

By Charles F. Strong

If men in the service read and reread the letters from home, anxious for every bit of news, they should know that their letters home are read and reread and passed around among relatives and friends. A few of them find their way into print, and more of them deserve such recognition. The fact is, that people on the home front are keenly interested in the experiences and in the mental reactions of the men on the fighting front.

The attitude of soldiers to civilian loafers and strikers and profiteers is well known. It has been expressed in no uncertain language. But the emotional and often religious expressions contained in the letters reveal how deeply men in the service have been feeling and thinking, as they face the uncertainties, the realities and the mysteries of life.

Today I am going to quote from a letter written by an artilleryman, sitting at the edge of his slit trench in North Africa on the last day of April to his brother who was then in a training camp in the home land. The author, Charles L. Wood, Jr., of Salem, whose father is employed at the state public utilities office, graduated at Oregon State in 1941, went immediately into service and is now a captain. His brother, Don, in the same branch of the service, recently was sent overseas. The gist of Capt. Wood's letter is that, regardless of how tough training camp life is, the hardest lessons lie ahead: "How to do their job in the face of a rugged, heartless, armed intelligent, experienced army." He goes on to say:

"Some of the simplest things that we don't even pay any attention to any more are such things as not having been in any sort of a bed or had any mattress other than my roll for going on six months. That goes for every man in the outfit from the Colonel down to the last private and yard bird. Not having ANY fresh meat for the same period. About a third of the time not having any bed roll at all, just drop in your tracks and sleep awhile, then get up and go on. You eat when you can and at least half the time it's ration; 40 baths in six months; 30 or 40 hours at a stretch is common. A canteen of water a day. Blackout marches—FOR PAY—in rain, sleet, snow, mud and muck up to the heels. Don't ask me how we did it but we kept 'em rolling. Desert sand and heat. Cannoneers working till they dropped at their posts. Cooks and telephone men. (Continued on Editorial Page)

Local River Victim Found

WEST SALEM, July 20—(P)—The body of Lester McDaniel Fitch, 5, was recovered at 4 o'clock this afternoon from the Willamette river after the child fell from a drift of logs into a six mile current. The child was playing with two older brothers when the accident occurred about 11 a.m.

Polk county Coroner C. W. Henkle released the body to Rigdon's Mortuary. Services will be held at the chapel Thursday morning at 10 o'clock with Rev. Edward Allen officiating. Interment will be in the Lee Mission cemetery.

The child is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Fitch, formerly of Odenville, Texas. He was born there June 11, 1938. The family had arrived in West Salem a week ago, following the cherry harvest, and were living in an auto camp near the river. Surviving besides the parents are a sister, Geraldine Varice, and four brothers, William Morgan, Joseph Cecil, Gerall Leon and Herman Elton.

4500 Army Men To Be Released To Copper Mines

WASHINGTON, July 20—(P)—Release of 4500 men from the army to accept jobs in copper, zinc and molybdenum mines was authorized Tuesday by the army.

A statement by Robert P. Patterson, acting secretary of war, said efforts to recruit additional miners from civilian sources had failed to obtain the required numbers, and the success of the military programs for 1943-44 "is jeopardized by a growing shortage of these vital metals."

Chilean Archbishop Deplores Rome Raid

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 20—(P)—Archbishop Jose Maria Caro of Santiago said today he "deplored" the bombing of Rome although "we recognize the bombing was executed with care that churches, and religious and artistic monuments would not be damaged."

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Dimout
Wed. sunset 8:53
Thur. sunrise 5:42
(Weather on Page 8)

Red Offensive Spreads Over 450-Mile Front; Fourth Jap Effort to Relieve Munda Routed; American Drive Aims to Chop Sicily in Two

Italian Troops Mutiny

British Prepare to Smash Through to Vital Messina

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, July 20 (P)—With some Italian troops reported in mutinies against German officers and surrendering in great batches, American forces are spearheading deeper inland in a mighty drive to chop Sicily in two and are fanning swiftly along the southern coast, allied headquarters announced Tuesday.

In the east near strategic Catania, British troops shattered German tank attacks with bloody losses and Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery was gathering strength for a blow to topple that seaport and perhaps carry the offensive fully sustained to Messina to seal off Sicily from the mainland.

Snell to Talk At United Nations Fete

Gov. Earl Snell is to be the speaker and Irl S. McSherry, executive director of the Oregon War Chest, master of ceremonies for Salem's United Nations festival to be held Sunday afternoon in the sunken garden on the state house grounds, Carl D. Gabrielson, chairman of the festival committee, announced Tuesday.

AAA Puts Clamp On News Release To American Press

WASHINGTON, July 20—(P)—The agricultural adjustment agency has forbidden its 200,000 field employees and state, county and local farmer committees to disseminate information about AAA farm programs to the press, radio and other mass means of communication.

Household Goods Production Okeh

WASHINGTON, July 20—(P)—The war production board Tuesday authorized a resumption or increase in the manufacture of a number of household articles, including carpet sweepers, pot scourers and food grinders.

Astoria Fire Razes One Block, Perils Entire West End

Neighboring Fire Fighters Called; Coast Guard Clears Danger Zone

ASTORIA, Ore., July 20—(P)—Fire broke out in the Finnish district of Astoria Tuesday, levelled a block of wooden buildings, left more than 200 homeless and threatened to sweep the entire western end of the city.

Fire-fighting equipment was south, and Ilwaco, Wash., across the Columbia river to the north, but the progress of the blaze was not halted until the coastguard and navy sent men in from nearby bases to fight the flames.

The district was jammed with cannery workers, fishermen and navy personnel because of the housing shortage. A number of shacks and former woodsheds in which workers were housed went up in the flames.

Fifth Blaze Hits Building

By LILLIE MADSEN SILVERTON, July 20—Lightning may not strike twice in the same place, but fire has struck five times in less than a year in the identical spot here—the former site of the Fischer flouring mills structure. The fifth time was tonight and it was a spectacular blaze lighting up the sky and attracting spectators from miles about, but did no appreciable damage.

More than 200 combatted the blaze which was controlled after a three-hour fight. Several persons were overcome by smoke, but there were no serious injuries. Those overcome were revived on the scene by first aid crews.

Oil Men Study Gas Ration

WASHINGTON, July 20—(P)—A committee of the nation's leading oil men has undertaken a study of the gasoline ration problem. William E. Boyd, jr., chairman of the petroleum industry war council, said Tuesday night.

Anti-Trust Charge Aired

WASHINGTON, July 20—(P)—The senate small business committee said Tuesday it will investigate charges that chain store purchases of small meat packing plants have "cut off supplies of meat from small retailers."

3 More Nip Ships Are Sunk

Blockade Toll Hits 23 Vessels Bagged; Five Probables

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Wednesday, July 21—(P)—Three more Japanese warships sank to a coral-fringed graveyard in the waters around New Georgia in the Solomons early Tuesday morning—victims of American bombs—as air, land and sea forces maintained overwhelming pressure to seal the doom of the beleaguered enemy at Munda.

American Liberators, Mitchells and Avenger bombers thus beat off the latest attempt by the Japanese navy to fight assistance through to their hard-pressed comrades on Munda, and General MacArthur said in today's communique:

"The tightening investment of Munda has now rendered supply or reinforcement of the enemy dangerous and difficult. A slow but constant deterioration of his beleaguered garrison can be expected unless our blockading ring can be broken."

Repulse of the fourth Japanese naval attempt to run the steadily-tightening American sea and air gauntlet into Munda brought the official toll of enemy military shipping losses in Solomon waters to:

Sunk—Three cruisers, 13 destroyers, one submarine chaser, five cargo vessels and one tanker. Probably sunk—Five destroyers. Damaged—Five destroyers and five cargo vessels.

Details of the American air attack were lacking, but the communique declared that surviving ships of the convoy withdrew without reaching its objectives.

'Bund' Trial Testimony Is Heard

SAN FRANCISCO, July 20—(P)—The organization which later included 50 Nazi party members in its Chicago unit in 1938 and the Nazi party functioned as an organization in the United States until 1933, Peter Gisibl of Washington, Ill., testified in federal court Tuesday.

Bulletin

LONDON, July 21—(P)—The Berlin radio reported today that Rome had been raided again last night by allied planes.

Allied Air Chiefs Say Only Military Points of Rome Hit

Catholics Regret Raid's Necessity; Bomb-Pocked Malta Says, 'Thanks'

Allied air chiefs, studying the photographs of the first raid on Rome, announced Tuesday that important Italian military objectives were smashed in the capital while from the axis, authors of total war, came protests that church, scientific and workers' residence buildings were hit, with 166 persons killed and 1659 injured.

An American communique from Cairo said the reconnaissance photographs showed the Littoria marshalling yards were completely destroyed and an ammunition train blown up. A large hangar at a nearby airbase was blown up and planes on the ground destroyed.

That the raids spread "very great damage" was admitted by the Rome and Berlin radios, but they spent their time announcing that San Lorenzo basilica, Verano cemetery, University City and hospitals of the polytechnic institute were hit as well as workers' dwellings in the Brenestina and Latina districts.

Advices from Switzerland said all persons not compelled to stay in Rome were warned to leave immediately by the fascist government. The city, although without adequate air raid shelters, has been filled with evacuees from other cities bombed more frequently.

German reaction was typified in a broadcast by a German foreign office spokesman who hinted that retaliation might be tried and the allies will "point in vain to cultural monuments and institutions of Washington, New York or London."

Catholics in allied or neutral countries took a serious view of the bombing. Some of the statements:

Prime Minister Eamon de Valera's newspaper, the Irish (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Rev. Howard Cole Gains Pastorate

PORTLAND, July 20—(P)—The Rev. Howard Cole, a graduate of Salem high school and Willamette university, will quit his field secretary position with the Northwest Christian Endeavor on September 5 to become pastor of St. John's Christian church here.

UMW-AFL Act To Affiliate

WASHINGTON, July 20—(P)—Reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers of America with the American Federation of Labor approved a step nearer Tuesday following a three-hour conference between John L. Lewis and executives of the AFL.

Gen. Anderson Is Promoted

LONDON, July 20—(P)—The official London Gazette announced Tuesday that Maj. Gen. K. A. N. Anderson, commander of the British first army, had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, dating from January 22, 1943.

German Defense Breached

Russians Strike for Heart of Donets Basin Sector

LONDON, July 21—(P)—The great Russian summer offensive broke over a 450-mile front Tuesday extending from the Or-el sector, where that vital axis-held "hinge" city was threatened with encirclement to the Mius river, where Red army troops breached German defenses in front of Taganrog, it was announced in special Soviet communique today.

The Russians said their troops had broken across the Mius river and also the northern Donets river south of Izium and southwest of Voroshilovgrad, in an area about 300 miles south of Or-el, apparently aiming at the heart of the Donets basin. Here strong German forces had thrust back deep into the rich industrial territory last spring to recapture Slavyansk and other steel and rail centers as part of their offensive that reclaimed Kharkov.

At least 50 more towns were recaptured by the Soviet forces driving on Or-el, including Mtsensk, 31 miles northeast of Or-el on the railroad to Moscow, and Bolshov, 32 miles north of Or-el, the Soviet special war bulletin declared. It was broadcast by the Moscow radio and recorded by the Soviet radio monitor here.

The Soviet midnight communique, broadcast by the Moscow radio several hours after the special war bulletin detailed the new successes, said the offensive about Or-el was continuing without letup despite spirited German resistance which was costing the enemy heavily.

Another Moscow broadcast disclosed that in a prelude to Tuesday's smashing land offensive, large forces of Russian heavy bombers smashed at German concentrations and airbases southeast of Or-el late Monday night, destroying a "considerable number" of Nazi air force planes caught on the ground.

Moscow's midnight communique listed more than 4700 of the enemy killed in engagements about Or-el and Belgorod, with another 1000 declared to have been killed or wounded and 140 tanks disabled or destroyed, in addition to 53 artillery, mortar and self-propelled gun batteries put out of action.

Numbers of war prisoners and large stores of munitions were taken in the Russian advance, it was said.

Funeral Held For Pioneer

FOREST GROVE, July 20—(P)—F. J. Miller, 78, reputed to be the only grower of Bohemian hops in the United States, was buried here Monday. He died Friday at his home here where he has lived since 1909.

Born in a covered wagon on the Oregon trail, he grew up at Salem, where his father, Alexander Miller, landscaped the original Capitol grounds, and on a farm near Yamhill. In 1928, he secured cuttings from an imported Bohemian hop root and eight years later harvested his first sizeable crop.

City Firemen Quell Blazes

City firemen responded to calls to two small fires Tuesday. At 365 Hickory street early Tuesday afternoon, they put out a blaze in an old mattress which had threatened a barn. A grass fire was put out at Union and Capitol streets later in the afternoon.

Bombard-Deer?



Meet Miss Helen Bennett, 22, applicant for two honors. First to register in the competition for selection of Salem's Miss Bombard-Deer, she is also an applicant for admission to the women's army corps (WAC). Already Miss Bennett is engaged in work to help with the war, for she is currently employed in a Salem cannery. Her parents reside in Eugene. Tomorrow the picture of another charming young woman entered in the contest is to appear in The Statesman together with that of one of the officers from the air base, a judge in the competition.