

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

They are whispering so loudly in Washington and London that out here we can almost see the lips move. By press wire and radio wireless rumors circulate of the pendency of great events. It is true, literally and figuratively, that the "air is electric."

Where there is so much smoke there must be fire. Responsible news services do not go "all-out" on mere suspicion. Enough has clearly been let fall by persons who do know to build up expectations of early and important pronouncements.

The rumors center on a probable meeting of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. This has been forecast by the principals themselves, and their lack of recent appearance in their capitals gives base for the surmise, which is perhaps not even surmise to observers in Washington and London. The place probably is Cairo as reported.

The meeting of these heads of state would be an event of major significance in itself; but so definite has been the report that pronouncements of world-shaking importance are imminent, it must be that a tip-off of what is coming has been given out. We had that after the Casablanca conference; but the subsequent statements hardly lived up to the advance notices. Some important statement would have to flow from a meeting of the "big three," and it would have to take some advanced position with reference to the war or the peace. The Hull-Eden-Molotov conference in Moscow successfully disposed of current problems. Unless subjects of vaster moment were up for consideration there would be no need for a meeting of these heads of state so soon following the other meeting.

The speculation which seems nearest the truth is that the United Nations will be more detailed in their terms of "unconditional surrender," assuring the peoples of the axis and satellite states that they will not be obliterated if they throw Hitler out and sue for peace. This was the proceeding with Italy prior to Mussolini's downfall. But Hitler and Himmler still hold their grip in Germany, and there is no one else known at present who can speak for the German nation. It is doubtful if any great ultimatum will meet with an early and favorable response from Germany.

My own surmise is that this build-up is part of a war of nerves against Germany. These rumors reach inside Germany, and dangle the possibility of peace before the eyes of the dazed and distraught people of bombed cities, and the hungry and sorrowing relatives of men lost in the bitter defeats in Russia. With this generous advance publicity the ultimatum when it comes will certainly attract attention within Germany, and may be the leaven that will produce upheavals later on.

Of course the mountain of prophecy may turn out to be a molehill of fact. But if it is, many faces will be red.

G. M. Sennatt Nazi Prisoner

Lt. George M. Sennatt, formerly reported missing in action, is now reported to be held a prisoner of the German government, according to a notification sent through the International Red Cross to his wife, Althea R. Sennatt. She is living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hane, at 864 Mill street.

Sennatt was a bombardier on a Flying Fortress and was in a raid over Europe when taken prisoner. Word of his capture came to the family Saturday.

Heavy Fall Wind Does Small Damage

Heaviest wind of the fall to date carried gusts of rain, snapped branches from trees and rocked Salem telephone and electric wires Monday night but did small damage, power company employees declared early this morning.

Dallas, Willamina Men Killed in Action

Sgt. Harry E. Sever of Dallas and Sgt. Marcus A. Simmons of route 1, Willamina, are included in a list of men killed in action in the Mediterranean area. Sgt. Sever's wife, Mrs. Lydia H. Sever, lives on North Levens street in Dallas. Sgt. Simmons' mother is Mrs. Susie M. Simmons.

22 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT - GET THE SHAVING KIT FOR DAVE AND THE AIR FORCE GUY - Buy Christmas Seals

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

Salem, Oregon, Tuesday Morning, November 30, 1943

Weather

Monday maximum temperature 55, minimum 32. Precipitation .26. River 1.9 ft. Cloudy with occasional rain Tuesday and Wednesday; little change in temperature.

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Oregon To Buy Distillery

State Takes Final Steps For Purchase

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 29 (AP)—Oregon and Washington took final steps today to acquire 1,000,000 cases of Kentucky bourbon whiskey in the first purchase of distilleries ever made by liquor monopoly states.

George P. Lilley, chairman of the Oregon liquor control commission, delegated Commissioner Hugh Kirkpatrick to leave for Louisville, Ky., Wednesday to join Ray Conway, Oregon liquor administrator, in a check of stocks of the Waterfill & Frazier and Shawhan distilleries.

Commissioner Paul L. Crooks was appointed to leave for Kansas City offices of the distilleries next Tuesday with a check for Oregon's share of the \$6,650,000 purchase price. Lilley said that Evro Beckett, chairman of the Washington state liquor board, informed him by telephone today that Washington would send a representative east with Crooks.

The purchase plan calls for resale of the distilleries after the stocks are divided by the two states.

Lilley said the office of price administration (OPA) had telegraphed approval after the distilleries agreed to reduce the purchase price \$1,105,000 to meet ceiling regulations.

Forest Grover Wins Medal In Pacific

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Nov. 30 (Tuesday)—(AP)—A crew of a heavy bomber, which raided nine installations and shipping near Kolaka in Celebes last Aug. 21 and then fought off 12 Zeros to return safely to its base, have been awarded the silver star for "gallantry in action."

The airmen included Capt. C. A. Cunningham, Indians; Sgt. Gerald R. Cate, Forest Grove, Ore., and Staff Sgt. Conrad K. Bowman, Fort Ord, Ore.

The plane dropped eight 500 pounders on a Pomelau nickel mine, then released a ninth from low altitude on a freighter transport in the harbor and finished off with strafing runs against other shipping and military barracks.

The citation said, "On the return flight Capt. Cunningham's bomber was attacked by 12 enemy Zeros which made over 30 passes. During a 45 minute aerial combat four enemy planes definitely were destroyed and were observed by the crew to be crashing and exploding in the water. One other aircraft probably was destroyed, two were damaged and were forced to withdraw from the fight."

The plane returned to its base with many bullet holes but with no severe damage and no casualties.

Air Medal



Lt. John H. Farrar, son of Dee Farrar of Salem and a student at Capital Business college here several years ago, has been awarded the air medal, according to word received here. The citation mentions that he had participated in more than 25 missions in the South Pacific. He is a nephew of former Postmaster John H. Farrar of Salem.

Aussies Move On Vital Jap Jungle Position

By ROBERT EUNSON
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Tuesday, Nov. 30—(AP)—Supported by waves of B-25's and their own tanks, Australian infantrymen are closing in on the Bonga, a stubbornly-defended Japanese jungle position northeast of Sattelberg, New Guinea.

Sattelberg, five miles northwest of Finschhafen airfield, was captured by the allies Nov. 26.

A spokesman for General Douglas MacArthur, explaining the strategic value of Bonga, said that although Pine Hill has been taken a bulge still remains in allied lines along the coastal trail. The assault on Bonga is intended to take it this bulge.

Pine Hill, a large irregular height, dominated the northeastern half of the main jungle trail along Huon peninsula.

The attack on Bonga was launched last Saturday.

Mitchell medium bombers, flying at tree-top level, roared ahead of the Australians, strafing enemy lines as the attack began. The next day they blasted the Japanese again and by Sunday afternoon the Aussies had advanced to within a mile of Bonga.

Meanwhile, Mosigetta, Marawaka, and Mutipina airdromes, all on the southeast coast of Empress Augusta bay on Bougainville island, were attacked heavily by Dauntless and Avenger bombers escorted by P-39 fighters. Six large buildings were destroyed and 24 smaller structures were demolished by the 68 tons of bombs released by the warplanes. Ten to 15 fires were started and six barges were sunk.

Some 50 Liberators attacked Wewak, the Japanese stronghold on the northeast coast of New Guinea. Escorted by Airacobras, the allied heavy bombers put 94 tons of bombs on the target. Observers reported a large fire along the coast at nearby Boram and two small fires at Wewak.

Night reconnaissance units raided shipping north of Rabaul, attacking two destroyers and a

Russians Close on Zhlobin

Reds 12 Miles From Rail Hub Of Gomel Escape

By JAMES M. LONG
LONDON, Tuesday, Nov. 30 (AP)—Russian troops lunging in a pincers upon Zhlobin—rail hub and fortress guarding the nazis' Gomel escape gap—spearheaded to within 12 miles of the city from the south Monday and, seized 40 villages in a battering offensive from the west, the Soviets announced early today.

One spearhead of Gen. Constantine Rokossovsky's formations plunged within 25 miles of Bobruisk, northwest of Zhlobin and on the same Gomel-Minsk railroad, Moscow declared.

The Soviet smashes thus stabbed closer to the supply system of the whole southern white Russia line, pushing the retreating Germans nearer to the old Polish frontier and new disaster.

Eight hundred nazis were killed yesterday in fierce fighting in this area, said the Moscow communication recorded by the Soviet radio monitor from a broadcast.

Exploding a renewed charge into the Dnieper bend, some 220 miles to the south, other red armies wiped out 1500 Germans and plunged eight miles west of Cherkassy, on the west bank of the Dnieper between Kiev and Kremenchuk, the war bulletin declared.

In the Kiev salient, 900 Germans were reported killed and 56 tanks wrecked as Soviet forces threw back heavy nazis assaults north and east of Zhitomir in the Chernyakhov and Brusilov areas, and red army planes struck heavily at German armored concentrations.

(A London broadcast quoted the Soviet radio as saying tonight that "eight German armored divisions

Thief Takes Jewels, Cash Worth \$100

Police today seek clues leading to apprehension of a person who Monday obtained approximately \$100 worth of jewelry and coins in a daylight robbery in Salem.

Entrance to the Albert Smith residence, 1578 South Commercial street, was apparently gained through a dining room door, from which a small glass panel was broken. Once in the house, the wary visitor unhooked a screen over a bedroom window so that exit might be rapid in case of necessity.

A necklace with a pendant containing a diamond, the whole valued at \$50, a small gold cross type necklace on which no value was stated, a small yellow gold wristwatch, valued at \$27, and \$20 in old coins were taken. Only one dresser drawer had apparently been ransacked and in it had been left some valuable merchandise.

Mrs. Smith told police she had left the house at 8:30 a. m. Monday and that her husband, first to return, arrived home at 5:20 p. m. to discover the thefts.

US Forts Again Blast Bremen; British Smash Nazi Winter Line

Adriatic Offensive Mounts

Eastern End Of Nazi Defense Endangered

By GAYLE TALBOT
Associated Press War Editor

The famous Eighth army, nemesis of the nazis, is smashing headlong into the enemy's "winter line" at two points across the Sangro river and is engaged in bitter fighting that may tear the Adriatic end of the enemy's defenses out by the roots.

General Montgomery's British, New Zealand and Indian troops attacked in darkness Sunday morning both from their original bridgehead near the mouth of the Sangro and opposite Archi, 13 miles inland, after a terrific artillery barrage had pulverized the Germans' hill positions, and the allied command reported "good progress" despite repeated nazi counter-attacks.

This likely was the start of an allied push along the length of the Italian front, with General Clark's American and British Fifth army due to join shortly in the delayed task of driving the enemy back on Rome. The worst of the rainy season, which has mired the allies for weeks appeared to have passed.

The German air force, making its first appearance in strength over the battle lines in recent weeks, sent three formations of fighter-bombers against the advancing British troops, but each group was intercepted by Spitfires, which destroyed two Messerschmitt-109s and one Focke-Wulf-190 and damaged others.

Helping to cut the enemy line of supplies from northern Italy, two British destroyers bombarded the Adriatic port of Civitanova, 85 miles up the coast from the Sangro, while American A-36 dive bombers created what was officially reported as "widespread confusion and havoc" among enemy troop concentrations, barracks and road traffic in the Rome area.

The American planes destroyed at least 10 trucks, damaged many railway cars and tank transporters and attacked railway stations, power plants and radio stations. American Spitfires strafed troops and vehicles near Gioia and Avezzano, east of Rome, and P-40 Warhawk hammered gun positions (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Alumina Plant Appropriation Clears Path

Last technicality involving federal approval of the alumina-from-clay plant to be erected in the Salem vicinity was cleared Monday when the Defense Plant corporation of which Jesse Jones is executive head appropriated \$4,000,000 for construction.

Telegrams containing this information were received by the Salem chamber of commerce and Gov. Earl Snell from Congressman Homer Angell, of the northwest's congressional alumina committee, from Sen. Charles L. McNary's office and from Sen. Rufus Holman. Congressman Angell's wire said the project was "proceeding regularly toward the contract stage."

A resolution of appreciation authorized by the Salem chamber of commerce, addressed to the chambers of commerce and other agencies and individuals in cities throughout the northwest, was read at the Salem chamber's Monday luncheon. It mentions the cooperation which averted loss of the alumina plant to some areas outside the Pacific northwest, and the action of other Oregon applicants in withdrawing in favor of Salem prior to final selection.

The resolution was drafted by Ralph Campbell of the chamber's legislative department. President Carl Hogg gave principal credit for Salem's success in acquiring the plant to Clay Cochran, business extension manager of the chamber.

Momentous Declaration Expected in Few Days

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK
LONDON, Nov. 29—(AP)—A declaration of epochal importance involving a possible demand for Germany's surrender and signed by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin in the first meeting of the "big three" is expected—on the basis of foreign reports—to be announced perhaps within a few days.

It is speculated from reports from abroad that such a document, in terms more precise than the Atlantic charter, certainly would state the peace principles for application to Germany and her satellites.

Although there is no confirmation, reports from abroad have persisted that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek has joined in the greatest conference yet on the war and peace strategy of the United Nations, but it is believed that if he did so he probably participated mainly in talks apart from those attended by the Russians, who are not fighting Japan.

There were reports, too, that President Eduard Benes of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile was attending this conference.

German propagandists anticipated an announcement of such a conference with an effort to minimize its importance.

"Since efforts to bring about this conference have been made for the last two years, it would not be surprising if a conference should at last take place," said DNB in a Berlin broadcast. "It is surprising, however, that the meeting should take place so soon after the Moscow conference of foreign ministers" of Britain, Russia and the United States.

"Since the Moscow conference, the situation on the whole has not changed. Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt therefore can hardly discuss anything that Molotov, Eden, and Hull did not discuss.

"If a meeting nevertheless has convened, it may be concluded that the Moscow conference brought no agreement, and the Moscow communiqué (brought) nothing but an attempt to give the illusion of agreement."

Contrary to this German view, the affirmation of solidarity among the three leaders of the United Nations is expected alone to constitute one of the greatest accomplishments of any constitution.

It is taken for granted in London that they would join in reaffirming the unconditional surrender policy, and elaborate it with a statement to the German people of the treatment they might expect if they aid in shortening the war by throwing out the nazis.

Although the allied powers apparently have agreed on a strategy of an all-out assault on Germany in the spring, military as well as diplomatic consultations are believed involved in the conference.

City Water System Tax Muddle Suit Looms Again

Notification of impending suit to restrain Marion county court from waiving the \$17,000 accrued and delinquent interest on Salem city water system back taxes went to the court Monday over the signature of Herman E. Lafky, Salem attorney.

"Representing certain rural taxpayers," he declared he would file suit "if he persisted in the indicated deal." That suit would be accompanied, he added, by a petition for "a mandamus order, requiring you, with or without your permission, to foreclose the tax lien on the power company owned property at Trade and Liberty streets."

There is no necessity for waiving taxes, Lafky maintains, inasmuch as some of the old water company properties (those at Trade and Liberty) have already been sold to the Portland General Electric company. Now, that they once again are out of the public ownership classification, they are subject to the "same tax foreclosure that takes any home or farm, upon which the taxes are not paid," he declares.

The properties in question were sold to the power company for \$12,000, according to Lafky, who writes in part: "A considerable number of tax lien foreclosure lists have been published since the City of Salem sold that property to the Portland General Electric, but to date no effort has been made to collect that lien. Now the public and taxpayers of Marion county are being told that they are to make up that \$17,000 of tax interest you propose to waive, because it is impossible to enforce your tax claim against publicly owned property. We submit that you have no moral right to do this, and there is a serious doubt that you have any legal right, under the state of the record. Why this power company property has been overlooked, we suggest you ex-

plain to the satisfaction of the taxpayers of all of Marion county, whom you will one day soon be asking to authorize the building of a badly needed new courthouse, with taxpayers' money."

Long in litigation, the case concerning the water system tax came out of the state supreme court earlier this year. It concerned the taxes levied against the property while still privately owned but not due nor billed until after the purchase by the city.

The supreme court declared the taxes due and owing, pointed out that the county had no way to enforce collection since publicly-owned property is neither taxable nor subject to foreclosure liens for taxes placed there prior to purchase. However, it indicated that the tax debt would continue to be a lien against the property, collectible when the properties (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Salem Man Helps Blast Jap Pillboxes

Sgt. F. P. "Fram" Morgan of Salem was in the thick of things in the Tarawa invasion, a delayed Associated Press dispatch reported Monday. He was one of a platoon of marines which knocked out six Jap pillboxes and killed about 20 of the enemy.

Lt. William D. Hawkins of El Paso, platoon leader, wounded in the shoulder, returned to the attack after a surgeon explained he couldn't remove the slug as he didn't have the proper instruments handy, the dispatch said. Lt. A. G. Leslie of Milwaukee, Ore., also participated in this attack.

Sgt. Morgan's brother, Glenn E. Morgan, is employed at the Cherry City bakery here.

Nazi Port Hit Twice In 4 Days

Mighty Daylight Raid Continues Allied Air Blitz

By W. W. HERCHER
LONDON, Nov. 29—(AP)—

Striking through 65-below-zero weather, US Flying Fortresses with powerful fighter escort continued the mighty new aerial offensive against Hitler's Europe today by heaping more destruction on the German port of Bremen in the second such daylight assault in four days.

In the second attack on which suffered a terrific pounding Friday by a record number of US big planes, and other European targets during the day, 13 American heavy bombers and 18 fighter planes—16 of the latter American—were reported missing, while 35 nazi aircraft were shot down.

An indication that the RAF was permitting no slack in the new aerial drive came tonight when the nazi-dominated radio stations at Bremen, Friesland, Hilversum, Calais and Luxembourg faded from the air.

Deutschlandsender, the big nazi station in the Berlin area, also went silent, indicating that the RAF again might be blasting smoking Berlin, which was about one-third demolished in last week's night RAF attacks.

Under clouds of Thunderbolts and Lightnings, the Flying Fortresses made the 800-mile round trip to Bremen in temperatures dipping as low as 65 degrees below zero—the coldest weather in which American high altitude bombers ever have operated from Britain.

Bremen, a city of 340,000 normal population and a port second in importance only to Hamburg, has been attacked six times by the Eighth air force. (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Morgenthau Renews Drive For Tax Bill

By HOWARD FLIEGER
WASHINGTON, Nov. 29—(AP)—The administration renewed its almost hopeless campaign for \$10,500,000,000 in new taxes today, but fought off suggestions of a federal sales tax.

Secretary Morgenthau told the senate finance committee the nation's skyrocketed war income could well bear that amount of additional taxes—an argument rejected by the house when it voted a tax bill cut to \$2,140,000,000.

Morgenthau and his aides spurned arguments that less government spending would lighten the tax need and said a sales tax would be entirely unfair to low-income families, and would be more trouble than it is worth.

The administration officials opened their renewed plea for heavier taxes, knowing that the odds were heavily against their getting \$10,500,000,000 from this congress. The house voted, coupled with the remark of Chairman George (D-Ga.) of the senate finance committee that it would be impossible to go far afield of the house bill, left little hope for the treasury proposal.

"An essential part of fighting a war is paying for it in the right way at the right time," Morgenthau declared. "It is a great fallacy to suppose that we can fight history's greatest war to save what we hold most dear without financial sacrifice."

"The easiest way to make that sacrifice," Both Morgenthau and Randolph Paul, treasury tax expert, stressed the mounting national income in their demands for more taxes, but Chairman George observed:

"Much of that is temporary, artificial income. I'm afraid we're not going to decrease (tax) rates fast enough to take care of declining income when the war ends. With the income artificial, as it must be in war time, you have to give that factor very great weight."