

By Charles F. Sweeney

During the congressional recess discussion is proceeding in Washington regarding voting by soldiers in next year's elections.

What is now proposed is that postcards will be distributed to all soldiers and sailors on duty in the United States, which the service man or woman will fill out and send to the secretary of state for his home state, requesting a ballot, which will be sent him.

It is easy to find fault with the proposed arrangements. Many persons have been in service so long their registration has lapsed.

This same issue was faced in the election of 1864 when the Civil war was at its height.

Himmler Holds Germany in Gestapo Grip

LONDON, Aug. 24.—(AP)—Heinrich Himmler, the purge-chief whose orders have condemned thousands in his own country as well as in the Nazi-occupied lands of Europe, held all German home affairs except labor in the grip of the Gestapo under a governmental shift announced Tuesday.

The administration of labor was reported under the "immediate control" of Adolf Hitler.

The sudden shakeup of Hitler's high-ranking subordinates was evidently a step to tighten the "iron hand" on a German morale shaken by steadily-growing allied aerial assaults.

A DNB dispatch broadcast by the Berlin radio and recorded by the Associated Press said that Himmler, head of the SS elite guards and German police, also would serve as minister of the interior and "chief of the reich administration."

Billings' Pal Queried In Death Mystery Case

Hope of dispelling the mystery surrounding the death here Monday of Stephen Jay Billings, 33, centered Tuesday night in the questioning in Portland of a former fellow-worker at the Swan Island shipyard who was known to have been Billings' frequent companion.

Detective W. L. Brian of the Portland police identified the man as W. E. Carlson, 29, formerly of Duluth, Minn.

Inspectors George Edwards and Hobart Kiggins of the Salem police went to Portland to participate in the questioning. Earlier, Detective Brian revealed that Carlson had said he last saw Billings Sunday in a Portland hotel, just as Billings was leaving to visit the home of his mother, Mrs. Clara E. Billings, in Salem. It was at his mother's home that Billings was found dead late Monday afternoon.

The Salem officers brought Carlson to the city jail here early Wednesday.

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Layton Case Goes To Jury

Judge to Give Instructions This Morning

DALLAS, August 23.—(Special)—The fate of Richard Harry Layton, former Monmouth policeman charged with first degree murder in the death by drowning of Ruth Hildebrand, 17, of Dallas, on the night of June 7, will be placed in the hands of a Polk county jury by 10:45 a. m. Wednesday.

After opposing counsel had concluded final arguments late today Judge Arlie Walker, bowing to the jury's expressed preference, adjourned court for the day before presenting his instructions.

District Attorney Bruce Spaulding in closing his argument late Tuesday afternoon said: "I ask God to give you strength to do what you must do."

He did not specifically ask the death penalty.

In opening his argument the district attorney summarized the previous two-hour address of Roy R. Hewitt for the defense as "one hour of trying the state police, one minute of Mahondas Gandhi, 20 minutes of general lecturing on psychology and 20 minutes of smearing the character of a dead girl."

If Layton had the mind of a child as the defense attorney alleged, Spaulding said, he would have told the truth, for truth is a habit with children.

As it is, he continued, "the thing wrong with Layton's mind is that it is the mind of a brute and rapist."

Spaulding accused the defense attorneys of "grabbing at straws" in their plea of insanity or feeble mindedness for Layton, declaring they had been unable to uncover any record of mental aberrations in the Layton family.

Answering Hewitt's statement that no bruises were on the dead girl's body, Spaulding alleged that death and the end of her blood circulation followed Layton's death blow too soon for any blue marks to appear.

Earlier in the afternoon Hewitt (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Court Orders Oyster Co-Op Book Delivery

J. R. Barton, former secretary of the Coos Bay Farmers cooperative is required by an alternative writ of mandamus issued in circuit court Tuesday to deliver to the new secretary, Charles B. Davis, certain of the cooperative's books, records and documents.

Barton is one of the 12 defendants in a damage action recently filed by the cooperative, charging an attempt to induce members to breach their marketing contracts with the cooperative. The organization markets oysters raised by its members in beds on Coos Bay. The defendants in two groups have filed demurrers to the cooperative's complaint.

ferred a severe skull fracture and brain hemorrhage apparently from a blow on the back of the head—it was assumed that Carlson would be questioned closely as to the apparent state of Billings' health when he last talked with him.

Aside from the "leading" question as to whether Billings died a natural death, from an accident or as a victim of foul play, the mystery resolved itself Tuesday into one chiefly involving the time element.

Ill with pneumonia, possibly delirious, Billings might have fallen accidentally and suffered the skull fracture. But—evidence found through the autopsy indicated that Billings had suffered the skull fracture a number of hours before he died. If this otherwise plausible series of events occurred in the house at 1540 North Liberty street, there remains an unanswered question as to why his presence there was not discovered by his sister, Miss Rosemary Billings, and Miss Barbara Lutz, who according to the understanding of the police had spent Sunday night in the house.

It was disclosed Tuesday that Billings was the father of three

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Missing



Roy Jack Short, 31, above, aviation radio man third class in the navy, has been reported missing six miles off the shore of southern California following an airplane crash August 12, according to information received from the navy by his mother, Mrs. Flora Short, 405 South Liberty street. He was educated in Salem schools, later learned the upholstery trade. He was an asbestos worker in a Portland shipyard before entering the navy October 8, 1942. He leaves in addition to his mother, who is widow of the late Jack Short, two sisters, Mrs. Trula Kennedy of Corvallis and Tressie Leigh Short of Salem.

US Artillery Hammers Japs On Bairoko

By WILLIAM F. BONI ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Wednesday, Aug. 25.—(AP)—Artillery has opened up for the first time on Japanese making a last ditch stand at Bairoko, New Georgia, in the Solomons after American troops succeeded in scoring substantial advances northward from the captured Munda airfield.

This success in moving up the field pieces was reported today from headquarters of Gen. Douglas MacArthur along with a 112-ton raid Tuesday by Liberators at the other arm of the Pacific war front on Wewak, New Guinea, where more than 300 Japanese planes were destroyed last week.

Three hundred fifty miles below Wewak at ground-menaced Salamaua, troops which have crossed the Francisco river within two miles of the airfield have registered a substantial gain, a spokesman for General MacArthur disclosed. He did not elaborate on the advance, which occurred west of the air strip.

The ground campaign to oust the last Japanese from New Georgia has been in progress ever since the Munda strip was seized August 5, some 10 miles south Bairoko.

Above New Georgia, Japanese planes tried to raid Vella Lavella island which American forces occupied August 15. Nine of the raiders were shot down.

The Liberators attacking Wewak were escorted by long range fighters. Against such a formidable force, the Japanese fighters showed a reluctance to attack in contrast with the raids last Friday and Saturday when numerous enemy interceptors were encountered and more than 30 were shot down.

"Twenty enemy fighters were in the air but showed a reluctance to engage," today's communique said.

"One enemy plane was shot down."

The Tuesday raiders caused much damage near the airfield and started numerous fires and explosions.

The tonnage dropped was a record for Wewak but fell short of the record for the New Guinea sector—177 tons loosed in a single raid on Salamaua.

The Wewak raiders, which struck yesterday morning, numbered approximately 100 planes. Returning pilots said they noted some enemy planes on the ground of various types and in various degrees of serviceability.

Gift Money Orders Out for Duration

WASHINGTON, August 24.—(AP)—Gift money orders by telegraph will be discontinued for the duration.

US Fliers Bombard France

Shuttle Bombing Follows Up Most Damaging Raids

By RICE YAHNER LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 25.—(AP)—American Flying Fortresses which made the first daylight shuttle raid on Germany August 17, blasted an aircraft assembly plant in Bordeaux, France, Tuesday on the return leg of their journey which brought them from north Africa to their home bases in Britain, it was officially announced Wednesday.

This latest demonstration of the increasing range of American air power coincided with the opening of the major allied air drive against Berlin Monday when approximately 700 RAF bombers "Hamburged" the German capital.

The Fortresses which made it a double shuttle raid by blasting Bordeaux yesterday, penetrated deep into the reich on their outward trip to hit an airplane factory in Regensburg on August 17.

Other Fortress formations attacked three airfields in France late yesterday.

Even as the most complex 24-hour assault of aerial warfare was rounded out, German radios went silent again—a strong indication that the reich, perhaps Berlin, was getting a second successive plastering.

In Monday's raid on Berlin, the allied command fashioned a scale of destruction twice the weight of any ever heaped on any capital, and not far short of the weight of the attacks which swept Hamburg from the war in 10 days. More than 2000 tons of bombs were dropped.

The Fortresses which attacked the three Nazi airfields in France operated from Britain. The communique announcing the return of the shuttle-bombers from north Africa said, in part:

"It was announced by the air ministry and the European theatre of operations, United States army, that formations of the Eighth air force Flying Fortresses, returning from Africa after bombing Regensburg on August 17, attacked an aircraft assembly plant in Bordeaux in enemy held France during daylight yesterday (August 24).

"... Formations attacking Bordeaux reported good bombing results. Enemy opposition was not severe, and the heavy bombers destroyed seven enemy aircraft."

The communique reported only four American bombers lost from the whole of Tuesday's hazardous operations, while the Fortresses and escorting Thunderbolts and RAF fighters knocked down 15 Nazi planes. Seven fell to the Fortresses alone.

Besides Bordeaux, other targets were Villacoublay and the airfields of Conches, Evreux and Fauville. Villacoublay is near Paris.

Brig. Gen. Fred L. Anderson, Jr., wing commander of the Eighth air force, called the complete north African shuttle "the greatest" (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

In Oregon



LT. GEN. LESLEY J. MCNAIR

Gen. McNair At Camp Adair

Chief of US Ground Forces to View Gigantic Maneuvers

CAMP ADAIR, Ore., August 24.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, commanding general of United States ground forces, arrived in Oregon Tuesday to view gigantic maneuvers now under way in central Oregon.

McNair, accompanied by a large staff, inspected troops in training at this army camp. He will go tomorrow to the maneuver area where thousands of troops have been engaged for weeks in war games.

Accompanying him were Brig. Gen. J. M. Lentz, Brig. Gen. C. L. Hysong, Col. G. H. Carpenter, Col. S. E. Faine, Col. William C. Forse, Col. J. B. Edmonds, Col. Charles Bryan, Col. E. F. Olsen, Col. W. E. Shambora, Lt. Col. B. Hamlett, Lt. Col. Don Lemp and Major L. C. Gilbert.

Four Arrested For Espionage

DETROIT, Aug. 24.—(AP)—Charged with giving war information to Nazi Germany, two men and two women, one of the latter described as an "attractive well-educated descendant of French nobility," were arrested by the federal bureau of investigation Tuesday and held for trial under the wartime espionage act which carries a possible death penalty.

Arrested in Detroit were Grace Buchanan-Dineen, 34, sometimes called "Countess Buchanan-Dineen," Dr. Fred William Thomas, 44, prominent obstetrician, and Theresa Behrens, 44. In New York the FBI arrested Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, 27, a member of the merchant marine. Also held in Detroit were two women whose names were withheld but whom the FBI said were citizens of Germany.

Son of Ambassador Winant Raid Pilot

LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 25.—(AP)—John G. Winant, Jr., 21-year-old son of the American ambassador, piloted one of the Flying Fortresses on the 3,000-mile shuttle bombing trip to Africa, it was disclosed today.

The raid was believed to be young Winant's first.

Ukraine Nazis In Near-Rout

Russians Drive Reeling Enemy Toward Poltava

By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 25.—(AP)—Russian forces racing westward from captured Kharkov in an unchecked offensive aimed at Poltava inflicted heavy blows on the reeling German army Tuesday and threw the Nazi forces into a retreat bordering on a rout, Moscow announced today.

"Arms and material were abandoned by the Germans on the battlefield," said the midnight communique as the Red army columns northwest, west and south of the city lunged on toward Poltava, 75 miles to the southwest, and perhaps even aimed for Kiev, keypoint of the German Dnieper river line 250 miles away.

Keeping pace with the new victories almost 200 miles to the north, Russian forces which broke through the German Donets line to open a new battle front continued their gains both southwest of Voroshilovgrad and south of Izyum.

Several populated places fell to the red army, which only yesterday was disclosed to have smashed through from 18 to 22 miles in a major break-through near Voroshilovgrad that threatened to entrap Nazi forces occupying the iron and coal regions of the Donets basin, said the soviet daily communique, recorded by the soviet monitor.

South of Izyum, the other column hammering into the Donets stormed into a heavily-fortified Nazi strong point after overcoming fierce resistance and killing a thousand defenders, the Russians said. Booty and prisoners were taken and 33 German planes were shot down during the day's battles there, said the Russian report.

Altogether, the Russians said, almost 4000 Germans were killed Tuesday as they fell back from Kharkov and the Donets river.

New successes on the Bryansk front, where stubborn German resistance has slowed the conquerors of Orel, also were reported by the Russians.

"Our detachments drove the enemy from four populated places" there, the communique said.

The momentum of Russia's first great summer offensive carried even to the northern sectors yesterday, where the report said about 400 Germans were killed on the Leningrad front and big soviet guns crushed blockhouses and dugouts.

Nazi Troops In Copenhagen

STOCKHOLM, August 24.—(AP)—German troops, 40,000 to 50,000 strong rolled into Copenhagen before dawn Saturday to take over the capital of their Danish "model protectorate," it was learned Tuesday night, as riots, strikes and outbreaks raged in protests against Nazi occupation.

At the other end of the Baltic sea, Finland—Germany's ally against Soviet Russia—sought new means to step out of the struggle, and agitation by labor and pro-allied groups to obtain a separate peace progressed slowly. All factions agreed, however, that they did not want "peace at any price."

Saturday's troop movements into Copenhagen were disclosed in press dispatches from that Nazi-dominated kingdom.

They took over public halls, sports buildings and schools as barracks. The contingent was the largest ever quartered in Copenhagen and the soldiers drained food and other supplies from stores to the extent that housewives had difficulty getting food, the dispatches said.

Crime Rate in Army Lowest Ever Says Judge Advocate

CHICAGO, Aug. 24.—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Myron C. Cramer, judge advocate general of the army, today described the army's crime rate as "the lowest in history and much better than in the last war."

Quebec Perfects Invasion Plans As Parley Ends

Plans Laid for Occupied Lands; Russia Gets Virtual Invitation to Next War Meet

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

QUEBEC, Que., August 24.—(AP)—Disclosure that the Anglo-American conference laid plans for the government of reconquered European territories, plus the issuance of a virtual invitation to Russia to join the next war meeting, made it apparent Tuesday night that the pattern for invasion of Europe was nearly complete.

Ring down the curtain on the Quebec war council earlier in the day, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill had projected the question of European invasion into the forefront of conference speculation by failing to make any reference to the general subject in an official statement on their deliberations.

They had suggested the possibility that Russia would attend a three-power conference with them, knowing quite well that Russia's main concern is an allied invasion to draw a maximum of German ground pressure off the Soviet front.

The statement on the government of reconquered territories took invasion for granted. It was issued by a British official to a press conference. He asked that he be not otherwise identified but it was obvious that his information had come from the highest sources.

"Apart from strictly military questions," the statement said, "the conference was able to devote its attention to the principal which should be observed in the administration of territories in Europe liberated by our forces from enemy domination."

"It has of course always been recognized that the system which we have adopted with success on Italian territory (AMGOT or military government in Sicily) cannot be applied to friendly territory and the problem will not be the same in cases where there is already a legitimate government with which the United States government and his Britannic majesty's government are in friendly and regular relations."

"Consultations on this subject are being continued with the governments concerned."

The president and prime minister had thus come to grips with one of the knottiest problems expected to arise out of the assault on Europe—especially in the Balkan areas where there are conflicting claims to the right to govern.

Another political indication that the time for attack on Europe was close at hand was found in a formal statement by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill that consideration had been given to relations with the French committee of liberation and that announcements on this subject by a member of the government would be made later this week.

Russia was virtually invited by the president and prime minister to attend the next Anglo-American conference, which it has been decided to hold before the end of the year.

Bean Harvest Call Is Still Urgent in Area

By RALPH CURTIS Harvesting activities of the approximately 585 Mexicans who will arrive in the Salem vicinity Thursday or Friday of this week will be limited to the picking of hops and prunes; their presence here will in no way relieve the need, just now extreme, for volunteer local help in the bean harvest and in the canneries.

Bean growers whose trucks called as usual Tuesday morning at the employment office, Cottage and Ferry streets, found fewer pickers than usual awaiting transportation and as a result the need will be even greater today, with substantial tonnage of beans in danger of becoming culls rather than the top grade article due to delay in harvesting.

Meanwhile it was reported that most of the canneries were in need of workers for both day and night shifts, and that Willamette Cherry Growers sought 50 women to sort fresh prunes starting today.

The Mexicans, coming by train directly from Mexico's fertile agricultural districts and selected for their industry and familiarity with agricultural work, will be housed in the "tent city" west of

the state fairgrounds, it was announced Tuesday by County Agent G. W. Nibler.

The war food administration has the responsibility of setting up and conducting the camp, providing kitchen, store rooms, showers, laundry and similar facilities, hiring cooks and boarding the workers at cost. This agency also provides tents, cots and blankets. Verne Jones will be camp manager.

The hop growers and prune growers employing these workers will provide daily transportation between the camp and their yards and orchards. Under the treaty governing their employment, the Mexicans are to receive the going wage and there is a guaranty as to minimum number of days' work.

Those of the Mexicans from the Salem camp who will pick hops will be concentrated in four yards in the Mission Bottom and St. Paul districts. Another camp in Polk county will house Mexican hop pickers for some of the larger yards there.

County Agent Nibler said that judging from the experiences of other Oregon communities in housed in the "tent city" west of

It Must Be Funny



This captured officer (left) of the German Afrika Korps (note sleeve emblem) sees humor in the situation in conversation with a navy officer (center) and a coast guard officer (right) before he is taken aboard a transport in North Africa bound for the U.S. (Associated Press photo from coast guard).