

## Strikes Said Delaying War Conclusion

C (Continued from page 1) C

the army run the carriers, but declared against any retreat in their wage fight.

The source who described as asserted German propaganda based on the strike threats said the effect on European peoples is such that a revolt there may be seriously delayed.

This means, it was said, that the war could be extended months longer and that the allies still may have to fight through the summer at a cost of scores of thousands of casualties before Germany can be brought to her knees.

German propaganda has taken three lines in the satellite nations, it was said.

First, it was asserted the German propaganda line was that Britain and the United States would split — hence that the over-run countries would have everything to gain by holding on for that eventuality.

When it became obvious that such a severance would never develop, the propaganda line shifted to the theme that Russia would desert her allies.

Marshal Stalin's appearance at Tehran and his participation in that conference dissipated that idea, and hope was growing, indeed one source asserted that the hope amounted to confident expectation — that an uprising against the German Gestapo and German-dominated governments in the Balkans could come in February.

Then, this source said, the railway strike threatened, leading to the army's being ordered to take over the railroads, and providing the third propaganda line.

It was added:

The mere statement in those Balkan countries that "the army has had to take over the American railroads and the steel workers may strike" served to raise new doubts of early allied victory and strengthen the arguments of all holding such conviction that if they hung on with the Germans a little longer chaos in the United States would make it possible for them to get more liberal treatment at the peace table.

The question of whether the strategic situation has been so presented to railway and steel union leaders prior to the current developments in their fields, brought the reply that it was not clear that such a point had been made.

The principal emphasis seems to have been placed on the plea that the railroads must be kept running to avoid retarding the movement of war-vital material.

That isn't the problem, it was asserted—the railroads will be kept running all right.

The problem is how to counteract the propaganda line that chaos is at hand in the United States and get the United States to realize that delay in the explosion which our propaganda is trying to promote abroad means delay in final victory and the loss of uncounted American lives that the early realization of that explosion could save.

## Welfare Group Increases Old Age Pay

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 (AP)—The state welfare commission presented a New Year's gift of increased old age assistance to 1879 Oregonians today.

Monthly payments, which averaged \$24.95 last January and \$28.27 last June, will be boosted to an average of \$30.33; the commission disclosed at its meeting here.

The pension boosts, which will be supplemented by medical aid and other special payments in individual cases, followed a state-wide review of cases undertaken at the request of Governor Snell.

When the checking is completed, all aged persons who meet government requirements will be paid the maximum monthly pension of \$40, commission members said.

The Oregon State Medical society's slightly increased schedule of rates for medical treatment of welfare cases was approved.

## 'Invasion-1944' Is Theme

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP)—In a return to the customs of peaceful years, wartime Washington went on a New Year's Eve fling tonight for the first glimpse of the "year of invasion"—1944.

From the White House—where President Roosevelt was reported mildly ill and unable to take part in prayer services tomorrow—the almost vacant capital's streets were filled with thousands of servicemen and civilians out to have one big night in an otherwise quiet year.

The president was like thousands of others in Washington who wound up 1943 feeling ill and therefore all the more inclined to see the year end without regrets.

Reag. Adm. Ross T. McIntire, the president's physician, declared his illness as a "light grippe." He said, "His temperature was normal this afternoon and we are hoping it stays that way."

## ON the HOME FRONT

By ISABEL CHILDS

All night I've been looking for the naked little new year. And you know as well as my optometrist that I can't see across the street when I'm wearing these glasses.

—V—

But the traveling public doesn't know it, so all night, as I sat gazing out toward the sky, the window shades in the hotel across the way have been coming down with jerks.

"That isn't the infant for whom you've been watching," said the lad with a nice hold on the English language. "And that isn't a beard on Father Time, either; that is hair on a chest — and he had just taken off a khaki-colored shirt when he caught you staring."

So, this is analogy to the traveling public. I was looking for 1944 — I wasn't looking into your windows. I couldn't see into your windows, because the chief thing 1943 brought to me was a pair of spectacles that I couldn't see into your windows with even if our office windows were clean.

—V—

Ah, I think I'll go home and open that bottle of coke that is in the refrigerator and just stop looking for the naked little new year — hoping he is a happy one for you and that these glasses let me see him when he comes.

## Yank Heavies Bomb Paris, French Points

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fighters which together shot down six German fighters with a loss of one of their own.

One Fortress formation was jumped by from 50 to 75 nazi fighter planes on the way home and had a great running battle from the Brest peninsula to the middle of the English channel.

Returning crewmen reported bulkhead bomb hits on both the Paris targets and the airfields and said they saw columns of smoke surging up when they were far away on the trip home as the French coast.

In the great year-end aerial offensive the allies sent an average of almost 100 planes an hour over German dominated Europe, or nearly two per minute.

Chateau Bernard in west-central France is about two miles from Cognac on the Charente river and 45 miles inland from Rochefort at the mouth of the river.

The Paris attack, the first at the French metropolis since the bombing of the Caudron — Renault and Hispano — Suiza airplane works and the Cam ball-bearing works on September 15, was designed to strike a further telling blow at the enemy's ball bearing supply so essential to his war effort. That particular industry already had been hard hit by last fall's American raids on Schweinfurt, Germany, and Turin in Italy.

Meanwhile, American Marauders supported by RAF and Dominion planes kept up the pounding of unspecified mystery targets on the northern French invasion coast. Again the German opposition was negligible. Royal Canadian air force planes which escorted the US medium bombers in this operation returned without loss.

The American heavy bombers were supported by both American and RAF fighters. The RAF planes shot down four German aircraft for a loss of one of their own.

## Labor Shortage Now Less Acute

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP)—The war manpower commission in a New Year's eve ranking tonight designated 67 localities as areas of acute labor shortage, as compared with 69 at the start of December and 77 two months ago.

Until November 1 the number of localities in the WMC's Group I (acute shortage) had increased steadily during 1943.

Tonight's monthly re-classifications showed seven localities shifted from Group I to Group II (areas in which a labor shortage is anticipated but not now current) and five shifted from Group II to Group I, for a net decrease of two in the acute category.

## No Book, No Bone, Cappy Believes

SEATTLE, Dec. 31 (AP)—Cappy seemed to understand the simple wartime truth: No ration book, no bone.

The German shepherd dog belongs to Mr. and Mrs. C. Norton Kay. He responded nobly to the emergency today when Kay left home to buy a bone without taking his ration book or his purse.

Mrs. Kay noticed the oversight, put the squealing in Cappy's mouth and sent him racing toward the bone shop. The dog delivered them to Kay just as he was starting to leave a bone.

## Marines Hold Off Japanese Counterattack

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original beachheads were heavily repulsed.

"Our attack planes in direct ground support bombed and strafed enemy positions along the coast near Sag Sag and northwest of Natame."

At the initial New Britain invasion sector of Arawe on the southwest coast, US Sixth army patrols skirmished with the enemy. Two Japanese planes weakly raided that area under cover of darkness.

Some 80 miles to the east of Arawe, American planes on night patrol bombed the Nipponese airbase at Gasmata.

On New Ireland, the Kavieng airdrome, which has been receiving renewed allied attention since the New Britain invasion, was bombed by Mitchells and fires were started.

Kavieng, 160 miles northwest of Rabaul, is a staging point on the Japanese south Pacific life-line between Truk and Rabaul.

In the counterattacks by the Japanese against the Borgen bay flank on the east side of Cape Gloucester, the enemy lost more than 200 men, a spokesman said. He added that "our losses were light."

The Japanese sustained other losses in trying to hit the marines' original landing area on the bay.

The supporting attack planes riddle a jungle track inland from Borgen bay with more than 50,000 rounds of machinegun fire.

In the northern Solomons, where Americans are expanding their beachhead won November 1 at Empress Augusta bay on the west-central coast of Bougainville, a new Japanese withdrawal on the upper end was indicated.

Adm. William F. Halsey's headquarters said that allied patrols on December 29 ventured well beyond their main lines in the Tokina area without encountering any opposition.

Air action was limited by bad weather but PT boats kept up the unceasing war against barges. Three heavily-laden barges were attacked near the southern end of the island. One caught fire, burned and then sank. Another sank immediately. The third was so badly damaged it had to be beached.

## Allies Jump Garigliano to Strike Nazis

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Kennedy said that the nazis were barricaded in scores of deep wine cellars from which it was impossible to blast them by artillery fire, and that American doughboys were going about the grim business of tearing the enemy out with small arms, mortars and grenades. San Vittore, perched on a slope of Mt. Sammucro, is the last fortified village between Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's men and the big road junction of Cassino, 70 miles from Rome.

Canadian troops maintained their slow but steady advance northwest from Ortona on the Adriatic coast, enduring harassing fire from enemy artillery and mortars but meeting no determined opposition. Advance units were less than nine miles from the big port of Pescara.

Stepping up the air offensive in clear, cold weather, allied fighters, fighter bombers and medium bombers of the tactical air force flew more than 500 sorties as they smashed German fortified positions along the Eighth army front and pounded enemy communications.

For the third straight day Flying Fortresses escorted by Lightning fighters bombed the railway yards at Rimini in northeastern Italy and smashed warehouses, repair sheds and tracks near Padua and Ravenna. Eleven German planes were shot down during the day at a cost of six allied craft.

## Death Rate Mounts During Holiday Week

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP)—The fourth consecutive week of a sharply mounting death rate claimed an average of 171 lives for every 10,000 persons in the country during Christmas week.

The census bureau reported the figures today — 52 more deaths than normal for each 10,000 population.

## Babson Sees Boom

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 31 (AP)—Roger W. Babson, noted financial analyst, predicted in the Oregonian today that Portland will rank among the 10 leading cities of the nation in 1944.

Business here has increased about 50 per cent in three years, he said, estimating that the gain for the first quarter of 1944 will be approximately 10 per cent over the corresponding period of 1943.

## Bethel FU to Meet

BETHEL—Farmers Union will meet Monday, January 2, for installation of officers, convention reports, discussion and a social hour. Officers are urged to arrive early.

## Salem Recalls Event-Packed 1943; Highlights Are Listed

A (Continued from page 1) A

since World war I; produce of Salem victory gardens competed with that in the markets.

As the European mainland was invaded early in September, women of Marion county organized a division of the war finance committee, named Mrs. David Wright chairman and Mrs. Winifred Pettyjohn as co-chairman; Elmer O. Berg was elected to the city council to succeed Lloyd Moore, who had entered war work in Portland; Camp Adair soldiers helped out at Salem canneries, and OPA rent control board loomed as a possibility. Oregon republican clubs, meeting in Salem, cast their straw ballots for Wendell Willkie; public schools opened and John Charles Thomas sang.

Exceeding by more than a million dollars its third war loan quota, Marion county got a good start in the month of October, which was to see Salem become the first Oregon city "over the top" in the war chest campaign; Kenneth Perry was elected to succeed E. B. Perrine, resigned, on the city council; maneuvers were held at the Salem army air base; the city registered at the "simplest sign-up" of the war for ration book 4. A farmers' market was opened temporarily near Marion square under city auspices; Salem brewery was sold to Emil G. Sick of Seattle; W. I. Needham became chairman of the Salem selective service board and Keith Powell was appointed as the board's new member, both succeeding Ray Stumbo, deceased.

The alumina plant was promised to Salem in November; Maj. Richard Baker of Salem led US air forces to Munda; the city council approved rent control and the mayor appointed a five-man commission to apply it; first meeting of the city postwar planning commission was held and the Boy Scout Charter club assigned itself 20 new troops as a quota to be reached by January 31; the city observed the 25th anniversary of Armistice day with program, parade and labor at war tasks.

Salem city council figured in December, along with state tax commission, county court and water commission, how the taxes could be paid on city water system properties and then authorized their payment; the Gripsholm brought back among others Salem's Rev. J. J. Trachsel, who early in December in Portland met for the first time his two-year-old daughter. The Bollermakers union case moved into and out of the supreme court; Attorney General I. H. Van Winkle died and was succeeded in office by George Neuner, sr.; the Salvation Army raised more than \$1000 for its Christmas charities and found plenty of places where it was needed; Salem had no lighted Christmas tree but did have the flu and prepared for the fourth war loan campaign.

No summary can begin to tell the "big stories" of 1943 for every reader of the news. Thousands of Salem residents will remember the year because some Salem man was decorated or gallantly gave his life for his country; hundreds of families will recall it as the year of the birth or the death of a member.

Even the stories "big" in the history of a city are sometimes skipped in the year-end harvest of facts. Somewhere during 1943 the dimout was lifted; aircraft warning service personnel was called away from 24-hour duty at observation posts.

Once upon a time, major improvements were theme for a story all their own. Most building news in Salem was made by the erection of "Steinbock's fence"; largest general industrial news outside the alumina-plant picture was the announcement that American Can would build a million dollar plant here and on this high theme, Salem bade the old year "goodbye" without a tear.

## Barnett Heads Marion County Farmers Union

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local organizations of the Farmers' Union were represented, and reports on their activities were presented by Arbor Grove, Mrs. James Ryan; Aumsville, C. E. Lewis; Bethel, Gus Schlicker; Brooks, Ronald E. Jones; Central Howell, O. G. McCleary; Fairfield, Mrs. B. C. Hall; Gervais, Mrs. J. B. Brown; Keizer, H. S. Keefer; Roberts, L. H. Zielke; Liberty, J. K. Crabtree; Marion, Mr. Ross, Mrs. Warren Gray; Mt. Angel, Albert Diehl; Red Hills, Ernest Nuenschwander; Sidney-Talbot, George Potts, Jr.; Woodburn, John Cornwall.

A panel discussion on "The Value of the Educational Committee in the Local Meetings" was conducted by Mrs. Alma Knower of Orchard Heights local, Gus Schlicker and Ronald E. Jones. Wendell Barnett gave the president's annual report.

W. R. Baker presented the report of the resolutions committee; Harley E. Libby, legislative; Gus Schlicker, dairying, livestock and marketing; Frank Beutler, agricultural; good of the order, Mrs. John Cornwall of Woodburn; educational, Mrs. B. C. Hall; cooperative, Homer M. Smith of the state warehouse. Ammon, Grice, state president, conducted the installation of officers. Mrs. Birdie Crabtree served as secretary for the day.

Dinner was served at noon by the women of surrounding localities in the dining room of the hall. The next meeting place will be announced later by the executive board. County and state officers will attend and lead a panel discussion on the function of the co-operative committee.

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## Rail Unions Blame Byrnes For Inaction

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The unions contend they have accepted the 4 to 10 cents, that it is not in dispute any longer, and therefore is not a question for arbitration. They are willing to submit only to arbitration of the overtime question, independent of any other consideration. Joint consideration, they contend, might mean a trimming of the total sum they believe is due them.

The union leaders told the president in a letter that the basis he outlined for arbitration proceedings would be a "gross injustice."

Mr. Roosevelt gave no immediate indication of his reaction to the union's tirade or whether he has any new step in mind.

## Russians Capture Zhitomir

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tebek in northern White Russia, capturing 60 towns and cutting the Vitebsk-Orsha highway south of Vitebsk.

Over 800 Germans were killed and 22 tanks destroyed, and 30 big guns captured despite five German counterattacks in this area. Another force was at least 11 miles west of Nevel in a renewed drive toward Latvia.

Far to the south Gen. Rodion Y. Malinovsky's third Ukrainian army in the Dnieper bend extended and deepened its bridgehead across the Dnieper west of Zaporozhe, capturing five more towns on the road to Nikopol, center of manganese ore production. Over 600 Germans were killed as the Russians hammered back counterattacks and continued their push.

Far to the south of the great Russian offensive are the red army smashed into the town of Pogrebische, 19 miles east of Sogorodok, a 15 mile advance from previously reported positions. This town is a center of the Vinnitsa district and is 40 miles northeast of the rail town of Vinnitsa.

About 2500 Germans were killed in this area and the victorious Russians captured 42 guns and 200 trucks as well as other supplies and "many prisoners."

At the northern extremity of the arc Emelyanovka, 21 miles southwest of Korosten, was captured as the Russians pounded down the railway toward Novograd Volynski, 35 miles southwest.

## Eisenhower Is Reds' Hero

MOSCOW, Dec. 31 (AP)—United States Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who says the war is going to end in 1944, has suddenly become a popular hero in Russia.

Most Russians knew of him before, but his prediction that the war would be over quickly — spread far and wide by the press and radio — made a profound impression on the soviet people.

One eight-year-old Russian boy said to an American newspaperman:

"The war is soon going to be over."

"What makes you think so?" he was asked.

"Why, you ought to know," was the reply. "Your big general said it would."

## WFB Names Treanor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP)—Arthur B. Treanor, former deputy director, today succeeded Harry M. Blinn, director of the printing and publishing division of the war production board.

## Service Men

Where They Are—What They Are Doing



This picture of Donald Klein, gunner's mate second class, USN, came this holiday season from Italy to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Klein, 408 South 16th street, Salem. He received his basic training at Great Lakes, Ill., later being graduated from the Ford motor mechanic school at Dearborn, Mich. Thence he went to Norfolk, Va., had his first sea duty in South American waters and since last April has been in the Mediterranean area, where he participated in the North African and Sicilian campaigns.



Lt. Howard J. Bergman, USNR, son of Mrs. E. E. Bergman, is now serving as a legal officer somewhere in the south Pacific. He is in the judge advocate's department and serves under Adm. Gatch. Lt. Bergman has served two years as hand acquisition officer for the 13th naval district with headquarters at Washington, DC, and Seattle. Lt. Bergman is a graduate of Willamette university law school where he was a member of Delta Theta Phi, national law fraternity, and Sigma Tau, social fraternity. Before entering the service he practiced law in Baker and served as district attorney.

SILVERTON — Lt. Don David has been transferred from Stockton Field to Laughlin Field, Del Rio, Texas. Lt. David is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor David of this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Erickson learned this week that their son, Edward, was in Sardinia. He sent word of his recent promotion to staff sergeant. He also told of having a recent letter from Paul Spencer, in Italy, and reported that he was flying his own plane. Spencer is also a Silvertown boy.

Pvt. Robert L. Summers of Salem received his wings as a rated liaison pilot and was promoted to staff sergeant upon graduation from the third army air forces liaison (advanced) training detachment at Lamosa, Texas.

Cpl. Gale J. James, stationed at the army air base at Hobbs, NM, spent Christmas here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly C. James.

PIONEER—Cpl. Harold Brown of Lubbock, Texas, was home on a furlough from Monday until the following Sunday.

DALLAS — Capt. Charles J. Beuge has returned to his station at Shreveport, La., after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Beuge.

Word has been received from Eldon Stevens by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer D. Stevens, that he has been graduated as an air cadet and has been chosen to attend college for five months before taking pre-flight training. Stevens entered the service in October and has been stationed at Denver.

SILVERTON — Jim Nelson, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Alf O. Nelson, is now an air cadet, training at Monterey, Calif. Robert Nelson, the elder of the two Nelson sons, is just completing his pilot training at Stockton, Calif.

Rex Samuel Adolph, whose Salem address is 700 North Summer street, has been promoted from second lieutenant to first lieutenant in the air corps, the war department announces.

Aviation Cadet Garth H. Stonehocker was classified as pilot at the San Antonio, Texas, aviation cadet center and will take his pre-flight training there. He recently completed his academic courses at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark. He received his basic training at Sheppard Field.



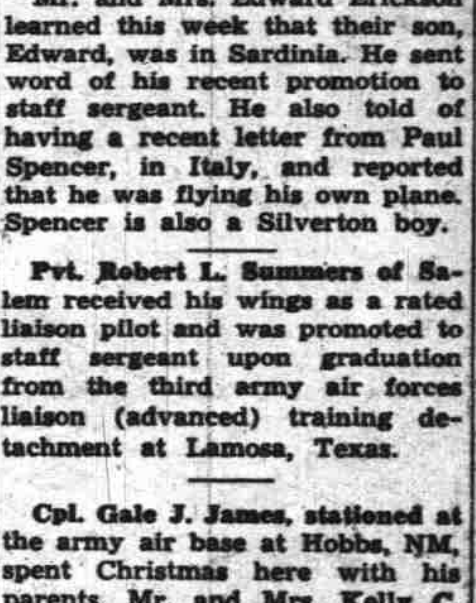
Texas. Garth was graduated from Salem high school with the class of '43. He is the son of Maj. and Mrs. Clarence T. Stonehocker, 430 East Bush street.

Cpl. Orin F. Moser, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Moser of Silvertown, is sending the season's greetings to relatives and friends in the form of V-letters from headquarters of a paratrooper training center in North Africa. The letters contain a drawing of a parachute dropping a Christmas package and the words "Just dropping in to wish you a Merry Christmas."



Earl M. Hall, chief petty officer with the construction battalion of the navy and stationed at Gulfport, Miss., has been at home for a ten-day leave visiting his wife at 1647 North Church street and his father, Scott Hall of Lebanon, Conn. worked with Henry Carl, contractor, as a foreman before enlisting in the navy in August of this year.

James R. Hagan, aviation officer's mate third class, recently spent a leave here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Hagan, 2175 North Liberty street. He had been stationed in the south Pacific for 19 months, during which time he had been in 11 engagements.



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