

By Charles A. Sprague

Russia, which has demanded the reorganization of the Polish government-in-exile as a condition for opening of negotiations over boundary questions, now is said to put that as one condition of a peace with Finland. Thus we are seeing the "cordon sanitaire" theory working in reverse. This theory was that the small nations of central Europe could through the alliance with France be a cordon around Germany; also that they would be a "cordon sanitaire," politically speaking, against communist Russia. In fact this latter idea became dominant in Europe between the wars. These small nations had a desperate fear of the westward march of communism, and were ruthless in their hostility to soviet Russia. The latter was equally stern in insulating itself against any communication with the west, an isolationism which not even the necessities of war alliances have done much to mitigate. Russia now reverses the doctrine and insists that governments of its border nations to the west look toward Moscow, if not with friendly eyes at least without poison in their hearts. Russia's purpose is to make of these nations a protective moat rather than an approach in potentially hostile hands. It is not that Russia fears these small nations themselves, but it fears their being used as catspaws by a resurgent Germany.

This attitude on Russia's part is no more astonishing than her own attitude toward the new government of Bolivia, or what it would be toward a coup in Mexico or Colombia unfriendly to the United States and endangering the Panama canal.

The stretch of Europe from the Baltic to the Black and Aegean seas, from Finland to Bulgaria, is what I call the fault-block of Europe. It is not a geological fault-block, but an ethnographic, economic and political fault-block. To the west is Europe, highly organized politically and industrially. (Continued on Editorial Page)

### Report Finns, Russians Talk Peace Terms

#### Hitler Is Urged To Evacuate Northern Finland

By ROBERT STURDEVANT—STOCKHOLM, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Direct peace negotiations between Finland and Russia appeared to be underway tonight and Col. Gen. Eduard Diel was reported to have urged Hitler to order evacuation of his troops in northern Finland. A German source said there were indications that a number of transport officers, essential for a large-scale movement, had been assigned to Diel's command. Col. Gen. Hans Jurgens Stumpff of the air force has virtually abandoned his Finnish headquarters in favor of Oslo, Norway, it was said. He also was said to have ordered the withdrawal of fighters and bombers from the Rovaniemi and Kemi airfields to southern Norway.

The Finnish legation here disclosed that Juhu Kusti Paasilkivi, former Finnish cabinet minister, had conferred with the Russian minister to Sweden, Mme. Alexandra Kollontay, and expects to meet her again. Whether this meeting resulted in any formula whereby Finland could quit the war was not disclosed. Madame Kollontay returned to Stockholm today after spending several days in an outlying resort.

A Helsinki dispatch, quoting an "authoritative source," declared there had been no advance in the peace crisis in the last 24 hours.

Whatever status Finland hopes for in peace, there are a number of snags in that direction—the principal one the presence of several thousand Finnish troops in the north.

### Stettinius Mentioned For Vice Presidency

By D. HAROLD OLIVER—WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Talk of a business man for the democratic vice-presidential nomination was relayed to President Roosevelt at a news conference today, but the chief executive said he had never heard of it. Such talk has been prevalent here for several weeks.

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., 43-year-old under secretary of state, former lend-lease administrator and former chairman of the board of the US Steel corporation, is a name frequently heard in this new speculation over second place on the democratic ticket.

### Clothing Price Same

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Retail prices of women's and children's outer wear garments this spring will be held at the same level as last spring, the office of price administration announced today.

# US Bombers Blast Monastery

## The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

NINETY-THIRD YEAR

10 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Wednesday Morning, February 18, 1944

Price 5c

No. 279

# Allies Land Solomon Islands Conquest

## RAF Bomber Force Raids Berlin Again

### French, German, Danish Radios Silent as Fleet Heads Over Continent

LONDON, Wednesday, Feb. 16.—(AP)—A great force of RAF bombers hammered Berlin last night, the British announced today, in their first major night operation since the January 30 assault on the German capital.

It was the 15th great assault upon Berlin since the RAF launched its obliteration campaign against the city last November 18.

Some indication of the weight of the raid was given by British coastal observers, who reported that great forces of bombers had been heard thundering over the channel at dusk last night.

East coast residents said the roar of the engines of the bomber fleet was incessant for more than an hour as the planes headed toward the sea.

A hint that American air forces were participating was contained in a dispatch from Stockholm which said that a United States bomber had crashed near Faaborg, Denmark, during a night air raid alert.

Radio stations in France, Germany and Denmark fell silent and alerts were reported in western Switzerland.

An all-out assault was made on the French invasion coast during the day by allied planes of many types. Two medium bombers and four fighters were lost.

The bombardment of Pas-de-Calais and its environs was begun by formations of American Liberator bombers and Thunderbolt fighter-bombers which navigated over vast areas of flank without a single loss.

"Neither the heavy bombers (Liberators), which were escorted by RAF and RCAF Spitfires, nor the Thunderbolts encountered enemy air opposition," a joint communique by the US air arm and the British ministry said tonight.

"Other military objectives in northern France were subjected to a series of attacks throughout today by US army air force B-26 Marauders, RAF and allied Mitchells and Bostons, RAAF Mosquitos and RAF Typhoons.

"Escort cover and support for these attacks were provided by RAF, dominion and allied fighters while other RAF fighters patrolled over northern France," the announcement added.

Tonight the German domestic long-wave radio station in the Berlin area and the Nazi-controlled Danish network left the air, indicating a complete blackout. (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

## Boatwright Disclaims That He Expired in Knoxville

Otis E. Boatwright, plumbing contractor of Salem whose death in Knoxville, Iowa, was reported here late in January, walked into The Statesman office on Tuesday to prove that it wasn't so. Unlike Irvin S. Cobb, he didn't even left-handedly mention Mark Twain. But his story is so unusual that there is no need for that trite embellishment.

Boatwright was working in Knoxville, Iowa, having gone there last May. His daughter in Salem, Mrs. Sheila F. Huskey, received a telegram from that city, signed by a total stranger, which said:

"Your father expired today." The message may have come from a malicious source but there is another plausible though odd explanation.

Boatwright recalls that at about that time, while he was sitting in a hotel lobby, a stranger came up and asked for a piece of paper. Boatwright had none handy except a letter from his daughter; he tore off the portion of the letter on which was written her name and address and handed it to the man.

Possibility was seen that the stranger was in a hurry to send someone a telegram conveying news of the recipient's father's death, and wrote either the message or the address on that piece of paper; that in some manner at any rate, the address already on the paper was the one to which the message was sent.

Since the message mentioned no name and since Mrs. Huskey knew her father was in Knoxville, the message was taken at face value. Mrs. Huskey notified The Statesman, giving some facts of Boatwright's life, and the story of his death appeared in this newspaper January 29. That the correction was not made sooner is due to the fact that Mrs. Huskey left Salem before learning the truth.

At any rate, O. E. Boatwright is alive and in good health. "I wasn't even sick," he declares. "I was working six days a week and didn't miss a day."

## Says 'Over Top'



E. C. SAMMONS

## Oregonians Buy 115 Millions In War Bonds

### Marion Tops Quota In Series E Sale By 8 Per Cent

Oregon topped its fourth war loan bond quota by more than 16 per cent, Chairman E. C. Sammons of the state war finance committee announced tonight. The state's total for the year to date, from Series A through E, is \$1,150,000,000, a record for the state.

A capacity audience in the auditorium and an overflow crowd in the high school gymnasium learned that Marion county also was over the top, and over the self-imposed five million dollar goal set by the county committee, with a total of \$5,315,000 which was 127 per cent of the official quota. And Marion county in contrast to the state at large, also was over the top in series E bond sales with a total of \$1,724,000, topping the quota by 8 per cent.

Messages of congratulation to Oregon, one of 20 states to reach its quota by the deadline for the official campaign, come from Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and other officials, and the Marion county committee headed by Jesse J. Gard, was complimented on its double triumph by State Chairman Sammons and Gov. Earl Snell.

(Turn to Page 2—Story E)

## Canada, US Fur Agreement Signed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Congressional action was completed by the senate today on legislation (HR 2924) to give effect to the fur seal agreement of 1942 between the United States and Canada for the purpose of protecting the fur seals of Pribilof islands.

The Pribilof islands have been unprotected on the high seas since the abrogation by Japan on October 23, 1940, of the fur seal convention concluded by the United States, Great Britain, Russia and Japan on July 7, 1911.

## Nation Passes Bond Quota

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—The \$14,000,000,000 fourth war loan went over the top by \$191,000,000 tonight a few hours before the midnight deadline for the campaign.

Although the drive ended for "big money" participation, war bond purchases reported to federal reserve banks during the remainder of the month will be counted toward the final total to be announced by Treasury Secretary Morgenthau on March 2.

Tonight's treasury announcement gave no breakdown between individual and corporate subscriptions, but individual purchases yesterday still were more than \$5,500,000,000 short of their \$5,500,000,000 quota.

The treasury said it would continue to announce daily the individual purchase totals for the remainder of this month.

The drive opened officially January 18, but all war bond sales for both January and February will be counted.

## Weather

Tuesday maximum temperature 59, minimum 26. River 3 feet.

Cloudy Wednesday with few showers or snow flurries northern part. Thursday fair east, cloudy west portion. Little change in temperature.

## Tojo Forces Cut Off

### Halsey Lands Men on Corral, Supply Base

By Murlin Spencer—ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC, Wednesday, Feb. 16.—(AP)—American and New Zealand troops occupied the jungle-covered Green islands Monday, completing the campaign for the Solomon islands, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

Japanese forces estimated at 22,000 dispersed through the Solomons "are now isolated from their sources of supply at Rabaul (New Britain)," and face starvation and disease "from the military blockade which renders their position hopeless," MacArthur said in a communique.

The allied troops from Adm. William F. Halsey's south Pacific command, met only machine gun resistance as they landed, with air and naval surface craft protection, on the boomerang-shaped coral islands only 120 miles east of Rabaul, the enemy supply base which has been heavily hit by allied aircraft, and 40 miles northwest of Buika island.

With the northern end of the Solomons archipelago now in allied hands, and the central and southern islands already firmly held, the only alternative other than death by starvation for the 22,000 Japanese, is surrender.

Allied forces holding the Green islands, also called Nissan, can stop the Japanese from running supplies by sea to their isolated comrades who still cling to air and sea-battered points on Choiseul. (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

## Hull Supports Free Press

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER—WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Official American support of a policy of international free press was disclosed today with belated publication of a letter written by Secretary of State Hull which denounced political censorship.

Hull noted that the axis might be able to make propaganda of criticism of one ally in the press of another, and he also declared that such criticism might have an irritating effect in the country criticized. But, he said, the long range interests of good international relations are best served by a free exchange of information between friendly nations.

It was understood that both Foreign Minister Anthony Eden of Great Britain and Byron Price, American director of censorship, subscribed to the secretary's views, which were expressed on the specific issue of political censorship between the United States and Great Britain.

## Flax Producers To Organize For Postwar Deals

The idea of a central organization to deal with such postwar problems as grading of fibre and the marketing of flax products now destined almost entirely for war uses was approved when representatives of the industry met with the state flax board here Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. D. D. Hill, Oregon State college, chairman of the board, was authorized to appoint a committee to work on organization plans and to call another meeting.

Thirteen of the 14 plants operating in the Willamette valley were represented at the session, held in chamber of commerce rooms.

## Awarded DFC



Maj. Richard M. Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester C. Baker of Salem, has been awarded the distinguished flying cross. Maj. Baker has returned recently to the United States after many months of combat in the south Pacific, where he commanded a marine fighter squadron which made a distinguished name for itself.

## Allies Forge New Blockades, Knox Reveals

### French Coast Sealed; Pacific Ports Surrounded

By TOM REEDY—WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—The sea-wise allies have forged new blockades in Europe and Asia and there are increasing signs that the axis is starting to wince.

Navy Secretary Knox told today how the British navy has roped off the Bay of Biscay as forbidden to axis shipping. This seals off the coast of France. London went even further in its disclosure—the admiralty announcing that a 7000-square mile area skirting both French and Spanish coasts now is "dangerous to shipping." That means mines, anywhere from Cape Finisterre, Spain's westernmost point on the shoulder north of Portugal to Ireland.

An all-out blockade of Europe's west coast chops directly at any sea-going aid the Japanese can give Germany. The Nazis showed recently how important Japan's raw materials were to them, gambling with as many as a half dozen destroyers in an effort to bring one cargo ship through the Bay of Biscay. It failed. Three more loaded with vital tin and rubber were sent to the bottom in the Atlantic not long ago.

Secretary Knox said flatly, also, that there has been considerable success in the Pacific. (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

## P-47 Thunderbolt, Yanks' Ugly Duckling, Top Pursuit Job

By WES GALLAGHER—LONDON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—The ugly duckling is quite a war-bird in the skies over Europe now.

The P-47 Thunderbolt— that ungainly child of American engineering genius once criticized as too fat, too heavy and too much for one man to handle—today challenges the Spitfire for the title of pursuit queen of the skies.

Their tails used to come off during test flights, but since going into action in Europe, they've shot the tails off 157 Nazi planes against a loss of 186, to compile one of the most remarkable air records of the war.

During the past six weeks, starting with January 1, Thunderbolts have been fighting hundreds of miles from home bases over untried territory, and have shot down 223 German planes for a loss of 49 American craft.

Not since the Battle of Britain has such a lopsided sky score been compiled.

It is all the more remarkable, because during the Battle of Britain, the victories were scored largely against poorly defended bombers by fighters often within sight of their own bases. The Thunderbolt victories have been

## Soviets Smash Pskov

### Press Germans In 5 Sectors; End Nearing

By TOM YARBROUGH—LONDON, Wednesday, Feb. 16.—(AP)—The Russians in the north, moving down along two railroads and a highway, have hammered the Germans farther back toward the great communications center of Pskov, bombing and shelling the Nazi retreat lines choked with trucks, cars and infantry, Moscow announced today.

The Russians were pressing the Germans in five other sectors of the eastern front as well and were making gains so consistently they seemed to have an excellent chance of throwing the Nazis completely out of Russia in the remaining five weeks of winter.

Far south in the Ukraine the Russians were closing in for the kill on an estimated 50,000 German survivors of a force of perhaps 100,000 trapped by the Red army. The Moscow broadcast mid-night bulletin said 1800 more Germans were killed, 60 of their tanks wrecked and as many as seven repeated German attacks to break the encircling ring from outside were beaten back.

Leningrad front troops, striking down from Luga, killed over 1400 Germans and captured 40 communities in one part of the drive for Pskov. One force reached the rail station of Serebyanka and a mile further the town of Kalbutitsy, 16 miles south of Luga and 75 miles northeast of Pskov. Further east on the highway Gorodets, 15 miles south of Luga, was captured.

West of this area other Russian forces pushed down the Narva. (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

## Hershey Says 18-45 Men Obligated to Serve

GLEN RIDGE, N.J., Feb. 15.—(AP)—Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, national selective service director, tonight declared participation in military service was the "basic obligation of every man 18 through 45 years of age."

He said the armed forces would need 1,500,000 new men by July 1 and added the quota would be filled. Recruits would be drawn, said Hershey, from the ranks of youths reaching 18, from men released from vital war industries, and from among pre-Pearl Harbor fathers.

## Attack Rome Yards

### 300 Nazi Soldiers Smoked Out On Mt. Cassino

By George Tucker

NAPLES, Feb. 15.—(AP)—American bombers blasted German troops from the ancient Benedictine monastery atop Mt. Cassino today and attacked the Tiburtina and Ostiense railway yards of Rome in two operations with the single aim of speeding the fifth army's push north.

Aerial explosives and incendiaries and artillery shells turned the Mt. Cassino monastery into a smoke-shrouded inferno and about 300 German soldiers were sent racing like rats from the stronghold they had fortified to obstruct an allied drive for the relief of the Anzio bridgehead.

Fifty A-36 Invaders dive-bombed the Rome railway yards and left them burning and covered with smoke, US 12th air force headquarters announced. All the Rome raiders returned safely.

Other invaders bombed a German truck concentration and two Nazi command posts near the Anzio bridgehead and traffic on the Rome-Cassino road, behind the Fifth army's main front. Three planes were lost on these missions.

Some 250 heavy and medium bombers were employed to knock out the Mt. Cassino stronghold.

Waves of four-engine Flying Fortresses first blasted the closely knit group of buildings atop the 1800-foot peak with tons of explosives, and as the smoke from this bombardment billowed skyward, big guns from the valley below sent hundreds of shells.

(Turn to Page 2—Story A)

## Blood Tests Clear Chaplin

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Attorneys for Charles Chaplin and Miss Joan Berry announced tonight that blood tests had revealed the 54-year-old movie producer was not the father of his four-month-old baby of his 23-year-old former protegee.

The attorneys, Lloyd Wright, representing the British-born producer-actor, and John Irwin, attorney for Miss Berry, said blood tests had been completed today by three physicians.

They were listed as Dr. Roy Hammack, representing Miss Berry; Dr. V. L. Andrews, representing Chaplin, and Dr. Newton Evans, a neutral physician in the case.

Chaplin was indicted last Thursday by a federal grand jury on charges of violating the Mann act by allegedly transporting Miss Berry to New York and return for immoral purposes.

The grand jury also indicted Chaplin and six other persons on charges of conspiring to deprive Miss Berry of her civil rights by allegedly forcing her to leave suburban Beverly Hills, where Chaplin's home is located.

## Prisoners Due On Gripsholm

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—The Swedish motorship Gripsholm sailed today from New York with several hundred axis diplomats, German nationals and prisoners of war who will be exchanged at Lisbon for similar groups of Americans.

The state department, announcing tonight the Gripsholm's departure, disclosed for the first time that wounded and sick American soldiers now held prisoner in Germany will be included in the exchange.

Previously it had been announced that the exchange would involve American diplomatic and consular officers, relief workers and newspaper correspondents seized by the Germans moving into the former unoccupied zone of France.

Names of those being repatriated will be announced later, the department said.

## Stockman Recovered

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Rep. Lowell Stockman (R-Ore.), who entered the naval hospital 30 days ago for a nose operation, returned to his office today.