warm again too abruptly, these latest showers probably will have done no serious damage and, despite all the setbacks, cherry growers have suffered, the district's total tonnage for the season may equal that of last year.

At no time to date, growers report, has the supply of pickers been equal to the demand—though in making that statement, they point out that they thoroughly appreciate the help given by city-dwelling volunteer harvesters who in many cases have been motivated primarily by a desire to help in this harvest, rather than monetary gain. All things considered the response has been gratifying—nevertheless it hasn't fully met the need.

But—no cherries have been picked (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

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Congress Votes Recess

Cheers, Whistles Greet Move to 'Go Home'

WASHINGTON, July 8.—(AP) With a swift burst of activity, congress wiped its calendar clean of major pending legislation and recessed Thursday night until September 14—the first lengthy vacation it has taken since the war's outbreak.

The legislators, in clearing the way to go home, swiftly approved \$4,302,120,234 in appropriations and dropped a half dozen controversies including the quarrel with the administration over whether subsidies should be paid to "roll back" retail food prices.

At 5:49 p.m. (eastern war time) the senate approved the resolution to recess and at 6:22 p.m. the house followed suit, voting amid cheers and whistles. There were only a few scattered "noes." The resolution actually took effect at 8:33 p.m. when the house knocked off work, the senate having done so some minutes earlier.

It was agreed that the members could be called back to Washington at any time by President Roosevelt, congressional officers, or the democratic and republican legislative leaders.

The senate had to yield point after point to the house in order to get the vacation which already had been delayed a week by disagreements between the two chambers.

First of all, the senate abandoned by a vote of 84 to 33 its demand for inclusion of a ban on food subsidy payments in a resolution continuing the commodity credit corporation until January 1. The house had refused to accept this senate amendment and leaders had warned it would bring a veto from President Roosevelt. The (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

\$50,000 Loss In Mill Fire Near Dallas

DALLAS, July 8.—Smoldering sawdust piles, a planer and stacks of lumber west of Dallas Thursday of the \$50,000 Fern's sawmill following a fire which was discovered at 11:20 p.m. Wednesday.

Firemen from Dallas and soldiers from Camp Adair with their chemical truck, together with men from Polk County Fire Patrol association, battled flames which swept through all the buildings in approximately half an hour. The mill was located six miles from Dallas on the Falls City highway.

Either a hot box which had caused difficulties during the afternoon or repair work done with a welding outfit late in the day might have left the sparks which started the fire, Walter L. Young, Dallas fire chief, stated.

Six years ago this coming fall the mill burned out, flames spread by a heavy windstorm.

Albert and William Fern, co-owners of the mill, were undisturbed Thursday about rebuilding. Part of the loss was covered by insurance but new equipment and many recent improvements were uninsured. Chief difficulty blocking rebuilding was obtaining priorities, Albert Fern intimated.

With the burning of the mill, 90 men in the mill crew and a number in the woods crew were unemployed, but Preston Doughton, US employment service representative in Polk county, was placing the loggers with other firms during the day.

Fighters Sweep

LONDON, July 9.—(AP)—Formations of allied fighters swept across the channel in the direction of northern France this morning only a short time after the RAF's heavy bombers had returned from a night assault upon Germany.

McNary Told Victory Ship Program Set



Assurances from the war production board that the Victory ship program for Henry J. Kaiser's Oregon Shipbuilding corporation will not be cancelled, were received Thursday by Senator Charles L. McNary.

The senator, vacationing at his farm home north of Salem, said the information was telegraphed by his office, which had been notified by WFB. McNary did not elaborate.

Edgar F. Kaiser, general manager of the Oregon yard at Portland, was informed Tuesday that the plans for construction of the new type ships was being held up pending an investigation of their feasibility.

The Oregon yard has been preparing for a \$5,000,000 change-over, authorized by the maritime commission, from Liberty ships to the larger, faster Victories.

Kaiser said Thursday night he has not been informed that WFB will go ahead with Victory ships.

Dependency Pay Increase Is Approved

WASHINGTON, July 8.—(AP)—Legislation increasing the government's cash contributions to dependents of service men was passed by the senate Thursday and sent to the house.

Approved without debate, the measure would increase from \$42 to \$48 the total monthly allowance for a wife and one child and would boost the allowance for additional children from \$10 to \$11 a month.

In addition, it would provide that the government pay all of the first month's dependency allowance, although after that time a service man could contribute \$22 and the government \$28 toward the basic amount of \$50 allowed for a wife without a child.

Final congressional action will be had when congress reconvenes September 14.

Flood Breaks Water Mains

STUBENVILLE, O., July 8.—(AP) This city of 25,000 was without normal water supply Thursday night after high water washed out supply lines from the pumping station to the filtration plant.

Emergency crews worked to repair the break but water for domestic use was cut off meanwhile to conserve the supply for fire fighting purposes. State health department officials at Columbus made preparations to immunize residents against typhoid fever.

Dimout
Fri. sunset 9:03
Sat. sunrise 5:30
(Weather on Page 8)

Blast Furnaces Still Cold

US Steel Cancels 'Fire Up' as 12,000 Miners Swell Strike

PITTSBURGH, July 8.—(AP)—The United States Steel corporation abruptly cancelled plans to fire up three closed blast furnaces as roving pickets swelled the ranks of idle miners in the southwestern Pennsylvania "captive" mine fields to 12,000.

The furnaces were the last ones remaining idle of 14 which had been shut down soon after the third general walkout of miners began on June 26. A company spokesman said the coal shortage alone was responsible for the closings.

The pickets, termed by John P. Busarello, president of the United Mine Workers Pittsburgh district 5 as "outlaw miners," centered attention on more than a dozen mines whose output goes directly to steel mills. Until their activities began yesterday, officials said less than 5000 miners were idle.

The first violence was reported Thursday night at the colonial mine of the H. C. Frick Coke company, where Lawrence Blum, 55, of West Brownsville, conductor on a freight train, said he was hit on the head by a slate thrown from a group of "about 50 pickets."

Blum suffered a bad cut and was taken to the Brownsville hospital. He said the slate knocked him face forward into a car which had been shifted into the mine yards.

The pickets, milling about entrances to the mines, announced they were going on a "24-hour day" basis. Women stood locked arm-in-arm with men blocking the roadways and pathways to the tipsies.

Jap Flares Won't Work For Yanks

CAMP ABBOT, July 8.—(AP) One after another parachute flares flared after they were lighted by army officers during recent night maneuvers.

Investigation disclosed that each flare was stamped: "Made in Japan." They were purchased before Pearl Harbor from an Ohio fireworks firm.

Layton to Get Transfer

Richard Harry Layton, confessed slayer of Ruth Hildebrand, will be brought back to Dallas today to await hearing. Sgt. C. Emahiser, state police official, revealed Thursday night.

Sgt. Emahiser, who has been working on the Hildebrand case with Lt. R. G. Howard, will journey to Hillsboro today to bring back Layton.

OPA Okehs Price Boost On Some Grocery Items

WASHINGTON, July 8.—(AP)—Price advances on some grocery items were authorized by the office of price administration on Thursday, although officials emphasized that the ceilings would not rise beyond price levels of April 8, date of President Roosevelt's hold-the-line order.

The changes will result from three new fixed mark-up regulations covering most foods, both dry and perishable, sold by independent and chain grocers and by wholesalers.

Effective August 5, the new margins were adopted primarily to meet food dealers' demands for a simpler food pricing system. They are percentage mark-ups which dealers will add to their net costs.

On most canned goods the housewife will not pay more, an

Japs Lose Clash

Enemy Barge Landing At Dugiri Island Driven Off

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Friday, July 9.—(AP)—American marine and army ground patrols pushed forward Thursday from the landing beachheads they established on New Georgia to feel out the Japanese defense perimeter around the Munda air base.

While the main forces which landed north and east of Munda on Monday were consolidating positions, advanced patrols bent off the Japanese in a clash which occurred near Ekele only three miles east of the Munda airfield. Its seizure would give the Americans a base within fighter range of the enemy air fortress of Rabaul, New Britain.

The only attempts by the Japanese to loosen the tight American squeeze on the Munda area Thursday were a light air raid on Rendova island, held by United States forces within artillery shelling distance of the air base, and a futile effort by a small party of Japanese to land from a barge on Dugiri island, just off Rendova's northeast coast.

The battle for control of the air over New Georgia, where enemy losses to date approximate 100, slackened in intensity Thursday but the American planes maintained punishing blows against Munda's sources of supply and air support on bases in the islands above it.

At the other end of the 700-mile arc of the allies' offensive (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

McMinnville Dehydration Plant Okehd

McMINNVILLE, Ore., July 8.—(AP)—Federal approval of a vegetable dehydration plant here was announced Thursday by C. C. Wright, Yamhill county orchardist who returned recently after serving eight months as vegetable dehydrator inspector for the food distribution administration in Idaho and western Wyoming.

Wright said he would convert his walnut dryer into a plant to process 4,000,000 pounds of Klamath county potatoes and Yamhill county beets for lend-lease and the armed services.

He said the plant would start operation by October 1 and employ about 80 persons.

Silverton Man Jap Prisoner

WASHINGTON, July 8.—(AP)—Names of 16 Pacific northwest men were included Thursday in a war department list of 224 US soldiers held as prisoners of war by Japan. The list included:

Cunningham, Pfc. Sheldon W.; mother, Mrs. Jean Cunningham, 313 Lewis street, Silverton.
Martinson, Pfc. Frank H.; mother, Mrs. Wilamina Martinson, 5241 NE Hoyt Street, Portland.
Steele, Pfc. Vestie G.; mother, Mrs. Bessie Steele, Lowell.
Wilson, Pvt. Vinton J.; sister, Mrs. Harvey Smith, Iona.

OPA Okehs Price Boost On Some Grocery Items

OPA spokesman said. However, he estimated the new pricing system would allow an increase of 1 to 1 1/2 cents a pound on non-staple independent stores, and about 1 cent in chain stores, some increase in frozen fruits and vegetables in chain stores; a boost of about 1 cent each for No. 2 cans of berries and fruits (except pineapple, peaches, peas and juices) in chain stores; and a slight chain-store increase in pickles and relishes.

Changes will be made in community-wide dollars-and-cents ceilings where necessary to reflect the changed mark-ups, but the community-wide ceiling system will be continued and extended into other cities, OPA said.

No change from present dealers (Turn to Page 2—Story B)