

By Charles S. Stryker

An army private leaned his rifle against a wall, unhooked his pack, stepped out into the street to look at some bombed buildings, and remarked: "Well, that's all there is, there ain't no more."

That was Don Whitehead's description of the fall of Messina. As he went on to say in his Associated Press dispatch: "The troops just walked in, looked around, and sat in the shade to catch up on sleep or eat their tin-rations."

They suddenly felt lost, because there was no one to fight.

Reading the report, the thought occurred to me: What if the great war would end like that—just fizzle out in weak anti-climax?

Here we have been bracing ourselves with superlatives, expecting the climax of a great Armageddon, in which hosts of armies and vast aerial squadrons and fleets of naval vessels would engage in a tremendous battle in which the issues of the war would be decided.

That still is to be expected, for the invasion of Europe. But what if, after that initial phase of operations, the war in Europe would crumple almost overnight?

In Sicily our men had to fight for a beachhead. Around Gela the going was difficult for several days, and the Germans almost threw our landing force back into the sea.

After Palermo they had continuous fighting along the northern coast of the island and in the center—clear up to within 14 miles of Messina. Then abruptly it ended. Reconnaissance platoons pushed ahead and entered the deserted city without opposition.

As Whitehead wrote: "the doughboys had run out of ridges to climb, cities to capture and enemies to battle across each rocky slope."

Mussolini tumbled in a most inglorious manner. No Brutus stabbed this imitation Caesar in the back. He just collapsed. He fell before either his allies or enemies expected it.

Both German and allied propagandists were to hot off balance by his sudden fall, so they (Continued on Edit. page)

Witness Sect Conference Permit Given

EUGENE, Aug. 20.—(AP)—Civilian defense authorities agreed Friday night to permit the Jehovah's Witnesses sect to hold its annual conference here.

Howard Merriam, Lane county defense coordinator, who earlier had demanded the session be halted, dropped his protest after a conference in which county officials sought precautionary measures to prevent street fighting, such as broke out during a sect conference at Klamath Falls last year.

Merriam said the sect had agreed not to use a sound truck to advertise the meeting, and that Dan Campbell, a representative of the sect, had agreed to ask members to stop distributing pamphlets on Eugene streets.

The Witnesses' meeting, which opened today, continues through the weekend.

Hungarian Minister Conferring With Nazis

NEW YORK, Aug. 20.—(AP)—General William Nagy, Hungarian minister of war, was reported conferring with Adolf Hitler and the German command at Hitler's headquarters, a London broadcast recorded by NBC said Friday night. Premier Kallay of Hungary was reported in Berlin conferring with Hitler two days ago.

No More Bean Pickers Needed Now, Asserted

Don't go bean-picking unless you have a job. This bit of advice, so sharply at variance with the frequent pleas for more and more help broadcast this summer by the emergency farm labor service, was offered for these reasons:

- 1. Cooler weather has retarded the maturing of beans. 2. Thanks to praiseworthy response by state employees and Salem people in general to recent appeals for help, the harvest has caught up with the crop. 3. The emergency farm labor service doesn't want people to drive out to the bean-growing areas, there to discover there are no jobs. That not only would waste tire rubber and time, but would have a bad reaction when appeals for help are resumed later. This weekend's situation is unprecedented in the three bean harvest seasons during which Salem people have been asked to volunteer—and have volunteered—for bean-picking.

Walter Snyder of the farm labor service emphasized that announcement of the changed situation should not be taken to mean that the pickers who already have jobs should fail to report today or Sunday unless their employers have so announced; nor should it be understood as a signal that the

Layton's Mentality Said Low; Tells Of Girl's Drowning

State Rests A Motion for Mistrial Fails; Psychiatrist Witness; Resume Trial Monday

DALLAS, Aug. 20.—(Special)—Richard Harry Layton, former Monmouth "Romeo cop," took the witness stand in his own defense against a first degree murder charge in circuit court here today after Dr. Herman A. Dickel, Portland psychiatrist, had testified as a defense witness that Layton has the mentality of a nine-year-old.

Dr. Dickel, who had examined Layton July 15 in the Polk county jail here, said he had found him in good health but slow in answering, slow in reactions, slow in learning to walk and talk and slow in school. Dickel explained, however, that there were no traces of insanity in the family, but testified that in his belief anyone of Layton's mentality was "unable to appreciate or understand the difference between right and wrong."

The nickname "Romeo cop" which was applied to Layton while he was a police officer in Monmouth was given him by Howard Morlan, bus depot manager, who testified he had coined the nickname for the reason that Layton called for so many women and took them home. One or a dozen, it didn't make any difference to Layton, Morlan said.

The bus depot manager said he had called Layton one night to take Ruth Hildebrand home after she had been waiting around the depot for several hours, just sitting and reading. Morlan said he asked her why she didn't go to a hotel and she told him she had no money. He then called Layton, and the girl spent the night in Layton's car, Morlan said.

Layton told a connected story of the night of the Hildebrand girl's drowning under examination by District Attorney Bruce Spaulding. He said he had been in Dallas drinking beer and taking in a movie on the night of July 7. He drove on to Monmouth, picking up a soldier on the way and giving him a lift into town. He told the soldier that he expected to take the Hildebrand girl home, Layton continued.

According to his testimony, he met her by the college, talked for a few minutes, then she entered the car and they started to Indec (Continued from Page 1) C

Stricken Mexicans Out of Danger

GRANTS PASS, Ore., Aug. 20.—(AP)—All of the 300 Mexican hop pickers stricken by food poisoning yesterday were believed out of danger Friday night.

Thirteen still were treated in hospitals and dozens of others were confined to their cots in tents at the war food administration camp where they are quarantined. Preliminary tests failed to show the cause of the poisonings but Dr. M. E. Corthell said he believed the bacteria developed in an egg dish put up for the workers' lunches and left standing in the sun for several hours. The lunches were prepared by the WFA camp.

Valve Outlet 'Lost' in Tiny Parking Strip

By RALPH C. CURTIS At the intersection of 17th and Center streets, on the southeast corner, there is a fire hydrant. Approximately four feet away is the covered outlet of the hydrant's gate valve. This outlet—now—is in plain sight. It is not, like a great many others throughout the city, painted yellow, nor are there yellow arrows painted on the pavement pointing to its position.

Just back of the hydrant, across the sidewalk is a service station, and just to the east there is a driveway to the service station so that the grassy parking strip is by no means expansive. It is in fact not more than four yards long and its area is not greater than six square yards. The grass—now—is not high, though it is thick.

It was in this tiny grass plot that a fireman, Wednesday night, was reported to have been unable, for at least ten minutes while a dwelling less than a block away was blazing merrily, to find the gate valve outlet. Other firemen after waiting for water to course through the hose line to the fire, presently laid another line to a hydrant slightly farther away on A street. The house was virtually a total loss.

Most any private citizen would readily guarantee that he could find that gate valve opening in that limited space, in the dark and even if it were grown over with grass, in much less than ten minutes. In two minutes he could feel with his hands or tap with a wrench, all over that area at such close intervals that the outlet could not possibly elude him. Something is wrong with this picture.

Reds Capture Lebedin; Close In on Kharkov

Russians Encircle All But 13 Miles of Great Ukraine Metropolis

By JUDSON O'QUINN LONDON, Saturday, Aug. 21.—(AP)—Russia's new steppe army smashed deep into the Ukraine almost 100 miles northwest of Kharkov to capture Lebedin, highwater mark of last winter's offensive. Moscow announced early Saturday, while London reports indicated the Red army had encircled all but 13 miles of Kharkov itself.

Lebedin is 100 miles from the starting point of the Soviet Ukrainian offensive near Belgorod and mid-way between captured Akhtyrka and threatened Sumy. The Russian column that took it apparently was aiming for the vital rail junction of Konotop on the Kiev-Bryansk railway, 70 miles to the northwest.

(The BBC quoted a Berlin broadcast as saying the Russians "are now attacking furiously at six widely separated points along a 1000-mile front" between Leningrad and Murmansk in the far north. The broadcast, if true, means the Russians are opening a new offensive on the long-stalemated Finnish front.)

A Moscow communique recorded by the Soviet Monitor said a total of 6100 Germans were killed yesterday on all fronts.

On the Bryansk front the Soviets acknowledged fierce German opposition as they pounded on from captured Karachev, 25 miles to the east. Farther north, in the Spas Demensk offensive, the Russians were moving between the two railroads leading to Smolensk roughly 75 miles northwestward. In the Ukraine offensive over B (Continued from Page 1) B

US Civilians In Japan May Return Soon

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—(AP)—Hundreds of American civilians interned by Japan may be home for Christmas—if Tokyo will give assurances of safety for an exchange ship.

Summer Welles, acting secretary of state, announced at his press conference Friday that safe conduct had been requested for the Swedish liner Gripsholm and that the government has "good reason to hope" a second exchange of Japanese for American civilians can be carried out in Portuguese India by October 15.

Allowing time for the voyage from India to an American port, this should bring the internees home for the holidays. Most of them have been in Japanese hands since December 7, 1941.

The first exchange of Japanese for American civilians took place a year ago when the Gripsholm carried Japanese diplomats and civilians from the United States to Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa, and brought home some 1,500 Americans carried to the African port in a Japanese ship and an Italian liner.

Welles did not say when the list of Americans expected home on the Gripsholm would be made public. Last year the passenger list was not issued until the Americans were safely aboard the exchange ship.

There has been no talk as yet of an exchange of war prisoners. Difficulties in this connection include the fact that the United States holds few Japanese prisoners of war. Furthermore, the Japanese attitude toward their own soldiers who fall into enemy hands is that they should not have allowed themselves to be taken.

The Gripsholm will carry packages for prisoners of war as well as for civilian internees. The war department last night advised all persons authorized to send such packages that they must be delivered in New York before midnight of August 27.

Elks Open Convention

PORTLAND, Aug. 20.—(AP)—The state Elks convention opened here Friday with President Harvey L. Arnes, Bend, pledging the organization to a larger part in the war bond sales campaign.

Arnes said the Elks would contribute a sum in September sufficient to buy a couple of big bombers. A bright future for Oregon business was predicted by E. B. MacNaughton, Portland banker, in a speech before delegates. Election of officers is scheduled tomorrow.

Allies Demolish Foggia In Italy's Worst Air Raid; Japs Retreat at Salamaua

Nips Fall Back At Air Base

MacArthur Says Enemy Pulling Into Citadel

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Saturday, Aug. 21.—(AP)—Japanese jungle troops are in full flight from the mountain ridge defenses before Salamaua, New Guinea, and are falling back on the inner defenses of the air base, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced Saturday.

"The enemy is in full retreat to his inner citadel of defenses at Salamaua itself," a new communique reported.

"Machine guns and artillery were abandoned along with more than 350 buried dead."

"Our troops are mopping up." The Japanese troops, their supplies low as the result of allied air attacks on coastal barges and their air support virtually wiped out on "dromes above Salamaua, suddenly gave up positions from which they have long held off Americans and Australians.

Today's communique disclosed that their defenses crumbled wide open. All at once they gave up Orodubi, five miles southeast of Salamaua, the nearby stronghold of Komistum and the Goodview Junction and Mount Tambu areas near the coast.

The day before, General MacArthur's communique had announced the capture on the Francisco river of Bobdubi ridge, only three miles from the Salamaua airbase, whose possession would put the allies within easy fighter plane range of big Japanese holdings on New Britain.

The new successes enabled the allies to forge a solid line for their advance upon the airbase and the town, built out on an isthmus connecting the mainland with Cape Parsee in the Huon Gulf.

In intensified attacks, given solid artillery support, the Americans and Australians won strong connected positions running inland from Roosevelt ridge on Tambu bay in a curve running north and west across the Francisco river.

The allies now hold all the D (Continued from Page 1) D

What's It Cost Per Word?

Paradimethylamidobenzaldehyde was the word, included in a telegram received by the state department of agriculture Friday. It stumped officials there for a time and even a dictionary didn't help. To chemists in the department, however, it was quite simple. It's the name for a coal tar compound.

"Longest word we ever received in a telegram or letter at this office," said E. L. Peterson, state agricultural director.

Navy Casualties Total 28,731

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—(AP)—The navy announced Friday 64 casualties, including 5 dead, 3 wounded and 56 missing.

In addition, 9 names of naval personnel were listed whose status has been officially changed from missing to dead. This brings to 28,731 the total of navy, marine corps and coast guard casualties reported to next of kin since December 7, 1941. The total includes 9874 dead, 5036 wounded, 9970 missing and 4151 prisoners of war.

Brazil Signs With China

DIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 20.—(AP)—The government of Brazil Friday voluntarily abolished its extraterritorial privileges in China by signing a new friendship treaty with the Chinese government.

President Greeted Anthony Eden



Anthony Eden (left), British foreign secretary, is greeted by President Roosevelt on his arrival in Quebec, Canada, for British-American-Canadian war conference. Prime Minister Mackenzie King (center) looks on. (AP Telegram.)

FDR to Talk Wednesday To Canadian Parliament

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER QUEBEC, Aug. 20.—(AP)—President Roosevelt will address an informal meeting of the Canadian parliament at Ottawa Wednesday, following conclusion of the high strategy conference here in which he and Prime Minister Churchill are working in "complete harmony" and making excellent progress.

Plans for the speech were announced officially late Friday at the same time that a citadel spokesman gave the first picture of how the chief executive and prime minister are putting in their time.

Mr. Roosevelt and Churchill set such a pace Thursday night, by working until 2:30 a.m., that they were completely caught up on current tasks. This enabled them to go on a picnic and fishing trip, with members of their immediate parties.

This evening they swung back into conference routine at a dinner with Secretary of State Hull and Britain's Foreign Minister Anthony Eden. Hull joined the Quebec group during the afternoon, his presence here denoting half a dozen urgent political problems, directly grown out of the war, for which solutions of one sort or another must be found.

Foremost among these problems, in the opinion of many here, is the matter of closer co-A (Continued from Page 1) A

Soviet Organ Asks 3-Power Conference

By HENRY C. CASSIDY MOSCOW, Aug. 20.—(AP)—The Soviet labor magazine "War and the Working Class" called today for a three-power conference of Britain, Russia and the United States with the aims of shortening the war and preparing for peace on the basis of friendly collaboration among the allies.

In an editorial entitled "Quebec and the Soviet Union," the magazine said that the conferences between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill were "serving the interests of the Anglo-American forces" but did not "express the opinion of the entire Anglo-Soviet-American coalition."

The editorial again presented the Soviet's demand of another fighting front in Europe, saying "the time is ripe to change over from words to actions."

Victory over Germany still is possible this year, it said. Commenting on British and American press articles on the Roosevelt-Churchill conference, the article said many newspapers forget that the conference is a British-American affair and discuss the participation and non-participation of the Soviet Union, although a Tass statement of August 13 explained the Soviets were not invited.

US Takes Aeolian Islands

Italian Bastion Left Seething Mass of Flames

By RELMAN MORIN ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Aug. 20.—(AP)—Allied air fleets slashing at Italy's railroad sinews of defense blasted the communications center of Foggia in saturation block-buster raids yesterday, while at sea American naval forces seized the Aeolian stepping-stone islands north of Sicily.

The raid on Foggia, 30 miles inland from the east coast opposite Naples, was described officially as the heaviest of the Mediterranean war, and although the total number of planes participating was not specified, it was greater even than the total hurled against Rome in the first attack on the Italian capital.

Seven hundred planes — 500 bombers and 200 fighters — were used by the allies in the Rome raid.

The city is one of the master bastions in any axis blueprint for the defense of southern Italy.

The important industrial and communications center was left a seething mass of flame by three different types of bombers that attacked by daylight and darkness on a scale unparalleled in both size and ferocity in the Mediterranean war.

Flying Fortresses in double waves, followed by formations of Liberators, struck the first blows. Their strings of bombs interlaced the freight yards, squarely hit a railway bridge and knocked out repair shops, warehouses, military barracks and set fire to a large number of freight and passenger cars.

Sheets of flame shot upward from locomotive repair shops and the railway station itself, and explosion-buried bits of wreckage and rubble filled the F (Continued from Page 1) F

Goering Says He's Ashamed

LONDON, Aug. 20.—(AP)—A personal order from Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering saying he was ashamed of his German air force for no longer "loving battle" was found in Sicily, a Reuters report from allied headquarters in North Africa said tonight.

In the order, dated sometime in July, Goering complained of the loss of the German air force's "aggressive spirit."

Naval Air Arm Gets New Setup for Harder Hitting

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—(AP)—Steps to make the naval air arm even harder hitting were disclosed today by Navy Secretary Knox, while a returned admiral reported that in the Pacific Japanese aircraft carrier strength "may approach ours."

Knox told a press conference that hereafter all naval aviation matters leading to actual combat would be directly under a deputy chief of naval operations instead of being channeled through the bureau of aeronautics, primarily a material and supply branch.

To the same reporter, Rear Admiral DeWitt Clinton Ramsey, new chief of the bureau, made a report on his recent tour of duty as commander of a carrier task force in the south Pacific.

Ramsey said Japanese carrier strength has "improved materially." He added, however, "I think the enemy is loath to bring his strong surface forces or carrier task forces down to the south Pacific area" because "they just don't want to take a pretty bad licking—our situation has improved greatly there in recent months."

Of the aviation changes, Knox remarked, "We now have a bureau to supply the planes and a department to operate them." Vice-Admiral John S. McCain, 58-year-old veteran of air service in the south Pacific, will head the new operational divisions. "Generally," said Knox, the aim is "to increase the responsibility and autonomy of the aeronautical organizations in procurement of finest aircraft types, perfecting training and supply systems and other administrative functions so vitally important to the prosecution of the war."