

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

We used to get literature boosting Hawaii, the output of promotion departments of the steamship lines and pineapple companies interested in trade and travel. Now the United Fruit company is sending out press sheets dealing with "Middle America." That title refers to the countries of Central America and the northern part of South America. It is the old banana dominion of United Fruit, served by its white steamers in the days before the war.

The publicity deals with development of growing of spices in that portion of the world. It seems that the Japanese conquest of the "Spice Islands" of the south seas started plantings of spices in regions of similar climate in the Americas. So it may well be that the dream of Columbus may be fulfilled, and the Central American he discovered may turn out to be the "Spice Islands" he was seeking—at least the region will provide "sugar and spice and everything nice" which is what little girls are said to be made of.

Other developments in South American horticulture are merely the "return of the native." I refer to the revival of production of quinine (cinchona) which was native to Peru; and rubber, native to the Amazon valley. All of these matters are of interest. These changes may be permanent, at least in part. Wars do "start things." When France got short of fats during the Napoleonic wars Napoleon offered a prize for a butter substitute. The result was "butterine" out of which the margarine has come. So we may after the war get quinine and spices from "Middle America," as well as bananas.

Trachsel Makes First Talk Here Today

First Salem public appearance of John J. Trachsel, missionary to China who returned to this country this winter on the Gripsholm after two years internment in a Japanese prison camp is scheduled for 11 a. m. today, when the Willamette university graduate addresses the monthly meeting of the Marion County Holiness association at Wesleyan Methodist church, 1485 Mill street.

Trachsel, who with 1236 other nationals arrived in New York aboard the Swedish liner December 1, came to his home at 1810 South High street, Salem, last night after a week's visit in Portland with his mother, Mrs. Trachsel, the former Laura Cammack, and their daughters, Helen Marie, 7, and Carol Faith, 2, remained there with him, having gone to Portland to meet the traveler as he came in by airplane.

Mrs. Trachsel, who became pastor of the South Salem Friends church on September 1, now will share that pastorate with her husband.

Many Salem residents and Willamette university graduates of a decade ago remember the returning missionary as a tall youth who played baseball with the Bearcats and who was student assistant in German from 1927 to the time of his graduation in 1930.

The Tuesday meeting of the Holiness association is the regular monthly session. Three services will be held, Rev. Oscar Brown of Rosefield will speak in the morning, Rev. Joseph Knotts will speak at the 2 o'clock meeting and Rev. C. H. Steinman will preach at night.

The fellowship meeting will be conducted by P. J. Griffiths. Co-operative meals will be served at noon and at 5:30 in the afternoon.

Liquor Deal Nears Completion

Completion of the Oregon-Washington liquor control commission's deal to purchase two Kentucky distilleries, thereby acquiring some 31,000 barrels of whiskey, was near Monday, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, jr., was informed by Harry Schenk, his chief deputy, who went to Kansas City, Mo., to deliver the warrant for Oregon's share, approximately \$3,700,000, of the purchase price.

The warrant was expected to arrive in Salem for payment by airmail not later than Wednesday.

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Salem, Oregon, Tuesday Morning, December 14, 1943

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Weather Monday maximum temperature 35, minimum 24. River 3 ft. Increasing cloudiness in northwest part. Fair elsewhere Tuesday and Wednesday, local fog in west side valleys.

US Plan's Blast North Germany

Shipping, Industrial Area, Schipol Airfield Damaged; Nazi Fighters Downed

Rev. Alford of the American Eighth air force concluded a full blast on Europe today with a large-scale bombardment of targets in the northwest German industrial region and a medium Marine bomber airfield near Amsterdam. Fifteen enemy fighters were shot down, 14 by the heavy bombers and one by a Thunderbolt and a Lightning. A communiqué announced.

Five heavy bombers, two medium bombers and two fighters failed to return from the German raids and other operations.

Returning fliers said the Fortresses and Liberators beat their way through some of the heaviest flak ever seen over Germany.

Big formations of Fortresses and Liberators cut through wintry skies to blast objectives through almost complete cloud cover.

A DNB broadcast from Berlin said several coastal towns of northern Germany were attacked and the agency made the usual Nazi charge that explosives were dropped "indiscriminately."

Members of the first flight crews to return said they had run into fields of anti-aircraft fire on both the trip to their target and the return, but experienced little opposition over the target itself. They met few German fighters, but observed attacks on other groups.

It was the second time in three days that big bombers drawn from steadily-expanding heavy bombardment groups had attacked that area of the Reich. The Marauders, out for the first time in eight days, last hit Schipol November 3. It is one of the Germans' important fighter bases.

Returning to the region where only Saturday 138 German fighters fell before the blistering machinegun barrage of heavy bombers and their escorting fighters in a vain attempt to protect Emden, the heavy bombers boosted to four the number of major operations accomplished this month.

The exact target was not specified in the early announcement of the raid. The effect on the Germans certainly would be to give stern emphasis to the promise yesterday of Gen. Henry H. Arnold, chief of US air forces, that "fearful and terrible" air attacks were in store for Hitler-dominated Europe this winter and spring.

Today's American raid followed quick jabs which RAF Mosquitos delivered for the third night in a row on targets in western Germany.

With a pickup in light bombing operations there was a possibility that British heavy raids—curtailed by poor continental weather—once more will hit the strident which has put Berlin on the list of the Reich's heavily damaged cities.

Zero Spell Hits Nation East of Rockies

By the Associated Press Temperatures near the zero mark chilled the midwest Monday night while a cold wave bore down on the east.

Forecasters predicted wintry weather would continue today in the north central states after thermometers had registered such readings as 12 below zero at Duluth, Minn., nine below at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., zero at Green Bay, Wis., and Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., one above at Milwaukee, four above at Chicago, and seven above at Detroit and Buffalo.

A cold wave warning was issued for states in the Ohio valley and in the middle and north Atlantic regions. Lowest temperatures of the season were expected today—ranging from 15 below zero in upper New York and northern New England, to zero in the northern parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania, ten to 15 above in Virginia, and 15 to 20 above in Tennessee.

The cheek-tingling winds uncovered a sign of the times in Chicago's west side hobo district. For the first time in years no vagrants sought shelter for the night in police stations. One desk sergeant explained: "If they aren't in the army, they've got jobs."

--And It Was Death!



"Rome or Death" was the slogan chalked on the side of the vehicle carrying these jubilant Italian soldiers to the fighting front where they joined the battle against their former ally. (AP wirephoto via signal corps radio)

Roosevelt May Tell of Councils In Congress

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL WASHINGTON, Dec. 13—(AP) The chances are that President Roosevelt will report to congress in person on his history-making trip to the middle east for war conferences.

Secretary of State Hull was invited to appear before a joint senate-house session after his return from the Moscow conference of Russian, British and American foreign ministers.

With that in mind, Presidential Secretary Stephen Early said in response to question today that he would "naturally anticipate that the president would receive a similar invitation and would respond" to it. Hull accepted his.

Democratic and republican leaders in both senate and house said they hoped Mr. Roosevelt would give congress an accounting of his meetings with Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Chiang Kai-shek and President Ismet Inonu of Turkey. But they are not talking of issuing a formal invitation. Their idea appears to be to wait until the president once more is in the White House and then learn his wishes.

The chief executive has been gone more than a month already and undoubtedly will have a considerable volume of work stacked on his desk when he returns. Not only will he have to dispose of routine paper work, but he also will have to consider an annual message to congress and a budget for the 1945 fiscal year, both of which must be ready early in the new year.

Consequently he might see fit to combine his report on his middle east travels with the annual message. A separate appearance to discuss the highly significant Cairo and Teheran conference might be favored, however, to help bring about the unity on foreign policy between the two major political parties which Hull has recommended.

Japan Shifts Air Power To Check Mid-Pacific Blows

PEARL HARBOR, Dec. 13—(AP) Japan apparently is shifting her expendable air power into the mid-Pacific in an effort to check the intensified American offensive against strategic Nipponese island outposts.

As these thrusts by United States warships and warplanes grow in number and weight, official communiques indicate a faltering off in the enemy's ability for air combat in the south-southwest Pacific area. Simultaneously there has been some increase in enemy air opposition over central Pacific islands and notably heavier losses of enemy aircraft there.

Actions in the mid-Pacific have accounted for 82 of 126 Japanese planes officially reported destroyed or probably destroyed so far this month in the Pacific. The other 34 were in the southwest Pacific. Of 103 planes definitely shot down, 78 were in combat over the mid-ocean islands.

Latest report of heavier Nipponese air losses in the central Pacific came Sunday from Adm. Chester W. Nimitz. He reported that ten planes were destroyed, nine of them on the ground, in the assault by American warships and planes last week on Nauru island, southwest of the Gilbert islands. American battleships participated in the bombardment, Nimitz said. It was the first disclosure that these big battle wagons had actively taken part in the attack.

Two American planes were lost in the assault on Nauru, which is an important enemy observation outpost. Shore batteries hit one destroyer but the navy said the damage was minor. Air activity over the enemy-held Marshall islands continued. Nimitz reported that a Liberator (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Liberators Bomb Jap-Held Emidji

British Extend Positions

Ortona Heights Taken; Nazis Use 3 Divisions

By WES GALLAGHER ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Dec. 13—(AP)—Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth army punched doggedly into the Germans' new 15-mile-long Adriatic defense line, hinged on 8000-foot Mt. Maiella, and captured heights overlooking the coastal town of Ortona, the allied command announced today.

Despite the loss of 6000 prisoners since the allies invaded Italy, the nazis were able to throw three crack divisions into their fierce resistance in this sector and to launch repeated counter-attacks. Heavy fighting raged along the entire front from Ortona, which is three miles north of the Moro river, through the battle-torn village of Orsogna to Guardiagrele at the foot of the towering Maelia mountain range. Highly trained German Alpine units were opposing Montgomery's men in the Guardiagrele area.

Eighth army units, which included Canadians, fought their way onto elevated ground overlooking Ortona on the coast, while other assault troops gained positions dominating the highway between Ortona and Orsogna, effectively blocking its use by the nazis. Both of the Eighth's bridgeheads across the Moro river were widened.

Canadian troops driving northwest of captured San Leonardo near the coast were engaged in their fiercest, bloodiest fighting since they reach Italy, front dispatches said. At least five times the Germans counterattacked one Canadian unit, and each time they were thrown back. Both sides suffered considerable losses.

Heavy fighting was confined to the Adriatic end of the line. The drive of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth army in the Migoano area, 25 miles from the Tyrrhenian sea, lost some of its impetus in the muck and mud of a miserable Italian winter. American troops repulsed a strong enemy patrol that attempted to penetrate newly-won allied positions north of Migliano.

The rain sharply curbed allied bombing activity and the sky was completely bare of enemy planes. American P-40 Warhawks helped carve a path for the Eighth army's limited gains by bombing Nazi positions near Migliano.

Mitchell medium bombers attacked railroad yards and a German air field at Terracina, 20 miles northwest of Gaeta on the Apennine way. A formation of American A-36 invaders raided Itri on the Apennine way just above Formia. A Nazi plane was lost during the day.

Marks Ill



Willard L. Marks, president of the state board of higher education, was stricken ill at a committee meeting today and taken to a hospital where attendants said he had suffered a partial collapse. An Albany attorney, he formerly was president of the Oregon state senate, in which position he served several times as acting governor. (AP photo)

Month-Long Marshall Raids Continue With New Blasts At Southernmost Air Bases

By Charles H. McMurtry PEARL HARBOR, Dec. 13—(AP)—Army Liberators kept up a month-long series of raids on the mid-Pacific Marshalls by bombing a Japanese cargo ship and shore installations at Emidji (Imejji) in the Jaluit atoll Saturday, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today in a press release.

The bombers dropped 50 tons of explosives. Jaluit and Mili atolls are the southernmost air bases of the Japanese in the Marshalls, thus being nearest to the Gilberts, 300 miles south, which were conquered by the Americans late last month.

As on other raids last week at Jaluit, no mention was made of enemy air interception, with opposition limited to anti-aircraft fire. Some of the Seventh American army airforce bombers in the new attack were damaged but all got back to base. None of the crew was wounded.

The bombing of the Marshalls by the Seventh AAF began prior to the Gilbert invasion and has continued with frequency. Two days prior to the latest Jaluit raid a single Liberator attacked a medium cargo transport and an escorting patrol vessel near the atoll.

The continued presence of enemy vessels in the Marshall area, where heavy shipping losses were inflicted December 4 by swarms of planes from a big American aircraft carrier task force, probably indicates the Japanese are seeking to reinforce those outpost defenses against a threatened invasion.

Fire Damages West Salem Grade School

West Salem school children missed one of the greatest thrills of a life time on Monday seeing the school house burn but they will not have to attend classes today. Fire which was first seen shortly after 4 o'clock, partially destroyed the newer of the two school buildings used by the West Salem elementary school system. Classes will resume Wednesday according to present plans.

The fire evidently started around the flue in the first floor of the building used for the lower grades, according to Mrs. Emily Van Santen, principal of the two buildings. The Salem fire department was called but the roof was badly damaged before the flames were extinguished. Water and smoke damaged the walls and plaster broke away from the ceiling in several of the upper rooms, according to Mrs. Van Santen. Estimate of the damage has not been made the principal stated. Members of the Salem fire department reported the loss probably was not heavy and resulted chiefly from water.

The damage was covered by insurance according to Mrs. Elmer Cook, clerk of the West Salem district. John Friesen, chairman of the board, could not be reached last night. Mrs. Cook said tonight is the board's regular meeting night and because members are mostly engaged in war work it is difficult to contact them in an emergency. Other members of the board are Thomas Dalke and Peter Harms.

It was at first believed that classes would be resumed this morning, the lower grades including the fourth to meet at the First Methodist church and the upper grade classes meeting in their regular building. Later it was decided more time was necessary to check the heating plant (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Postwar Planning Group May Report To School Board

A report from the postwar planning committee of the Salem school board is anticipated for tonight's meeting of district directors in administration offices.

The committee, appointed on request of Supt. Frank B. Bennett, was asked to investigate needs for physical improvements in the school system with a view toward planning the financing of needed buildings and additions when work and materials become available.

Australians Press Attack On Huon Strip

By C. YATES McDANIEL SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Tuesday, Dec. 14—(AP)—Australian ground forces maintained their steady progress in the task of clearing the Japanese from Huon peninsula, New Guinea, by pushing across the Sowi river for a gain of two miles.

Supported by Matilda (medium) tanks, the advanced Australian infantry units were reported in General Douglas MacArthur's communique to be nearing Lakona on the coast, 12 miles north of Finschhafen.

Another Australian force inland continued its pressure against enemy rear guards north of Wareo, the important enemy base which the Aussies captured December 8.

Bombers, light and heavy, supported by fighters broke their inactivity enforced by the weather in the Solomons to give Japanese (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Selection Thought Due Wednesday By Banking Board

Selection of a state superintendent of banks probably will be considered by the state banking board Wednesday. At any rate, a meeting of the board has been scheduled for that day and the circumstance that A. A. Rogers, incumbent, is continuing to serve beyond his appointed term can hardly be ignored.

Rogers' term ended December 1. Gov. Earl Snell had left the previous day on his trip to Chicago, returning last week. Other members of the banking board are Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, jr., and State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott.

Service Columns

Follow the home town boys on the land, on the sea, in the air—and the home town girls too in the women's military units.

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