

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

I went to the "blood bank" and made my first contribution last Tuesday. Had been intending to do it for weeks, but it is very easy to put off something which you know you can do next day or next week. Then perhaps there is a degree of hesitancy due to apprehension over drawing off my own blood. You know it is all right or the doctors and nurses wouldn't have people doing it, but...

Well, the apprehension proved groundless, the tapping process painless and the experience interesting. And when you talk with those in line who have given their blood several times you feel a bit chagrined over your own slowness in responding to the call.

You begin by being free of cold or influenza, and you eat a very light breakfast of toast, coffee, fruit juice. You report at the First Methodist church sometime after 10:30 a. m. on a Tuesday, are checked in at the door, and then wait your turn. It's a game of "musical chairs," one donor remarked, as persons move along the chair-rows until they are called.

A registration card is filled out with your personal data, particularly your health record. A nurse pricks your finger with a needle to get a drop of your blood for its hemoglobin test. Another nurse records your temperature and blood pressure. If you have a "passing grade" in all this you go into the "receiving ward" where donors recline on high cots while a nurse inserts a needle in your arm and the desired quota of blood is withdrawn. A ten-minute rest on a low cot is prescribed, and then the donor is given a bracer of a cup of coffee and a doughnut. "No heavy lifting for several hours" is ordered, which is easy advice for an editor to follow. That's just about all there is to it. You wait at least eight weeks before repeating.

The blood is taken into Portland, then shipped under refrigeration to Oakland where the plasma is extracted and (Continued on Editorial Page)

President To Broadcast At Noon Today

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The greatest network of international radio facilities ever organized will carry President Roosevelt's address tomorrow to the far corners of the world.

The president will speak at noon, Pacific war time, from his Hyde Park, N.Y. home. He is expected to talk for about half an hour and has announced that he will discuss the Tehran and Cairo conferences of allied war leaders.

All domestic radio networks will broadcast the address as will the entire British Broadcasting corporation's system, the Australian and New Zealand network, and stations in Algiers, Palermo, Bari, Naples and India.

A BBC relay is planned to South Africa, the Atlantic, and the middle east, and arrangements are contemplated for the Leopoldville station in central Africa to relay the address to Iran.

Twenty three American short wave stations will carry broadcasts intended primarily for members of the armed services in England, Ireland, Iceland, North Africa, Italy, Central Africa, the near east, China, India, and Australia. Short wave broadcasts also will be beamed to the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.

Because many war workers and others may not have opportunity to hear the mid-afternoon program, many domestic radio stations will broadcast transcriptions (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Germans Spread Anti-Sub Net

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP)—A Berlin broadcast said today the Germans had spread a 50-mile-long anti-submarine net cutting off the Gulf of Finland from the Baltic sea to prevent Russian submarines from entering the Baltic.

The broadcast, quoting an article by a Capt. Zimmerman in the Deutsche Allmeine Zeitung, called the biggest ever used in naval warfare.

1 SHOPPING DAY LEFT... AND I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A THING FOR THE HOLIDAYS... BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

NINETY THIRD YEAR

10 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Friday Morning, December 24, 1943

Price 5c

No. 233

Weather

Thursday maximum temperature 46, minimum 34. Rain .13. River -1.6 ft. Intermittent rain west of Cascades, rain and snow over eastern Cascades Friday and Saturday; not much change in temperature.

FDR Ready to Seize Railroads

Soviets Force Breach in Lines at Vitebsk

Red Army 12 Miles From City

Bagramain's Troops Gain Advantage

By James M. Long

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 24—(AP)—The Russians have forced a new breach in German lines before Vitebsk, Berlin admitted today, while Moscow dispatches said the Soviet Baltic army had battered to within 12 miles of that Nazi fortress as its big winter offensive entered its 12th day.

The Soviet midnight communiqué made more modest claims as it reported that units of Gen. Ivan Bagramain's forces had captured several populated places and additional "advantageous positions." Eight hundred Germans were killed in the day's fighting in which one unit crossed a water barrier, taking the Germans by surprise and sending them into hasty retreat without their equipment.

The communiqué, recorded by the Soviet monitor, also told of exceedingly bitter fighting in the Zhitobin area of southern white Russia where the Germans were counterattacking. Fifty-seven German tanks and 1500 Nazi soldiers were killed and "despite great numerical superiority" the Germans "did not achieve success."

In the Korosten area of the Kiev bulge where the Germans were also counterattacking 85 miles west of the Ukrainian capital, the enemy lost 27 tanks and 800 men after two separate attacks which were successfully repulsed.

The Russian announcement (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Eisenhower Commends

WITH THE 5TH ARMY IN ITALY, Dec. 23 (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, allied commander in chief, put in a good word for the slogging doughboy on the tough Italian front today and said the campaign was definitely worthwhile because it gave the allies air bases against central Europe and tied up German troops.

The allied leader, on a visit to the Italian front, said cracking the Germans' winter line is not a job for the air force alone but for the infantry which has only one alternative, the same slow, plodding progress which is now under way.

Discussing the Italian campaign, Eisenhower said that prior to the allied invasion there were seven German divisions in Italy but 13 days after the conquest of Sicily the Nazis had sent 19 divisions into the country, in addition to troops tied up in southern France and the Balkans because of the uncertainty over the next allied move.

Canadian Rail Unions May Strike Also

ST. THOMAS, Ont., Dec. 23 (AP)—It was reported in railroad circles here today that Canadian-resident employees of United States railroads might strike if a threatened wage increase strike of 20 American railroad unions is carried out December 30. It is believed, however, any financial gain would be offset by wage-freezing orders of the Canadian government.

Criticizes Red Attack

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP)—Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, tonight criticized the attack upon himself and three other AFL leaders in the Soviet publication "War and the Working Class" as "a blow at allied unity."

War Criminal?



Germans claimed this a front and back view of Kenneth Williams, 21, of Charlotte, NC, an American pilot, who was said to be in a Flying Fortress, Murder, Inc. shot down in the raid on Emden.

Nazis to Try Allied Fliers In Retaliation

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP)—The German radio said tonight that British and American airmen held as prisoners of war in Germany would be put on trial as "war criminals."

The statement was made by Edward Roderick Dietze, who said that Germany thus would reply to what he termed Russia's "mock trial" at Kharkov where three Germans and a Russian traitor were executed after trial on charges of committing atrocities. Dietze added that "Anglo-American airmen who dropped their bombs deliberately on residential quarters of German cities and bear with (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Army, Navy Journal Asks Renomination For Gen. Marshall

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Roosevelt Weds

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP)—Lt. J. W. Willard Roosevelt, 25, son of the late Major Kermit Roosevelt and a grandson of the late President Theodore Roosevelt, was married today to socially prominent Nancy Thayer, 24.

Generals Issue Christmas Messages to Troops

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Friday, Dec. 24 (AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur today sent the following Christmas message to the men and women of the armed forces in the southwest Pacific.

"On this Christmas day, the anniversary of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I pray that a merciful God may preserve and bless each one of you."

British Heavies Hit Berlin Again

Allies Blast Rocket Gun Coast During Day; Nazis Bag Planes

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 24 (AP)—A DNB broadcast said British heavy bombers attacked Berlin again last night following a day of American and RAF aerial activity against mysterious targets in the Pas de Calais area of France—now termed the "rocket gun coast."

The broadcast, heard by the Associated Press, declared German night fighters and anti-aircraft fire knocked down a considerable number of four-engined aircraft over the German capital. There was no British confirmation of the reported new attack on Berlin although earlier tonight bombers had been heard heading across the channel. Berlin has been given six heavy poundings since November 18, the last one December 16.

The roar of the big British bombers awakened many English villagers.

The "rocket gun coast" which was blasted in yesterday's operations for the fourth successive day acquired its name from the belief that this area harbors installations of the vaunted new German "secret weapon."

The allies are officially silent on the nature of these raids, but the London Press, on the basis of neutral reports that the Germans were installing rocket guns in this axis territory closest to England, has informally named the area after the high powered rocket gun it is said to shelter for assault on Britain.

Bomb-carrying American Thunderbolt fighters attacked the important German air base near the town of Gilze and Rijen in southern Holland, while the northern French targets of RAF medium and light bombers included a camp near Merlimont, a small coastal village 19 miles south of Boulogne, and two railway junctions, it was announced. One medium bomber was missing from these operations.

British coastal guns after 10 p.m. pumped shells for an hour and a quarter across the Strait of Dover and an enemy convoy was believed to have been the target. German guns on the French coast replied to the bombardment.

(In New York, Allan A. Michie of the Reader's Digest magazine, returning by plane from Europe, said that allied officials regard Germany's rocket secret weapon as "no bluff." He said the allies believe it is a rocket-type projectile weighing approximately 50 tons, including 10 tons of explosive, which "can be shot from the French coast into England.")

Three Weeks Till Flu Crest

By the Associated Press
Oregon's wave of influenza and other respiratory ailments surged toward a crest that still was three weeks away.

Dr. Frederick D. Stricker, state health officer, said at Portland that he anticipated no slackening in the spread of respiratory troubles until possibly the second week in January. By that time the epidemic, which he estimated has stricken more than 10,000 Oregonians, may have run its course.

As well as in the schools and offices, the epidemic was cutting into war production, too. Shipyards and other war plants in the Portland area struggled along with absenteeism running as high as 20 per cent, in the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards from around 8 per cent—considered normal for this time of year—to 11 per cent.

Schweinfurt Missing Found

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The relatives of the 348 airmen who failed to come back from the big American raid on Schweinfurt, Germany, last fall have Christmas greetings from the army—notification that the men are alive although prisoners.

The war department said today that 59 per cent of 581 missing crew members of the Flying Fortresses on the Schweinfurt mission "have been thus far officially reported prisoners of war" and it is expected that further reports will increase this percentage. To date, only 18 of those listed as missing have been transferred to the death list. Still unaccounted for are 217 men.

Lebanon Man Wins Navy Cross

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Dec. 23 (AP)—Lt. (jg.) W. C. Gill, Lebanon, Ore., wounded in the beach assault at Salerno, received the navy cross today. He was injured severely while in charge on a small assault craft but continued directing the flotilla until he collapsed. He has been in the hospital here since. Vice Admiral H. K. Hewitt presented the medal.

Dr. Erb Dies



Pneumonia Fatal for UO President

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—Pneumonia brought a sudden end today to the meteoric career of Dr. Donald Milton Erb, 43-year-old University of Oregon president who rose from stock clerk to college administrator at 37.

The economist, educator and author contracted a heavy cold last weekend. He was taken to a hospital Tuesday but his condition declined steadily, reaching a critical stage late last night. He died shortly after noon today despite blood transfusions and treatments with penicillin and sulfa drugs.

Erb was one of the youngest college presidents in the nation when he succeeded Dr. C. V. Boyer here in 1938. He was the youngest man ever to head the university.

His death was a blow to the university, whose supporters held great hopes for development under Erb's leadership. State official (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Capt. Lovell To Give Back Blood Gift

Until Capt. Lovell has regained eight more pounds some other Salem man or woman will have to take his place in the blood donor line at the First Methodist church on a Tuesday.

Lovell, wounded in the south Pacific, credits the Red Cross blood plasma bank with saving his life and plans to give back to it, he said this week, a portion of the contributions given him.

If Lovell contributed every time permitted, he couldn't catch up with what he sometimes calls his "debt to the plasma bank in two years, but he proposes to get started as soon as physicians say he may.

Late Thursday night, Salem was still 140 registrants short of the number needed to guarantee the city's quota for next Tuesday.

Prevalence of influenza and related ailments in the city means, Red Cross workers said Thursday, that persons not afflicted who have planned to give to the blood bank should do so this coming week. They may make appointments and receive instructions by calling number 9277.

Biddle Ordered When Unions Reject Offer

Two Lines, Brotherhoods Accept Arbitration; Settlement Prospect Gloomy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—President Roosevelt has ordered Attorney General Biddle to prepare the necessary legal papers preparatory to the government's taking over of the railroads, now threatened with a nation-wide strike.

This was made known at the White House tonight shortly after word was received that three of the five railroad operating brotherhoods had rejected the president's offer to arbitrate the rail wage controversy and after the president had explored a similar dispute with representatives of the 15 non-operating unions.

The rail managements and two operating unions agreed to his arbitration.

It was emphasized that the order to the attorney general only was to "prepare" the necessary papers looking to government seizure of the railroads.

Attorney General Biddle's office declined comment. A spokesman said there would be no announcement of the justice department's activities, following up the presidential order, before morning.

The move indicated the president was not very hopeful about the situation after a day of conferences with the carriers and the brotherhood chiefs.

Government operation would not be a new experience for the railroads; a federal agency was in charge of them during the first world war.

With tonight's developments, the chances for the nation's "Christmas present" that the president had asked—assurance by the holiday that the strike called for December 30 would not materialize—went glimmering.

The White house issued this statement on the situation tonight: "The president tonight directed the attorney general to prepare the necessary documents for the taking over of the railroads by the United States government. No date for such action has been fixed.

"At a conference called this afternoon by the president he told the representatives of the carriers and the brotherhoods that there had to be a prompt settlement of the controversy. He stated that action had become necessary, that the war could not wait—that he would not wait.

"He asked that he be advised whether all parties to the controversy would agree to his administration of the dispute and would agree to abide by his decision which, of course, would have to be within the law of the land.

"Shortly after the conference adjourned, A. F. Whitney, representing the brotherhood of railroad trainmen, advised the president that his organization was willing to have the president arbitrate, and would abide by his decision.

"John P. Pelley, president of the association of American railroads, informed the president that the representatives of the carriers unanimously had agreed to his arbitration of the dispute, and that they would abide by his decision.

"Alvanley Johnston, representing the brotherhood of engineers, notified the president that his organization would agree to arbitration by the president, and would abide by his decision.

"However, D. B. Robertson, representing the brotherhood of locomotive engineers and firemen; Thomas C. Cashen, president of the switchmen's union, and H. W. Fraser, president of the order of railway conductors, all advised the president that they refused to agree to arbitration by him.

"Later in the afternoon the president met with the representatives of the non-operating employees. The president advised them of what had transpired during the last few days in his various conferences with the operating brotherhoods. The same proposals for arbitration which he had made to the operating brotherhoods were repeated.

"The representatives of the non-operatives made it clear they had not declined the president's offer to arbitrate their disputes with the carriers. However, they presented to the president a new proposal for settlement of their disputes.

"At the request of the president, Justice Byrnes (James F. Byrnes, war mobilization director) will tomorrow submit this proposal to the carriers and to Judge Fred Vinson, stabilization director, for their consideration. The president again made clear to the representatives of the employees that any settlement must be in accordance with the stabilization program."

Under the terms of Mr. Roosevelt's offer, the parties would have to agree in advance to abide by his decisions.

The chief executive called in leaders of the 15 non-operating unions and offered to pass personally on their wage case after first proposing to the operating brotherhoods that he arbitrate their dispute.

The non-operating group talked with the president for an hour and a half. George Harrison, head of the clerks union, told newsmen afterward that they explored the situation at length but that the matter "has gone over for further conferences."

Raids on Marshalls Show Japs Uncertain of Next Blow

By LEONARD MILLIMAN
Associated Press War Editor
American raids on the Marshalls and the Solomons disclosed concentrations of Japanese shipping in the central Pacific and barges near Buka, indicating Friday that the Japanese are continually shifting their forces, uncertain where the next blow will fall.
Twenty Japanese ships were found in Kwajalein lagoon in the first heavy raid on that central (Turn to Page 2—Story A)